

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
2006, 2008

Issue 1,422
Friday 30 January 2009
felixonline.co.uk



Is the Union secure?

Open all access to sensitive information on
Sabbatical computers exposed, see page 3



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News

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St Mary's try out new 'safer surgery checklist'

Muaad Abdula
News Correspondent

St Mary's Hospital, part of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has recently been involved in a major international study.

The study, which involved eight hospitals around the world, managed to prove that the use of a 'safer surgery checklist' would reduce deaths and complications after surgery.

The use of the checklist led to deaths falling by an average 40 per cent after an operation. Professor David Taube, medical director at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has already stated that:

"We are now implementing the safer

surgery checklist across the Trust and we hope other hospitals in the UK will do the same."

From the video example on the World Health Organisation website the 'checklist' basically consists of a summary of the patient's history, operative procedure and treatment plan at three stages.

One advantage of this is that it reiterates to the surgeons and other staff involved exactly what is going to be carried out. Although the results are impressive to say the least, there is nothing groundbreaking here. The 'safer surgery checklist' basically consists of a series of "safety nets" which highlight what everyone in the operating room should be concerned about

regarding the patient.

Nonetheless, the importance of recalling the main details of a patient's care in the operating room cannot be stressed enough. The power in this simple checklist is that it assumes nothing about the patient. This is yet another step in trying to minimise any risk that vulnerable, unconscious patients would be exposed to.

Being able to reduce deaths and major complications after surgery has obvious benefits for both doctors and patients. The 'safer surgery checklist' will hopefully become a useful preventative measure to complications as well as helping to avoid horror scenarios such as the rare case when mistakes do happen.



Surgeons taking extra care to ensure that the operation is as safe as possible

Holocaust Memorial Day event held at IC

Gilead Amit
Associate Editor

The date of the 27th of January was chosen in 2001 in the United Kingdom as Holocaust Memorial Day. Held each year on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp, the day is characterized by memorial services and remembrance events all around the country, centred in 2009 around a national service in the city of Coventry.

To commemorate the day, the Jewish society at Imperial organized a candle-lighting preceded by a talk from a Holocaust survivor. Mr. Otto Deutsch, who was barely eleven when the Second World War started, grew up in a Vienna where the Nazification of normal society was at its most frightening. With great calm and gentleness, Mr. Deutsch spoke of his youth in Austria, having witnessed both the public humiliation of the Jewish citizenry and their determined fight to hold onto their dignity.

As one of the 10,000 unaccompanied Jewish children allowed to leave Nazi

Germany for the United Kingdom in the 1939 Kindertransport, Mr. Deutsch openly gave thanks to the British parliamentarians of the time who fought to save as many of the children as they could.

Mr. Deutsch's story ended on a triumphant note: having been forced to flee Austria in 1939, he returned later in life to become a tour guide in the 'beautiful city of Vienna'. Standing in a country that had once tried so hard to eliminate him and all those like him, being able to greet tourists with the words: 'welcome to my country' held a special significance.

Having finished his story and answered questions from the thirty-odd students and members of staff assembled, Mr. Deutsch was asked by Yoni Weiner, the President of the Jewish Society, to light the candle of remembrance.

As a final word to his audience, Mr. Deutsch dedicated the flame to all those lost in the Holocaust and to victims of hatred the world over, and thanked those present for having come to listen to his story.



Holocaust survivor Otto Deutsch, telling his story to a rapt crowd

felix 1,422
Friday 30/01/09



Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065. Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, 17 Brest Road, Derriford, Plymouth. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711. Copyright © Felix 2009.

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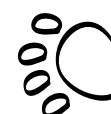
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OF THE WEEK

Confidential Union files lacking security

Dan Wan
News Correspondent

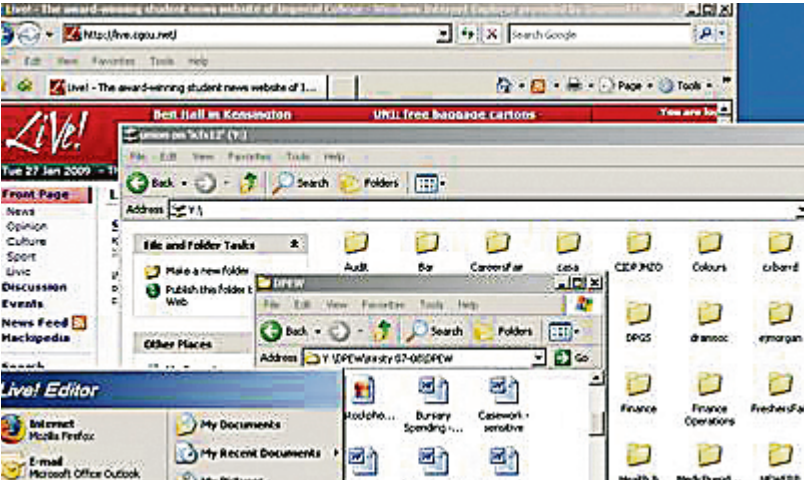
Imperial College Union have once again become the subject of negligent security, this time regarding confidential data on sections of the Imperial College server. CGCU News website *Live!* has revealed a concerning breach of database security that allowed them to access files and folders marked as ‘In Confidence’ and ‘Sensitive’.

Live! claim to have been able to gain unchallenged access to important information relating to Union finances, disciplinary procedures, payroll and Union bar sales.

Initial suspicions of open access arose when volunteer Union Officers were discovered to have unexpected amounts of access to these confidential files. Furthering the suspicion, *Live!* Editor Kirsty Patterson additionally exposed Union server security measures by accessing files from the *Live!* Editor College account. Though the Union directory is normally hidden from view on supposedly non-privileged College accounts, basic mapping functions were able to locate these folders and files, and hence readily available to any staff or students.

The most alarming folder lacking suitable permissions were those designated to the Union General Manager, currently Peter Haldane. Within this folder, confidential documents relating to named disciplinary and written warnings were found. Folders entitled ‘Staffing’ and ‘Finance’ contained Union staff contracts and payroll specifics.

Screenshots on *live.cgcunet* show the extent of access Patterson had. The *Live!* Editor has its own College account and simply should have not been able to gain the level of access evident in the screenshot. Only present Deputy President of Education and Welfare,



CGCU website Live!’s screen capture of the open access to Union servers. Confidential DPEW files and folders are displayed.

Hannah Theodorou, and appropriate College ICT officials should have had the correct privileges for the documents specifically flagged up by *Live!*

This is not the first time Union confidentiality has been breached due to negligence. At the start of the current academic year, boxes of Union documents were found in and around closet rooms housing air-conditioning units in the West Wing Basement of Beit compound. These closets were unsecured and their contents unbeknownst to the Media Group whom use the West Wing Basement.

For this latest lapse in security however, there is debate about who is actually to blame. Imperial College ICT department are said to be ultimately responsible for all data protection within College; this including the Union. However it is claimed Union staff should have been responsible for directing ICT in limiting the appropriate data access.

The Union is squarely claiming no responsibility for this fiasco, which could

potentially lead to much wider-spread consequences. The possible legal implications of potential public viewing of the information in question is something only time will be able to conjure. Patterson herself was quick to realise her own role in the situation, stating that, “having discovered information of that confidential nature was in those folders, I knew the legal implications of students being able to see it.” She took a course of action but also condemned the faults made, stating, “I immediately contacted ICT, though it should not have taken someone poking around to expose the lacking of security”

Live! and *felix* have taken the responsibility to ensure all confidential and sensitive areas on the Union server have been appropriately “secured” before publication. Union President clarified this by saying, “As soon as we were notified of this problem we worked with ICT to secure the folders in question. Since then we have ensured that all sensitive and confidential files are, and will continue to be, secure.”

And finally: Phantom Menace cuts off water to part of Princes Gardens

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The Student Accommodation building, situated in Princes Gardens next to Weeks Hall, has been the victim of some stealth attacks by a mysterious phantom menace. The building, which also accommodates graduates on Master’s courses, as well as the main accommodation officer for Imperial, was left without any water over the weekend for no apparent reason.

On Monday morning, the hall manager Vladimir Jarina and a water technician, that’s a plumber to you and me, went to investigate the problem. It was found that someone had been tampering with controls to the main water pipe outside the building, which is situated under the road. At this time, no one is sure who did it, or even why they did.

This wasn’t the first time the water supply to the building had been affected, but it was, however, the first time that there was no water supply for a full day and a half. The fact that someone was able to access the main water sup-



The menace is lurking in the bowels of Princes Gardens

ply is a mystery in itself, and the hall manager has speculated about installing a camera in the hope of catching the menace. Only time will tell if this will capture the culprit and their identity revealed to the public.

The world beyond college walls



Iraq

Saturday 31st January is the day Iraqis will go to the polls in local government elections.

About 14,000 candidates are competing for only 440 seats in local provincial councils and for the last few weeks Iraq’s streets have been awash with party campaign posters, and TV stations have been filled with politicians vying for votes. These elections are being seen as an important test for the country’s young democratic political system which was established after the war in 2003, as well as for the performance of the Iraqi Army and Police in keeping voters safe.

Saturday is also widely seen as a precursor to national elections to be held at the end of 2009, which will mark the completion of a full 4-year term of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki’s government which was formed after the last national election in December 2005.



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka’s 26-year long civil war looks like it is coming to an end as the Sri Lankan Army closes in on rebel held territory.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), also known as the Tamil Tigers, have been fighting for a separate country for the ethnic Tamil minority since 1983, and has controlled various swathes of land in the North-East of the island. But this most recent military offensive by the Sri Lankan government has pushed the Tamil Tigers and civilians living in those areas back into an ever-shrinking corner.

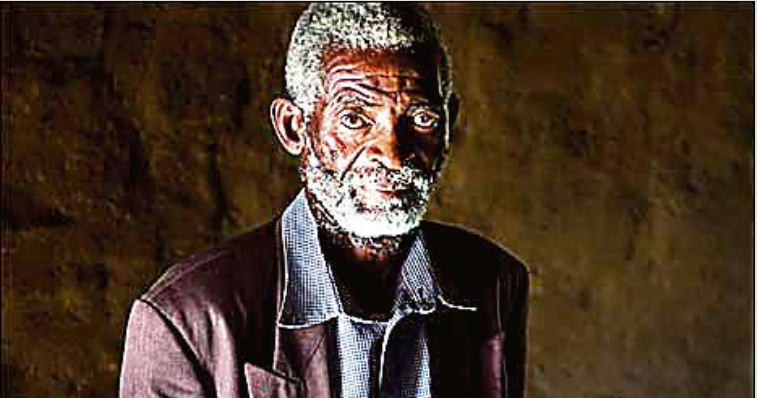
Claims by the Sri Lankan government that there have been ‘zero civilian casualties’ have been met with scepticism by the Red Cross and other aid groups who say shells fired by the army have landed in a 35 square kilometre no-fire zone where thousands of civilians have gathered for safety. The United Nations have confirmed that their staff members working in the no-fire zone to deliver aid have also been caught up in the fighting.

Zimbabwe

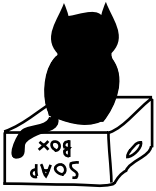
The cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe has now caused more than 3,000 deaths according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), a body of the UN.

The water-borne disease has affected larger and larger areas of Zimbabwe since August 2008, a result of the collapsing water, sanitation and public health system. This comes in the midst of an ever worsening economic situation, where 80% of Zimbabweans are unemployed, and those who do have work find that their salaries are worthless.

But this week the main opposition party the MDC, led by Morgan Tsvangirai, has agreed to join a unity government with President Robert Mugabe and his Zanu-PF. The power sharing deal will see Mugabe remain as president while Tsvangirai assumes the position of prime minister. It is hoped that this newest agreement will bring to an end the months of political wrangling and failed agreements that has occurred since national elections in March 2008.



Edited by Hassan Joudi



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*



What is the point of the letter C?

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

You might have to bear with me on this one, as it might seem that I am a little crazy or, heaven forbid, poor at English!

In the 19th century, a Serbian linguist by the name of Vuk Stefanović Karadžić went about to reform the Serbian language. At the time, the used alphabet was Cyrillic, yet the main problem was that the literary level in the country was very low. Words were not spelled in an intuitive way and as such, made it a very difficult language to learn if you were not brought up on it. In 1818, Karadžić reformed the whole language with the basic principal that “you write as you speak and read as it is written”. In essence, the entire Serbian language was made phonetic!

The current state of the English language could, at least by foreigners, be described as in the same way. Unintuitive, unclear and extremely difficult for people to learn are some ways of describing it. Heck, I’m still learning the ins and outs of the language and how I can gain access to the ‘wealth’ and ‘richness’ of the language.

As a quick side note, I don’t really see the point of using elaborate words, either spoken or in written text. By using these complex words instead of their simpler counterpart, you are effectively excluding a large proportion of the UK...

The relatively high levels of illiteracy in the UK compared to the rest of Europe got me thinking. What would happen if Karadžić was still alive and did the same to the English language as he did to the Serbian. Would the literacy levels rise, would people find the change easy and would foreigners find the language a lot easier to pick up?

But where would you start? If you ask me, I would start with the letter C.

Think about this question: is there any word in the English language where the letter C cannot be replaced by another letter in the English language, or where it is not used to make a ‘CH’ sound?

I have asked this question to a few people and the initial response has normally been “You’re an idiot!”. But after they thought about it for a while, they began to realise what I was trying to say. Honestly, what is the point of the letter C? Most of the words that we managed to come up with could either have the letter K or the letter S instead. For example, looking at the title of the piece next to mine, the word ‘attractive’ could quite as easily be spelt ‘attraktive’. Another example would be the word ‘decision’ which could be spelt as ‘desision’. As a solution, an idea I had was to not scrap the letter C, but instead make it a ‘CH’ sound and replace all the words affected with either ‘K’, ‘S’ or ‘CH’. So, for example, ‘much’ would become ‘muc’.

For those of you with an A-Level in English might try and use the argument that the ‘C’ creates a soft sound in a word. But why can’t it just have a T in front as is the case of ‘pence’, which could just be ‘pents’.

The most likely argument against change, I imagine, would be that any changes to the language would destroy it. But would it destroy it even more or would it mean that it would be easier for people to learn. After all, it is the most widely spoken language.

Anyway, this can go on for a while, so I leave it to all of you to find me a use for the letter C, because at the moment I’m really struggling.

Imperial Girl pays to look attractive, so dinner’s on you



“My European friends would never let a girl pay. Gosh – I am making the French seem exponentially more desirable! Not that they needed my help”

Uni has brought a great deal of opportunity to go on dinner dates. Though these are often varied in conversation and cuisine there is one common nut that I have yet to crack about dinner dates – who pays the bill?

The date has gone smoothly so far (which was uncertain) but the certain bill is in the process of arriving. Now- I don’t know how every girl feels but I know some find this the most awkward part of the date. Let’s break this down into the different situations.

This is your first dinner date with this guy, perhaps the first date at all. The ceremonial bill paying act is often an indication of how they feel about the relation and even how they judged your company for the date. Bad as it may sound, I expect the boy to pay on the first date. Without a doubt. Even if he thought my company was comparable to a slug.

Okay okay, maybe I am a tad spoilt. Talking to a friend who often finds

it awkward I found that there are a number of techniques that girls have learned to employ in order decrease the awkwardness of the situation. Two of my favourites are the after-dessert powder room escape and the other is the gesture of looking around in a huge Mary Poppins sized hand bag for a wallet they just can’t find amidst every other imaginable item you could expect to get into a bag... Oh diddums! I call this the bag drill.

You know maybe it’s a culture thing. Many of my European friends stand guard to the fact that they would never consider letting a girl pay, friend or not friend, first date or not... Gosh I am making the French seem exponentially more desirable! Not that they needed my help.

If it is possible it is perhaps it’s nice to wait a few months into the relationship to start letting the girl “go-dutch” or even pay for the dinner.

I know the guys reading this by now are probably thinking, “you have to be kidding me”, “we would be broke by

the end of it”. But if you see, we spend a lot more money on things that you get to enjoy about women. We have to spend on cosmetics (not just make-up, maybe creams), we have to shave/wax/tweeze...

I could go on. All this to look attractive... so a dinner isn’t too much to ask? No?

You see, I don’t deem paying the bill as a monetary act; more as a symbolic act of how much effort or commitment the person wants to display to you. Just if I turned up on a date making no effort to look nice; hairy arms, messy eyebrows, uncombed hair... Exactly. I’m more than happy to pay for a round of drinks before or after the meal just not the main event. I’ll do the frills, you bake the cake.

There was this one time I was out on a friendly dinner date with a guy friend. The bill came to the table next to us and the guy pulled out his card ready for the waiter. The card was rejected and there was this awkward silence. The girl rushed to her bag and pulled out her card.

By this time the whole restaurant had quietened down. I’m not sure who felt more embarrassed, the guy or the girl. Because that is exactly it, the fact is that the girl looked embarrassed because it is a bit taboo.

The best dinner date I have ever been on was when a guy from the city took me to a plush oriental restaurant and didn’t expect a thing afterwards. Walked me home and didn’t even try to make a move on me even though it was a really flirty atmosphere.

If any guys have made it to the end of this article, I congratulate you. I realise this isn’t the most guy-friendly column in *felix*, but it’s all about diversity as one columnist wrote. Valentines day is round the corner and if you are taking a girl out, spoil her for the night. She’ll appreciate it more than you can tell.

Wanted: dead or alive or cooked in garlic butter

A week ago, Swirly was just a lowly slime-monger, rummaging in bins in search of credit card details. It is now rumoured that he is the next Robert Mugabe and is slated to have strong connections with Mauritian gangsters.

How did he achieve this sudden notoriety? Using the profit made from his identity theft business, Swirly hired two moronic accomplices who were able to integrate him into human society. That’s right readers, Swirly is a snail!

He has purposefully targeted the gullible and simple-minded members of the British public, luring them with an adorable fluffy pink façade. Even students of Imperial College, renowned for their high levels of intellect, have fallen for this cheap ruse.

The two accomplices, who cannot be named for legal reasons, assisted Swirly in scouring the Nation for those of an impressionable nature. This search

naturally took him North, specifically to Manchester, where the population’s Neanderthal mentality made the manipulative process considerably easier. Although he originally set out to infiltrate a city with a comparatively lower average IQ, the burning car on the side of the A57 even dissuaded the apparently fearless Swirly from entering Liverpool.

Nevertheless, with Swirly’s power growing day by day, it is imperative that we make a stand against this malicious moist menace! It is understood that he possesses one weakness, known to only to his most devout followers. MI5 are working tirelessly to bring down this up-and-coming dictator.

His ridiculously meteoric rise to fame has caused a stir within the Imperial fraternity, and a small, dedicated band of freshers have rallied to oppose his tyrannical rule. Those few among us, who have been brave enough to stand against this cult leader, have formed a coalition group and are cur-

rently recruiting members to assist in our guerrilla operations. If you can offer skills and expertise in snail hunting, molesting or general mutilation, join the alliance today: ‘Swirly is a C**t!’. This group may be found on a certain social networking site, whose name cannot be mentioned for extreme security reasons. Our group is offering a monetary reward for anyone able to capture this fiend.

Help us eradicate this disgusting parasite from society, and we can fight together hand in hand.

Warning: They may have taken the North. If you are situated above Milton Keynes, it may be too late for you! It’s your own fault.

Forever keeping the peace,

Crusaders of Mollusc Eradication

C.O.M.E.



He might be tyrannical, but anything’s better than the Ant People!!!

Angry Geek survived, but not everyone does



“The harsh truth is that thousands more like me are struck down every day”

Perhaps you missed me. That's understandable. Perhaps the start of term was all a little too much for you, and you felt a bit scared, a bit retreating. And then, to make matters worse, the smiling, friendly demeanour of good old A Geek isn't even there to comfort you at the end of week. That can be a little shocking. But it's alright. Daddy's right here.

Though I'll be honest, I've not been in great shape recently, hence my absence. Yeah. I've taken a few knocks lately, a few shocks to the old system, and I'm getting old so I can't always take them on the chin like I used to. For instance, the other day I was exposed to a member of the Imperial Business School for thirty-five minutes – that's only ten minutes below the lethal dosage, remember. Doctors have spent the last week flushing my systems and trying to heal up as much of the damaged brain tissue as possible, but they've said that I could be affected for life.

It's a sad truth that one in three of us will be affected by the life-changing trauma of the Business School at some point in our lives. Many often are completely unaware of the Business School infecting their degree for many months – early symptoms, such as new lecturers dressed in suits, or courses offering

skills in 'management', go missed by most students thanks to a poor education in the severity of the condition.

Last week, my girlfriend found thick textbooks with diagrams of 'group layouts' in them on my desk at home. I'd brought them home a few days ago and left them there not realising. When my she noticed this, we immediately called the doctor's surgery and they agreed to admit us the following day. Unfortunately, it was already too late. The next morning, before my admission to the hospital, I went back to Imperial without realising which lecture course was affecting me, and found myself in the middle of a classic case of a Business School Teaching attack.

My girlfriend rushed me out and to Accident and Emergency as soon as we realised, of course, but at that point much of the damage had been done. I'd been exposed to damaging analogies with nonsensical explanations for otherwise extremely simple concepts; faltering and vague promises that management affects every part of my life and is really useful; and excerpts from the Financial Times, or 'the silent killer' as it's known in medical circles.

I was rushed to St. Thomas' Hospital in London and treated with an intensive course of antibullshitics, regular doses of Engineering Mathematics,



We thought we'd lose him. The management speak attacked his central nervous system. We were scared.

and a series of therapy sessions where I was assured that money was not everything, that Imperial did still contain scientists, and that unfortunately, accreditation with professional bodies comes at a price.

I was one of the lucky ones. But the difficult truth is that thousands more like me are struck down every day by the addictive qualities of the Imperial Business School. Many have been sighted sneaking out of their departments to attend 'Entrepreneurship' courses, something which worries the local police authorities.

“We see people loitering around the entrance here,” one security guard explained to me, “pretty much every day. Sometimes they, you know...” he pauses while he tries to find the words, but he just can't, “Ach, they're throwing their lives away. Good people, you know? One day, they're walking past in jeans and ironic t-shirts, and you think, 'Yeah. There goes one of the good guys.' but you'll come by late at night, and there they'll be, hunched in a corner by the revolving doors, trying to inject champagne or some shit right into their eyeballs. Makes you sick.”

While the BBC's Panorama team conduct investigations into the spread of Business School dealers throughout Imperial, or 'lecturers' as they're known, all I can do is beg you to stay vigilant, and keep an eye on your friends. If you've not seen one of your classmates in regular lectures, or if you fear they may be reading the Business pullouts from their newspapers instead of the cartoons page, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing anangrygeek@googlemail.com.

Together, we can combat Business School teaching. Forever.

Dan Wan will fly cheaply and expect nothing



“Keep in context what you have paid compared to what you are getting; cheap international freedom”

I'm honestly not sure why my parents bothered taking my brother and me on holiday each year. It'd end up with a guaranteed tantrum, floods of tears, burst blood vessels, and an unjustified harassing by Immigration Officers. No more complaining though, because I have escaped family holidays: my personal interpretation of annual Hell-on-Earth. For a few years now, I revel in the choices I get: whom I travel with and to where.

Whom do I thank for this new-found international freedom? Irish entrepreneur and Ryanair Chief Executive Michael O'Leary. In fact, the same Michael O'Leary that Kawai Wong had apparent nightmares about in her comment piece last week. Granted, any dream about an Irish middle-aged sugar daddy is probably not the epitome of bliss. If this man is the devil himself,

spank my arse and call me a Satanist as I gladly fall to my knees at his achievements. He has opened up the rest of the Europe for students, amongst the ever-increasing number of people living on a tight budget (I promised myself I wouldn't mention a certain economic crisis in this article, but it looks like I've failed).

Ryanair is marketed as a no-frills budget airline. It does not pretend to offer the very best air travel service, because in fact, there isn't much of a service that they provide. It is more of a 'make sure everyone is in the glorified tin can they call the plane' job. Hence, I expect a little hassle when I fly with Ryanair. I expect to race the American family for seats on the plane when boarding. A little elbow here, a little knee-jerk there. It's all part of the fun of flying no-frills. When you line up at the terminal gate priming your-

self for the sprint across the runway to the plane, there is an open declaration amongst fellow travellers; one that says “we're all poor, but we also want to go on holiday, so we are taking this questionable flight at 5.30 on a Sunday morning to get to Xante.”

Kawai should not complain. I do not see any justification of her fanciful grumble on the detriments of budget air travel. She admits herself that she knows exactly what is to come when she books her cheap flight to Milan. I think any monkey that understands the ethic of these increasingly emerging budget airlines knows what to expect; all of the above hustle and bustle.

She claims she must “physically trawl” her bag directly off the plane onto more public transport to her hotel. I like the fact I can choose whether to place a bag in the hold. If I'm vain enough to think I need more clothes than sense, I will pay the extra £8. The costs are only “hidden costs” if you can't be bothered to look and read your e-ticket, e-confirmation, and e-everything else they load your inbox with.

The airports that Ryanair flights land at are peripheral city airports, hence cheaper for Ryanair, and hence us. I'm quite sure they wouldn't commission flights out to the middle of Rural Arseholia. The second or third airport of a large European city will always, without fail, be a taxi ride away from city centre. Even Heathrow, the busiest airport in the world pushes its tag as “London Heathrow”. Most Ryanair

flights now land in the destination city's main airport. Dublin and Berlin for example, two major destinations, use the same runways as British Airways or Lufthansa.

Kawai's article insinuates a lack of professionalism and effort on the Ryanair cabin crew's part. Contrary to Kawai's experience, every time I have flown with Ryanair, the stewardesses have indeed had “the decency to tie up their hair”. Not that it would bother me if they hadn't. I don't term ‘being decent’ as having hair tied up, ‘airhostesses’ or not. Budget airline cabin crew are professional enough. If you act like a cock to cabin crew because you think they are undermined as people due to their occupation and employers, you deserve a bit of a bite back. These people are, as well as trying to flog every single fucking thing under the sun to you from a catalogue, trained to take care of you as you perilously float several thousand feet above ground.

I fail to see how it is Ryanair's fault in you spending the first day of your holiday asleep in your hotel. Did the horrors of unkempt stewardess hair keep you awake for the rest of the time?

So, the next time you're in the “Z-deck” of a budget airline plan (because by your own admission you will make the “mistake” of taking one again), enjoy the polyphonic Irish music as you settle into your horrifically coloured seat, be a tiny bit tempted by the £12 stuffed airplane in the catalogue, and keep in context what you have paid in

comparison to what you are getting; cheap international freedom.

Ryanair will never usurp the giants of airspace as one of the major inter-continental airlines. It is simply not in their business plan to do so. Despite being a self-proclaimed “commoner”, Kawai sadly emits a skewed vapour of snobbery from her writings. I'm sorry, but an article that is seven eighths rant about how shite Ryanair is, and one eighth of, quite frankly, weakly explained fears of market domination by budget airlines does not make happy or satisfying reading.

I believe the point I am making, and not directly to Kawai because she writes commendably, is that a rant can be an excellent read. I would know, because most of my Comment pieces and Editorial columns end up as vents of anger. But they need to be in context of the subject matter. It is so effortless to get carried away in the stream of hate-riddled consciousness, so much so that a piece loses sight of the initial point the author initially set out to put across to the readers.

As I step back into the shadows of the *felix* office for another week, I take no bow, but neither a whimper of shame for the writings of the *felix* team or the student body. *felix* will always print your views, opinions and expressions. The ones you have been meaning to write for months, the ones you've written on the spur of the moment, and especially the ones on issues you most care about.

Gilead Amit feels proud of his Exonian heritage



"In this last twelvemonth my accent, affectations and appearance have so confused the general public that I have been taken for German, Australian, South African, and one memorable evening, for Welsh"

I am very disappointed with my adoptive country. Which is not, I scramble backwards through barbed wire and under heavy machine gun fire to point out to you, this one. That fact may come as a surprise to you. It possibly may not. It all depends on how easily surprised you are and how excruciatingly little you care. By way of justifying this revelation I feel bound to mention that I have been mistaken for an Englishman in the past. In this last twelvemonth my accent, affectations and appearance have so confused the general public that I have been taken for German, Australian, South African and, during one particularly memorable evening in the company of a gentleman who was scraping the literal barrel as assiduously as the figurative one, for Welsh. On a whim I decided to humour the poor soul by injecting a sparkling lilt into my otherwise staccato tones and passed myself off as Huw. My imitation of a Mumbai taxi-driver was, I discovered later, the talk of the party.

But, despite the stuffiness and self-deprecation of my character, my partiality for triangular sandwiches and the graphic and obscene acts of depravity I allow myself to inflict upon our common language, I am not a native of this sceptred isle. This fortress, built by Nature for herself against infection, has no place within her walls for the likes of me. With my distaste for tea, my unhealthy attitude towards cricket and my preponderance for cheap stereotypes picked up from continental travel guides of the prewar period, I am kept safely at arms length by the officials at HM Border Agency.

No; I am not a part of what Napoleon would doubtless have called this nation of jobseekers. I am Exonian. I was born a Wylander, but the many happy years spent in Exonia have won me a small, brightly coloured passport complete with the decorations and official im-

prints characteristic of that glorious country. It is a treasured possession, whose place in my heart is second only to the complementary ID card distributed to me at the same time. It is testament to my pride in my nationality that my fingers invariably close around this card whenever I mean to present my college ID. Though my heart swells with pride at the sight of it, the door to the computing suite never ceases to be unimpressed. The arrangement of my wallet, however, is perhaps a question for a happier hour.

As an Exonian national, whether living at home or abroad, there are certain obligations I am legally required to fulfill. It was therefore strongly recommended to me that I register with the nearest consulate or embassy as quickly as possible upon a change of address. I have been reachable in NW1 as of September – across the road, as it happens, from the Exonian embassy – and yet, what with one thing and another, it was only this morning that I brushed off the top hat and spats to pay His Excellency a visit.

I must explain that fear has played a significant part in my procrastination over this vital social function. Having neglected to register within the first two months after moving in, the thought crossed my mind that it would be impolite of me to disturb them after so great a delay. Their reaction, more to the point, might also not be entirely favourable. After two more months had passed, I decided that it would be unfair to burden them with the additional paperwork, and nobly hid myself from their view.

Having experienced unpleasantness at the cold, merciless and hairy hands of Exonian officials in the past, the phrase 'once berned, twice shy' springs to the keyboard in an attempt to justify such hesitation. But, having fortified myself with a shot of Humphrey Bogart walking purposefully away from the

camera, and steadied my nerves with an hour spent watching laundry both shaken and stirred in a large tumbler, I crossed the threshold of my designated home away from home at half past ten this a.m.

And this is where the tagline kicks in. The experience was, all in all, terribly anticlimactic. I walked through the double doors today in the desperate hope that hysterical bureaucracy and diplomatic kerfuffle would provide me with some incident worth relating. It didn't need to be much – a trench-coated agent lurking in the corner, armed men escorting me off to some abandoned mountain retreat for further questioning: something, anything. Anything humorous, exciting or interesting would have gone down a treat.

In my desperation, dear readers, I had clearly forgotten what my country stands for. While I would be loath to propagate the insulting generalizations that have plagued my countrymen for generations, I think it only fair to inform you that when one considers the Exonians, originality, humour and excitement do not race to the fore of the mind. These are not a people welded together by the spark of creativity.

The tiny hall of the embassy was in consequence a nanocosm of Exonia – the same people, the same depressing decorations, the same varnished wood panelling and crystallized glass surfacing, the same orderly piles of recycled grey paper and floppy off-white hard-back books found in any government office back home. My chances of finding something amusing to relate from its interior are about as good as my chances of finishing a sentence without needing to replace the comma key on my keyboard due to overuse.

The result of my dreary yet mercifully short session with the uniformed and uninformed official is that I might still be here next week; the necessary forms are still on my desk. We'll see.

Slutty Pumpkin is an addict



"I couldn't help but wonder: Is Facebook the new drug of this modern society? How much can we rely on this virtual world?"

The other day, after spending more than two hours one afternoon checking my best friend's brother's ex-girlfriend's sister pictures on facebook, I realised that I had a problem. It's like when you first realize that you have an addiction, you always think it is harmless at first, that it is just a little reward. The next stage is when you finally convince yourself that there is a problem and that the situation needs a change. So there I was, feeling like a drug-addict in front of my computer screen, with an immense guilt and a single question: „Does this girl have any single picture with her new boyfriend? And if yes, where are those pictures? I need to see them.“ I stopped my train of thoughts right there and closed internet. It was time to change my habits and spend more time reading or doing the things I did before this incredible Facebook-phenomena started. But after searching in my memories for some time, I realised that I didn't remember what those things were. I couldn't help but wonder: Is Facebook the new drug of this modern society? How much can we rely on this virtual world?

Facebook is supposedly a social-oriented website aiming to encourage and facilitate networking and bonding between people. With its many applications and its extensive profile options, it's become very easy to show every single picture that was in some long-forgotten folder in your laptop or to inform the world on your immediate personal status. As with any addiction, there are also different grades of Facebook addiction. For example, I have to admit that I usually only check my profile a few times a day but in short sessions, never more than ten minutes. But I have already met people who reply immediately after you write on their walls. Each single time. Does this

mean that they are permanently connected? If this is the case, these people would be at the most advanced stage of addiction, and I fear it might not be reversible anymore.

All right, Facebook has something addictive about it, but what are the effects of this new drug? We know it is a sophisticated tool for networking and communication purposes. On Facebook, your profile is some sort of presentation card where you share your interests and you create a story, your story. But the problem is that it only represents a very narrow and selective fraction of reality. Some aspects might get distorted and this makes snap judgements and prejudices far easier. Every time that I don't know a person very well and go to their profile, I always end up making up their story with the few pieces I find. And most of the times I can even describe the person in one word: crazy, fat, ugly, slut, boring. Facebook has a huge scope, many people are not aware of this. If before people's lives and passions didn't leave the four walls of their home before, now it can reach hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. There is a considerable lack of privacy and need of exposure nowadays. But we need to stop sometimes and think: is this the way I want people to see me?

Escaping Facebook wouldn't be the solution. It would be a very lonely and already-lost battle. I think we have to learn to live in these two parallel worlds –the real and the virtual one– with our two identities and try to keep some consistency. If the gap gets too big, people might develop a wrong idea of you, and that's something we don't want. I would even say that Facebook is that drug that Neo used to take in "Matrix" in order to jump between reality and the virtual world. Except that we shouldn't jump from a building. It might hurt.



The foreigners' view of the English, c.1931. Bowler cups, tea hats and horizontal Morris dancing



felix has facebook. That makes us hip and cool... right?

Ka Wai Wong has a question. Does smoking weed make you worse than a drunk driver?



“You may not have known that if you are caught in possession of marijuana, you can be jailed for up to five years and face an unlimited fine? What about if you drink-drive? Well then you are liable to a half year sentence and a £5,000 fine”

Fun time. I'm going to ask you to misbehave. All you have to do is to select the behaviour that is conceptually less likely to do harm to the others. Here are the choices: A. Drunk driving and B. Smoking marijuana.

Have you picked a side? An overwhelming number of people I spoke to agree that drink-driving is the more sinister of the two. Side-effects of alcohol? We can spell them back to front. The tardiness in sensation. The faux-beautification of a minger you danced with in the club. The egotistic text to your ex-boyfriend saying how terrible a person he has been. Translate it to the drink driving experience? You can't react quickly enough to the chicken crossing the road. The traffic light becomes a beautified mixture of red, yellow and green. An over-take seems more doable than usual because you are Lewis Hamilton. The consequences? You can have a KFC for breakfast. You have created a chaos at the junction without sieving through your physics textbook. Above all, you have crashed your car.

The government is worried about Skunk. It is a strain of cannabis that is cultivated differently to the traditional variations. Skunk has a significantly higher THC level, which is the bad boy behind the inexplicable funniness of a milk bottle and the fondness to all things sweet. The government has also drawn the public attention to the “possible” link between marijuana and schizophrenics. Is this what they are worried about?

What about the “definite” link between alcohol and cirrhosis/liver cancer/raucous behaviour/aggressiveness/

loss of memory/aging of skin? You are going to quote me wrong now, aren't you. “A glass of red wine a day helps reduce the chance of coronary heart disease.” OK, what then if you are a leisure cannabis user?

What is the ratio of people admitted into hospitals for brain damage caused by smoking marijuana to people getting treatment for alcohol related injuries/diseases? Get into an A&E on a Saturday night and see for yourself. Frankly, the government should show more concern to the Camden population. How much do you think the government has spent on patrolling the streets and sending off ambulances to rescue yet another blue whale stranded in a mixture of bile and undigested Kebab on the curb? £3 is quite enough to cause failure in linear motions if you don't care what type of alcohol fills your bloodstream. To get stoned? £3?

The Dutch. They are liberal, aren't they? I don't recall bloody faces and men dressed in puke as common sightings on the streets of Amsterdam. Stoners are usually tourists, and their hands are too shaky to even fathom a fistful punch. But I hear Lonely Planet is about to open a new section called “Urban Zoo – Guide to Drunken Birds in London.” Logically speaking if there are any chemicals in need of restricting, cannabis shouldn't even appear on the priority list. Why is there no MP debating the effects of chronic alcohol drinking then? Oh wait, I have heard of their wine cellars...

I know you are all experts in reading graphs. But allow me to patronise your clever brains by moving your finger to the alcohol and the cannabis dot. What can you see? Alcohol is more likely to

cause harm and dependency than cannabis. It is not just me arguing using my brain muscles then. I have some pharmacologists standing behind my back.

Despite all my efforts arguing, I really am not giving you a pat on the back for smoking illegal drugs. My finger, however, lingers on the discrepancy between law and reality. 1) Refer to your selection above, does it seem socially less acceptable to drink-drive? 2) What does the dependency-harm graph tell us about alcohol and cannabis? 3) Trace your finger on the graph. Tobacco is eviler than cannabis. But all you people who are on par in terms of tar saturation with the late Einstein may be relieved to find that tobacco is nowhere to be seen on the illegal drug classification list.

The punishment system, however, acts in a slight contradictory manner to my arguments above. So what if I tell you now, that if you are caught in possession of marijuana, you can be jailed for up to 5 years and face an unlimited fine? What if you drink-drive? You are liable to a half year sentence and a £5000 fine. Provided you didn't hit anything. It reminds me of my caveman friend's house rules. Pulling little sister's ponytail equals grounding for the rest of one's puberty, minus all pocket money. Ironing little sister's face equals steak dinner being replaced by sausages. Are you rethinking your choice of misbehaviour now, hum?

While we scientists and engineers abide to the laws our wig-wearing counterparts make; why is it that they can so conveniently ignore the paper we strive to publish? Have flamboyant sentence structures and unpronounce-

able Latin words come above facts and figures? Linguistically Cannabis is more dangerous than Ketamine. Therefore Cannabis has been upgraded from a C to a B. Scientific finding doesn't appear to agree so.

Has the wig-wearer tweaked the innocent scientist's nipple and go “mix all the test tubes you want. It really doesn't matter at the end of the day”? Why do we bother with an anomaly result then? Let's just go “Cannabis is likely to be therapeutic. Because, uh. Yeah.”

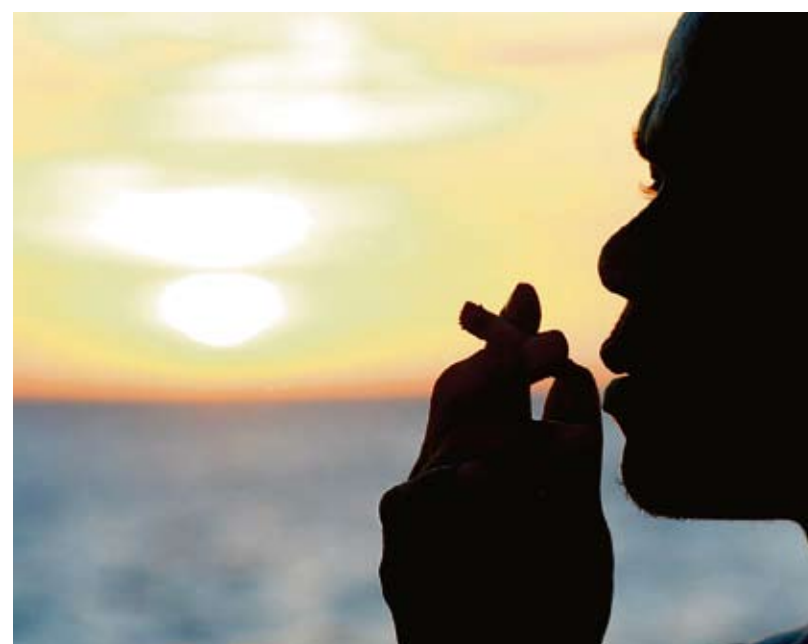
Of course it is not the lawmaker's fault. People who spent 6 years in Law Schools are unlikely to have heard of Web of Science. The problem with us, is that we are too preoccupied in our lab and too preoccupied to be cynical to translate pub-debates into the real world. And this is not a question about cannabis and alcohol anymore. We are easily the most logical individuals on earth. Why are we letting people who merely have bigger mouths and bigger hair dictate unreasonably what conditions we ought to live in without the prior consultation of scientific facts?

You may fold your hands and sit in front of your computer to wait for the citation number to go up. But isn't a constructive way to convey to the generally scientific inept public the pro-

posed truth of the universe. We can contribute our knowledge constructively to socio-political issues. We can begin here. This time and space. As students. We live in our own scientific and cynical world. Yes, we know what is happening on the news. We care about Gaza. We will put up a wall and have students scribble a few apologetic condolences on it. Yes, I am all for Obama but wearing an “I Heart Obama” t-shirt will jeopardise my hard-earned geeky stature.

No. People, we can take our drunken political debates out of the pub. If people can't hear us on paper, let them see us in real life. Let them hear our say. You want more freedom on your stem cell research? Stop moaning about the lack of it amongst your best mates in Biochemistry, who have exactly the same viewpoints as you do. It is comforting to live in a box where your arguments are nodded upon by your friends. Not too much so when it comes to persuading the law-makers to grant you more flexibility amid your bid to save the world.

I understand the lawmakers toil away to balance everyone's opinion before sealing the envelope. And I am sure there are many politically active scientists out there. But it certainly doesn't hurt to have a few more.



Is this worse than having a drink and then getting in the car?

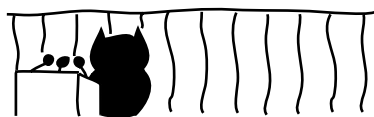
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Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

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Religion, get out of my face

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Hello all and a particular welcome to those at the Silwood Park campus, who I hear are avid readers of *felix*. I had a chance meeting with one student there while I was back home in the West Country.

Earlier in the week I went to an event held by the CU which gave ordinary, rational people the chance to grill a Christian. Admittedly this year it was a HUGE improvement over last year, the panel for which was made up from immature, self-righteous and frankly slightly crazy Christians. It set me thinking. Why can people get away with anything when they claim motivation due to religion?

News flash for you: your views are not special. Religious beliefs are no more valid than other beliefs for which evidence is limited or beliefs which are completely subjective.

The religious always seem to get away with – sometimes literally – murder in the name of their God and people stand off and say nothing. Unless it's the Jews, you anti-Semitic jerks. Be warned, I will claw you.

It seems both religious and racial comments have fallen under the iron grip of political correctness.

It is supposedly "acceptable" for a cashier in a supermarket to refuse to sell alcohol to customers due to their own religious beliefs. Sainsbury's is there to buy booze from and if you can't sell it then GET ANOTHER JOB. If anyone else refuses to do a part of their job for no good reason they would be fired.

But oh no, not if it's a religious reason.

You know these new atheism adverts on buses? One bus driver in London refused to drive a bus with such an advert due to his belief in God. Instead of allowing everyone to have their own views and accepting these, this one person caused one hell of a hassle for the bus company which was kind enough to give him the day off then re-timetable him to ensure he only drove "God-friendly" busses.

Normally I would not mind any inconveniencing of private companies as public transport should really be re-nationalised. It just makes sense.

However, at least have a good reason to do so, not because of some insane delusion and the inability to accept anything contrary to it and holding your own religious conviction above everything else. There are more important things in life. Again, this bus driver would have been fired if religion had not been mentioned. George Bush killed many innocent Afghanis and Iraqis because God told him to bomb the hell out of those nations. Well that is ok then. Go ahead. Kill as many of those dirty Arabs as you like.

Religion has left conflict and death in its wake around the world. A force for good? Seriously, get a grip on reality, and do it soon.

If there is one thing I cannot stand, it is the mixture between state and religion. As I pointed out strongly last week, America have it bad. Strangely despite having an official state religion here in the UK, you do not get the

same feeling of theocracy as in the US, except in the House of Lords. But then anyone with enough cash can find an opening there these days.

A recent news story involved the Georgian Orthodox church. A TV show entitled "Top Ten Best Georgians" included in its shortlist 18 saints, 13 of which have so far made it into the top 50. Upon reading that far I had assumed it was anti-religious people getting annoyed with how many saints were in the shortlist to begin with. On the contrary, the head of the church, Patriarch Ilia II, has called for the programme to be banned as it is "unjustified to make the public put them in rank order".

This is a joke in itself. Saints were just people who the church puts a title on, they were still JUST PEOPLE.

The story gets worse still. Many Georgians consider the church above the law. Out of the two institutions, the church and the state, which do the citizens have a degree of control over? Which has a fixed agenda? Which can adapt when necessary? Which should have greater authority? If you did not answer "The State" to all of the above questions, I do not think I would let you look after my kids. Crazy people.

A member of the House of Lords, Lord Ahmed, voiced concern over the broadcast of the film Fitna, which equates Muslims with terrorists. Instead of allowing a free debate to unfold, he threatened the organiser. The concerns of one man have overridden our right to free speech. No one is making a fuss about this as Lord Ahmed is Muslim.

Ahmed's fury over this "extremist" event is ironic as he caused controversy in 2005 over hosting a book launch by anti-Semitic author Israel Shamir.

I am not saying that Fitna is correct, or even that Islam is a violent religion. My problem with this is hypocrisy and the way this man and others like him are immune due to their delusional beliefs.

No other belief would be granted this much power. Certainly no other delusion would. The power granted by this belief is obviously not only used for bad but often, and I do mean often, it is. Think of the people who are dead due to religious conflict. The fact that people are so self-righteous due to their religious belief leads to these atrocities. Think of the corruption of the early church. Think of how religion has divided us and held us back from progress. Judaism and its runt offspring Christianity and Islam all advocate violence in some way. This should not be respected.

I have no problem with the religious, only with the religions, the institutions, the hierarchy, the theology. Who am I to tell people what to think? But then who is that priest to tell you?

Politics in many countries is guided by religion: the Middle East, US, Georgia etc. Even we have our laws and morals founded in Christianity.

Equally, political views should be on the same level as those of the religious. Your fascist conservatism is no more correct than my caring socialism.

But I am right.

Car makers' warning

More money is desperately needed to save jobs in the UK

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Tens of thousands of car workers could lose their jobs as the motor industry collapses unless the government gives more financial help to the failing companies.

Union leaders warned that help is desperately needed, more than the £2.3 billion loan guarantee package already promised.

Tony Woodley, joint leader of Unite, said immediate financial support was needed to keep workers in jobs. The money already pledged was a welcome start.

Business Secretary Lord Mandelson hosted a summit in central London.

The problem facing the industry is falling car sales amid a worsening economic climate, leading unions to warn of an employment "catastrophe" if the measures do not have an impact soon.

Several plants are on extended shutdowns, with companies including Honda, Nissan and Jaguar Land Rover among those badly affected.

GKN, an engineering group which supplies parts to car makers including Land Rover and Ford, announced on Wednesday that it had cut over 200 jobs in the UK since October and may have to lay more people off in the coming months as the recession deepens.

Aston Martin became the latest manufacturer to cut production, with workers at its factory in Gaydon, Warwickshire, starting a three-day week.

The government announced on Tuesday an offer to car manufacturers of loans of up to £1.3bn from the European Investment Bank and guarantees of support of up to a further £1bn for lending.

Mr. Woodley said as he left the meeting, at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, that tens of thousands of jobs were now at risk because of the "collapse" in car sales.

Lord Mandelson was asked to offer immediate financial support but Mr.



Car production lines such as this could soon grind to a halt indefinitely

Woodley said more should be done to help access credit to encourage car sales.

Mr Woodley said: "These are the big issues now. The government has listened intently to what we said."

"We have made it clear that yesterday's announcement was a good start but it will not in itself be quick enough to offset potentially tens of thousands of job losses. We need an immediate cash injection" he continued.

"The message is "well done – but there is much more to do."

Business Minister Pat McFadden said: "We understand the importance of the car industry and we want to do everything we can to help."

"We also have to remember the importance of the supply companies

which have factories around the country" she added.

Tom Purves, chief executive of BMW, described the meeting as "very constructive", adding: "We are all working in the same direction."

"We have seen an unprecedented drop in demand and the government understands that."

Asked about the government package, he replied: "No-one can say whether it's enough or not enough. The conversations we had about taking elements of the package on over the next two weeks has been very beneficial."

"I agree we need to take action quickly - the government understands that" he asserted.

Many car workers across the country are hoping he is correct.



Car sales have dropped in the US as in the UK, with unsold cars stacking up and the industry floundering

Release of Iraq war minutes possible

Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor

An information tribunal has ordered the release of cabinet minutes from 2003, disclosing secret government discussions in the build up to the Iraq war. This is following a long and grueling campaign arguing that the public's right to know what was said is more important than the bureaucratic rules stating that the discussions should be kept secret. According to current law, such information need not be released until 30 years after the incident in question has occurred.

The decision that details of the sessions on 13 and 17 March should be disclosed was upheld by the tribunal but the request has been strongly opposed by ministers, who are arguing that the Freedom of Information Act is not intended to allow for the publication of this kind of information.

Whether the invasion was allowed under international law is a highly controversial issue and one that was debated within these meetings. The attorney general at the time, Lord Goldsmith, issued legal advice saying that according to international law the situation was allowed, having previously warned of the questionable legitimacy of the war.

The government now has 28 days to appeal, meaning that it is not yet guaranteed that the minutes will be released. In addition, the tribunal declared that this would not set a precedent for the publication of all cabinet minutes and that these were exceptional circumstances encompassing legal pitfalls and public unrest over the issue. Previously, Richard Thomas, the information commissioner, had ordered the government publish the minutes provoking an appeal to the information tribunal.

A decision as to whether to publish the minutes will now have to be made by ministers: the alternatives are to



Protesters in Trafalgar Square London against the war in Iraq, a microcosm of the mood rippling through the country.

appeal to the high court, or to issue a ministerial veto banning publication. The Freedom of Information act that came into force in 2005 allowed the government to veto the publication of such information, but this clause has not been used thus far.

Thomas commented: "I welcome the careful consideration that the information tribunal has given to this important issue. I am pleased that the tribunal has upheld my decision that the public interest in disclosing the official cabinet minutes in this particular case outweighs the public interest in withholding the information."

Disclosing the minutes will allow the public to more fully understand this particular decision. I am also pleased that the tribunal reached the same

conclusion as I did in relation to the publication of the handwritten notes of the meetings."

The mood amongst the opposition is that the government need to acquiesce to this particular demand with some welcoming the tribunal's ruling commenting that it could be "critical" to how the decision to go to war is perceived by future generations.

Suggestions that over-looking the 30-year time limit risked damaging the effective running of government have been denied, arguing that the Iraq war is a case characterised by its uniqueness and therefore should be treated in an according manner. Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman Ed Davey welcomed the tribunal's ruling, saying that "many people were

still angry about the Iraq war," adding that "the people who took these decisions, which were incredibly controversial, should be held to account." He expressed his disappointment with the Labour government pointing out that in his opinion "the Labour government has put up a wall of secrecy, in the years since 2003, and prevented the full facts from coming out."

On behalf of the Conservatives, William Hague mirrored the Liberal Democrats calling for a full inquiry into the war stating that it would be one of the first actions of a conservative government should they gain power. However, he did make it clear that this was a special case surrounded by exceptional circumstances; "I don't think in general that cabinet minutes should be

released a few years after the decisions are made. Ministers need to be able to speak to each other frankly and if this happens regularly, cabinet minutes will become much less revealing over time." A more useful approach, Hague believes, is to have an inquiry with the power to peruse the secret documents, in an attempt to learn from the mistakes made.

The government will be subjected to the close scrutiny of the media and the public and will have to make a rapid decision as to whether to comply with the tribunal's demands, keenly aware of the consequences no matter which option they eventually decide on. It is certain that a tense atmosphere will be pervading the halls of 10 Downing Street in the coming weeks.



An American soldier standing guard in Iraq, a situation that is reproduced all over the country regardless of public unease over the situation.



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

Science

Science Editor – Mićo Tatalović & Daniel Burrows

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Clubbers could pop pill to save hearing

Sam Wong

A feedback system in the ear protects us from damage to hearing caused by loud noise, new research has shown. The discovery raises the possibility that drugs targeting this system one day could be used to protect musicians and others from permanent hearing loss. The ear transmits sound waves into the cochlea, a spiral-shaped organ filled with fluid. The cochlea contains two types of hair cells. While the inner hair cells respond to vibrations in the fluid, converting them into neural signals, outer hair cells amplify the vibrations.

Scientists have known for some time that stimulation of the outer hair cells by feedback pathways emanating from the brain dampens the amplification. However, the function that this serves has remained uncertain. Scientists at Johns Hopkins University in the US investigated the role of the system by creating genetically-modified mice.

Dr Paul Fuchs and his team introduced a 'gain-of-function' mutation in a gene that encodes a receptor protein called nAChR. The alteration



The loud noise created by this band will be a thing of the past

was designed to cause the receptor to respond more strongly to the release of transmitter molecules from the feedback pathway. The researchers then tested how the mice were affected by exposure to 100 decibel sounds – a normal level for a rock concert. Mice that carried the mutation had less sensitive hearing but were also less likely to suffer from hearing loss caused by the loud sound. This result led the

researchers to conclude that the feedback system normally functions to protect our ears from noise-induced damage.

"We think this pathway could be a therapeutic target for protecting from sound damage," says Fuchs. "There is a real chance of finding ear-specific drugs in the future." Until then, he suggests that clubbers and concert-goers would be prudent to wear earplugs.

Bees model for AI vision?

Arko Olesk

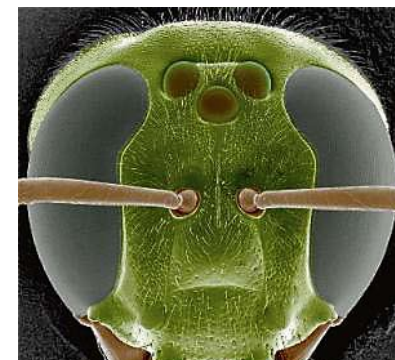
Researchers who studied the ability of bees to recognize faces say the discovered mechanism of 'averaging' might lead to improved artificial intelligence systems.

The study, published in *PLoS One*, showed that honeybees can recognise human faces even when they had seen them before from other angles. They do that by averaging the previously learnt views, according to lead author Adrian Dyer of Monash University in Australia.

"The relationships between different components of the object often dramatically change when viewed from different angles," Dyer said. "It is amazing to find the bees' brains have evolved clever mechanisms for problem solving which may help develop improved models for AI face recognition systems."

"Most current AI recognition systems perform poorly at reliably recognising faces from different viewpoints," he added.

The brain of the bee with its 1 million neurons is only 0.01 per cent of the human brain but previous studies by Dr Dyer and his colleagues suggest that bees accomplish relatively sophisticated visual tasks. "The bee



brain is actually very good at learning to master complex tasks," he said. "That may point to efficient processing algorithms."

"Computer and imaging technology programmers who are working on solving complex visual recognition tasks using minimal hardware resources will find this research useful," Dr Dyer said.

The researchers used sugar rewards to train bees to focus on one certain face from either one perspective or from two different angles (0° and 60° or 0° and 30°), then presented them to a novel angle (30° and 60° respectively). Only the group of bees, whose novel angle (30°) was between the original angles (0° and 60°), were able to recognise the face, indicating that they averaged the previously learnt views.

Mars and Mercury: planetary leftovers?

Jacob Aron

A new theory suggests that Mars and Mercury could have formed out of the "byproducts" of Earth and Venus, according to Brad Hansen, an astronomer at the University of California, Los Angeles, who presented his research earlier this month at the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Current scientific consensus says that the Earth and other planets were formed around 4.5 billion years ago, from a gigantic disk of gas and dust that surrounded the Sun. The force of gravity caused the minuscule particles of dust to come together, eventually forming pebble-sized objects that in turn grew larger and larger in order to create the planets.

The theory is not without its problems, however. Scientists normally assume the initial dust disk was the same thickness throughout, but crunching the numbers in a computer simulation shows that this would result in planets of similar size with circular orbits. In fact Mars and Mercury are much smaller than Venus and Earth, and orbit the Sun in an ellipse. This discrepancy is normally explained away by the presence of Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system, which exerts a heavy gravitational force. Hansen believes he has a different answer.

In his model, the dust disk is not uniform; rather it is clumped at different distances from the Sun. He suggests that Earth and Venus formed in a particularly large clump, known as



Is Mars made up of Earth and Venus' leftover materials?

an "annulus", capturing much of the proto-planet debris as they immersed from the dust.

Not all of the material is captured and some particles can be ejected into a different orbit. It is these ejected par-

ticles that would go on to form Mars and Mercury – Hansen estimates that only 10% of the initial material would make up these two planets, with the majority gobbled up by Earth and Venus.

Climate models fail to predict earlier seasons

Chloe Sharrocks

Researchers at Harvard University and the University of California have discovered that over 60 different climate models used by the IPCC have failed to predict hotter and earlier seasons between 1850 and 2007.

Analysing global temperature measurements compiled by colleagues at the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, the scientists discovered that winter temperatures have increased more rapidly than summer temperatures. Winter temperatures have risen by about 1.8 degrees Celsius – almost double the summer rise.

"It indicates the models are missing some important process" said Professor Peter Huybers, assistant professor of earth and planetary sciences at Harvard. "There could still be surprises"

Huybers and his colleagues also discovered that the seasons are on average coming 1.7 days earlier over land than 50 years ago.

Biologists, who have noticed sooner bird migration and the earlier arrival of spring buds, have also observed changes in the seasons. Snow has been melting and sea-ice breaking up earlier and these observations have all been explained by how fast the Earth is warming up.

However, scientists now know that this is all as a result of earlier seasons

as well as individual months warming at different rates.

The researchers, who published their work in the journal *Nature*, have examined possible mechanisms for the moving seasons. However, currently they have managed to only explain part of the mechanism thought to be responsible. They believe that a pattern of atmospheric circulation in the Northern Hemisphere known as the Northern Annular Mode may be part of the cause.



The results of a climate model

Electric shocks to the brain lead to faster learning

David Kinahan

Weak electrical stimulation to the brain allows people to learn complex movements faster and remember them for longer, a team of scientists from the US National Institutes of Health have revealed today.

Writing in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, they hope that their technique will dramatically improve recuperation from traumatic brain injuries that can cause sufferers to lose basic motor skills.

The researchers, led by Dr Leonardo Cohen of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes, have found that by stimulating a region of the brain known as the primary motor cortex, the region that controls our movements, whilst someone practises a new skill can significantly decrease the amount of time it takes them to learn and remember it.

Motor skills, like walking and talking, often require years to learn so that we do not have to think about them. But people who have suffered brain trauma can lose these skills, and it is only through lengthy and often humiliating training that they can be relearned.

Dr Cohen hopes that his painless and noninvasive technique, called tDCS, which uses weak current to excite cells near the surface of the brain, will



Artistic impression of what the shocks will do to the brain

shorten this process considerably.

Cohen's team made their finding when they asked 24 volunteers to learn to play a targeting computer game over five days. The 12 who received tDCS did not learn the game any faster whilst playing it but between practise sessions they retained the skills better than those only given "sham" stimulations.

By the end of the process, the speed and accuracy of the tDCS group was significantly higher, and the difference in performance was still as apparent three months later. Although the technique has yet to be tried during recuperation, Dr Cohen is confident that the results will be positive.

New organic batteries to be developed

Dr Tim Jones

Increasing demand for electric vehicles and portable electronic devices is driving a parallel need for environmentally friendly batteries. But combining improved performance with safe, eco-efficient operations is a tall order. Michel Armand of the Universite de Picardie Jules Verne, France, and his team, showed that a sustainably sourced organic version of the ubiquitous lithium-ion battery could provide the answer (*Nature Materials*, DOI:10.1038/NMAT2372).

Armand's battery, built around a novel lithium-hydrocarbon anode, delivers up to three times the typical minimum energy capacity needed for practical applications; but is environmentally-friendly too. The organic acids used to make the electrode are readily synthesised on a sustainable basis from abundant recycled plastics. They also appear as a metabolic by-product when bio-organisms act on common hydrocarbons like benzene.

The team say their device generates less heat and is more thermally stable, compared with conventional Li-ion batteries with titanium or pure carbon electrodes. That makes it an attractive option for hybrid vehicles, where the presence of petroleum fuels alongside electricity makes battery meltdown unthinkable.

We glimpsed the consequences of thermal instability in 2006, when a manufacturing defect in Sony laptop batteries caused some devices to burst into flames.

Lithium-ion batteries must show no memory effect, so they retain their ca-



Increasing demand for electric vehicles is driving a need for eco-friendly batteries

capacity when recharged from a partly charged condition. Performance of the organic battery dropped off only slowly during repeated recharge cycles, indicating a desirable reversibility of the chemistry. 'Before and after charge' X-ray diffraction measurements confirmed the structural stability of the

electrode.

The team also say their device is lighter, the novel chemistry allowing replacement of heavier copper components with aluminium ones elsewhere in the battery. That makes all the difference in an electric vehicle, where every gram counts.

Prenatal screening of domestic abuse victims in Cameroon

Jessica Hamzelou

Scientists predict foetal death rates could be reduced if domestic violence is nipped in the bud. A team of scientists from the USA and Cameroon have found further evidence of a link between domestic abuse and adverse pregnancy outcomes. Victims of abuse were found to be 50 per cent more likely to suffer foetal loss. These women were also at higher risk of repeated incidents of foetal death, particularly when subject to emotional abuse.

Using a statistical approach, the team estimated foetal death rates could be reduced by around a third with swift and effective intervention. This effect is predicted to be strongest in victims of sexual abuse, where almost half of foetal loss is preventable.

The study, published this week in *The Lancet*, analysed data from the Cameroon Demographic Health Survey, 2004. Women of varying ages and educational backgrounds from across

the country were interviewed under strictly private and anonymous conditions. Victims of abuse were asked to identify the actions of their spouses as emotional, sexual or physical violence.

From the 2,562 women surveyed, over half were victims of abuse. Physical violence was identified as the most common form, affecting 39 per cent of the women. Such abuse was more likely to be inflicted upon older and better educated women and accounts were more prevalent among wealthier groups.

Emotional violence, such as public humiliation and verbal threatening, was found to have the strongest negative impact on foetal survival. Worri-ingly, such practice is often regarded as an integral part of traditional culture in some African communities.

The scientists warn of "the erroneous idea...[of] underestim[ing] the invisible scars of emotional and psychological abuse on human beings, women in particular".

Parents want genetic testing, but not designer babies

Louisa Garnier

Researchers at NYU have found that although people are keen for additional genetic testing for life-altering and threatening medical conditions such as mental retardation, blindness, cancer and dwarfism, they are less interested in prenatal genetic testing for positive traits including tall stature, superior athletic ability and superior intelligence.

"Our research has discovered that although the media portrays a desire for 'designer babies', this does not appear to be true among consumers of genetic testing services," says Feighanne Hathaway, a genetic counsellor at the NYU Cancer Institute.

In the study, published online by the *Journal of Genetic Counselling*, 999

participants completed a survey to assess their attitude towards reproductive genetic testing. The results showed that 75% of the respondents would elect for the screening of mental retardation, 56% would screen for blindness and 51% would screen for cancer. In contrast, only a minority of respondents would want genetic testing for enhancements such as athletic ability (10%) or superior intelligence (12.6%).

The researchers recognise that consumers may have followed their own personal values or belief systems when assessing choice for genetic tests. They are also aware of the ethical concerns regarding prenatal testing for life altering conditions. The authors concluded that, "it seems unlikely that the 'Age of Designer Babies' is near at-hand."



The original article on Designer Babies

Magazines give mixed messages with healthy ads

Maria Hogan

Could your diet success be affected by the magazine that you read? Researchers from Newcastle University have uncovered that UK magazines are filled with adverts for mostly sugary, salt-filled, low-fibre foods thereby confusing any health messages their articles were trying to put across.

In the top 30 most widely read magazines in the UK, over 25% of the food adverts were for ready meals. Almost the same amount were for foods "containing fat or sugar," e.g. ice-cream, chocolate bars, sweets and full sugar soft drinks.

"Obviously, it's up to each of us to decide what we eat" said Dr Jean Adams, of Newcastle University. "But if we're constantly bombarded with images of unhealthy food every time we pick up a magazine then we're going to be swayed in what we choose."

The study, published in this month's *European Journal of Public Health*, found key differences between magazines with different readerships. More adverts for high fat/sugary foods were found in magazines aimed at women, or with readers of a lower social class; both groups that suffer high levels of obesity. In contrast, very few of the ads, only 1.8%, were for fruit and vegetables and these were mainly in high-end magazines.

Whilst this research doesn't link adverts directly with people's decision making/eating habits, junk food ads are already banned from children's magazines in the UK because of fears over increasing levels of obesity.

"Health bodies and the government are trying to encourage all of us to eat a healthier diet, yet we found that many of the magazines, especially those targeting lower-income families are full of adverts promoting food that is largely unhealthy," says Dr Adams.

"It's a battle to stay on the right track when choosing and preparing meals and these adverts do little to help."



Doctors' communication is improving

Emma Quilligan

A recent poll suggests that communication between doctors and patients is improving. Published this month by the Healthcare Commission, the survey of patient satisfaction revealed that 83 percent of patients feel their doctors listen to them and 70 percent felt actively involved in any decisions to undergo treatment. These figures are a significant rise from the last survey in 2005.

Chief Executive of the Commission, Anna Walker, praised the "very positive" findings of the survey, but said further improvements are still required.

At the University of Cambridge, staff within the School of Clinical Medicine are working to educate future doctors in successful and active communication. Research suggests that more effective care could potentially reduce the current burden on the NHS caused by high readmission rates.

However, Jonathan Silverman, Associate Clinical Dean of the school expressed caution over the survey findings and felt doctors should be more concerned with why the remaining 17 percent were not fully happy with the service.

The survey also showed that although elderly patients were most satisfied overall with the care they received, this did not result from better communication with their doctor. After the 16-29 age group, over-75s were the least impressed with the informa-

tion they were given, often finding it lacking in detail or hard to understand. This may be one of the factors responsible for a rise in readmission of elderly patients from 10 percent to nearly 14 percent within the last decade.

It is hoped that these surveys can highlight areas for improvement within the NHS, and give a much-needed morale boost to doctors in the UK.



Doctor doctor, give me some news

Apple juice and Alzheimer's

Emma Stokes

A new study suggests that apple juice could delay the onset of age-related cognitive diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. Researchers from the University of Massachusetts found that mice receiving the human equivalent of two glasses of apple juice per day for a month performed better than normal mice in maze trials. Not only did they perform better but the decline in performance observed when the mice got older was not seen in the mice given apple juice.

The team found that mice given apple juice produced less of a protein fragment, called beta-amyloid. This protein fragment is known to form plaques in the brain, commonly found in Alzheimer's patients. They believe the reduction in beta-amyloid could be the reason for the affect of the apple juice on the mice.

The lead researcher, Dr. Shea, commented that the results "suggest that regular consumption of apple juice can not only help to keep one's mind functioning at its best, but may also be able to delay key aspects of Alzheimer's disease and augment therapeutic approaches."



In the past, scientists have shown that apple juice may protect against other diseases related to aging including cancer, brittle bones, and heart disease. A study last year also found a link between apple juice and reduced wheezing in asthmatic children. These findings add to the possibility that apple juice may be better for us than just for the vitamin C content, and could be used as a dietary supplement to enhance existing treatments for many conditions.

Home treatment good alternative to hospital admission

Catherine Luckin

A new study from the University of Oxford has concluded that 'hospital at home' care programmes are just as good as treatment in hospital. Such schemes could potentially reduce NHS medical care costs, while increasing hospital bed availability and allowing patients to benefit from recovering at home.

The programmes provide elderly patients who are critically stable with full medical support at home, avoiding the need for hospital admission. Such schemes have proved popular with patients, their families and hospital staff and mortality rates now suggest that there is no extra risk to patients treated at home. Dr Sasha Shepperd of the University of Oxford says the study "found no evidence that 'hospital at home' care leads to an increase in mortality". However, home care is advantageous because it can be provided for the same or lower cost.

The study gathered data from ten trials, involving over 1300 patients. Those involved had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, were recovering from stroke or were older patients with acute conditions.

Dr Shepperd cautions that these results do not mean hospital care is hazardous but that there are benefits to treating patients at home. She believes that more research must be done in order to see who would benefit from home care: "More work needs to be done to determine if there are particular types of patient who benefit from 'hospital at home' care. This is especially impor-



Hospital this way

tant as the level of treatment available to a person at home, and the ways of delivering care in both the home and the hospital, change over time".

Origins of methane

Gaetano Prisciantelli

Mankind is not the only source responsible for greenhouse emissions and some forms of air pollution: the planet itself is releasing methane, ethane and propane. A new study, published today in the journal *Science*, suggests that this natural phenomenon plays a considerable role in the dynamics of the atmosphere.

In the past, geologists at the Italian National Institute for Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) contributed to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with estimates on the amount of methane that naturally leaks in to the atmosphere from underground compounds: 50 million tons per year which, in terms of greenhouse effects, is as much as 200 million cars produce in one year.

While methane is a greenhouse gas, more harmful but less abundant than carbon dioxide, ethane and propane pose other concerns. Chemically combined with light and air, ethane and propane generate tropospheric ozone, which is poisonous if inhaled. This should not be confused with stratospheric ozone, the gas that shields the atmosphere from extraterrestrial ultra-violet radiation.

According to the new estimates, natural emissions represent around 17% and 10% respectively of the amount of ethane and propane traceable in the atmosphere.

"We used to have better data on man-originated releases", explains INGV geologist Giuseppe Etiope, who authored the study together with Paolo Ciccioli from Italy's National Research Council (CNR). "However, we cannot understand enough about greenhouse gases and global change if we ignore where one part of the released gases comes from".

An updated global map shows that seepage spots are mainly distributed on the Northern hemisphere, by oil compounds and geothermic areas. "Experts always considered such sources as marginal and negligible. This assumption is just wrong, as nobody had ever measured them", concludes Etiope.



Ooo, methane being produced!

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Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Caz Knight, David Paw and Emily Wilson

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Art/Science Mashups

Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

Well hello there chaps, haven't seen you since before Christmas! And how WAS your Christmas? Can you even remember? Mine was a pleasant food-filled, wine-fuelled season of festivities. But does anybody else find Christmas gets a little more anticlimatic with each year you age? Gone are the days when you spent all of Christmas Day hypnotised by a Barbie camper van or a Power Rangers Megazord.

These days presents are either stuff you bought for yourself (and your parents write you a cheque for around Boxing Day), or the contents of your Amazon wishlist, which doesn't arrive in time. I'm still receiving CDs in the post I didn't order myself – not that I'm complaining. On the bright side I'm old enough for my parents to ply me with booze of significantly better quality than what gets served in my student flat. And there's always money from obscure elderly relatives, a portion of which I spent on getting something pierced. Hurrah!

Beyond Christmas there was New Years Eve, which I spent in London for the first time. What could be better than standing in the streets watching Boris's head projected on a building, giving the same garbled speech repeatedly, while swigging out of a can of Stella? This NYE was a great deal more restrained than previous editions. Like that year I drank far too much Bailey's

and... ahem. Never mind.

Back to what I'm supposed to be talking about: ART! Now, I'm getting a little fed up of people telling me "but, Emily, I don't like art – I'm a scientist!". If you are the kind of person who prefers science to art, the arts and culture pages of Felix are still worth a read. I'm constantly trying to bridge the art/science chasm and pander to you folks. This week I review the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons. I do appreciate a nice museum of pickled body parts and freaky mutations. Doesn't everybody? No? Several times in the past I've reviewed the Wellcome Collection, which is like the Hunterian Museum for the squeamish and prone to fainting. All of the medicine, none of the gore. If you're not keen on medicine then right on our doorstep, over at the Natural History Museum, there's the Dawin Big Idea exhibition, which I am positively itching to go to. And let's not forget the Science Museum. I hear there's some sciencey stuff in there.

If you don't like science at all and you're at Imperial due to some terrible drunken mistake, we've got arty art too! In this issue Lucy Harrold is at the theatre again, seeing a play riddled with drugs, paedophilia, incest... all our favourite things. We've also got Emilie Beauchamp on Annie Leibovitz, photographer to the stars.

Whether you're more into arty art or sciencey art, we're always looking for new writers and contributions – email us!



Here is one of the nasties in jars from the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Science (flip over the page for the main review!). I'm not sure what it is, but it certainly has a fine set of tentacles

And you thought there couldn't be a family crazier than yours...



To be honest I always preferred Orange County

Lucy Harrold goes to see the very long but award winning theatrical production August: Osage County

A three and a half hour play where not very much happens and one of the characters mainly speaks nonsense – doesn't sound too appealing, does it? Yet somehow I was desperate to see August: Osage County. It swepted the Tonys winning Best Play, Best Leading Actress (Deanna Dunagan), Best Featured Actress (Rondi Reed), Best Director (Anne D. Shapiro) and Best Scenic Design (Todd Rosenthal) and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama this year. The National Theatre's production has brought over much of the original cast, including Dunagan and Reed, and supplemented it with experienced players from the original Steppenwolf Company where the play originated.

This includes Gary Cole of Dodgeball, Talladega Nights and The Brady

Bunch Movie fame, which got me quite excited, although he has one of the smallest parts. If, like me, you opt for a matinee of the play because you actually want to get home a sensible time, beware you will be sharing the auditorium purely with gray-haired ladies who lunch and the National lobby with school groups. These old ladies generally sit around you and natter about whether Tracy Letts, the author, is male or female. For the record, Tracy Letts is male. He just has a girls' name.

August: Osage County focuses on the reunion of the extended Weston family after its patriarch, alcoholic academic Beverly (again with the girls' name?!), goes missing after hiring Native American housekeeper, Johnna, to look after his unorthodox house. Beverly and his pill pushing, mouth cancer suffering wife Violet rarely eat

and have the windows covered over so that the stiflingly hot house is indeterminate between day and night. Act one is concerned with the family rejoining at the Weston house. First to arrive are middle daughter Ivy, whom Violet think is too dowdy and boring, and Violet's sister, Mattie Fay, and her husband Charles. Later the other Weston children return; eldest Barbara with husband Bill Fordham and daughter June, and youngest Karen with new fiancé Steve Heidebricht. Finishing off the family gathering is Mattie Fay and Charles' son Little Charles.

The entire show happens within one glorious set; a lifesize, minimalist, three story doll's house complete with veranda and loft conversion. The lighting is sublime, and has to be to cope with what happens in the play.

Through the next three hours and

three acts we learn many home truths with Tracy Letts completing the entire list of subjects to cover in modern American theatre. Alcohol – check, drugs – check, violence – check, paedophilia – check, incest – check. Why does everything have incest now? Each member of the Weston family has their own problems to bring to the melting pot of dysfunction with very few of them being resolved. Most plays start with introducing the problem and spend most of the time analysing and solving the problem – that is they follow “Propp’s theory”.

The theory of Vladimir Propp was that every piece of storytelling can fit into seven different basic stories. Each of these stories has thirty one plot points and a certain number of “character types”. August: Osage County not only throws Propp out of

the window but then takes chunks of broken window pane and stabs him in the heart. I think this helps to make the three and half hours fly by – the storyline and characters do not follow the norm.

There isn’t a single bad link in the company, probably attributed to the long period of time they have spent developing the piece. The cast could really pass off as a regular, if rather disturbed, family. I took a while to feel comfortable with Deanna Dunagan’s Violet. She swings from being off her head in the opening scene to being completely normal in the next. Even considering the character’s drug and health problems this seemed extreme. She eventually settles down into a comfortable middle ground and establishes herself as the star of the show, with her monologue at the dinner table as a dis-

turbing yet realistic centrepiece.

I also felt drawn to Ivy and Little Charles as the black sheep of their respective families. Sally Morton and Ian Barford gave beautifully understated performances culminating in a touching romance and one of the biggest plot twist of the night (I won’t give anything away but WOAHH!).

Coming from a family of three daughters, I spent much of the play worrying that my family would evolve into the chaotic Weston family (little chance of that – for a start my family is teetotal). As the middle child I saw a lot of myself in Ivy, and her character made me realise some things about myself I didn’t like too much. But this is what a good play should do; affect you so much that you start to question yourself and your surroundings even after you leave the theatre.



HOW COOL IS THIS? Who knew we had a theatre named after us??

Annie Leibovitz: living a dual life?

Emilie Beauchamp sees the Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer’s Life exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery as not just a gallery of celebrity photographs, but as an insight into a very personal life

Many artists are known primarily by their masterpieces rather than by their name. This is especially the case in photography, where so many authors’ rights are given to agencies in the tangle for celebrity. Therefore, if I mention Annie Leibovitz, not many would know exactly who she is, however famous she is in the field of portrait photography. Already established by the mid-70s, she worked as chief photographer for the magazine Rolling Stone before working freelance for

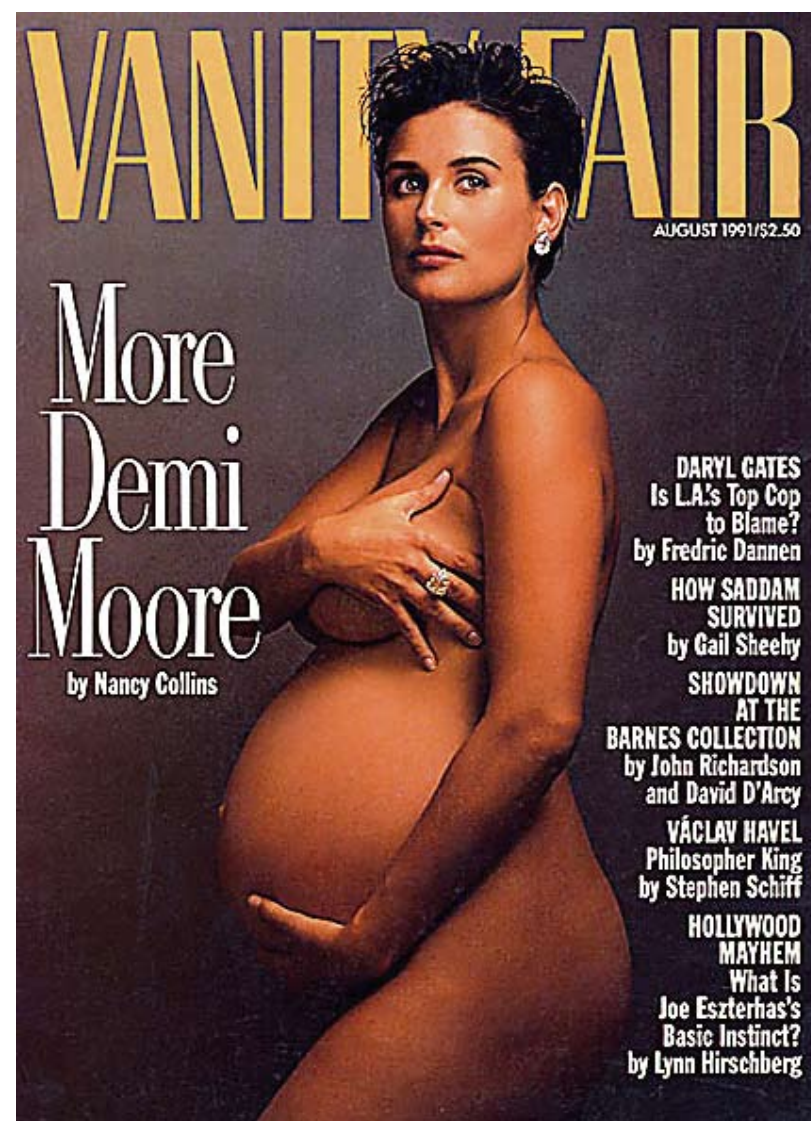
Vanity Fair, Vogue and The New Yorker. During that period she snapped celebrities such as the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Nicole Kidman, Daniel Day Lewis, Queen Elizabeth II and uncountably more. Some may say that if you have not been before her lenses you are not quite a star yet...

The exhibition Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer’s Life 1990-2005 was first presented at the Brooklyn museum in 2006 and is now being featured at the National Portrait Gallery until Sunday February 1st. Most of the pieces displayed are part of her iconic

portraits collection, always elegant and grandiose, denoting an atypical, often provocative, collaboration with the subjects and featuring amazing lighting work. Some of her most famous photos are the nude and pregnant Demi Moore cover for Vanity Fair and Whoopi Goldberg submerged in a bath of milk, but sensibly all of her art has been widely acclaimed and all her campaigns were successful.

However, what makes the exhibition truly interesting are the personal photographs that are displayed. In fact, while the period 1990-2005 was very successful career-wise for Leibovitz, it was also one full of ups and downs in her personal life. From child memories to the death of her father and of her partner Susan Sontag, as well as the birth of her three daughters, Leibovitz exposes pieces of her private life and shares with the public the story behind the camera. Portraying scenes often intimate but always touching, they contrast deeply from her commercial works. The latter being bigger than nature and cosmetic, her personal artwork is of a fragile, almost naive truth. In any case, she depicts perfectly balanced worlds every time...

Most of the personal stories displayed concern Leibovitz’s partner, or lover as she later declared, writer Susan Sontag. They met in 1989, both already established in their respective career, and Sontag is said to have had a huge influence on Leibovitz from then on. Shortly after they met, Leibovitz started exploring different, deeper themes such as the siege of Sarajevo during the war in the Balkans, a publication of a collection (entitled Women) exploring the characters of women from all classes all over the world, and even experimentation in landscape photography. In 1998, Sontag was diagnosed with breast cancer and then started the long journey until her passing away in 2004. Leibovitz loyally photographed various phases of the illness and accompanied Sontag at every stage. What could seem at first like a curious documentation of the illness might be interpreted as a way for Leibovitz to separate herself from the situation or even escape it, but feels more like the natural continuation of the genuine relationship between her, Sontag and photography, as well as a manner in which to go through mourning. In



Possibly Annie Leibovitz’s most famous photograph

that sense, the exhibition itself is an essential part of that process, displaying photos of Sontag from the first doctor’s appointment to her lying on her very death bed. Surprisingly enough, these are far from being disturbing; witnessing a desire to face what lies in front and in the end say one last goodbye. More joyful memories are also displayed such as Leibovitz’s three daughters, the first born when she was 51 years old, followed by twins from a surrogate mother 3 years later.

Overall, it can seem from her exhibition that Leibovitz was living a dual life through her photography: provocative

and superficially aesthetic, or reflective and beautifully simple. Maybe Sontag helped her to reconcile her two sides, and in the end Leibovitz declared in the exhibition’s book: “I don’t have two lives. This is one life, and the personal pictures and the assignment work are all part of it”. Was it really? For the slightly excessive amount of £9 (don’t forget your student ID!), you can judge for yourself until February 1st...

Annie Leibovitz is on at the National Portrait Gallery until 1st February 2009.



We leave you the choice: obvious joke or mature respect for an artist?

“Penis with syphilitic ulceration”

Emily Wilson gets a few graphic lessons in anatomy and medicine over at the Royal College of Surgeons

Who likes medical oddities? I do! I'm a big fan of dead things in jars, and there are jars aplenty in the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons. This was my second visit, and I've come to regard it as one of the best museums in London. The galleries are sleek, shiny and modernised. Every item is clearly labeled and explained, which is impressive given that the sheer quantity of STUFF here is astounding. It's much bigger than you would expect from a little-known, tucked away gallery. It's all free to get into and rarely gets busy. This museum makes for a very relaxing Saturday afternoon excursion, assuming you're not too squeamish to handle it.

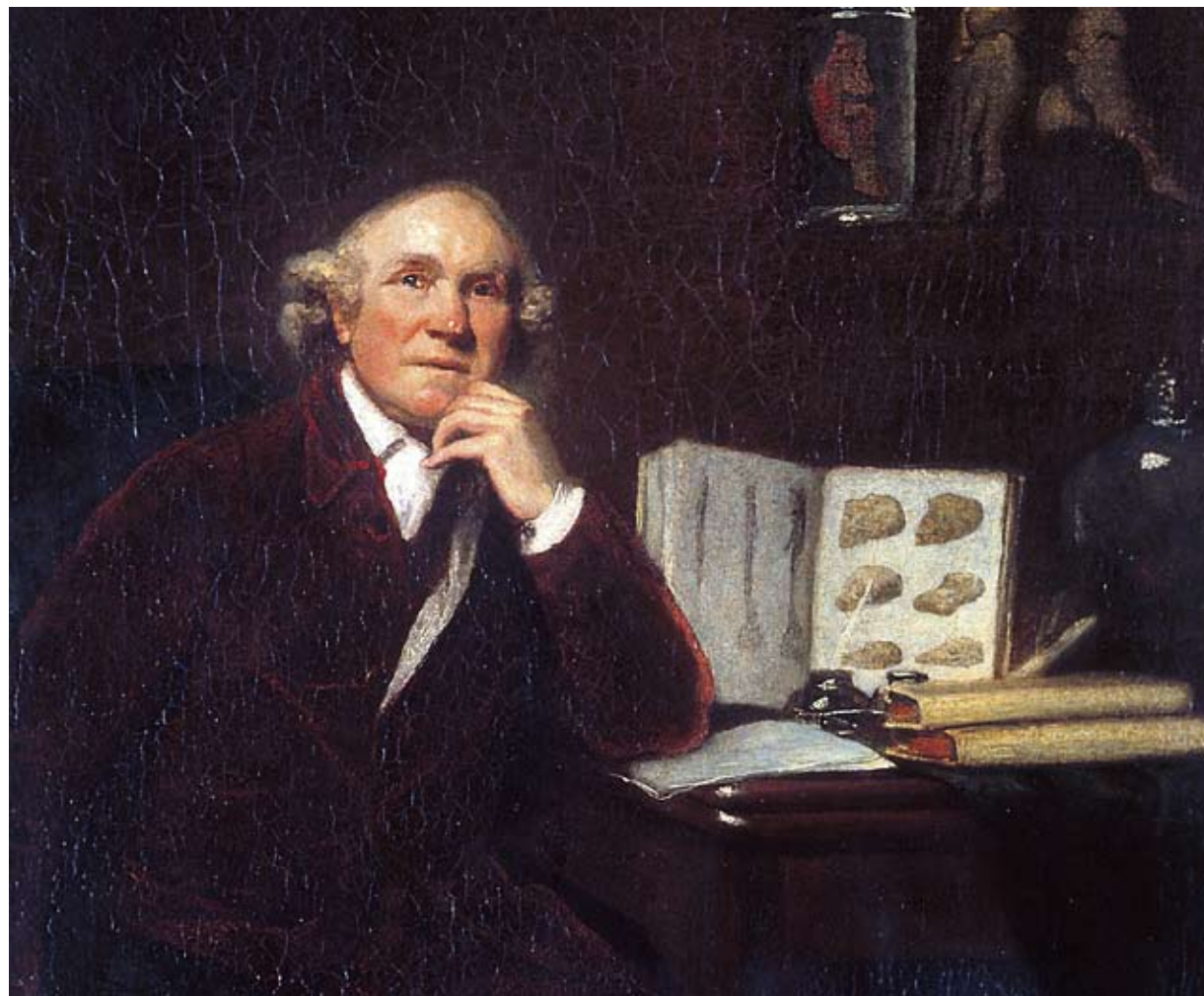
For any medical history buffs out there, the museum holds mostly material gathered by the distinguished surgeon and anatomist John Hunter (1728-1793). He spent much of his time collecting animal specimens and arranging them into a teaching museum. His museum contained nearly 14,000 specimens of over 500 different species of plants and animals. The government purchased his collection in 1799 and it is now owned by the Royal College of Surgeons, with the museum opening in 1813. A little nugget of trivia for you: Hunter died after suffering a fit during an argument at St George's hospital over the acceptance of students for training. The material on display now makes up only about a quarter of Hunter's original collection. He sold a lot of his minerals, paintings, prints and books himself in 1794 (he needed the money, and apparently he preferred his bits of animal). Some specimens were disposed of since his death due to poor condition, and a lot of skeletons and fossils were lost during bombings in 1941. If you're interested, the museum is crammed full of infor-

mation about Hunter's life and work.

So... to the body parts in jars. You name it, they've pickled it. Every animal, every body part, every disease, every weird and wonderful mutation is covered. Just to name a few, you can see “part of a lion's oesophagus”, “the trunk of a young crocodile dissected to show the viscera” and “intestinal worms attached to portions of whale intestine”. There are whole sea cucumbers, spiders, wasps, termites, sea anemones, sea slugs cuttlefish, centipedes, various beetles... Then there's half a dodo skeleton plus some skeletons of similarly extinct flightless birds such as moa and solitaires. There's also some evidence of gruesome animal experimentation, such as “sections of cockerels' heads with transplanted human teeth embedded in the combs”.

Visitors will be delighted by the veritable freak show of mutations and defects on display. “Skull of a 25 year old man showing enlargement due to hydrocephalus” is impressive. It looks like the skull of one of the aliens out of ‘Mars Attacks!’. Next to it is “model of Chinese patient with parasitic twin”, who looks unsurprisingly gloomy. The skeleton of Charles Byrne (1761-1783), the Irish Giant, is an awesome 2.31 metres tall (7' 7"). This chap suffered from pituitary gigantism. Despite requesting that he be buried at sea, his body was bought by John Hunter for £130 (cheeky!). Then there are paintings of midgets, siamese twins and a man who weighed 52 stone.

The impressive range of foetuses includes guinea pig, porcupine, armadillo, anteater and armadillo. There is in addition to the huge selection of human foetuses in jars, all different ages. Their eyes are clenched in a grimace and their little mouths are gasping open. Generally things are arranged according to what bit of anatomy we're looking at. “Mammary organs” is a good section. Have you ever seen the



Here is the big man himself, John Hunter, figurehead of anatomy and surgery, and also pickler of cool dead things. Not many people end up with multiple museums dedicated to them. Something to aspire to?

nipples of a minke whale or a fruit bat? I have now.

Downstairs is mostly bits of dead animals, but upstairs we move on to a focus on human pathology. Clearly the best case is the one with all the sexual organs. Three favourites are “a uterus and vagina dissected to reveal closure

of the vaginal opening of the uterus”, “the end of a penis showing syphilitic ulceration” and “condom made from sheep's intestine, late 18th century”. Lovely. A lot of the contents of these jars are so warped and diseased they are completely unrecognisable. And it's not all things that used to be alive.

There is an extensive range of surgical apparatus and medical instruments, often highlighting how surgery has progressed over time. Some of the instruments are enough to make even the hardened among us wince.

The end of my journey around the museum addresses the living patient and modern surgery, which is a contrast to most of the museum but still utterly fascinating. There is up to date material on microsurgery, minimal access surgery, transplants, cancer surgery and stem cells. There are also some videos of surgery. I watch a solid 10 minutes of “removal of large benign brain tumour”. I have to look away from the screen quite often, particularly when the scalp is getting peeled away from the skull. The drilling into the skull makes me shudder. The actual poking about inside really isn't so bad, and I actually laugh when they extract the (larger than you'd expect) tumour, flick it into a jar and send it off to some poor laboratory slave to tinker with. Overall, this video made me feel sicker and dizzier than all of the museum's jars put together.

If you've made it all the way through this article without me repulsing you then you're well prepared to see it for yourself. This is undoubtedly one of the best museums London has to offer, and you don't need to be a medic (or a lowly biologist like myself) to enjoy it immensely. I highly recommend it to anybody in search of an unusual weekend attraction, and I hope many of you will go and experience it for yourselves. Say hi to the armadillo foetus from me!



Here are some of the jars on display – a teeny tiny crocodile and a headless bird. Don't worry, there's human bits too, so you'll be among friends



Pop over to the Royal College of Surgeons near Holborn and see their Hunterian Museum. Entry is entirely free to all.

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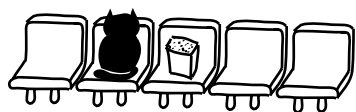
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Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

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They cannot be talking about the same movie...

Critically acclaimed, nominated for 5 Oscars including Best Picture, *The Reader* left some of us in *felix* Film visibly impressed, while others were left wondering at Hollywood's power to ruin a perfectly good book.

The Reader

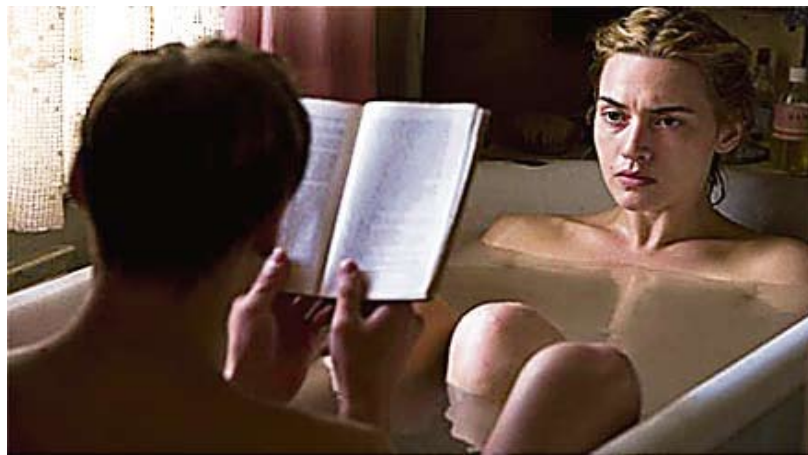
Director: Stephen Daldry
Writer: David Hare
Cast: Kate Winslet, David Kross, Ralph Fiennes

★★★★★ **Zuzanna Blaszcak**
 Film Editor

I saw *The Reader* without realising that it's an adaptation of a book by Bernhard Schlink and maybe allowed me to watch the movie with an unprejudiced and unexpectant eye, and that is why I found myself loving it for what it is, not being disappointed by what it isn't.

The main premise of the film is a love affair in post-war Germany between a 15 year-old Michael Berg (David Kross) and a much older, single and slightly mysterious Hanna Schmitz (Kate Winslet).

The affair only lasts for a summer but the episode is one that leaves a lasting mark on Michael and his whole life. This is because Michael does not only have to deal with the heartbreak caused by Hanna leaving him, but more importantly with the fact that, as it turns out, she was a female guard



Hanna Schmitz (Kate Winslet) has an unexplained obsession with being read to. When Fiennes does the reading who's to blame her?

in the concentration camps in Poland, seemingly responsible for the deaths of hundreds.

I use the word 'seemingly' deliberately, and this 'seemingly' is at the heart of what makes *The Reader* so striking. Stephen Daldry and Kate Winslet have achieved something amazing – in the film they weave a story that manipulates and jumbles the audience's feelings and thoughts so that on leaving the cinema you're one great bundle of con-

fused emotions, not knowing whether to stick to your old, hard-set morals, or to give in to the view of people as being grey and never black and white.

What's absolutely brilliant about the film is that up front it can be seen simply as a love story, but if you analyse the feelings it extricates and you realise that you're sympathising with the wrong characters, then you'll understand on your own skin what a moral dilemma actually is.

★★★★★

Stefan Carpanu

It's a weird day and age we're living in. Films are being remade only one year after the originals are released simply to suit the "American" market (whereby American really means anyone who'd rather watch a film in the English language), Uwe Boll is still in the movie business, Jean Claude Van Damme has received his first "fresh" rating from Rottentomatoes and Hollywood's policy of sticking its nose in Holocaust films remains unchanged.

How ironic is it that a film based on a book that deals primarily with the question of the German issue of guilt over World War II is produced by Americans, directed by the British, and acted out by a cast full of German actors, only for all of them to be speaking English? Actually, the manner in which words are coated with shady accents best symbolises the fundamental problem of *The Reader*: it's well shot, well acted and nicely put together – and that's about it. The source material amounts to an involving read and Bernhard Schlink's book is an intriguingly effective tale of alienation and discovery, which hides at its core an issue that could truly amount to being the cornerstone of an exceptional

film. Stephen Daldry chooses though to focus on the story of Michael and Hannah, thereby reducing both the scope and the depth of the underlying theme, pertaining to the fate of the German people as a whole. The search for a sympathetic character, which Hannah is anyway given her predicament, is overstressed and diminishes the impact of several key scenes, as if it isn't allowed to portray a morally ambiguous (and oblivious) person on-screen without neatly cutting off the edges and flattening it to a comfortable degree. Moreover, when it tries to be smart, it simply spits out a bunch of delicate questions, just to drown them in either silence or sentimentalism.

It might be that as a reader of the book, I longed to see more of its interesting half and less of its rather conventional part. Fact is, Ralph Fiennes, Kate Winslet and David Kross apply themselves well in portraying their characters, and the interpersonal level of the film is fairly satisfying. A fine soundtrack emphasises the story's emotions, but in truth, *The Reader* could have been so powerful that any soundtrack would have been muted by the events unfolding on screen. As it stands, it is little more than an adequate drama of vague interest.

Bloody, gritty, gory and scary... and also in 3-D!

My Bloody Valentine 3-D

★★★★★

Director: Patrick Lussier
Writer: Todd Farmer et. al
Cast: Jensen Ackles, Jamie King, Kerr Smith

Jonathan Dakin
 Film Editor

As soon as I had bought my ticket, the man at the box office handed me some stylish and cool-looking, plastic 3D glasses. I was so excited! So was everyone else. We waited nervously through the adverts and trailers, until finally a huge sign appeared on the cinema screen that read 'Please put on your 3D glasses'. Everyone ripped them out of their plastic cases and shoved them onto their face and in a matter of seconds the film company logo flashed on the screen, cogs turning and letters flying: all in amazing 3D! The audience let out screams of delight as the opening credits flew towards us, and from that point on we were all captivated.

Okay, so I have seen a 3D film before. It isn't something new. In fact it has been around commercially since the 50s. But with dwindling moviegoers, Hollywood has had to try to make a special gimmick in order to get audiences back inside theatres and 3D is the one they have chosen. But this is a new style of 3D: it is Real-D, a special system that does not need two projectors like conventional 3D films and this means that normal cinemas can get these special projectors, hand out 3D glasses and everyone can enjoy the



Have you ever wondered if Jensen Ackles looks as amazing in 3D?

3D action.

It has to be noted that *My Bloody Valentine* is the first-ever 18-rated movie made in 3D and, boy, does it earn that certificate. This is an extremely gory, splatter film and if you are easily squeamish, I would not recommend it. Within the first 5 minutes there is a hospital full of murder victims: their chests ripped open having had their hearts pulled out by a pickaxe-wielding psychopath. It seems that a cave-in in the local mine has driven him insane and since it happened on Valentine's Day, he just couldn't help but be festive and so go on a killing frenzy. But once his 15-minute murder spree – one that involves heads and eyeballs flying towards the camera – is over, we move to 10 years later when the murders begin again. But can the same man be behind it? Or is it a copycat?

The plot is fairly lame but this is a

horror movie – a remake of a Canadian film of the same name, and you can't escape the fact that most horrors do not have astounding or original plots. But what it lacks in realism and character development, it makes up for in violence and this never seems to end.

The film utilises its 3D-ness to amazing effect – pickaxes fly at you, blood sprays at you, even a severed jaw is thrown directly at the camera. The splatter is sometimes just a bit too much but it really suits the 3D style of the film, so the audience can just about forgive the overall nastiness of the movie.

There is one brilliant scene involving sex, a mirror, a midget, a completely naked woman running around a parking lot and, of course, the murderer and his pickaxe. You just have to see it to believe it!

The reason I gave this film 3 stars is

because it is not a great film, it is just standard stupid horror fare and so the film actually earns 2 stars. In years to come it will probably be remembered for being the first of its kind, but for

nothing else except for the fact it was really grisly. The extra star is for the 3D, because it works so well.

I would highly recommend all horror fans to watch this film, as they would probably love it.

But for those of you who can't stand seeing people's heads being forced onto the blade of a pickaxe, I would wait until the 3D films that are suitable for children come out later in the year. Then you can truly enjoy the awesomeness of 3D, without holding your hands over your face in fear.

As soon as the credits rolled, everyone let out words of amazement. I left the cinema smiling – 3D had won me over!! Has the novelty of the film brought people back into cinemas? Well the fact that my screening of the film was packed and so was the next one, judging by the queue as I was leaving, it proves that people are keen to see Hollywood's new gimmick. Either that or people are just bloody disgusting.

Fancy writing for *felix* Film?

We still need writers for the *Film We Love* section of *felix* Film. So if there's a film you just can't stop talking about, a movie that inspires you, a feature that changed your life or one that is your only remedy for a miserable day, we would love you to write about it and have the guts to share it with the rest of Imperial, whether you are a student or a lecturer.

Please send a few hundred words about the film you love to:

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Recruits needed: Milk wants you! (not in *that* way)

Milk ★★★★★

Director: Gus Van Sant
Writers: Dustin Lance Black
Cast: Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin

Catherine Luckin

Milk is the inspirational story of gay rights campaigner, Harvey Milk, which has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Oscar for Best Film. It follows the final eight years of Harvey Milk's life and is focused around a recording he made, to be played only in the event of his assassination. During these years, he embarked on a campaign for gay rights in America, driven by the phrase "My name is Harvey Milk and I want to recruit you" and, after several attempts, he became the first openly gay man to be voted into a position in public office.

The film is heavily informed by the Oscar-winning documentary *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984). The long list of friends and family acknowledged in the credits, as well as the historical consultation of at least two of the main characters, demonstrate how well researched the film is. However, director Gus Van Sant (*Good Will Hunting*), does not simply deliver an informative historical drama. We also gain insight into the personal life of this inspiration-



Apparently he was married to Madonna once (Penn not Milk) - WTF?

al man, making him human and engaging. This is supported by a believable and emotive performance from Sean Penn (*Mystic River*, *21 Grams*), which has earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Actor, as well as a superb supporting cast.

As with any film based around such

a powerful story, it would be easy to assume that this is enough for success. However, Van Sant does not give in to such complacency and combines careful research with a brilliant cast to produce a thoroughly moving film. My advice is to go armed with a large supply of tissues.

Coming soon:

The chick-flick is still not dead, as movies like *He's Just Not That Into You* remind us once more.

Jonathan Dakin
 Film Editor

Based on a self-help book that all women seem to know was once used in an episode of *Sex And The City*, *He's Just Not That Into You* is a romantic comedy that chronicles many different people and their attempts at relationships. Set around Gigi (Ginnifer Goodwin from *Walk The Line*), a woman who keeps misunderstanding men and how interested they are in her, she asks a local barman (Justin Long, appeared in *Die Hard 4*) for help on how to understand men better.

Other plots include a married couple who are going through a rough

patch and a couple who decide that they should break-up because the man doesn't want to marry the woman. The film has a stellar cast including Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore, Ben Affleck, Scarlett Johansson and Jennifer Connelly to name a few.

It seems like this film is aimed at those who saw *Sex And The City: The Movie*, as I am sure everyone in this film will learn about life, but most importantly, love (cheesy!). And they said the chick flick was dead! So if you love schmaltzy rom-coms, or need some lessons in relationships (although film *felix* cannot guarantee you will be taught them from this) then *He's Just Not That Into You* is the movie for you!



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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair & James Houghton

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Return of the Johnsons (and Tony)

Anthony Hegarty returns with his first record since the pop-electro masterpiece of Hercules and Love Affair. **Jorge Costa** checks out *The Crying Light* - the latest release from Mercury winners Anthony & The Johnsons.



Anthony & The Johnsons
The Crying Light
Rough Trade
★★★★☆

Jorge Costa

It's been nearly four years since Antony & The Johnsons released their Mercury Award-winning *I Am A Bird Now*. Rather than rest on his laurels, Antony Hegarty has spent much of that time contributing his uniquely androgynous alto to the likes of CocoRosie and Björk, while almost breaking out into the wider mainstream when Hercules and Love Affair (ingeniously) turned him into a disco diva on 'Blind' – arguably the best single of last year.

Despite the genre hopping, *The Crying Light* sees Antony returning to the day job and the Johnsons' third album pretty much picks up from where Bird left off. 'Her Eyes Are Underneath The Ground' greets us with the delicately played piano and cello that have be-

"That this particular track doesn't end up unlistenable is a testament to the band's way with melodies"

come the band's signature since their debut, while Antony's keening vocals drape over a dark and sombre melody. A richly quiet track, it beautifully demonstrates Antony's careful poetry and when he sings "I saw six eyes glistening in my womb/I felt you calling me in the gloom", his panache for mixing the romantic with the disturbing. This



Anthony wears his heart on his face. Because he's got no sleeves. It's a laugh a minute down here in the *felix* office.

is even more prominent in the second track 'Epilepsy Is Dancing', which sees someone finding solitude in rhythm, as Antony marries lyrics like "All the metal burned in me...cut me in quadrants" to a gentle waltz.

This juxtaposition of the lovely with the not-quite-so, forms the bulk of Antony's metier, serving as a faithful ode to butoh's legendary Kazuo Ohno. Despite the presence of Ohno on the cover of the album, the strong themes of sexuality and identity are less evident on this outing, being replaced

instead by those of maternal love (the aforementioned '...Ground') and nature where, perhaps rather mawkishly, he sings for the sun's warmth on 'Daylight and the Sun'. That this particular track doesn't end up unlistenable is a testament to the band's way with melodies and the lovely production during a dramatic key change halfway through. This, together with the understated arrangements, is what makes the band shine brightest in the gloomiest, most intimate moments. Starting with some murmuring acoustic guitars, 'One

Dove' slowly unfurls with shuffling percussion and brass that sounds as broken and wounded as Antony, while wailing flutes meet his anxiety and fear of a changing landscape in 'Another World'.

Unifying the record, of course, is Antony's take-it-or-leave-it vocals. For the most part, he still sounds like he's singing under a bright spotlight while sitting on a smokey stage next to a grand piano (you know...), adding a huge amount of operatic theatricality to practically every song. On 'Dust and

Water', he attempts Björk-ish mumblings quite successfully, but his overly aggressive delivery on 'Aeon' sees him confuse raw passion for mascara-strewn melodrama.

Those already unconvinced by Antony & The Johnson's balladry will find little in 'The Crying Light' that will convert them, particularly if it's the voice that drives them away in the first place. However, those willing to explore a little deeper are likely to find that the four year wait was more than worth their while.



"Iraq DnB - Commix 2005": No one turned up to the rave



Commix
Fabriclive 44: Commix
Fabric 591 Limited
★★★★★

Thomas Phillips

Fabric's latest addition to the Fabriclive series comes from drum 'n' bass producers George Levings and Guy Brewer, also known as Commix. Of the Cambridge trinity – Logistics, Nu:Tone and Commix – they were the last to break through into the drum 'n' bass scene with their critically ac-

claimed album *Call To Mind*, released in 2007.

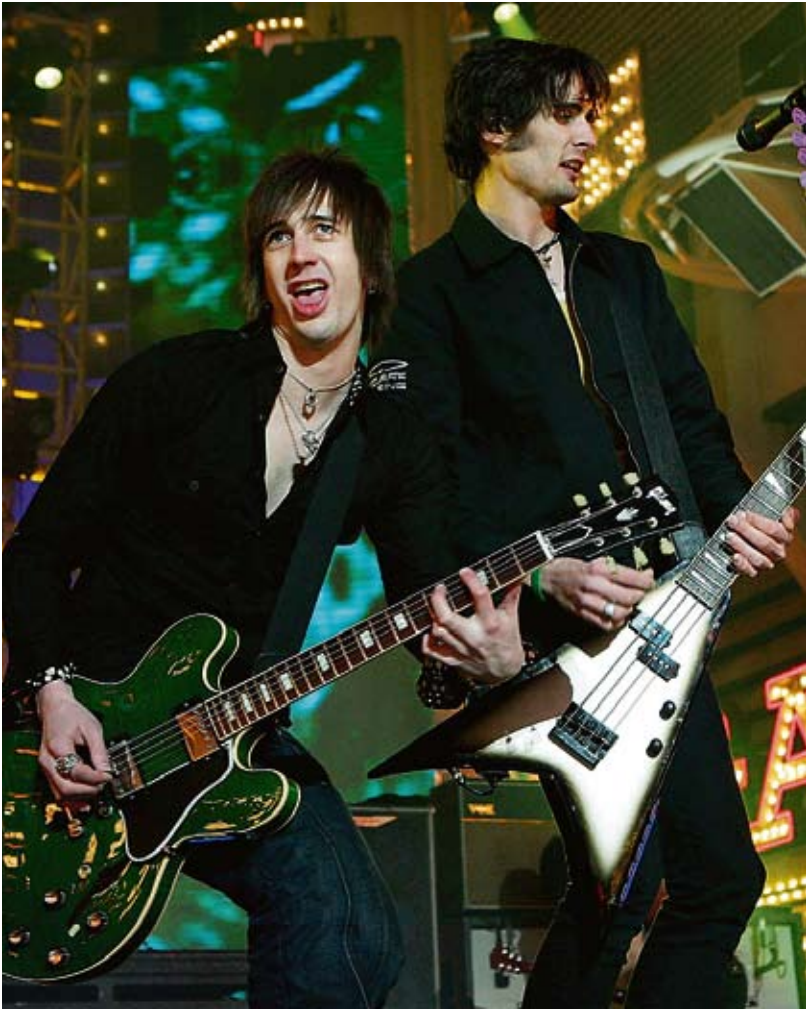
Stylistically, Commix are different to other drum and bass producers, with plenty of tech house influences as well as a bit of minimal electro. Their last album, *The Future Sound Of Cambridge Vol. 3* (Hospital Records), a joint-release with Logistics and Nu:Tone, was a great example of how, in contrast to a lot of other productions, a great d'n'b track doesn't have to be a ceaseless aural onslaught across your entire hearing range. Thankfully, this attitude has been directly applied to this album and the end result is an unusually delicate and thoughtful mix – not just for d'n'b, but also for electronic dance music in general.

The whole mix flows effortlessly from one track into another, gently opening with the duo's own track 'Life

We Live'. The moody synths of DatA's *The Causeway* and Logistics' *Murderation* pave the way for the deep bassline and mysterious vocal samples of Commix's *Justified*.

Touring through tracks from some of the most innovative producers in d'n'b, such as Spectrasoul and Calibre, Commix build tension and then drop, in the highlight of the record, their track 'Bear Music', with its heavy hitting and cavernous sub-bass. The album winds up perfectly with the smooth, down-tempo 'Photograph' by Instrumental.

With this mix, Commix are trying to rekindle the interest of people who gave up on drum 'n' bass a few years ago. I think they will: Commix have created an outstanding mix that will not only appeal to drum 'n' bass heads, but to anyone who has interest in electronic music.



All American Rejects looking like a bunch of cunts

All American Rejects
Gives You Hell (single)
Polydor
★☆☆☆☆

in the US billboard top 100, telling us one thing and one thing only - America is still a country of wankers, regardless of the fact that they were able to choose the correct administration this

Nathan Ley

In all honesty, I expected very little from this single, and unsurprisingly it delivered exactly that. Three minutes and thirty three seconds of three chord mediocrity is interspersed by the whiny wannabe teenage vocals of Ritter, painfully aching for a return to an age when someone might have cared. "Tomorrow you'll be thinking to yourself, where did it all go wrong" shouts Ritter rather poignantly. Well Sir, you tell us. Oh wait - it never was 'right' in the first place, was it? Towards the end of the song, the band attempts to haul it out of the depths awfulness with a load of embarrassing background vocal chanting. Enough said.

Apparently this song has reached #6

“Three minutes
and thirty-three
seconds of three
chord mediocrity”

time around. But maybe I'm being a bit too harsh with this. After all, a lot of teenagers love this bands' music. But that's exactly the problem. It's the sort of track that may have sufficed back when you were 14, getting pissed from the fumes of a can of Fosters at your mates' house party whilst 'rebelliously' going for a shit in their mums bed, but now it just ain't funny. Move along skipper.



This one time in year 9, B*Witched came and played at my school, after they had become number 1. Cool.

Vivian Grrrls livvve

Alexandra Ashford

The reason I like Vivian Girls is that they appeal to some kind of nostalgic feeling in me, the way it felt to be a teenage girl invigorated by the spirit of the *riot grrrl* movement but a few years too late to be a part of it. Vivian Girls are three girls with the nicknames Cassie Ramone, Kickball Katy, and Ali, who got together in 2007 to form an all-girl indie rock band, unaware that it would cause the surge in underground success and excitement of music critics that it has done. I do love it when girls are playing guitars or drums because we are a minority in the vast sea of male indie rock musicians, girl power!

To see Vivian Girls walk out onto the stage is to see a band who look exactly as you imagine they would before you see them: lazily dishevelled, implacable charity shop-esque clothes, smatterings of ironic tattoos (teacups, cassette tapes, milkshakes), unintentionally cool (well they did grow up in Brooklyn, New York). After several requests for more feedback on the guitar, they launched into songs from their debut album (s/t), with simple guitar riffs and monotonous vocals that reflect their impassive lyrics.

They play music that is a cross between the American garage rock of the early '90s and the indie britpop of bands like Sleeper and Talulah Gosh,

drawn out and fuzzed up like shoe-gaze. It's not a wholly original sound, so many bands have the same influences, but what Vivian Girls do is do it well.

Live, they are faster, harsher. Their set is peppered with little bits of conversation as they try to engage with the crowd. The venue was sold out (a rare thing at White Heat) though the crowd was not a very enthusiastic one - at one point Katy asked "Isn't this supposed to be a party?" and was answered by a few muttered chuckles and some shuffling of feet.

Overall however, I'd say it was pretty good, and if they release new material and tour in the future, there is a good chance I will see them again.

Friday

Bass Clef :: The Fly :: Dubstep
Max Tundra :: Cargo :: IDM
 Buzzcocks :: Shepherds Bush
 Empire :: Punk
Shy Fx :: Fabric :: Drum and
 Bass
Culture Shock :: Herbal :: Drum
 and Bass
Adam Beyer :: Ministry of Sound
 :: Techno
Look See Proof :: Barfly :: Indie
GreenStone :: The Troubadour
 :: Alternative Rock
The Rifles :: Banquet Records ::
 Indie

Saturday

Turbowolf :: 93 Fee East :: Hard Rock
Popular Workshop :: Buffalo Bar :: Indie

Transglobal Underground :: Bardens Boudoir :: Electronica
Seasick Steve :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Homeless Blues
Stereo Total :: Bar Rumba :: Electron

Sunday

Denise :: Lyric Theatre :: Indie
Aeon :: Underworld :: Death
 Metal
The Display Team :: The
 Marlborough :: Acoustic

Monday

U.S. Girls :: Old Blue Last :: DIY
Pop

Orphans & Vandals :: Hoxton
Square Bar & Kitchen :: Indie

Alex Roots :: Rough Trade East ::
Punky Pop

Tuesday

The Aeroplanes :: 93 Feet East :: Indie
Soprano :: Dublin Castle :: Rap
Judith Owen :: ICA :: Jazz
Glissando + The Monroe Transfer :: The Macbeth :: Post Rock
Delete :: Underworld :: Minimal
Joe Brooks :: Barfly :: Acoustic
The Great Indoors + Empire of Light :: The Roebuck :: Indie

Wednesday

The Dresden Dolls :: Electric
Ballroom :: Alternative / Indie /
Rock

The Airborne Toxic Event :: 100
Club :: Indie Rock

Kelli Ali :: The Saughtered Lamb
:: Dreampop

Future Islands :: Barden's Boudoir
:: New Wave

Thursday

Jedi Mind Tricks + OuterSpace ::
Coronet :: Rap

The Boy Least Likely To :: Soho
Revenue Bar :: Indie

Friendly Fires :: New Slang at
Mcluskys :: Indie

Innerpartysystem :: The
Underworld :: Electronic

Frida Hyvonen :: Bush Hall ::
Sweedish Indie

Crystal Antlers :: Bloomsbury
Bowling Lanes :: Psychedelic

Les Figurines :: The Enterprise ::
Indie

La Roux + De Tropix :: Notting
Hilll Arts Club :: Rock

DJ Scotch Egg + Others :: SE1 ::
8-bit NintendoCore

MusicMetric

INGS::LISTIN



...it's like
Tequila!

Catherine Jones
Nightlife Editor

I know a few people around college, who clearly have the winter blues. I have been one of that pathetic group lately. It has been a cold bleak January but it's not just the winter chill that has been getting me down. Everyday pressures can be a struggle to cope with, but the world seems very negative lately.

Some days I could barely muster the will to get out of bed. On Monday 19th January I probably should have made the call and stayed beneath the duvet. Unfortunately, I have an almost scary enthusiasm for my subject, so I decided to go to class.

By late afternoon I had more than regretted that decision. After two chocolate bars and a gooey chocolate muffin, in what you could call an attempted calorie overdose, I had reached rock bottom.

I was informed by many news outlets it was "Blue Monday", officially the most depressing day of the year. Why? – Psychologist Dr Cliff Arnall's equation for depression says so. I am unsure of the scientific basis of this claim but I felt better knowing I was not the only one feeling like shit.

I kept on thinking about this Blue Monday thing. Is this more than some media myth? It's hard to say. It is the time of year people think about buying holidays and yes, I felt ready to skip the country on the next available flight. Brazil would be nice and yes, that's a hint.

It's a bit of a cliché but I think the Media is like a shot of tequila. It's intoxicating, but you should take it with a pinch of salt, a bite of lemon and be prepared for a bitter aftertaste. Just try not to vomit later on. And if you insist on vomiting, please not on any item of my clothing. Or anywhere near me.

Still unsatisfied with life and ashamed of my excessive comfort eating, I knew something had to be done. The solution seemed obvious; Blue Monday. I should be dancing to New Order's "Blue Monday" rather than feeling blue on a Monday. So this week's page is dedicated to escapism, in its many varied forms. Have fun, have diversions for the mind, don't let the world get you down. And don't drink too much. (Consider the long term implications of your actions for your health and wellbeing.)

"You know it's a good night when..."

Catherine Jones reviews a confusing neo-rave "Bang Face 63"

Bang Face 63 ★★★★★

9th January

Electrowertz, Torrens Street, EC1

Best: Crowd
Worst: To nit-pick, the toilets were skanky.
Price: £10

I was looking for some excitement in that early January lull, before the start of term. With nothing to lose, I checked out the hyped up night of the moment, Bang Face. Yes, that's right, Bang Face. Billed as "The birth of neo-rave", Bang Face is a throwback to the early nineties rave scene. Remember those glow sticks, smiley faces and strobe lights? The promotional material was full of all those clichés and more. It's hard to tell if, and how much, it was "taking the piss".

I couldn't help but feel apprehensive about the night of madness ahead. January's Bang Face was circus-themed, "celebrating the birth of the first modern circus on this day in 1768". We were invited to dress accordingly, as clowns, acrobats, jugglers and trained animals. Not to be overly disparaging, it's not the easiest theme to pull off.

Still uncertain of what to wear, I browsed the Internet for help. Oh lucky me, to stumble across some eyebrow raising reviews of the 2008 Bang Face weekend. To paraphrase, they read – "I can't recollect much from the night, but it was definitely fun"! Suspiciously vague. I couldn't help but assume the author was off their face. There were no explicit drug references but I thought I could read between the lines. Is this what Bang Face means? Get off your face and mash up your head, like

they did in the early nineties?

Enough. My verdict? Bang Face was one of the most enjoyable club nights I have been to in sooo long.

I am ashamed to say I have no useful analysis to make of this night either. Before you also go jumping to conclusions – no, I hadn't taken any illegal substances (I don't agree with it). So instead of a review with a neat chronological narrative, all I have to present you with are a small selection of incoherent but amusing memories. This is my reality, but probably not the best review ever written. You had to be there really to fully understand the Bang Face conversion experience.

The circus theme was truly surreal! Some people really went the extra mile with their circus costumes. I met a man in a clown costume on the dancefloor. In a surreal haze of giggles, I was given a fake blond stick-on moustache. Not in a sleazy way, you understand, just childlike silliness. I say 'tache but this facial accessory was passed around as an eyebrow, sideburn and beard before it was settled that it was a "chest wig". It's hard to say what was going on here. I think this illustrates the friendliness of the people and the creative 'anything goes' vibe.

This is not to say everyone bothered dressing up as circus freaks. Quite to the contrary. Most just came in jeans and quirky T-shirts. A few hooded tops were evident, as the temperature outside verged on minus figures. I think this shows Bang Face is a place you could just be yourself, not having to "dress up" hence "act up" as anything more than you are. Pretence was left at the door.

Electrowertz was decorated DIY style, with amateurish A4 posters and banners. Anywhere else this would have looked rubbish but at Bang Face the humour worked. From the "Safety nets can just fuck off" banner, to the

clown lilo thrown overhead. The "club space" was symbolically appropriated by the crowd, a case of "power to the people".

As for the music; acid, jungle, rave hardcore, drum 'n' bass, techno, electro, breakcore AND electronica. The specifics are hazy but I think it was pretty effective as the dancefloor was rammed. We danced most of the night, with lasers overhead and glow-sticks in hand. Some people could call it dancing, others might just call it embarrassing random arm flailing, but we had fun.

After a hard slog on the dancefloor, we took a few moments to chill in "Chin Stroking Corner". Posters of George Bush, Simon Cowell and "a thoughtful looking baby", were hung on the walls above us. We engaged in topical conversation with a new acquaintance from Scotland. He declared Daft Punk at The Arches in Glasgow his favourite ever club night. Chin carressing increased pace as conversation moved on to Bang Face. "Is this night more than just nostalgia?" I pondered.

So what is Bang Face all about? I have no rational or coherent explanation. Not that you need reason to have fun. The closest analogy would be a very strange house party. Bang Face is a bit silly, but with a club full of fun, unpretentious people, how can you not have a great time?

You know it's a good night when... your memories are a vivid, incoherent mish-mash of euphoria and anecdote. I'm not quite sure if this night felt real, but it did happen. What's real anyway? All we have are memories and you can trust them, right?

Bang Face returns on Friday the 13th February, with 'Vexed Factor' – a pop tarts, celeb whore theme.

If one night just isn't enough, there's the Bang Face weekend in April, except that has sold out.



Left and Right: Revellers having a good time at the confusing new-rave "Bang Face 63"

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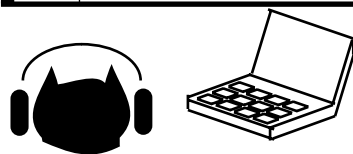


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Technology

Technology Editor – Richard Lai

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Shit happens sometimes

Richard Lai
Technology Editor

First of all, I would like to apologise about the unintentional rotation of one of the pictures last week: somehow the image format converter decided to rotate the picture by itself and it managed to slip under our radar. All I can say is that shit happens once in a while but the image should have served its purpose anyway (the TV was still as thin!).

Speaking of shit, it's been a bad start to the year for many companies. Even large companies like Microsoft and Intel had announced that about 5,000 of each of their employees would have to leave, although neither had reported any financial loss; ASUS and Samsung reported their first-ever quarter loss of about \$100 million and \$674 million respectively but both had expressed that there would be no layoffs; the worst sufferer of all was probably AMD, which reported a staggering \$1.42 billion loss and has laid off 9% of its work force (1,100 jobs).

So how will this affect us? For starters, we may experience a technology slowdown which means fewer new gadgets coming out this year.

However this may also mean more effort will be concentrated on the fewer products. For instance, Palm had gone quiet for years until their announcement of the Pre smartphone at the CES and many critics agreed that the Pre will be the company's saviour. Expect to see it in stores in this half of the year.

We are also expecting many other interesting technologies and gadgets to emerge at some point this year. To name a few; USB 3.0, SDXC memory cards, Windows 7 (which I have been playing with and frankly it's stolen more features from Mac OS X), mind-controlled games (as mentioned in last week's *felix*), more Android phones and more energy-efficient gadgets. Apart from these, I can't really think of anything else. Do send me an e-mail if you feel that I have missed out something very obvious.

Apart from the obvious ones above, have you ever thought about what fictional technologies you would love to see becoming reality? The other day I thought of a reader that could convert your thoughts into a Powerpoint slideshow or Flash animation, thus saving you from those lonely hours in front of the computer screen.

My second idea was a "drinkable sleep": basically, if you've been up all night (which is what's happening to me these days) yet you don't have the time to recover in the middle of the week, you could drink a bottle of this goodness that gives the same effect as one night's sleep. I would actually pay good money for this stuff because life's too short with those wasted hours at night. A lot of the times I wished I could be watching Family Guy instead of sleeping.

If you have had similar creative imaginations, please do send them in at technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ONLINE GAME OF THE WEEK



Dogfight 2 - The Great War
<http://is.gd/hyW8>

Addictive games are often simple, which is why Dogfight 2 has won my heart. Your plane can fire bullets and drop bombs with bonus points awarded for special manoeuvres. Go try this beautiful game over the weekend!

ASUS vs. Pegatron

The Taiwanese requiem of Steve Jobs' fight against Apple?

If you have never heard of Pegatron, you should have at least heard of ASUS, the company behind the successful Eee PC netbook franchise. And why should you find this article interesting? Well, the story shares a similar background with Apple's rise and fall: recall the year 1985, when Apple stripped co-founder Steve Jobs of his managerial duties over a power-struggle with the then-CEO John Sculley and so Jobs resigned. In the same year he founded NeXT Computer, which went head-to-head against Apple with their own computers and software. Interestingly, by the end of 1996 the failing Apple acquired NeXT and six months later Jobs replaced Gil Amelio to become interim CEO (or more popularly known as "iCEO"). Today, Jobs is the permanent CEO of a healthy Apple Inc. which is worth \$80 billion.

Such fascinating story is about to be replicated on the Taiwanese soil. Steve Jobs' counterpart is ASUS co-founder, Tung Tsu Hsien, who is now the chairman of the one-year-old Pegatron. The origin of ASUS is quite interesting and not often talked about, so allow me to tell you how it all started, which should help you understand the potential impact of Pegatron;

The year was 1989 and Taiwan had just finished celebrating Chinese New Year. Tung, along with Ted Hsu, Wayne Hsieh and Liao Min Hsiung, were Senior Engineers at Acer and they all saw the opportunities offered by the blooming market of Intel's 386 microprocessor and Microsoft Windows. The four made final discussions over the public holiday and decided to resign, in order to start up their own motherboard development business. ASUS was thus born on 2nd April in the same year and rumour has it that such name (a truncated "Pegasus") was specifically chosen so that Acer still lists alphabetically above ASUS – a noble homage to the founders' ex-company.

Even though opportunities seemed to be everywhere, the four bright engineers struggled to get attention for their young company, as hardly anyone saw the motherboard as a moneymaker. Eventually, ASUS decided to manufacture their own motherboards instead. This led to their first Intel 486 prototype motherboard at the end of 1989. Funnily enough, such development was made possible by Acer's co-



Original image from *Business Today*

ASUS co-founder Tung Tsu Hsien and ASUS chairman Jonney Shih

founder and General Manager, Jonney Shih, who provided generous funding.

ASUS then took their 486 board to Intel to try their 486 prototype processor on it (Intel Taiwan had the one and only engineering sample for Asia back then). While Tung and his team were waiting in a corner, they overheard that Intel's own prototype motherboard went kaput, so they volunteered to have a look and – to Intel's surprise – managed to fix it. It was this miracle that established the strong link between ASUS and Intel today.

So what has gone wrong with today's ASUS? Jonney Shih is partly to be blamed. After Tung's many years of begging, Shih left Acer and became chairman of ASUS in 1994. It was just over a year ago when he decided to split company into three units: ASUS, Pegatron and Unihan.

Such restructuring was meant to let ASUS concentrate on the laptops and systems, with Pegatron taking care of motherboard and component manufacturing, and Unihan handling sub-component and chassis production. Many thought that this was just a plot to reset all employee pensions (there is no Taiwanese law which states that all companies have to offer pension plans), but it appears that there is a darker side of this story.

According to Taiwanese magazine *Business Today*, during the split announcement meeting in 2007, Shih and Tung already showed signs of their icy relationship. The magazine

claimed that Tung was forced to accept the chairman role of Pegatron, a components company when his real passion was in the establishment of the ASUS brand. The reason for this ousting? So that Shih could let his brother-in-law, Jonathan Tsang, take up Tung's ASUS vice-chairman role, thus leaving Tung out of any executive decisions over ASUS. Even though Tsang had also given financial aid to ASUS in the early days, Tung had many rough patches with Tsang as President of Marketing. Apparently he went against the wishes of several key staff over the laptop business and ended up with a few significant resignations; but there was nothing Tung could do about the board's decision of his own ousting.

Thankfully, Tung's renowned friendly, caring management-style influenced a handful of loyal, talented ASUS staff to move to Pegatron. With some of these people he formed PEGA Design, which will take in orders for designing laptops, desktops, modems etc. for any companies, starting in February. With enough orders, Tung could then let Pegatron do the manufacturing as well so that they are not working just for ASUS. After all, this was how ASUS started before they released laptops under their own brand (for instance, they still manufacture MacBooks as well as doing R&D for Apple).

We look forward to the day when Tung establishes his own brand again and hopefully overtakes ASUS, just like Steve Jobs did with NeXT and Apple.

Which netbook?

Since the launch of the Eee PC, other companies quickly followed ASUS' trend and released their own netbooks. Whilst most share similar specifications, there are a couple of things that you should watch out for:

1. Seeing is believing: make sure you check out the real thing in person, paying special attention to the keyboard, touchpad, heat dissipation and LCD.
2. Brand reputation: after-sale service can vary from one country to another for any company, so use Google to check your destination's feedback!
3. Warranty: obviously, the longer

the better, but sometimes you'll have to pay a bit more (like the ASUS and MSI).

I consider the netbooks on the right to be the best value. I won't bother rating them, as there is little physical difference between them apart from HP's weaker CPU; it is really down to your budget and your ergonomic preferences. Value-wise the Advent 4490 does seem to beat the rest of the group, but then again the brand is only so-so, so do double-check with online feedback.

If you have recently purchased a netbook, reviews are always welcome!

Acer Aspire One A150	HP Mini-note 2133	Advent 4490	ASUS Eee PC 901	MSI Wind U100
Intel Atom N270 1.6GHz	VIA C7-M ULV - 1.2GHz	Intel Atom N270 1.6GHz	Intel Atom N270 1.6GHz	Intel Atom N270 1.6GHz
120GB HDD, 1GB RAM	120GB HDD, 1GB RAM	120GB HDD, 1GB RAM	20GB SSD, 1GB RAM	120GB HDD, 1GB RAM
Linpus Linux	SuSe Linux	Windows XP Home	Xandros Linux	Windows XP Home
802.11b/g	802.11b/g, Bluetooth	802.11b/g, Bluetooth	802.11b/g/n, Bluetooth	802.11b/g, Bluetooth
8.9" LCD, 0.3MP webcam	8.9" LCD, 0.3MP webcam	8.9" LCD, 0.3MP webcam	8.9" LCD, 1.3MP webcam	10" LCD, 1.3MP webcam
3x USB, 5-in-1 card reader	2x USB, SD card reader	3x USB, 4-in-1 card reader	3x USB, SD card reader	3x USB, 4-in-1 card reader
3-hour battery, 1.26kg	2-hour battery, 1.2kg	2.5-hour battery, 1.12kg	6-hour battery, 1.1kg	2-hour battery, 1.0kg
1-year UK-only warranty	1-year UK-only warranty	1-year UK-only warranty	2-year UK-only warranty	2-year UK-only warranty
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Maladies are not Malaysian

David Wallis teleports us across the world to Kuala Lumpur



Melur ★★★★★

175A Edgware Road
Eat-in or take-away
020 7706 8083

Best: The grilled spicy mackerel

Worst: Chicken and prawn noodles (yet, not that bad)

Price: Under £20 per head

Apart from the odd slither of raw fish and a dash of wasabi, my culinary worldliness tends not to stretch much further east than the Bay of Bengal. Not that I haven't dipped my toe, so to speak. I mean, I have even travelled as far as Hong Kong, but if I recall correctly, my gastronomic development was at a somewhat nascent stage at the time and I pretty much lived off fried chicken and cheeseburgers (I know, I know). Yes, I've eaten Thai food with its red and green shades of blandness and, as for my experience with Vietnamese, frankly, I think I'd have had

more fun locked in a bamboo cage playing Russian Roulette with Christopher Walken; and although I am sure that genuine, authentic Chinese food holds many delights, the luminous orange gloop, gristly nuggets of meat and stodgy batter synonymous with migraine-inducing, MSG laden take-aways are definitely not one of them. Prawn crackers are not bad mind you. Anyway, being the oriental infidel that I am, it was with some trepidation that I made my way down the stairs of Melur, a restaurant solely concerned with the definitely unfamiliar fair of Malaysia. Turns out I needn't have worried. The food was delicious. The owner Sam, a wonderfully warm native of Kuala Lumpur, had immediately settled my nerves with her talk of staying true to that what she knows and loves, sourcing, wherever she could, authentic ingredients and resolutely steering clear of that all too familiar scourge of modern cuisine – "fusion". Her commendable philosophy is reflected in a reassuringly concise and wallet friendly menu, the pick of the

starters being the chicken Satay. A dish I have always viewed with suspicion, this was a million miles away from the depressing super market guff I have previously been subjected too, with juicy chunks of marinated chicken, char-grilled and served alongside a bowl of wonderfully unctuous, freshly-made peanut sauce with hints of lemongrass and chilli. The spring rolls weren't bad either. With the mains ranging from an apparently just-a-bit-too authentic fish-head curry (not one order received to date) to the more familiar noodles and curries one might expect, there is something here to suit just about everyone. For the veggies, the aubergines cooked in Sambal, a traditional chili sauce, are definitely worth a crack whilst for those slightly redder in tooth and claw, an aromatic bowl of chicken curry would certainly satisfy. The grilled spicy mackerel was my particular highlight, with its wonderful smokey flavour countered beautifully by the fish's oily character. Only the chicken and prawn noodles left me somewhat underwhelmed, but even this was far from bland. A starter followed by a main, together with a rice dish and the Roti Canai (traditionally made layered flat bread with a curry dip) would be more than enough to silence even the most tenacious of appetites and probably still see you get the best part of a fiver's change back from a twenty. However, if you are one of those always with room for dessert, you could certainly do a lot worse than go for the somewhat unusual but warmly soothing option of sweet potato, yam and sago cooked in coconut sauce. Casually appointed and, with most of the other diner's conversations audibly academic in nature, Melur is most definitely student friendly and, with a fully licensed bar and the chance to win free meals and musical tickets in February and March, it is certainly worth a visit.



The view of the restaurant from the bar

Weddings, banks and you're a liar

Afonso Campos
Food Editor



This is what will happen; I will give you a scenario, and you will play along with it and take it in your stride to gracefully accept any assumptions I might make about you. More likely than not, they will be correct and I can imagine it will be hard to accept that someone you never met (me) knows so much about you, based on perhaps only one criterion. It's freaky, it's deranged and it's a hell of a lot like astrology, palm reading, tarot or the crystal ball. One thing is certain though, you will cringe at the thought of the person you have become. You didn't use to be a cynic before coming to Imperial, but the thought that someone with 4 or 5 As at A-Level has a different opinion to you is enough to make you reformulate your entire belief system. Imagine someone starts slagging off Investment Bankers, financial institutions or making mention of how these destabilised a previously perfectly sound economy. This little situation, I am almost positive, is something you have experienced, given that Imperial seems to be full of wannabe communists loitering around hallways and aimlessly wandering around the Sherfield Building, pretending to not be interested in sneaking into the careers office to seek assistance in finding a high flying job in a world they supposedly and outwardly hate. You see this happening around you and start feeling despondent and dejected about having sent 14,000 investment bank graduate applications. You feel even worse when you somehow get suckered into pretending you hate the industry or how you only went to the interview "for the food". You find yourself actively and loudly proclaiming your (fake) abhorrence for finance, but again you supposedly only went to the Goldman

Sachs campus presentation "for the food" or the Boston Consulting Group skills session because you heard "there's a shitload of awesome food there dude". While at the presentation however, you forget you even mentioned food and scribble away any religious word the HR rep standing 10 feet from you spews out. The blasphemous use of food as an excuse to do something is a cowardly act that innervates me quite severely. There is nothing wrong with wanting to go to a stupid cousin's wedding, becoming a banker or going to that nerdy Sci-Fi Society meeting or that perhaps overly hacky ePortfolio review. The food at these events is more often than not, undeniably good and available in copious quantities. As a foodie, this is something that is nigh on impossible to pass on. There is also the mini-food conundrum. It's like a burger, only smaller and as a result, irresistible. Or small cocktail sausages. Or even tiny little banoffee pies. For some unbeknownst reason or other to anyone, as human beings we are genetically predisposed to fall madly in love with miniatures of mundane things, and in the world of gastronomy this is not any different. Our insanity levels are driven through the roof at the thought of a salmon and cream cheese finger sandwich the size of your thumbnail. Our eye is locked upon these heaven-sent little bits of paradise and our mind wanders. Because of the purity of spirit in which such delicacies must be consumed I consider it to be completely disrespectful when one pretends to hate the environment in which they are to be eaten, in a feeble attempt to attract respect. Grow some balls and learn to feel proud of the things that you do genuinely enjoy and care about. Like I was told at a 22.5 mile cycle last Saturday, harden the fuck up.

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Clubs & Societies

Clubs & Socs Editor - Alice Rowlands

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IC Winds concert blows us away

Anna Gooding reports on the Coldstream Guards band and IC Wind bands power performance

Imperial College Winds is a group of enthusiastic brass, woodwind and percussion players who meet weekly to rehearse. The music we play ranges from folk songs, film scores and marches, to concertos and beyond. So far this term we have been concentrating on the Wind Power repertoire but our concert on the 24th of March will include Philip Sparke's A Lindisfarne Rhapsody which will feature our principal flautist Phin Chooi.

In September one of our trumpeters, Mel Tamplin (a member of staff in the College), had the idea of arranging a workshop day with a professional wind band. He contacted The Coldstream Guards who agreed to come down to Imperial and spend a day teaching us all they know! He mentioned the plan to friends and other staff colleagues, and what had started as a small event escalated into the exciting spectacle that took over the College on Wednesday night.

The Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards is the oldest corps by continu-

can appear as a small fanfare team, a marching band, a jazz band or, as was seen on Wednesday, a wind band. The band is directed by Lieutenant Colonel Graham Jones MBE who lead Wednes-

"The guests departed from the Great Hall buzzing with enthusiasm for wind bands and music in Imperial College!"

day's afternoon rehearsal and evening concert, as well as having joined us at two Tuesday evening rehearsals previously.

The day began with intimate rehearsals in small sections based in the Union and in the Blyth Centre. Some of our band members even managed to have one-on-one tuition with a professional musician. At lunchtime six of the Guards performed three fanfares, two on Dalby court and one under the Queen's Tower. We stood back and watched in awe whilst selling tickets for the evening's concert to other equally impressed staff and students. In the afternoon we all joined together and rehearsed en masse in the Great Hall. As the two full-size wind bands came together, there were around sixty players on one stage and we made a truly formidable sound.

The concert began at 6.30 with the Guards looking very smart in their superb red uniforms and IC Winds dolled up in their Wind Power T-shirts. Lieutenant Colonel Graham Jones joined us on stage wearing an all black uniform with white gloves and donned with medals. We opened with HRH Duke of Cambridge March: an uplifting, jolly march which set the scene for the concert. The programme took a lighter turn with Echoes of an Era which featured several popular Beatles



Lord Professor Robert Winston performs "My Funny Valentine" to all on alto-saxophone

"The programme took a lighter turn with popular Beatles hits including With a Little Help From my Friends, When I'm Sixty-four, Yellow Submarine and Hey Jude"

ous existence in the British Army, having been formed in 1650. The band of the Coldstream Guards performs regularly at state ceremonial events across London and beyond, and has just recently returned from a tour of the United States of America. Due to a wealth of talented musicians, the band

hits including With a Little Help From my Friends, When I'm Sixty-four, Michelle, Yellow Submarine and Hey Jude. The arrangement showed that Beatles music really has stood the test of time, with the audience appreciating each popular and familiar tune. This was followed by Imperial Echoes a short march which was chosen for the evening's performance to represent the new link between the Band of The Coldstream Guards and Imperial College London.

The next piece was an arrangement of Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and English traditional tunes - A Very British Tribute. The selection included Danny Boy, Londonderry Air, World in Union and I Vow to Thee My Country. The arrangement was written by

the Guards' band master and featured a tremendous male vocal solo. Lord Professor Robert Winston was then invited up on stage to join the band for My Funny Valentine on his alto saxophone. This arrangement was a real

"What had started as a small event escalated into the exciting spectacle that took over the College on Wednesday night"

trombone show-piece which featured the Guards' principal trombonist Col-our Sergeant David Desmond.

Next jazz singer Victoria Hart joined us to perform a selection of three pieces from her new album, 'The Lost Gershwin'. Victoria Hart has become affectionately known as the "Singing Waitress" due to exchanging her job in a restaurant for performing in front of George Clooney at a Cannes party. Her music is described as pop, with influence from the 40s and 50s swing era. She performs at various jazz festivals and has appeared at Glastonbury Festival. The selection we played on Wednesday was from her new album which is a collection of rare Gershwin songs. She sang beautifully and looked extraordinarily glamorous in a sleek black number.

Cossack Fire Dance was a real crowd pleaser, featuring several amazingly talented soloists including a clarinet, a euphonium, a trumpet and a trombone. It was an exciting and enjoyable piece and the audience joined in with some enthusiastic clapping! A fantastic rendition of Crown Imperial ended with an organ solo which filled the whole room with a sense of grandeur. The piece has been played at the Coro-

nation of King George VI and that of Queen Elizabeth II, and now at Imperial College London!

Finally the concert closed with the traditional play-off for the band of the Coldstream Guards, the Regimental March, representing the link between the band and the regiment, followed by The National Anthem. The guests departed from the Great Hall buzzing with enthusiasm for wind bands and music in Imperial College!

A few lucky members of the band made their way to the Tanaka Foyer where they were wined and dined in true Imperial style. Lord Professor Robert Winston rounded off the evening with a particularly amusing and memorable speech. Meanwhile, in the SCR, the rest of the musicians were having a real knees-up with a fantastic meal laid on by the same team. Finally, after a very long and tiring day of rehearsals and socialising, we all made our way home for some well earned rest.

All-in-all the day was a huge success, from rehearsals to concert to dinner. The concert was attended by over 350 people who came and enjoyed the results of our labours. The money raised will be used to provide a music scholarship for an Imperial College student which will be known as the Coldstream Guards Scholarship.

IC Winds would like to thank Mel Tamplin for his vision, dedication and enthusiasm, the College Events team for putting together such a wonderful day and of course Lieutenant Colonel Graham Jones and the band of the Coldstream Guards for coming to share their expertise with us.

To see video clips and read more about Wind Power, visit www.imperial.ac.uk/news. If you're interested in Imperial College Winds, would like to see us again or want to come along and get involved, there's more information on our website: www.union.ic.ac.uk/arts/windband.



IC Winds and The Coldstream Guards produce a lot of Wind Power in the Great Hall

Walking with their heads in a cloud

Fellwanderers made their way to Snowdonia for a winter tour Alex Kendall tells felix about their adventures

I watched the weather report for the weekend shortly before leaving for Wales. There was one word which stuck out: storm. And yes there it was, a giant white twirly thing approaching Wales from Ireland.

This thought was momentarily forgotten as I met friends old and new at the union and we prepared for departure. Nathaniel then revealed his 'brilliant idea' and said that because of the greater numbers of people on the trip, we would be strapping our bags to the roof-rack, secured with a tarpaulin called Gilbert and a set of straps called Bloody-Difficult-To-Use. It was a good idea for the windless streets of London and gave us much needed room in the minibus for the 6-hour trip. The dinner break in Warwick was characteristic of the fellwanderers in that food was followed by an urgent trip to stock up on alcohol and chocolate.

Arriving at the hut at 1:30am, after minimum problems getting visas at the heavily-guarded Welsh border, suddenly Gilbert became our foe. In strong wind and driving rain, Chris and myself climbed onto the roof to undo Bloody-Difficult-To-Use and toss off Gilbert to get at the bags. In the space of 5 minutes all the bags were wet. There then followed the several rituals of turning round the minibus, finding beds and making tea.

The Saturday morning greeted us with driving wind and low cloud. We were doing the Nantlle Ridge behind the hut and within walking distance. The surrounding mountains were suitable eerie as we gathered outside to start the walk. Cloud obscured everything more than 200m above our heads and the dampened light brought out the cracks in the rocks and the nearby houses. It was not raining but everything was damp, the kind that gets to you straight away. Dom had other plans and wore 7 layers to keep warm, which quickly reduced him into a sweating wreck which was de-clothed as quickly as possible.

Our ascent up to the ridge into the cloud was steep. Gavin compensated for tiredness and cold by bringing out a bottle of port and hurriedly opening it. This and Jim's Father Christmas hat gave us a festive look which was a brave effort since we saw hardly anyone else on the hill that day. Once in the cloud we were relying on the maps and eventually found our way up a grassy slope to the lunch spot inside a walled circular pen. Everyone held their breath as Jim tried the fig jelly which somehow had found its way into the rations, but he gave it the thumbs up. The lunch break was followed by a scramble along a ridge, using wet rocks as hand-holds and creeping along through the strong wind. The views sometimes cleared down to the valley, but mostly the only vision we had was grey streaking past and whistling through the rocks.

We descended out of the clouds into a forest, which was a welcome change from the sodden grass of the hills. Our course followed a clever idea that some crazy hill-person thought up to annoy everyone else – the stream and the path were the same thing. After descending this with much slipping, we eventually found a proper path which took us through the woods and back onto the hillside. And there it was, in the distance; the pub. The warm fire and local ales immediately took the damp out of us and the group soon divided into those who got puddings, and those



You would think this lot might have learned by now that walking in Wales in the winter is likely leave them very cold and wet.

who simply fell asleep. A quick drive back, beautiful cooking by several 'volunteers' under the whip of Charlie, and the tutoring of the club in Australian card games, took us into the night. After a few hours of sweltering under the heat of the stove which was burning at a balmy billion degrees Celsius, everyone slowly drifted off to bed.

On Sunday we tried to do the Glyders. It was the shortest day of the year. For those that do not know the Glyders, they are a few mountains which form a ridge several miles long and have some of the most beautiful views in Snowdonia. Their peaks are covered in thousands of boulders littered around like shattered egg-shell and which make even the calmest days seem mystical. This was not a calm day.

We got up onto the ridge via the Devil's Kitchen, a beautiful climb up a cliff surrounded by the black buttresses of the Glyders and Y Garn. At this point the wind had not picked up and the climb had a very lord-of-the-rings feel as the cloud came down to meet us. This led to some classic discussions as to who would be the group Golum, which I will not repeat here. It would have been easy to believe we were in middle earth as we saw no one else on the hills, except for a giant spider called Shelob that had to be defeated before lunch.

The rocks, sky and grass were a

soggy grey and soon we were too. As the group stretched out we lost ourselves in the mist and all too often, all I could see of the others were darker patches in the dark grey, in front and behind. The wind was the worst part, and by lunchtime we were pretty damn miserable. A few of us got warmed up by climbing over the top of Castell y Gwynt, a picturesque of somewhat absurdly dangerous rock formation above a thousand foot drop. This led to the sensible decision to get off the mountains as fast as we could. Chris, map in hand, led the charge with the battle-cry of a hardened hill-walker and strode off down a slope. Soon we were all lost. This wasn't actually Chris' fault but a more general joint fuck-up by all the map readers, and the problem that what was meant to be a slope was actually flat.

We gave ourselves confidence by murmuring 'I think it should be a bit more to the left' and eventually found the lake which meant we had gone too far. It was only a matter of tracking back a bit to find the path down top the valley, and we were finally on our way out of the cloud. Spirits perked as we descended and began to get a view of the road far beneath us, the happiest I have ever been to see a car.

Two hours later and we were safely installed in a café in Capel Curig which had hot chocolate and cake, and whose

shop stocked more wine than anything else. We all slowly warmed up. That night was much like the last and involved us being visited by werewolves from Moldova and Austria. I am pleased to say we used the shortest day of the year well.

Monday was our last day in Wales and the morning was spent packing and loading up the minibus. This meant the annoying task of replacing the batteries of all the fire alarms that go off regardless of whether there is a fire or not. We managed to finish this in good time, and Nathaniel returned from driving Heike to the station, looking surprisingly perky from having got up at 4:30am.

It was a short drive to Llanberis from where we would be starting our last walk. The Pete's Eats Café was open and welcoming but, true hill-walkers, we went straight past it and wandered through some fields towards a hill next to Snowdon. The prospect of walking straight into a café upon our return gave us the needed inspiration to go back up into the grey mass that hung above us. Our approach to the hill was easy enough, with views back down to Llanberis and of the lowest few hundred metres of Snowdon. The plan had been to climb up to the ridge via a scree slope which looked good on the map. What we had not realised was that between us and the scree slope was a bog,

crossed by several streams flowing into the lake at the base of Snowdon. This seemed like a bad idea for the final day before a long drive back to London, so instead we went straight up the steep hill to our right which would eventually lead to the summit we were aiming for. Covering this slope was our old friend Gorse, which was helpfully spiky. We used our hands to climb the slope and nothing much eventful happened before we took shelter in a stone shelter on top for lunch. There is no need to describe the views; they were the same as the previous two days. We spent a good few hours in Pete's Eats before boarding the minibus for the return journey. It was good to see the ice cream shop open in December. Only Wales.

All in all, the winter tour was a great success. The company, the food and the luxury mountain hut made up for the grim weather. Even though there were hardly any views for the three days we walked and we were constantly buffeted by gales, rain and cloud, I think everyone secretly enjoyed the weather. There were a few other people on the hills that weekend, but certainly no other groups of 19! All those 19 certainly showed that we love the hills for their own sake. You could almost say 'we choose to go to Wales in December and do the other thing, not because it is easy, but because it is hard'.

Engineers without borders

Joe Corcoran tells *felix* how Engineers Without Borders are “removing the barriers to development using engineering”

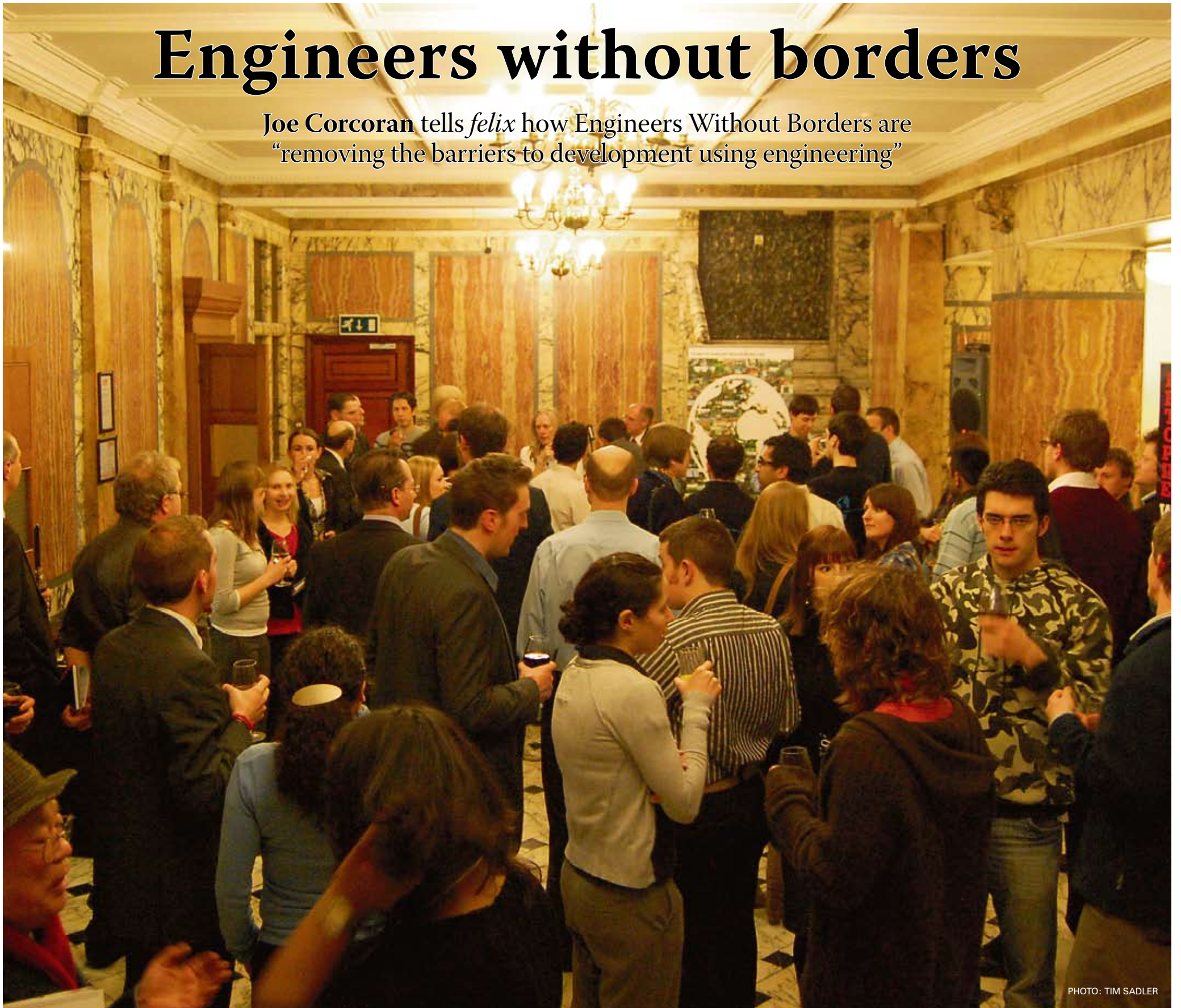


PHOTO: TIM SADLER

Engineers Without Borders – Joe Corcoran, EWB-Imperial President “removing the barriers to development using engineering”

Engineers Without Borders-Imperial is one of around 20 university branches that makes up Engineers Without Borders-UK. The focus of EWB is “to remove the barriers to development using engineering”; what makes us unique from various other charities with similar aims is that EWB is run by students, for students. EWB is not just for engineers – many of our placements are not degree specific and can often just require mathematical competence, a scientific outlook or project management skills. Almost all of our other events can be enjoyed just as much by non-engineers as engineers.

EWB must be the best society at Imperial. What other society gives you the opportunity to live in far-flung parts of the world with local people for weeks over the summer, gives you free events like the photo exhibition last Monday, organises talks for you with some of the most influential people in the world, and gives you all the other miscellaneous treats and events that

only EWB could? (On that note if anyone would like to come on a trip down the London Sewers, let me know!)

Most people associate EWB with the summer placements in international development. The beauty of an EWB

“If anyone would like to come on a trip down the London Sewers, let me know!”

placement is that they utilise the skills you picked up by nearly killing yourself to pass Imperial exams. This tends to mean that you’re doing something that not a lot of people in the world could do and hence you are probably doing something of genuine worth and usefulness. You can rest assured that, on the whole, EWB placements are more useful than the majority of other gap year voluntary schemes where you pay

a UK company to fly across the world to pat a baby lion on the head. Engineering development is notoriously hard to get into as a graduate with little experience. EWB gives students the opportunity to gain that first bit of experience that is invaluable when applying to graduate organisations like RedR.

If you would like to find out more about placements, come along to the 2009 Placements Launch event on 9th Feb, Mech Eng Room 342, 5.30pm.

Speaking of RedR, as you read this Martin McCann is probably speaking in Mech Eng Room 342 (Fri 30th, 12.30-13.30). Martin McCann is the chief executive of RedR and must be one of the most experienced and qualified men in development and disaster relief in the world. This promises to be an informative and inspiring talk so if it’s not too late; get running and come listen! If it is too late then not to worry, become a member and we’ll let you know when our next talk is!

EWB really does have something for everyone, engineer or not. We have

just launched our schools outreach programme, had a successful photo exhibition, guest speakers dropping by almost by the week, got a weekend training workshop coming up and that’s not to mention the social events! We have

“You’re doing something that not a lot of people could do and are probably doing something of genuine worth”

been out for an authentic Ethiopian meal at the weirdest restaurant I have ever been in and have camping trips, nights out and the EWB ‘Battle of the Bands’ in the pipeline.

On a more superficial note, with the credit of everything mentioned above, getting involved in EWB provides a gem of a line on any CV. Especially

when applying to the likes of ARUP or Mott MacDonald, a couple of our biggest sponsors. EWB is such a well known and deserving cause that attending any national events is bound to see you rubbing shoulders with all the right people.

Last summer three Imperial students went on EWB placements. Amongst these was Patricia Steven, 4th year Mech Eng, who conducted an impact study into the existing improved cook-stove in Kathmandu, Nepal. The work included background research, community surveys, field testing, results analysis and reporting. Patricia reports back ‘Practically everyone studying at Imperial has the opportunity to go on an EWB placement from first year entry summer placements to advanced post graduate work. Working with EWB as a student is the best opportunity you have to gain a placement in development and it is certainly an experience that I will never forget.’

If you would like to get involved in or have any questions, please email guilds.ewb@imperial.ac.uk

Exhibition of photography taken on Engineers Without Borders placements

Joe Corcoran
Imperial EWB President

Every year EWB has a photo competition of images taken by students on placements in international development. These photos illustrate the power engineers have to change the world and go some way towards capturing the incredible experience of going on an EWB placement. The exhibition has travelled around other EWB branches around the country but at Imperial the exhibition had an additional role almost unique to the college. It has been said that EWB is the most powerful force in keeping graduates from moving into banking. The photos show the huge impact any engineer can have in changing the world for the better; no placement volunteer can lead a content life in banking after experiencing the power they possess as an engineer.

The photos captured all the aspects of an EWB placement; not only the engineering worked on, but the culture, the country, and most importantly the people and the impact that it has had on local life.

This year's winner was Joe Mulligan with his photo of school children crossing a bridge he helped build. As Thalia Konaris, former Imperial student, and former co-CEO of EWB-UK explains 'Soweto East School Kids was chosen because it has a very original and appealing composition, it visually captures the essence of the project combining final product with its most critical users and also because it highlights the term appropriate in technologies for international development.'

We were fortunate enough to have the exhibition sponsored by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Andrew Lamb the CEO of EWB-UK spoke at

the event in front of the packed Mech Eng Concourse saying 'It is so good to see so many students from the cutting edge of science and engineering here taking an interest in development. I hope they are all inspired by the photos to go and use their skills to make the changes the world desperately needs.'

The Institute of Mechanical Engineers were so enthusiastic about our exhibition that they asked if they could host a day of the exhibition and reception evening. Last Wednesday the Marble Hall at the IMechE HQ was full to the brim with senior representatives from various institutes, companies and charities involved in development. Richard Cunliffe, an Imperial student who has been on an EWB placement spoke at the event and tells us that 'it is great to have the opportunity to actually show so many important people the good work EWB has done. I'm sure EWB-Imperial and the IMechE will have plenty of opportunity to work together in the future.'

Andrew Lamb told assembled students: 'The population of the world has tripled in my grandmother's lifetime and it's going to at least double again just in my working life. 1.2 billion people don't have access to safe drinking water, 2.4 billion people don't have access to safe sanitation, 820 million are underfed and 1.1 billion people are overfed, 3 billion people have never made a telephone call and 3 billion people have no grid electricity supply. One out of every two people on this Earth lives in a city and one-third of them, about 1 billion people, are living in slums.'

The greatest engineering challenge of our time is not the Burj Dubai, is not the London Olympics or Crossrail, the return to the Moon or a manned mis-

sion to Mars, the development of carbon nanotubes or new forms of fuel. The greatest engineering challenge of our time is captured in these photographs this evening. It's the challenge of people. We have to work together to inspire engineers to meet this challenge. And there's a great deal of work to be done.'

Some of the photographs featured in the exhibition can be seen below. Below-top, titled 'Chimney Construction', was taken by Dan Reader. The image features EWB-UK placement volunteer Lily Ryan-Collins as she works with members of the El Abra community in Ecuador to construct a chimney for a new cooking stove being demonstrated in the community.

Today around 700 million people are at increased risk of acute respiratory infections because of smoke inhalation from burning wood and fuels in the home. EWB-UK have been engaged in the design and dissemination of improved stove and chimney designs for over four years in partnership with an Ecuadorian community based organisation FAMUSOD.

Below-bottom is a photograph by Drew Corbyn, titled 'Philippines Windpower', the photograph shows the assembly of a wind turbine on top of the tower before erection in Buli. Drew Corbyn has spent the past year working with Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya or SIBAT, Inc. (Wellspring of Science and Technology) a non-profit and non-governmental organisation engaged in the promotion and development of appropriate technology in the Philippines.

The photos will be used on the Institute of Mechanical Engineers 'Engeneration' website to inspire 14-19 year olds to become engineers.



Andrew Lamb talking to students in the Mech Eng foyer



Lily Ryan-Collins working with members of the El Abra community



EWB volunteers help to assemble a wind turbine in the Philippines

Thomas Hills talks to *felix* about outreach projects run by Imperial Engineers Without Borders in local schools

So when did you first find out what an engineer was? Several non-engineers have told me that if they had known about engineering while at school, they might have chosen it for their degree. With this in mind, three of us from EWB set off to Christ College, Finchley on Wednesday 21st to do a workshop on 'Water for the World', including a presentation on water sources, treatment and appropriate technology. After this, we created crude water filters out of plastic bottles and several filtering materials. They were used to filter muddy water, with varying results!

The aim of EWB outreach motto is "to Inspire Today's Youth to Engineer a Fairer Future". A lot of people, especially children, don't know what is involved in being an engineer, maybe due to the range of jobs that can be done by one. The skills that are learned by engineers can be used outside the traditional workplace and this is what EWB aims to get across. Engineers can make a real difference in people's lives by helping to build electricity generators, water supplies or whatever is needed by people who can't afford (or don't have the skills) to do it themselves. The outreach programme aims to get young people impassioned about international development and the possibilities of taking an active role in improving people's lives. Although this may not be as exotic or glamorous as spending a few weeks in a far-flung part of the world, spending a couple of hours messing about with plastic bottles and muddy water can be quite rewarding and breaks the monotony of an otherwise dull week at Imperial!



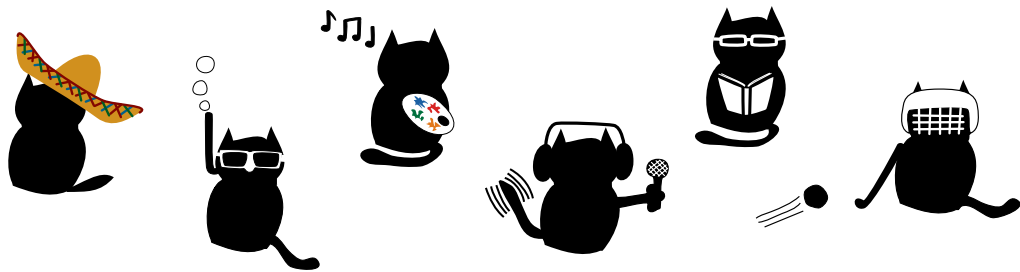
PHOTO: STEVE LONG

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Monday

Christian Union Free Week

Christian Union's week of events starts with a talk entitled: 'Good or God? Who is this Jesus?'

Everyone is welcome to come along - questions are encouraged!

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Ante Room, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Christian Union Free Week

Christian Union invites you to round off the day with an evening of live jazz.

Performed by students from the Royal College of Music, there will be lots of pizza and drinks and a few words for thought from a guest speaker: Roger Carswell.

Time: 7-10pm
Place: 649-652, Mech Eng
Price: Admission Free

KnitSock Party

KnitSock is celebrating its 1st birthday!

Join us for woollen party games including party hat pompoms, pin-the-tail-on-the-sheep, pass the parcel and of course, birthday cake.

Time: 5pm
Place: Meeting Room 1, Beit
Price: Free/£2 (Members/Non-Members)

Membership can be bought on the door or online for £3.

Tuesday

Christian Union Free Week

'Surface Tension or divine intervention?'

Did Jesus really perform miracles?

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Ante Room, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

iCU Cinema

iCU Cinema is hosting a Monty Python themed week: "Everything I Know In Life I Learned From Monty Python".

We will be showing "The Life of Brian" and "The Holy Grail" on both Tuesday and Thursday.

Time: 6pm – Life of Brian
8pm – The Holy Grail
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £3 (one film), £5 (both films).

Membership to iCU Cinema can be bought on the door or online for £3 and includes one free film.

Jam Night

Jazz and Rock invites you to Jam Night. Admission is FREE and open to all.

Bring yourself some beer money and your chosen instrument. It's a great way to meet like minded musicians and potentially form a band.

Time: 7pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Price: Admission Free

Wednesday

Christian Union Free Week

Good news or outdated views? Do the teachings of Jesus matter?

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Union Dining Hall
Price: Admission Free

Plainchant Workshop

Renowned plainchant expert David Bleazard will be running an open workshop on the art of singing plainchant. No prior experience needed.

To book a place contact a.robins@imperial.ac.uk.

Time: 2:30 - 4:30pm
Place: Ensemble 1, Blyth
Price: Admission Free

Thai Night

Thai Society invites you to experience the best of Thailand including Thai-styled live drawing, Thai Boxing and Thai Sword Performance. There are also prizes to be won and a charity auction of a Thai painting which will be drawn on the night!

For further information, contact pc106@imperial.ac.uk.

Time: 7pm
Place: MDH, Sherfield
Price: £15

ACC Bar Night

Time: 8pm
Place: da Vinci's, Beit

For tickets and info, contact accvc@imperial.ac.uk

Thursday

Christian Union Free Week

'Saviour or failure?'

Is Jesus' death really so important?

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Ante Room, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

iCU Cinema

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Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £3 (one film), £5 (both films).

Membership to iCU Cinema can be bought on the door or online for £3 and includes one free film.

Stricly Come Dancing Imperial

Hosted by Imperial College Dance Club, the first round of 'Strictly' features all your favourite 'celebrities' including a Sabbatical and some lecturers battling it out on the dance-floor. This will be a truly unmissable event!

Time: 6:30pm
Place: JCR, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Friday

Christian Union Free Week

'Death-defying or outright lying?'

Did Jesus really rise from the dead - and so what?

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Ante Room, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Valentine's Survey

Leading up to "Understanding the opposite sex", a Valentine event happening next week, Every Nation Christian Society will be surveying 100 people to find out Impeial's views on the opposite sex. Results will be collated and revealed on the night!

Time: 12-2pm
Place: JCR, Sherfield and SAF

Welcome to What's On!

As usual, this page will feature club and society events running from Monday to Sunday of the following week, so get in contact to let us know what you are up to!

The deadline for submissions for next week's edition is midnight on **Monday 2nd February**.

Send in the following to **whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk**.

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

Saturday

Afro-Gala

The Imperial College African and Caribbean Society is proud to present AFROGALA..... The Beginning!

This year's 10th anniversary performance is not one to be missed with fashion shows, creative poetry, singing acts, African 'boogie', interactive street dances, futuristic choreography, a mini carnival and unprecedented acrobatic performances.

Buy tickets online: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/afro-caribbean-11/category.html>.

Time: 6:30pm (Dinner)/7pm (Show)
Place: Great Hall, Sherfield
Price: £10/£12/£20 (Members/Non-Members/Premium)





The soundtrack of your life

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

News just in! Jovan Nedić, *felix* editor has fortunately passed away. I know, right? Awesome! There will be a party to commemorate this momentous occasion on the 2nd of March. However, me telling you this is completely pointless, as only his closest enemies are invited. Just to rub it in we're also going to Byron on Gloucester Road. I don't think there is a better way to celebrate the good news. Well other than mixing his ashes into a pint of snakebite and downing it to absorb his Serbian strength. However if you are one of the few people who abuse him on a daily basis in the office, then you will hear more details later.

This news has got me thinking though. About what kind of music to play at our party. A soundtrack of his life as it were. Not just his life, but yours and mine as well. Let's not talk about Jov any more. What I'm trying to get at here, and admittedly not so well, is that everyone has a soundtrack to their life. This covers their daily activities, moments in the life as well as their *ahem* death. You know what I'm talking about now right? Well if not, then think about it next time you're walking

down the street, listening to music on your iPod (substitute with other MP3 device). Or just watch people as they traverse London, with their massive headphones/earphones on. They all have a different swagger dependent on what they're listening to. Remember that tune from the Matrix when the woman in red appears? Music allows people to submerge themselves into their own little world, whether it be the Matrix, or starting to listen to Foxy Lady in your head when you see someone attractive.

What follows is a list of songs that represent some of the editors' lives:

Jovan Nedić:
Djurdjevdan - Bijelo Dugme

Afonso Campos:
That's The Way - Led Zeppelin

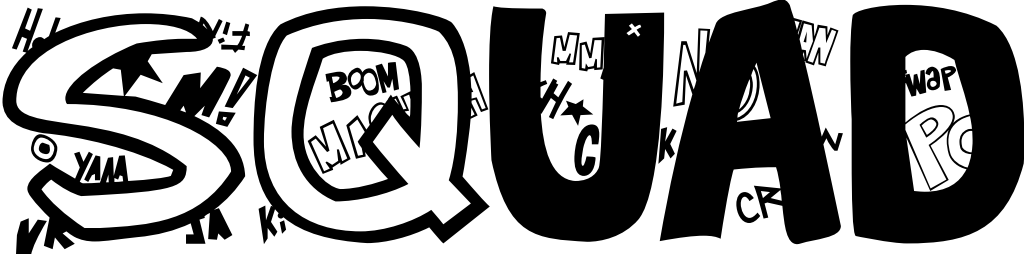
Gilead Amit:
4:33 - John Cage

Mustapher Botchway:
Night Time Manoeuvres - Little Brother

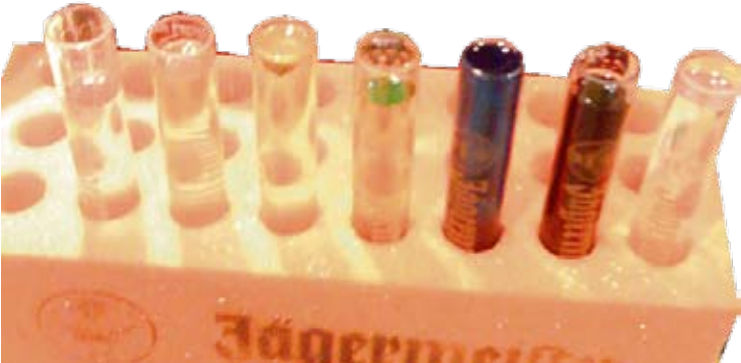
Kadhim Shubber:
Electric Feel - MGMT

Alice Rowlands:
Fat Bottom Girls - Queen

Ravi Pall:
When I Get Down - Logan



DEATH BY TRAY IT SHALL BE.



Ummmmm, Sambuca Rainbow. I luvz it

Want to be part of the latest and blazin'est crew to hit the Union? Now you can. All you need is a Blazer, and to have been working for the Union for at least three months. You find us, we'll find you. Be prepared, heavy drinking will ensue. With favourite drinks such as the Orange Zebra and Sambuca Rainbow, we drink hard, then party harder. None of that drink till you puke business, that's four pop collar cool.

Fighting Buddha



Age:	48 years
Weight:	304 lbs
Height:	6 ft 2"
Combat Skill:	9
Intelligence:	5
Agility:	1

Top Trumps

Cut them out!

Highest score wins

Collect them all!

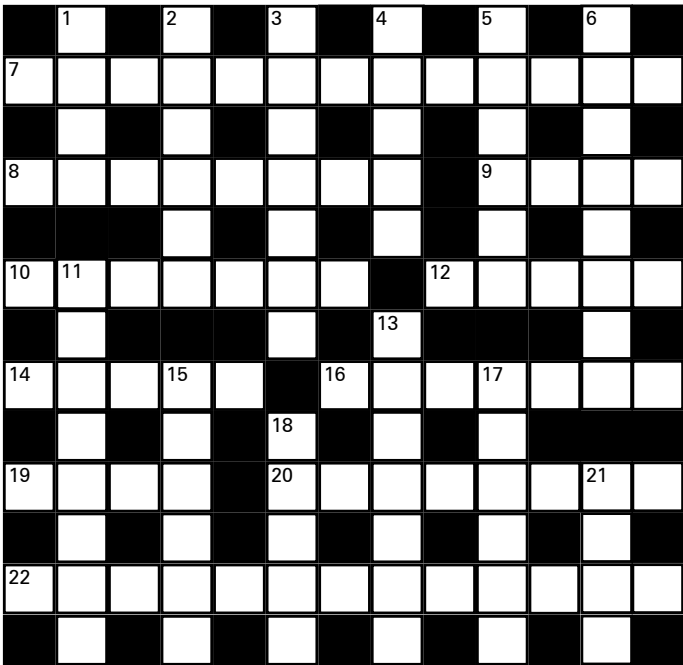
Watch this space for additional cards

Kwanzaa Bot



Age:	19 years
Weight:	400 lbs
Height:	4 ft 2"
Combat Skill:	3
Intelligence:	10
Agility:	6

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,422



Solution 1,421

LITHIUM HELLO
ERMARE
GRAPPLE VIAND
IDANODI
TRESSAUCTION
SDNA
ROCKET CHISEL
OHZO
BREATHESEWER
OMWUTOE
TWINEGHERKIN
ISEMSENAL
CHEST ARSENAL

I must start with an apology. Even though I did promise that this year we (note we- defiantly not passing the blame!) would make no mistakes... last week, we did. Bugger. What can I do? On behalf of my team I offer the most sincere of apologies, but also congratulations of epic proportions are in order for both **Shotgun** and **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** for getting in correct answers with **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** taking the win.

- ACROSS
- 7 Characteristic of surgical after-effects (4-9)
 - 8 Paper round (4,4)
 - 9 Built-in (4)
 - 10 A journey frequently undertaken (7)
 - 12 Set of responsibilities (5)
 - 14 With sincerity (5)
 - 16 Fabric with swirling pattern (7)
 - 19 Buck (4)
 - 20 Withdrawal of money (4-4)
 - 22 NASDAQ, say (5,8)

- DOWN
- 1 Fizzy water (4)
 - 2 Oblique text (6)
 - 3 To reproach (7)
 - 4 Way of representing figures (5)
 - 5 In equilibrium (6)
 - 6 XL (8)
 - 11 Annoy (8)
 - 13 Ecclesiastical robe (7)
 - 15 Bequest (6)
 - 17 Tube (6)
 - 18 Group of musicians (5)
 - 21 Barred enclosure (4)

Scribble box

FUCWIT League Table

Team Shotgun	174 Points
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	173 Points
Giramundo	49 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	26 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Scii Comm	16 Points
Team What What	15 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!

Horocokes, that'll be the Horoscopes on cocaine

This week *felix* got a large shipment of cocaine to help us through the long Wednesday night... I love you



Aquarius

Look at the stars, look how they shine for you, look how all you do is poo... Well, that's all about to change. This is

not a rambling of a man that society has given up on like a 40 year old prostitute on laxatives, things are on the way up. Just when you think things couldn't get any worse, it all works out. You get run over by a Robin Reliant.



Pisces

This week, you think about whether you should buy a ticket to the summer ball while it's cheap, or blow

the money on a G of charlie. You opt for the latter because you think it'll make that night out in Fulham slightly better. Unfortunately you snort half in one line and throw up on the bouncers as soon as you get to the club.



Aries

Your friends taunt you for being a coke head. Teasing you as you spew out the most random of sentences, while

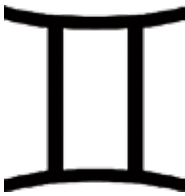
speaking as quickly as possible. You think everything is normal until you get arrested for pulling out a gun. Where the hell did you get a gun? It came with the drugs of course. It's a dangerous world out there.



Taurus

This week you decide to kick your expensive habit, and substitute it with red bull. You seem just as edgy, but begin to

worry when you start urinating blood. Why is this happening? How much red bull have you had? Why am I now addicted to caffeine? You quickly take up some other addictive habit like smoking to kick this one.



Gemini

This week a drugs raid on your room in your hall has turned up unexpected results. Along with the expected drugs,

a child's body was found in your cupboard. Cause of death, suffocation. Also found was a snuff kit, gimp mask (complete with breathing tubes) and various spem filled tubes and glasses. Bukkake anyone?



Cancer

This week you discover the skin covering the cartilage in your septum has disappeared. You

have never noticed this before, and become quite worried. Enough so to post questions on online forums. Maybe you shouldn't have gone on a drugs binge for 4 months, maybe you shouldn't have taken drugs full stop.



Leo

This week begins with love and happiness in the air. The new sense of inner peace is delightful, but you know it

won't last. With two days of drudgery of Imperial behind you, you're once again hollow and empty inside. You long for that plane ticket back to Washington, 'oh Obama... I'm coming to you, I long to kiss your presidential lips.'



Virgo

The week starts out well and is about to get better. You have won a free kiss from *felix* editor and Rugby player

extraordinaire Jovan Nedic. Kisses are available every day, 10am – 5pm to all genders in the *felix* office in the west wing of Beit. Attractive ladies are asked to bring tissues and all others should have masks. No facial Herpes.



Libra

So you think you got rid of that extra weight you put on over Christmas. Well you didn't and to make things worse it

was your New Year's resolution to lose it. If it wasn't... look at the size of you! You're a fucking elephant, it damn should have been. You are fat verging upon clinically obese, you disgust me and all that surround you.



Scorpio

It's obvious that you are pretty. Pretty ugly that is. I suggest you go to Liverpool where you will look passable. If you really

want to look like a hot piece of flesh, make the trek to deep-fried Scotland. They all look like proper munters up there- especially in Glasgow. If there's one city that the world can do without- Glasgow would be it.



Sagittarius

This week you'll meet a girl, or even a boy in the Union. But this is no normal encounter. You are besotted

from first glance and proceed to yell 'I fucking love you' over and over again. This is definitely not due to the aforementioned cocaine that you snorted whilst writing your article down in the *felix* office. Needless to say, you failed.



Capricorn

It's heaven when you manage to release your penis from your flies. This is an experience that you will incur

this week as you rush from the toilet to your 9am lecture. You don't make that 9am. Or in fact your 11am are you are in Chelsea and Westminster hospital. If you are a woman, or not equipped with a willy ignore this. Pint?

Slitherlink 1,422

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1,421 Solution

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft burst onto the Slitherlink scene for first time in 2009 to just pip **Shotgun** to the winners' post. This makes me happy, and when I get happy, you get points!

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!

"Gilbert dougherty is irish. Word. Rumours around that he is an irish nazi. Sick."

"Raj, fancy leek soup sometime? H&M"

"CHRISTIAN! Stop reading this and do some work! We're not paying you to read felix"

"Marco nardone loves men"

"To Katie. Whatever i said, whatever i did, i didn't mean it i just want you back for good. Love Alex de Figueiredo"

"Dear pretty boy Rob. Please stop it. You think your all that, but your not! Ok? And quit the smack, you fucking junkie."

"Pretty boy Rob. You left before I could make you breakfast."

Wordoku 1,422

	I					T	S
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	S				A	Y	I
			G			D	
D	G	S				R	L
		T			D		
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G					T		L
Y	A					R	

Scribble box

1,421 Solution

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

Going Underground

I was informed by **Shotgun** that the first 'Going Underground' had two answers, South Kensington and Liverpool Street. Well done- 5 points! Last week's winners were **Shotgun**... again. If you found COVENT GARDEN, your mother should be proud.

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

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 143?

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

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143

Freshly Squeezed! RCC Nighthike Quizzzy Wizzy

Union banterings through the eyes of the Unreal Machine

Births

Following a traumatic week of false accusations toward both parties of homosexuality and park bench dwelling, two little rays of sunshine have brought hope and joy in dark times. Ralph and Charlotte are proud to announce the arrival on Wednesday of two beautiful boys, Leopold and Wellington. They are in good health and both are already showing strong swimming skills.

Deaths

In an effort to dispel any myth following last week's naked Mexican interrogation that took place in the filthy underworld of the *felix* office, we regret to announce the loss of a much loved couple. They took the age-gap controversy in their stride, standing

Marriages

for much more than just the material things in life, but now remain just chums.

Following the precedent set by their over-zealous facebook declarations of love, two barely-adult freshers are taking the plunge and playing house together.

You know who your real friends are The old changing-the-birthday-to-tomorrow trick employed so cruelly by facebook sex offenders has often caught out members of the victim's lower social strata. However, this week has seen the emergence of a nefarious new technique, by which the rapist sets out a rolling birthday date. We count ten initial non-friends, and three bottom-feeders idiotic enough to post birthday wishes the following day.

This Coffee Break challenge is brought to you by the Recreational Clubs Committee, because in four weeks, on the 28th February it's the Annual RCC Nighthike. One crazy night of clue finding, adventurous walking and hopefully a bit of map reading (but if you can't don't let that put you off). To launch the Science Challenge, this week's titillation is on the theme of the Royal College of Science, more precisely the questions are based on the outsides of the various science buildings. But don't worry engineers, it'll be your turn next week!

All you have to do is track down the answers, email them to **coffee@felix.imperial.ac.uk** and you'll get 'RCC points'. They tell us points definitely

FAIL

Man down! This poor gent found it to be pretty fucking tiring last year

mean prizes, so go check this for loads of pictures and infomation, **www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike**. Here are this week's questions for all of you happy hikers to digest:

Blackett Laboratory: What giant covalent structure is depicted above the main entrance?

Biochemistry entrance: What are the names of the two Nobel laureates who make the chemistry building a 'National Chemical landmark'?

Chemistry: What date was the extension to the Chemistry department opened by the Royal Highness the Princess Royal?

Huxley Building: The Huxley building is the Maths and Computing building, but what subject was Thomas Henry Huxley a professor of?

RCS1: What are the 2nd, 4th & 6th names (Right to Left) on RCS1?

And now for the answers from the last edition's library foray. Well done to the winner, **Wayne Kerr** – come to *felix* to collect a iPod shuffle.

1st floor: Six is the number of the glass study bubble in the red zone, shown by the number of spots on it.

2nd Floor: Probably about three.

3rd Floor: The Science Museum library have a complete set of British Patents up to 1992.

4th Floor: Running with the Devil.

5th floor: In the Economist book of 'Pocket World in figures', pages 102 & 103 are titled 'Stars ... and Wars'

ICSM Badminton tour Holland

Theo Georgiou Delisle
and Priya Garg

Winter, a bit chilly wasn't it? Well, imagine if you will, the idea of going to another country over the festive season that was not only colder than the United Kingdom but where you also had to play eight badminton matches a day. Whilst you were wallowing in the après-Christmas spirit, tugging at straining waistlines, stuffed with a mixture of turkey and chocolate, a few noble ICSM Badminton individuals dusted off their badminton racquets, picked up their passports and headed to the University of Twente, Holland with two hundred and fifty other students from across Europe for the International Student Badminton Tournament of 2008!

After the flight to Holland, it was only a short three-hour train ride to our final destination, Enschede. Upon arrival we were shown to our sleeping quarters; to describe them as luxurious havens of somnolence would be a lie. It was a sports hall, which boasted amongst other luxuries, a gigantic and very cold floor. Luckily for some, alcohol was available from the start and so by the time it was a reasonable hour to climb blissfully into a warm sleeping bag, a floor and towel seemed like an interchangeable alternative.

In the hectic modern world in which we live, a lot can be said for a nice lie-in. This attitude was however beaten into a bruised and bloody submission

by a business-like wake-up call at 8am the next day.

Breakfast then made its inaugural appearance. The classic Jam-Ham breakfast is an oft-overlooked treat that not many individuals have the pleasure of experiencing in this country. For us, however, a jam and ham combined combination was the pot of gold at the end of the breakfast rainbow...and with this solid culinary foundation for the day, we were ready to hit shuttlecocks at some Europeans.

Competing in Regional High, Low and recreational singles, men's, women's and mixed doubles we shuffled off to our games with destiny (nice girl, glossy hair). The tactics employed by the Imperial Medics players were as cunning as they were sexy. For many, a combination of power and accuracy proved the winning formula, for others gentle and dignified submission proved to be the more popular option.

With a reassuring Jam and Ham lunch to power us through the matches, we finished the day (and each of the three days) exhausted but happy watching an amazing nationally ranked German woman destroy the best national male competitors on the show court. We clapped; she grunted.

New Year's was the highlight of the trip. A superb superhero themed night where The Crazy 88 and Super Mario made a special appearance, we danced away our stiff backs and aching shoulders and entered 2009 in style, drinking on the rooftop of the Twente



The Medicals badminton team showing their skills in Holland

Union Bar and watching magnificent fireworks with other students from England, Ireland, Italy, Germany and our host country.

I won't go into details of the remainder of the festivities but all in all, on new year's day, hungover and battleworn after many a shuttlecock had been hit, but refreshed by a ground temperature of -14 degrees, we reflected on a great tour, where hunger did not get in the way of us having a rip-roaring time.

Special Recognition:

Rahim Kanji - For crawling into bed next to Theo at 4am and playing matches again at 8.

Priya Garg - Playing against some giant women and changing several players names on the score sheets.

Sas Srinivisan - Playing, and winning wearing two trousers, coat, jumper and a scarf.

Vishnu Aggarwal - For sleeping with Sas and playing without complaint.

Daniel Wang - For winning his doubles at an unearthly hour and going back to bed musing 'was it worth it?' as he ate peas and carrots from a jar.

Theo Georgiou Delisle - For dressing as Super Mario on New Year's Eve. 'Theo is on fire!'

Katie Wong - For supplying the gin and vodka as well as some handy badminton hints for those of us competing in the regionals.

Thomas Ward - Competing with a partner who had a twitch of flicking his leg up as he hit the shuttle.

Rishi Patel aka Squishy - Took on 'Thomaas Ward' for some ICSM Badminton vs ICSM Badminton grudge matching.

Sandra Sadoo - One of the many names the intercom found hard to say. 'Sado' managed to hit her way to second place in the recreational mixed doubles.

Da Way Wang - Won the recreational players category and displayed some solar system themed-pyjama wear.

Pram Chinduluri - Won the recreational players category and for being surprisingly chirpy with an average of 15 hours kip during the trip.

Naveen Setty aka Zelda - Won the recreational players category and for an extraordinary smashing leap captured in a photo.

Joy Palit - For her crazy dancing, making the team survive the 5am New Year's call and thinking that a shuttlecock was called a 'cuttleshock' until the tournament started.

ICSMBC sprint to victory

Emma Stimson

ICSMBC dominated the UH Winter Regatta on Sunday 25th January as they sprinted their way to winning a phenomenal amount of medals. An impressive five finals and three victories were achieved due to the sheer determination and solid team-work of the crews.

The preparation and excitement began on Saturday night for the novice crews who 'carbo-loaded' in Southside halls.

All members devoured copious amounts of pasta, sweets, cake, and popcorn. After the inspirational talks and encouragement were delivered, the novices crawled into bed to be ready for the next day.

The Women's 2nd VIII (a crew containing two new members, one a novice) had never rowed together before and therefore set out early Sunday morning with their spirits high, happily battling the heavy rain, freezing cold and forceful wind with a purpose; to train to win.

As the weather cheered the Gunnersbury UL Boathouse filled with anxious but enthusiastic ICSM supporters, shouting encouragement far louder than any of the other supporters.

An interesting start was made by the Women's 2nd VIII who raced GKT. Due to no fault of our crew, the boats came so close together the launch commanded the race to stop and it was decided that the rest of the race should be finished from that position. The girls refused to be distracted and so ploughed on and won all their races thereafter.

Some absolutely beautiful rowing was observed from the Girls Novice 1st VIII who won all their races convincingly. The fantastic rowing technique of

the girls is a result of the dedication of the entire crew, described well by Captain Ola Markiewicz: "Races are not won on the day, but by all the training, hard work and effort before-hand." Of course the commitment, perseverance and devotion of the captains, coaches and coxes contributed enormously to each crew's success.

The Boys Novice 1st VIII gave a strong, confident performance and were placed as the best UH crew. Having raced the previous day in the Quintin Head, (without a cox box!) the Senior Women's 1st VIII managed to beat St George's men but unfortunately weren't able to beat RUMS in

the final. However, the Senior Men's 1st VIII were successful in flattening all competition, thoroughly deserving the medals that they won.

Team effort was vital on Sunday and all of the ICSM coxes were vigilant, passionate and enthusiastic, to the extent that an attempt to converse with them between races was met with: 'Must. Conserve. Voice.'

Celebration followed the success in true medic-style with a pub crawl from Gunnersbury to Hammersmith after the presentation of medals. A thrilling day for all involved, ICSMBC has truly raised its game and shows great promise of further medals in the future!



The winning ladies team showing off their medals

Rugby 1sts win first match

Continued from back page

to tap and punt the ball cross field and off the pitch; a move that earned him Twat of the Match.

The half time score was 12-7 in Imperials favour, "Don't change a thing" was captain James Pettit's half time order. At the beginning of the second half Oxford came out strong and their fly half sent IC back into their own 22 with a good chase which made IC concede a penalty. The three points conceded were a wake up call for IC. A loose ball kicked was on and chased by Flannan O'mahony but he was just unable to collect it but Tom Carroll was

on hand to pick it up and beat 2 men to cross the line. The kick converted, Imperial were 19-10 up. Oxford hit back with some good phases of play from their backs, but were halted when outside centre James Fletcher destroyed his opposite number with the biggest hit of the season. IC returned with a great 50m dash down the wing from Adam Foley but was stopped just short of their line. Oxford conceded another penalty in their 22 which the on form kicker converted. 22-10 was the final score IC 1st XV had won for the first time this season a more jubilant rendition of Silvia has rarely been seen! Man of the Match went to Nick Johnstone.



Alex Johnstone earning another three valuable points for Imperial

Ask the captain - Sarah Rose Clayton



This week Jack Cornish meets up with his female counterpart Sarah Clayton, the ladies 1st XI captain who has successfully led a young team to some phenomenal results!

Good morning. First things first, how has your season been?

Really good thanks. We have lots of freshers in this year so had a bit of shaky start but we are now doing well in both the leagues and cups. We are the only hockey team left in BUCS cup.

Any star players within the team?

Well, I could be diplomatic and say my whole team. However my current goalkeeper is great - she is the fifth one we have had this season!

Why so many goalies?

Mainly due to injury, but also due to the fact that some of the freshers have found it difficult to fit in the hockey with the social and work life of IC.

Do you find fitting in hockey a problem?

No - I simply work harder than most other people I think. I use the week-ends to get my work done. The good thing about hockey is that it is weekly and scheduled so you know what time you need to take out.

Clearly in some sports there is a big difference between the Medical and IC teams, why do you think hockey is dominated by IC?

I think the difference is that IC is a mixed club and we train hard and play hard. Although this year the medics are a much better team than in previous years which will make Varsity far more exciting (although I hope our keeper does not get sent off this year!) Who are you guys playing today?

Medics! What was the score last time you played them?

3-1 victory in extra time. It was a very frustrating game and we hope to beat them by the usual margin at Varsity.

I understand that you have a lot of fixtures to play this half of the season - how are you coping with that?

Well, the Wednesday's are not really a problem but if we keep succeeding in cup games then Sundays will start filling up. Sundays are always an issue with getting a team together and making sure the energy levels are up!

What stages are you at in the cups?

In the BUCS cup we are in the 4th round and in ULU cup we are through to the quarter-finals.

Moving on from the state of play, how is the social side of ICHC?

Great fun - especially this year with lots of freshers who have lots of time and boundless energy!

Any funny stories you want to share?

Soho Slag has a tendency to end up in Soho with a certain Men's 3rd XI player!

Moving on from the hockey club, what do you

think of the state of sport at Imperial?

In general it is OK. Obviously it is not a priority for Imperial students unlike some other universities, but I think ICHC do very well, considering the small numbers available.

What about the rugby - who will win the J.P.R. Williams Cup?

I would love to say IC, but on current form and past history the medics will probably do it again. I hope I am wrong!

So what are your ambitions in hockey and life?

I want to play hockey for the rest of my life. It is a sport that you can play until old age! In life I am one of the few people on an Engineering course that actually wants to stay in engineering!

Why do you think there is such a gap in standard between the ladies 1st and 2nds?

I think it is simply a fact that there are not enough women at Imperial who want to play. Izzy (ladies 2nd XI captain) has worked really hard to push the team forward and try and bring the teams closer, but at the same time I think it is good that there is a social aspect to the hockey. Not a lot of people really want to put in the time, but would just rather play hockey because they enjoy it, and I think that is a good thing.

Do you think that there is a problem in terms of depth of strength in the women's teams.

It is very frustrating for the players that could come up, such as Izzy and Bella, who are both good strong players, but there is simply not enough space on the women's first team to bring them along. At the same time, there is not enough player development going on to improve the standard in the lower teams.

Is there nothing

that can be done to improve this problem?

More pitch space would be great! It would mean we would have more space for training since at the moment we have six teams all training on one pitch. Also having coaches would be great, at the moment we only have the one coach and he spends his time with the men's firsts.

It was mentioned in last weeks issue that Sport Imperial have bought new land in Ealing due to

the expansion of Heathrow. Do you think that they should perhaps build more hockey pitches?

We have so many players in the club, similar to that of the football club and rugby club, yet we only have one pitch to play and train on. If we only had a handful of hockey players then it would make sense to only have one pitch, but we don't. So if we could have more pitches at the new grounds that would be great!

In my comment last week I was saying that the rest of the season is now predictable for a lot of the teams. Do you think the same can be said for yours?

I think our season is a bit different to a lot of the clubs since we did have a massive influx of freshers this season. It meant that at the start of the season, the team was new and not used to playing with each other, but now

we have grown as a team. I think some of those games that we narrowly lost at the

last year, but I think we have definitely improved.

Would you agree with the comment I made last week where I criticised paying £10 to watch the main event at Varsity?

I don't think a lot of people go along to watch it really. Personally I enjoy Varsity as an event because I play in it, but I don't see why quite a lot of people go to watch all the sports. I go to the rugby match because it is the start to rest of my evening before we all go back to the bar to either commiserate or celebrate depending on the outcome. But I do find it quite odd that people go along to watch the rugby match because it is a clear cut result and it is only university level rugby, I mean I can pay £5 to watch Saracens play and the level is much better. Considering you do get transport as well, I guess it's not that bad.

Do you think more of an effort should be made to create a spectacle of the other sports.

I think it would be difficult to do since everyone plays in different locations. For hockey I know we do get quite a crowd watching the games, mainly because players from both clubs are

Name: Sarah Rose Clayton
Team: IC 1st Women's Hockey

Position: Defence
Date of Birth: 30/05/1987
Hometown: Hong Kong
Course: 3rd Year Civil Engineering
Height: 5'5
Weight: 60kg



Sarah has been faced with a difficult challenge this year - having lost a number of key players at the end of last season she has brought in freshers and senior players alike to out together a successful squad. Her passion for drinking, hockey and the occasional epic boogie means she is made for ICHC! A true defender her play is solid yet sometimes a little rural which is apparently perfect for the match against the medics in a few weeks time...

there watching the match even if they're not playing. For the later matches of hockey we get people screaming from the sidelines which makes a good atmosphere. I don't know what it would be like for netball since they don't have any viewing areas in Ethos, but it would be difficult in general since everyone is all over the place.

Any sporting idols or people you generally aspire to?

Mark Foster is fit! You can definitely put that in. But in general no because I don't want to be a sports player, that's not my aim.

Focusing on women's hockey and women's sport in general, there is a clear lack of publicity for it. Even in the sports that are publicised and televised, such as football and rugby, the female equivalent is almost nonexistent. Seeing as hockey itself only seems to be in the spotlight come the Olympics, would you say it is even worse for women's hockey?

You're right, there is clearly a lack of knowledge, especially for female hockey, but I think there are people who are more interested in it than me. For example Vicki, who is my vice-captain, is Argentinian and it is a huge sport over there, so she could probably name all the players and all the teams out there, and she regularly watches the matches over the internet.

I think it really is more of a cultural thing. Not many schools play hockey, not many people play it in general from a young age therefore they don't know anything about it. The fact that the sport isn't really shown in the UK would also make matters worse.

Finally, anything you want to say?

Ladies please come and play hockey, we are lots of fun. Oh and see you in the union next week for the ACC bar night. The theme is quite good as we've got quite a few teams involved in a Rubik's Cube type theme. Should be fun!



PHOTO BY DAVID MURRAY

Sport

Imperial 4ths vs Holloweiiii!

IC 4s march on to ULU Cup quarter finals with run-a-way victory at Fortress Harlington against Holloway 4s

Football	
Imperial Men's 4th XI	8
Royal Holloway 4th XI	1

James Skeen

(ed - For brownie points, can you spot the 10 aviation themes in the article?) Following the unbeaten run in 2009, ICUAF 4th XI have shed last year's baggage, reclaiming their rightful position at the top of Division 1. With soaring confidence and Holloway failing to put up little resistance this one was a truly one sided game.

It was Holloway, however, who drew first blood with an early goal ten minutes into the game where a sliced cross from a man who had slipped under the radar crept in at the back post.

However Imperial controlled the remainder of the half and Deen, recently compared to Diego Tristan, steadily built towards a remarkable average of 2 goals per game netting a first half hat-trick.

Mamzi, Marc and Rich also produced goals straight from the top drawer, adding their names to the rapidly growing score sheet. Imperial finished the first half a staggering 6-1 up against Holloway.

Captain Jeremy painted a debonair portrait on the touchline as his tactical decisions, which have been previously criticised for the way he throws subs on at half-time, paid dividends as fresh legs on the wings from French Jeremy and Ciaran continued to cause their full backs (one nicknamed 'Ghandi', presumably because he too was shit at football) problems.

Johnny Hill and Deen added to the

J. Skeen	Magical 1-on1 save, and rejected a 30 yard lightning bolt to highlight another (near) perfect performance. Minus 1 to limit ego.	9
P. Meier	Faultless performance at right back. As solid at the back as dangerous on the break. Paul Scholes' love child.	1
M. Southern	"Golden Shins" failed to add to his tally for the season but produced a number of good tackles. Allowed Holloway a 1v1 play.	7
M. Allen	1) Pushed on in the 2nd half (but rarely returned). 2) Limited moaning at the referee. 3) Solid running down of the clock.	3
M. Greatorex	Quality goal to open the onslaught. Involved in attacks and causing problems to Holloway's substandard defence.	9
M. Roshid	Always wanting the ball which got him on the end of a Deen pass, and finished by casually skinning the keeper to put one in the onion bag.	8
M. Smith	Didn't shoot all game which dramatically reduced the total number of throw-ins and goal kicks compared to usual.	8
J. Hill	Good game and a class goal, but highlighted for the ridiculous comment about the cup run being like Eminem, "One chance, one opportunity."	1
A. Childs	Looking to attack the hole at the back door and get in behind helpless defenders. Looked dangerous off the ball.	5
R. Collins	Right footed wonder volley, and made Holloway question whether to play with two left backs to quell the threat.	9
D. Bakare	Another 4 goals to take his taller to 8 in 4 games. Deeeaaannnoooo!!!	10
C. Mcilwham (R. Collins, 45)	Produced the worst shot in recorded history which could have taken the score to 9-1.	2
J. Turcaud (M. Roshid, 45)	Usual French flair, combined with much theatrics and complaining to the officials.	8
J. Lovett (Manager)	If he'd used the conventional 4-4-2 it would have been a cricket score. Predictable subs lacked inspiration.	1

goal fest, ending the game 8-1.

With the January transfer window set to close and a number of new arrivals, IC 4s believe they have the strength and depth to really take off in this highly competitive cup.

February is upon us again...

Tom Ward

This can only mean two things: Hyde Park relays and Valentines Day. Unfortunately this year they fall on the same day (14 February, just to spell it out) but since if you are reading this, you probably go to Imperial, it's not a hard choice really is it?

For those of you who haven't heard of the Hyde Park relays, it's a yearly event where teams take it in turns to run round Hyde park, in an attempt to get the lowest total time. Naturally there are prizes - best men's, best women's and the coveted wooden spoons.

A perfect time to prove how much more of a (wo)man you are than your friends, coursemates, colleagues and everyone else.

With this short distance even non-hardcore "50 miles a year, not 50 miles a week" people can have a go and have

a laugh.

And its not just a race. Oh no! There is a meal afterwards, complete with a party in the union. Style not needed.

To all these fun events we add about 800 foreign students (including some lovely Italian men for your consumption) and students from other universities! Men - this means more women! Women - this means less geeky men! What have you got to lose, apart from a few pounds?


For the women's teams you need four runners running 3km each, and for mixed and men's teams your team must have six runners running 5km each.

To register go online to <http://www.imperialcollegeunion.com/cross-country-71/category.html>

So this February, instead of doing something with the one you love (your hand doesn't count) come run and have a laugh in Hyde park!





Cornish beasting out 5km in last years epic HPR (final time of 23.01)



Fixtures & Results

in association with *Sports Partnership*



Saturday 24th January

Football
ULU Cup
Men's 1s 2-5 LSE 1s
Men's 4s 8-1 Royal Holloway 4s

Lacrosse
Men's 1st 5-15 University of Hertfordshire 1st

Sunday 25th January
Volleyball
BUCS Tournament
Men's 1st 2-0 UCL 1st
Men's 1st 1-2 University of Essex 1st
Women's 1st 2-1 UCL 1st
Women's 1st 2-0 University of Reading 1st

Monday 26th January
Netball
Women's 1s ULU 14-52 UCL 1s ULU
Women's 3s ULU 15-10 King's College 4s ULU

Water Polo
Mixed 1s ULU 20-2 UCL 2s ULU

Wednesday 28th January
Badminton
Men's 1st 2-6 Brunel University 1st
Women's 1st 4-4 UCL 1st

Fencing
Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st

Football
BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 0-4 University of Kent 1st
ULU
Men's 5s ULU 3-2 UCL 5s ULU

Hockey
Men's 3rd vs Royal Vets 1st
BUCS Cup
Women's 1st 4-4 RUMS 1st
ULU
Men's 1s ULU 4-2 Imperial Medicals 1s ULU
Women's 2s ULU 1-1 RUMS 2s ULU

Lacrosse
Men's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st
Women's 1st 26-0 University of Kent 1st

Rugby
Men's 1st 22-10 Oxford University Greyhounds
Men's 2nd 0-36 St Barts 1st
Men's 3rd 27-3 University of Sussex 2nd

Squash
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st
BUCS Cup
Men's 1st 4-1 University of Sussex 1st
Men's 2nd 3-2 Imperial College 3rd

Volleyball
Men's 1st 2-0 UCL 1st

Saturday 31st January
Fencing
BUCS Tournament
Women's 1st vs Oxford University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Football
Men's 2s ULU vs LSE 1s ULU
Men's 2s ULU vs RUMS 1s ULU
Men's 3s ULU vs King's College 1s ULU
Men's 4s ULU vs LSE 5s ULU
Men's 5s ULU vs LSE 4s ULU
Men's 6s ULU vs Imperial Medicals 3s ULU
Men's 7s ULU vs RSM 1s ULU
ULU Cup
Men's 5s vs Royal Vets 1s
Men's 6s vs Heythrop College 1s

Tennis
Women's 1st vs Brunel University 1st

Sunday 1st February

Basketball
Men's 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway Men's 1s ULU

Fencing
Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
BUCS Tournament
Women's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st

Hockey
Men's 3s ULU vs St Barts 2s ULU
ULU Cup
Men's 1s vs King's Medicals 1s
Men's 2s vs Goldsmiths 1s
Women's 1s vs St George's 1s
Lacrosse
Women's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st

Rugby
Women's 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway 1s

Tennis
Women's 1st vs LSE 1st

Monday 2nd February

Netball
Women's 2s ULU vs Uni of the Arts London 1s ULU
ULU Cup
Women's 1s vs RUMS 1s

Squash
ULU Cup
Women's 1s vs RUMS 1s
Women's 2s vs St George's 1s

Wednesday 4th February

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

Basketball
Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st
Women's 1st vs Thames Valley University 1st

Football
Men's 1st vs Roehampton University Mens 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Hertfordshire 3rd
Men's 3rd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd
Women's 1st vs University of Surrey 1st
Men's 5s ULU vs LSE 5s ULU
Men's 6s ULU vs SOAS 2s ULU
Men's 7s ULU vs St Barts 3 ULU

Hockey
Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st
Men's 2nd vs King's Medicals 2nd
Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd
Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 4th
Women's 1st vs Brunel University 2nd
Women's 2nd 1-1 RUMS 2nd

Netball
Women's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st
Women's 2nd vs LSE 3rd
Women's 3rd vs University of Reading 4th

Rugby
Men's 1st vs Imperial Medicals 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Essex 1st
Men's 3rd vs Imperial Medicals 3rd
Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 4th

Squash
Men's 2nd vs UCL 2nd
Men's 3rd vs University of Kent 2nd

Tennis
Men's 1st vs Brunel University 1st
BUCS Cup
Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 2nd

Volleyball
Women's 2nd vs King's College 1st

IC Riding 1st team kicks off the season well

Chloé Sharrocks

As most students slept through their 9 o'clock lectures on Wednesday 21st January the Imperial College Riding 1st Team were busy getting ready for their first competition of the season. Being a home competition at Trent Park Equestrian Centre (one stop from the famous Cockfosters station) the pressure was on the IC riders to perform their best.

In the dressage phase (aka ballet for horses) we were drawn to go first with Trisna Tungadi the first rider in the arena on our secret weapon Chess. Unfortunately we had been hoping she would be the last rider on him as, ever the exuberant horse, Chess goes better the more time there is to wear him out! Sadly he remained as lively as ever, not helped by someone scaring him moments before they went in to do their test. Nevertheless, an admirable per-

formance saw Trisna lying in 6th place after the dressage.

My horse James & I did not fare so well, finding the photographer particularly spooky and, like Trisna, I felt I would have benefited from being a later rider on him to allow him more time to settle. A disappointing performance saw me lying 10th individually after the dressage. Thankfully Kathleen Duclos on Phoebe and our team captain André Wilmes on Smithy rode fabulous rounds, with André easily lying in first place individually after the dressage.

Going into the showjumping we were in first place as a team and had high hopes of success. André was the first IC rider to jump and one pole down left him briefly concerned until he saw the other riders on Dan also suffer similar fates. Good rounds from Trisna on Charm and Kathleen (who managed to put aside her nerves of falling off the big jumping Abbey) meant a win for

Imperial was inevitable. With only the top 3 scores from each team counting, the team results were already decided and my jumping round was a mere formality. Nevertheless, riding speed-machine Trio, I managed to jump the only clear round of the IC team.

With obvious jubilation for winning our home competition (and thus one step closer to regional qualification) it was also great to discover the success of individuals. Kathleen and Trisna finished 5th and 6th respectively and André wowed the other competitors so much that they felt the need to double-check his very high score before confirming his individual win.

After disappointment in previous years at the home competitions, it was great to see IC Riding back on top form and we now have high hopes for our remaining two competitions before the regional qualifying teams are decided in the near future.



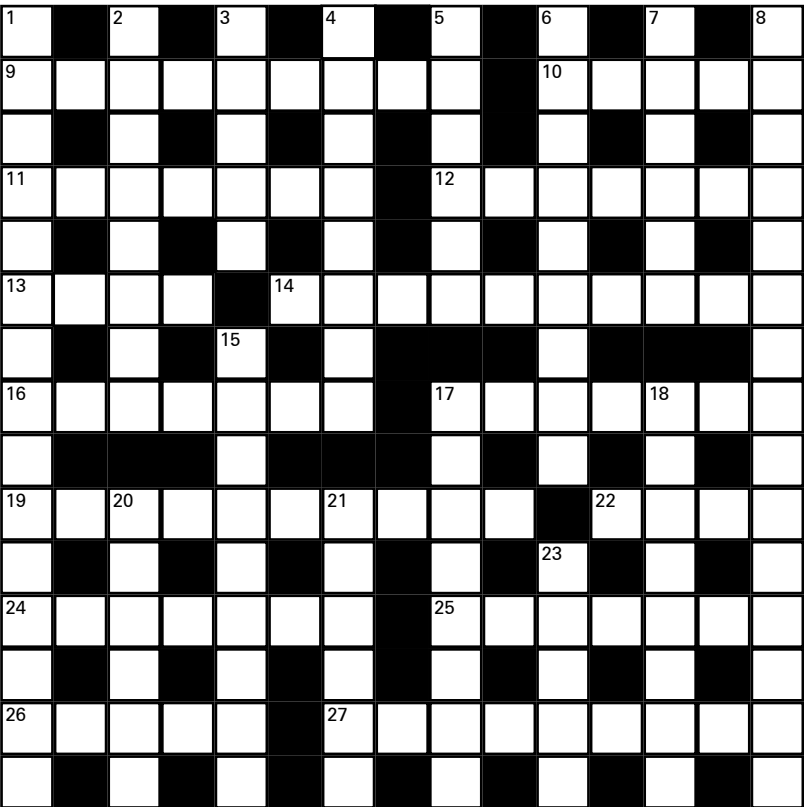
The white horse manages to clear the fence with ease

Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Squash Men's 1st	10	10	0	0	44	6	38	100	5.00
2 Fencing Men's 1st	7	7	0	0	934	533	401	100	5.00
3 Volleyball Women's 1st	7	7	0	0	14	1	13	100	5.00
4 Tennis Men's 1st	6	6	0	0	51	9	42	100	5.00
5 Lacrosse Women's 1st	9	8	0	1	139	31	108	89	4.00
6 Hockey Men's 1st	8	7	0	1	45	11	34	88	3.88
7 Netball 2nd	7	6	0	1	262	134	128	86	3.71
8 ICSM Netball 3rd	7	6	0	1	227	114	113	86	3.71
9 Squash Men's 2nd	7	6	0	1	23	10	13	86	3.71
10 Badminton Men's 1st	10	7	2	1	52	28	24	70	3.50
11 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	4	3	0	1	18	14	4	75	2.75
12 Fencing Women's 1st	4	3	0	1	524	444	80	75	2.75
13 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	9	6	1	2	45	17	28	67	2.67
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 Women's 1st	9	5	1	3	28	22	6	56	1.67
17 Hockey Men's 2nd	8	5	0	3	32	22	10	63	1.63
18 Hockey Men's 3rd	7	3	2	2	15	24	-9	43	1.57
19 Basketball Women's 1st	7	4	0	3	326	309	17	57	1.14
20 Badminton Women's 1st	10	5	1	4	46	34	12	50	1.10
21 Badminton Men's 2nd	6	2	2	2	24	24	0	33	1.00
22 Hockey Men's 4th	5	2	1	2	12	20	-8	40	0.80
23 ICSM Football Men's 1st	8	4	0	4	12	17	-5	50	0.50
24 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	8	4	0	4	163	164	-1	50	0.50
25 Squash Men's 3rd	6	3	0	3	11	9	2	50	0.50
26 Basketball Men's 1st	6	3	0	3	432	412	20	50	0.50
27 Fencing Men's 2nd	6	3	0	3	722	690	32	50	0.50
28 Squash Women's 1st	9	1	5	3	15	25	-10	11	0.33
29 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	11	5	0	6	217	240	-23	45	0.09
30 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	9	4	0	5	123	143	-20	44	0.00
31 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	6	2	1	3	16	19	-3	33	0.00
32 Tennis Men's 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	-6	33	0.00
33 Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	13	18	-5	29	-0.57
34 Volleyball Men's 1st	8	3	0	5	7	10	-3	38	-0.63
35 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	8	3	0	5	98	179	-81	38	-0.63
36 Football Men's 2nd	6	2	0	4	14	23	-9	33	-1.00
37 Tennis Women's 1st	7	2	0	5	26	44	-18	29	-1.43
38 Football Women's 1st	7	2	0	5	10	25	-15	29	-1.43
39 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	11	3	0	8	209	308	-99	27	-1.55
40 ICSM Netball 1st	10	2	1	7	254	362	-108	20	-1.60
41 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	8	2	0	6	13	12	1	25	-1.75
42 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
43 Netball 3rd	6	1	0	5	62	204	-142	17	-2.50
44 Football Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	11	25	-14	17	-2.50
45 Lacrosse Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	40	93	-53	14	-2.71
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 Rugby Union Men's 1st	11	1	0	10	114	380	-266	9	-3.18
50 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	9	0	1	8	10	63	-53	0	-3.33
51 Netball 1st	7	0	0	7	137	271	-134	0	-4.00
52 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	5	0	0	5	3	32	-29	0	-4.00
53 Table Tennis Women's 1st	4	0	0	4	3	12	-9	0	-4.00
54 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	4	0	0	4	0	12	-12	0	-4.00
55 Rugby Union Women's 1st	1	0	0	1	0	80	-80	0	-4.00

Crossword No. 1,422

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



ACROSS

- 9 Tiger seen roaming the desert (9)
- 10 Military organization linked to popular television show characteristic of Arab country (5)
- 11 Fancy type of party thrown together for formerly petrified woman (7)
- 12 Those not involved with the church cover up a fraud using as few words as possible (7)
- 13 Instrument homeless people have at heart (4)
- 14 Accompanied Charon across the receding deep (10)
- 16 The more confusing type of mathematical statement (7)
- 17 Word of praise? (7)
- 19 Study of life-forms strikes gloomy note (10)
- 22 In the Middle East, Iran will instigate action (4)
- 24 Slowly approaching central tenet found in ancient spiritual text (7)
- 25 Support structure found in any disorganized state (7)
- 26 To bring forth emotions is acceptable in the evening (5)
- 27 Bird makes loud indication in easy situation (9)

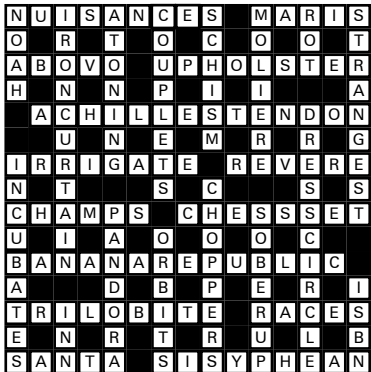
DOWN

- 1 x or •, for instance (1,4,2,3,5)
- 2 Brutish oaf once pursued editorship, bringing together the top characters who worked on Vanity Fair (8)
- 3 Retinue returns, come together (5)
- 4 Angels spare him being disfigured (8)
- 5 Can excite the Queen's husband – so I hear (6)
- 6 Because sleep produces the most truthful... (6)
- 7 ...body of work, requiring new, original, explosive device (6)
- 8 Approximate timing of a third hymn throws off internal clock (9,6)
- 15 Parliaments without leaders run off the tracks set down for them (9)
- 17 Mahogany-floored celebration of New Year's Eve (8)
- 18 Looking out for gin and tonic with a twist (8)
- 20 Add to the end a way of approaching situations (4,2)
- 21 Inheritance caged up, reduced in size and held by lawyers selling their wares (6)
- 23 A loud indication to cut dynamite short and duck (5)

Behold.

Enoch

Solution to crossword 1421





Rugby 1sts win at last!

ICURFC's talent and determination finally pays dividends as they outperform Oxford Greyhounds at Harlington.

Rugby	accenture	ARUP
Imperial Men's 1st XV	22	
Oxford Greyhounds 1st XV	10	

Nicholas Johnstone

It was a bleak grey day at Harlington and IC were in high hopes for the New Year after an upsetting first term not recording a single win. It was the return game of their heaviest defeat in 2008 against top of the league Oxford University Greyhounds. Pre-game the focus was high and the tension massive, silencing the changing room.

IC would receive the kick off and instantly the nerves showed, letting Oxford retrieve the ball. Poor communication in defence saw the Oxford number 8 run in under the posts in the first two minutes. It looked like it

would be one of those days, but for the first time this season IC heads didn't fall. A good chase from the kickoff and sustained pressure produced mistakes from Oxford giving IC a penalty which Alex Johnstone kindly slotted.

The first half carried on much the same way with great pressure from IC keeping their opposition firmly in their half. Oxford's saving grace was the boot of their fly half pinning IC back when they got possession. When IC kicked the chase was strong even from more unlikely members of the team, prop Joe Sanders chasing his own hack through and winning a penalty. The pressure gave IC three more kickable penalties in the first half, all neatly put away. In-discipline from Oxford in their own 22 gave IC a penalty on their 5m line. The excitement got the better of the IC fly half Joe Brown who took the decision

Continued on page 36

PHOTO BY TOM ROBERTS



Trapmore's 'Detox-Row' cleanses crews

Christina Duffy

Quintin Head 2009: It was a risky move but Trapmore was confident the short term losses would result in long term gains. Quintin Head was ICBC's first head race of the year and was the designated purification race where all bad form was cleared out of storage and released in a total squad spring cleaning.

International coaches concede that rowing detoxs are harmless but question the value of a 'Detox-Row' due to lack of supporting factual evidence. 'New-age' or 'Alternative' rowing is a relatively new concept but ICBC is keen to keep it's finger on the pulse of modern rowing. Crews were quick to adapt to the system displaying poor rock-over, short strokes, late catches and lack of rhythm.

The three racing crews masterfully fulfilled the brief and finished down the field with the highest result of the day third in WS2 and N.

'Viper' Fieldman coxed the senior women's 8+ (Louise Hart, Rachael Davies, Ellie Dorman, Erica Thompson, Stef Menashe, Clarice Chung, Chris-

tina Matteotti & Chloe Symmonds).

The transfer from men's to women's boats had Fieldman struggling to make calls; "That's good boys, eh, I mean girls... Whatever, just row."

They came third (14:24.9) behind boat house neighbours Thames RC in second (14:29.2) and the overall WS2 winners City of Oxford (14:19.8).

Pressure has been on the women's squad this year with seats hotly contested for the Women's Head of the River in March. Their ability to follow through the guidelines of the 'Detox-Row' is a credit to all involved.

Temptations to perform well and dominate the race were brushed aside in true ICBC spirit.

The three novice boats were all suitably dissatisfied with their execution of rowing. The novice women narrowly escaped being coxed by Officer Duffy, a predicament which may have permanently ended website race reports. Luckily the weathery hands of Libby Richards took control of the steering and cruised to a solid sixth place finishing (17:11.2) behind winners Kingston Grammar School (16:33.6).

The almost 40 second deficit was

ample time for the classic-mistake-stockpile to be exhausted.

Imperial I under the management of Cox Reddy came third in 14:06.8 behind University of Bristol in second (14:05.0) and Emanuel School in first (13:56.5) in the novice (N) category.

Imperial II were coxed by Kate Wylie and came an impressive 11th in the same category (16:15.3), truly ridding themselves of all rowing afflictions.

There were even rumours of an early crab, but that may have just been fodder generated to impress coaching staff.

The 'Detox-Row' was deemed a huge success and ICBC's inadequate-rowing reserve was severely depleted over the 4km race from Hammersmith to Chiswick Bridge.

Following the bismal performances all crews reported improved health, energy, vitality, resistance to disease, mental state, digestion as well as a noticed improvement in weight loss.

Stroke Louise Hart was even exhibiting signs of a new maternal instinct after spotting Trapette Lucy at training the following morning; "Aw... I can't wait to have children."

Cox Fieldman was initially dubious about the visit but was relieved to discover that he was a few inches taller than Lucy; a first for Henry at the club. Trapmore's manly reputation may be slightly tainted after being spotted carrying 'Monkey' and a miniature pink umbrella around the gym. However it

is thanks to Capital T's foresight and avant-garde tactics that there remains only skill, prowess and savvy rowing manoeuvres within club members to utilise on race days. With the rowing toxins purged and sarcasm levels reaching new heights, normal winning operations will now resume.



WS2 8+ prepare to boat