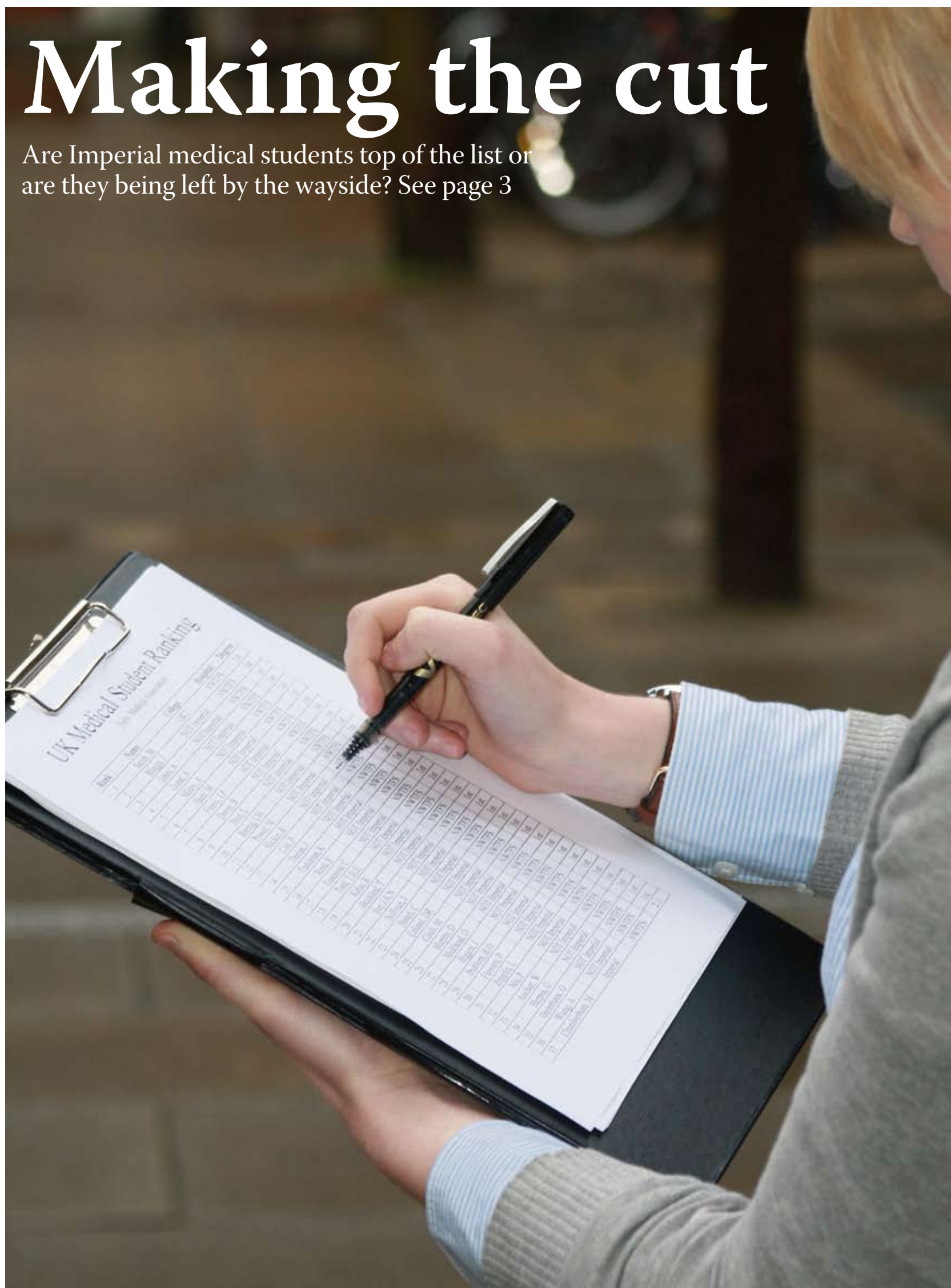




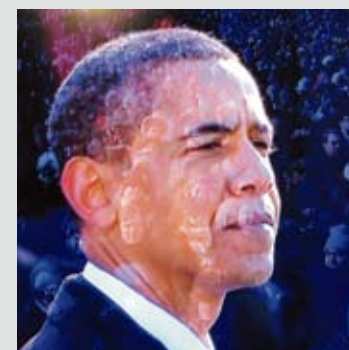
Making the cut

Are Imperial medical students top of the list or are they being left by the wayside? See page 3



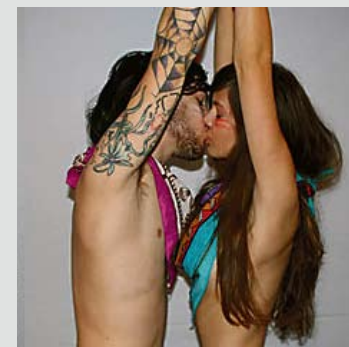
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News

News Editor – **Kadhim Shubber**

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2009 Science Challenge Launched!!

Professor Lord Robert Winston got the 2009 RCSU Imperial College Science Challenge, supported by Shell, off to a flying start last night, as he spoke at its launch. The event was attended by over 150 Imperial students and even the Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, was amongst the audience, with students and teachers from schools across the United Kingdom also logging in to watch the event live online. Some even made the journey to South Kensington to attend the event itself! Either the free cakes and drinks on offer, or perhaps this year's prizes, must have caught their attention – with the overall winner standing to pocket £5,000 for only 800 words!

Full details of this year's competition were announced at the launch by the Chair, Jad Marrouche, PhD student and former President of the RCSU, who is running the event for the second time after his many successes in 2006-2007. The competition will follow a similar format to previous years, with the aim being to write an 800-word essay in answer to one of four questions, set by a panel of judges, based on a scientific topic and its effects on the wider world. There will once again be two categories: one for students at Imperial College, and another, run in conjunction with Imperial Outreach, for school students across the United Kingdom.

The Prizes

In the Imperial category, the overall winner will receive £5,000 cash, generously sponsored by Winton Capital, with the three runners-up each receiving £1,000 cash and in the schools category, the overall winner will receive a £5,000 bursary to study at Imperial College, with the three runners-up each receiving a £1,000 bursary.

If this wasn't enough, there will also be "experience" prizes on offer for all the prizewinners, including a day shadowing Lord Robert Winston, and

guided tours of the National Physical Laboratory, the facilities at CERN in Geneva and a Shell alternative energy laboratory.

And just when you thought that was all, John Sanderson of the RCSA has once again given generously to the cause, donating once-in-a-lifetime (non-scientific!) prizes to the winners – two tandem flights on a paraglider for the winning school student and two trial lessons on a light aircraft for the winning Imperial student...who said science couldn't be fun...?

The Small-Print

All entries must be submitted online at <http://sciencechallenge.org>, and received by 23.59 on the 2nd March. Imperial academics will judge the essays,

passing onto each judge the top ten essays based on their question. Each judge will then select the winning essay for each of the two categories and then all four judges will decide upon the overall winners, who will be announced at the Grand Final event, to be held on the 13th March at an as-yet undisclosed location. With previous Grand Finals including sell-out events at The Ritz Hotel and The Science Museum, you can bet this will be one not to miss!

The Science Challenge website has also had an extensive re-development and is now available, complete with full details of the competition, previous winning essays and information about how to enter, all of which can be found at the conveniently named <http://sciencechallenge.org>.



PHOTO BY TOM ROBERTS

Past RCSU President Jad Marrouche at the launch yesterday

The Judges and the Questions

Professor Armand Leroi
Professor of Evolutionary Developmental Biology at Imperial College

"Will Homo sapiens continue to evolve, and, if so, how?"



Dr Martyn Sené

Acting Director of the National Physical Laboratory

"At a time when the public seems to be increasingly distrustful of science and technology and, indeed, of scientists, what can be done to ensure an informed and balanced public and political debate?"

Duncan Macleod
Vice President, Hydrogen and GTL, Shell

"Hydrogen is key to tackling the world's rapidly increasing demand for energy. Discuss."



Professor Tejinder Virdee
Spokesperson for the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment at CERN

"What can we learn from the Large Hadron Collider experiment?"

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Friday 23/01/09



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LOLCATZ



OF THE WEEK

Imperial Students lose out in Foundation programmes

Now in its third reincarnation, the selection process for final year medical students has started to produce favourable results for Imperial, but is it fair? *felix* Editor in Chief, Jovan Nedić, investigates the history and what the results say this year.

Almost 86% of final year students from the Imperial College School of Medicine [ICSM] have been assigned their preferred foundation programme this year. Although an improvement from last year's figure of 61.5%, the results released on the 6th January 2009 are still below the national average of 90%. The fears raised by many students and professionals alike is still whether or not the new system, known as UKFPO Version 2.0 which is the 3rd reincarnation of the process since it started in 2005, is a fair process.

The national application process is the method by which medical students are assigned a hospital where they will do their foundation course. In previous years, as part of their Pre-Registration House Officer [PRHO] year (i.e. the final year of medical training as an employee), medical students were matched with a position in the hospital(s) linked to their individual medical school, however this was technically illegal as it was not consistent with employment laws. The system also meant that medical students could not apply to hospitals that were not linked to their 'home' school, unless they had received permission from the Dean of their medical school. This particular method of job assignment had not been legally challenged; however, when the new national selection system came into effect, and where the PRHO year changed into foundation programme, it was inevitable that some people would challenge the selection method on a legal basis, which the medical schools would have lost as the law was being broken.

The General Medical Council [GMC] had in the past recommended that students "undertake a PRHO post associated with [their] medical school", though since the new system came into fruition, this particular line of text has since disappeared from their literature. In the past, it was felt by the GMC that with students remaining with effectively the same institution there would be an educational and pastoral continuity. In light of the fact that the 'old system' was illegal, it is safe to assume that the GMC didn't want to be endorsing an illegal practise.

With the introduction of a national application, it was immediately clear to the medical students in London that they would suffer, since there were more medical students in London than actual places in hospitals. ICSM, in the past, had links with hospitals outside the London area to cope with the excess number of students, however these places have now gone with more and more medical schools opening. The fact that there are more medical schools opening is another fact that has caused concern, due to the lack of uniformity between the medical schools.

When the new national application system was introduced in 2005, known as the Multi-Deanery Application Process [MDAP], students applied di-



Imperial medical students doing their thing

rectly for posts but a maximum of 40. The MDAP was still not 'national' as it wasn't open to all posts in the country, instead students could apply to one of two 'Units of Application' that had a number of schools within them. After one year, the system was deemed to have been a disaster. Each student that applied to a particular post was ranked in order to allocate the position, yet there was no national guidelines for scoring, no academic ranking and poor consultation with senior medical professionals. There was effectively no process in which all the students across the country could be compared to. 20% of medical graduates in the country come from London, and in 2005, 250 London medical students without posts, 44% of the total number of unplaced posts. Of these 250, 39 were Imperial students and after clearing 11 were still without a post; the 11 included prize-winners.

The fear that London students would be displaced seemed to be true, and since it was clear that the MDAP system was not working, a new system was devised in 2006. The Medical Training Application Service [MTAS] gave students the opportunity to apply to anywhere in the country, however they would have to apply to a foundation school first before they could apply to an individual post. Academic ranking was introduced for the first time, with the results from that contributing to 45% of the overall score, something that was felt would benefit Imperial graduates. The problem that now occurred was that many of the Imperial graduates who were already in the bottom 50% of their year, didn't see the point in applying to a North West Thames Foundation School [NWTFS] where all their hospitals are located. This resulted in fewer people applying to a post at a NWTFS, with the lower ranked students opting to apply to a foundation school outside London. As a result 92% of Imperial graduates were allocated to their first choice of foundation schools.

In 2007, the MTAS was renamed the United Kingdom Foundation Pro-

grammes Office [UKFPO]. The previous year saw only 352 applicants for 321 posts in NWTFS, which gave the impression to many students across the country that it was relatively easy to get into a NWTFS. Back in 2007, NWTFS saw 552 applicants for a similar number of places, a figure that far surpassed that of any other foundations school. As a result, only 61.5% of Imperial finalists got their first choice foundation school.

With a new year and a new round of medical students applying for posts at foundation schools, it is time for a change to the application process. Points allocated from academic merit decrease from 45% to 40% which means more of an emphasis is made on the written part. This is of great benefit to Imperial candidates as they have scored higher on average than anyone else in this sector over the past few years. On the academic front, the scoring for Q1 has increased, giving 4 points for a 2.1 BSc, something which most Imperial candidates have.

There is no doubt that with the increased support from the ICSM Students' Union in the form of lectures on filling out the application form, as well as tactical choices made by the students themselves, Imperial was able to obtain a higher proportion of students getting their first choice. What is of main concern still, even after 4 years, is the method by which these positions are allocated. There is no distinction between the qualities of students coming out from the various medical students. Effectively, people ranked in the top quartile at Imperial are considered exactly the same as people from an institution that is lower in the league tables for medicine, who are also in the top quartile at their school. The method of teaching various from school to school, which again means that there will be a difference in the quality of students graduating.

Although the results this year are encouraging, the general consensus across the Imperial board is that things need to change, whether or not that is going to happen, only time will tell.

What the college thinks

"I would of course like every single one of our students to get their first choice of job and although the system is imperfect, at least our students were less disadvantaged this year. London has always produced more doctors than can be accommodated for training in the capital and over the years, even before the current system, many students did choose to start their postgraduate training out of London. We need to help our students create the strongest possible applications to increase their chance of securing their preferred Foundation placement."



Prof. J. Higham
Head of Undergraduate Medicine

What ICSMSU thinks

"Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union is extremely happy that our final year students fared better this year compared to previous years. North West Thames Foundation School is still a particularly hard school to get into, and we, in collaboration with the other London medical schools, are in the process of investigating how heavily skewed the results are considering so many final years did not apply to our home school as a consequence of last years results. Whilst we are pleased with the result, we will still be pushing for educational continuity in reform to the allocation process."

Mark Chamberlain
ICSMSU President



What the students think

"Not being a huge supporter of the UKFPO application system, I applied feeling apprehensive and unsure of how things would turn out especially after last years statistics for ICSM. I received my first choice deanery but there are still a lot of problems in the system that need to be addressed. The computer system this year worked and did not crash but the system for selecting jobs seemed clumsy and once the jobs were selected in preferences it was impossible to click a link to observe the job details for refining your selection. Maybe this could be reviewed for next year."

Aubery Smith
6th Year Medic

New Sabbaticals for Education and Welfare

Lawrence Weetman
Live! News Reporter

The meeting of Union Council last night voted overwhelmingly in favour of creating a new Sabbatical position to divide the role of Deputy President (Education & Welfare). The paper, presented for the second time in as many meetings, was passed with 36 votes to 2, with one of these votes being made via proxy and therefore not privy to the debate during the meeting.

At the previous meeting in December some members of Council felt that the paper was rushed and ill thought-out and, despite winning over a simple majority vote, it did not receive the two-thirds required to pass. Current DPEW, Hannah Theodorou, said that it was "tough to make a decision on whether to bring the paper back to Council", stating that her reason was not because she thought that the Council had made the wrong decision, but because young undergraduates who "don't understand the ins-and-outs of Union politics" felt upset that the paper had been rejected, and wanted it to be re-submitted.

Council Chair, Afonso Campos, relinquished the Chair during the discussion and vote on this paper as he did not feel that he could be un-biased in his role. *felix* Editor in Chief, Jovan Nedic, stepped up to the position to the objection of Deputy President (Finance & Services), Christian Carter. Mr Carter claimed that the Felix Editor was similarly unable to claim neutrality due to his comments at previous meetings and the Sabbatical Review Working Group. Mr Nedic quickly defended his position, stating that he had to remain neutral as the editor of *felix*, and only stepped in with opinions previously in order to speed up the meeting.

The revised paper addressed many of the issues that had been neglected at the previous meeting. Most importantly, ICU President Jenny Morgan has confirmed that "if we don't have



Deputy President Education and Welfare Hannah Theodorou passing round papers showing the hectic schedule that the previous role has

assurance that we're going to have the money from the NUS pot then we will not create these new positions". The council requested that this assurance come in the form of written confirmation from a senior member of college staff by February 9th - before nominations for the position open. The paper will be circulated to the Trustee Board via email for their approval to allow a decision to be made at College Council in time for the upcoming Sabbatical Elections.

The original papers to Council called for one of the new positions to be the Deputy President (Education and Development), however it was proposed to change it to Deputy President (Education) just before the final vote took place. After a bit of a discussion it be-

came clear that it didn't really matter, with a vote of 15-14 making the positions Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare).

The issue of the NUS affiliation money was also raised. Many students based their decision on NUS disaffiliation on the fact that the money could be used for other Union matters. Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), Lily Topham, asked whether the rest of the NUS affiliation money would be available to the Union after the DPE and DPW roles had been funded. Miss Morgan confirmed that the Union would fight for the full amount, however ruled out an increased budget for the Union building re-development, as this does not fall within the scope of the Union's subvention.

The world beyond college walls



Palestine

After Israel's unilateral ceasefire on 17th January, and a completion of its troop pullout on the 21st, Palestinian residents are returning to their homes in the Gaza strip.

It is estimated that tens of thousands of Gazans are homeless as apartment blocks were reduced to rubble in areas where the Israeli Airforce did strike, and where battles with Hamas militants took place. Additionally, half a million Palestinians are without water, electricity supplies are also patchy and humanitarian aid supplies from donor countries are trickling through the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

Meanwhile Amnesty International has accused Israel of war crimes by indiscriminately using white phosphorus munitions in densely populated areas, something which the Israeli Defence Force is already investigating, and in Kuwait City, a meeting of the Arab League to discuss how to help rebuild Gaza ended in discord as its 22 members failed to agree on a plan.



United Kingdom

The British government has shelved plans to exempt MPs (Member of Parliament) from certain parts of the Freedom of Information Act.

After losing a case in the High Court last year, the House of Commons (lower house) was on the brink of publishing receipts for every expense claim made by an MP since 2005, putting them on the same level as other paid British public officials like civil servants and MSPs (Member of the Scottish Parliament). Initially assuming all-party support, the government's proposed change to the law would have blocked pending requests for more information under the Freedom of Information Act. But in the weekly Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday 21st January, Gordon Brown said he would not press ahead with the proposal, citing the withdrawal of support from the opposition Conservative and Lib Dem parties.

Critics were sceptical of the government's proposed changes, saying they were deliberately announced this week, when the news headlines were filled with Obama's inauguration and Heathrow's third runway plans, in order to "bury bad news."



Netherlands

A Dutch court has ruled that Geert Wilders, a right-wing politician, should be prosecuted for inciting racial hatred.

Three judges from the Amsterdam Appeals Court weighed Wilders' anti-Islamic rhetoric against his right to free speech with regards to his 17-minute film "Fitna", which was released in March 2008. The film showed verses of the Muslim holy book the Quran interspersed with images of terrorism; the judges reversed a decision from last year, and this time ruled that Wilders' had broken the law, thus setting the stage for what is likely to be a highly charged trial.

Wilders, who is the leader of the Freedom Party which has 9 out of 120 seats in the Dutch Parliament, is an outspoken critic of Islam. He has made controversial statements about Muslims before, calling for a ban on the Quran in the same way that Hitler's "Mein Kampf" is banned, and saying "I've had enough of Islam in the Netherlands; let not one more Muslim immigrate."



GMC rejects call for enquiry into MTAS

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

None of the doctors responsible for the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) fiasco will face disciplinary action from the General Medical Council (GMC) because their bad decisions weren't made in a clinical setting, junior doctors have been told.

The useless MTAS system, which was meant to match junior doctors to training posts, left thousands of qualified doctors jobless. It was condemned as unfair and inefficient, suffered technical failures and serious security breaches which left applicants' personal details exposed on the MTAS website.

The junior doctors' pressure group Remedy spearheaded the campaign for an investigation in to what was the most called-for professional referral to the GMC in medical history.

However, the GMC rejected the demand for an enquiry into the role and performance of the doctors who were involved in developing the system, telling Remedy:

"The allegations of misconduct must be concerned with poor performance in a clinical setting."



Demonstrators against the enquiry into the MTAS fiasco

Many have found this stance to be a baffling duplicity of standards in accountability.

Earlier last year TV psychiatrist Raj Persaud was suspended from practice over plagiarism in a book and various articles he had written for medical journals and newspapers, which was hardly a 'clinical setting'. Many recent cases that the GMC has handled relate

to doctors' conduct entirely unrelated to patients. Cases from 2008 include several doctors suspended for motor-ing offences, financial misconduct and another who looked at porn via hospital computers.

These were clearly cases of wrong doing, but the cost to the health service has been negligible compared to the harmful impact of the failed MTAS.



The Beauty Of Democracy

Obama's Inauguration

Kadhim Shubber

The biting cold meant that at 3am, 9 hours before the swearing in, I was huddled with a group of students from Michigan who had driven down to Washington that evening. We joked that the first black President of the United States might have a lot in his in-tray, but at least he had a warm bed to sleep in that night. Hours before we had met in a Ghanaian live music bar where a 53-year-old black D.C. resident grabbed the singer's microphone and emotionally declared that the mistakes of the past didn't matter anymore because "something beautiful is going to happen tomorrow".

America has a guilty past and Obama's election is an answer to the questions that this guilty past invites. Has equality been achieved? Is there still discrimination? Where is there a ceiling? Something that I heard over and over in Washington is that people never thought it would happen. Obama had asked them to hope, but most of all they had been scared of past racial and political demons coming back to haunt them again; scared of being let down.

For my generation, the generation that used new information technology to help put Obama in office, this was always a peculiar idea. Without the memory of segregation and the experience of discrimination the no-

tion of skin colour being a barrier to office had been frightening but alien. For the 70 year old grandmother from the South who stood her own in sub-zero temperatures amongst a group of teenagers the end of racial discrimination had never been powerfully proven. Her generation had dreamt of that one day when their children might be judged solely on their character but that day had never been symbolically demonstrated. For as long as Martin Luther King Jr's dream remained just that both in reality and in the African-American consciousness, the proud American ideals of freedom and equality would be tainted with the sweat and blood of black slaves. The election of Barack Obama is not liberal America's apology for slavery but it is, in the words of Vice-President Al Gore, "the redemption of the revolutionary promise that all men are born equal".

But this inauguration was more than the realisation of a dream. It was the vindication of American democracy. Americans have over the last 8 years been forced to ask questions about the purity and the future of their democracy. The 2000 election increased political cynicism. 9/11 brought with it the spectres of

torture, increased security and lost rights. Hurricane Katrina exposed a divided America and made a mockery of the government's ability to uphold its duties to its citizens; 'were black Americans still treated as second-class citizens?' we asked. For the past 8 years Americans have been asked to contemplate their decline to an undemocratic and totalitarian state.

At the inauguration, we witnessed a peaceful and stable transition of power. Something that seems simple but that still in this day and age remains special. The success of democracy in America and its ability to deliver the will of the people was proven and with the strong commandments of the new President, "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off,

and begin again the work of remaking America," the mistakes of the past did seem less important than the bountiful promise of the future.

Less important too were the divisions between Republican and Democrat, Conservative and Liberal, or Obama and McCain supporters. Of course, these distinctions did exist but they were not public. Democrats did not boast to me that they now controlled the American executive and legislative power and Republicans were not begrudging in their celebrations. On inauguration eve, a McCain supporter was being verbally abused by an over-zealous Democrat as a "redneck". A baying liberal mob did not spring up, instead onlookers jumped to his defence. Here was the

truth of Obama's 2004 convention speech, the material evidence of the fact that there is not a liberal America and a conservative America — there is the United States of America. Obama has appealed to the best in Americans, he has called on them to work hard, to believe, to hope, to remember the ideals on which the country was founded. And Americans of all colours have responded by uniting with pride in their nation.

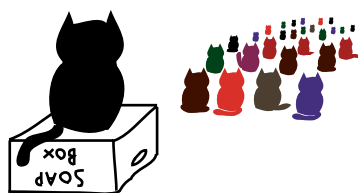
This inauguration, howev-

er, was momentous not only because Obama is the first black President and not only because of the unifying rhetoric and actions of the Commander-in-Chief. The inauguration was truly historic because it marks an era of struggle for the American people that threatens their way of life but also holds infinite potential.

This is the struggle to renew America's place at the forefront of the world culturally, politically and economically. It will require the upgrade of infrastructure, increased quality of learning, the creation of a green economy and the healing of America's cultural and political divisions. This is the struggle to preserve America's moral leadership and its government's credibility both at home and abroad.

In front of a 1.8 million strong crowd, Obama laid out the means by which America would engage in this struggle and he left us in no doubt of the outcome. This generation has a duty to carry forth the great gift of freedom to future generations, Obama told us, and that neither terrorists, nor cynics, nor the stale political arguments of right versus left would prevent America from rising to the challenge with pride, tolerance and strength. In short, we heard Obama say, the challenges of the present and the future "will be met". And there in the biting cold, on the National Mall, we shared the moment and we believed him.

"The success of democracy in America and its ability to deliver the will of the people was proven. The mistakes of the past did seem less important than the bountiful promise of the future"



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*



No more on the matter

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The subject of Israel and Gaza is always going to be a controversial one. The conflict in the Middle East has raged for decades, with roots going back millennia, and the topic's lengthy history makes any concise coverage impossible.

Emotions are also easily aroused on all sides, and with debates on the topic flaring up so easily, I made the decision last week that the conflict currently occurring in Gaza will only be covered in one week's issue. My decision to limit to one week meant that I ensured all the comment pieces selected were ones I deemed to be very well written and covered all the points considered necessary. Effectively we had both sides of the story, and to add to the neutrality of the page as a whole, I included the piece by Amin Elmubarak which maintained a fairly neutral tone. As a newspaper, I didn't want it to seem that we were coming down unequivocally on one side, and I believe that we were able to achieve this.

My feelings about the page were cemented when I received several letters, comments and opinions about them throughout the week. As expected, both sides were claiming inaccuracies in what the other had to say with not a single one claiming any errors or problems with the one by Amin. In fact, so many e-mails were sent to me that if I were to print them all, it would take up 6 pages.

As you can see, and as already mentioned, there are no comment pieces about the conflict this week. To those of you who did write in, a big thank you, and it is a big thank you for two main reasons; firstly you are all reading the paper which makes me feel happy, and secondly you all feel strongly enough in what you believe that you speak out. The problem is that I don't want the paper to be over-run by this one topic, which it easily can as the topic has been fiercely argued for years.

So apologies once again to those

of you who did submit something this week, and I hope you can understand why I have put an end to the discussion.

As one eagle-eyed reader pointed out, the newspaper needs to point out when it makes a mistake. Apart from the various spelling and grammar mistakes that creep through (which we don't really apologise for since they're always going to happen – as a side note, we are working on a new system which should reduce the number of these!)

So apologies for last week. Firstly the error in the Politics section regarding the tank. The caption under the picture of the tank on page 11 of last week's issue (1,420) read "Israeli tanks preparing for an increase in hostilities with Palestine". We apologise for the mistake made as the tank in the picture was actually a tank from the Indian military. So to all of you who wrote in to point this out, apologies.

Secondly there was the comment made by Politics editor James Goldsack referring to the Jewish community as "our big-nosed friends". He has issued an apology in his Politics section, which can be found on page 12.

Thirdly, on the story entitled "Heathrow expansion plans affect IC sports" by Charles Murdoch, he wrote that Sport Imperial were planning on moving the sports ground to the London Borough of Ealing in a place called Norwood Green not Northwood Green.

As I said, to all of you who have e-mailed in pointing out these errors, I am, as ever, grateful for your help.

To finish off my column, I thought I might use this opportunity to tell you all of the big events coming up this term, the main two being ArtsFest Week (16th-20th February) and Varsity (25th February). These two events showcase two of the biggest things at Imperial; it's every growing creative side, and the sporting rivalry between the medical school and Imperial. Keep an eye out for posters in the coming weeks.

Amin Elmubarak believes you can be anything!



"Obama has instilled a new sense of belief in the young generation"

What shocked me the most about the post-US election media coverage was not so much that a disproportionately large number of black people were interviewed but that the majority gave reaction of such jubilation and fervour at having "one of us" in the white house, that finally people are going to realise, as one African-American lady put it, "black people ain't just criminals and drug dealers, we are smart and we do deserve to be treated better".

It is true that people cross to the other side of the street when it's dark and they see a six-foot plus black man walking towards their general direction and a black man working as a lawyer or found reading a book that had nothing to do with sport or rap could be ribbed for "acting white". The question is:

Trying to ascertain a behavioural set for a white society seems futile when we all know that the French, Swedish, English and Irish are all different in their own way. So why is it acceptable to try to define a way of "acting black"? Is this racism or just the rest of society taking their queue from black people?

For this, I'm afraid we have to take a quick trip through history. Black people came from Africa, where they belonged to different tribes. Each with its own history, culture and tradition and therefore its own identity and own way of acting. Although the concept of slavery existed for thousands of years, it tended to be the product of captured losers in battle and the Arab trade routes through the present-day Middle East saw a thriving trade in slaves just as it did in spices and cattle. However, the migration of Africans from the west of Africa to Bristol and then present-day America saw slaves being captured not only by the "White man" but also by more powerful African tribes that sold them to white slave masters in return for harder-to-find resources such as weapons and other products.

Back across the Atlantic, the new owners cared not from which part of Africa their slaves originated or what dialect they spoke. As far as they were concerned, they didn't speak English and that was that. Some just got on with their new roles, as they felt helpless whilst others tried to resist and were subsequently broken down. The result was generation after generation that were neither allowed access to their heritage nor accepted into this world that they found themselves in. History saw the slow transition from slavery, to the freedom of slaves to the civil rights movement then.... nothing. Not because there were any rules that prevented black people from progressing but because black people in America suddenly found themselves sharing a country with their white counter-parts, where they are sharing the same law, the same land, services and hopes for the future but when they looked back, they did not a similar history nor could they find an identity that they could relate to as it was an

existence without any freedom, neither of thought, ideas or traditions.

Though Obama's victory was in the political arena, the hope for change that he embodies goes beyond the credit crunch, international terrorism and global warming. It would be naïve to think that Obama will completely change American foreign, environmental or economic policy over one four-year term.

However, the immediate change that he has instilled is a new sense of belief:

The young generation's belief in the power of the vote; the world's nostalgic belief in America as a vanguard for justice; But most of all, African American's belief in their abilities.

To borrow the words of Jay-Z:

"These are oppressed people, what it represents is that we as a people are now part of the American dream. It's not "Oh the black man is hot!" – I hate it when people on T.V. say that. For a kid in the Marcy Projects right now can say, you know, maybe I can be the President because for a part we were left out of the American Dream at a certain point. Because for a part it was lawyers and doctors.... Wow, that's a black lawyer or a doctor, I can do that too. Now the dream is you can be ANYTHING and it's not cliché. You can be anything you want to be in the world, you're not left out of the American Dream. I think it's more important than anything. The Hope of that."

History, as well as recent events such as the credit crunch, have shown that the world is like a pond: when a stone is dropped in the middle, the ripples will spread and affect every leaf on its surface. The American president may not write the budget for the UK, Germany or France, but the ripples of any event in America will filter towards us sooner or later.

On the 20th of January 2009, "the son of a man who would not have been served in a restaurant" stood on the steps of the same Capitol Hill that was built by the whipped and bloodied hands of black slaves "to take a most sacred oath". Who knows when those ripples of hope will spread worldwide.



THE LINKS CLUB

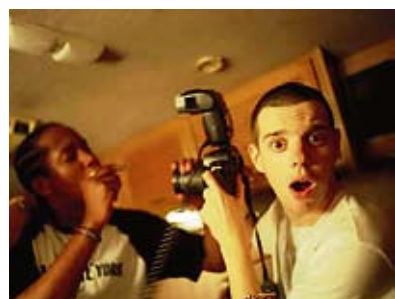
IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

The Links Club would like to announce their award for any student within the City and Guilds College who is an active member within the Guilds or who has excelled on the sporting front.

The award is a bursary of £250 and will be presented to the eventual winner at The Links Club annual dinner in June 2009.

Candidates must submit an application no longer than 250 words, either by email to honsec@linksclub.org or hand it in to the CGCU office in a sealed envelope by 1st May 2009. Entrants must outline why they believe they deserve the award.

Different Class: four grand don't come for free...



"My solution is lower the price of events by employing more IC talent and dropping the gimmicks"

This is a story about love and hate. About two players in a game, linked only by the deep bond of a chemical dependency. About a crime that breaks no law only the spirit of honest men. About one man's journey to the brink of despair. This is a story about right and wrong.

For a long time now there has been an issue that has troubled most of us. That has niggled just below the surface, sufficiently out of sight to not warrant a cure. Something that we can all relate to but are equally powerless to do anything about. The problem I want to raise is the state of the union.

There are those among us who believe there is no problem. That the union has its faults but it is like a dodderly grandparent who we still love, despite their rampant racism and funny smell (the grand-parent and not the union of course). But in truth things are worse

than that. The line was crossed for me last term. We all know too well of the stress a degree at this institution entails and some deal with this stress in different ways. My way, and I'm fairly certain I'm not alone on this one, is alcohol. So how is it that at a time when we are all penny-less from buying Christmas and teetering on the edge of insanity due to enormous workloads that the union feels it necessary to penalise us further by charging £11 to get through the door. The fact I could have a mince pie and mulled wine for my £11 will not dig me out of debt or end my stress-induced depression. This exploitation needs to end; we should not be mugged by a group who apparently have our best interests at heart.

Now you may hear the supporters of the union claim that the money goes towards the cost of paying "performers" on ticketed nights. Published accounts show that "entertainments" cost the union over £94,000 in the year up July 07, receiving only £46,000 back in income. I'm no accountant but that looks like a bad piece of business to me and a new strategy is needed. You need only to remember what the union booked that totalled this large amount to see where things went wrong. I refuse to believe how someone with such little musical ability as "Alexa Chung" was let near a set of decks let alone paid for it. What made it worse for her, and even more apparent of her complete lack of talent, was that she was followed up by Will Kay, who I am assured was not being paid £4000+ to play a CD containing, among other hits the "Raw-hide" theme (£4000 is the fee reported in the London Paper for Ms. Chung's service at an alternative venue). Maybe if the union focussed on the abundant in-house talent like Will and DJ Abyss among so many others, it could reduce ticket prices by dropping musical nobodies like Ms Chung. I'm not trying to dictate union policy here, I for one am partial to a bit of Colin Murray on a Friday night, but we shouldn't be made

to pay through the nose for people who are not really entertaining.

You may think that this article has descended into a mindless rant but I am not of the angry-geek mould. I do want this solved and need not write into to theses hallowed pages again. My solution is obvious, lower the price of end of term events, by employing more IC talent and dropping the gimmicks. The union must learn that rotating mechanical animals, be they bulls or reindeer or Easter bunnies, do not get people through the door. Neither will the talent vacuum that encompasses most radio 1 DJs. The potential of cheap night out with mates will inevitably draw people in. It is a simple case of priorities; the union should be serving us not us serving them as we spunk our student loans on outrageous entry prices.

We begrudgingly accepted the increase in this year's alcohol prices and the move from Carlsberg to Fosters as a sign of the times and I for one think the unions drink pricing is great. If only I could get through the door without pissing away my money on the ticket cost. The trouble is there is not much we can do. If we boycott, as I did this Christmas, we achieve nothing. I plodded round to the Queens Arms, gasped at the price of a pint and skulked home in a huff. The powers that be in the union will see boycotting as student apathy and continue on in there mindless ways. And so this is my question to you. What can we do? I have raised the issue, given it a platform, now we need to push on and sort this mess out. Is it really reasonable to expect a student that reaches the end of the year, when the cupboard is at its most empty, to pay £35 for a ticket for the last night at the union? I refuse to believe that that amount of money could ever come close to offering value and that the current state of affairs is criminal. I think it is a robbery in the making and since we know the criminal and know the crime it is time we had our justice.

There's probably no God so stop worrying and enjoy life with Nathan Sherwood



"There is a God. But don't worry, he offers eternal life."

Sitting waiting for the 74 at Hyde Park Corner on Sunday and with little other than the cold to numb my boredom, the bold orange and pink lettering of the British Humanist Association's slogan, branded across a page of the London Lite got me thinking: who's worried?

Before you assign this article to that genre of ever increasing popularity, the 'adverticle', and write me off as another whacked out, fundamentalist Christian, with more enthusiasm than friends and less social skills than facial hair, let me suggest that the irony surrounding the advertising campaign surely makes my question valid.

Maybe I've missed the mark completely. Maybe all those people who gave money to the £136,000 campaign funding the adverts did so because they

weren't worried? I'm told there are a lot of people with no worries and a lot of spare cash around these days, right? And surely the people who worked on the advert must have realised that someone from the population of London was going to try and sue them for it. If they really weren't worried would they really go to all this trouble to tell us 'Stop Worrying'?

And as for enjoying my life, I want to know whether the men and women who spent hours working to produce an advertisement about a God they don't believe is real had a lot of fun doing it.

Seriously though, it strikes me that the people who are most worried about the existence of a God are the people working hardest to tell us not to worry because there isn't one. And I can sort of understand why they might. If there is a god you wouldn't want to be the one responsible for denying that he or she exists; that would be like going home at Christmas and not just not buying either of your parents anything to go under the tree because you don't think they're there but actually putting posters up around their house denying that either of them was real; you can see how they'd be annoyed.

If there really is no God then I guess we're not really left with any other choice than getting on with life, but if there's probably no God surely it's worth making sure that 'There is a God. But don't worry, he offers eternal life' isn't a more accurate slogan?

During the first week of February the Christian Union has organised a week called 'FREE' on campus because this guy called Jesus convinced well over a billion people he is God. I suspect he may have had slightly more impact than all the adverts on all the sides of all the busses have ever achieved. Maybe it's worth finding out what he was really about.

Gilead Amit engages in some light archaeology



The following are extracts from the recently-translated Book of Obama, a religious text dating from the early 21st Century. Possible errors in translation are not to be attributed to this publication.

1:1. And lo, on the forty-third day, the Saviour of Men came unto his people. And the praise and exultation poured forth as the mighty ocean waves pound against the shore, or as the cold winds of January bite shrewdly at those for whom no earmuffs have been provided.

1:2. "We are your people," shouted the multitude, "for yours is the power, and the glory, and the life everlasting."

"Woohoo", came the cry from the back of the crowd and from isolated pockets near the front. And the throats of the people went hoarse with the intensity of their delight, and they were reduced to waving small oblong pieces of cloth on sticks to indicate their jubilation.

1:3. And the Saviour emerged onto the balcony of the temple, where but lately he had stood waging battle with nonbelievers from both sides of the aisle. His gait was purposeful and his frame was elegant, and as he walked tall at the side of his wife the thoughts of the masses remembered how much more attractive she was than those who had come before her, and how pretty she looked in that golden dress with the fabulous matching coat and the divine dark green gloves which so many women thought were daring and yet so becoming at the same time, weren't they just?

1:4. And as the chosen couple advanced to their seats, there was much waving and flashing of teeth, and the raucous joy of the people was transmitted to television sets all over the world, in the attempt to make the Ascension of our Lord a truly family-friendly event.

...

3:8. "What is your name, old man?" asked the Saviour of Men of the man to his left.

"I am George, son of George; for ten generations in this land of the house of Bush."

"Ah," quoth the Chosen One: "truly, for I have seen your effigies - there is indeed great wonder to be found in the sight of a burning Bush."

And the people did groan loudly as ones affected by pain, and yet laughed in spite of themselves with the laughter of the faithful. "Truly," shouted a lone voice from the congregation, through tears of mirth and of suffering, "His wisecracks are as cheap oil over troubled waters, and his puns sparkle like the stars in a sky free of excess carbon dioxide, acidic pollutants or smog."

"Yea," chanted the masses, "we are indeed blessed."

...

4:3. And He regaled them with his exploits among the Pharisees and the moneylenders in their golden temples on Wall Street. How he made them overturn their own trading tables and run, panicked, out of their houses of sin and extravagance.

"Tell us, O great one," the people cried in astonishment, "how did one

man accomplish such a feat?"

"I stood among them, and in front of their eyes transformed a live bull into the stuffed carcass of a bear." And the people saw in him the innocence of a child, but not in a racist way, of course, that goes without saying.

...

5:6. At the Capitol did he deliver the Sermon on the Hill, which poured forth with words both soothing and invigorating, both calm and watchful, both peaceful and redolent with power. Albert. "Blessed are the meek, for they will be too timid to enter the long and tiring legal procedure needed to establish that they are the ones next in line to inherit the Earth.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."

5:7. At this, a great wind roared over the assembly, which sent forth chills into the hearts of men, whatever their skin colour, gender and sexual orientation might have been. And the Saviour of Men looked over at George, son of George, and delivered unto the people his well-worn message:

"Change we needeth. Can we accomplish such a feat?" And the voice of the people returned as one:

"Verily we may!"

...

7:5 And the Messiah turned unto his friend Joseph, and did purge him of the Vice which was to have been fixed to his name forever more, and looked upon him with devotion.

...

7:8. "And what say you unto Hillary?" Asked Joseph. "Come forth, Hillary." And Hillary stepped forward and was embraced by the Messiah as having seen the light and renounced the ways of darkness she had hitherto followed. "And what words have you for Rahm?" Enquired Joseph. "Step forward, Rahm." And Rahm advanced unto his Master and was accepted as among the chosen, to stay at the right arm of the Saviour until disaster, old age, or bad publicity brought on by his uncontrollable temper would drive them apart.

...

9:11. And the voice of the Saviour of Men rang out loud and clear in the icy stillness of the morning. "The reign of Satan is ended. Get thee behind me, Satan."

9:12. And the people did cheer him with the name he had taken as a mortal, and repeated the name of Obama as the Saviour of Men ascended to the Great White House.

Are we all freaks or is there something to freak about? - Slutty Pumpkin



I was going home the other day after a tough day at Imperial when I saw this man talking to himself. A decent-looking guy with a no-brand sweat-shirt and no-brand sneakers. We could say he was normal. He even looked young, no more than 30. As I went past him, I didn't even turn back or act suprised since this was no surprise to me at all. I realised that I had seen lonely slow-walking normal-looking alone-talking people almost everyday during this past week. I couldn't help but wonder: are we all freaks or is there something to freak about?

We all know that the world is currently in a difficult financial position, we all know that the climate change is speeding up the end of our dear planet, but are these the reasons for the high level of freaks I encountered this week?

Does the political and social situation of a country reflect on the amount of freaks running free on the streets? In order to find an answer I had to look for examples extracted from my life. Back home, I used to have a neighbour, a good-looking 30-something woman with child, who used to get drunk and start singing songs in an unknown language in her garden until late at night. Then one of my English teachers at school had such sudden mood changes that some days she would praise you as her best pupil and other days she would forget your name in the middle of the year. And these were only a few examples from my past. The fact that they happened when everything was peaceful and not altered by any credit crunch means that there might not be a close relation to the stability status of the world and the number of crazy people out there.

I decided to investigate my present and see if I could see a difference. Unfortunately, I have to say that it has gotten even worse. I have met some serious freaks at Imperial during my 3 years here. Even though I have to admit that most of them are harmless, it makes me very sad when I discover a freak among the people I call my friends. There was a person whom I considered a close friend last year and who suddenly stopped talking to me. At this point I obviously didn't know about her freak identity, I thought that

something had happened or that I had made some mistake. But later on, some people told me that she had stopped talking to them too. And then I discovered that half Imperial had been rejected by her. I instantaneously felt a feeling of relief "it's not me!" but then many new questions came to my mind. How do you handle such mood-swinging freaks? Can they be friends with normal people?

In order to find answers, I went and did some research in the literature. For those who watch Friends, you will immediately think of Phoebe. Yes, she would come into the harmless freak category, but she is also a funny, creative and very caring person. And thus she had friends. In 'Friends' I trust and thus I decided to fight for those freaks who might come up a bit strong the first day but then have lovely personalities. Being freak doesn't have to play against you, it can also be a charming asset you can use, and create some kind of lovely unpredictability around you. Unfortunately this is not always the case. It is not even usually the case. But it happens, and you have to give people a chance. And besides, the amount of freaks having gone up at the same time that the credit crunch has been introduced into our lives, who is to say that these are not directly correlated? It is possible that it is not even their fault if they have been infected by this crazy virus, it is clearly the subprimes!

Wonder walls – more than just a catchy tune for Quick Nic



A pretty ubiquitous thing, the wall. Surrounded by them for most of our daily lives, whether walking down wall-lined streets or sitting in the enclosure of them, how many of us consider the significance of walls on our well-being, psyche, or even world history? With great walls, wailing walls, and wonderwalls; there must be more to them than first meets the eye.

Paleolithic man rebelled against nature by constructing walls where he wanted to stay; one of his first technological advances. From the days of high-tech protection measures, walls have evolved to now have many reasons d'être: surprising maybe, but consider...

The most prominent of modern day are those around territories, a mark of ownership on the land. A really big barrier keeping out the undesirables and protecting those within. Like your neighbour growing big pine trees around their garden to stop you from peeking in, it says a lot.

Stay with me now – there's a point. Like children in an argument that find

they're getting nowhere turning their backs to each other, walls in difficult situations rarely solve a lot. My example being the days I've gone not talking to my sister. With closed doors there's no need for communication; therefore it doesn't happen. We've lost our communities for the same reason and have replaced them with virtual ones where ease of communication is the name of the game. I personally like to hear the lol, see the :@ and feel the ()), it lets me feel real, un-virtual if you will. Walls are letting us live our separate lives without any need for real face to face interaction.

Without this communication nothing gets solved; because unlike children forgetting the stolen Pokémon card; whole populations rarely forget their problems and it's even harder to attain the forgiveness of those wronged. Walling the problem up as Emperor Akbar did to legendary dancer Anarkali (Mughal-E-Azam, a must-watch Hindi film) only serves to exacerbate the problem, creating the ideal breeding ground for extreme feelings to take hold. Who knows what could happen then?

Imagine around you, the walls crumbling down. Your magnolia stained, flower printed bedrooms disintegrating. The faces of your favourite girls and boys (or your revision notes as the case may be) crumbling. You may get caught in the debris of what was once your home. The cold streaming in, taking hold. Nowhere to sleep and escape the harshness that our ancestors long ago faced. As the adage goes, you don't know what you've got till it's gone.

I'm saying this so that I'm not too harsh to walls. Perhaps it's not walls that are to blame, but people. When the giants fight it's the civilians who lose what's dearest to them. Walls may have evolved but only as mankind has dictated; whether to impose themselves or for the safety and warmth of our homes. Some walls are worth fighting for; God knows I love mine.

The writing on the wall doesn't have to be so ominous. We should appreciate our homes and good lives; realise that everyone has the right to live free of fear, to have a roof over their heads and walls to love, not hate. Well done then to the group of people who ran the peace wall, "Peace by pieces", where people could express their feelings on the recent tragedies and others could be made aware, then go on to do something about it. Rather cleverly these people chose to use their wall as a means of breaking down the ones in our minds. It was very successful and hopefully has driven the students to stand and say we at Imperial want nothing but peace.

Our first show of solidarity will be tonight on Queen's Lawn where there will be a Vigil from 5 till 6.

Maybe being another brick in the wall isn't so bad after all.

Kawai Wong: Ryanair, fool me once, shame on...

You understand, I am only human. And humans cannot resist a little bargain. My dollar-sign eyes glisten as this appears on my computer screen - "your flight status is confirmed". I punch my fists in the air and swing my t-shirt above my head. Ha, a £40 return flight to Milan.

Blood drains from my face when the adrenalin of slashing a good deal ebbs away. I realise what I have done. Yet again. 100 years on from Jack and Rose, technological advances have put an end to epic travelling. Unfortunately not with a budget airline. They send you 3 centuries back to the Z-deck on a transatlantic steamboat. On the eve of departure, I toss and turn in my bed, soak my linen with cold sweat as Michael O'Leary opens my suitcase and toss my shower gel, t-shirts, towels, nighties, underpants, sunglasses, flip-flops and bikini into an open fire. "Why didn't you pay for checked luggage? Why didn't you pay for speedy boarding? Why didn't you..." He puts a numbered stamp on my forehead and a fearsome looking witch pushes me onto the aircraft. I have never been more cheerful to wake up to a 4am alarm clock. What a nightmare. Wait, or is it the actualisation of truth?

Why am I such a fool? Knowing full well in advance that ground travel will probably cost me an extra £40 if not more. Yes, booking with BA will cost me £100 one off. But I will fly out at more humane hours, and I can march on to the aircraft with dignity. The airhostess to welcome you on board at least has the decency to tie up their hair and look presentable. I get to booze on the house, I get to have a little sandwich, I get a few glittery points on my AirMiles portfolio. And if I am thick enough I can even ask for toys or register myself as an "unaccompanied minor" and suckle on the stewardess's breast.

But the damage has been done, I have to physically trawl my 0kg bag through the door to catch the next tube, bus, train, coach, plane, coach again and then bus. I always, always angrily punch the passenger seat in front of me just to vent my frustration on how impossible I am. How many mistakes do I need to make before I ban myself from the Ryanair website? I lie on my hotel bed in Citta Alta thinking about Bush. "Fool me once, shame on..." I am too exhausted to admire the scenery outside my hotel window. I have wasted another £40 for sleeping through

the day in a hotel room.

I am no business person. But I happen to know that in 2006, Ryanair launched a hostile take over for Aerlingus. Aerlingus had a close shave then, the decision rejected only by European Commission reasoning that Ryanair will attain Irish air monopoly. The Irish Government dumped three quarters of the previously government owned company's shares onto the stock market in 2006. Since then Ryanair has become the largest shareholder of Aerlingus at 29.5%. Allow me to reiterate my sheer ignorance in how the financial market works, but it would be an utter nightmare for pas-

"How many mistakes do I need to make before I ban myself from the Ryanair website?"

sengers if the budget airline ideology continue to dominate our air traffic. I prefer to check in how ever many bags as I see fit, without a hush-puppy looking clerk pulling another £20 off my plastic. I prefer the lovely snacks and drinks and toys. I prefer the 'Catch Me If You Can' airhostesses. I prefer to pay for a ticket with an honest price tag with no hidden costs.

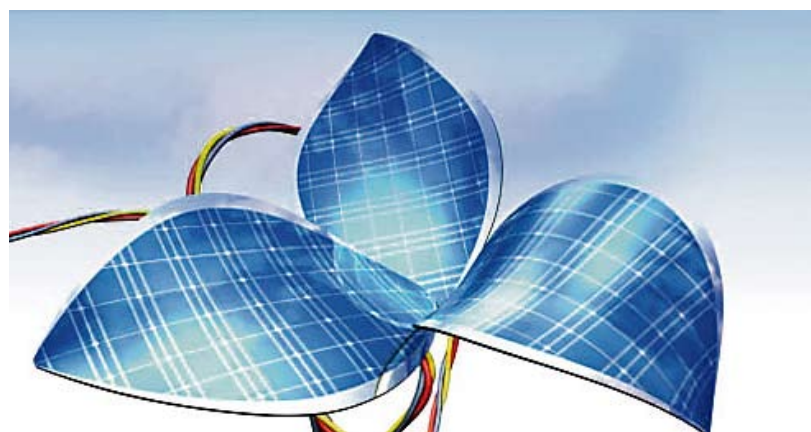
And for you stripey suit wearing kids out there jumping up and down in protest to what I have said above, yes, I acknowledge the fact that Ryanair has its beautiful side too. Ryanair has created tourist destinations in rural parts of Europe that no one has envisioned any form of business would be able to flourish at all. But stripey suit wearing kids probably never have to travel in Economy Class, let alone with a budget airline. You don't understand us commoner's pain if Ryanair manages to eat its way up the food chain and degrade the service our sons of the world so rightly deserve.

Aerlingus is no Alitalia. It continues to trade favourably on the stock market. I fail to see why it needs a blue and yellow smiley with two devil horns stuck up their rear exit.



The *eco-science* column

The Clean Energy Project



Olivia Sharp
Science Reporter

Idle computer power can now be put to good use, thanks to a novel scheme set up by scientists at Harvard University investigating new solar-panel technology.

Willing volunteers can download a simple program to their PC or Mac, so during screen-saver mode it runs calculations used for research into organic solar cells. Some of the energy otherwise wasted in the home can actually contribute towards developing renewable energy sources.

The Clean Energy Project went live on 5th December 2008, and is part of IBM's World Community Grid (WCG), which aims to 'advance research of humanitarian projects'. Other WCG projects include aids and cancer research and disease-resistant crop development. So far the grid has attracted over a million volunteers, notching up an estimated 203,000 years of otherwise unused computing time. IBM ranks the grid in the top 5 supercomputers in the world.

Organic solar cells are a lighter and more flexible alternative to conventional silicon cells. The lead researcher behind the project, Professor Alan Aspuru-Guzik, notes that current organic solar cells have a relatively low efficiency of 5-6%. He hopes to improve

on this figure, as an efficiency of 15% would make them viable commercially and sees 'a systematic path towards breakthroughs in performance of organic solar cells.'

The Harvard University team use computational chemistry to look through thousands of potential molecular materials which can be used in solar cells based on organic molecules. The cells need compounds with specific features to efficiently capture and store energy and experimentally testing and manufacturing each molecular combination would be highly time consuming. Their theoretical calculations can determine whether the molecule is a good match for solar panel use.

This is where the home computer comes in. By connecting your computer via the Internet, a downloaded program runs these calculations that feed back to a central database. Numbers are run concurrently on two computers and compared, to avoid hacking activity. Aspuru-Guzik has estimated the team would take 100 days to scan one of the thousands of compounds without the World Community Grid but with the help of donated computing time from around the world, their calculations may be completed within 2 years.

If you would like to contribute your idle processing power, go to <http://cleanenergy.harvard.edu/go/>.

Sneak peak of the Spring Issue of *I, science* out next week

Obama makes room for science in the White House

The new president has filled prominent positions with eminent scientists in a statement of intent on climate change

Sam Wong

Barack Obama has pleased scientists and environmentalists across the world with a series of appointments that suggest an intention to make science a high priority during his presidency. The decisions appear to signal a radical shift away from the attitudes of his predecessor George W. Bush, who has been accused of allowing U.S. research to stagnate and of stubbornly ignoring the evidence on climate change.

Announcing his choices in a radio address, Obama said, "It is time we once again put science at the top of our agenda and worked to restore America's place as the world leader in science and technology".

The incoming president also stressed the importance of respecting scientific evidence in the process of making political decisions. "The truth is that promoting science isn't just about providing resources – it's about protecting free and open inquiry. It's about ensuring that facts and evidence are never twisted or obscured by politics or ideology. It's about listening to what our scientists have to say, even when it's inconvenient – especially when it's inconvenient. Because the highest purpose of science is the search for knowledge, truth and a greater understanding of the world around us. That will be my goal as President of the United States".

Chief among Obama's appointments was the selection of Harvard physicist John Holdren as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Holdren is a world-renowned expert on climate change who has been an outspoken proponent of the need to take action. In an article for *Scientific American* last October, Holdren wrote "the Bush administration has wasted the last eight years. It should have been taking decisive action but engaged instead in systematic understatement of the danger: it has made ridiculous assertions that the U.S. should not do anything that China does not agree to do and has stubbornly insisted that no action should be taken to improve climate change 'if it hurts the economy'". For his lobbying work on environmental issues, Holdren was awarded the Tyler Prize in Environmental Achievement in 2000.

In addition to his work on climate change, Prof. Holdren has also taken a keen interest in science policy, as well as being an active opponent of nuclear proliferation. In 1995, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Pugwash Conferences, an organisation that brings together influential scholars with the aim of reducing the danger of armed conflict.

Along with two other distinguished scientists, Harold Varmus and Eric



The 44th President of the USA, Barack Obama

Lander, Holdren will co-chair the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). Varmus received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1989 for his work in cancer research and has also served as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Lander, a professor of biology who was involved with the Human Genome Project, is the Director of the Broad Institute, a centre for genome research set up as a joint venture between Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

As his Energy Secretary, Obama has chosen another Nobel laureate, Stephen Chu. Chu, Professor of physics and molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), is Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He has been an outspoken advocate for finding scientific solutions to tackle climate change and has enthusiastically supported research into alternative fuels. It is the first time that a career scientist has been selected to run the Department of Energy.

"President-elect Obama has set the tone and pace for moving our country forward with optimism and calm determination," Chu said. "With these virtues, the United States and the world can and will prevail over our economic, energy and climate change challenges."

In addition, Obama has created the new position of Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, a post in which he has appointed Carol Browner, a former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency who has also served as Al Gore's Legislative Director. Meanwhile, environmental scientist Jane Lubchenco will take control of the National Oce-

anic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In the past, Lubchenco has openly criticised the NOAA for not doing enough to prevent over-fishing.

Members of the science community were quick to welcome Obama's choices. "John Holdren, Jane Lubchenco and Steven Chu are, by any measure, a science dream team for the new administration," said Peter Frumhoff from the lobby group Union of Concerned Scientists. "They all are among the top in their fields and understand the critical role that science must play in informing policy decisions."

Others are eager to ensure that Obama backs up his talk of action on climate change with policies that will genuinely lead to significant reductions in America's carbon emissions. James Hansen, a climatologist who heads NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has written an open letter to the President and First Lady outlining proposals that he believes are necessary to bring down atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Hansen insists that "cap and trade" measures are insufficient and that much tougher action must be taken. He recommends phasing out coal power stations that do not have carbon capture and imposing a carbon tax at the source of the fuel to reduce demand. In addition, he argues that the President must support the development of safe nuclear power plants.

The letter can be read in full on the website of Columbia University, where Hansen is a Professor of Earth and Environmental Studies. Prefacing the letter, Hansen wrote "(Michelle and Barack Obama) are equally smart lawyers and if we can get either of them to really focus on the actions that are needed, the planet has a chance".

I, science

OUT NEXT WEEK

beat the blues

January is notorious for being dank, dark and miserable. Christmas is over and with the exam period looming ahead it's understandable that spirits are low. There are a few steps you can take to help you through the tougher times at Imperial, and who you can turn to when you're experiencing problems. Read on for our top tips to get through the Winter Blues.

Careers

With the burst of the financial bubble, Imperial students have been finding it harder to find their feet in their graduate world. Take heart, however, because it's not as bad as you think. While some of the larger companies have put recruitment on hold, this isn't the case across the board. While the rumour mill is suggesting that fewer people are getting to interview stages, this isn't the case. In fact, applications have been down so your chances may actually be improved! If you are confused about your options, regardless of whether you are looking for paid work, considering further study or even volunteering there are people who can give you advice. The **Careers Advisory Service** is located on Level 5 of the Sherfield Building and they have a host of information about job vacancies, company profiles and details about upcoming careers fairs and company presentations. There are also Departmental Careers Advisors for specialised advice- details can be found on your Department's website.

Take some 'me' time

Life at Imperial can be tough- you're in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world with a host of famous landmarks and not-so-famous treasures for you to seek out. Unfortunately, high expectations and a hefty workload mean we don't take the time to hunt these out. East London might as well be a different city for all its quirks, Soho's bars are a world apart from the mayhem of Oxford Street and London's parks are an oasis in the summer months. It's a shame we rarely get to see them!

One of the benefits of the recession has been a host of bargains on the internet for evenings out and restaurant meals. Most of the chain restaurants have got offers on at the moment, especially 2 for 1 meals. www.moneysavingexpert.com and www.studentbeans.com have the best up to date offers.

Exam Stress



Even when revision and coursework is eating up all your time, make sure that you schedule in some breaks from your revision and work schedule to relax, get something to eat and take a walk. Try and avoid logging into facebook or completing a few levels on your favourite game- you'll just feel like you haven't had a break at all. Don't feel guilty about taking some time to do something you enjoy- it's just counterproductive so make sure you schedule it in! The **Health Centre** holds exam stress workshops which explore the ways you can cope with the anxiety associated with the exam period. The next one takes place on the 11th of March and you need to email them to book a place in advance- visit www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk for more details and tips. Your Learning to Learn booklets also have more advice on how to study effectively.

Eat well



While the jury's out on the benefit of different food types on mental health, it's fair to say that a lot of student's diets aren't up to scratch. Existing solely on crisps, beer and coffee will impair your ability to concentrate and . Fluctuations in blood sugar levels caused by bingeing on chocolate and cans of coke can make you feel tired and low. If you have time in the morning, grab some fruit or a cereal bar from the supermarket to snack on in between meals. Try having at least one proper meal a day- it will stave off the hunger pangs in the middle of the afternoon. If the idea of cooking a meal fills you with dread and actually makes you more stressed there are a number of places on campus to sit down and have a hot meal and chill out at lunch. If you do fancy wielding your saucepan and having a stab at some cooking the website www.studentcooking.tv has got some Imperial-specific videos to inspire you.

Get on your bike!

Physical exercise is under-rated as a way to prevent the blues. There is strong evidence to support the fact it can help people with anxiety and depression, and some to show it may prevent these problems from developing in the first place. Regular physical activity can lift your mood and help you deal with feelings like anger and anxiety, particularly if the exercise is fairly high intensity. Pounding on a treadmill isn't necessarily required- just being more active by cycling, walking at a fast pace and sports can all be beneficial. Other forms of exercise such as yoga and pilates have been shown to be particularly effective at beating anxiety and stress.

To give you a taster of some of these activities, **Sport Imperial** has reserved **10 free places** on the following classes at **Ethos**.

Monday 26th Jan - Pilates 12:00

Monday 26th Jan - Yoga 19:15

Tuesday 27th Jan - Yoga 12:00

Tuesday 27th Jan - Tai Chi 17:00

Thursday 29th Jan - Pilates 17:30

Friday 30th Jan - Pilates 13:00

To take up this offer, just email dpew@imperial.ac.uk with the class you would like to attend at least 24 hours before it is scheduled to take place and you will be added to the class list. All those that attend will also be given 2 free class vouchers for other sessions.

Talk to someone



Most of things discussed so far are ways that you can help yourself take control of your mental health. However, if you feel things are getting on top of you, it's important to realise and accept this at an early stage. It's also important that you can find someone to turn to when you're feeling stressed, anxious or low. In addition to your friends and family, Imperial has an extensive network of support services available to you, and it's up to you who you want to approach. It's hard to talk about some personal issues with people you don't know well, but you'd be surprised how many students are going through the same thing as you and people can be surprisingly willing to help. If one doesn't work for you, don't feel bad about contacting someone else. Remember, if you encounter difficulties during the exam period in your course and need to take an interruption of studies or even retake an exam your life will be a lot easier if someone knows about it.

The first line of contact for students is usually their **Personal Tutors**, who are there to help you with a range of pastoral and welfare issues and point you in the right direction when you are experiencing difficulties. If you can't get hold of your personal tutor or would prefer to talk to someone else in your Department, there are **Senior Tutors** in each Department who you can send an email to or call to explain your difficulties.

There are networks outside your department too. The **College Counselling Service** has a number of counsellors to talk through any personal problems you might be experiencing, be it anxiety, relationship problems or even if you think you might be depressed. You can contact them by phone or email and all information is kept as confidential as you want it to be. If you might benefit from seeing a doctor, this may be recommended to you but you can also approach the **Health Centre** directly. Depression is actually surprisingly common in the student population, affecting 1 in 10 of us. It's important to confront these problems sooner than later.

There are also **College Tutors** who may be outside of your department who have experience with a range of issues including academic worries, appeals and personal problems. Within the Union there is a **Student Advisor**, Nigel, and Hannah, **Deputy President (Education & Welfare)**. They have experience of helping students with a practical, personal and academic issues and are all very approachable! For all the contact details check the Union or College website.

With this large network of people that are here to help you, no matter how great the issues you are dealing with you will always have someone to turn to.

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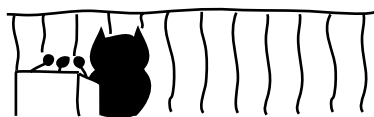
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Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk



I am very
sorry...

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

I would like to apologise for any offense caused by my column last week. My racial stereotype was not intended as derogatory. I am descended from one of the 12 tribes myself and my column was written in defence of Israel. I assumed that in context and with the use of the term “friends”, it would be obvious that it was meant as a joke; in bad taste, perhaps, but still inoffensive.

I am now aware that for such a tricky topic I should not have used such humour, but if you can't laugh at times like this, what can you do? When I next use a stereotype I shall ensure it is obviously tongue-in-cheek.

However, this is only a student newspaper, no matter how good or how professionally we take it.

A couple of errors were also pointed out from last week's issue and I apologise for these as well. The photograph of a ‘tank heading into Gaza’ was not in fact Israeli – which any self-respecting tank expert would know. Imagine a different tank rolling into Gaza and there you have it.

Now that I have grovelled enough, I shall turn my attention to the Inauguration of Barack Obama. Almost 2 million people flocked to see the Founding Fathers spinning in their graves.

I am all for change, progress, democracy (despite its problems, a topic for another day perhaps) and Obama. If he had not won I would have been devastated.

However, my problem is more with

the nature of presidency in the US.

The Founding Fathers, whose names are always brought up at occasions such as these had struggled to create a nation not under God but of secular governance with faith separated from state.

At the inauguration, what did Obama have to swear the oath upon? Yes, a Bible. What was the most common phrase to be spoken during the whole address? “God bless the United States of America”.

It made me cringe.

The original vision of secularity is a far cry from today where the presidential candidates have to be Christian to get any support, and where dollar bills have religious slogans plastered over them.

What has happened to the principles of the fathers of democracy and the land of the free?

This is not the only problem I have with the presidency as a concept.

Presidents now have too much power, far more than allowed by their much-loved constitution. The checks and balances originally found in the system are no longer there. A president was supposed to be for use in situations where rapid response is necessary, when a parliament could not move fast enough.

This is one of the reasons why the US system is a corruption. They fight corruption elsewhere in the world but fail to look in their own administration to find the real criminals.

Israel withdraws

Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor

“A sporadic peace” was the phrase being thrown around by commentators after Israel declared a complete withdrawal of its troops from Gaza. This comes after a three-week assault against Hamas militants and could be a stepping-stone towards some kind of resolution. Israeli troops will remain near the border as a strategic measure in order to prevent any further attacks, spy planes continue to fly over the area and the navy have not ceased the random bombing of Gaza's beaches.

The withdrawal happened early on Wednesday, with an Israeli military spokesman telling the media; “The last of the Israel Defence Force's soldiers have left the Gaza Strip, forces have been deployed outside of Gaza and are prepared for any occurrences.” A statement that was a reaction to reports that the Israeli navy has continued to fire shells at Gaza from the Mediterranean, in what the military has described as a deterrent measure. The last armoured units and foot patrols left three days after Israel and Hamas separately declared ceasefires on Sunday. Officials had promised that they would have vacated the area before the inauguration of the new US president, Barack Obama.

The reasons for this are no doubt centred around Israel's desire to avoid possible tension at the start of a new era of diplomacy with its closest military ally. George Bush, Obama's predecessor, endorsed Israel's right to enter the Gaza Strip in its efforts to defend itself against rocket fire from Hamas militants, providing Israel with the confidence to carry out military measures. The pressing question is, how will the new president act to resolve



Gaza's skyline illuminated by fire and smoke from Israeli bombs

the situation? It expected that Obama will move quickly to appoint a Middle East envoy, possibly the former senator George Mitchell, who, on behalf of the Clinton and Bush administrations, was a key figure in trying to bring about an end to Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Around 1,300 Palestinians have killed and thousands made homeless since the 22-day long offensive began. Medical officials in Gaza stated that the Palestinian dead includes at least 700 civilians. Ten Israeli soldiers and three civilians hit by cross-border rocket fire were killed in the conflict. It is this contrast in the numbers of casualties on either side that has provoked an upsurge in outrage against Israel's military actions. Recently there have been protests around the Israeli embassy in Kensington, and a 24 hour vigil was held on High Street Kensington to remember those that had died in Gaza.

During the 24 hour vigil, a smaller protest was also underway nearby. Having attended the event myself as an observer, it was difficult to make out much of what was being said amongst

the sea of frantically swaying placards and aggressive chanting. I did however notice a sign that appealed to us to “Stop the Holocaust in Gaza”, showing a distinct lack of taste, in addition a car drove by bearing the phrase “Kill all the Jews”. It became increasingly evident that this particular protest had become less about politics and more about cultural fanaticism. Whilst attempting to gain some sort of coherent perspective from one protester I was subjected to a torrent of aggression and rogue saliva, I was called ‘an imperialist warmonger’ and most amusingly, accused of being in league with ‘the Zionists’, a response to my asking what the main reasons for their protest were: a slight over-reaction, perhaps.

It seems that the situation is moving forward, Hamas having stated that progress is being made with continuing talks in Cairo over Egypt's proposal for a deal that would guarantee that Gaza's border crossings be re-opened, including a terminal on the Egyptian frontier that had served as the main exit from the territory. So is peace on the horizon? I sincerely hope so.

Obama's inauguration and the media frenzy



The inauguration of Obama paves the way for the glorification of freedom of speech

Raz Jabary

With Barack Obama's inauguration as America's 44th President let us all briefly think back to the modern democratic developments in the Western world in the past century, those that have now resulted in the election of a citizen from a minority race to the highest office of the most powerful country in the world.

When having lived in this country for a while, one occasionally tends to forget how blessed we are to live in such advanced economic, political and cultural circumstances.

It was the media that changed people's perceptions in the past about major issues and that gave a substantial stimulus to the power of public opinion. It is the media today that delivers events around the world straight to our living rooms and it will be the media in the future that will prevent people such as the recently re-sentenced Chemical Ali to get away with the cruellest acts against humanity.

Like the freedom of expression, one does not tend to respect the role of the media unless one looks back at what was going on in a time of insufficient report coverage. Would the American public have fully supported America's previous wars if they had been tel-

vised like the conflict in Vietnam? Would the Holocaust have been such disastrous if people in every corner of the world were able to follow live coverage on the suffering that the Jewish community had to go through in Nazi Germany?

Unfortunately, the media has often been victimized in widespread acts of propaganda in various former and ongoing conflicts around the world. This emphasizes the necessity for us here in Britain to optimally utilize the opportunity to say what we think, to be critical of what we are told and mostly to set the example to regimes that harshly redeem lobbying opportunities for their own populations.

Let us all spare a brief moment to think about the many means of written communication that exist today and that have at some stage been a benefit to each one of us, from the university prospectuses that you consulted when you were in sixth form to that crucial BBC report that changed your view of the world in which we live.

The development of the media as a tool of indirect communication has increased lateral understanding and brought humans from different ethnicity and religions, different traces and nationalities all closer together. Let us be thankful for that.

Obama's inauguration and first days in office

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Barack Obama opened his inaugural address by telling the country of the crisis it has fallen into, that of "gathering clouds and raging storms." President Obama said that the economic crisis was not only a result of "greed and irresponsibility on the part of some," but instead a consequence of "our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age."

Those in the United States have been hankering for lower taxes yet greater services, an impossible task. Obama is showing a new side, a break from this politics: "Our time of standing pat, or protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed."

Obama's first speech as president showed that he is determined to attempt to create a new kind of politics for a "post-partisan" America. This idea is not necessarily going to sit well with those in the Democratic party who wish for a cleaner break from the Bush presidency and the painful times that came with it.

"On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics."

The speech also contained a similarly blunt message to the world. "To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect," he said.

Obama challenged the regimes of the Middle East to a new test: "Know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy." He also offered a path out of corruption for those nations or oligarchs willing to change: "We will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." However, unlike the Bush administration's insistent promotion of democracy,

president Obama appears to be taking a gentler approach.

Also in the inauguration speech, Obama said that "For those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you," helping to evade fears that America will now appear weak in the face of terrorism.

Obama has been likened to many previous presidents, such as Kennedy and Lincoln. His speech was akin to those of early American presidents, plain but bold. "What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them - that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply."

After the celebrations of inauguration night, President Obama was launched immediately into the reality of his new job. His first task was to call the leaders of Middle Eastern countries including Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The president has pledged "active engagement" for a fragile cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza.

"In the aftermath of the Gaza conflict, he emphasized his determination to work to help consolidate the cease-fire by establishing an effective anti-smuggling regime to prevent Hamas from re-arming, and facilitating in partnership with the Palestinian Authority a major reconstruction effort for Palestinians in Gaza," press secretary Robert Gibbs said in a statement.

Obama's first presidential meetings concerned the economy and Iraq and later signed a series of executive orders and directives to implement new ethical rules for his administration, keeping his campaign promise to bring greater transparency to the White House and declaring "a new era of openness" in government.



President Obama has a hard term ahead with the financial crisis and the war on terror to contend with

The Senate voted 94 to 2 to confirm Obama's nominee for secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, allowing her to begin work on foreign policy issues including the conflict in Gaza. Presidential aides are preparing an executive order to begin the process of shutting down the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. The Obama admin-

istration has instructed military prosecutors to seek a 120 day suspension of legal proceedings including those against Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the avowed mastermind of the September 11th attacks. In an appearance at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Obama signed further executive orders to tighten rules on lobbyists, freeze the

pay of senior White House staff and expand release of documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency," Obama told senior staff members. The orders "will not by themselves make government as honest and transparent as it needs to be," he said. "And they do not go as far as we need to go towards restoring accountability and fiscal restraint in Washington. But these historic measures do mark the beginning of a new era of openness in our country."

"What a moment we're in. What an opportunity we have to change this country," Obama told members of his senior executive staff.

Lawmakers grilled Obama's nominee for Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, who came under criticism when it was revealed that he had failed to pay some taxes for four years. Geithner acknowledged making the errors and apologized to lawmakers for making them spend time discussing his taxes. However, he spent the bulk of his confirmation hearing warning about the need to act boldly to confront the country's enormous financial crisis.

"If our policy response is tentative and incrementalist... then we risk greater damage to living standards, to the economy's productive potential, and to the fabric of our financial system," he said.

Obama is planning a major address to a joint session of Congress within the next few weeks in order to lay out his plans for reviving the economy and jump-starting the financial system.

Upon entering the White House, President Obama read a note that former president George W. Bush had left for him in the left desk drawer, a tradition dating back several presidents. The note was in an envelope marked "To: #44, From: #43," according to a statement from the President's press secretary. The White House did not disclose the contents of the note.



The Capitol building, where Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America in front of 2 million spectators



Business

Business Editor – Luke Dhanoa

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Who's funding the Gaza conflict?

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

The Gaza conflict has flared up again, and the peace process in the Middle East has taken a step back, again. The international community is worried, again. People are arguing, again. And all the while, innocent people are getting killed. Again.

Usually the things you see or read about the conflict are full of emotionally tainted depictions of the politics or the history behind the war, but luckily for you, this isn't one of them. This section is not concerned with the correctness of any side or who has a right to the land or any of the politics; this section is concerned with the economic context of the conflict and nothing more. So without further ado, it's time to start following the money.

The US

One of the largest and most documented financial streams into the conflict comes from the U.S. and thanks to the transparency of their government you can just look up how much it spends on the USAID website.

U.S. to Israel

Of the \$8.9bn the US deployed in international AID about \$2.4bn was directly given to Israel [USAID 2008 financial reports] with "virtually all" of the money to be spent on weapons (up to 75% of which are U.S. produced) [Parade, December 14th 2008]. And over the next 10 years the U.S. government plans to donate \$30bn to Israel, presumably mostly for weapons.

On top of the direct funding, the U.S. government has guaranteed almost \$12.5bn of Israeli loans, meaning that it will contribute \$12.5bn to help Israel pay off pay off loans to third parties should it need to.

U.S. to Egypt

In 2008 the U.S. gave \$1.7bn of aid to Egypt, \$1.3bn of which was earmarked to military budgets. It is not clear how much of this money has to be spent on U.S. produced weapons but USAID has definitely led to Egypt being the only military power in the region that is comparable to Israel. The budget is supposed to allow Egypt to combat weapons smuggling to the Gaza strip but considering that Egypt ranks 115th of 180 in the 2008 Corruption Index it's conceivable that a residual amount of the U.S. aid to go into arming Palestinian fighters.

U.S. to Jordan

Jordan receives \$688 million of U.S. Aid, \$326m of which goes to "fighting terrorism" and \$163m goes to unspecified causes. It is unlikely that any large amount of this money gets to Gaza, especially given that Jordan is a relatively uncorrupt country (ranking 47) and it's ideological differences with Hamas.

Israel, Jordan and Egypt to the U.S.

So why is the US pouring so much into the conflict? Usually people assume it's for political gain, but America benefits fiscally too. If we look at the Aid figures it's pretty clear that a lot of "foreign" aid money never actually leaves

the U.S and the vast majority of it goes straight to private American companies that produce weapons or aid products, which get sent to unstable regions. An absurd amount of USAID is turned into government subsidies for the U.S. weapons and agricultural industries. For these corporations it is beneficial for the conflict in the Middle East to continue for as long as possible. There are entire weapons ranges based around the conflict with tanks specifically designed for fighting in the 139 sq miles strip and guns like the Uzi being crafted for no other purpose than to fight in the Palestinian territories.

Other flows into the region

From hereonin cash flows are much smaller and much more difficult to pin down. European governments do donate to the region but are scrutinized far less by the press making reporting difficult. Even less transparent are governments like China and Russia who are also suspected of adding funds to the conflict but are almost impossible to trace accurately. Nevertheless it is widely accepted that official non-U.S. bodies provide relatively small amounts to the region.

Arab states to Hamas

It is estimated that Hamas has an annual budget of about \$70m [The Council of Foreign Relations] with about half coming from Saudi Arabia. The US State department has claimed that Iran and Syria provide the rest of the groups funding and The Graduate Institute of Geneva has also identified Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates to be donors.

Private Benefactors to Hamas

Hamas' provision of social welfare and education has enabled it to market itself as a charity to private benefactors across the globe and it receives considerable funding from Palestinian expatriates and others around the globe, with notable cash streams flowing from Europe. Several sources have stated that donations from individuals are not used as part of the war effort but these reports are of course difficult to verify.

Hamas to Arms Traders

Several groups have stated that Hamas' war budget is about least \$3m, but possibly runs slightly higher. While this may not seem much, because of the nature of the way Hamas fights, relatively low funds can still be devastating. This money is spent on cheap weapons, am-

munition and other militaristic materials to support its campaign against Israel's sovereignty. Because it is considered a terrorist group by most of the international community it does not purchase supplies openly and must resort to private arms traders. This has led to Hamas using Chinese made rockets in attacks and a mixture of small arms from around the world.

Aid

Aid is almost invariably sent to the civilian population of Gaza after a conflict where civilians have been involved. The UK has responded to the crisis with \$37m of aid to Gaza and the international community has stepped up to help the civilian population recover, including Israel. It is a curious fundamental of the relationship between the two countries that (out of necessity) Gazan casualties are received in Israeli hospitals.

But as is the case with weapons, aid is also often used as a means of laundering money from governments to private companies. The difference, however, is that aid usually has a stabilizing effect on troubled regions.

So what does it all mean?

Hopefully, this article will not have changed your political views on the conflict, but will have underlined that the conflict goes far beyond Gaza. As with all wars in today's globalized world, Gaza creates economic ripples that reach people all over the planet and implicate us all. Money flows through this conflict and washes it's way back to us. It's important not to forget that the UK is one of the largest arms dealers in the world and that the weapons we produce are being used in the Middle East to kill civilians.

Gaza (like all conflicts) has benefactors. There are large numbers of people all over the world that depend on the Gazan conflict for their livelihoods and will take any news of peace and progress as bad news; People who profit from the continued pain of innocents in the Israel-Palestine arena. And if these people happen to be in positions of power over the conflict, then the troubles of the Middle East will continue far beyond their political lifetime. Perhaps they already have. And if that's the case, then perhaps we should stop trying to look for wrongful parties on either side of lines in the sand, where people have done terrible things for their beliefs, but in boardrooms and offices, where people have done terrible things for a profit.



8 Tips for getting through the Credit Crunch



In the current economic situation, people are going to have to learn to cut back and keep an eye on their cash flows. As a student you have to do this anyway, but to help you on your way *felix* has put together a little guide to set you off in the right direction.

1. Budget.

Budgeting is the most effective way of keeping on top of things. Just sit down, and work out exactly how much money you will have to spend each month (take all your incoming cash for the year and split it evenly between all the months of term). Then for each month, deduct rent, tuition fees and other essentials bills. Then deduct 10% of the remainder to give you a rainy day cushion – do not touch this money unless you have to. What you have left over is how much you can spend per month on variable expenses like food, clothes and going out. Once you know this figure, you've pretty much fought half the battle – the other half is sticking to it.

2. Second Accounts.

A good way to make sure you stick to your budget is to set up a second bank account and have your "budget" transferred to that account at the start of each month.

So you have two accounts, one with the bulk of your cash that gets spent on core expenditure, like fees, bills, rent and the like and that your loan gets paid into. Then you have a second account that all your food, going out and other random expenses get paid from each month. To do that just set up a "standing order" for the amount you budgeted to be sent to your second account.

So when you get cash out of the machine you know exactly how much you have to last the end of the month and how close you are to keeping on top of things. If you're spending too quickly, just cut back on luxuries till the end of the month.

3. Exploit your student status.

Always, always, always ask for a student discount. Don't be embarrassed or weird about it, just do it. The worst that can happen is you pay the same price you were about to pay anyway.

We don't count as NUS students so you'll have to turn on the charm with staff at McDonalds if you want your free hamburger.

Make sure you register for student sites like studentbeans.com and check them for student deals. You'd be surprised at how much you can get.

4. Flirt with barstaff.

Barstaff at clubs often charge you whatever they think you'll pay for a drink, or whatever the hell they feel like charging you. If you flirt (without coming across as creepy) you'll get charged less. If you're particularly good at it you can get all kinds of discounts. I once went rock climbing for free off the back of some expert flirting with the receptionist.

5. Freecycle.

There are lots of ways to freecycle, and almost all of them start with a google search. You never know what people are giving away till you look.

6. Buy pre-loved stuff.

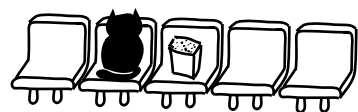
Gumtree.com and Craigslist.co.uk are the bread and butter of pre-owned stuff. You can get all kinds of stuff here – cheap. And as an added bonus both sites have "for free" sections where people just give things away.

7. Live like a real Londoner.

London is one of the most expensive cities in the world and average Londoners don't go to all the expensive places. Find cheaper things to do. Better yet find free stuff to do. Just google "free in London" and you're away.

8. Recycle properly.

Fact: Everything has more than one use. If you cannot find an alternative use, you aren't thinking hard enough. Get creative. I once fixed my shower using pieces from my old guitar and no one has ever noticed. I know a guy who built a table out of old phonebooks and some plywood – and it's the greatest table ever. I once found a guitar in the street lying on a pile of rubbish and after a clean and some new strings it sounds gorgeous. Keep your eyes open and your brain in gear and the world's your oyster, as well as the rest of the seafood platter.



Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

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Pure optimism and buoyancy captured on film

The director who brought us *Trainspotting* and *28 Days Later* ups his game by a notch to deliver a movie that has achieved the impossible – it has got the critics and the audience raving simultaneously.

Slumdog Millionaire ★★★★★

Director: Danny Boyle
Writer: Simon Beaufoy
Cast: Dev Patel
Freida Pinto,
Anil Kapoor

Priya Garg

I absolutely love this film. From the first minutes to the last seconds, it was breathtakingly beautiful and heart-breaking at the same time. Danny Boyle manages to capture the hectic chaos, noise, dirt, colour, vibrancy, dark and light of a Mumbai slum alongside the scenic beauty of modern India.

Jamal's colourful story is shadowed by poverty and the grimy underbelly of gangsters and guns which accompany him from a very early age. But the director makes sure that positivity always manages to shine through the unspeakably terrible things portrayed.

Throughout his life Jamal's love for Latika, the slum girl we see huddled in a puddle during a thunderstorm, brings him through whatever happens, driving him to seek her out and draw them back together.

The Millionaire premise, although it sounds ridiculous, is what opens and

closes the film so like a book, the film is open and shut with the same feelings and thoughts – that happiness and love can push you through any despair. In watching this, any day-to-day sadness you may feel is infinitely superseded by the misery that Jamal and his companions have to go through. It is their youthful outlook to never let anything get them upset which makes them so amazing and reminds you that in the Western world, we are incredibly self-centred and over-concerned with what is trivial, always greedy for more when people with nothing have the ability to live each day content with the small things.

Dev Patel does a great job as the older Jamal, the 'chai-walla' reflecting on his life from a toddler to a teenager in hardship and struggle, to being the richest slum-dog in India. Truly though, it is the performances by the real-life street-kids, young Jamal, Salim and Latika, who really steal the show. They are outstandingly believable and it simply feels like you are an outside observer dropping in on their lives in the middle of a crowded dusty street in India, rather than viewing a polished film script.

I cannot recommend this film enough. The soundtrack gives me goosebumps and the trailer brings tears to my eyes.



Dev Patel as Jamal and Freida Pinto as Latika give solid performances; is this the beginning of new careers?

If you enjoyed *City of God*, you will love *Slumdog Millionaire*. A secret venture into the lives of people that we don't hear about enough, portrayed by those who seem more real than any of the

other actors and actresses in the Hollywood blockbusters around. Worthy of all the hype and nominations, this film will exceed your expectations, leaving you touched and in awe.

If you want a true taste of India, make sure you catch this outstanding piece of cinematography before it leaves the screens to be replaced by the usual blockbuster drivel.

Finally a drama for real men Film Cynic Clinic

The Wrestler ★★★★★

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Writer: Robert D. Siegel
Cast: Mickey Rourke
Marisa Tomei
Evan Rachel Wood

Stefan Carpanu

It's been a bittersweet time for comebacks in the last few years, with two tough guy legends putting their careers back in front of the camera for nostalgically redemptive efforts in *Rocky Balboa* and *JCVD*. However, both Sylvester Stallone and Jean Claude Van Damme have always had a healthy following and their movies generally boasted an unhealthy number of sequels or clones. The same cannot be said of Mickey Rourke, a genuine has-been, whose career just might have reignited following his performance in Darren Aronofsky's film. Moreover, the load of awards garnered in the last few months, including a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama, have put Rourke in pole-position for an Academy Award in next month's Hollywood showdown.

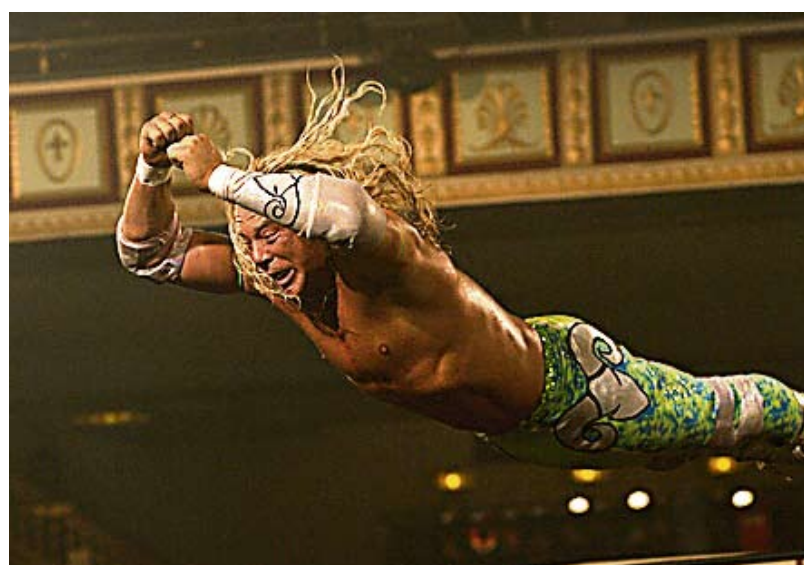
The Wrestler tells the story of "an old, broken down piece of meat of a man", Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Rourke), a fighter past his prime who lives alone in a trailer, estranged from his daughter and works part-time in a grocery store during the week whilst spending his weekends wrestling and signing autographs. Ironically, most of the money he earns goes on all sorts of medications which allow him to keep

wrestling, leaving him little time for anything else. His only social contact is an exotic dancer in her forties, Cassidy (Marisa Tomei), a character in a similar predicament to Randy's, which brings the two together. After summarily painting this background to the film, an offer for a rematch with his former "arch-enemy" puts things into motion and Randy's life seems to be finally going somewhere as the film begins to unfold into a gritty tale of sorrow.

Whilst Rourke's performance is the unrivalled centre-piece in the picture, the fairly bleak atmosphere and rollercoaster-like ride of emotions are trademarks of Aronofsky, as showcased in *Pi* (1998) and *Requiem for a Dream* (2000). The themes of solitude

and loss, which are also central in his previous works, transform the world of *The Wrestler* into familiar turf for the New York-born director but the question which permeates the film asks what is real and what confers purpose to one's life? Wrestling, as a mix of illusion and glory, represents an ideal scene for such a question and Randy an appropriately fleshed-out character to draw the lines.

The film ultimately builds up to an impressive finale which is poised to give birth to mixed feelings and a sense of reflection to its merits and its meanings. Whichever the case maybe, as the lights came back on, I felt a moment of satisfaction pass fleetingly by me, just like a subtle nudge to better endings.



Mickey Rourke, as Randy "The Ram" Robinson, goes airborne.

Stuart Higgins

In accordance with new EU fishing quotas, this week we take a short peak into the exotic jungle of World Cinema. Will it be a plethora of rare and endangered species, driven to extinction by the Hollywood bulldozer? Or simply another collection of contrived metaphors and personification? Let the planets decide!

According to Wackipedia, the term "World Cinema" generally refers to non-English speaking films, those outside "the anglosphere". That's Anglosphere, not to be confused with Anglersphere – which is essentially a giant hamster ball for fishermen. It's always a pleasure to see how the English-speaking community can set itself apart, as though there is something amazingly different between it and everyone else. In Germany for example, they don't refer to *South Park: The Movie* as World Cinema, simply because it wasn't originally in German.

But that aside, what does World Cinema actually mean? Some interpret it to be simply "arty-farty foreign films", others as a masterclass in martial arts, and some see it as an excuse to watch blood drenched shockers – think *Battle Royal*. Whilst this unfairly excludes the majority of cinema, there is some truth in these examples with each displaying some tell-tell traits. If you've ever sat down to watch a film and wondered why the director decided to tape a Quality Street wrapper over the camera lens, then you may well be watching an arty-farty film. Presumably this style adds a certain "dynamic quality" that can't be achieved with those silly

plain glass lenses.

If the film excessively uses wire-work and complex choreographed sequences, then you are almost certainly watching *Crouching House of Hidden Flying Dragon Tigers*. If the character's head is missing, then it's definitely *Battle Royal*. If all of the main characters' performances are lacking in dimension and the actors only have four fingers, then you're probably watching *The Simpsons Movie* again. Not that *The Simpsons Movie* could possibly be considered World Cinema – it is far too popular for a specialist label.

For an English-speaker, unexposed and fresh to the concept of subtitles, foreign cinema could be the antidote to some Hollywood's not-so-great works, showing us that films don't have to be like *Dumb and Dumber*. Of course there's a lot of crap out there as well, even the film industry isn't immune to statistical fluctuations but occasionally you come across those Crunchy Nut-flakes of wholesome goodness that satisfy the aching hole left by Hollywood Happy Meals (although in this metaphor 'Supersize Me' becomes an intractable paradox...).

I would recommend if you haven't already seen it and you don't mind insensitive gore, watching *Battle Royal*. It's a surreal film based upon a very surreal premise. Who knows, it might lead you to a ground-breaking epiphany about humanity and the world. Even if it's just realising that there are people out there who are dreaming this stuff up. Weird.

Anyone got any comments? Ah who am I kidding, no one has bothered writing in yet.



Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Caz Knight, David Paw and Emily Wilson

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



Short but sweet

Caz Knight
Arts Editor

The second term's, second installment of the new, concise *felix* arts. In this busy term, we are opting for quality over quantity: you may see fewer pages but what you do read will be great stuff.

First, and most importantly, I would like to apologise profusely to my good friend and arts connoisseur, Rosie Milton for a mistake in last week's issue. *The Magnificence of the Tsars* review was advertised as being written by me however, the article was written by Rosie (people familiar with my articles may have noticed a marked difference in style and perception concerning art!). We are very sorry, Rosie.

My recent trip to the National Theatre to see *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, reinforced some conclusions I have made concerning how we, as humans/biological entities, enjoy art (be it theatre, concerts and anything else that falls under the category).

The brain, our processing organ, is like any muscle in our body – it gets tired. After extended periods of use and a dip in its only source of fuel, glucose, its ability to concentrate or engage enthusiastically in tasks is impaired. At least in my case. No wonder then that tiredness will kill any enjoyment and appreciation of the culture that surrounds us.

Once tiredness sets in, I turn from art lover to art despiser. Therefore, it is worth considering whether one is suitably refreshed before visiting a gallery or production.

The size of an exhibition or length of a play will also try our patience if it is unending.

Of course, one cannot reduce Shakespeare's great works to one hour summaries just for the sake of this generation's attention-deficient personalities, used to everything fast- from food to Internet connections.

I went to see the Francis Bacon exhibition at the beginning of the academic year and found that ten large rooms of his work is just too much to take in and enjoy in one sitting. Especially as one is not permitted to re-enter the gallery space after a coffee break, as is the norm in all exhibitions where a ticket is required.

Every Good Boy Deserves Favour is one of the shortest plays I have seen. At one hour five minutes it flies by, yet packs in just as much as a longer play without seeming rushed. I left feeling uplifted with energy, left to go and pursue the rest of the evening.

A relatively recent play to appear at the West End, *Ivanov*, also adapted by Tom Stoppard from Chekov, is three hours of beauty but leaves one emotionally drained and ready for bed.

In my experience, the smaller exhibitions have always been the more enjoyable for myself (content permitting), as I leave not resenting them for sapping all my mental energy in trying to digest a large amount.

Reviewed here are two pieces from theatreland; my review of Tom Stoppard's previously mentioned *EGBDF* and stand-up comedy from Bill Bailey.

Hopefully, this 'abridged' version of arts will satisfy your hunger and leave you wanting more next week. Expect photography from Annie Leibowitz and a sneak peak into dance institution Sadler's Wells.



Joseph Millsom, as political dissident Alexander Ivanov in *Every Boy Deserves Good Favour*, looking uncannily like John Malkovich

He's got soul but he's not a soldier

Bill Bailey makes squeal even the most stony-faced at his intimate show, *Tinseltown*, says Jessica Bland



Never mind the Buzzzzzcocks. *Tinseltown*, move over for *Tinseltown*

Bill Bailey says he has been unemployed for twenty-three years; I say that Bill Bailey has been one of the most intelligent comics on stage for the last twenty three years and it is this intellect that has made his show at the Gielgud Theatre such a success.

Often accused of gimmickry and unnecessary diversion by critics, Bailey's stand-up shows sell out large arenas on the back of his TV persona rather than good reviews.

But as *Tinseltown* nears the end of its West End run, this reviewer cannot see anything other than a well-honed, well-balanced, couple of hours awaiting the final few audiences.

Perhaps this is just because practice makes perfect. After a couple of years of touring, Bailey has had enough sense to cull the stuff that is not getting

laughs. But there is more to it than that. The Gielgud is more intimate than the big venues Bailey has often performed at previously and it is in only in this kind of space that he shines. It is here that the comic who made us squeal at the television in *Black Books* (stage version rumoured to be coming soon) or as team captain in *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, comes to life.

Bailey has an unassuming, almost nervous demeanour. This insecurity draws you in; it makes you feel like you are listening to the old-rocker guy behind the bar at your local. That is, until he suddenly drops in a comedy gold nugget, so bright that your eyes start to water.

Whether its the hoodie in a "solipsistic trance" or a rant about song lyrics that "wrangled like an unreplaced Glade plug-in", Bailey cracked even the most stoney-faced audience members

sat near me (including my father, who apparently hasn't laughed so hard since seeing Mr Izzard circa. 1997).

Even the musical interludes were improved since his stadium tour. Demonstrating the nonsense of The Killers' chorus "I got soul, but I'm not a soldier" by replacing it with "I got Ham, but I'm not Hamster" has been a stalwart of his act for sometime.

But it was the other ludicrous suggestions he threw out this time that really made the joke: "I got May, but I'm not a Major" being my favourite.

There is only just over a week left to see Bailey at his best, so if you can get tickets (and I recommend seatwave.com if you want to try)

Go, giggle and be thankful that London still has somewhere other than arena venues – somewhere just right for bringing out what makes Bill Bailey so truly great.

Notes on a schizophrenic society

Tom Stoppard mixes side-clutching humour with poignant ethical dilemmas in his play *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* at the National Theatre. **Caz Knight** is very impressed.

A triangle-player worth millions with his own orchestra? No. A triangle-player worth millions with his own imaginary orchestra? Still, no. A lunatic triangle-player with his own orchestra sharing a room in a psychiatric hospital with a political dissident? Now, that's something to write about.

Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn's collaboration is a play, performed in conjunction with and bound up by a symphony orchestra. First performed in 1977 starring Ian Mackellen as political dissident, Alexander Ivanov, and Patrick Stewart as a Soviet Union employed 'psychiatrist', this production is a union of exceptional creative talent with the ever sharp, hilarious, and fast-paced writing of Stoppard, teamed with the score composition of multi-talented, Oscar-winning composer and conductor Andre Previn.

After months of reading about Russian political dissidents and the group arrested in Red Square in August 1968, following protests against the Warsaw pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, Stoppard met Victor Fainberg who had survived years in the prison-hospital system after being pronounced insane on account of his protests. Once free, Fainberg doubled his efforts for his colleagues still under abuse in this system. One of them, Victor Bukovsky, had served consecutive hard labour and prison terms for his revelations about the abuse in *A Manual on Psychiatry for Dissidents*, co-written with a fellow prisoner (also a psychiatrist). The play is dedicated to both Fainberg and Bukovsky.



Toby Jones as Alexander Ivanov, conductor of his imaginary orchestra: "I've always had an orchestra!!"



Political dissident, Alexander Ivanov: a discordant note in an orchestrated society

Alexander Ivanov is a political dissident imprisoned, released and then re-imprisoned in a psychiatric hospital for his own political protests. He is deemed mentally ill on account of his opinions which, according to his doctor, are his symptoms. He will be released on the condition that he accepts being mentally ill and that his treatment in the facility was satisfactory and effective. Refusing to do this, given his barbaric treatment by USSR-employed wardens, the hospital get Alexander's son, Sacha, to persuade him otherwise.

Performed at the National Theatre, the Olivier's revolving stage is made excellent use of in rotating the entire orchestra over the course of the one hour play, amid which the action ensues. This creates a gloriously eerie and surreal effect enhanced by dry ice aplenty and the trance-like dancing of Alexander's cell/ward-mate (also Alexander Ivanov) to his imaginary symphony orchestra, played with endearing conviction by Toby Jones.

The surrealism is enhanced by the obscure image of seeing a sublime sinfonia in the middle of a grim, East-bloc prison-cum-loony bin.

The Southbank Sinfonia, led by Simon Over, have made a stunning effort to entwine dialogue in with the beautiful music that brings the play to life from within the first few seconds, after an introduction of a few bashed out notes on the triangle from the 'conductor', Ivanov. The Sinfonia are successful in their aim of discovering new possibilities for the way in which classical music can be performed, yet never compromising their quality or

seriousness.

The presence of the orchestra in the play does more than delight our ears. When it was first performed, it would have been a potent comment on a highly orchestrated society which did its best not to upset the West and maintain an image of control and order: they had no political prisoners, only those unfortunate enough to suffer mental illness.

The notion of an orchestra quickly becomes associated with the insane. When it is brought to light that the hospital's doctor plays the violin in one, the orchestra's connotation is reinforced with one of corruption as well as of madness, with dissidents the discordant notes that must be eliminated to allow smooth play.

The play evokes arguments regarding the age-old debate of freedom of speech but *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* is as much a comment on today's Russia as it would have been in 1977. The 'bad old days' referred to by Sacha's teacher regarding those of Stalin, are also now – according to Bukovsky, it was, and still is, a schizophrenic society where one thing is thought, another said, a third one done.

The hilarity of Stoppard's writing does sometimes leave the gravity of what prisoners of conscience like Bukovsky and Fainberg would have experienced forgotten. Yet, Joseph Millson's unwavering seriousness and intensity as the dissident Ivanov brings these horrors back every time he speaks, giving us a production that has us giggling and grinning one minute and ready to bring down unjust political systems in another.



The Art of Cheapskating. Stylishly.

Kawai Wong realises that everyone is down in the dumps, but reckons you can still look hot on the cheap.

The credit crunch, the recession, the Gaza Conflict and exams. All the gloom in the universe seems to have jam-packed itself in to an angry Jack-in-the-box and punched hard in our innocent and unsuspecting faces.

But before we all become Prozac addicts, why don't we up our endorphin levels by treating ourselves to a little retail therapy? A therapy that this time, isn't going to affect the size of our grocery baskets. A therapy that will remove the drabness of your wardrobe, reinstalling it with rays and rays of golden light.

The rule with H&M and Zara is to never buy anything full price. (Yes, you eager cheapskates – I know H&M is pretty cheap already but it won't hurt if our wallets weigh a little more, will it?) The appeal of H&M is its trendiness, for Zara it is its tale on chic-classic; and for both, their 'unique' fashion pieces. During January sales, shops usually dig out stuff they didn't manage to sell last or last-last season and plunge the price through the floor to around 10% of its original.

On the right is a military poncho coat I got from Zara last January (for £2.75!) and a crazy, frilly, chiffon shirt from H&M (£5!), that never fails to turn heads and transform its owner from Reese Wetherspoon to Gwen Stefani (OK, not quite... but you get the idea).

The coat comes from TRF, the youth line of Zara but the poor thing was buried under piles of boring Zara basic t-shirts. Part of the reason it was cheap was because a button on the front had snapped in half but the crown badge is enough of a focal point to distract from the little flaw.

I have to boast about the god-like status of TKMaxx but I will keep my thrill contained in two sentences. Here is what I got last week from the "SALE" section for £20. Wait, no – 2D just doesn't do justice to this item's magnificence. You will have to open your little eyes and look for a person milling around campus wearing a short, fur coat. All I can advise is for you to abandon your newspaper and visit a TKMaxx near you now.

If you're like me, you'll grab a basketful of stuff in Urban Outfitters and Topshop, head to the till and tell the cashier that "my mum just died, so can you pity me by putting these in a bag and let me walk away casually with it please...?" Of course the next thing you know you're being escorted out of the shop.

Remember that the Oxford Street Topshop has a "vintage" section but bollocks to that, because charity shops exist for a reason. There are two areas near to Imperial with a high number of these shops, these are; a) North End Road (last time I checked there were at least 3 within 50m of each other) and b) Clapham Junction – at least 10 within a mile radius. Fish out stuff from discount baskets, fish out stuff in the over 50's section. To prove my point, check out the photo to the left. This bag cost £7 but is worth a million to me.

The areas of Notting Hill and South Kensington have plenty of charity shops dotted around also and they even sell unwanted designer clothes. However allow me to patronise your clever brains by stating the obvious; 1) the risk you run by visiting these charity shops near the homes of bankers and rich French/Americans, is that the price tags are outrageously marked up to match the fat purses of the aforementioned and 2) If you feel so compelled to visit a charity shop around you now, enter "Charity Shop" on Google Map and enjoy a good day of bargain hunting! Oh last but not least, you should visit a charity shop on a Tuesday or Wednesday, as people clear their houses over the weekend and so the nice, charity-shop volunteers spend the day sorting the donations out ready for selling.

The ultimate mode of cheapskating is befriending your nan or your grandad. Sit through another one of their Second World War stories and casually drop in "Um, I wonder what you wore in your glorious youthful days?" and offer a ladder to climb up to their attics and raid their unwanted items. There's nothing wrong with topping your boyfriend jeans with a 40 year-old piece of knit wear. My nan used to be a tailor so I am a proud owner of this 30 year-old coat pictured above. Of course it is always nice to pay a visit to your grans anyway, no doubt.



SICK



Leather Aviator Hats
May-day! May-day! I was trying to find an image of a mental, old lady modelling these hats, but alas, I couldn't find one. Why are these so popular with crazy, elderly women? I saw one the other day wearing these hats, she was thrashing a bin in a vain attempt to 'rid the Nazis from bins because that's where they belong.' A long message short, I reckon these could look hot on someone that is not crazy and not collecting their pension. Girls only. Guys will just look like knobs.



Lookbook.nu
A site where people post their own 'individual' style. You can catch out the very few with a real sense of dress but most are just self-indulgent, emo kids not satisfied with the coverage their 'angles' get on myspace. For the egomaniac that wanks in the mirror.



Patent Trainers
A strong prevalence of Italian and Japanese tourists are wandering around London adorning shiny shoes. A plain 'no' in the aesthetics department. Your shoes need to be stylishly understated. Not 'I can see my own ugly face in my upper'. I don't dig them, and no one should. If I see you in them around College, beware of STAMP-STAMP TIME.

SHIT

The boys from Physics are back, you can find them in the lab...



Jose Videira

Louie Cardone

Marco Nardone

Arjun Quique Hassard

Dedicated to Paul, Rob, and Harish of the physics UG labs, without whom it would not have been possible to access all the props for the shoot
www.marconardone.com



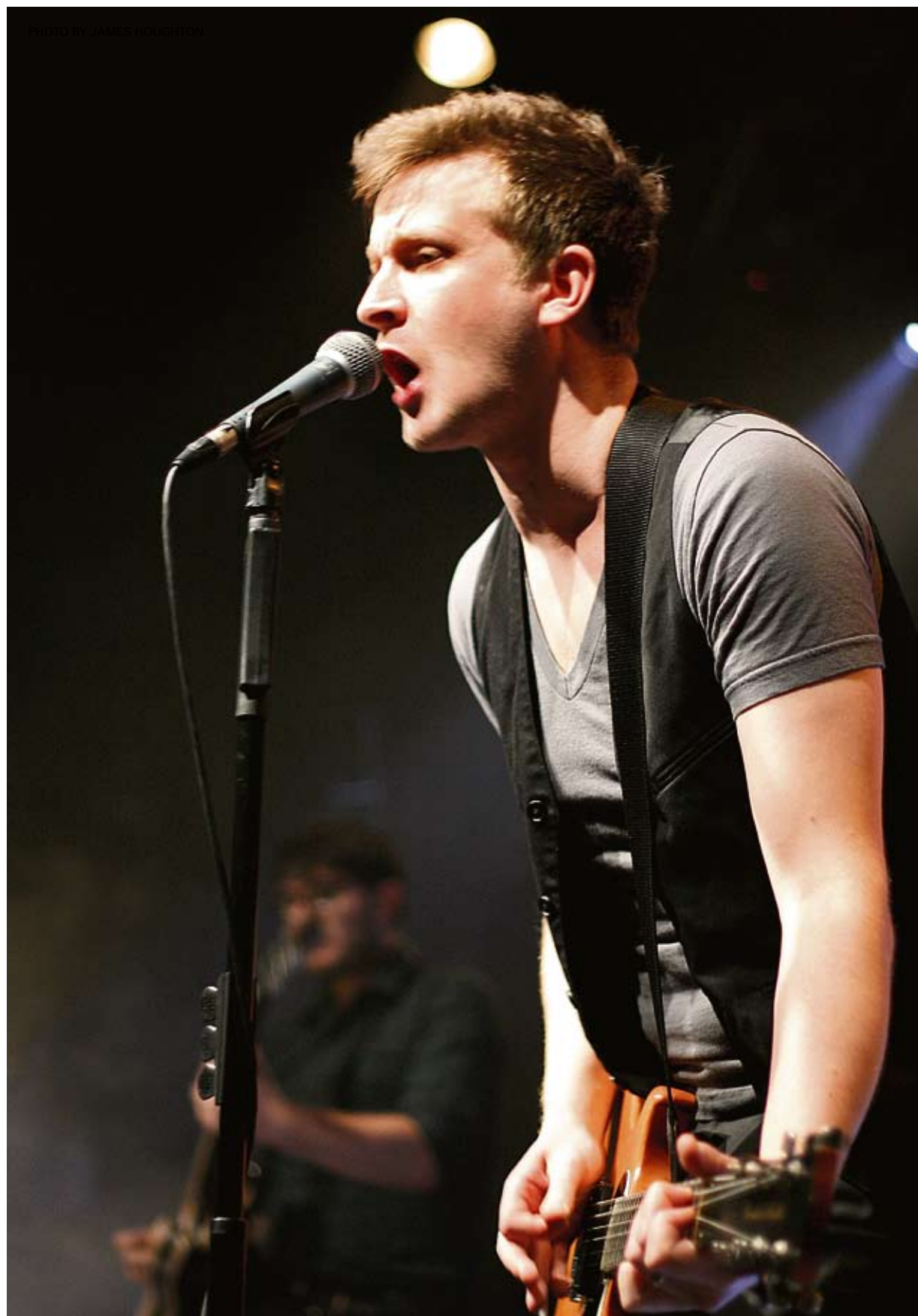
Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Susan Yu & James Houghton

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Sounds of Love are Calling

The Futureheads live at the Astoria: music.felix's Futureheads Correspondent **Alistair Garner** braved the sweaty hordes of Tottenham Court Road to check them out



The Futureheads' frontman Barry Hyde performing live at the Astoria

Alistair Garner

Ever since I borrowed their debut album from a friend in 2004, I have absolutely loved the Futureheads. Nothing beats singing in a Geordie accent, except perhaps several Geordie accents singing harmonies on top of layered guitar riffs and drumming that never sits still. Take all that, blend thoroughly and cram it in your ears at 600mph and you've got the recipe for the rump steak of live music. But forget 28 days matured, I'd been waiting 4 years to sink my teeth into these sumptuous, Sunderland song-smiths.

I arrived at the venue with an unhealthy appetite for northern post-punk, but before that came the first course. We were served the familiar flavours (to my palate anyway) of classic Midlands-core, in the form of Birmingham-based three piece Johnny Foreigner. Their super-fast, overdriven chords and the constant exchange of soft crooning for incomprehensible screaming by both male and female vocalists was unmistakably reminiscent of the sound of bands like One Toy Soldier and TANAOU from my home town (Northampton), and I'm sure of hundreds of bands playing in

the back rooms of pubs from Gloucester to Great Yarmouth. All credit to Johnny Foreigner for landing a spot on tour with the Futureheads though, and they certainly earned their place at this show with an enjoyable, snappy set that had their fans going crazy at the front, and made every audience member at the very least tap their feet.

Whilst their songs were fun to listen to, punchy and fast-paced, the music itself was largely forgettable, the band relying on lyrical hooks to make their songs catchy, but this was achieved with great success. I found myself singing their songs on the way home after

just one listen, instead of the Futureheads hits I'd heard hundreds of times. Johnny's lyrics were classic teen poetry, and the lead vocals of Alexei Berrow were suitably pained to do them justice, but he sang with that whiney, implacable accent that seems to afflict

"The audience soaked up the band's energy like their jeans soaked up the spilt beer and sweat from the floor"

so many frontmen of bands of this type. Maybe they all came from the same far-away planet to sing to the youth of Great Britain. But still, you can sing how you like when your bassist looks like she does; you'll still fill every venue with teenage boys.

Then came the main event. The Futureheads entered, beaming at their riotous reception and set about giving the crowd what they were expecting. They started the set rattling through some of the best tracks from their first two albums. 'Decent Days And Nights', 'Robot' and 'Meantime' from their self-titled debut, and 'Skip To The End' and 'Worry About It Later' from *News and Tributes* were all massive crowd pleasers, played with an enthusiasm and energy that didn't diminish for the whole show. It was hugely enjoyable to see four maniacs vigorously thrashing their respective instruments in their individual areas of the stage, and yet to hear the togetherness of four musicians perfectly synchronised, dropping in and out seamlessly to create their unique, restless sound.

Later they broke out their most recent singles, 'Beginning of the Twist' and 'Radio Heart', and some non-album tracks like 'Area', but the crowd still sang every word. The audience soaked up the band's energy like their jeans soaked up the spilt beer and sweat from the floor, and went absolutely mental on it. Their calf muscles were tested by 'First Day', the band going so fast by the end that the crowd barely had time to touch the floor in between jumps, but they didn't reach a peak until they heard the familiar vocal horseplay of 'Hounds of Love', the Futureheads' biggest single and closing number. Modestly, they hadn't withheld any of their big hits from the main set, so when they came back on stage, they played a proper encore of new songs and a couple of covers, and closed with a massive rendition of 'Man Ray, strobe lights a plenty.

The Futureheads are an accomplished band but they showed us at the Astoria that they're still all about fun. They had fun with the songs, fun with each other and fun with the audience, and whilst I can't imagine it was as fun for us as it was for them, I still had a bloody good time that was well worth the wait. Delicious.

Soilwork live at Islington Academy

Duncan Casey

Having just crawled back into the country from ten hellish night shifts in a bunker at the ESRF in Grenoble, the last thing I wanted to encounter on my return to civilisation was a French rock band. Or a French anything. Or anything that smelt even faintly of cheese. Think French music and the first thing that springs to mind is likely to be the electronic weirdness of Air or Daft Punk – neither of which is a bad band, but I thought I was going to a rock gig. Still, in *One Way Mirror* it seems I'd stumbled onto something of a gem.

Formed as the side-project of Soilwork's drummer, Dirk Verbeuren, who heroically drummed straight through two back-to-back sets, the band gave one of the tightest sets I've seen in a while, playing an industrial brand of dirty heavy metal. Impressively though, especially for a band singing in their second language, they never strayed down the path of screaming incoherently and their superb front man, Guillaume Bideau, was clearly loving the spotlight. And it's not every day you get to hear a rock cover of Frankie Goes To Hollywood's 'Relax' sung in the style of James Hetfield.

As it turned out, the main event wasn't bad either. Soilwork come across like a more polished, Swedish Killswitch Engage (anyone who's ever sat through that celluloid epic, *Resident Evil*, will know who I mean): a bit shoutier than the support act, but better lyrically and with a much stronger back-catalogue. Brilliantly, despite the band sporting the obligatory long hair, tats and black clothing, their shaven-headed vocalist came on wearing a striped shirt and waistcoat, looking like somewhere between Al Murray and Buster Bloodvessel. Now there's an analogy that makes me look old...

"Soilwork come across like a polished, Swedish Killswitch Engage"

The technical skill of the band was something to be marvelled at: time signatures were chopped and changed seamlessly, the guitarists would occasionally swap roles during solos and the drummer still had all his limbs functioning at the end of the encore, which was a feat in itself. However, they weren't helped out much by the sound levels – although *One Way Mirror* had been crystal clear throughout, Soilwork's sound man clearly decided it was much more 'rock' to mash everything up to 11, meaning that the guitarists were often inaudible above the drums and vocals and that all too often the whole affair descended into a kind of metal distortion fuzz. Still, they gave a good show and you can't help but feel that this band should be rocking out 3,000 people at Brixton Academy rather than the paltry 300-odd you can fit into Islington. Catch the small gigs while you can.



The Double Club is Double Cool

Two cultures coexisting in harmony? Catherine Jones reviews a very eclectic bar with a message



The Double Club ★★★★★

7 Torrens Street, EC1 Angel

Best: Laid back vibe and friendly staff.

Worst: Expensive drinks. London rather than Kimbasa prices
Free entry and free cloakroom

A few weeks ago, I paid a visit to a cultural furore (!) of a new bar. I love bars, especially the Union. Sometimes though, you have to try something new. So why not a bar-club-restaurant-and-art installation, with a unique fusion of Congolese and Western culture?

As per usual, the night started in confusion, with a total failure to meet at the right place on time. This is not exactly surprising. The Double Club is tucked away at the end of Torrens Street, near Angel tube station. The inconspicuous warehouse doors hide behind a gazebo. Upon arrival though, the welcome made up for it. The staff smiled and took our coats to the free cloakroom. We made our way through the white arty entrance rooms, into the courtyard bar and it just goes to show, you never know what may be lurking behind a door.

The Double Club concept is one of

cultural fusion. Samples of Congolese and Western hospitality are mixed together, and we get to enjoy the results.

The club is the brainchild of The Carsten Holler Project by Fondazione Prada. It does indeed look very designer. The three areas of the venue are divided equally between Congolese and Western spaces but we spent most of the night in the spacious courtyard area. An eclectic mix of plastic furniture, cobbles, tiles, murals and posters demarked the two spaces.

“I was shocked to hear ‘I want to know what love is’ by Foreigner at one point!”

At 9pm the bar was half full, and we were quickly served by the friendly staff. The drinks menu contained a variety of cocktails, wines and a few beers. They were a tad on the expensive side, but after all, it is in London. Drinks in hand we headed straight to the empty area, perching on the edge of a swimming pool-like tiled corner.

In the background, a sound track of Congolese music. Well, mostly Congolese. I was shocked to hear “I Want to Know What Love Is” by Foreigner at

one point during the night.

As the bar became busier at 11pm, we checked out the discotheque room next door. It was modestly sized, but still very impressive. Revellers crammed onto the rotating dance floor, while flashing lights and mirrored disco balls orbited above their heads.

As for music, The Double Club operates an “all inclusive” music policy. Contemporary Congolese band Sound Africa performed earlier that night. DJs packed out the place, alternating sounds across cultures. The crowd embraced the fusion vibe, and the fusion continued on to the dance floor. I’m not a great dancer at the best of times, but there were some slightly embarrassing blends of bad drunken dancing to be seen that night.

The Double Club seems the ideal kind of venue to come and chat with friends, simply because of the relaxing, harmonious vibe. This may sound cheesy, but I had an inspirational moment, turning my gaze upwards, finding a full moon shining through the glass roof. At that beautiful moment I decided to award The Double Club 5 stars out of 5, and will consider visiting again and again.

The Double Club is donating half of its profits to the City of Joy charity, supporting projects to help abused women and children in the Congo. So you can party guilt free, but there is no guarantee you will avoid the hangover.

1990 CLASSICS

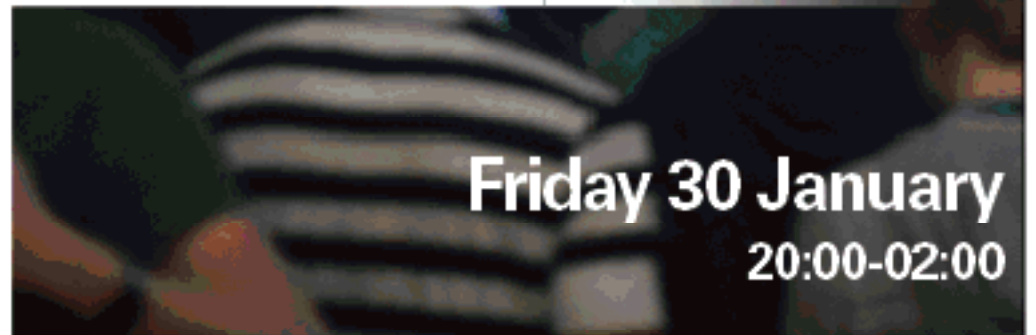
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Food

Food Editors – Afonso Campos & Rosie Grayburn

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Beanz Meanz learn to spell.

Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor



My culturally barbaric (self-quoted) colleague wants to learn how to make a 'lasa-gg-nee'. He bought one reduced the other day in Tesco and it was "well nice". However, when I started to describe the complexities of a cheese sauce to him my attempt to sway him onto freshly-cooked food went tits up. This got me thinking about students and how feeding yourself well does not come as a priority when you spend three years away from a well-stocked fridge. When we come to university laden with freedom, a bank loan and all that responsibility, we forget to look after number 1. We end up with a poisoned liver and a disgruntled belly. To be fair, you can do what you bloody well like with your body but while I'm here I may as well try to tell you a little bit about cooking good food even if it does fall on deaf ears.

Today is all about Baked Beans, the classic student staple. Firstly I would like to vent my anger regarding a little known brand of said beans. Why, for the love of all things edible, did they have to change Baked Beans to Baked Beanz? I don't want the cooked breakfast Mafia on my plate with Sausagez, Eggz and Tomatoez. The world's gone mad, innit.

Well anyway here are my five ways with baked beans for you to attempt.

1. Tuna Crunch – Stodge at its finest. Mix a tin of tuna and beans together in a pan and heat with a handful of grated cheese until hot and sticky. Pour the stodge into a grill-proof bowl or dish. Bash together a packet of ready salted crisps and mix with another handful of grated cheese. Sprinkle this mixture on top of the tuna/beany combo and grill until top, bubble and golden. Serve with bread and a bit of salad, if you like.

2. Beany Beefy Nachos – TV food for a night in. Fry 1 onion, 1 pack of mince, 1 cubed carrot, 1 clove of garlic and a pinch of paprika. When the meat is browned and the veg is softened, add a tin of beans and a tin of chopped tomatoes. Cook with stirring for 10 minutes then add 200ml water and a stock cube. Simmer for a further 10 minutes then season to taste. Pile the mixture

onto plates, top with tortilla chips and cheese then grill until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Serve with beer and a DVD.

3. Shank'd Lamb. Slow cook 2 lamb shanks (or other cheap lamb cut) with a tin of baked beans, a tin of tomatoes, a glass of wine and a glass of water for 2 hours. Season to taste and serve with greens and mash.

4. Aubergine Bake. Fry cubes of aubergine for 8 minutes then remove from the pan. In an ovenproof dish, mix together 1 tin of baked beans and 1 tbsp of hot pepper sauce. Layer 250g frozen green beans on top followed by a tin of butter beans and then the cooked aubergine. Slice 250g tomatoes and layer on top of the aubergine. Sprinkle with thyme, parsley and pepper then sprinkle with 50g of grated Cheddar. Bake for 30 minutes at 200°C. Serve with salad or steak. Sounds gross? Tastes yum.

5. Cassoulet. Fry 8 herby sausages with 1 onion until cooked. Add some pepperoni and cook for 2 minutes. Tip in 2 tins of baked beans and 2 tbsp of tomato puree. If you've got any wine lying around, add a glass of that too. Cook for 10 minutes then sprinkle with 50g breadcrumbs and grill.

Following in a similar 'pulse' vein, David Wallis has conjured up a superb Mirepoix for your delight in this week's food section. On these cold winters nights, snuggle up with a Mirepoix. Also, this week Natalia Jardon investigates the new branch of Canteen on Baker Street serving plentiful portions of hot, tasty food with healing properties! We seem to have recruited an army of gastronomists to our cause here on the food pages. If you fancy writing about a restaurant, or sending in some recipes please get in touch. We love to hear from our readers and we won't eat you if you do get in touch. However I do like offal, so any spare kidneys..?

By the way, have you noticed the nice decor at the base of this column? Our friendly neighbourhood burger vendors have offered Imperial's students a whopping 20% off the bill for the next term! (I can't believe I just said whopping.) Anyway, please take the opportunity to use your student ID. We don't get the opportunity very often!

Feeb a Colb, Starb a Feber

Natalia Jardon-King takes a prescription of Pie and Mash



Canteen ★★★

55 Baker Street, W1U 8EW
0845 686 1122
www.canteen.co.uk

Best: The tremendous treacle tart

Worst: The mash

Price: £20 per head

Like most of us, I'm fighting off the coming of a flu, a cold, bronchitis, and other horrible winter illnesses. So Tuesday night, after walking in the blistering cold and feeling my organs freeze, I wasn't exactly keen on trekking all the way to Baker Street – even if it was for a warm meal. It's the latest sibling of the original Canteen of Southbank. But although it does attempt to keep the simple, clean décor and the 'chic' canteen format of the first – something is not quite right. It's difficult to place the finger on what's wrong – but the lighting could have been softer, and the counter in the middle seemed a bit distasteful. The idea is to display all their delicious treats in it, but as a centre-piece of the restaurant it can be quite off-putting. We reserved, but there was no need to. It was a quiet night, but then again it was a weekday and it's only just opened.

The menu is printed on paper table mats, and in a red leather menu a venerable wine list is displayed. Being students, house red was the pick of the day – and it beats most expensive pub bottles. Sinking comfortably into our seats, we took a look at the menu. At first glance the list looks so long it seems impossible to ensure quality of the dishes – but many are actually repeated as starters. I urge anyone who still believes England only offers foreign or creative fusion food, to go to Canteen ASAP. It goes back to British basics. From mackerel and potato

salad, to potted duck and a pint of prawns, the starters are varied and enticing. But don't be fooled – the starter could well be a main course. We went for the 'hot buttered Arbroath smokie' – and thank god we chose to share. It's a fish you don't get often, full of flavour, and though the melted butter was visibly present it felt amazingly healthy.

Perhaps it's worth to note here that service was fabulous, our waitress was exceptionally sweet and more than willing to offer her personal preferences. Timing was balanced between waiting a little and arriving before we noticed the absence of plates.

The day roasts, fish and chips, and pork belly are renowned at Canteen, but we ventured for the salt beef with vegetables and haddock with spinach and mashed potatoes. All delicious, but none of us could finish them – the plates were simply too plentiful. The quality of their meat, the freshness of the vegetables, meant that no fancy sauces were required to enjoy the fla-

vours. However, it is often the simplest things restaurants get wrong. Potatoes are wholesome and easy to cook but somehow the mash didn't get the 'yum' reaction. It was slightly salty and a bit too mashed if you know what I mean – that sort of suspicious synthetic texture you get if it's perfectly smooth. The sauce came on the side – and left with the plate untouched. The haddock didn't need it.

By the end we were seriously debating about what to choose for dessert. Guinness cake, bakewell tart, brownie sundae or a Neals Yard cheese platter. With our bellies rumbling, we opted for treacle tart – and never turned back. Served with a small dollop of jersey cream, it was lemony enough and not too sweet. Sublime.

They say feed a fever, starve a cold. I reckon that I had a fever coming – because, unlike yesterday, I now feel on top form. Sometimes high quality comfort food does so much more than elaborate cuisine.



Who wouldn't feel instantly better after a planeload of that? Doctors should prescribe pies, treacle tart and Guinness cake.

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Mirepoix

Survive the Winter? I need a Mirepoix... Onion, carrot and celery, when finely chopped with some garlic and thrown into a hot casserole, already sizzling with slithers of bacon, spluttering away in a mixture of butter and their own piggy fat... there can surely be few more salivatory stimuli. Mirepoix to the French, Soffrito to Italians, this combination of the humblest of veg represents the holy trinity of hearty, earthy, warming winter sustenance and onto of its sturdy foundations can be crafted some seriously life-affirming monuments to deliciousness. From slow-cooked meaty stews, to stocks, soups and sauces, the possibilities are as varied as they are tasty. The recipe below is but a simple yet unbelievably effective example of what you can do relatively cheaply. However, when you find yourself deep in the throes of Seasonal Affective Disorder, and are in serious need of some new year cheer, then fewer things could seem more valuable.

Serves 4

3 fat cloves of garlic, finely chopped
 1 Onion, finely chopped
 2 carrots halved lengthways and sliced
 2-3 sticks celery, finely chopped
 1 leek halved lengthways and sliced
 1 potato peeled and cut into 2-3cm cubes (soak in cold water for 5 mins before cooking and drain. This stops the soup from being too starchy).
 Fresh Herbs – good sprig of rosemary, 2/3 sprigs thyme, handful chopped sage leaves, 2-3 bay leaves
 2 tbs olive oil plus a good knob of butter
 Glass of red wine
 1.5 litres vegetable stock (cubes are fine)
 1 x 400g can of borlotti beans, drained and rinsed
 A good handful of fusilli pasta (or macaroni, bits of broken spaghetti or other small pasta)

5-6 good handfuls of chopped kale (or you could use chopped cabbage, chard or covollo nero. You could also chuck in a few handfuls of spinach too)
Lots of freshly grated parmesan cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper plus extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

Heat the oil and butter in a large deep frying pan over a medium – high heat and add the chopped bacon. Stir occasionally making sure it doesn't stick.

When the bacon starts to crisp up and the fat has developed a nice golden hue, add all the chopped veg and the herbs. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking and to ensure even cooking. Season with a little salt and several turns of the pepper grinder.

Once the veg has started to soften, but not colour, add the wine and allow to cook-off for a few minutes. Now add the stock.

Once simmering, add the drained beans. Leave to cook uncovered for five minutes before adding the pasta and kale (or whatever). Allow to simmer, for 10-15 minutes (You can check that it's cooked by tasting a bit of potato which should be soft and crumbly to the bite but not sloppy and dissolving).

Remove the bay leaves, rosemary and thyme stalks where practical and adjust the seasoning if it needs it (I'd suggest another good few turns of the pepper mill) before serving into warmed bowls.

Sprinkle with as much Parmesan as you fancy and finish with a nice swirl of extra virgin olive oil. Make sure you have lots of crusty bread to hand and a glass of the same wine that you cooked with.

Written and Created by David Wallis

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Technology

Technology Editor – **Richard Lai**

felix@imperial.ac.uk



Highlights of CES 2009, Las Vegas

Richard Lai heads to the US, gains weight and picks out some of the best gadgets in the international show

My trip to the US had been very exciting. Very exciting indeed. Not only did I get taken to a police station in San Francisco and held a shotgun, but I also had the chance to check out tonnes of cool new gadgets at the CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas. Frankly, the city is only worth visiting for the show (which is not open to the public), or if you're into gambling and staring at fake tits.

Apparently there were significantly fewer visitors this year; probably only 60% of last year's figure, and we all know the reason. Nevertheless, new gadgets were still pouring out over the four-day event, which took up large floor areas of several convention centres and hotels. Here's an idea of the event's scale: as a favour for a Hong Kong audiophile magazine, I took photos of every single room at the High Performance Audio & Home Theatre area, which occupied about 300 suites that took up five floors at The Venetian, and that alone took me two and a half days (bear in mind I literally only snapped a few shots in each room and didn't sit down to listen to the systems)! If that wasn't enough, I still had the Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC), Sands Expo, Renaissance and Hilton Hotel to explore!

In the remaining days I only managed to cover some parts of the LVCC – the main venue of the show – and Sands Expo. As many CES regulars suggested, I wouldn't be surprised if it took an entire month to see absolutely everything on show. Not only were my legs knackered, but my chapped lips (the harsh winds of San Francisco didn't play nicely) and insufficient sleep also challenged my temper. Fortunately, the sight of fun and rare gadgets overcame my darker thoughts, otherwise I may have made the Vegas headlines following some sort of mental-breakdown behaviour.

Anyway, enough moaning. Enjoy the rest of the article!

Televisions



LG's extremely thin and colourful OLED TVs, only 0.85mm thick!



Panasonic's 1/3 inch plasma TV

This year there were four distinct categories of TVs: the large, the thin, the eco-friendly and the 3D displays. While TV sizes had always been the main driving force of the competition, many companies see that eco-awareness is opening a new market. Companies such as Sony, Panasonic and Toshiba had green booths comparing live power consumption of current TV models and new eco-friendly ones, as well as posters pointing out the recyclable materials used.

The electronic companies also believe that 3D display is the future. Sony was displaying their 3D models that require viewers to wear special glasses – quite an inconvenience for four-eyed peeps like myself – but apparently Samsung came up with a TV that displays 3D right out of the box. Sadly Samsung was the only large booth that I failed to get to, so I'll make sure I check them out next time.

Storage Media



SDXC – the next-gen SD that gives you 32GB to 2TB capacity

Now that the HD format war is over, the spotlight is returning to solid-state memory. As you can see above, the SD Association announced the SDXC specification, giving you massive storage capacities of 32GB up to 2TB on the tiny cards, and transfer speed of 104MB/sec (up to 300MB/sec in the future). The final specification will be released to manufacturers

next month, so expect to see SDXC cards and compatible devices in stores in about three months' time.

SanDisk made a big presence at the show too, actively promoting their SSD products for laptops, notably the high-speed 240GB 2.5" SATA-II SSD, which will be available directly from their website for \$499 by mid-2009.



SanDisk claims their latest SSDs are 5 times faster than HDDs

Have a strong opinion on a gadget?

Want to share a review?

Send in your article and high-resolution pictures or links to felix@imperial.ac.uk, and include "Technology section" in the e-mail subject.

"Next-gen" Gaming



Mindflex – a mind control game

I came across a couple of very cool gaming products, both of which can be categorised as "next-gen" gaming, since they don't require conventional controllers.

For example, Mattel's Mindflex (pictured left) consists of a small obstacle course platform, on which hovers a small purple ball supported by air blown from below, and the player controls the strength of the fan with his/her mind (theta-wave activity detected by a head band), and the X-Y coordination controlled by hand. Not bad for \$80, huh?

Another cool technology that the game industry should look into is GestureTek's 3D gesture recognition. As pictured on the right, a camera captures live 3D images and translates gestures into instructions – in this case, steering and acceleration of a virtual car (moving the fists apart accelerates, and vice versa). As far as I could see, the videogame's responded very well.

GestureTek has also collaborated with Hitachi and 3D sensor maker, Canesta, to create a gesture-controlled TV. A lazy man's dream?



Driving game sans steering wheel

Computers



Sony VAIO P Series netbook laptop – not wallet-friendly

This year's CES saw the birth of Sony's first Intel Atom powered laptop, but the Japanese company insists the P Series is not a netbook. Sony's Vice President, Mike Abary, was quoted saying the P Series is targeted at the premium market, of which the "customer probably doesn't even know what a netbook is". Frankly, we think this is just an excuse to justify the £849-or-higher pricetag. Nevertheless, the "laptop" felt good on hand, especially with the generously-sized keyboard, but you're stuck with a nipple instead of a trackpad sadly. The small high-resolution screen (8", 1600x768) is great for moies on the go, yet the device is crippled by a shabby 2hr 45min battery life.

Elsewhere, what did excite me was the ASUS Eee PC T101H prototype (pictured top, right hand column) – the first Eee-branded tablet PC. No prices yet (should be fairly affordable anyway), but it should be out within the next few months.

Another entry from ASUS was the Eee D200 (pictured right middle) – a 2TB media server with a small touchscreen, a slot-loading DVD burner and 802.11n router (yes, a built-in router!). It's rumoured to be priced at a mere \$600, and will come out in Q1 this year.

A quick browse around MSI's booth found a MacBook-Air-look-alike X320 (pictured bottom right). Weighing just 1.3kg with a 4-cell battery (60g lighter than Air!), sporting two USB ports instead of one, and coming in three colour options (black, silver and white). The X320 might do slightly better than the Air. We shall see.



ASUS Eee PC T101H tablet PC



ASUS Eee D200 media server



MSI X320 – MacBook Air clone?

British Pride

Even though I'm not British, it was still nice to bump into a few Brits in Las Vegas.

Hailing from Cambridge was the renowned Bluetooth company CSR (Cambridge Silicon Radio), which launched the TrueWireless Stereo software development kit for high-end Bluetooth stereo headphones and speakers. The idea is that unlike traditional Bluetooth speakers, products developed using this SDK do not require a hardwire-link between the left speaker and right speaker. To make this possible, one of the speakers acts as the master, which buffers the data stream from the audio source, and then relays the appropriate data to the slave speaker. The developed products will work with any existing A2DP (Advanced Audio Distribution Profile, for streaming high quality stereo audio) devices.



CSR's TrueWireless Stereo SDK kills another wire



Mr. Haider Bahrani, an Imperial alumnus, next to the Morpheus



Tonium's DJ Tristan da Cunha

Last but not least: you may recall in my Stuff Live coverage last term, I mentioned the much-hyped portable DJ device, the Pacemaker by Tonium of Sweden. Well, on Day 0 of CES I caught sight of fellow Brit DJ Tristan da Cunha (left), who demonstrated the Pacemaker for me at Stuff Live, and then we bumped into each other again on the train after the London show. I didn't manage to catch him then, but as I was out night-sightseeing on Day 2, I bumped into Tristan outside a casino! What a small, small world.

Anyway, it turned out Tristan was the lone Brit in the Swedish group – that's how good of a DJ he is! I then went to his booth on Day 4 to check out Pacemaker's software update, and boy I was pleased: the UI "has been completely reworked" for user-friendliness, and it now has auto beat match – a crucial feature that was greatly missed in the first generation software. When the 60GB version comes out in Spring for £300, I might actually have to get one.



Tonium Pacemaker DJ device

More cool stuff...



WowWee Joebot can beatbox!

I take back all my comments regarding how silly it is to keep robotic pets. WowWee's Joebot has convinced me that I should get one: not only can you fight it with any IR remotes, but the comic robot can also beatbox and dance! I'm sold!



Fujitsu PalmSecure system

As for the PalmSecure, this authentication system reads your palm vein pattern, requiring no physical contact, making it an ideal system for hospital security. The actual sensor is only slightly bigger than the average water bottle cap.

The ugly stuff...

I had a proper "WTF" moment when I saw these head-swinging (and no doubt head-shaking for us) iPod speakers.

More hilarious still was that sat at the top of the animal kingdom was "Happy Obama" (congratulations, by the way). Search for "OZAKI Obama" on YouTube for some "Yes we can!" action.





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

Friends of Medecins Sans Frontiers

Imperial's Friends of Medecins Sans Frontiers discuss activities on campus and MSF's role in the wider world

Kaushali Trivedi

During the holiday season, we are bombarded by appeals from charities – often, each as worthy as the last. So what makes Medecins Sans Frontieres special? Its purpose is, according to Secretary General Chris Stokes, to “[concentrate] on saving lives now until they can be rebuilt tomorrow.” MSF provides medical and humanitarian relief in an emergency situation, which is phased out as need declines. Its credo specifies that intervention is based on human need, irrespective of political or religious boundaries, in terms of donor, geographical area (it is currently active in over 60 countries) and recipients.

The scale and diversity of MSF's projects sets them apart from other NGOs in the field, as does their commitment to raising awareness about the situations in which MSF volunteers work.

Field missions, composed of medical and non-medical volunteers, are tailored to the situation according to the findings of a reconnaissance team. The medical staff are national healthcare professionals, who provide the framework for continued support, and international volunteers.

The international volunteers take sabbaticals from 6 weeks up to several years to provide medical aid in some of the world's most acutely affected regions. The non-medical logisticians make the medical volunteers work possible. Their remit includes establishing and co-ordinating a supply chain (incorporating medical equipment, food and safe water), training long-term staff to ensure the sustainability of missions and educating the population at risk. This is as challenging than providing medical aid, given the nature of the situations that MSF tackles: a limited or damaged infrastructure, such as after the 2005 Pakistani earthquake; frontlines in armed conflict, for example, during Lebanon, where MSF ex-

“Saving lives now until they can be rebuilt tomorrow”

perienced hostile fire whilst providing medical aid to Christians and Muslims from 1976-1984; and active hostility from local groups, like in Somalia, where the deliberate killing of 3 MSF operatives forced them to withdraw international operatives last August. Here, although MSF continues to provide primary health care, treatment for the malnourished and displaced as well as water and supply relief, thanks to the courage of national staff, the head of the mission there, Kenneth Lavelle, decries the political situation that limits them to “immediate life-saving needs...most certainly inadequate when taking into account the gravity of the situation”.

The scale and diversity of MSF's projects is astounding: in 2007, they carried out 8,447,106 outpatient consultations and dealt with 340,689 in-



A Kenyan child receives treatment in a Medecins Sans Frontiers hospital. For more information about MSF visit see www.msf.org

patient admissions, encompassing preventative and curative responses. This is illustrated by MSF's cohesive meningitis programme in Sub-Saharan Africa, where they vaccinate, treat outbreaks (preventing epidemics from developing) and collect statistics (enabling epidemiological tracking).

MSF manage complex chronic disease such as HIV/AIDS patients co-infected with tuberculosis, working in situations with otherwise inadequate healthcare access, such as in refugee aid camps.

MSF also provides emergency humanitarian assistance, like blankets, hygiene kits, safe water (which may require new wells and treatment plants to be set up) and the establishment of therapeutic feeding and rehydration centres. Their Campaign for Access to Essential Medications pressurises pharmaceutical companies to fund the continued production of existing drugs and the development of new drugs targeting diseases that primarily afflict developing countries.

MSF's establishment in 1971 was largely due to doctors' frustrations with the International Red Cross (IRC) during the 1967-1970 Nigerian civil war. The Nigerian government enforced a blockade of the secessionist Biafran region, resulting in appalling human suffering. The IRC can only maintain its impartiality – and hence access to certain locations or individuals in need – through a refusal to comment on the situation. These doctors, however, believed that their silence made them complicit in their patients' plight. Ever since, raising awareness of humanitar-

ian crises is central to MSF's activities, through presentations by volunteers, publications and lobbying the diplomatic community.

An excellent example is southern Sudan, where MSF has maintained missions since 1979, decrying civilian torture and executions whilst providing relief for disease (including TB, ebola, cholera) and famine against a backdrop of government interference and fighting.

Although MSF may work alongside a Ministry of Health, to maintain full control of its projects and the ability to speak out, it cannot be affiliated with

“Raising awareness of humanitarian crises”

any political, religious or economic entity. 80% of MSF's funds come from private donations: their activities collectively consume €600m per year. This explains why the work of fundraising groups, like the IC FoMSF, are so important to the organisation's continued success. It is also a source of hope: newspapers are full of reports re-enforcing the perception of mankind as being “tribally” divided – by nation, race and religion, the situation in Gaza being the latest example.

The fact that individuals donate to save the lives of others with no connection to them selves is proof of the underlying brotherhood of man.

Saki Onda writes about Imperial's Friends of Medecins Sans Frontiers



Imperial's Friends of Medecins Sans Frontieres (FoMSF), which formed in 2006, is an ICU society that provides a platform for Imperial students to contribute to the work of MSF through various activities such as fundraising events, guest speakers, and film screenings. We are part of the wider National FoMSF.

The individual FoMSF societies at different universities across the UK & Ireland share the same two aims: Firstly, raising awareness about MSF's work and to encourage students to consider working with MSF and similar NGOs (non-government organisations) in the future; and secondly, raising funds for MSF's general work and their campaigns.

Imperial FoMSF have a number of events planned for this year including: A fundraising roller-disco, sales of Krispy Kremes on the South Kensington Campus, 'Who wants to save a million lives' raffle – the best prizes that you'll ever see – a screening of the award-winning documentary 'Invisibles', produced by Javier Bardem.

MSF in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Kelly Ameneshoa
FoMSF Secretary

As fighting intensified in the Democratic Republic of Congo during 2008, an estimated 250,000 civilians fled their homes adding to the million already displaced. Fuelled by the country's rich mineral resources and lack of cross country communications, armed groups led by General Nkunda have clashed in eastern DRC in North Kivu. The reasons for this new uprising are unclear, at least partially based on an attempt to rid Congo of its Hutu rebels; however, its effects are all too evident. As well as the war wounded, many are suffering under the atrocities of both sides including mass rape. Not to mention the malnutrition endured by countless civilians across the country, increasing the spread of diseases such as cholera.

MSF has been in the DRC since 1987. The resurgence of fighting has made it very difficult to ensure aid is reaching those who need it most as they are often in hiding or constantly on the move. MSF has strengthened its established projects (such as HIV and sexual health service) and opened a new one in Masisi in North Kivu. MSF staffed began to work at the Masisi hospital in which had to more than double its maximum bed capacity. Mobile teams are also sent out to treat people when they are deemed to be relatively safe.



A child receives treatment after an Ebola outbreak

More recently, more than thirty people are suspected to have contracted the deadly Ebola virus. An MSF team of nine Ebola specialists from Kinshasa and Brussels is currently working in Western Kasai. An isolation ward in the village of Kampungu is being built and the medical team is also providing care to all people suspected of having the disease. There is no cure for Ebo-

la, so supportive and palliative care is provided.

To highlight the plight of the Congolese people, MSF has launched Condition: Critical, a series of personal testimonies, videos and pictures that allow those suffering to explain firsthand the conditions they are enduring. To find out for yourself, visit:

<http://www.condition-critical.org/>

Andrew Peetamsingh *discusses MSF's ongoing projects around the world*

MSF, like many charitable organisations, have numerous projects 'on the go' at once. Their projects are in countries across the world, from places as close as France to war torn countries in Africa.

Here are some of the cases from what MSF consider to be the worst humanitarian crises:

In Somalia, some of the worst violence in over a decade was seen in 2008. There is a lack of basic healthcare and a prolonged drought has exacerbated problems. Many have been left susceptible to malnutrition and disease. To tackle this health centres have been set up in residential areas which provide a source of healthcare to those who need it most, as well as providing a source of clean water for many.

War in Iraq has displaced four million people and there are big gaps in healthcare provision in certain areas. MSF runs surgical programs for war wounded patients, numerous burns units in both Iraq and Kurdistan and is supplying hospitals throughout the region.

Cyclone Nargis in 2008 left Myanmar in a terrible state. MSF has worked to provide food, shelter, water, healthcare and support. HIV/AIDS is also a big problem here which MSF is attempting to tackle through education and support.

Northwest Pakistan has seen some terrible fighting over the last year and many of the residents have been displaced elsewhere. MSF has been treating the war wounded, providing clean water and opening mobile health clinics.

There was a devastating earthquake in Balochistan recently, leaving 40,000 homeless. As a charity, MSF has been working to provide emergency medical support and relief supplies.

These examples represent a mere fraction of the work that MSF does worldwide. Continued support of their work is vital to provide some relief for the people who are suffering.

Iraqi Soc exhibition

Mohammed Jawad

On the evening of Friday 14th November, the Imperial College Iraqi Society made history – it conducted the first ever Iraqi Cultural Exhibition on campus.

The ten-man committee managed to organise probably the largest, most varied interface of London-wide contemporary Iraqi organisations in the space of a few hours. With the presence of over 17 different organisations, the IC Iraqi Society gathered crowds of Iraqis and non-Iraqis from all major universities in London, as well as families and businessmen, and nearly 200 people attended to hear it from the horse's mouth – how to get involved in major projects on Iraq today, as well as Iraqi culture and heritage.

Representatives from the British Museum gave first hand information on the current Babylonian Exhibition, which aims to run until March 2009. The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) gave an insight into archaeological heritage and contemporary issues surrounding the preservation of artefacts. This contrasted with student based organisations, such as the Student Iraqi Medical Association (SIMA) and Kurdish Studies and Student Organisation (KSSO), who represented student networking organizations in their respective fields. Other UK networking organizations included Iraqi Academics Association and Iraqi Professionals, and Iraqi culture was covered by Zipang and Culture for All, as well as calligraphy and textiles (by Aziz al-Naib and Najlaa Khalil respectively), producing an enticing amalgamation of talents. We were also delighted to welcome Al-Iraqiya TV Station, one of the largest Iraqi international broadcasters – who filmed the event and



Visitors enjoyed food as well as the exhibition

interviewed many of the organisations and attendees.

In addition, the audience enjoyed a gift of Iraqi strings music and Iraqi poetry, combined with a delightful cuisine of Iraqi delicacies to create the formula for the perfect evening.

Unfortunately, the vibrant evening could not last forever, and yet the end of the event did not mark the end of ties. By far, the underlying element of the whole evening was "unity," and indeed, the efforts of the attendees were not put to waste; the British Red Cross signed up several keen members, as did the politically orientated Iraqi Prospect Organisation and up to seven other charities (e.g. Kubba Foundation, Iraqi Orphan Foundation and IC Mar-

row), in order to facilitate future donations, involvement and commitment.

Furthermore, the organisations themselves were delighted to meet each other, and this assisted the exchange of ideas and contact details, thus promoting future cooperation. Diplomats from the Iraqi Embassy were also present to witness the success and build relations with such active professionals.

Overall: an evening of vivacity, attended by several zealous organisations, London students and professionals to enjoy and learn about Iraqi histories and contemporaries. A magnificent achievement for IC Iraqi Society, and an event that will no doubt show its face again in the years to come.



I, science

OUT NEXT WEEK

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



"I love Chaz"

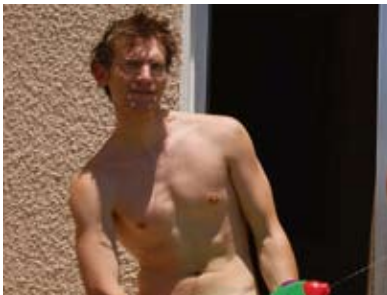
Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

Another week and another edition of Coffee Break. Loyal readers it is a good time to sit down, have a few beers and begin your collection of top trump cards! Oh yes, this could be the next big thing to hit the round faces of kids all over the nation. I am telling you now Wizards of the coast... BACK THE FUCK OFF! I won't let you turn this popular card game and turn it into something hideous like Magic the Gathering. Seriously if I find you guys have totally ripped me off, I will personally hunt you down and mutilate your soon to be corpse with a rusty spoon. Try it and see. That's right!

On to a more affectionate point. I love Chaz Murdoch. I've said it now, and I'm not ashamed. Obviously not in a man on man way, but in a "man this guy does so much for me" kind of way. In case you were wondering, he is related to the guy from the A Team. Maybe that's why he manages to get so much stuff done down here in the office. I waltz in on a Wednesday, have a look at what needs to be done in this weeks issue, and to my surprise I find all the puzzles done. Yes I am still surprised every week. My thanks go to

this guy for all the work he puts in. Not only does he do the puzzles, he helps out with any other loose ends that need to be finished before the paper goes to print on a Thursday evening.

Concerning any ladies out there, you can see Chaz's "aluring" physique in last weeks centrefold, which is currently plastered all over the temporary wall in the da vinci's bar. He's winning the hot or not poll by a landslide against Hockey 1st team captain, Jack Cornish. Chaz likes to ride motorbikes for fun, with a collection of various high end vehicles to mount. He is also the ACC vice chairman. Ever wondered who organised all those great ACC bar nights in the union? It's Chaz. We salute you sir. Carry on the good work.



Look at him. AHHHH!!!

Obama wins with product placement



1. Obama Condom
2. Obama Toy
3. Obama Cereal
4. Obama Lip Balm



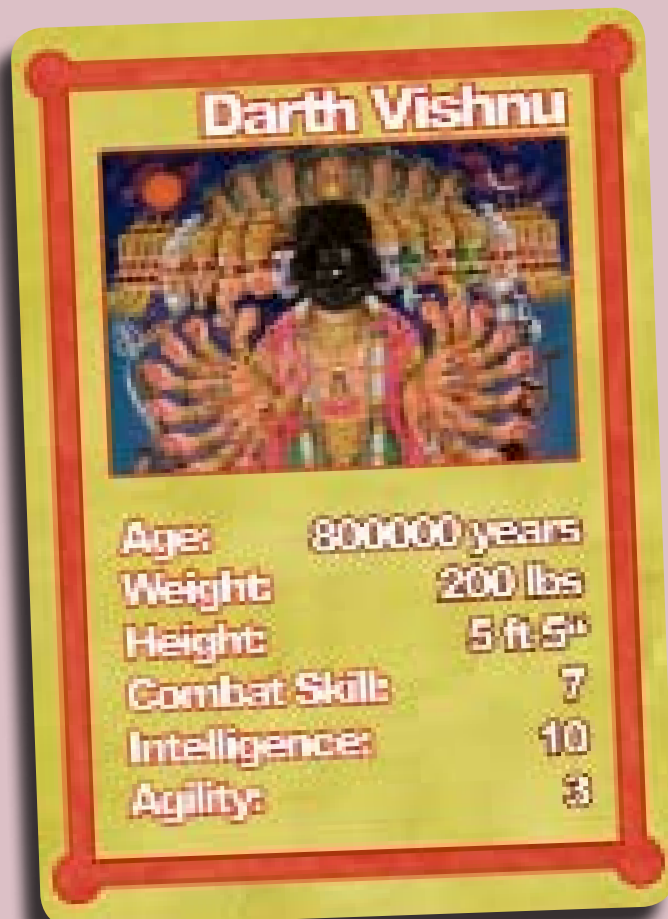
Top Trumps

Cut them out!

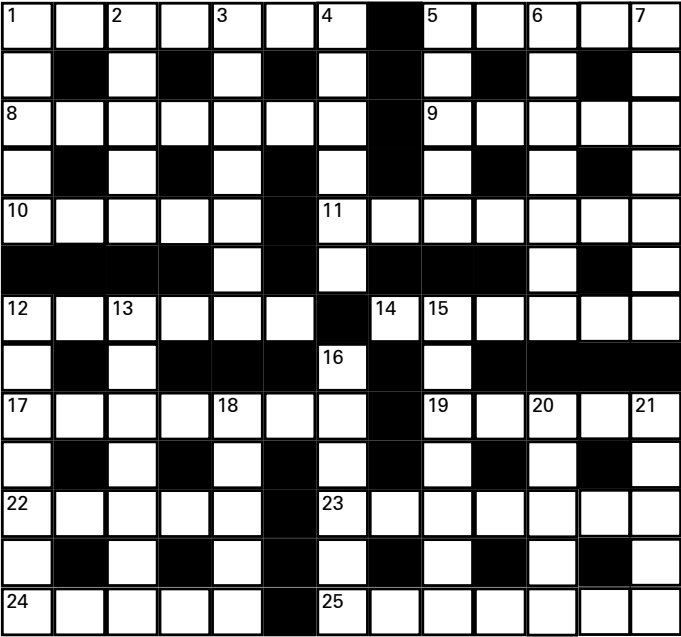
Highest score wins

Collect them all!

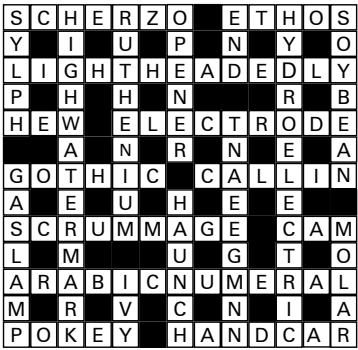
Watch this space for additional cards



A Quickie (Crossword) 1,421



Solution 1,420



As promised there were no cock ups here... shame about the Cryptic, but I've already shouted at Enoch for that. And now he's crying. Anyhoo, winners this week were **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?** who are streaking away at the top of the table. Double points are still on offer for anyone from outside the top two so that makes the Cryptic (if Enoch makes no mistakes) worth an exceptional 20 points.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alkali metal (7)
 - 5 Term of greeting (5)
 - 8 Engage in physical contact (7)
 - 9 Delicate item of food (5)
 - 10 To braid hair (5)
 - 11 Public sale (6)
 - 12 Herb, means of transportation (6)
 - 14 Carve into a surface (6)
 - 17 Take in air (7)
 - 19 Installation vital for public hygiene (5)
 - 22 Strong thread (5)
 - 23 Pickled cucumber (7)
 - 24 Large, sealed box (5)
 - 25 Work with stone or brick (7)

- DOWN**
- 1 On the level (*slang*) (5)
 - 2 Profession, business (5)
 - 3 Insurmountable obstacle (7)
 - 4 Crazy followers of Bacchus (6)
 - 5 Anarchy (5)
 - 6 Openers (5-3)
 - 7 Of numbers (7)
 - 12 Characterizing artificial life-forms (7)
 - 13 Loose women's shirt (7)
 - 15 One who holds a party (7)
 - 16 Literary term for one verb used to describe numerous subjects (6)
 - 18 Onomatopoeic animal sound (5)
 - 20 Forced to get up (5)
 - 21 Of the kidneys (5)

Scribble box

FUCWIT League Table	
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	151 Points
Team Shotgun	135 Points
Giramundo	45 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	23 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Yu-Xi Chau	10 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, London Underground and Quickie. 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!

Blazingscopes – Horoscopes with a touch of blaze

This week, *felix* got MC Melo-D from Blazing Squad down for advice. Fortunately he could only do one



Aquarius

Mate, this part is well shit bruv innit? So *felix* hollared me up and asks me to re-master some, Jam-Master Jay

stylee. So here goes man! Your week is gunna be safe... you is gunna win like 50p mate- that could buy a bag A Ready Salted bruv! They will be bear good, and youz will win a trip to Istanbul, seriously heavy dude!



Pisces

This week you are strangely happy, unsure as to why but I can guarantee you that this is only the start. Things will get

even better, culminating in an epic exchange of saliva on the dance floor of dB's with that special someone that you've been drooling over. My advice to you is to take it slowly and let the relationship blossom.



Aries

Why don't you shut up and leave me alone? Yes you. Having a conversation with you is like kicking a

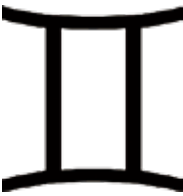
cripple- it's just not fair. I am struggling to get over the embarrassment of belonging to the same race as you. On a good day you are a half wit, please bugger off... If you don't know who I am talking about, it's you.



Taurus

This week you get caught in a compromising position in the Men's toilets of the Union building.

After a minor skirmish, the door to the toilet is removed where you are found with you wang out businessing a girl. After a wait of five minutes you move off to another cubicle and begin again. Next time use the disabled.



Gemini

Lectures don't go too well for you. You repeatedly arrive late and make a fucking din as you get to your seat.

Enraged a bloke at the back jumps up points out that you are definitely not on time and smashes you right in the face. You fall arse over tit down the theatre and end up in a heap of the floor at the lectures feet. He kicks you.



Cancer

A riot breaks out in the Physics common room over who is more sexually attractive, Newton or Galileo. Things

quickly escalate and before long people are tumbling from the 7th floor. This is crazy behaviour, but in the court case the judge realises that you are crazy people. Who else would want to study Physics at Imperial?



Leo

The fun police. Who the fuck do you think you are? If I want to play conkers, I will. If I get a conker in the

nads, it's going to hurt but I'm not a batty. Man up, put a jumper on and stop crying like big gay babies. Health and safety can take its rules and regulations and shove them up their arse because I ain't doing that shit.



Virgo

Phil Collins has been in court recently for indecent exposure of his voice to millions of people. There you are, humming

along happily to a bit of Dido and this repulsive crooning comes on. You want to destroy the radio, but you know that he's not worth it. This situation will happen at your next group meeting when the idiot in the corner pipes up.



Libra

This week things might not turn out the way you really wished. But don't worry or beat yourself up it could

well be a blessing in disguise. You get to hang out with you bros, which is pretty much the perfect recipe for any human. On the other hand, hanging about college too much could make you go proper mental!



Scorpio

If it's your Birthday this week, we all wish you many happy returns. If it's not, then we don't. When you go out celebrat-

ing don't get so beered that you end up in a skip with a dirty old man "taking advantage of the situation." It's not going to be a pleasant time for you- trust me I've been there. Well I enjoyed it, the other party present didn't quite as much.



Sagittarius

There seems to be a lot of aggression kicking around the world at present and it's going to rub off onto you. When

things begin to well up, put the kettle on, make a cup of tea, sit down and listen to a Cat Stevens record. Better still listen to the whole album. *felix* has a lovely selection of his finest works which you can browse through anytime.

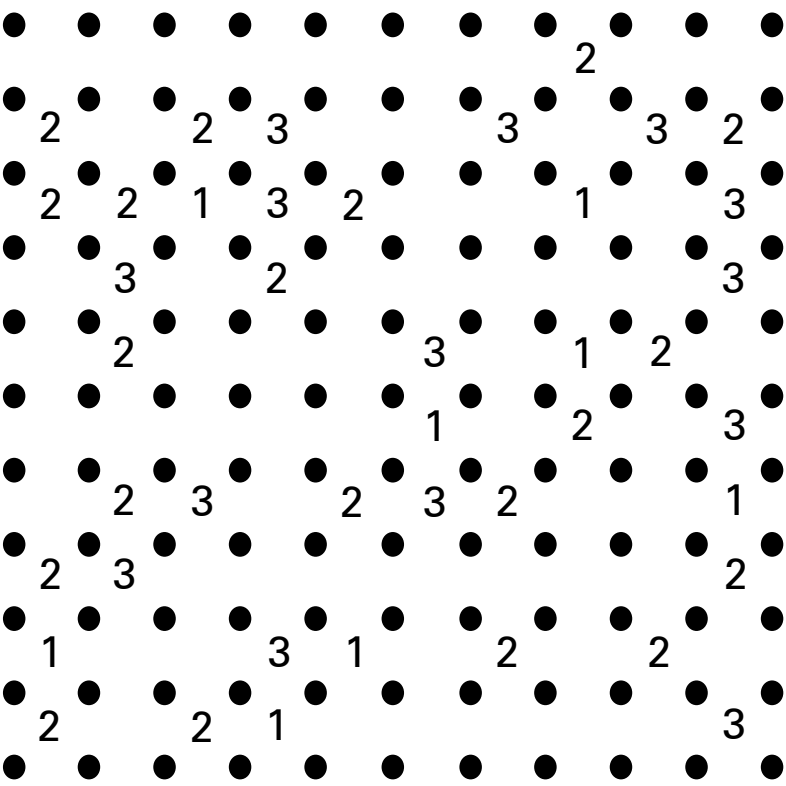


Capricorn

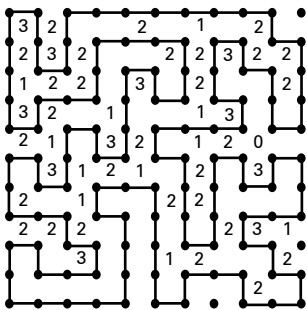
There are women in the *felix* office recently. Lots of them. And they actually want to be here! Amazing.

If any very boisterous, larger swilling beasts want to come down to even up the balance I would be much obliged. In the words of the 18th century philosopher Ali Philpott "who needs women? Women are for gays." Pint?

Slitherlink 1,421



1,420 Solution



A messy, never-the-less correct answer from **Shotgun** was the first to pop up on my screen, but due to double points week, **Giramondo** stole 6 points! Get your answers in faster for 10 lads.

How to play:

It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help.

This week's texts:



07726 799 424

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

"To the first year mech eng girl, front row polka dot t-shirt: I know what you did last summer. Expect retribution."

"I fired an ICBM at the cat, causing its anus to bleed"

"Hey big cat! Can I has a shoutout! Phil Power rocks my world!"

"David Blake for Sophie King"

"Yeah a bit better- g&t, high school musical, pasta and shower... who called me? you want to do the fish bowl later? x"

"Dan, what's a triangle again?"

"The line above the c in your surname, does it go from bottom left up to top right, or does it go down? random I know, but all for a purpose. M"

Wordoku 1,421

	R			S				K
E			W			S		
S		U					N	
C		A	K			N		R
			C		R			
K		R			A	C		S
	N					E		U
		E			C			N
R				E			S	

Scribble box

1,420 Solution

S	I	B	M	T	R	A	U	P
U	A	T	P	I	S	R	M	B
P	M	R	A	B	U	S	T	I
I	R	A	T	S	M	B	P	U
T	P	S	B	U	I	M	R	A
B	U	M	R	A	P	I	S	T
A	S	P	U	M	B	T	I	R
R	T	I	S	P	A	U	B	M
M	B	U	I	R	T	P	A	S

Ok, I felt very nice this week and even though they wrote a 'P' instead of an 'R' and had the audacity to win everything last week, **Shotgun** were still first in and took the 5 points. Next time I will not be so lenient!

Wordoku is identical to Sudoku; we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

Going Underground

So it worked! We had loads of responses. Excellent. Well done to **Shotgun** who found SOUTH KENSINGTON. An easy one to start, this one is a little further from home.

Each letter in the alphabet is assigned a value, 1-26 (see table) and when add-

ed together for a specific word the sum equals the total shown. All you have to do is scan and send the Underground station that is hidden each week to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk and you get FUCWIT points. For any simpletons, I have done you an example.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

B	A	N	K
2	1	14	11

= 28

2+1+14+11=28. Job done.

So which London tube station sums to 128?

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

= 128

Mr & Miss Imperial 2009

With Sabbatical elections around the corner, we're launching our own election.

Search for Miss Imperial



Calling all girls! This is the start of Imperial's first ever beauty contest and I reckon we are going to unearth some real beauties. The male dominance here causes phrases like 'FFI (Fit For Imperial)' and 'better from behind' to come into everyday use but I think the girls at Imperial are of an surprisingly high standard. It's time for us to show everyone what Imperial's got and crown a Miss Imperial 2009!

Search for Mr Imperial

Boys! Now's the time to forget all that manliness and bring out your pretty side - we're also looking for a Mr Imperial 2009! Don't worry, there's no shame - us girls want some eye candy and you get to spend the day with Miss Imperial. So come one boys, join in!

To enter, send us 2 photographs of yourself, 1 face shot, and 1 full length shot, along with the following details: name, age, department and year of study.

The finalists will then appear in *felix* ready for voting to commence. Students of Imperial then decide who will be crowned!

The winners will receive: £200 shopping spree, a makeover, a photo shoot (to be featured in *felix*) and a iPod.

Entries need to be sent in to felix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 6th February. Get snapping!



Picture of the Week

Banks of the Nile, by Charlie Hennings
4th Year Aero

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

A couple of ice hockey reports to digest

Ice Hockey

Imperial Devils A	6
Cardiff Red Hawks	3

Chris Beardsell

On the 7th December an Imperial Devils team lacking many of its regular players made the long journey to Cardiff. We knew that the Red Hawks were unbeaten this season and were leading our Division by two points. We knew the game would be a tough one, with some of us still remembering our only other trip to Cardiff- a physical encounter that we lost by an impressive 24-0 score line.

Despite a long trip that saw us arrive late and having to get straight on the ice Imperial started strong. We spent long periods in the Cardiff zone- pulling off cycling moves that would have bought a tear to the eye of Vince. However we failed to create many scoring chances until Freddie fed Virya on the blue line with a cross ice pass from the behind the goal where Virya unleashed a great slapshot which passed the helpless Cardiff goalie. We took this lead to the first intermission with mixed feelings- we were playing some of our best hockey of the season and keeping Cardiff caged back but were still just the one goal to the good.

The second period started well with Freddie picking up a superb goal of his own to settle Imperial nerves, however on the very next shift a drop in concentration saw Cardiff pull back

within one with a simple rebound after Ruth made the initial save. Cardiff had obviously not been happy with their performance and decided to try and play a more physical game in this period. However this soon turned against them when they quickly racked up the penalties. Imperial knew they had to utilize these opportunities, particularly with two long 5 on 3 advantages, but the pressure was too much. Simple passes weren't being made and plays were easily broken down. The best chance fell to Freddie on a breakaway, but his early shot came off the inside of the post.

Cardiff had worked hard to kill the penalties and were back at full strength but shot themselves in the foot when some confusion behind the net saw the puck fall to Chris Pinnick in front of the goal who took his time and made no mistake to score his first goal to make it 3-1 to Imperial.

Many of the team thought this was the bit of luck we needed but it was not to be. Cardiff soon had their first powerplay of the game and scored quickly to stay within touching distance. This seemed to bring Cardiff, and the small crowd, to life and the rest of the period saw Imperial come under intense pressure that saw Cardiff draw level on a shot through traffic.

The second intermission could not come soon enough for Imperial that faced a stark choice: play like we did in the first period and go home with the win or play as we did in the second and face the remarkably foggy roads of Cardiff pointless.

We made the first choice and came

out playing hard, keeping the pressure on Cardiff and reducing them to long shots from the point. The home crowd were finally silenced when Freddie deked the goalie out of his pants and rolled the puck into the net. He then completed his hat-trick and a four-point debut with a beautiful finish in off the bar under heavy pressure. Despite the two goal lead we knew that Cardiff had the potential to get back into it and we had to play strong until the final whistle.

The team played some great possession hockey in the opposition end that saw the time fall away. Cardiff managed a few decent chances but Ruth and the defence held strong. With less than two minutes on the clock and a face-off in our end, Cardiff pulled the goalie but after a couple of attempts Imperial killed the game off with Tom scoring the empty-netter to make the final score a convincing 6-3.

While this was performance was certainly not perfect, it was a great team effort after a long road trip, with every player really digging deep. Ruth once again earned (wo)man-of-the-match, after making 33 out of 36 saves despite carrying an injury.

This was the last game of an excellent term for the Imperial Devils who have now played each team once (with three of these four games played away). We finished with a 3-1 record that sees us heading Division 2, ahead of Cardiff on goal difference by virtue of Tom's empty-netter. Hopefully we can continue this form into 2009, a year that will also see us entering a Division 3 team for the first time!



Toby Clemson duly nails an opponent

Ice Hockey

Imperial Devils B	6
Streatham Night Wolves	11

Paul Gilmartin

After the success of the A team earlier in the week the B team set off to what was for many their very first ice hockey match with hopes high. While only a friendly match, the game would provide a great indicator of what to expect from the team for their upcoming season. As soon as we saw the Night Wolves on the ice we knew this game would be much tougher than anticipated with many large players with known experience and other players displaying good skating ability.

After a short and somewhat disorganised warm-up the game got underway and proceeded to provide the crowd with plenty of action as one of the worst starts to a hockey match in history took place. 2 and a half minutes of running clock time gave Imperial a modest 4-0 deficit courtesy of some skilled solo efforts by the Night Wolves, some weak defending and an inadequate warm up for our goalie. This could also be put down to a certain amount of intimidation felt by some of our players in their first competitive experience. Once some of the more experienced players gained some composure Imperial started to give a much better display, involving some good passing and getting the puck in their end. Despite a lack of clear cut chances this was a great improvement on the opening few minutes. Some solid defending and great saves by Richard meant we only conceded 1 more goal before the end of the period.

The team came off for the break with much more confidence and it began to feel like we may be able to save some pride from the game with a solid performance required in the second period. Unfortunately an early lapse in concentration meant they scored quickly from the face off and this period looked to be going the same way as the previous.

However nothing could prepare the screaming crowd for the slick, smooth and accomplished display of hockey Imperial showed after this. Many chances went begging in front of goal until a move involving most of the team fall-

ing over at some point led to Ales passing the puck from behind their goal, a cheeky flick from Sophie's skate saw it land on Punil's stick and he punished the defence for leaving him open by slotting it low into the far corner. Filled with confidence the whole team pulled together and created chance after chance but it fell to Rich B. to punish the Night Wolves with a superb solo effort, darting from our end, through their defence and finishing high in the corner past a bewildered goalie. The game had really started to get going but the Night wolves managed to get one back in the last 20 seconds to finish off the period all square with the match at 6-2.

Anticipation was high for what we could achieve from the third period with us getting better the longer the game went on. Night Wolves scored another after a few minutes with a rebound from some good saves from Richard. Next it was the turn of another defender to get on the Imperial score sheet as Andres took advantage of a poor line change by the opposition to storm up the ice with great intent and only the goal on his mind, showing great composure to deke the goalie and finish smoothly for another Imperial goal. In the next quarter of an hour it was clear both teams were starting to tire, with them scoring 2 more but a scramble in their zone dropped the puck onto James Freedman's stick and he put another one in the net for Imperial. Then in the last few minutes they scored again, but not long after Chris Pinnick got hold of the puck hunting for the goal he seemed to have been chasing all game after his success with the A team. Getting into their zone he looked threatening but made the smart pass to Toby only to receive it back in a great position and didn't need a second chance to fire it home with a great shot.

The final score was 11-6 but this score line did not reflect the way Imperial had got themselves into the game and begun to dominate a vastly more experienced team. Man of the match went to Richard for keeping us in the game on many occasions with some great goaltending in his first match, credit also goes to the defenders who did a superb job of keeping them at bay but it was a team effort and everyone rose to the occasion showing great promise for the new season starting this term.

ULUs flagship teams battle it out...

Continued from back page

nomenon unknown to them this season, and concede again. However, they continued to go for it and had chances to win the game, with the Lapin going

close from a corner and Marvin's set pieces causing problems.

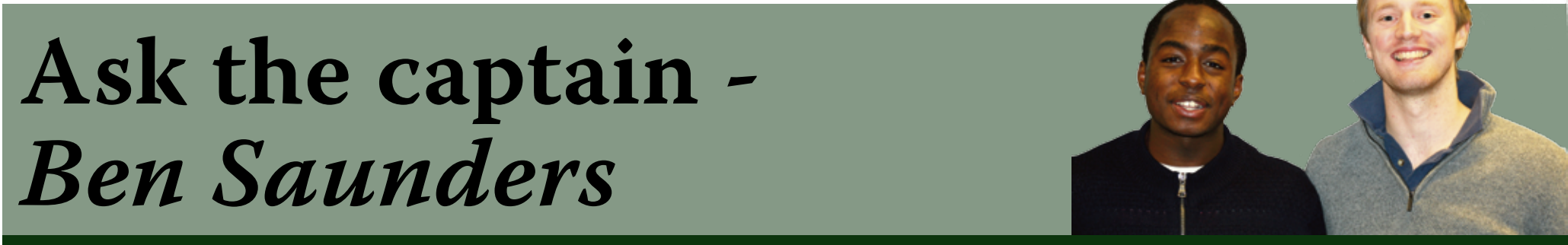
The game ended 2-2 with the 4s by far the happier team and both squads roll into 2009 looking to build on a mixed start to the season.

Credit must go also to the subs - Tom, Jose and Raam seeing that the 5s were amply supported throughout, even though they were denied a run-out.



ICUAFC 4th XI. The flagship ULU team

Please send in high resolution photographs
with your sports reports to
sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



With a little over a month until Varsity, the Medical Schools hockey 1st XI captain Ben Saunders is interviewed by the unbiased, non-hockey playing sports editor Mustapher Botchway.

Good afternoon Ben, first things first how have you found this year in the Medics 1st team?

It has been a good year. It has been a challenging first half of the season for the first team, but the hockey club is going well both on and off the pitch.

What are your main challenges you have come across this year?

The first thing we have had trouble with is numbers this year as we have quite an old team. So we have quite a lot of them away on placements. A few of the games last year we had almost half the team away. We had to make the best of what we had.

I don't think the results are reflective of our play this year. We have lost most of our games by only one goal in the last five minutes which points to a lack of concentration. I hope the next half of the season will be a bit of a turn around. Almost all our games in the first half of the season were away games, so hopefully we will do better this half.

More on personal issue, how have you advanced from first year medical student to your current position as 1st XI captain?

I actually started with rowing in my first year but I played a lot of hockey at school and I decided to start rowing as a break. I always had quite close contact with the hockey guys and really just progressed from there. Again, it was quite an old team when I started in second year but it soon became a young team when they all left. In my third year I played a quite a big role playing centre midfield and this year I went one better.

Why did you leave the rowing club?

The rowing was good. I had a lot of fun rowing but it was too cold and the early mornings were too much for me. Even though the Medics rowing is a bit more relaxed than the IC rowing, there are still some early mornings and I'm not a morning person.

OK. With the medical students having six years worth of students how have you found that in developing your team. Or do you think it has had a negligible effect in comparison to IC teams who only have three maybe four years?

Yeah... although they only have three or four years the IC team have a wider selection to choose from. Six years is good because you get a lot of experience and knowledge from the older years and that's really good for both the hockey and social side. It is almost like a family base as a club.

If you are there for six years then you get to see the club develop and progress. We are still an up and coming club and we have a committee for the first time this year so we are making tracks now towards a tour hopefully coming up in September.

How long the club has been in existence?

My club captain will tell you it was established in 1909, the actual date is

unsure. This is our centenary year.

Any celebrations lined up?

We are always celebrating! The tour will be a good start so September is going to be to Barcelona with about 30 guys to a student camp with four games in a week so it should be good.

Moving on to the big day – Varsity. How do you realistically see your chances against College?

Good. I know Jack doesn't see it as a problem at the moment. They did, last year, take us apart really in the first half but I take full responsibility for that with a poor formation choice. But we changed it in the second half and we coped with them very well and the second half score was 2-1 to us.

We have got a coach in now which we have had for a few sessions and I think realistically we are going to get better and better. We have got a full strength side for the match at Varsity – I am excited. I think we could do well, but as far as I know we have never won Varsity. Last year we did come close however as it was tied with the ULU Cup Final and we only lost on flicks.

Now to the flagship event, how do you think the Medical rugby team are going to get on?

I know a lot of the medics rugby guys and I think they are going to do another good job. It was close last year. Too close but great to watch. I've been there every year and it gets closer and closer. I think the medics have still got an edge.

Where do you see the hockey club progressing before you graduate? Any hopes of promotion or are you aiming to stay in your BUCS league?

Before the start of the season, we were quite keen on moving up the BUCS league but because of our difficult first half of the season, we're looking to survive in our BUCS division which I think is a reachable goal.

Next season we want to solidify ourselves in the league and then move up to the top. I think we could push for promotion depending on the intake. We only tend to get one or two outstanding freshers that can make it onto the first team. As a medical school, I think the league we're in is very good – making a first division league is challenging, especially with the likes of ICHC who are very good, and Canterbury who are also very good.

How much have Sport Imperial and the union supported you?

They've been really good. If you ever need to get hold of them, you can email, phone, anyway you need to. They're always available to help with hockey matches and they've provided us with our kit for the last season, and this year's 1st team shirts.

What are the unenjoyable aspects of being 1st XI captain?

I actually don't like two aspects - Taking training I find quite stressful and I miss playing my own game. Also I do find it difficult to pick the team especially as we've got a very strong 2nd

team. They're doing well this year so its hard to not be able to include some of their better players.

On a lighter note, what are the main hockey social events of the year?

In October we go on a tour to Oxford where we play a mixed team but we spend a couple of nights there and that's an awesome weekend. We had a Christmas curry which was very good.

The big one is the AGM in April/ May time and is always very good. We've actually secured presidents who we invite along. We also join up with the girls club and have speeches at the end of the year.

Where do you see ICSMHC in relation to the other Medic sports teams? On both a social and sporty side?

The best!. We're doing well actually, we've made ourselves much more known in recent times and on the social side of things we very prominent. And we're pushing on the sports department.

Why is it that the Medics have two separate clubs for men and women as opposed to ICHC where they are joint? Are there any plans in joining them up?

I don't actually know why that is but we do have a close relationship with the girls team. They come with us to Oxford. But I guess one of the benefits is that if you're going for a night out, as enjoyable as it is to have girls there, you don't necessarily need them to go out drinking (*Ed - Controversial!*). I think we have a close enough relationship with the girls team that I don't think there's any need for us to join together into one club no.

In felix recently there was a debate on sporting excellence and inclusion. What are your opinions? Should College concentrate on being the best at sport or on being as inclusive as they can?



Ben Saunders is definitely in this picture.

FACT FILE



Name: Benjamin Saunders
Team: ICSM 1st Men's Hockey
Position: Midfield
Date of Birth: 12/12/1986
Hometown: Eastbourne
Course: 4th Year Medicine
Height: 6'1
Weight: 83kg

Ben, a former ICSM rower, has been in the 1st team since his second year when he decided that rowing in a boat along a river in the early morning didn't satisfy him sufficiently . He has been instrumental in the growth of the club over the years which include the establishment of a committee and a president. With the first overseas tour on the horizon later this year, Jack and Mustapher are both sure that his mentionable IQ of 140 has served him well (random statistics courtesy of the good ol' 'book).

I think it is really important to be really inclusive actually. It is always good to promote Imperial as a team going out no matter who you are - IC, ICSM or RSM. Having such teams will only promote Imperial and I think realistically if you are going to go for pure sporting excellence then you need to combine ICSM and IC. But I don't think that is necessarily the way forward. Because as much as you would get a super team you would have a lot more people left out and you couldn't have six hockey teams going out every week I wouldn't have thought. It would make Varsity less special if we were combined.

Between IC and the Medical

School there is always a divide between them. Rugby and netball are better on the Medics side, yet why is it not the same for hockey and football?

I don't know actually. Football and hockey are quite similar games in a way apart from the size of the ball. The running lines and how the play goes are very similar. It might be due to the wide selection choice available at Imperial. I believe it is a big thing that when you come to the medical school and you play rugby they do look out for you.

It is not particularly known for hockey and football and I guess because there is a smaller spread of people we don't get such a range.

Brunel get a battering

Fencing	
Imperial Men's 2nd	127
Brunel University 1st	120

Maurice Berk

It was an under strength men's 2nd fencing team that made the arduous trek out to Uxbridge to fence Brunel. With regular sabreur Charlie Hennings feverishly occupied with exams it fell upon 2nd team regulars Nathan "Bicycle" Blundell and Nathan "Badger" Harmston to join team captain Maurice "Berk" Berk in fencing sabre. Their lack of experience with fencing this unfamiliar weapon seemed to have little effect as both Bicycle and Badger won their first matches 5-2 and Berk made it a hat trick with a 5-3 victory. Bicycle and Berk struggled against

their second opponents, going down to 5-7 and 5-6 losses respectively but Badger ensured IC remained in the lead with a fine 5-4 win. With both Bicycle and Badger brushing aside their final opponents, even Berk's disappointing 5-9 capitulation in the final match was enough to secure a win for Imperial in sabre, with the final scores at 45 – 35. Next was foil and Badger and Bicycle were back in their element, joined by 2nd team stalwart Alex "Leukaemia" Bishop. With no absent foilists, IC were bullish but Badger's woeful 5-1 loss in the first match required a swift rescue from on-form Blundell who slaughtered his first opponent 9-4. Having narrowly snatched back the lead, IC threw it away in the next round of matches, with Leukaemia in particular struggling against the opposing anchor in a match that ended 3-9. However, some fine fencing in the final foil matches, capped by a stunning display

by Bicycle in the final contest, gave IC a narrow margin of victory, final foil scores standing at 45-40. With IC fifteen points in the lead going in to epee and having won the first two weapons, thirty points would be enough to ensure a victory for IC. However, with the usual epeeists absent, victory was hardly assured. Berk, fencing competitive epee for the first time in years, settled IC's nerves with a 5-3 win in the opening match, before new man Guillaume Drieu La Rochelle floundered his way to a 2-7 loss. Leukaemia also struggled, losing 3-5 in his first match and clearly confused by the nuances of epee fencing. However with Berk continually turning out passable performances and Leukaemia and Guillaume doing a decent job of damage limitation, a final epee score of 37-45 in Brunel's favour was more than enough to give Imperial the win.

IC pair to represent England

Finian McCann

Barely a year old but already Imperial College Union Gaelic Athletics Association (GAA) have their first international representatives. Finian McCann and Stephen Gallagher were recently announced as members of the England Universities hurling team to face their Scottish counterparts on 31 January in Leeds. While the club primarily plays Gaelic football, as members of the GAA we also participate in hurling. This is a sport not unlike hockey in that players use a specially shaped stick called a camán to hit a small ball called a sliothar. However, the scoring is a bit different, you can lift the ball into your hand and hit it in the air, and is quite a

bit more physical. This is a massive boost for the club which has progressed leaps and bounds from that dreary February morning last year up in Oxford. New kits, our own Gaelic football pitch in Harlington and our first wins against Cambridge and the University of East Anglia in November are all signs that the club is healthy and prospering. The next big event for the club is our first ever entry into the BUCS Gaelic Football Championship, taking place this year in Birmingham on 7-8 February, which we have all intentions of winning. On the hurling front, we aim to compete in the British Universities Hurling 7-a-sides later on in the year, rounding up what has been a very suc-



The boys wield their camán


Rugby success!

Rugby	ARUP
Imperial Men's 4th XV	6
St Georges 2nd XV	3

Stanislaw Sikorski



Journeys to matches lead by 4ths captain, Tim "Safehands" Burr have always had a reputation for controversy and so when the team arrived at the ground on time for their bout against St George's 2's last Wednesday having left the union on time with a full squad of players, caught the tube in time for their connecting train and not getting lost on the other side, on-one was more surprised than Safehands himself. Indeed everything seemed to have gone unusually smoothly until they made a startling discovery – there was no opponent. After several confused phone-calls they discovered that although they had made considerable effort to arrive in time to the ground it was in fact the wrong ground – a charge to which Captain Safehands furiously blamed, first the club fixtures secretary, Max, then later Alyssa from Sport Imperial before he found an unread email on his iPhone (yes he is a ponce) from earlier in the week explaining that the venue had changed and giving detailed directions. It was then up to the long suffering rugby team to take the 20 minute train back to Richmond, change for another 20 minute tram before undertaking a 15 minute walk and eventually make it to the correct ground – a charge that ran smoothly with the exception of the Richmond interchange where a furious Captain Safehands had to drag number 8 Stan Sikorski out of Dino's Fast Food Pizza stand while the other players held open the doors of the tram for a full 5 minutes (much to the annoyance

of the local Richmond residents. Having eventually arrived at the correct ground with all 22 players (including a well fed number 8) it was time to play some rugby. IC were very happy to play slow grinding forwards game deep in the opponents half for much of the first half until a strong run from Sasha the Basha was all it needed to complete the final ten yards of the IC onslaught and claim the first five points around the half hour mark. It was just a great shame however that this technically sound comfortable play from IC in the first 30 minutes was juxtaposed by quite possibly the worst conversion attempt in the history of rugby by acting scrum-half, Louie, who up until that point had been doing a brilliant job of filling in for Pinocchio Joe, who was himself injured in the first five minutes after a nasty shoulder injury, IC were able to control the game for a further 10 minutes bringing the score at the end of the first half to 5-0. The second half was a very tightly contested affair. St George's proved to be extremely efficient in the scrum winning all of their own and many IC put-ins too. IC were, however, able to capitalise on their poor body positions at the breakdown and were competitive at breakdowns which ordinarily should have been considered safe-balls. The added possession that IC gained through this lead to progressive play, more territory and eventually superb breakaway try by the previously shames scrum-half Louie lead to a converted try – 12-0. Credit should be given to St George's who never gave up and spent the last 10 minutes of the game camped inside the IC 22-line. The IC 4ths, however, were determined to achieve their first clean sheet of the season and held firm to remain undefeated in 2009.



Fixtures & Results

in association with *Sports Partnership*



Saturday 17th January Football

Men's 1s ULU 2-3 LSE 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU 1-0 Imperial Medicals 2s ULU
Men's 4s ULU 2-0 Royal Vets 1s ULU
Men's 6s ULU 5-2 Queen Mary 5s ULU
Men's 7s ULU2-1 Heythrop College 1s ULU

Sunday 18th January Football

Women's 1s ULU 14-0 King's Medicals 2s ULU

Hockey
ULU Cup

Men's 2s ULU 2-1 Royal Vets 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU 1-1 Royal Holloway 2s ULU
Men's 4s ULU 1-3 King's Medicals 2s ULU
Women's 1s ULU 3-1 Imperial Medicals 1s ULU
Women's 2s ULU 0-1 King's College 2s ULU

Lacrosse

Mixed 1s ULU 19-2 St Bart's Mixed 1s ULU

Rugby

Women's 1s ULU 0-24 Royal Vets 1s ULU

Monday 19th January Netball
ULU Cup

Women's 1s ULU 32-15 St Barts 1st ULU

Squash

Women's 1s ULU 5-0 RUMS 1s ULU

Volleyball
ULU Cup

Mixed 1s ULU 1-3 LSE Mixed 1s ULU

Water Polo

Mixed 1s ULU 14-9 Imperial Medicals Mixed 1s ULU

Wednesday 21st January Badminton

Men's 2nd 4-4 King's 1st
Women's 1st 6-2 University of Reading 1st

Fencing

Men's 2nd 135-120 Brunel University 1st

Football

Men's 4s ULU 3-1 UCL 6s ULU
Men's 6s ULU 1-2 Goldsmiths 2s ULU
Women's 1s ULU 8-1 St George's 1s ULU

Hockey

Men's 4s ULU 4-0 St George's 2s ULU
Women's 1s ULU 2-1 UCL 1s ULU
Women's 2s ULU 0-5 King's 2s ULU

Lacrosse

Women's 1st 28-1 University of Portsmouth 1st

Netball

Women's 3rd 7-22 Queen Mary 2nd

Rugby

Men's 2nd 17-19 Imperial Medicals 2nd

Table Tennis

Men's 1st 17-0 University of Reading 1st
Women's 1st 5-0 LSE 1st

Tennis

Women's 1st 0-10 London Metropolitan 2nd

Volleyball

Women's 2nd 0-3 King's College 1st

Saturday 24th January Football

Men's 2s ULU vs RUMS 1s ULU
ULU Cup

Men's 1s vs LSE 1s
Men's 2s vs RUMS 1s
Men's 3s vs Queen Mary 2s
Men's 4s vs Royal Holloway 4s
Men's 5s vs Royal Vets 1s
Men's 6s vs Heythrop College 1s

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st

Rugby

Women's 1s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU

Tennis

Women's 1st vs Brunel University 1st

Sunday 25th January Lacrosse

Mixed 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway Mixed 1s ULU

Volleyball
BUCS Tournament

Men's 1st vs University College London 1st
Men's 1st vs University of Essex 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st

Monday 26th January Badminton

Mixed 1s ULU vs St Barts Mixed 1s ULU

Basketball

Men's 2s ULU vs LSE 2s ULU

Netball

Women's 1s ULU vs UCL 1s ULU
Women's 3s ULU vs King's College 4s ULU

Volleyball

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

Water Polo

Mixed 1s ULU vs UCL 2s ULU

Wednesday 28th January Badminton

Men's 1st vs Brunel University 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Fencing

Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st

Football
BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

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

Hockey

Men's 3rd vs Royal Vets 1st
BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs RUMS 1st

Men's 1s ULU vs Imperial Medicals 1s ULU
Women's 2s ULU vs RUMS 2s ULU

Lacrosse

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

Netball

Women's 3rd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs Oxford University Greyhounds
Men's 2nd vs St Barts 1st
Men's 3rd vs University of Sussex 2nd
Men's 4th vs Universities at Medway 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Essex 1st

Squash

Women's 1st vs UCL 1st
BUCS Cup

Men's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st
Men's 2nd vs Imperial College 3rd

Tennis

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
BUCS Cup

Men's 1st vs University of Essex 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 2nd

Volleyball

Men's 1st vs UCL 1st

Trapmore Alpha Strikes Senior Squad

Christina Duffy

ICBC Winter Training Camp: On January 2, 2009 Imperial College Boat Club established an elite school for the top one percent of its rowers. Its purpose was to teach the lost art of erging combat and to insure that the handful of men who graduated were the best rowers in the world. They succeeded. Today, ICBC calls it Fighter Weapons School. The rowers call it: TOP GUN. The Long Defeat took place at ICBC base camp with over 210 kilometres covered and thousands of weight repetitions endured over 8 gruelling days. The erg plinking began before light each morning and continued past darkness. As the splits decreased the injured list increased. Gareth 'Gung-ho' Brown had a permanent change of station to the bikes suffering from a torn ligament in his finger. Bom Meyrick-Cole was struck with tendinitis in both wrists, Alex Gillies had to forgo the ergo due to back pain while Winny took his slashed hands to the bike: mentally and physically defeated. The million dollar wound went to Will Todd and his great balls of fire who had to keep a low heart rate after a brief

flirtation with a hospital drip earlier in the year. The women's squad were not impervious to injury either with Chewy complaining of severe bum pain throughout the week. Anyone not holding formation or overrating in the erg zone was immediately fragged by fellow comrades. Tower Trapmore assumed control of the observation post and cries of "Hooyah" echoed throughout the gym. Posture calls in the final leg of the 18 km pieces were efficient morale boosters. The promise of bacon butties for the biggest improvement of splits in the 20 minute pieces became the force multiplier with Louise Hart and AFP smelling the pan the strongest. Between sessions in the mess hall pasta was shovelled into battle-weary troops who displayed early signs of the thousand yard stare, oblivious to the World's Strongest Man being shown on the TV screen behind. Crews had been pre-selected for water outings, consequently Trapmore had no patience for anyone wishing to leave ground-zero early: "Tower, this is Ghost rider requesting a flyby." "That's a negative Ghost rider, the pattern is full."

Meanwhile, Whitelaw the Outlaw was overseeing core stability operations and was responsible for calling station changes. Roll-outs proved to be the catastrophic kill for exhausted bodies. In the weights room it was too close for missiles and all squads switched to guns for the 4 x 25 sets. The B-hut in the flat upstairs became a safe haven from the constant grinding of spirit below. Rowers, now a mere shadow of their former selves could be found sprawled in rooms and hallways with offerings of tea providing brief glimpses of hope to crushed souls. At the End of Day, crews yomped home trying to blank out thoughts of the impending torture of yet another day at camp. Memos of nights out from non-rowing friends were placed securely in file 13. The Awkward squad who couldn't make daytime sessions could be heard erging late into the night desperately recording splits to offer up to and please the Tower. Sweat, blood and tears: he shows no emotion. A week of pain and what have we learned? Trapmore means business. ICBC win.

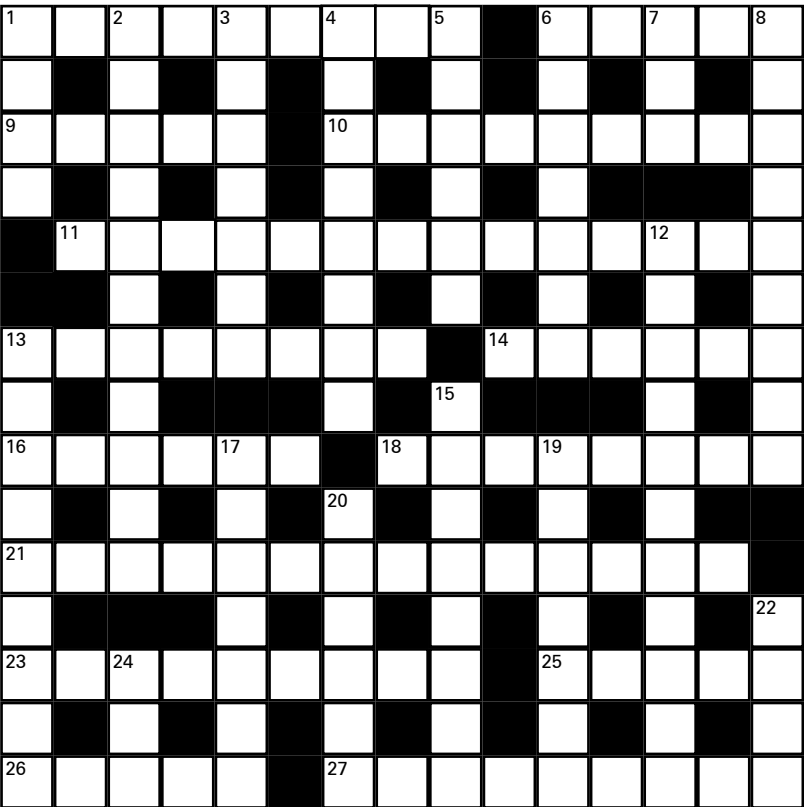


Cox Henry 'Viper' Fieldman enforces Trapmore's commands

Sports league										
Team		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1	Squash Men's 1st	9	9	0	0	40	5	35	100	5.00
2	Fencing Men's 1st	7	7	0	0	934	533	401	100	5.00
3	Tennis Men's 1st	6	6	0	0	51	9	42	100	5.00
4	Volleyball Women's 1st	5	5	0	0	10	0	10	100	5.00
5	ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	3	3	0	0	16	8	8	100	5.00
6	Badminton Men's 1st	9	7	2	0	50	22	28	78	4.33
7	Hockey Men's 1st	8	7	0	1	45	11	34	88	3.88
8	Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	113	31	82	88	3.88
9	Netball 2nd	7	6	0	1	262	134	128	86	3.71
10	ICSM Netball 3rd	6	5	0	1	198	117	81	83	3.50
11	Squash Men's 2nd	6	5	0	1	20	8	12	83	3.50
12	Fencing Women's 1st	4	3	0	1	524	444	80	75	2.75
13	ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	8	5	1	2	43	17	26	63	2.38
14	Table Tennis Men's 1st	10	7	0	3	114	56	58	70	2.30
15	ICSM Netball 2nd	6	4	0	2	192	117	75	67	2.00
16	Hockey Men's 2nd	8	5	0	3	32	22	10	63	1.63
17	Hockey Men's 3rd	7	3	2	2	15	24	-9	43	1.57
18	Squash Men's 3rd	5	3	0	2	9	6	3	60	1.40
19	Basketball Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	375	331	44	60	1.40
20	Fencing Men's 2nd	5	3	0	2	616	573	43	60	1.40
21	Hockey Women's 1st	8	4	1	3	24	18	6	50	1.25
22	Basketball Women's 1st	7	4	0	3	326	309	17	57	1.14
23	Badminton Women's 1st	9	5	0	4	42	30	12	56	1.00
24	ICSM Football Men's 1st	8	4	0	3	12	17	-5	50	1.00
25	Badminton Men's 2nd	6	2	2	2	24	24	0	33	1.00
26	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	10	5	0	4	217	204	13	50	0.90
27	Hockey Men's 4th	5	2	1	2	12	20	-8	40	0.80
28	Squash Women's 1st	9	1	5	3	15	25	-10	11	0.33
29	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	9	4	0	5	123	143	-20	44	0.00
30	ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	6	2	1	3	16	19	-3	33	0.00
31	Tennis Men's 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	-6	33	0.00
32	Rugby Union Men's 3rd	7	3	0	4	136	161	-25	43	-0.14
33	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	7	3	0	4	98	117	-19	43	-0.14
34	Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	13	18	-5	29	-0.57
35	Volleyball Men's 1st	6	2	0	4	4	8	-4	33	-1.00
36	Football Men's 2nd	6	2	0	4	14	23	-9	33	-1.00
37	Football Women's 1st	6	2	0	4	10	21	-11	33	-1.00
38	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	10	3	0	7	204	277	-73	30	-1.30
39	Tennis Women's 1st	7	2	0	5	26	44	-18	29	-1.43
40	ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	8	2	0	6	13	12	1	25	-1.75
41	ICSM Netball 1st	9	2	0	7	221	329	-108	22	-2.00
42	Lacrosse Men's 1st	5	1	0	4	29	68	-39	20	-2.20
43	ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
44	Netball 3rd	6	1	0	5	62	182	-120	17	-2.50
45	Football Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	11	25	-14	17	-2.50
46	Hockey Women's 2nd	7	1	0	6	6	32	-26	14	-2.71
47	ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	12	23	-11	14	-2.71
48	Rugby Union Men's 4th	7	1	0	6	78	300	-222	14	-2.71
49	Table Tennis Women's 1st	4	1	0	4	8	12	-4	25	-2.75
50	ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	9	0	1	8	10	63	-53	0	-3.33
51	Rugby Union Women's 1st	1	0	0	1	0	80	-80	0	-4.00
52	ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	5	0	0	5	3	32	-29	0	-4.00
53	ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	4	0	0	4	0	12	-12	0	-4.00
54	Netball 1st	7	0	0	7	137	271	-134	0	-4.00
55	Rugby Union Men's 1st	10	0	0	10	92	370	-278	0	-4.00

Crossword No. 1,421

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



ACROSS

- 1 More than one annoyance is found in the details (9)
 - 6 Famous piper is discovered after damage (5)
 - 9 From the beginning it is over: there will be nothing at the end (2,3)
 - 10 To fit padding up a leather guncase (7)
 - 11 Dances into Hell, tearing important connective tissue (8,6)
 - 13 Having blown a gasket used to drill through the middle to provide water for crops (8)
 - 14 Worship Paul the Patriot (6)
 - 16 The fields of France conceal the victors (6)
 - 18 Hardy heroine returns after revolutionary's board game in pieces (5,3)
 - 21 Incapable urban development in the establishment of tinpot little country (6,8)
 - 23 Throw in worn out, overused fossil (9)
 - 25 Contests of speed can be seen as strains (5)
 - 26 Spanish saint saves Antarctic core (5)
 - 27 Shiny apes change formulation of 'impossible' tasks (9)
- DOWN

- 1 Biblical character makes no expression of satisfaction (4)
- 2 Smooth piece of cloth famously used by Churchill (4,7)
- 3 Way of expressing contrition for a lot, informally, in mass (7)
- 4 Four lines of verse put close together (8)
- 5 Switzerland is into violent sexual activities, meaning a break in friendly relations (6)
- 6 Famous playwright has a lie-in more... (7)
- 7 ... regularly once tuberculosis starts generating decomposition (3)
- 8 Most unusual choice to place between two paths (8)
- 12 Put on clothes and select a place to sit in the theatre (5,6)
- 13 Raises organisms on regular solids, in with a time coming later (9)
- 15 High-fliers slash head of personnel... (8)
- 17 ... either with or without aide stifling Greek first lady (7)
- 19 Male puppy has clean up to remove the effects of alcohol (5,2)
- 20 Revolves as a whole, or with small pieces (6)
- 22 An identifying number is barbaric and nonessential, for starters...(4)

24 ... in new drinking establishment (3)

The more eagle-eyed among you may notice that this week's crossword bears a striking resemblance to last week's. The exceptionally eagle-eyed among you may even see that the most glaring mistakes that made Crossword no. 1420 virtually unsolvable have now been fixed.

Hopefully this new and improved set of clues will provide you all with a fair and enjoyable dose of cruciverbalism over the coming week.

For those of you who exhausted the different possibilities of distraction last week's puzzle offered and are looking for intellectual stimulation of a different kind, may I heartily recommend

www.sporcle.com

Curse me for wasting your time later.

Enoch



Imperial derby draws a stalemate

Football

Imperial Men's 4th XI	2
Imperial Men's 5th XI	2

L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Edmund Lobb

The Battle of Bosworth Field, 22 August 1485. The Battle of Edgehill, 23 October 1642. The Battle of Gettysburg, 1 July 1863. Add to this list of great civil war battles The Battle of Harlington, 13 December 2008. With contrasting fortunes so far in ULU Division 1, Imperial 4s and 5s took to the astroturf of Fortress H on an inclement December Saturday.

The build up to the match had been tinged with gamesmanship, with the 4s clamouring to rearrange. Possibly running scared of a highly motivated and capable 5th team, possibly demanding extra time to find their way to the venue. Even with the postponement, 4s captain Jeremy didn't take to the pitch, his underwear still brown after the shanking from his 5s counterpart Ron in the reverse fixture.

The 5s started well, Lobster setting the tone with an outrageous flick over Inty in the first minute. The back four

was coping easily with the threat of Gui "The Barrel" Barbosa and his even fatter, even more Brazilian mate up front who was soon substituted for Ciaran. Mike Turrell's relentless running on the left wing was causing problems and Tom Adams was a proving handful for Dyke Allen and Marqueeef. The 5s dominance was particularly evident in the centre where Matty Smith and Jonny Hill were being bossed by Ron, Marvin from JLS and Jam Jam. They were however finding it hard to break down the two banks of four and test rugby fan Skeen in the 4s goal.

The pressure soon paid off though when a clearance from the Lapin was inexplicably left by both Dyke and the Queef and Tom Adams was in like a flash to slot past the schoolboy. The 4s were shaken and their centre halves then contrived to gift the 5s another goal. Ron chased a lost cause on the right and managed to pull the ball back to the edge of the six yard box. Calls of "Clear it!" from Skeen were ignored by Marqueeef who smashed the ball into his own top corner. 2-0.

At half-time Jeremy made his last two substitutions and a tactical reshuffle, trying to find some penetration on their left, where Winehands and X-factor winner Dan Abooby were solid in

both defence and attack. The 4s started brightly but were no danger for the 5s who's back 4, aided by Paulie in goal, soaked up everything thrown at them.

The conditions then came into play as a through ball was collected by Paul, only for it to slip from his grasp and fall to Mamzi Iscariot who put the ball into the empty net. Paul immediately redeemed himself coming out to meet Ciaran and make a top class one-on-one save with his chin.

The 5s continued to press, knowing their lead had undeservedly been halved, and Ron was put clean through only to be denied by a smart save by Skeeno.

The 5s were then given a corner which Jonny Hill, possibly thinking how to get the dribbled grease from his KFC family bucket off his 22s tie, proceeded to put straight behind the goal. This however was missed by referee Chav, who had been bullied by the 4s all afternoon, and the ball swung back into play to be headed in by Sang at the back post.

The goal stood and the 5s were left incredulous. Given the nature of the two goals conceded, the 5s could easily have let their heads drop, not a phe

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A rant now was predictable, no?

Jack Cornish &
Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

So as we embark on a new term of matches, drinking and drunkenness I feel there is now a predictability to sports life. I would suggest that most final scores could be predicted before the start of the match by a punter and s/he would soon be rich. Imperial teams either seem to be winning or losing. For those doing a bit of both they know who they will beat and they know who they will lose to.

Can I urge the winning ways to be kept up and I urge that some 'dog' is shown for those tougher matches. When I say dog I mean show some bite, some passion and the desire to get out there and piss on the bonfire of those cocky league leaders. It is all very well playing, losing and then mak-

ing the gripes about their lack of UCAS points, but in my view we must get out there and grow some balls.

The reason I say all this is not necessarily because I think that all teams at Imperial are losers who don't have enough belief in themselves to win, but because there is a growing interest in the spectacle that is Varsity, the great showcase for sport at Imperial College whose athletic reputation is getting better all the time.

However there is some predictability involved and I would like that to change, partly to make the day more interesting and to make the time and money invested worthwhile. Who wants to pay to spend a day watching amateur predictable sport. I already have a TV and a Rocky DVD.