

felix

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Scandal in the ACC

felix looks into the odd budgeting techniques of the Athletic Clubs
Committee, see page 4 for more details



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Dynasty?



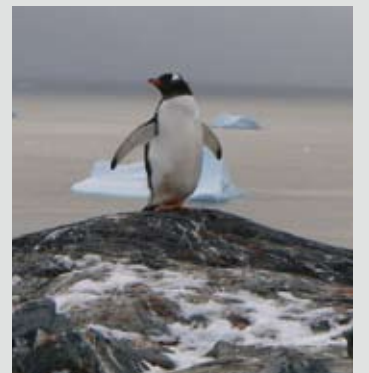
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It's election time again

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

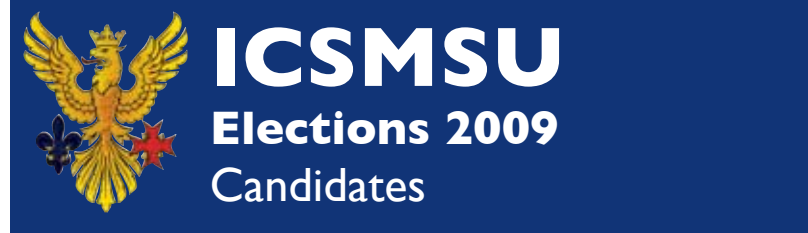
You would have thought that the Sabbatical elections would be the last election for some time. You were wrong. The summer term sees several positions being up for contention, mainly within the Graduate School Association (GSA), the Medical Students' Union as well as a few positions on the Imperial College Union (ICU) Council.

Within the GSA, positions include Chair, treasurer, secretary, activities co-ordinator, Postscript Editor, Engineering Postgraduate Representative, Physical Sciences Postgraduate Representative, Business School Postgraduate Representative, Life Sciences Postgraduate Representative and Medical School Postgraduate Representative.

For the ICU Council, the positions available are Council Chair, Community Action Group Chair, RAG Chair, Welfare Campaigns Officer, Equal Opportunities Officer and International Students' Officer. It is rumoured that Afonso Campos, current Chair and Presidential candidate until he withdrew, is standing for the position again this year, however, he might have some stiff opposition from current Medical President, Mark Chamberlain, who is also rumoured to be standing for the position. Nominations for these positions close on the 20th May and voting opens on the 29 May until the 2 June.

The ICSMSU elections are already in full swing, with one set of hustings having already taken place. The full list of candidates can be seen to the right, and the those of you with a keen eye, or more likely, those of you who have been here for a while, we see a familiar name running for the Presidential position. The reason that the ICSMSU elections are held separately from the central union and faculty elections is due to the nature of the Medical School's timetables.

Many are hoping for a strong turnout in all elections this term, especially the



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Corruption found within the ACC

Basketball and Riding & Polo societies have both received a £2,000 grant increase from the Union for 2009-10. The two clubs are respectively chaired by the ACC Treasurer and Chair, leading Editor-in-Chief Jovan Nedić to investigate

This year's budget allocations hasn't gone without its usual suspicion of foul play and corruption. Every year the £360,000 that is allocated to the over 300 clubs and societies at Imperial College Union has always generated some tension between the clubs, with some getting more than others and with some getting less than they had in the previous year.

Accusations are thrown about every year of favouritism and unfair treatment of clubs who consider themselves more important than other. These accusations are normally nothing more than students being upset at not getting what they want, but this year there seems to be some validity behind the accusations. The Chairman and Treasurer of the Athletics Clubs Committee (ACC), the body that is responsible for the numerous sports teams at Imperial, have been accused of extreme favouritism over their own clubs when it came to allocating budgets for the next academic year.

Samuel Furse, who is ACC Chair is also the Chair of the Riding and Polo Club, whilst Joseph Lees is the ACC Treasurer and Chair of the Imperial Vectors, the basketball club at ICU. Both of these clubs saw their budget increase by over £2,000 compared to the previous year, and since the two people that have a large influence on the eventual outcome on the budget are the Chair and Treasurer, it is not surprising that there have been accusations thrown about. At the same time, ICU Football Club, who have been in the spotlight over their actions at Hammersmith earlier this year, saw a £2,000 reduction in their budget, specifically in the travel section.

When questioned over their decisions, Mr Furse told *felix* that: "I did not do the allocations at any stage of Phase II of budgeting for the

riding and polo club, and Joseph the same for Basketball, we did the other's, and this as well as the allocations made was verbally agreed as fair by a well-informed CSC colleague who possesses no ACC membership?" Mr Furse went on to explain that "In the last three years, as treasurer (06-07) and chair (07-09) of riding & polo I have more than doubled the membership of the club. The costs of ground hire have gone up by 25% (we are not able to train at any other yard under BUCS rules, and no other yard in the SE of England could cope with our

"felix: Do you think the Union gives enough money to the ACC? Sam Furse, ACC Chair: No!"

request, the ACC standard was 70%. Basketball have been underfunded too, and have suffered from successive poor senior officers however have really improved this year, falling short of their membership target by only one member. The target was also a lot higher than previous years and is a medium-sized ACC club. Riding has gone from being a medium-small club to being a large ACC club."

Riding and Polo is, as expected, an expensive sport for individuals to take part in, especially with the costs of renting horses and having lessons. The argument that always exists is how much of that cost should the members pay? Clubs which do not have such a high running cost, such as ICU and ICSM Rugby, charge £70 and £60 respectively for membership a year, which they use for various travel costs, coaching and competition entry. IC Rugby, which now has the biggest slice of the ACC cake, have had between £110 and £123 per head over the last few years, or for every pound membership they get between £1.57 and £2.47 back in subsidy, with this years figure being £1.57.

Other more financially demanding sports, such as IC Boat Club charge £75 membership to cover their expenses. On top of such a high membership fee, the members also have to pay to go to training and matches, costing anything up to £10 a week per player. Imperial College Hockey Club have a similar set up, charging £45 a head, however, each individual has to buy their own hockey stick and shoes, which can cost anything up to £280.

In contrast to the costs of these clubs, the Riding and Polo Club charge their members £35 a year. With such a low cost, it is not surprising that 74 people signed up to the club to go horse riding every week. Asked whether or not they would increase the membership fees to cover the high running costs of the sport, Mr Furse replied

numbers) to £25ppph, still a significant discount on the prices paid by ordinary members of the public. We have also introduced polo as an activity as it is otherwise no longer available to IC students since they are no longer UL. The club's funding has not increased to help with any of these factors - in fact our ground hire was cut last year and no explanation was given, despite at least two requests."

"If the Riding and Polo club were to be funded as it was per person three years ago, the club would receive an annual budget of around £19k from the ACC. The ground hire award for 09-10 to Riding & polo was 55% of the

request, the ACC standard was 70%. Basketball have been underfunded too, and have suffered from successive poor senior officers however have really improved this year, falling short of their membership target by only one member. The target was also a lot higher than previous years and is a medium-sized ACC club. Riding has gone from being a medium-small club to being a large ACC club."

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ACC Chair Samuel Furse at the ACC Dinner and Joseph Lees (inset)

"Next year's budgeted membership fee is £50 (up from £35), with a target of 65 members (same target as this year). Members bear a huge cost for both riding and polo. The latter costs £50pph, the former £25ppph for flatwork, £35ppph for jumping. The average member spends around £500/year on riding (with subsidy), with members of the BUCS teams spending upwards of £800 (with subsidy). Regular polo players spend around £1,400/year with subsidy. The maximum subsidy any one person could get in a year is £200, justified for the grant allocated."

"[The ACC budget allocations are] totally ridiculous" - Christian Carter, Deputy President Finance & Services

but in practice this is rare."

Whereas the Riding and Polo Club have been meeting their membership targets for the past few years, the other clubs in the spotlight have not. For the past four years, the Basketball club has failed to reach their membership target which has meant that a percentage of the grant that was assigned to them has always been lost. The amount lost has been as high as £1,250 which would then go into the ICU Exec reserves fund which is used for funding Union projects. This money however, could have been used to subsidise other clubs, so the decision to increase the budget for a club that has not met it's membership target for several years is even more puzzling to some club committee members.

When asked about the suspicious increase in the Basketball funds Mr Furse told *felix* that "The club has been the victim of successive poor senior management and has paid the price through budget cuts, but has turned a corner this year and has more members than it has had for years. I am satisfied that the costs incurred have been

justified for the grant allocated." One problem that all Club and Societies Committees (CSC) have, including the ACC, is the lack of money and space that is available to them. With so many clubs and not enough money, it is always inevitable that some clubs will not get what they ask for, the problem is that do the people who make the decisions make an impartial decision on who should have a larger proportion of the cake? More importantly has the relationship between the ACC Chair and Treasurer led to them both siding favourably to each others clubs?

When asked if there was enough money available to the ACC from ICU, Mr Furse simply replied "No!". He went on to explain that "It would be reasonable to request as much as £280-300k subsidy for the ACC based on our costs (the total cost is around £1.25m including facilities) however it would be unrealistic."

The problems continue even further for Mr Furse with accusations of uneven distribution of funds within the Riding and Polo Club. Alex Sevell, Riding and Polo Treasurer, informed the Union that he was not allowed to do the budget for the club and that the submitted budget favoured the riding side quite heavily.

Mr Sevell told *felix* that "the Treasurer should play a big part in the budgeting in any club. I did not feel I was given this opportunity, in fact after an initial draft I felt actively excluded from the process and my concerns about how Riding and Polo were portrayed in the proposal, seemingly downplaying polo significantly, were, as far as I can tell, either dismissed or ignored."

Christian Carter, Imperial College Union Deputy President (Finance & Services) told *felix* that the ACC budget allocations were "totally ridiculous" and that "we will be dealing with budgets in the next CSB [Clubs and Societies Board] on the 26th May."

Several questions arise from this whole affair. Should the ACC constitution, or any CSC constitution, be changed to not permit club chairs to stand for their governing body positions? How much should individuals contribute financially and how much should the Union? Should the budgeting process be changed or inspected more closely or will the Union be too lazy to do anything about it? Or could it be, as this reporter thinks, that we have too many clubs and that we actually can't fund all the clubs as fairly as they would all like to be?

Are there too many Clubs & Societies at Imperial?



Editor-in-Chief, Jovan Nedić, interviews the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Lily Topham, to find out her views

Not enough money and not enough space. They are the two biggest complaints that you get from the 300 or so clubs and societies at Imperial. ICU has more than any other students' union in the country and they are the best funded, apparently. The facilities and services available to the students are second to none, yet we still seem to have problems, with clubs consistently complaining of not enough money or space. What has the Union done, or are planning on doing?

"I would say that money and space are the two biggest things that will always affect a club or society. Those are the two things that will always affect clubs no matter what state the economy is in. It is an issue, and it will always be an issue." - Lily Topham

We continue our journey through the pillars of university life. Social life and Clubs & Societies are almost interlinked; if you take part in a club or society you are bound to meet like-minded people and thus the bonds of friendship develop. Take a look at the Union on a Wednesday night, packed full of sports teams all socialising and having a good time. But what happens when you're part of a club that fails to function properly, or, what could be seen as even worse, finds it hard to function properly because of financial constraints?

One of the things that I do agree with Lily is that running the ACC clubs is expensive. "If we got rid of the ACC, the financial problem here would be a lot easier, but that's never going to happen." She went on to say that:

"The SCC (Social Clubs Committee) has the largest number of clubs and they are by far the least funded out of all the CSCs at Imperial. They get about £4,000 a year whilst some clubs such, as the Boat Club are asking for £6,000 in their appeal, which is more than the whole of the SCC."

Sports clubs are expensive to run, but could Sport Imperial maybe do more? It seems that the Unions resources and finances are primarily used to promote and improve participation in the clubs. But what happens when they are good and need more money to get better. Well that's where Sport Imperial step in, however, it seems that their level of involvement is incremental. Clubs such as the Boat Club, who bring in more points than the rest

of the clubs combined, get a lot from the College. A boat house, boats, Olympic gold medalists as coaches, the list goes on! It seems that it will take some time before another club will get the same level of involvement as Boat, but they do help along the way, all you need to do is ask! Need money to get to a BUCS final? Ask them and they will help. Need a physiotherapist for your matches? Apply to the Developing Excellence Scheme and you might get one! It's that easy!

So yes, sports clubs are expensive to run, but so are some of the outdoor clubs especially if you think of some of the equipment they need, such as canoes! On one hand you really do have the financial constraints that clubs have, but they have it every year and they seem to scrape through. The other problem is space.

Outdoor sports need grounds on which they can play and Harlington is only one solution for the numerous outdoor clubs. Harlington is also free for all those clubs and all they have to pay are travel costs, which can cost anything up to £20,000 a year per club. The indoor ones, well they have Ethos, which they have to pay for, but at least they don't have to pay for transport costs because it's right next to our campus. Ethos, however, can only hold so many and so some clubs are going to have to travel farther afield. But the problem doesn't seem to lie just with the sports teams:

"Currently, clubs can use College facilities for their activities. But you have two different types of facilities, those that need a lot of space, such as the sporting types, and then those that need smaller meeting rooms. We definitely have enough space for meeting in, although the Union struggled with it this year," said Ms Topham.

To me, this seems that we are actually reaching a saturation point if you will. We are running out of money to give to the clubs, which can be seen by the table on the opposite page where the amount of money given per head has decreased across the board, well apart from the scandalous one! However it was something that Lily said that confused me:

"There's obviously a limit of sensible activities that students can do, so we might be reaching a limit in that sense. I think it's easy to look at room bookings and say that we're chocker block and that we've got to a stage where we

can't sustain anymore. I think the Union just has to be more imaginative in the way they accommodate them!"

To me this says that we should be spending more money to create the space for the clubs. Why are we not curtailing the growth? If we don't have the space, we slow down the rate at which we create new clubs and simply try to optimise what we already have. Regarding the creation of new clubs, Lily did say, and I agree with her on this as I've been to a few of them (thought I might as well do some proper investigation work!):

"I think that actually, at Imperial, we can congratulate ourselves on having so many of clubs because it's backed up by having such a high student participation. We do actually quite severely scrutinise the new clubs before we put them through to make sure they last and we make sure that we have enough resources to support them. At the same time we do try and make sure that people's interests aren't ignored."

Personally I think that we do have too many clubs. It will be very difficult to get rid of a lot of them without any strong evidence and trying to merge them, no matter how easy it will make it to run them, might ultimately lead to a conflict of characters within the clubs. What I think really needs to be done is a review. Let's have a look at the membership over the last few years, and if they haven't reached their targets, then as Lily puts it "that's something that should be taken into consideration at budgeting for the next financial year really!"

Let's also see how much the individuals have to put in to take part, which will be very hard to do. With that information, we will be able to have a better picture of what the proper expenditures of the members and the clubs really are and we can make an informed decision on the budgets.

We have so many successful clubs at Imperial who need a fair finance system to let them compete. We have a very strong arts life at Imperial, we have a strong and vibrant Dance society, we have a Big Band and symphony orchestra that win national competitions and sports teams that are the best in the country.

Doesn't the Union owe it to the successful clubs and societies to make sure that they don't go under during this difficult time, or will they let them fall just to satisfy some smaller ones?



ICU pride themselves on Clubs & Socs

Jack Cornish Sports Editor

ICU prides themselves on their clubs and societies. Without question, in my opinion, the one thing the union does well is support, fund and encourage the participation of the student population into extra curricular activities.

For most it is a light relief from relentless exams and coursework deadlines which make the 'university experience' slightly less exciting at IC than at other universities. Hence I don't think university students should be complaining about the state of the financial and organisational conundrum that the union faces, but we should support and get involved in finding a better solution. I say this from experience. It is often the case whereby someone will step up to the mark, put their hand up and take the lead only to find that they then become isolated from the minions and therefore have to make individual decisions which are not necessarily the popular ones. Here we have this situation where Furse and Lees have taken on selfless responsibility for the benefit of others, have made decisions that they think are correct and are now being criticised for it. Well I believe that the ACC has been run superbly this year up to now, and the criticism should be coupled with some constructive analysis.

The current set-up requires clubs to fill in a budget, submit it to the ACC (or equivalent) who then make informed decisions how much each club should be granted, based purely on a spreadsheet of numbers from each treasurer.

Firstly, we have a problem with clubs getting wise to this set-up and in extreme circumstances budgets of tens of thousands of pounds are submitted; hence even a subsidy of just a few percent is substantial.

Secondly, the ACC executive committee have to make decisions based purely on the incoming budget, but often there may be other contributing factors. For example personal interest in certain clubs may result in biased budgeting, and certain reputations of clubs may result in their budget being cut. Both of these circumstances are unfair and unprofessional. But that is where the problem is - we are not employing professionals. We are voting in volunteers (often from only a very small selection of people who are willing to do the job) who do not necessarily have any budgeting experience at all, yet we trust them to deal with the distribution of substantial amounts of the union's money. The DPCS could, and maybe should, have a bigger part to play in this after being provided with training... but it still comes down to opinionated students with little experience and vested interests.

My first idea is to make the budgeting system more scientific. I would bet that everyone at IC can put together a spreadsheet that takes into account all the facts and figures and will quickly pop out a fair subsidy per head. Secondly why not get some financial advice in. I have been reliably informed that the union has external financial advisors. Why not use them?

Lastly, I think that clubs and societies need to be categorised, and hence funded depending on an agreed status. Lets say if I joined Knit Sock for example, I would not expect the £50-£100 subsidy that most sports clubs receive, and further I do not think that riding and polo can be classed in the same league of sports as rounders. The expenses of all these clubs are different and hence there needs to be some flexibility when assigning them money.

Hangman: ACC Chair and Treasurer in expenses claim. Page 35

The facts and figures		Per head = Grant/Members Per pound = (Grant/Members)/Membership Cost i.e. what do you get for every £1 membership?				
Riding and Polo						
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	
Membership	£15.00	£26.50	£30.00	£35.00	£50.00	
Members	32/35	56/35	81/45	74/45	??/65	
Grant	£6,843.80	£6,712.22	£7,450.13	£7,878.33	£9,935.80	
Per Head	£195.54	£191.78	£165.56	£175.07	£152.86	
Per Pound	£13.04	£7.24	£5.52	£5.00	£3.06	
Basketball						
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	
Membership	£20.00	£35.00	£35.00	£40.00	£40.00	
Members	32/38	32/38	31/40	49/50	??/50	
Grant	£5,485.63	£5,269.17	£5,093.98	£5,090.40	£7,096.46	
Per Head	£144.36	£138.66	£127.35	£101.81	£141.93	
Per Pound	£7.22	£3.96	£3.64	£2.55	£3.55	
Rugby						
	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	
Membership	£40.00	£50.00	£50.00	£70.00	£70.00	
Members	50/70	76/75	86/75	100/75	??/85	
Grant	£11,293.41	£11,633.13	£10,624.55	£11,079.12	£11,009.00	
Per Head	£161.33	£155.11	£141.66	£147.72	£129.52	
Per Pound	£4.03	£3.10	£2.83	£2.11	£1.85	

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A new face to an old name

The Chopra Dynasty



Sathyan Balaji

On the 18th of May voting opens for the medical school's main elections, with results being announced on the following Friday. That last statement may surprise some readers but don't worry, medic guerrilla hit squads haven't stormed the newspaper office and staged a coup. This really is an ICSM story in *felix*. And while of course this election bares more relevance to medical students, the results are likely to have repercussions throughout the university. Sixteen positions are up for grabs with the most interesting being president, and who to replace the incumbent Mark Chamberlain?

As in the recent ICU elections, following a shock last minute withdrawal, only one candidate is in the race for the top job. That man is Anil Chopra, so on a sunny (but cold!) Monday afternoon I decided to meet this third year medic and try and understand what his presidential campaign was all about.

Anil arrived in the Beit Quad, and after some light chitchat we got straight down to the meat and bones of the interview. What motivation did this man have to want a year out from his medical studies to take on this sabbatical role? For the CV-whores there are, after all, several positions of responsibility which don't require such a large expenditure of time and effort. A need to give back to the medical school which has apparently given him so much, as well as the honour of leading one of the country's top medical institutions was his answer. Conversation got slightly

more interesting with the mention of former ICSMSU president, and Anil's cousin Shiv Chopra. While declaring that this had nothing to do with his own decision to run Anil also added that Shiv was an inspiration to all students, including himself. Certainly there can be no arguing with that, his achievements formally recognised with an Outstanding Service Award from the Union. When the inevitable comparison came up Anil seemed most uncomfortable, "I hate the idea of comparing the two Chopras" and finished off saying that he would do a "different" job.

So what are the issues within the medical school that warrant attention? The first thing Anil mentioned was education, whether this was a subconscious sign of his priorities or merely co-incidental I'm not sure. Currently the medical school curriculum is going through a wholesale facelift, resulting in more than just a few nips and tucks. With the current culture in the NHS being one of change for changes

"I hate the idea of comparing the two Chopras. I'll do a different job. It's inevitable isn't it?"



its undergraduate degrees. While this expansion is to be lauded, it remains to be seen whether these students can be fully integrated within the school and its ethos, without feeling victimised or shunned for not being "real" medics as is arguably the case now.

Recent surveys about student satisfaction in the medical school have often been quite positive (especially in comparison to the main college) but one issue which often crops up is the dominance of alcohol within ICSM socials. Maybe it's to do with the high stress levels but rightly or wrongly one of the enduring traits of being a medical student has always been the heavy drinking culture. Anil quoted the cliché that you don't have to drink to have fun, while at the same time emphasising that there was no question of changing any of the big ticket events such as the Roadshow which are by nature booze fueled affairs. Of course, events like these are the highlight of many a freshers experience, but it is important not to ignore and alien-

ate the significant minority who don't drink for whatever reasons.

Considering the hateful scorn with which most non-medics are seen by medical students, I wondered what potentially the next president thought of IC. Half expecting a string of expletives, I was surprised to hear the man talk of there being a friendly rivalry which exists "only on the pitch", and how there wasn't really a separation between medics and non-medics at Imperial. However when probed further, Anil admitted to the divide but instead of talking about ways of increasing unity, argued that this division was necessary and how the medical school ethos couldn't be incorporated into the main university. Perhaps this is true, but without trying how do we know?

We talked a little about the issue of welfare, something which crops up with an uneasy regularity in Union politics. A recent ICSMSU student survey highlighted this area as one requiring overhaul, but despite this Anil confidently claimed "there is a pretty good welfare system". The current year 1 and 2 academic officer, did, however, express his disappointment at the personal tutor system. The problem in essence is that people only go to their tutors when something really goes wrong. Anil told me the system doesn't have to work like that. But with many of the people employed as tutors being busy academics or clinicians with little time for students, it remains to be seen how it can be any different. The

problem of personal tutors not only affects the medical school, and has often been brought up at main ICU meetings.

Anil seemed keen on bringing up the Reynolds Bar (the Union bar at Charing Cross Hospital), and how he felt it wasn't being used to its fullest extent. This may be true as the Reynolds bar is often empty several nights a week, but he didn't really offer any concrete plans to use this potential.

Throughout the interview, one thing which was evident was the lack of any new or interesting ideas to truly excite me about this election campaign. No plans to introduce complimentary Thai masseurs in lecture theatres, nothing about a Playboy-esque hot tub in the Reynolds, nothing that is really going to get people talking. What there was though was an infectious enthusiasm for the medical school and a real desire to engage with the students. At several points during the questioning the interview was turned on its head, and Anil asked me what my thoughts were. It didn't feel like he was using this as a get-out clause, it felt like he genuinely cared and wanted my take on the issue. In several answers he stressed the need to reach out to all students and to be accessible to anyone who wants to meet the president. Both admirable endeavours and ones that fit in with his approachable demeanour. At times the discussion did get heated, but Anil always remained calm and measured. The only exception to this was when asked for a photo; he almost broke down as he had not "done his hair". From this short interview it was quite evident how much energy and passion had been put into this campaign, if I was RON I would certainly be very worried indeed.



Imperial's Secret Garden

In a new series on the lesser known parts of Imperial, Kadhim Shubber presents the perfect place for a picnic

Who knows when the Queen's Lawn Marquee may pop up again, leaving Imperial students with no grassy area of significant size to waste away those sunny days on. But never fear! there is hope for all you flora loving scientists!

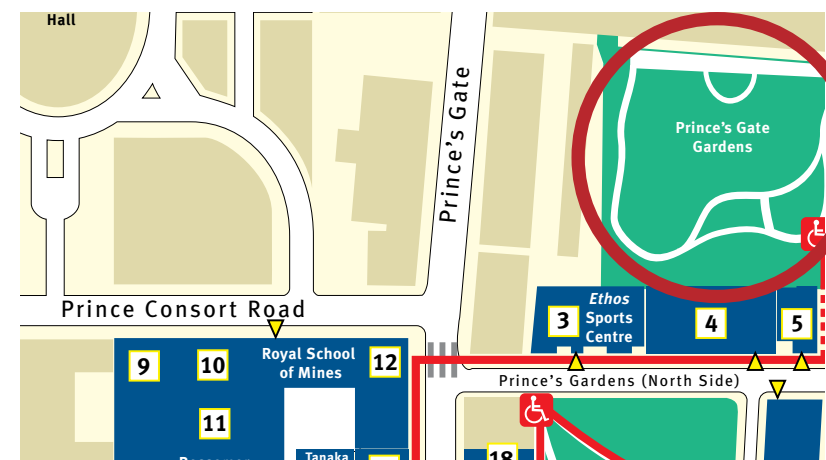
The Prince's Gate Gardens are one of Imperial's best kept secrets (until now). This large area of grassy goodness has up until now been known only to Union hacks and members of Environmental Society (who own the even secret secret garden inside Prince's Gate Gardens), despite being displayed prominently on every map of Imperial's campus.

While not as convenient as the Queen's Lawn or Prince's Gardens, the garden has several advantages. It isn't

surrounded by the oppressive architecture of College (like the Queen's Lawn) or the unsightly vision of construction workers baring their ass cracks (like the Prince's Gardens, which are dominated by construction on the new Eastside Halls).

In addition it is, and always will be, 100% Marquee-free. It's open daily from 8am until 6pm (it's all locked up the rest of the time unless you have the code, which even we don't have).

With trees, bushes, actual peace and quiet and even a few squirrels, this is the perfect place to get away from revision and maybe have a picnic with friends when The Queen's Lawn is inaccessible and Hyde Park seems like a bit of a mission away.



Hiding in plain sight, the Prince's Gate Gardens at the upper right of the map of campus, right behind Ethos and Garden & Weeks Halls.



However, you are allowed to bring frisbees, cats and boomboxes. Best party ever...

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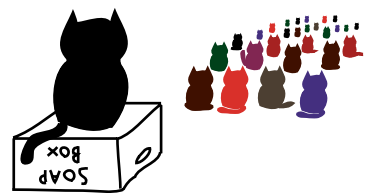
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Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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Dan Wan needs his USBs and Ipod back. Please?



"Are you that ruthless you don't mind letting someone else lose a part of their degree that you're striving to?"



I have had a truly dire week. A collection of events has turned my general indifference on life into despair. I'm pretty much ready to murder a small animal, cook it, and force-feed it to a child. There's some fellow shaking his leg in front of me as I sit in the library, and the only thing holding me back from going over and jabbing my compass into his legs is the fact I don't have a compass. Stop shaking your leg, you prick.

So where do I start? I mean, who do I point the finger at first? O2, normally a reliable broadband provider, decide it'd be hilarious if they trickled a minimal internet connection to my house. I can't check Facebook for two whole hours, and my social life is reduced to eating cold spaghetti hoops in my bath tub every night for the next week. Not so bad you might say. I hear you loud and clear: a cold bathtub, bits of processed pasta and a tomato sauce undoubtedly full of preservatives are actually the three things Barack Obama cannot live without. And look where he is now.

Then my laptop died on its feet (it doesn't have feet). In a mid-contract crisis, broadband had nervous breakdown and moved out. Apparently, my laptop decided it couldn't live without

broadband. Without it, it is useless in its only function as a means of streaming terabytes of porn, and some occasional coursework submissions. So it gave up and died, only for broadband to return the next day a little apologetic and remarkably healthier than ever. It was like a poor version of that Romeo and Juliet scene, but after this scene, I was left bricking it as I remembered each file and folder I'd lost.

Without my laptop for entertainment, I decided to break the Imperial mould, and socialise; by visiting some friends. Fuck that, I lie. I went over to steal some coursework off them I hadn't really bothered to do prior to this whole episode. Instead of a lovely evening of banter and all around nothing, I spend the night listening to their neighbours and end up being banned from making any sort of noise (apparently to enhance the listening-to-neighbours experience). All we can hear through the wall is screaming, slamming of doors, furniture being thrown, and two dogs going absolutely mental. So with the aching fear that some sort of massacre was going on metres away from me, added to the possibility we might be next for a butchering, we called the police. Twice. I've never called 999 (never mind twice), but I'm hoping I made a

difference or saved someone from any sort of harm when I did. I never found out what was actually going on next door.

Now, here is where things really start going wrong. 12th of May, and it is a Monday evening. I'm happily (not so happily) doing some work in G27 Computer Lab in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, otherwise affectionately known as the SAF. Someone really important to me comes in, and I need to leave the room to turn an otherwise failing week into an acceptable one. In the time I'm absent from the room, someone comes into the room, goes through my bag I left by my computer, and steals my Ipod and two USB sticks.

When my laptop died holding my entire music library, personal photos, all my coursework from the last two years of university, and every single article I've ever written for Felix on it, I wasn't too bothered. Mainly because the fact Facebook holds nearly all the photos I'd lost. But also the fact that I had all my music on my Ipod anyway. And also the fact I had all my coursework and Felix articles on those two USB sticks. Now do you get where I'm coming from when I feel like I want to murder those small animals, cook it, force-feed

it to a child, then break down in tears remembering the loss of nearly all the things that have been necessitating my life to run within normality for the past two years?

What kind of person comes into the computer rooms at ten in the evening, and pilfers other people's bags. I'd expect that to happen back home in Watford, my shithole of a hometown. Not at university, especially a university where everyone should have their head screwed on all the way.

I acknowledge the fact I'm majorly to blame here. I shouldn't have left my Ipod in my bag whilst I left the room, but for the reasons I needed to leave the room, I would have left a lot more there. Beyond that, I doubt anyone would expect something like this to happen in College, where everyone leaves their possessions around carelessly.

So here's a message to whoever the protagonist in this life-reducingly disgraceful behaviour is. I hope you're reading.

I can understand why you'd take my Ipod. It's probably not worth much, it was a 4th generation Ipod and looked like it'd survived a go in a blender, but I can still understand why you took it. But why take my USB memory stage

sticks? They were both free, and probably worth absolutely nothing to you; but the contents on the sticks were so valuable to me. Isn't it clear that as a student, I'd have important coursework or dissertations on it? Are you that ruthless you don't mind letting someone else lose a part of their degree that you're similarly striving to gain?

Well, I hope you're happy whoever you are. The joke is on you though. As shit as I feel being forced to be in the library into the small hours of the night doing work now, how shit are you going to feel when they identify you on that night's CCTV footage. Both Imperial College Security Services and the Metropolitan Police are now involved, just to let you know.

So, how's this for a deal: you anonymously hand-in the Ipod and most importantly the USB memory sticks to the SAF reception, no questions asked, and I won't pursue the theft. The SAF reception will not be notified about any sort of hand-in (and I doubt they read felix), it will look like any other lost property hand-in, and I get my some of my life back. Please.



Gilead Amit waxes lyrical over the weekend

When Professor Gereshon Carbuncle, D.D. and the Reverend Willoughby Trisquet, two of the nation's most respected theologians, meet to engage in the sort of feast of reason and flow of soul that characterises men of a high and noble calling, there is bound to be a certain coldness in the air. After all, have not Prof. Carbuncle's papers on Anatolian monophysitism directly undermined the Rev. Trisquet's attempts to revive an interest in Nestorian Christology? Could the Reverend's last sermon to the annual convocation of East Anglian vicars be seen in any other light than as a direct attack on the interpretation of Psalm 137 so vehemently advocated by Professor Carbuncle?

The meal begins in silence, with only the occasional half-hearted pleasantry to interrupt the distinctive sound of two mustachioed men angrily imbibing soup. A snide dig at the ethics of the first Nicene council made over the roast beef and potatoes leads to an incendiary remark on the sexual predilections of those in holy orders, and

before long the language has descended to a level unbecoming of two men of such theological distinction. It is at this point in the proceedings that the Rev. Trisquet pours his glass of claret onto his adversary's lap, and Prof. Carbuncle knocks off the reverend's glasses with an expertly-pitched bread roll.

After a brief metaphysical altercation, and just as he is about to pin the Reverend's ear to the floor with a fish knife, the Professor graciously concedes on an issue concerning Genesis 1:3. The Reverend, with his free hand closing around a stainless silver candlestick, is forced to regretfully mumble assent. As the battered duo sheepishly help each other to their feet, they settle the bill and part ways with a newfound meekness, the Reverend solemnly raising an indented bowler as the Professor waxes with his remaining good hand.

Their sudden rapprochement on the issue of Creation is echoed regularly throughout the land, with scholars concluding in virtual unanimity that in creating the Universe the Almighty was absolutely onto a Good Thing. In particular, peer-review committees have long applauded the decision to

take a day off after six days of what was, it must be admitted, pretty intensive construction work. It had, of course, previously occurred to other gods to create their own days - with some even possessing the narcissism to name them after themselves - but none had taken the action to such inspired heights. Odin must have felt pretty silly, at that point, to have laid claim to a piece of the weekly real estate of no possible use to anyone. Frigga was doubtless perfectly livid to have her namesake reduced to a mere harbinger of the weekend; in the same way as minor celebrities who are the talk of the town when they move in to no. 24 Adenough Avenue have an unbounded resentment for the A-list couple who move in at no. 26.

It is precisely this sort of forward thinking and profound understanding of the needs of the marketplace that have assured our Lord the enduring fanbase he enjoys today. In a recent poll conducted by The Lonely Shepherd newsletter, as a part of their three-week 'The Almighty - A Top Ten' series, the weekend was found to be the undisputed favourite of the Lord's

achievements; followed by his work on the Resurrection and that frightfully clever solo business with the Red Sea.

It fills one with a sense of inestimable gratitude to the Powers That Be to jolt out of bed at 07:00 on a Saturday morning and to have the delicious realization slowly flood over one that one's bed is a safe haven for at least a few hours more. The Saturday lie-in must rank among the most glorious of human discoveries. I can imagine that Chadwick and Walton may have approached such divine heights of ecstasy on the Thursday they finally managed to split the atom, but it is more likely that even this must have paled in comparison to their reactions when sleeping in on the following Saturday.

The sudden shock of discovering that it is Saturday morning is enough to startle ruthless dictators out of their blood frenzy, encourage pillagers to hold off their pillaging until further notice, and cause the most sordid and inhuman of murderers to roll over and drowsily mumble their way back to sleep. Upset consciences and tortured souls achieve a moment of quiet in the early hours of the weekend, when the

sum of their troubles involves finding the snooze button on the alarm.

Unless I am mistaken you too, gentle reader, are about to go into a weekend - if not tomorrow then soon, very soon. What fun for you! Have you planned how you are going to spend it? I'm sure you have - scheduled it in merciless detail, no doubt. I have always envied you that singular determination and drive you display, dear reader, when it comes to revision time. Not for you the endless procrastinatory pacing, accompanied by a sudden desire to wash dishes or scrub floors. You can revel in the weekend as the first-class coach of a weekly train, and not merely treat it as a buffer between adjacent carriages.

Your exams, I am sure, will pass you by as the idle wind which you respect not, but weekends will remain as a lasting hebdomedary monument to one of the Lord's more insightful moments. Enjoy them while you can - you never know how long it'll be till they next come around.

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Comment

The Rogue gives his reply to Annabel Slater



"If her words were people, I would embrace genocide [and] she still wouldn't have any friends"



Tell me Annabel, while you were masturbating with self-satisfaction over your poignant/tear-jerking rebuttal of the original speculation, did it not occur to you that a response worth publishing should have included a point? By which I mean among all the meaningless deconstruction, unfunny reaction and unintentional irony, perhaps, just for giggles and shits, there could have been a purpose for wasting the reader's time? I searched the entirety of last week's 700+ word drivel, admittedly falling into a mild coma halfway after OD'ing on tedium, but was unable to find a crux, conclusion or anything even placidly amusing (aside from the chronology of quotations taken from my article, each followed by inconsequential, unintelligent comments that confirm a fundamental misunderstanding of satirical prose).

Indeed, given the extent to which Annabel Slater analysed my words on such a serious level, the only plausible deduction is that she has acute emotional retardation or a face that suggests her mother had a loud bark, or both. Remember, one has to face the problem even if the problem is one's face. Imperial College's men are so academically successful because girls like her give us another reason to stay in and study every night.

For anyone else distressed by my writing: I recommend Johnson's 'No Make sure that your body language is confident and stand tall. You probably already have a shallow sense of self-confidence now that geographical convenience has forced others to be your friends. If you decided that university would be a 'fresh start', you are probably a loser.

Keep a diary of what happens, who was involved, when it was and what they did.

This one is a pistake. Here is what your diary might look like.

Dear Diary -

This will guarantee and end to whiny monologues about Felix writers insulting people. If you still feel victimised, there is a terrific webpage on the Connexions site entitled 'Dealing with Bullies.' If you want to beat the bullies some of the best things for you to try are:

- Tell someone you trust - what about a teacher, parent, carer or friend? Did you tell your carer someone was writing in the Felix being mean about people? When you talk to someone about your problems, they halve! Sharing is caring!

- Try to ignore the person bullying you. This is an excellent time for you to become a missing person.
- Try and stay in a group and avoid going places by yourself, that way you are not such an easy target. Those Felixes won't dare try anything when your internet 'penpals' have your back!

- Make sure that your body language is confident and stand tall. You probably already have a shallow sense of self-confidence now that geographical convenience has forced others to be your friends. If you decided that university would be a 'fresh start', you are probably a loser.

- Keep a diary of what happens, who was involved, when it was and what they did.

This one is a pistake. Here is what your diary might look like.

Dear Diary -

What happened: I read a satirical article in the newspaper and almost had my menopause, that's how much it upset me! I felt inclined to write a response defending all those with XX chromosomes by pointlessly deconstructing every sentence he wrote.

Who was involved: Some guy called the 'Rogue' (what kind of jeb-end names themselves after the 'Satirical Rogue' from Hamlet - remaining anonymous in order to freely express his views... oh yes somebody who understands the value of satire in commentary).

When it was: The incident occurred mid-march. It took a lot of awkward, pasty sex before I had the courage to write a bunch of dry, worthless remarks.

What they did: The Rogue used language that suggests he was trying to make people laugh, through parody and blanket statements, exaggeration and lampoon. I knew the only funny thing that could ever come out of my mouth is his cock, so I went for the 'systematic', 'bitter', and 'systematically bitter' angle and patted myself on the back.

I can imagine Annabel and her kind quivering with anticipation to label me

an odious, misogynistic freak. Once again, despite hints among the parody, the point has been missed. For her benefit, and anyone else who is still crying into their pillow /doing extra sets in the gym/ menstruating early as a result of reading my words - my at-

tempt to explain 'satire' may put it all in context;

Clip and Carry; The Rogue's quick Guide to Satire

A literary manner which blends a critical attitude with humour. This is a typical and reasonable definition of the style of writing that has existed since the 2nd Millennium BC - as a tool where wit is employed to criticize. The best definitions of satire should be formulated from a combination of its corrective intent and its literary method of execution - exaggeration and sarcasm are some of the tools exploited by the writer. The true satirist is conscious of the frailty of institutions of man's devising and attempts through laughter to inspire a change of scenery. In other words, all phrases, hyperbole and implications are not intended to offend but rather to amuse, while subtly suggesting an adjustment on whatever the object of disapproval may be. Satire need have no moral lesson or didactic purpose, yet the essence of satire is aggression or criticism through ridicule, and criticism (as opposed to existentialist nihilism) has always implied a measure of good and bad.

Woo woo! Here comes the clue train, last stop is you. By analysing every satirical exaggeration I made Annabel has achieved little except reveal her lack of humour. By the way, it isn't particularly challenging to make phrases sound inane by placing them out of context. For example, and I hate to

quote quotes, the most idiotic section of the response (and there were a lot to choose from) was the implication that I have pigeon-holed every girl at Imperial into either one that 'walks past you' or 'looks at you and walks past you'.

Very shrewd, except that clearly wasn't what I was contending, it was just an observation of attitudes (and the fact she describes people one passes on the walkway as 'strangers' rather than 'fellow university goers' insinuates her frightening lack of social skills. Was she recently raped, or does she prefer to meet people on World of Warcraft?). And even more aggravating is Annabel's uproarious comment slyly poking fun at the fact I use 'big words'. The irony is her article was bursting with grammatical faults and attempts to use clever language that consistently fall short. Don't believe me? Re-read the FIRST sentence; 'Imperial full of plain Janes with delusional perceptions of self-worth, shallow brains'. An opening sentence with no verb - it's tragic, like tripping over the first hurdle at the Paralympics.

If her words were people, I would embrace their genocide. Indeed, if her words were people, she still wouldn't have any friends. And to anyone else who still doesn't get it; it's high time you piped down.

PS. Annabel was desperate to know if I had female friends. I'll have you know I have over 37 Facebook 'friends', some of whom claim to be female. Suck it.

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Business

Business Editor – Luke Dhanoa

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Evil speculators conspire against honest automotive workers

Contributing writer Sina Ataherian takes a look at the fate of the American car industry giant Chrysler.

When we become poorer, or feel like we are about to, one of the last things we wish to buy is a car. So for American car companies, crippled by debt even before the current downturn, to be finding times hard is no surprise. Chrysler has entered bankruptcy, and will re-emerge under Fiat. GM is now attempting to get agreement on voluntary restructuring, and if this fails may soon follow Chrysler into bankruptcy. Their combined loss last year was \$48 billion, with American car sales down from their annual peak at 17 million to just 9 million this year.

The United States government has announced a "deal" to rescue Chrysler. Secured creditors have been offered 28% of the \$7 billion that they are owed. This is despite the auto workers' healthcare fund being offered 43% of its \$11 billion, even though its claims

should legally come second to those of the secured creditors. If GM follows Chrysler into chapter 11, its creditors' fortunes look no better. They have been offered 5% of their \$27 billion, whilst the health-care trust will get 50% as well as significant shares in the restructured company.

When unions agree to future promises made by their firm, they are speculating that it will continue to exist. This is no different from creditors agreeing to promises that their debt will be repaid. Creditors who wish to reduce their risk of counterparty default can make sure they get first dibs on the assets of a bankrupt firm. They do this by accepting the lower interest paid to 'secured creditors'. The US government now appears to be ignoring this principle.

In setting this precedent, its biggest victims may be those it has the greatest responsibility to protect: those whose survival is seen as, and therefore prob-

ably is, the most important to the government. This is especially true at a time when it wants the private sector to invest \$1 trillion in its Term Asset Backed Securities Loan Facility. This is needed if lending to consumers and small business is to restart. Furthermore, the vilified creditors include pension funds and individuals, many of whom are themselves members of the United Auto Workers Union (UAW), who also happened to be Chrysler creditors.

However, there is a plausible defence for the deal: that the creditors are being offered a fair price. Perhaps 28 cents per dollar of secured borrowing is all that would come out of liquidating Chrysler. This theory continues that hedge funds know how hard the US government will try to save Chrysler, and presumably also GM when the time comes. They will even be willing to grossly over-value the UAW's claims to avoid strike action, even if

this makes whatever the creditors get appear too little by comparison.

But the funds can also see how much of creditor confidence of exactly the sort likely here. So they are holding out for more than their fair share. By this account, they are using the same tactics of economic terrorism that other financial institutions used to secure their multi-billion-dollar bail-outs. This theory sounds somewhat paranoid and created after the fact. But the incentive would certainly exist and it is difficult to dismiss without the sort of consideration that it should be afforded during bankruptcy proceedings. This leads to the next problem.

The Chrysler bankruptcy judge has agreed to a speedy process, giving little chance for creditors to advocate liquidation of the company's assets. So the problem is not that Chrysler and the US government have identified the problems of liquidation, including

for the creditors. The issue is that they convinced the judge that liquidation would be so much worse than the existing deal, even for the creditors, that it cannot even be considered.

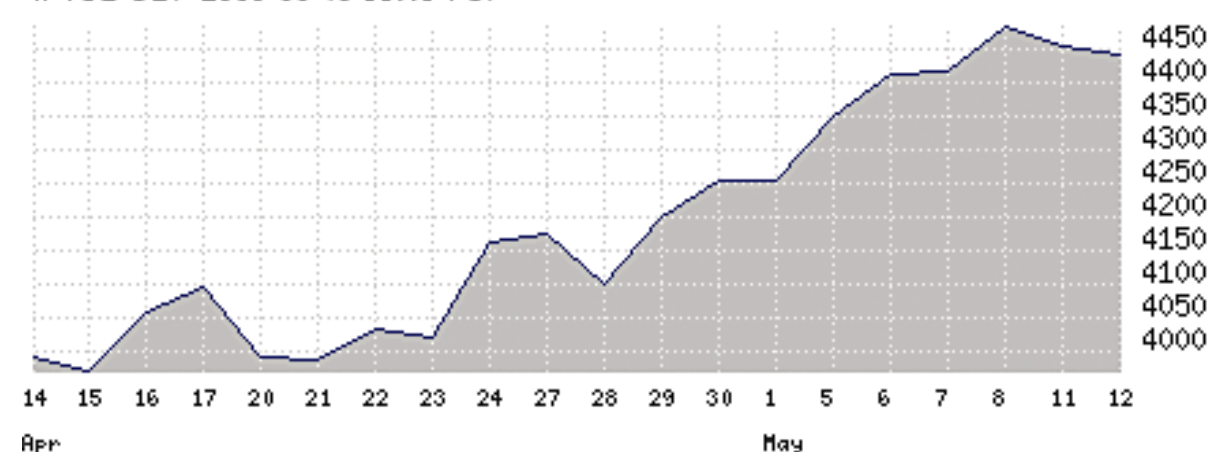
There is yet another political dimension to this; not only do many lenders now feel ripped off, they are simultaneously being blamed for the problems of the auto industry. This sort of demonising, especially given how much of it is currently going on anyway, has the potential to multiply the damage that the whole affair does to creditors' confidence.

Many people will find it difficult to sympathise with the hedge funds, having trouble with their cut-throat practice and wealth. But it is not the point. When a market is distorted there are two losers.

Creditors will lose out from increased perception of risk. But so will the consumers and businesses that are now so in need of their credit.



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Business news quarterly digest

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

It's about a month late, but since we've been away for the duration of the holidays, the business section has put together a quarterly digest to cover all the major economic bases from the last three months. If you're heading to a job interview, it's just what the doctor ordered.

New Bail Outs

The bank of England has declared that it will keep interest rates at 0.5% and will be printing £50bn to inject into the banking system. At the moment, the Bank of England is set to inject a total of £125bn into the financial system by June (including the new increase). The bulk of this new injection will be delivered to banks by buying up corporate and government bonds. Currently Her Majesty's Treasury owns 70.33% of the Royal Bank of Scotland and 43% of Lloyds Banking Group plc, which in turn wholly owns HBOS. This new bailout plan was triggered when

news surfaced that the toxic assets held by HBOS were significantly larger than previously thought. The Governor of the Bank of England, Mervyn King said that the central bank may need up to £150bn over the course of its "quantitative easing" programme, and stated that he believed the economy a long way from recovered. The city generally applauded the move, with several chief economists stating their approval of the BOE's "realistic" approach to dealing with the crisis.

Green Shoots and Red Herrings

Nationwide Building Society claims that last month UK consumer confidence has experienced its biggest increase in two years with the service sector shrinking by its smallest amount since August 2008. The 12 month change in Consumer Price Index for the first quarter fell to 3.0% compared with 3.9% in the last quarter of 2008 and over the same period the Retail Price Index fell from 2.7% to -0.1%. RPI excluding housing also fell from 4.2% to 3.3% indicating a medium

term decrease in inflation of consumable goods. It is clear that the housing price drop and low interest rates have led to deflation in the RPI and is the main cause of deflationary pressure.

The UK's trade deficit also decreased from £2.8bn in February to £2.5bn in March – much better than predicted. Considering the decreases in domestic manufacturing, the narrowing has been assumed to be product of the weaker pound – which has remained under \$1.6 for all of 2009 – and reduced demand for foreign goods in the recessionary market.

The FTSE 100 has risen for the last three months from 3500 at the start of March to almost 4500 last week. This rise has been echoed by the Dow Jones (which rose from just under 7000 to roughly 8500 over the same period) the German Dax (3600 to 4800), the Mumbai Stock Exchange (8000 to 12000) and the Nikkei 225 (7000 to 9200). Few serious forecasters have taken this to mean that the recession has shown signs of reversing, identifying the gains as a "suckers rally". During the 2000-2002

bear market there were three similar rises averaging 21% over 45 days and the Great Depression experienced six rises, averaging 47% each.

Some analysts (such as Peter Schiff the head of Euro Pacific Capital, Inc) believe that the root cause of the stock market booms is the volatility in the value of currencies. Indeed, with commodity prices also increasing over the last quarter and the average value of US Dollars, Euros and Pounds losing ground to less recession sensitive currencies (like the New Zealand Dollar), it would seem credible that people are buying into stocks because they are perceived to be less volatile than currencies – especially when central banks are prone to printing money. Given the tailing off of stock price gains over the last week, it would seem that this trend may be about to reverse.

New Budget

After a delay, the Government unveiled its new budget last month which included a 50% tax rate on people who earn over £150,000, up from 45% last

year. Fuel duty will increase by 2p per litre and alcohol duty will increase by 2% (about a penny on a pint) and cigarettes will see a 7p increase. Overall measures will raise tax income by £6bn by 2012, however by 2013 total government spending is expected to exceed taxation by 79% of GDP, a statistic that was widely hailed as disastrous by opposition Parties. The budget was also underpinned on extremely optimistic economic forecasts that predicted growth of 1.25% in 2010 and 3.5% in 2011. Most forecasts estimate 2010's growth to be closer to 0.9%. The government also expected decreases in CPI and PRI over the course of the year as a result of lower food and energy prices – a prediction that remains widely uncontested.

Overall the budget was poorly received by the markets, which fell, the public who pushed Labour behind in the polls and political parties with Nick Clegg, leader of the Liberal Democrats saying that Labour "have condemned us to years of unemployment and decades of debt".

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

Imperial's Solar Powered Boats

felix talks to Peter Huthwaite, a member of Imperial's student solar boat racing team Solar Spirit.

A team of Imperial students is focusing their work on solar energy. A team of third and fourth year students from the Mechanical Engineering Department have been designing a solar panelled boat for green boat races. Their work on the solar boat counts towards their third and fourth year research projects. The boat, 'Solar Spirit' is made of glass fibre and is powered by five solar panels which drive an electric outboard

motor. (If any mechanical engineers - particularly second years - are interested in doing the project next year then they can e-mail the team)

Is it an official part of your course-do you get any credits for it?

Yes, a significant part of the third year of the mechanical engineering course is the group Design, Make and Test (DMT) project, worth around a third of the marks for the year. A So-

lly simply to provide an interesting and stimulating project to undergraduates. Long term it is unlikely that any work we do will directly benefit the wider world, simply because it is just an undergraduate project and by its nature there is very little original research that can be done on such a project. However, despite this, I see the project as a vital part of the Mechanical Engineering Department because of two reasons. Firstly it is a challenging, exciting and stimulating project (and I speak from personal experience!) which helps the students to develop their skills (both direct engineering skills and general skills such as teamwork) to the highest level. Secondly it promotes solar power and renewable technologies to the upcoming generation of engineers, which I see as vital to the future. By providing the future engineers with such attributes, hopefully we can benefit the world just as much as if we set up a high level solar cell research lab!

What is your view of renewable energy and solar power?

I think it's clear to everyone that solar power - in its current form - is unlikely to be able to make a large scale contribution to UK energy production. The technology isn't particularly new, and yet even these days the outputs are typically too low in comparison to costs for it to be commercially successful. Having said this, what is vital is that we innovate, invent and push the boundaries, and one of the fields we can do this in is solar power. By its very nature we don't know what the next great invention's going to be, but if we push ourselves in the right way then we might just come up with a new fantastically efficient way of capturing sunlight and turning it into electricity. Or it could be in the field of wind power. Or it could be a whole new source of energy that no-one's thought of before. What is important is that we are not afraid to go out and try new things.

How do you see future in terms of

energy sources? It is impossible to predict what's going to happen in the future, but it is clear today that the traditional methods of energy production are becoming unsuitable because of limited resources and waste products. What is vital is innovation and investigation (which as I mentioned before are a key part of the Solar Spirit project) which will help us develop new technologies



energy sources?

It is impossible to predict what's going to happen in the future, but it is clear today that the traditional methods of energy production are becoming unsuitable because of limited resources and waste products. What is vital is innovation and investigation (which as I mentioned before are a key part of the Solar Spirit project) which will help us develop new technologies

- whatever they are - in the future. It is clear that things are going to have to change, and the sooner we act on this the better things will be for everyone.

It would be wise for the world to invest in a variety of technologies (including outside the field of renewables) because things do change and having a wide range of resources to rely on will make us more resilient to future problems.



Wind powered Lotus Exige.

l Spirit project can easily be used as one of these projects - for example to design, make and test a suitable hull. The fourth year has a similar amount of marks allocated to an individual project, which is typically more research/development based. There are plenty of things in the Solar Spirit project which would fit such research projects, particularly given Imperial's relative inexperience with boats!

Why did you focus on solar boats and not solar cars like many other universities have done (UCL, Cambridge...)?

One thing you'll notice about the Mechanical Engineering Department is that it already has two large car projects - Formula Student and Racing Green [and now a third one, Racing Green Endurance]. We wanted to do something else, and while Imperial's limited experience of boat hydrodynamics has been a big challenge, it is in a way a better learning experience for the students to have to go out and find out about, say, hull shape design rather than just being able to get all the answers easily.

What is the point of these boats - are they ever mean to be commercialized or is just for pushing the solar technology further?

The short term vision for the project

How many people are on the team?

We currently have one team of four third year undergraduates working directly on the boat, and a couple of fourth years doing related individual projects. We hope to be able to extend the project slightly for next year (hopefully to two or three third year projects, each of four or five third years). There might also be opportunities for more fourth years to get in-



Student survey could help stop the Swine Flu

Maria Hogan
Science Correspondent

How fast could a pandemic spread across the UK and swamp the NHS? In the first ever kind of large-scale study of its kind, epidemiologists from Liverpool and Warwick universities aim to find out, but they need our help.

They are asking for volunteers to complete an online survey, detailing how many people we come into contact with on a specific day (if you are an average student, that's probably quite a lot!) - and, crucially, they also need to know how many of those we actually touched (!) giving details about when and where the contacts occurred.

It might seem a little bit 'big brother' but all the info submitted is confidential, and using this data, they will for the first time, be able to make a detailed 'map' of person-person exchanges in the UK.

"We need to know the patterns of social interactions to enable us to bet-

ter predict and control the spread of infections - such as pandemic flu," said Professor Keeling, one of the lead researchers in the project.

"There are understandable growing concerns about the current situation and a possible pandemic; we need to find out as much as possible about social contacts."

In light of the current Swine flu epidemic therefore, leading figures such as Professor Stephen Hawking, record-breaking runner David Moorcroft and television historian and writer Adam Hart-Davis are appealing for as many people as possible to complete the survey - and for as many days as possible.

"From the results we will have a much better idea of how quickly an epidemic could spread, and the measures that would be needed to control it," said Dr Read of Liverpool University.

For further details, or to complete the survey online, log on to www.contactsurvey.org



Could students help stop the spread of the pandemic?

Read *felix* on the new Kindle DX?

Mico Tatalovic
Science Editor

The new Amazon's digital newspaper reader, Kindle DX announced last week is hailed to save the newspapers. The new, larger Kindle (9.8 inch screen) was revealed in New York last week and will go on sale for \$489 in the summer.

With readers flocking to read news online, number of people buying has been in decline as well as the newspaper revenues from advertising in print.

Kindle and similar digital readers that allow books and newspapers to be delivered digitally and read on the screen, could save costs of printing and provide revenue through subscription to the newspapers.

Three US newspapers, *The New*

York Times, *The Boston Globe* and *The Washington Post* have already signed deals to deliver their content via Kindle. Others, like *USA Today* have signed deals with the British equivalent, the Plastic Logic, to use their third generation digital readers.

But will *felix* be available to read through Kindle? Jovan Nedić, the editor of *felix* says "he will look into anything that would make the newspapers website available to more people". He doesn't exclude the possibility of *felix* appearing as one of the available newspapers on Kindle. With the ongoing work to digitise the entire *felix* archive and make it available in user-friendly way to readers, it is possible that *felix* will soon make the next logical step and become available on Kindle-like devices.

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Issue 12 • Summer 2009





Just put a lady on top for a change

Caz Knight is treated to illustrated versions of two great leaders at two recently opened exhibitions.

If ever you manage to read a proper newspaper and make it as far as the editorial and comment section deep in the back, not far from the sports section, then you will be familiar with the type of political cartoons currently on display at two recently opened exhibitions: Yankee Doodles! President Obama in Cartoons at the Political Cartoon Gallery and Maggie! Maggie! Maggie! at the Cartoon Museum. Both celebrate the advent of leaders the U.S. and Britain had not seen before: a Black man and a woman.

Yankie Doodles is the first collection of original political cartoons of America's 44th and first Black President and the last nine months have certainly given political cartoonists such as Steve Bell, Dave Brown, Mark Rowson, Ingram Pinn (to name but a few) more than enough fodder for their pictorial political satire.

This exhibition travels chronologically through Barack's rise through the Democratic nominations, election campaign and first few challenging months in office.

One takes for granted the skill of these 'cartoonists' when one sees their work printed on newspaper. But

framed and in all their watercolour glory one realizes just what a talent these men have for creating a superb illustration, injecting into it satire and comedy yet managing to maintain the political context and conveying a novel viewpoint. They are unafraid of offending (be that the politicians or the public), not scared of pushing boundaries and certainly not fearful of saying what we are thinking but too shy to say.

As one browses through the cartoons, themes begin to emerge and a broader picture is painted which reflects the many facets of public and media perceptions of Obama and how he has dealt with the obstacles presented to him these last nine months. Dave Brown of the Independent's Barack is decidedly gremlin like with pointed ears and taking on the form of a hurricane as John McCain's defeat looms ahead, while the Financial Times' Ingram Pinn's Obama is nothing short of heroic and handsome, lacking the engorged horse teeth – a common feature of many of the other caricatures.

These cartoons will have you laugh out loud especially at Peter Schrank's image featuring a down and out, alcoholic bum Uncle Sam proclaiming excitedly, "Guess what, they're fighting



over me", as Obama and McCain battle it out in the election.

The recurring theme of the President as Messiah presents itself in many forms, most comically when he is unable to get into the bath – "Shucks Michelle, I can walk on it but I can't get in!" Other highlights include a pig-tailed Bill Clinton dressed a cheerleader, Sarah Palin riding a giant lipstick brandishing a rifle and Obama threatening to shoot his new puppy Bo ("Keep spending or the puppy gets it.")

At their less brilliant these cartoons excite a titter; at their best they are ingenious. One comes away learning a huge deal about the current affairs that have come to pass, the media's portrayal of them and how these satirists have played on.

These cartoons will be treasured in years to come as well as being studied as sources during GCSE history classes in fifty years. I wonder if they will be enjoyed and appreciated as much as they are now? *Until 13 June.*

Ten minutes away **Maggie! Maggie!** celebrates thirty years since the Iron Lady came to power on 4 May 1979. Those not old enough to have lived through the Thatcher age consciously might not immediately understand many of the hundred odd cartoons on display, which feature works

from over 35 artists such as Martin Rowson, Steve Bell and Gerald Scarfe. However, curator Anita O'Brien has ensured that each piece is accompanied by a brief but informative blurb, putting each picture in context and allowing none of the satire to go to waste.

Margaret Thatcher suffered much more ambivalence than Obama. Not only did she appear bourgeois when compared to England's working class majority. But she was a woman, and it was the seventies. These cartoons explore her rise to power, the Falkland's war, the miner's strikes, her policies such as privatization, deregulation, tax cuts and strong defence, her downfall and the impact the Thatcher era has had on Britain.

Many of the cartoons show her as a lady wrought of iron in temperament, in cutting rhetoric and in inexorable beliefs: "You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning."

We are treated to many more of Maggie's razor sharp lines in a picture entitled Mrs Thatcher's Pearls which seeks to reinforce her sheltered middle class background. Others include an excellent abstract and visceral portrait by Ralph Steadman (illustrator to Hunter S. Thompson's Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas), commissioned by the

Labour party, filled with his characteristic blots and splatters of ink. Erratic footballer George Best features in a cartoon produced during Thatcher's time as Secretary of State for Education and Science with the birds, booze and fast cars lover sucking his thumb in a nursery.

Many of these political cartoons could be construed as misogynistic, especially in this age of political correctness. Labour supporting feminists of the time might have had difficulty deciding which side to back: their party or their sex. It is a sign of Thatcher's power and presence that cartoonists who opposed her had no qualms about attacking her using any means possible.

Given the seemingly unanimous British contempt for Maggie in today's Labour climate, this exhibition manages to present both sides of Britain's first female PM impartially and it is possible to come away feeling sympathy and admiration for this strong leader who advocated self improvement and personal responsibility and who went a long way in reversing the economic decline of the nation. There is much to learn and be entertained by here. Ensure that you have plenty of time to peruse.

Until 26 July.

Pride, Prejudice and a huge mirror

One is great and one is gruesome: Emily Wilson reports back on two exhibitions currently showing at the National Portrait Gallery

Usually when I write reviews for the arts pages of Felix I'm reviewing exhibitions I would pay to see anyway, featuring artists I already know and love. This somewhat defeats the point of writing a review, given that I'm inevitably going to fill it with praise and admiration, with a few token whinges near the end to balance it. This week I saw two exhibitions that I wouldn't normally have set foot in: Constable's portraits and the photography of Gerhard Richter at the National Portrait Gallery. I was expecting to be moderately unimpressed by both. But contrary to my expectations, I thoroughly enjoyed the former but completely despised the latter.

John Constable (1776-1837) is known for being a nice traditional English landscape artist. Rolling hills, country folk, mills... that sort of thing. But here we have the portraits Constable produced. The focus is on his nearest and dearest. His father, brother and sisters, wife and seven children are all present, painted with deep fondness. There's a tenderness that comes through, particularly when he paints his younger sister and his children, that only appears when the subject is captured by the person who knows them best. For a 'landscape artist', Constable is in-

credibly talented as a portrait painter. These aren't just sketches to hang on the family's mantelpiece – Constable also painted portraits of the rich and famous to support his seven children.

It's interesting to see the family resemblance between the Constables. There are self portraits of John, which show a similarity to his rather attractive brother Abram, who in turn looks like their sister Mary. All can also be compared back to their father, who features twice here. Mary is a very pretty, pale-skinned, dark-eyed girl in the Jane Austen style – cape on, bonnet at hand. The whole exhibition oozes Jane Austen, with a hint of stately home tour.

The exhibition is a pleasing contrast to what I had expected: mild paedophilia of rosy-cheeked, doe-eyed teenage girls. There is a little bit of rosy-cheekedness dotted about in the portraits of family friends. "Master Crosby" (1808) is horrendously twee and over-angelic. "The Barker Children" (1809) is described as "the most polished and successful of Constable's group portraits", but I think is the worst thing in the whole exhibition. It's painfully naff, with small boys in white frocks.

The underlying Austenian love story is the romance that blossoms between



Two of Constable's daughters



Constable's wife Maria Bicknell

Constable and his eventual wife Maria Bicknell. Bicknell's parents disapprove of her possibly marrying an artist, and he only dares pursue her after nabbing a tidy inheritance. Then after some honeymooning in a cottage they have seven children before she tragically dies in 1828. The portraits of Maria Bicknell are some of the nicest paintings here, particularly where she is pictured with some of her children. Another particular favourite is "Emily on a sofa" (1834), an ink sketch of Constable's nine year old daughter lazily reclining with a book.

The exhibition does end on a bit of a low, extending beyond Constable's family and into some rich people who paid him to paint them. There's less of a narrative here, and less to catch your interest. Though I must admit to being very taken with "Sir Richard Digby Neave", who was a VERY attractive young gentleman. I can quite imagine him on horseback, galloping up to me on a hillside, with me in a bonnet and

empire line dress... Overall this exhibition is short and sweet, very relaxing to wander round, though best suited to those of us who enjoy BBC costume dramas and National Trust properties.

On the other end of the spectrum is Gerhard Richter. Here we have some very modern photography. Given that I have very little patience with photography, and plenty of modern art fails to appeal to me at all, it is probably unsurprising that I hated this exhibition. I only spent around ten minutes in it, having not really intended to go at all, and couldn't stand to stay any longer. Here Gerhard Richter has taken some photographs, or in some cases I believe just stolen other people's photographs, and made them large and blurry. That is it. Some involve naked women with unattractively shaped breasts, most are just people standing doing not a lot. The works are hung in a very white, very bright gallery in such a way that gives me a headache, and makes my mild hangover significantly less mild.

It was quite crowded when I went in, which bewilders me because I cannot find anything to like about Richter's blurry photography.

What makes me even more angry is the final piece in the gallery which is "Spiegel [Mirror]" (2008). It is a mirror. Really. It's quite big, but it's just a plain flat mirror. I usually hold a lot more patience for modern art and all its ridiculous eccentricities than your average person, but this is stupid. Unless you are particularly passionate about Richter (why? No really, I'd like to know) or a massive photography fan, I would urge you to avoid this exhibition like the plague. There are lots of lovely things to see for free in the NPG without spending your precious student loan on this nonsense, so don't even give it a second thought.

Constable is on until 31 May and Richter until 14 June 2009.

Kuniyoshi: the daddy of manga

The Royal Academy takes **Emilie Beauchamp** back through space and time to 19th century Japan

We often forget the influence and realizations of foreign cultures' masters because of the massive amount of artists that have proliferated right under our noses for centuries in Europe. Fortunately, the Royal Academy of Arts has crossed the borders of time and space to present us a delightfully unique exhibition of one of Japan's most celebrated artists, Utagawa Kuniyoshi. A master of woodblock printing, he was forward-looking and produced extremely imaginative and suggestive compositions, inspiring the Japanese masses of the 19th century. Kuniyoshi was part of the movement known as the "floating world" arts, which aimed primarily at depicting the new, then peaceful and unified Japan and its prosperity. Accordingly, printed scenes focused on myths and legends of warriors glorifying the country, beautiful women and landscapes and other humorous illustrations of "fleeting" pleasures, such as kabuki theatre, that the contemporary society had to offer. Kuniyoshi was artistically independent within this group by developing new printing and composition techniques. First famous for his depictions of war scenes, he presented heroes of the past combating evils, fury and courage all dramatically pictured in their stance and expressions. His fondness for large battle scenes lead him to work mostly with triptychs, a three-sheet format of print he developed in response to the limited width of the traditional printing blocks. Producing wider landscapes, he innovated by using over the three sheets large motives, such as a road or a building, so to create a sense of perspective and to unify composition. Block printing usually produced two-dimensional depictions, but here again Kuniyoshi broke the new by inspiring himself from European illustrations found in books to produce new designs and styles.

In a passion for precision, his pieces often included many details such as complex tattoos on the characters or intricate fabric prints and textures. This is astonishing when the amount of work to produce one print is explained:



Kuniyoshi, as the artist, would draw or paint the image to be printed, and would then work with a team of woodblock carvers to ensure all elements of the drawing would be perfectly pressed on paper. Private publishers would then sponsor the printing to up to 8000 copies of a composition, to be sold in the streets. As Kuniyoshi was a prolific artist, this process could be repeated many times in a week to create as much as 4 different compositions per week. It is good to remember that block prints were a communal form of art, produced for the masses and costing less than a double portion of noodles in the street. Consequently, the prints were the main significant medium of mass communication, aiming to amuse or inspire the widely literate public but also becoming a form of subtle social critics of the government in later days.

In fact, in 1842 the government introduced new publishing regulations which included bans on images of courtesans and geishas, or any depiction that could somehow represent a perverted side of Japan's slowly emancipating society. Consequently, pictures of beautiful women that had been

a very lucrative genre disappeared for a few years. They were replaced by traditional scenes from everyday life, such as women at work or enjoying seasonal amusements of countryside Japan or even by a series of compositions on historical heroic women. At this point, Kuniyoshi started to widen his field of inspiration, producing more landscapes, but also humorous pieces such as pamphlets on kabuki and arts camouflaging criticism of the censure imposed on his art and other government policies. His satiric pieces even include a series of grotesque erotic prints in which sexual organs are taking the lead, called "Night Procession of the Hundred Demons". His pieces always displaying bright colours and impeccable lines add up to make this exhibition historically and artistically captivating, exploring Japan through the ancestor of today's mangas and cartoon animations. In short, anyone who can afford the entry fee should plunge to discover this exhibition with delight. Note that arriving early will allow you to avoid the mass of lazy tourists coming from noon onwards and to comfortably wander around.

Until 7th June



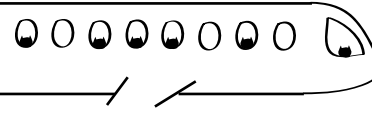
Subwarden Vacancies

Applications are invited for the position of subwarden at the new Eastside. The position is open to all full time members of Imperial College including postgraduate students.

Further information can be obtained by emailing subwardens@eastsidehalls.org

Application forms may be downloaded from www.eastsidehalls.org

The deadline for applications is:



To the end of the world and back

Earlier this year, two engineers, Jeffery Marlow and David Whittleston, took part on a trip of a lifetime to Antarctica. Jeffery Marlow's blog of the trip proves insightful

March 27th

After months of anticipation, thousands of miles of travel, and two days of team building, our team has finally set sail for Antarctica. At approximately 4 PM, the Academic Ioffe pushed off from the dock and we said our goodbyes to Ushuaia (a town more affectionately referred to among team members as "Ush"). The communal sense of excitement and anticipation was palpable on the uppermost deck, the wind whipping our hair and the occasional raindrops spraying our faces. A few minutes later, we spotted the first wildlife of the trip – seals dipping in and out of the Beagle Channel water escorting us out to sea. In the distance, several pods followed suit, like shiny black rocks skipping across a pond.

But the storm clouds are gathering already as we make our way toward the infamous Drake Passage. The first raindrops have just started splattering against the windows, and the dark clouds are billowing up ahead. The 2041 team is warning us of "rough" seas, which, in the understated habit of the seafarer, roughly translates to "waves the size of skyscrapers."

To be honest, the volatility of the Drake has been one of the big draws for me. As a student of explorations past, I've read about this stretch of water time after time in stories of great voyages. Nowhere else on Earth are storms so violent so often. The Drake is also a wall of sorts, an effective challenge separating the civilized world from the utterly alien.

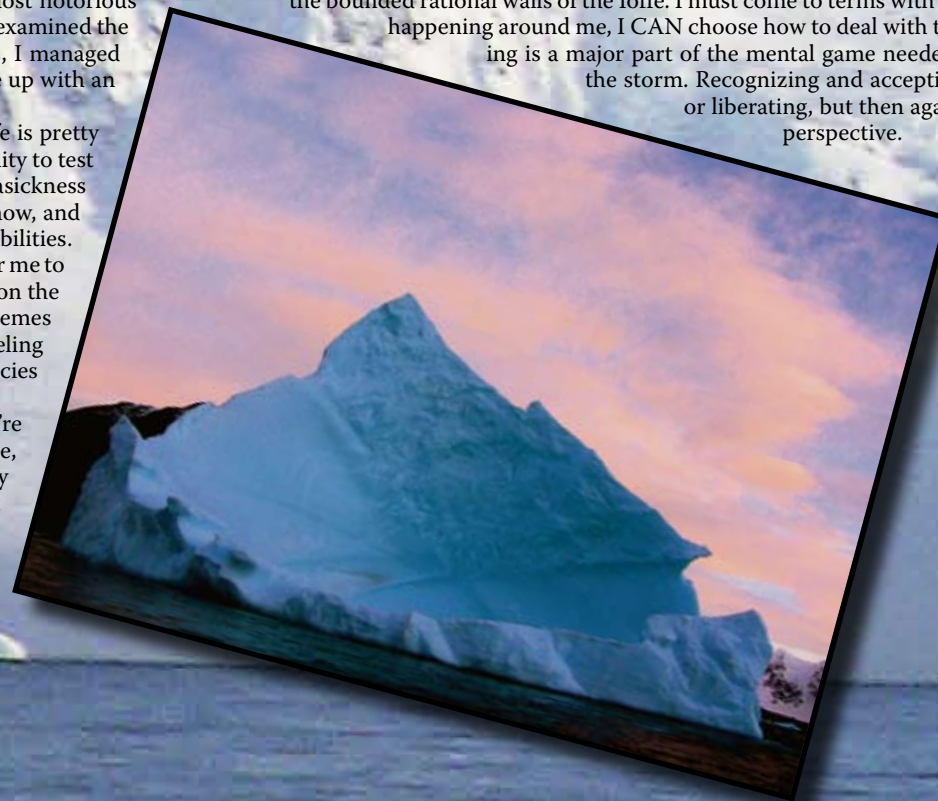
This journey across the Drake is shaping up to be an...interesting one (in the British sense of the word). The buoyant excitement of our departure has subtly transformed into a sort of giddy apprehension. Most of the team appears ready, if a bit hesitant, to endure the worst of what the Drake has to offer. For my part, I'm starting to question my (stubborn? lazy?) choice to forego motion sickness medicines. I've been looking forward to the high seas of the Drake Passage for months, but we'll see just how enthusiastic I am tomorrow...

March 28th

Good news and bad news today on the Drake. The good news is that ol' Sir Francis has been relatively kind, with "Drake Lake" conditions prevailing for most of the day, and most of the team is doing just fine. The bad news is that I am sadly not one of that unaffiliated majority. After wrestling a bout of seasickness this morning, I ultimately chose to bite the proverbial bullet and take some anti-nausea medication. Why, you might ask, did I not do so preemptively, knowing that we were headed into the most notorious waters in the world? That's a good question, and as I examined the ceiling tiles above my couch / bed for several hours, I managed to mine the depths of my misguided psyche to come up with an answer.

Back in grad student world, the routine of daily life is pretty comfortable, and I've been anticipating the opportunity to test my limits. Well, they've been tested, and on the seasickness front, they're pretty weak. But at least I know that now, and I have a better sense of my physical limits and capabilities. Sadly, my physical challenges have made it difficult for me to pursue the abundant intellectual challenges present on the ship. We've divided into teams to pursue various themes centred around climate change, and I've been feeling guilty for abandoning my wonderful Interdependencies Team. Somehow they're managing without me.

In other news, we got news this evening that we're in the process of crossing the Antarctic Convergence, where water temperature plummets and we officially enter the Antarctic ecosystem. It's not every day that one gets to say that we are now officially within the Antarctic sphere of influence.



March 29th

Day 2 of our initial Drake Passage crossing, and things have taken a turn for the worse: we're officially in the biggest storm of the year, with frothing 40-foot waves passing by our 4th-floor windows. Let's just say it wasn't the most productive day of the voyage, but it certainly has been an adventure.

Anyway, today we've got some thoughts from guest blogger Tiffany Vogel, the lead singer of the newly formed band, "Bronco 5." Take it away Tiffany.

Today, the Drake finally decided and in doing so, they have self-organized into the strongest and mightiest of swells this arctic rite of passage has fully manifested itself in the form of drowsily retreated into cabin hibernation mode, especially since we have crossed the Antarctic convergence zone and woke up to the news that we are in gail 9 winds (hurricanes are about gail 12) and that we must temporarily hold steady and refrain from pushing ahead.

I write to you from my little bunk in the Ioffe where I sway back and forth not from overtaking the waves in the name of progress, but by floating respectfully and humbly with engines silent in hopes that the mighty Drake will show eventual mercy. This setback means will we not reach Antarctica as scheduled, rather we will lose half a day on "the Ice" as we precariously pass the Drake. Although this could be processed as a disappointment, I could hardly call this a setback. In fact, I wouldn't have it any other way.

We, as humans, are all too accustomed to setting our own schedules and working to our own watches. Here on Ioffe, we find ourselves stranded on a small floating island in the irrational swells of the Southern ocean. There is no negotiating, no art of persuasion, or charming outreach to the Drake. The message is walloped back in the simplest of terms: for probably the first and last time for many of us, the Drake represents the unique condition when we are completely subservient to the environment. We are reduced to the most primitive forms of environmental determinism and I thank the storm for unsensitively reminding me of this. We work on the Drake's clock, not our own, and the journey of the Drake is just as important to understand Antarctica as Antarctica itself. Here, I cannot run away from challenges and if I bristle, it will have to be within the bounded rational walls of the Ioffe. I must come to terms with the Drake, and although I cannot make choices of what is happening around me, I CAN choose how to deal with the circumstances. Coming to this humbling understanding is a major part of the mental game needed to overcome anxious forms of seasickness. I welcome the storm. Recognizing and accepting my powerlessness has never been more enlightening or liberating, but then again, bear in mind this comes from a 'non-seasickeningly' perspective.

Update: the storm subsided in the wee hours of the morning, and we've just sighted land! The winds are frigid up on the top deck, our route is framed by cliffs of ice and rocky shores. We'll be making our first landing in a few hours at King George Island, having survived the infamous Drake Passage.



March 31st

Well folks, things have officially gone meta on the expedition. After several days of being encouraged to consider climate change issues, network with peers and experts, and soak in the moment, we seem to have reached a tipping point where excessive self-reflection has yielded some sort of collective short circuit. Of course, it's all part of the "beautiful chaos" that has enveloped the expedition: with so many remarkable people in such a stunning environment (there's a humpback whale outside my cabin window at the moment, for those of you keeping score), it's hard to know how to spend our hours. Or should we even question that process – would it be wiser to let the waves of confusion and neurosis wash over our hyperawareness? Maybe just by looking at the daily rhythms in the first place, we're submitting to the structured regime we've hoped to escape in this "open-framework" style expedition. Whoa.

All joking aside, the morning "reflection" session was extremely useful – a maddening mix of enlightenment and frustration similar to an initial viewing of Memento. We even had a bit of civil disobedience when a few expeditioners walked out to go look at icebergs. To be fair, it can hardly be called disobedience when the entire expedition is a free-flowing evolution of ideas and directives, but there was a touch of tension. It's hard to say right now what exactly I've gained from the "process" side of the expedition, but I can sense the eventual lessons will be applicable to nearly all aspects of my life.

Intermission: there are 7 penguins swimming outside my window now. Count it.

Anyway, all signs of tension melted away with an absolutely exhilarating zodiac cruise through Wilhelmina Bay. I hate to say it dear reader, but describing the morning's experience is an exercise in futility: there is simply no way to convey the richness of life, the purity of nature, and the inspired mood of the team that came together for a few hours this morning. Needless to say, however, I'm going to give it a shot.

Humpback whales an arm's length from the boat. A rusting shipwreck framed by cliffs of ice. Cue the sun, part the clouds. Fur seals waddling and sliding to come check us out. Ice-encapsulated mountains in the distance. Skimming the frigid water, wind blowing through our hair. Sea-salt perfume. Icebergs carved and chisled by wind and waves. A sleeping whale awakened by an idling motor. Unforgettable memories.

April 1st

You can always tell the first-time visitors to Yellowstone National Park by the cars that pull over to the side of the road for bison. A bison poking out through the trees a hundred yards away? Pull over. A herd of the animals grazing across the valley? Pull over. A picture of a bison on a sign? Pull over. Tires screech, windows roll down, and the cameras come out. Of course, veteran visitors, those who have been in the park a day or two, don't bother with such things; they have learned that the bison are everywhere, and a photograph without one would be the real anomaly.

During this morning's excursion to Neko Harbor, most of the group reached the status of veteran Antarctica visitors. Yesterday afternoon, we simply couldn't stop photographing the thousands of gentoo penguins waddling around us. Penguins flapping, penguins sliding, penguins eating snow – believe me folks, we've got photos of it all. But today, the cameras were largely focused elsewhere. It's not that we were sick of the penguins, but rather that they were more a part of the landscape, a piece of the greater Antarctic experience and not a destination in themselves. This place is an intricate sea-based ecosystem, and the penguins are just a single piece, albeit an adorable one, of the larger puzzle.

In other news, we've struck it rich again today with the weather. Not a cloud in the sky as the zodiacs left the mothership, and as we now cruise toward Paradise Bay, the bright sun glints off the glassy water and scalloped icebergs. The near absence of wind has even tempted some to consider sunbathing (jokingly I presume). And tonight's order of business is camping on the ice, a truly rare experience that will be a continual struggle between the yin of Antarctic beauty and the yang of encroaching hypothermia. Wish us luck!



April 3rd

Freestyling it today, in keeping with the general mood on board the ship. Some thoughts:

Camping on the ice a couple of nights ago was an adventure. The setting was unbelievable: a small island dome of ice in the middle of a harbor ringed by four rocky pinnacles. Once the sun went down, the starscape was the best I'd ever seen, with shooting stars and satellites criss-crossing the sky every few minutes.

A fun game the next time you're bored at a cocktail party: go around to each group, gently insert yourself, contribute one appropriate thought relevant to the discussion, and subtly extract yourself. It's a great way to get a sense of a group, especially if you've got a short attention span. Maria and I pioneered this activity during the night on the ice, experiencing a full range of conversations, from the meaning of life (one of those things you know will come up in such a gorgeous setting), to how to get into a sleeping bag (you'd be surprised), to worst pick-up lines.

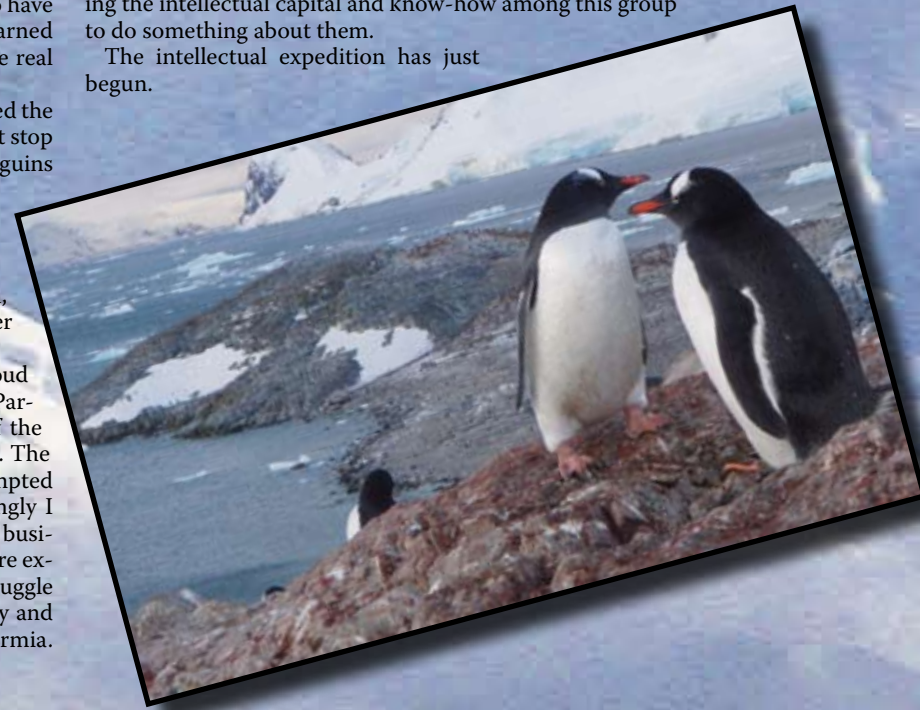
On a related note, the group reflected on the dichotomy of simplicity and complexity associated with the expedition. Simple: we're 80-odd people on a boat, moving across the ocean toward our destination. Complicated: we're also 80-odd vessels of swerving dreams, ambitions, and capabilities, and it's overwhelming to think about mapping those discrete movements into anything remotely coherent.

I was playing a game of sardines last night (I swear I've done more than just play during the last week!), and it got to be my turn to hide. I chose the bridge – the part of the boat where our Russian captains steer us through the roughest waters on Earth. The sun had long since gone down, and the bridge had the feel of a movie set, with only fluorescent lights on navigation consoles silhouetting the sailors. Looking out to sea, a huge foglight on the mast looked out into the mists and dark waters ahead, illuminating the odd bird in the distance. It was spatially disorienting, giving an impression of flotation and suspension. Fortunately no one found me.

I wish I knew Russian: the crew on this ship must have great stories to tell. We're in full-fledged "conference mode" on the Ioffe today, with stimulating group meetings and seminars filling the day. We've questioned the basis of western civilization, shared our own personal stories, and debated the issues. I've also had a chance to sit down with a few of the experts individually, which is a bit like drinking from a firehose. The point is that I think I've finally come to understand the challenge of the expedition.

Let me back up. I've done a touch of mountaineering and skiing and general outdoorsiness in cold places, so I was a bit skeptical of this whole "Antarctic Expedition" thing. It's not like we were trekking across the continent. And in reality, this has been a tourist trip, at least as Antarctic trips go. Our guide Graham has trouble keeping a smirk off his face every time one of us refers to this "expedition." Turns out it is an expedition, just not a physical one. The problems of climate change are so immense, this experience has really been about harnessing the intellectual capital and know-how among this group to do something about them.

The intellectual expedition has just begun.



ANTARCTICA Fact File



Area (Overall): 14,000,000 km²
Permanent Population: 0
Researchers: ~1000

Antarctica is the fifth largest continent and has seven official territories that are shared between Canada, Australia, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, France and the UK.

Brazil has also made a claim to some of the land, which has added friction between nations as there are already some territories that overlap.

The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 by twelve countries; to date, forty-six countries have signed the treaty. The treaty prohibits military activities and mineral mining, supports scientific research, and protects the continent's ecozone. Ongoing experiments are conducted by more than 4,000 scientists of many nationalities and with different research interests.

A total of 37,506 tourists visited during the 2006–07 Austral summer with nearly all of them coming from commercial ships. The number is predicted to increase to over 80,000 by 2010. There has been some recent concern over the potential adverse environmental and ecosystem effects caused by the influx of visitors. A call for stricter regulations for ships and a tourism quota have been made by some environmentalists and scientists.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ZOË DOBELL

Peace & Tranquility

Relaxing on The Queens Lawn

Sam Furse, PhD



FAITH NO MORE

Ravi Pall

With Download Festival approaching fast, *felix* has decided to preview it for your pleasure. In my opinion the best thing about this festival is the sole fact that my exams finish on the 11th. Now exams are the worst thing all year, so what is better than a music festival to pick you up straight after?

Now I know Download Festival is a heavy metal festival, but believe it or not, I like the music, and so do many other people. With a massive line up this year (unlike last years poor attempt) fans form all over the country, and I'm sure the world, will assemble en mass to smoke, drink and get fucking messy!

The first thing I want to talk about is how much I'm looking forward to seeing some of the bands on show. In what may be a surprise, the band I'm most excited about are **"The Prodigy"**. Now I know they don't really fit into the whole Metal genre, but the gigs these guys put on are fucking brutal. Taking a 10Kg mace to the next year's editor's, Dan Wan's, face would be a beautiful cherry blossom in comparison. Also there are solid favourites such as the ureal **Slipknot**. Who else will be a "must see" during my time there? Well there will be **Clutch** (Think of cowboy metal), the sick and twisted **Marilyn Manson**, the hard hitting **Opeth** and the classic one hit wonder, **Journey**. I also want to make an effort to see the other great bands (and there are so many). In particular **Faith No More**, **Korn**, **Staind**, **Dragonforce** and **Dream Theatre**.

The next thing on my agenda is the whole camping element associated with music festivals. Now I'm going to have to trawl the inter webs to find a nice, but extremely cheap tent, to live in for three days, until the end of the festival comes, causing everyone to become crazed animals. The burning of tents is an almost sacred ritual which seems to happen every time. I feel there is no escape, so the cheaper the tent the better. Also I will need to stock up on some serious booze. I think 10 cases of beer for three days is a minimum. Not just beer though, a complete stocking of all things recreation need to be done, it's just beer is the most important.

The last thing that I have to think about is travel. Seriously, this place is in donington, and I don't have a car available to drive this year. Lets hope the shuttle busses form the train station are still running by time we get there. All in all Download is something I am very happy about attending. YAY!

Slipknot

THE PRODIGY

Ravi Pall and Greg Power Preview Download Festival

2009



DEF LEPPARD

Greg Power

I am extremely excited about my first time at Download festival. With hundreds of bands playing and SO MUCH beer to drink it will be impossible to see it all! Friday starts off with a massive throwback to the early 90's with not one but TWO of nu-metal's biggest bands: **KoRn** and the newly-reformed **Limp Bizkit!** Sure, neither band has pulled out a good album for 10 years, but the 14-year old inside of me cannot freakin wait to headbang to such kickass tracks as "Blind" or "Rollin'!"

On a more serious note, metalcore gods **Killswitch Engage** will be previewing songs from their forthcoming album which is bound to trigger a fair amount of ultra-violent. Mmm. UK screamo crew **Bring Me The Horizon** are known for their in-your-face sets, and at least one person should lose an eye during their performance, so I'll definitely be there to see it. The "Heaviest Mo Fos" award will definitely go to experimental madmen **Meshuggah**, who are guaranteed to make your ears bleed with complex rhythms and never-ending layers of distortion.

A little out of place among all the metal bands, punk band **Billy Talent** will have a hard time winning over any fans. But to be honest I'm especially looking forward to seeing these guys live, kicking and screaming through tunes like "Devil In A Midnight Mass" or their breakthrough "Try Honesty".

It is no secret though that the highlight of the day – if not of the festival – will be seeing the original line-up of **Faith No More**, featuring my personal Jesus - **Mike Patton**. Screaming along with him and thousands of others to "Epic" or "Midlife Crisis" will be a goddamn dream come true.

Day 2 sees the return of more nu-metal stars (seems to be the theme this year), like **Slipknot** – who have actually gotten better since the "death" of nu-metal – and the **God Of Fuck** himself, **Marilyn Manson**. Without a doubt, they will tear the festival apart. Electronic rockers **Pendulum** will probably fail to convince the metalheads, whereas old-school legends **The Prodigy** will be just plain awesome.

I can see it all ready: Ravi and I screaming out the lyrics to "Thunder", downing beers, whilst setting ourselves on fire. Okay maybe that isn't exactly how it will go down, but it will be something along those lines.

Day 3 seems a little bit weaker in comparison, but we'll probably be passed out in the tent most of the day anyway. With a bit of luck we'll get to see prog-metal veterans **Dream Theater** and groove-metal tyrants **Clutch**. Not very probable though...

FAITH NO MORE SLIPKNOT DEF LEPARD KORN MARILYN MANSON WHITESNAKE LIMP BIZKIT PENDULUM ZZ TOP KILLSWITCH ENGAGE DRAGONFORCE DREAM THEATER BILLY TALENT DOWN HATEBREED BLACKSTONE CHERRY STAIND DEVILDRIVER JOURNEY SKIN THE BLACKOUT FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH TESLA RIPPER OWENS STONE GODS MÖTLEY CRÛE THE PRODIGY TRIVIUM OPETH LACINA COIL CHRIS CORNELL PAPPA ROACH BRING ME THE HORIZON YOU ME AT SIX BUCKCHERRY DIR EN GREAY PARKWAY DRIVE THE ANSWER CLUTCH SHINEDOWN A DAY TO REMEMBER STATIC X VOLBEAT KARMA TO BURN IN THIS MOMENT STEADLÛR FIGHTSTAR SEVENDUST GOD FORBID SUICIDE SILENCE MESHUGGAH ANVIL GO AUDIO DUFF MCKAGAN'S LOADED ARCHITECTS THERAPY? BACKYARD BABIES LAWNMOWER DEATH HOSTILE VOIVOD MANRAZE FACECAGE TURBOWOLF ESOTERICA MIDDLE CLASS RUT SYLOSIS NO AMERICA AUGER BANE WE ARE THE OCEAN





Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair James Houghton & Alex Ashford

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Slit your wristbands

Alex Ashford
Music Editor

Hey, it's 2009, one year away from the futuristic sounding 2010, and as my global change biology course informs me, very near to some sort of space-age climate apocalypse where we will all dress like astronauts and have to dodge tsunamis and hurricanes on our way into work every morning. Sounds awesome, right? Like living in a Bruce Willis movie directed by Daft Punk. But why then, are so many people so obsessed with clinging onto the past? The past sucks! The past is full of shitty boyfriends who wrote bad poetry on their jeans, times when getting drunk frequently meant being sick in someone else's front lawn, and times when you thought the band Placebo were cool.

I'm talking about those people who wear festival wristbands way after that festival has ended. Those little slivers of polyester rags have the effect of instantly transforming your look from normal guy into complete dickhead. Last night I went to a spur of the moment Laura Marling gig in Kentish Town and found myself standing next to one such guy. I asked him why he was wearing those horrid festival wristbands and he confessed to me that it was because they represent happy memories of the few times he didn't feel suicidal and he couldn't bear to get rid of them. I wasn't sure if he was joking because, as someone who wears festival wristbands, it's obviously

possible it could be true. Anyway I told him that if he's that pathetic he probably should just kill himself already. He laughed, so I'm guessing it was a joke.

There are many reasons why those wristbands are bad, firstly, because if you wear them, it's usually because you think it's a talking point. If you think going to a really mainstream music festival that 99% of people under 25 have been to at least once in their life, with lots of average bands that everyone has heard of, really defines who you are, then you shouldn't want to advertise it. At least present yourself with a modicum of mystery and the possibility that your tastes aren't completely average.

Festival bands are no different to those livestrong wristbands people used to wear to show they aren't fans of cancer. No one likes cancer! You don't need some sort of accessory to show this. At least with those the money you bought it for might actually go to a cancer charity.

As if to prove my point, at the Laura Marling gig I turned around and was face to face with, in the words of Kadhim, the biggest douche-bag in the world. He was singing along badly to every single song Laura played, drowning out her angelic voice with his own football hooligan style burlblings, and yes, he was wearing festival wristbands. Point proven. The guy I was talking to had to admit defeat. So cut those festival wristbands off and cut yourself free.

More Alarming gig at The Flower Pot



Laura Marling
@ The Flower Pot

12th May

Kadhim Shubber

"Oh come on!" she pleaded with a faltering smile as the feedback interrupted another song. "It's only a mic and a guitar!". The tightly squashed crowd chuckled and urged her on as she weaved her cynical story of love, missing a stitch here and there to grimace at the incompetence of the sound technician.

Earlier that day, I had received a text, "Laura Marling is playing a secret gig tonight at The Flower Pot in Kentish Town, I'm told it's free". In the time-honoured tradition of Secret Gigs I received this news at the worst possible time. Sat in a meeting, I heard my phone buzz and glanced down to see the news. Unfortunately I was sat in a meeting and it was 8 o'clock; it would take over an hour to get to Kentish Town...

I played my hand. "Excuse me, I really have to go," I interrupted. "What's the matter?" came the reply. I hesitated, the window of opportunity was slowly closing and the gig inching ever closer.

The truth would not do, would not justify my leaving... "Uhh..."; I dashed for the door and fled down the stairs, to hell with the consequences!

Down the stairs, across the road, I sprinted all the way to the tube station. A fellow commuter, sprinted up beside me. He looked at me quizzically, asking "Late as well?". "Yes! I'm going to a gig! It's free you should come!". Unsurprisingly, the 50-something man with a briefcase and a train to catch declined my offer and then proceeded to accelerate ahead of me. In a word, humiliating.

The crowd at The Flower Pot had not quite reached bursting point when I arrived but before long there were fans hanging from the rafters, occupying every nook and cranny of the 200 capacity venue.

Rather quietly, she jaunted onto stage and began to set up. She would be solo tonight with a solitary cellist for accompaniment. Laura Marling has a peculiar stage presence, entirely disarming. It's as if she doesn't realize that she's standing in front of a whole crowd of adoring fans who dropped all their engagements to see her perform. She gives the impression that one could perk up, "Y'alright Laura?" and strike up an impromptu chat while she tuned her guitar.

The crowd cheered as she was introduced as "The Lovely Laura Marling" but unfortunately the gig was to go downhill from this point.

Her set was plagued by feedback from her guitar. At first it was minor inconvenience and she laughed it off with a shrug. The audience too, smiled back sympathetically. As it continued, Laura Marling took it in her stride altering her song order to avoid quieter songs (although I wondered if this was actually because half the people at the back of the pub talked loudly throughout her set).

After a few songs and no improvement with the sound, she abandoned the mic completely and attempted to play without any amplification. A bold move that could have worked had it not been for the fans who decided that their conversations were more interesting (don't get me started on the people who thought we had come to hear them sing).

Thus with an uncooperative mic and similarly uncooperative audience, Laura Marling departed the stage after 5 or so songs. Despite being interrupted by feedback, her new songs sound bloody fantastic and give every indication that her second album, which is due to be released sometime this year, is going to impress.

What we think is sounding sharp or falling flat

Asher Roth sings songs that exemplify the worst people at university	Bat For Lashes we liked your last album better	The Horrors have finally made a good record!
Flat	Lil' Wayne's attempts at rock ... stick to rapping!	Sharp

Top 10 Cover songs

Patti Smith - Gloria (Them)

Her most well known song, with the beginning added lyrics, "Jesus died for somebody's sins, but not mine." Genius.

Jimi Hendrix - All along the watchtower (Bob Dylan)

Did you know this was a cover? I totally didn't know this was a cover.

Ben Folds - Bitches aint shit (Dr Dre)

Ben Folds captures the subtle emotional nuances of Dr. Dre's song.

This Mortal Coil - song to the siren (Tim Buckley)

Hauntingly beautiful.

Devo - Satisfaction (the Rolling Stones)

Far more satisfying than the original version.

Florence and the Machine - Postcards from italy (Beirut)

Florence's voice is so beautiful, I don't even know what to say about this.

Klaxons - It's not over yet (Grace)

Rave music is so much better this time around.

Cowboy Junkies - Sweet Jane (the Velvet Underground)

Lou Reed described it as "the best and most authentic version I have ever heard."

Soft Cell - Tainted love (Gloria Jones)

You know I had to put this on here.

Jose Gonzalez - Heartbeats (the Knife)

Not as good as the original, but a lovely fresh twist on it.

Our other music editor James Houghton refused to let me put Rolf Harris's cover of Bohemian Rhapsody - oh yes! It exists! - in the number one spot. Honourable mentions go to everything by Nouvelle Vague, Neko Case - Christmas card from a hooker in minneapolis, the Future Heads - hounds of love, and Joey Ramone - what a wonderful world.



sac

student activities centre

imperialcollegeunion.org/clubs

Introducing the New Student Activities Centre!

This week it's all change in the East Basement of the Union Building!

After years of planning, lots of building works and a good deal of heavy lifting, the Student Activities Centre (SAC) is moving to its new home. Over the past couple of terms, there has been a whole new floor created between the second and third floors of the main Union Building specially for this purpose. The SAC will no longer live in the East Basement, but will be located on this new Mezzanine floor - the source of the mysterious 'M' button in the lifts.

The new Student Activities Centre has been specially designed to be the hub of all Club & Society administration and

activity. When it opens next week, it will offer a vastly improved range of facilities for student officers and Clubs & Societies. In addition to everything being brand new and shiny, there will be more computer terminals, more pigeonholes, upgraded CSC cubbyholes, new swivelly chairs, and two break-out areas perfect for small club discussions, or CSC Treasurers' meetings. The Student Activities Centre has also been designed to maximise space, and will offer more lockers for Club & Society use. In addition to all this, the new SAC may unwittingly offer additional health benefits, for, as well as the extra calories it may take Club & Society officers to get up the stairs, it will provide previous basement dwellers with almost shocking

amounts of extra Vitamin E.

The new SAC complex will not only house the Student Activities Centre, but will also house the Advice Centre, so all students will have easy access to Nigel Cooke, the Student Adviser. The Membership Services Team, including Phil Power and Alissa Ayling, the Sport Partnership Administrator, will have their new offices next to the SAC.

Looking forward, the improvements for Clubs & Societies, and students in general, doesn't stop here. The redevelopment is still going on, with the East Basement to be transformed into a set of brand new meeting rooms, and the West wing of the 3rd floor of

the main Union Building will become a new Union Gym – with mirrors, a sprung wooden floor perfect for dancing and martial arts, and larger Club & Society stores. This final part of

this phase of the redevelopment will be completed in time for the new academic year. There will inevitably more disruption in the short term while all this work is going on, but it will, as the new Student Activities Centre shows, all be worth it in the end.



Lily Topham
Deputy President
(Clubs & Societies)
dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

Union Colours - Nominations Open Now

What are Colours?

Colours are a type of award that Imperial College Union can give to anybody to recognise the service, contribution and dedication of someone to the Union.

There are five types of Colours that are broadly separated into two groups. The first three Colours, which are Half Colours, Full Colours and Outstanding Service Awards, are awarded in recognition of one year's service to the Union. The other two Colours, which are Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships, are awarded in recognition of many year's service to the Union.

Who can be nominated for Colours?

Anybody can be nominated for these awards, except the Union Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor.

Who can nominate someone for Colours?

Any Imperial student can complete a nomination form, but it's best not to nominate yourself!

What happens if you are awarded a Colours

Being awarded a Colours is a great honour and privilege. Those who receive these awards are presented with an award certificate at a ceremony, a tie or pin, and in the case of the higher awards a gift like an engraved tankard or Honorary Life membership of the Union. The Union keeps a record of all the people awarded Colours.

What do you need to do to be awarded a Colour?

To be awarded Half Colours you need to have made a "positive contribution to the general life of the Union in an extraordinary fashion."

To be awarded Full Colours you have to "repeatedly, through outstanding achievements, over the course of the year, have made a significant contribution to the life of the Union."

For an Outstanding Service Award "you will have displayed continuous outstanding achievement across a broad spectrum of Union activities." Few of these are given out, only five a year at most.

The Fellowship and Distinguished Fellowship awards are much harder to get as they are based on the contribution the awardee has made over a length of time.

To receive a Union Fellowship award you need to "have continuously served the Union in an exceptional manner." Very few of these are given out.

To receive a Distinguished Fellowship you need to have "served the Union in a selfless and dedicated manner which is both exceptional and beyond reproach."

If you don't know which award to nominate someone for then choose the one you feel is appropriate and the Colours Committee will change if necessary.

How can I nominate someone?

Nominations are open from Tuesday 5 May to midnight Tuesday 26 May at 12 noon. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the website and should be completed and emailed to colours@imperial.ac.uk.

You'll have to give the name of the nominee, the award you are nominating them for and tell us, in less than 200 words, why you think they should get it. Also include your name and CID.

What happens then?

Your nominations will be considered by the Union's Colours Committee and then the results will be announced towards the end of the term in Felix and successful nominees will be given their awards at an Colours ceremony in June.



Food

Food Editors – Rosie Grayburn & Afonso Campos

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Spring is Here!
Let's eat thingsRosie Grayburn
Food Editor

Dear Mr Examiner, I have chosen to write my dissertation on the pertinent subject of "Stuffing Your Face: A Critical Review of Student Revision Cuisine circa May 2009". I selected this topic because I believe it will satisfactorily fill the editorial-shaped hole that currently sits on page x of the food pages this week.

After successfully draining any possible artistic creativity or wit from my poor, poor brain over Easter whilst revising for exams, I have thus attempted to put a spring back in my step by trying out some Quick Revision recipes for you all. No doubt the best way to increase productivity while you're deep in papers and notes is to make in bulk, use your fridge and heat up food as required. Classic bulk bakes are Chilli Con Carne (or Chilli Non Carne) or a family-sized dish of lasagne, but here are some alternatives for y'all to try out!

Revision Pasta – Cook 1 onion and a clove of garlic in a dash of oil until softened. Add a pack of turkey mince and cook until browned. Then add a tin of tomatoes, 2 tsp tomato puree, 2 tbsp of sweetcorn, 1 tsp of mixed herbs and chilli powder to taste. Cook the mixture for 20 minutes and season

well. Stir in 300g cooked pasta. Serve with some salad, if you like. If you're making this in bulk, make sure you re-heat it properly.

Hotpot à la felix – Cook 400g sausages, 100g bacon and a red onion in 1 tbsp oil until well done. Add a tin of tomatoes. Rinse out the tin with water and add the tomatoey water too, with 2 tbsp dark sugar. Add a tin of chick-peas and 2-3 sweet potatoes. Bring to the boil then bake in the oven for 30 minutes. Serve in a bowl with parsley and a hunk [of bread]. This can be easily reheated in the microwave.

Tea Break Cake – For all that work avoidance, there is nothing better than a nice homemade cake. Soak 100g raisins in the juice and rind of one orange for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, melt 125g butter with 125g light soft brown sugar. To this mixture add 2 eggs, 3 mashed bananas, the raisin/orange mix and 200g self raising flour, sieved. Pour all of this into a greased loaf tin and bake at 170°C for 50 minutes.

Despite being rather recipe-heavy this week, I couldn't help adding the green-themed Tortilla recipe shown below in honour of the start of Spring and to remind us that sometimes when trees turn green, they like to spread their seed more than a 16 year old chav from Stockport. Later, my homies.

Feta, Pea and Mint
Tortilla

Serves 4

2 tbsp olive oil
1 red onion
2 cloves garlic, crushed
400g cooked potatoes, cubed
150g frozen peas
Handful of mint
200g feta cheese
6 eggs, beaten and seasoned

In a large frying pan, fry the red onion in the oil until soft and golden. Add the garlic, cooked potatoes and peas. Cook for 3 minutes, or until the potatoes have a bit of colour. Add the mint and cheese and give the mixture a good stir before adding the eggs.

As soon as the eggs hit the pan stir them until the mixture is well coated and the eggs have started to cook. Cook the tortilla on a low heat for 8-10 minutes then place under a hot grill for 2 minutes to cook the top. Serve in quarters with a big green salad and a warm baguette.

A London Guide to Pubs

David Stewart

If not actively ignorant, it seems that it would be awfully unwise not to start a discussion on Public Houses with a brief mention of Orwell's description of the perfect pub. After all, his judgement retrospectively is so sound, that it would be unlikely that his take on public houses should be anything less than revelatory (even if decidedly tongue-in-cheek).

To summarise, Orwell claims that the perfect pub, which he calls "The Moon Under Water" is largely equivalent to its atmosphere. It should be Victorian (genuinely so) and comfortably ugly. It is frequented mostly by regulars whose names the motherly barmaids know. It serves draught stouts in vessels with handles. It has a garden for families. It dispenses good cheap meals. It is reasonably quiet and has no music or radio.

It was this set of criteria that led Wetherspoons to create its chain of pubs (most of whose names contain the word 'moon'). That JD followed the letter of the law as much as possible while ignoring the spirit of the it is in the nature of chain operations, though I would freely admit it that when it succeeds, it does tick some spiritual boxes, too. And it's absurdly cheap.

I would contend that it is impossible to conceive, these days, in London, of anything even moderately approaching what Orwell described. Firstly, Londoners rarely stay put for very long, so are continually changing 'locals' giving little opportunity to make any lasting



connection with the motherly barmaids. Secondly, the meagre amounts available for bar work offered by most establishments tend to preclude any motherly tendency to call everyone 'dear'. Thirdly, no-one drinks stouts; so that where they do occur, they are likely to be vinegary (they have a very short shelf-life). Lastly, if any pub did actually tick a high proportion of these boxes, it would be rammed full of ponces like me.

I broadly agree with Orwell, certainly in that atmosphere is key, though I would insist that the beer is also excellent. But it's worth noting that modern concerns mean that priorities have shifted somewhat. For instance, it is enough of a battle to get a beer in a real glass that the desire for a handle can be dispensed with, or even to get something served within half an hour.

(Seriously, complain when the Union won't give you a proper glass.) For another instance, barmaids are just as often barmen these days. For yet another instance, where he asks for no radio, he would now ask for no television. I would argue that music can be acceptable, though it has to be good, and a real skill is needed to find exactly the volume necessary to perfume the vibe without stinking it out. I would also add to his analysis that the lighting is crucial: it needs to be good and virtually non-existent. The keyword is 'comfortable'. What Orwell describes is what he is comfortable with; a situation which is familiar to him, and of which he himself is a familiar inhabitant. In short, a pub should be a womb.

Unfortunately London does not have any wombs. But there do exist a small clutch of pubs (and bars!) scattered far and wide throughout London which at least have a little amniotic fluid sloshing about. These include The Wenlock Arms, (26 Wenlock Road, N1), The Microbar (14 Lavender Hill, SW11), The Charles Dickens (SE1 0LH), The Harp (WC2N 4HS) and The Royal Oak (SE1 4JU).

Get Stuffed for a Tenner

Big Easy BBQ and Crabshack

332-334 King's Road

www.bigeasy.com.uk

Best deals: Repeat after me: Burger, fries, wings, beer, ten pounds.



I'd bet you that King's Road would not be the first place you would think of for a cheap meal. However, it seems to be the case that the eateries lining this mile of high fashion, Chelsea tractors and beautiful pedestrians are keen to cater for people other than those with fifties in their hand and a Porsche parked on the curb.

The best of these student-friendly restaurants sit on the Evelyn Gardens/South Kensington end of King's Road. Opposite the amazing Dimpling and Noodle Bar and near the gut-busting Dutch Pancake House sits the legendary crab shack Big Easy. Modelled on a simple Gulf Coast crab shack, Big Easy serves every classic American dish you can dream of: wings, ribs, burger, lobster, pecan pie, waffles, dunkin' doughnuts... What makes me especially happy is the fact that (as previously noted) Big Easy is more than happy to cater for those spending £10 just as much as those splurging £100, as student-loan-friendly meal deals grace the menu every night of the week - just make sure you stay clear of the à la carte... Bye bye loan, hello lobster!

So if you're staring at your empty fridge in halls, with a tenner in your pocket, get down to Big Easy. Ten pounds [incredibly] gets you a large bowl of 6 very spicy wings with blue cheese sauce, a huge portion of the best fries, a deliciously fat burger and a choice of margarita or beer. Beat that, Wetherspoons. This is an extremely impressive amount of food for a mere ten pounds. Whilst writing this, I have tried to recreate the size of the burger using my hands and eat it, thus achieving some strange looks from onlookers in the library. Yes, readers - the food is so good, you can carry on eating it even when it's not there anymore. (Imagination required.)

If you're feeling rich and decadent on a Wednesday, you can spend an extra £5 and go to town on some Unlimited Fajitas. Being presented with Big Easy's pile of tortillas, guacamole, chicken, salsa and sour cream must be a similar feeling to that of winning a gold medal in the [Fajita] Olympics as your heart fills with pride, joy and you start crying

with happiness. I've never seen people ask for a top-up so there's a challenge if any of you boys fancy a testosterone fuelled Fajita match pre-Sports Night. Other meal deals exist on other days of the week, including an all-you-can-eat BBQ on a Monday. Just check the website before you go to see what will be in your belly later.

Probably due to its reputation for feeding Princes William and Harry and their posse, people can be put off by the often Dolce-clad people that might be seen lurking inside. Fear not - it's not just the playground of the rich and royal playing at being rustic! The clientele is mostly West Londoners, large groups of friends and families. All in all this makes for a pleasantly noisy atmosphere which fits with the All-American image. Big Easy is incredibly popular so I'd book if you are going on a Friday or Saturday night. Also, live music is played each night so you can gorge on your burger, fries and wings to the sound of Sweet Home Alabama. Perfecto.



Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

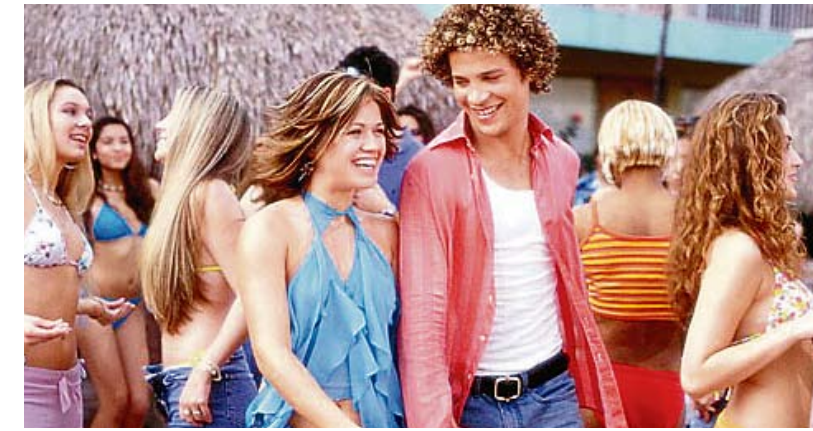
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

When the director gets it wrong...

Stefan Carpanu

There is a fine line between bad and good, on both sides of the terms. Naturally, most attention is garnered by those films which fall in the latter category, and it is most deservedly so. But there's also a lot to be learned by watching some of the less glorious cinematic achievements that have blessed (cursed) the screens and the eyes of man along the years. They shed light on the whole spectrum of film-making ability, highlighting the fatal flaws that ruin the more refined part of the movie-going experience. Whether it's horrendous acting, ridiculous writing, unfocused directing, or a mix of these and several other factors, the truth is that a bad film is always to be preferred to a mediocre one: there's nothing worse than being in the middle of the road, neither good enough to be listened to, nor bad enough to be laughed at - filmwise, of course. The only exception refers to comedies, which are generally the least enjoyable kind of bad movies, as recent history has clearly highlighted through this swarm of very low brow parodies that has invaded us in the new millennium.

With this in mind, it is worth taking a look at three movies that are generally acknowledged to be among the worst ever made and checking whether they have any redeeming qualities to render



The bright colors and blond hair - all blinding after a night in the library

them watchable. While it may be a bit mean spirited, the truth is that anyone who can't laugh about his or her blunders should re-examine the moral imperatives of life - and if one cannot will it to become a universal law, then perhaps a career change is in order.

Alone in the Dark (2005)

Uwe Boll's second "hit" is pretty much defining of most of the German's movies. Big budgets, famous actors, important franchises - all turned into a pile of rubbish in a highly consistent fashion. The main problem with Boll's works of film is that he tries so desperately to conform to Hollywood stand-

ards and stereotypes, which comes coupled with generally poor special effects and tediously uninteresting scripts. It's true that simply taking on a video-game movie (as Boll has so often done) is a pain in itself as far as the writing is concerned, but given that Boll isn't even that passionate about staying loyal to the story or the fans means this excuse doesn't hold.

It's difficult for me to say that I've enjoyed any of the German's disasters. I find that I have too much respect for some of the actors that sell their souls in his projects to relish their failure, while the writing rarely goes into the "so bad it's good category" and maintains a fair level of blandness throughout. Moreover, I sometimes get completely lost in the messy action directed by Boll, which can go so far as to make me close my eyes in the attempt of convincing myself there are no monsters.

So as far as Boll is concerned, watching one of his films is enough to get an idea of what you can expect and any decent human being just has to see at least one film from the most famous bad director around - or at least the historic "fast motion - slow motion in one scene" bit from Far Cry

On a related matter, I highly recommend *Alone in the Dark II* (2008), which was one of the most delightful bad movies I have ever seen. Out of respect for it, all I can say is: "Don't wor-

ry. It only kills the soul, not the body".

From Justin to Kelly (2003)

Similarly to *Gigli*, this was one of those films that quickly rose to fame because of how bad they were. Basically, this musical about several college kids having some fun at a sort of summer camp was an attempt to make some money and rush the rise to fame of two contestants on American Idol. I could easily go on a rant here in regard to how much these shows ruin the life of many good TV series because nothing truly good can compete on equal grounds with them, and the battle for ratings just forces the networks to search for a lowest common denominator. But I won't, because somehow I could ignore this abominable state of affairs and actually found that *From Justin to Kelly* is not the complete disaster I expected it to be.

From a musical labelled among the worst ever made, I expected tragic singing performances, because that's where its strength lies. However, while I'm definitely no big fan of traditional musicals, I couldn't say that this one was shockingly more unlikable than the others I've seen. Most of the actors were even adept enough to keep the utterly predictable and mostly retarded story flowing without major incident. Beyond the dancing and the singing, which didn't upset me more than usual, it's the highly disjointed way the film comes together that makes it seem amateurish. Ironically as it may seem, another twenty minutes to it would have rounded it into something that would not have been far beyond in terms of "real quality" to most mediocre films that have come out recently.

As it stands, *From Justin to Kelly* is little more than a bunch of songs strung together on film. Some have considered it as one of the most likable bad movies ever made and I reckon there is some truth to that: it's definitely watchable and at times, a joy to make fun of.

Manos: The Hands of Fate (1966)

Written, directed and starring Harold P. Warren, a fertilizer salesman from Texas. Now, compared to this here creation, the previous two titles don't stand a chance: *Manos* succeeds in surpassing them on all levels, which makes it a glorious achievement in bad filmmaking.

While some of its issues clearly arise from the film's very low budget, it is this in the end which provided the catalyst that turned *Manos* into a story for the ages. There are loads of goodies to be enjoyed here, from a wonderfully weird character called Torgo, with bulging knees that must have aimed to inspire fear and terror, to disappearing children and dogs, as well as a secondary storyline that consists of a couple kissing for hours on end, which has no connection to the main plot whatsoever - and if you get overwhelmed, there are always some nice scenic shots

to take your mind of planning holidays and maybe force you to consider the monotony of human affairs. The fact is *Manos* was a lot of fun to watch, ranking next to *Alone in the Dark II*, as one of the most delightful bad movies I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. The same way some films are too good for words, this set of moving pictures is just about as good in levels of bad. Even if "the Master would not approve", watching *Manos* is an imperative for anyone who enjoys making fun of bad films.



This is Manos: hands of fate!

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...and when they get it right...

Rhys Davies

It seems to me that there has been a spate of films in 3D recently. Well, spate isn't exactly the right word. Off the top of my head, only *Monsters vs. Aliens* and *Coraline* spring to mind, but there are more waiting just around the temporal corner - including a "rockumentary" about the Jonas Brothers... ugh!

If you're like me, the mention of 3D films harks back to a period in the 90s, when you would go to see cheap, second-rate films wearing cheap, secondary paper glasses. It was a time when studios thought that instead of decent acting or witty scripts, they could pull in the crowds with gimmicky special effects. It is a tragedy that an otherwise good film must suffer because it has to parade a ropey 3D effect in front of everything.

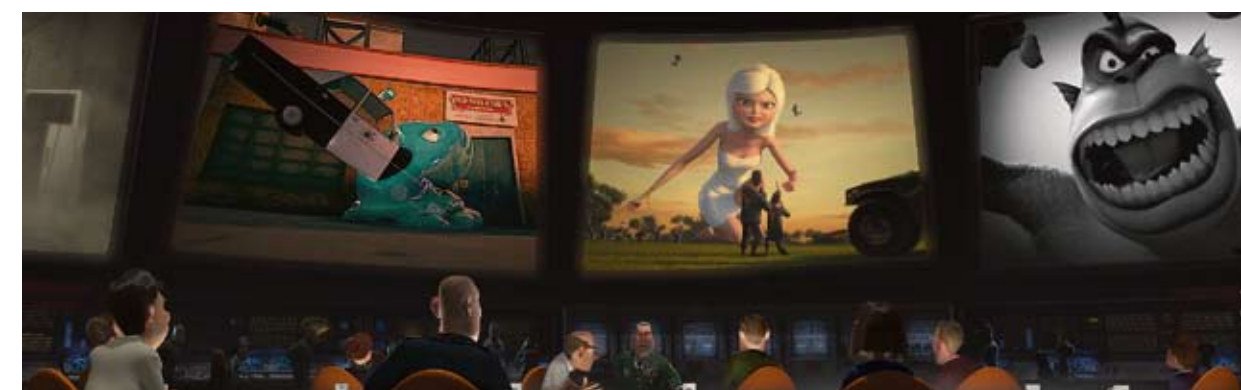
With this nostalgia in mind, I was a little cautious of going to see the above films - not to mention the fact that they are aimed at kids when I am at an age when people begin to call me "sir".

But I was very pleasantly surprised by both *Monsters vs. Aliens* and *Coraline*.

Monsters vs. Aliens is about a very normal young woman, Susan (Reese Witherspoon), who, after an unfortunate accident with a radioactive meteorite, grows to become a giantess. Swiftly captured by the US government, she makes friends with the other "monsters" being held. With the threat of alien invasion, they are Earth's last chance at survival - that or nukes.

The plot doesn't deviate much from the established formulas of superhero and alien films, but it still manages to be entertaining. What really won me over, however, was the quirky collection of characters, each one making me laugh in their own special way. Of special note is Dr. Cockroach, a mad scientist, played by Hugh Laurie, a mad scientist. Even now, I don't know whether Laurie was speaking in his native accent, or a British impersonation of his American one.

Coraline is the other 3D film in cinemas now. Based on the book by Neil Gaiman ('American Gods', 'Never-



The terrifying monsters of BOB, Susan and The Missing Link from Monsters vs Aliens

where') and directed by Henry Selick (*The Nightmare Before Christmas*), this is a dark tale of an adventurous yet bored girl as she explores her dull, boring new home and the fantastic and wonderful other-world hidden behind a door in the living room.

Neil Gaiman never does things by the numbers and his name is a synonym for strange. Coupled with Selick, it makes for entertaining, exciting corkscrew of a plot. *Coraline* (Dakota Fanning) and her parents are relatively normal but the other residents in the

apartment complex define and defy the eccentric. The music and the artwork are both stunning and this film is a treat for all the senses. Out of the two films, this is easily my favourite.

But what of the dreaded third dimension? Are these just the bastard offspring of those horrible 3D films of my childhood? No. In both films, the 3D effect is used to enhance, not replace, the story being told. It's less intrusive and more intuitive. This is how it should be done.

And the glasses themselves have

come a long way as well. Instead of flimsy paper and acetate that gives you paper-cuts on your ears, it's all made of plastic. As eyewear goes, they're a bit tacky but they're not the reason you bought the ticket. Modelling them in the mirror after the film, they remind vaguely of Buddy Holly.

In summary, I think we may have finally turned a corner in 3D cinema. The equipment has improved, and so have the films - greatly. Even on DVD, when the 3D effect is lost, these films will still be a treasure to watch.



Four easy and fabulous headscarves

Headscarves, or in the Muslim sense, hijabs represent modesty. *felix* shows you that modest is not necessarily bland. **Kawai Wong** teams up with Anum Farooq and Mehwaesh Islam to give you four styles in small little steps.

So what really do the Muslim girls think? For Anum, "Wearing the headscarf is linked to notions of modesty and self-discipline, alongside the perception that one is not judged on appearance but rather on character. Although my headscarf does not make me who I am (because that would be just weird), it is a visual representation of my beliefs."

Modesty aside, many view the headscarf as an art form. Indeed, this piece of clothing has long and rich history. In earlier times, the headscarf was worn by both Christian, Muslim and Jew-

ish women with their own respective styles and traditions. The styles also range from Spanish, Turkish to Indo-African! Fashion-wise, the diversity of fabrics used, means that it is difficult for fashion to not notice the next big thing.

Have you noticed the new H&M Matthew Williamson campaign? Yes, the model was wrapped in a chiffon floral print dress, complete with a headscarf. So whether or not you are Muslim, these two pages are still good inspiration for you to create your own fantastic summer look. Without further ado...

Weird FAQs

Q: Did your parents force you to wear the headscarf?
A: It is not a helmet, no pushing is involved. And most girls choose to wear it by choice anyway. Read the article above!

Q: Do you wear this in the shower?
A: It might just be the fun solution to laundry... But no. In fact you don't really wear this around your family... If in doubt, Wikipedia is always the answer.

Q: Are you bald?
A: If I see you in a hat... ever...

Q: Do you have to buy your scarves from special shops?
A: Well you can. Any high street scarves would do. And in fact, any fabrics to you can get hold of...

If you fancy trendy, you should check this one out:
<http://www.imaancollections.com/>

Here is a UK based online retailer:
<http://www.thehijabshop.com>

This one here sells upmarket hijab:
<http://www.saouli.eu/index-en.html>

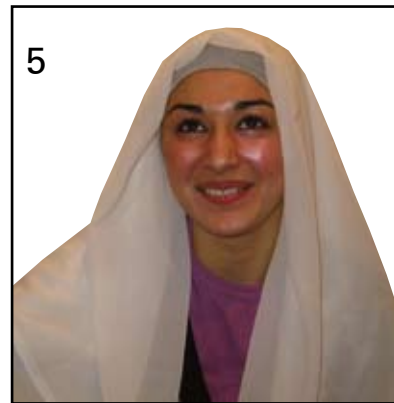
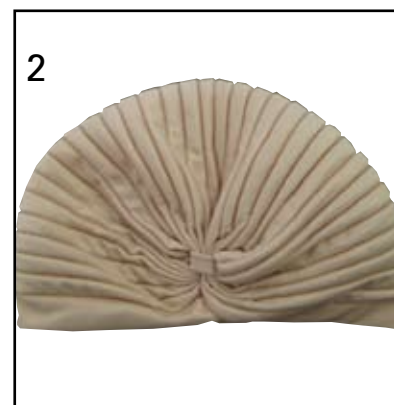
And in fact, Sherperds Bush Market is probably the best place in London to get them.

A final note: you fashionistas must follow hel-looks.com or the Satorialist fervently. And here is a fashion blog for Muslim women:
<http://hijabstyle.blogspot.com/>

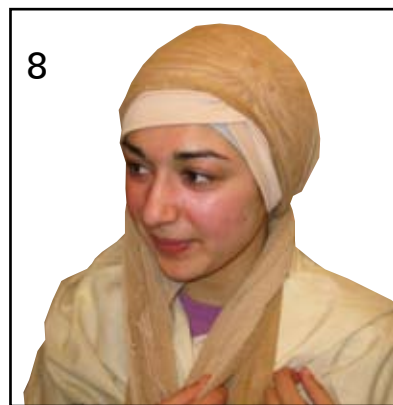


They are available across the UK in various markets and vendors. But this specific one was bought at Sherperds Bush Market. Another solution will be what Anum is doing here: wrap the stray ends of the scarf around yourself and fasten with a pin. Drape the red accessory scarf around your neck to further secure. Quick fix!

Special thanks to Bola, Maddie Rounds for helping out with the photoshoot.



The Basics

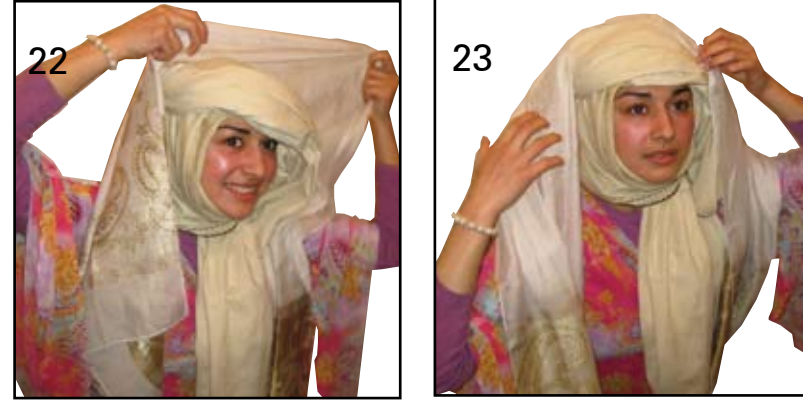


Summer Genie

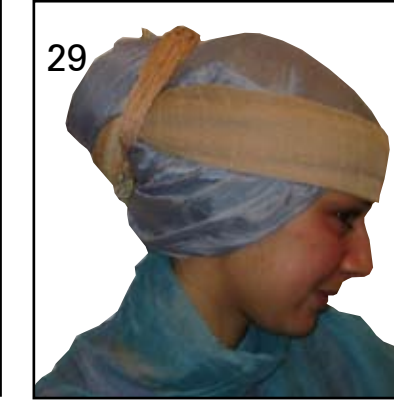
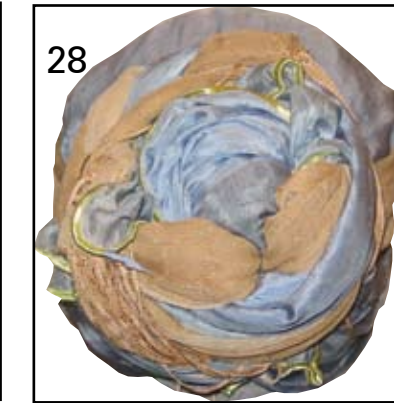
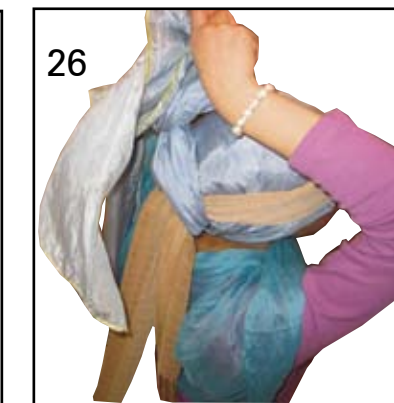
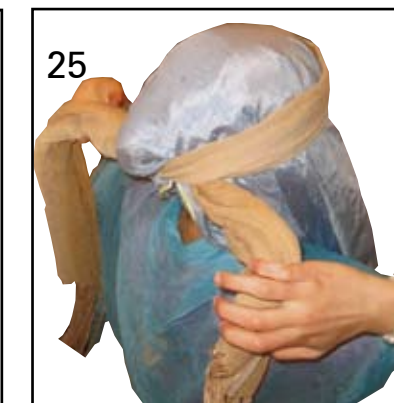


The Pink Hippie

The Helmet Wrap aka Bedsheet Effect

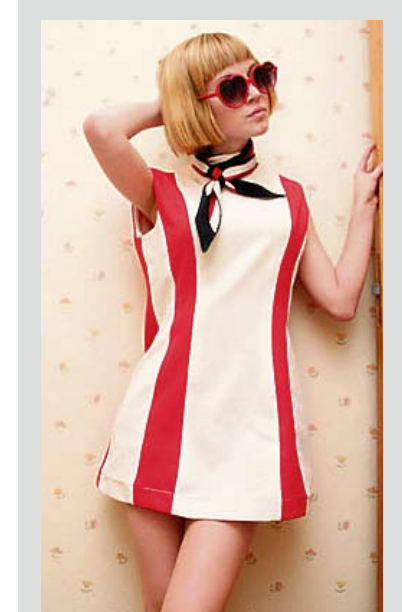


The Twist Bun



Instructions

1. Bored of this?
2. Hide your hair in this comfy cap.
3. Put it on. Da di da.
4. Looks good just as it is.
5. Basic step: drape fabric over cap.
6. Summer Genie: collect the drapes on the sides and tie around the back.
7. Da di da.
8. Pull the remaining fabric on either side to the front.
9. Tuck above ears and underneath the wrap.
10. Looking good!
11. Pink Hippie: basic step again.
- 12-14: Roll up a long piece of fabric and wrap around your forehead. Tie around the back or on the side in a floral knot.
15. Voila!
16. Your fabric should be this biiiiiiiig. Hence the bedsheet effect!
17. Basic step first. Then take one side of the drape and bring it round the side of your head.
- 18-19. Loop the very same drape on the top of your head.
- 20-21. Experiment with the looping and draping until it fits and you look fab.
22. Optional step to create a more dramatic effect: sit a lighter fabric on top of the basal wrap. The pattern should stay on the side of the head so that it isn't too overwhelming.
23. There you go, look in the mirror and drool over yourself.
24. Before you start, tie your hair up to create a stem so that your scarf's bun would have a lever to rest on. Repeat 12-14.
25. Tie the beige accessory scarf tightly - and I mean tightly - below your bun.
- 26-27. Wrap one turn of the aqua fabric around the stem. Then a turn of the beige. Alternate these steps until you use up both fabrics.
28. Insert the end of the fabric towards the base of the bun to fasten.
29. You should wear this to uni every day.



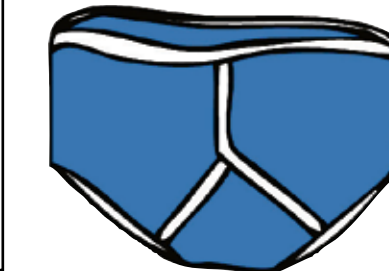
60s Dresses
Summer is just about in! A time for both boys and girls to go out any buy summer clothes. Boys, stay away. Girls, go for 60s dresses. Stay away from the usual floral Topshop dresses this year, for once.



I Heart NY
We've seen it all before, but its essentially iconic. Oh, how do you solve a problem like an overworn T-shirt? Just make sure it doesn't look like you've bought it from Urban Outfitters in Staines. Actually, make sure you've bought it from a grotty Asian man on 5th Avenue.



White people with dreadlocks
White people with dreadlocks look like they live in a gutter and are too "progressive" for vanities like soap and a comb. Imagine running your hands through someone's silky hair... then imagine if that hair is the clogged up gross hair that comes out of the shower drain hole. Dreads are shit. (Sorry Stef.)



Next week

Yoo hoo, the underpants issue! Oh well, everyone is stressed during exams. And we know how much you love *felix* fashion and it will be unfair for us to churn out another heftily wordy issue. More reading just does not do anybody any good. So next week in fashion we are going to sample some of the high street's finest underpants and rate them according to comfort, design, style and support. When compared to the costly Emporio Armani's and Calvin Klein's ones - are Primark's or H&M's underpants unwearable after all? And, no, fashion is not all about the exterior. Any expertise advise on the pants front? Tell *felix* fashion at felix.fashion@imperial.ac.uk



Do e-Fags make you a big e-diot?

Afonso Campos reviews the CigStar Electronic Cigarettes and is not totally underwhelmed



I have never been so confused! I want the real cigarette, but I want it indoors. Could CigStar be the answer to all my problems?

Equipped with an almost intimidating desire to save the part of the world which, like myself finds the concept of slow-motion suicide through sucking on an ill-tasting stick a good idea, Hon Lik invented the Electronic Cigarette. A heavy smoker, Hon used to smoke no less than two packs a day until the death of his father due to lung cancer. This came to be the crucial moment which Lik drew inspiration from for his potentially life-changing device.

obvious added weight and extra length. It is, undoubtedly, something that based on aesthetics alone should not be immediately discarded. The device

"We were allowed to smoke in the library and in daVinci's without any problem."

Is his idea of the E-Cigarette one that society could embrace and accept en masse? Or is it just a massive flake that will instead have the world laughing at the owners of these devices with an air of unrestrained disdain?

contains no tobacco whatsoever and works by replacing cartridges of nicotine and recharging a battery. Inside the cigarette is a heating element that

vapourises the nicotine for intake and at the same time, creates a much-appreciated cloud of smoke for the sake of realism.

I was pleasantly surprised. Although my expectations were somewhat low, they were wildly surpassed. The reason I like these cigarettes is threefold: I can most definitely feel the nicotine kick when I take a few drags; the smoke, although not epic in proportions, is there and is a definite attractive factor, despite being just water vapour; and finally, the thought of smoking in the library or in a coffee shop is one that, as a heavy smoker, makes me insanely happy. The taste on the other hand, is something that as of today, leaves much to be desired. It tastes like sucking on an old shisha pipe filled with unflavoured tobacco without lighting it. This is almost enough to turn me off the device completely, were it not for my addiction (to novelty gadgets, not nicotine).

There is much work to do on this front.

Around the College, we were allowed to smoke in the library and in daVinci's without any problem. In fact, the cigarette aroused much curiosity in staff who were all willing to try it out. We have gone around campus and asked Imperial smokers to try the CigStar Electronic Cigarettes and give us their opinions. Consensus is mixed, but I have faith in this little product of vice.



Cigstar

www.cigstar.co.uk
Starter kit w/ 6 cartridges: £34.99
Refill cartridges: £5 for 5



Hesh

"Yeah it's alright. Surprisingly satisfying."



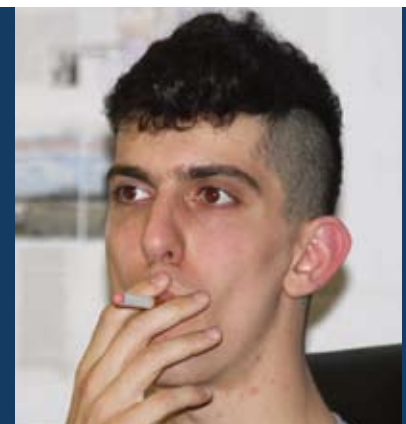
Alex

"I think it's pretty good; not sure if someone trying to quit would find it that useful."



Hugh

"It tastes like chemicals which somehow have become rotten."



Kadhim

"Tastes horrible. I don't really see why they exist. It is cool to blow smoke though."



Dan

"What the hell is this? I feel like I'm not killing myself when I smoke this. A good or bad thing?"

Spotify - the future of music radio?

It's free and it's legal, but surely this is a dream too good to be true? Not that good, says Richard Lai.

Come to our office during the weekday and chances are you'll hear some loud music blasting out of one of the iMacs. No, we don't have a dedicated music library (as far as I know) nor do we have the effort to plug speakers into someone's iPod; we just use Spotify.

If you haven't already heard of Spotify, here's a quick description: it is an online jukebox, allowing you to legally play music without downloading or even buffering. In fact, Spotify's slogan sums it all up nicely: "A world of music. Instant, simple and free." To access the library, it's just a matter of signing up, downloading the simple client software (Windows and Mac supported; Linux users can run Spotify in Wine) and then start searching.

While the service is still in beta and



Watch out, iTunes and Windows Media Player! Spotify will probably gobble you up with its free music! (Songbird is elsewhere on the map)

"Spotify currently has over three million tracks"

by invitation only, Spotify already has a huge library of just over three million tracks available to UK users (not all tracks are available in some countries due to licensing issues). However, this still excludes many of my favourite albums such as Robbie Williams' "Sing When You're Winning" (although most of his other albums are available), Utada's latest album and most of Alison Krauss' albums. You should be fine with the latest tracks though.

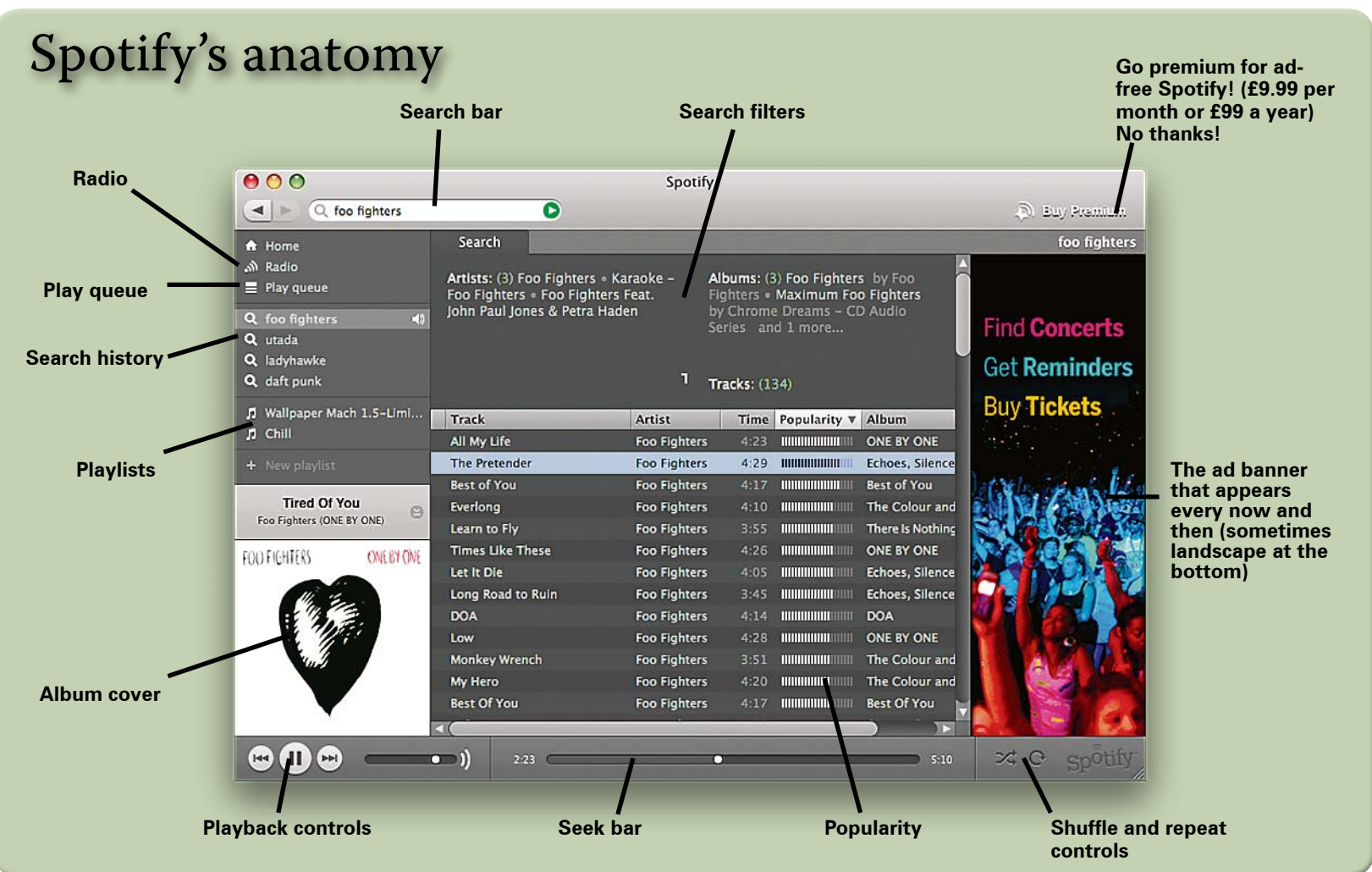
Like most other music players you can build your own playlists or queue songs in Spotify. What I would love to see is a playlist import wizard so that you won't have to start from nothing. I would guess most people won't bother with this anyway: if you don't mind listening to just one artist for a while, Spotify does have a useful "Popularity" sorting option - something that iTunes and Windows Media Player lack - to let you listen to the best tracks straight away. Alternatively, you can click on the artist's name to see a list of similar artists or a list of albums that the artist appears on.

One feature that Spotify urgently needs to add is something similar to iTunes' Genius, which gives you a list of tracks that are similar to a chosen track or the one you are listening to. The only thing closest to this is Spotify's "Radio" which lets you pick a period and genres, and it will output a landscape list of album covers containing the matching tracks.

For some bizarre reason you can't scroll along the list, so you would have to keep skipping tracks until you find one that you like.

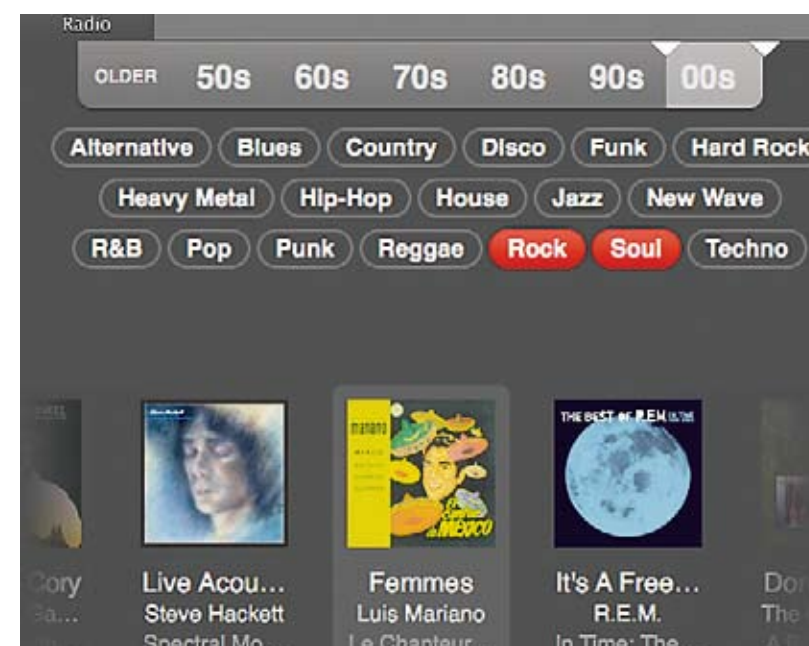
The only real black spot is Spotify's advertisements. The occasional advert banner in the interface is fine, but it's the intrusive and repetitive audio clips that become rather annoying after a while. You would also soon be able to memorise the words spoken by Spotify's "charity muggers", as *The Independent's* Tim Walker calls them, asking you to consider their ad-free premium service. I don't mind them though as long as it's "Roberta from Spotify". She's hot.

Verdict: great stuff, almost there.

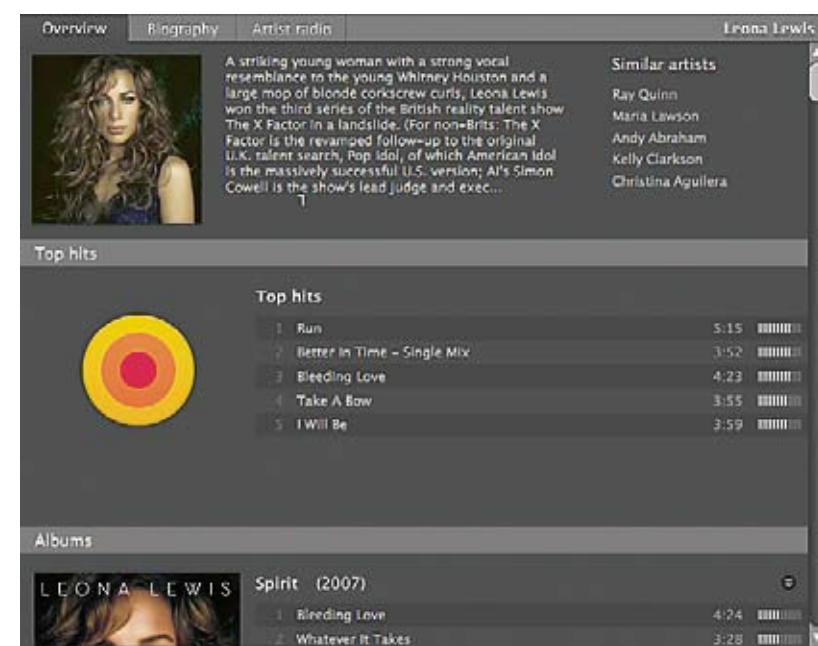


Go premium for ad-free Spotify! (£9.99 per month or £99 a year) No thanks!

The ad banner that appears every now and then (sometimes landscape at the bottom)



The badly designed "Radio" interface - you can't scroll along the list!



The artist profile page where you can check out top hits and albums.



coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

My girlfriend took me shopping

Okay, I am back. Last week we had some apologies, so this week I have decided to update you on my life adventure. We all good? Kay lets begin...

Last time I was telling you all about how I secured some moolah (long storey short, I cut my hair and got paid a lump sum). Well what did I do with this newly acquired cash? Spend it of course. Not as if I'd invest it or something sensible like that. However when the time came to throw the paper into the fire that is shopping, I was troubled as where to start. I was all so tempted to whip out my laptop and internet shop until the early hours of the morning, however in a more random encounter, I ended up at the new Westfields Shopping Centre in Shepherds Bush. From the number 49 bus you can see this mammoth adventure land from at least a mile away. From this point it looked absolutely huge, but as the bus traversed along its route, the building became ever larger, with new annex's of the shopping plaza coming into sight the closer in proximity you became. As I got off the bus at Shepherds Bush station, my whole field of vision was encompassed by the shiny exterior housing an unknown number of shops within its belly.

As you walk along the "valley" that leads to the entrance you are surrounded by restaurants diverse in variety. Those that stay focused are then led into the womb of Westfields, with the first section dubbed "The Village" which to me seems ironic as it's luxurious interior complete with chandeliers is inhabited by the most high end shops at hand. Not "Village" like to me. Now I originally thought this place looked big on the outside, but after you penetrate the shell you seem to be in a space far larger than you can imagine. With a huge spanning atrium, several floors, spacious and modern design, this centre exudes quality in every direction. Its modern large touch screen panels supply you with all the information you can handle.

Well after being lost for several hours I finally managed to end up at my starting point. Useful? No. However on a second run through I hit the shops harder than Chuck Norris can hit the Titanic. Which he did, I saw it in a movie. I think it was also called Titanic. Chuck Norris played some kind of Ice Berg. Anyway the more time I seemed to spend in his place, the more money that was drained from the debit card. Thought I may add that my wonderful girlfriend picked out all my clothes, so thank you honey. Hokay. Bai.

Battle of the Hills...



Lauryn

Photo Explanation: *too easy, why bother. -Ed*

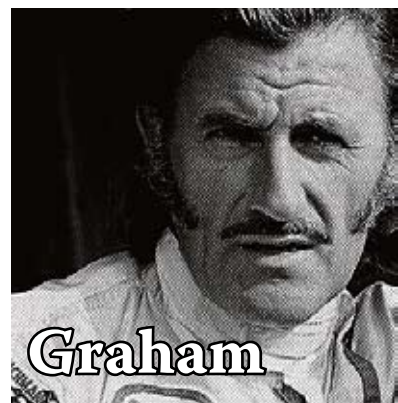
Known for: Being the only hot person from The Fugees.

Biggest Achievement: Winning five Grammy awards.

Recognisable facial features: Massive lips.

Famous Fans: Michelle Obama told the BBC once that she listens to her on her iPod, whilst Senator John McCain's daughter said that her dad listens to her too!

Interesting Facts: She has had five children with Rohan Marley, the fourth son of reggae legend Bob Marley. Lauryn has also appeared on the silver screen, starring as Rita Louise Watson in Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit which brought her to the attention of the worldwide audience.



Graham

Photo Explanation: "Well hello darling!"

Known for: Driving cars really fast, better than his son Damon!

Biggest Achievement: Winning the triple crown of motor sport: Monaco GP, Indianapolis and Le Mans 24 hour.

Recognisable facial features: One of the best moustaches I have ever seen!

Famous Fans: Pretty much all the dogs bollocks in motorsport. The guy is an absolute legend!

Interesting Facts: Graham was an accomplished rower, as well as a racing driver. Between 1952-54 Hill rowed in 20 finals, including the prestigious Grand Challenge Cup at Henley Royal Regatta where they came second. In 1975 upon returning from France, Graham was killed when his plane (which he was piloting) crashed in London.



Daniel

Photo Explanation: "He was at least 10ft tall guys, I swear!"

Known for: Beating a cave troll to get to the pot of gold and becoming the next DPFS.

Biggest Achievement: Drinking a yard of beer in a fetching pair of pink ladies underwear.

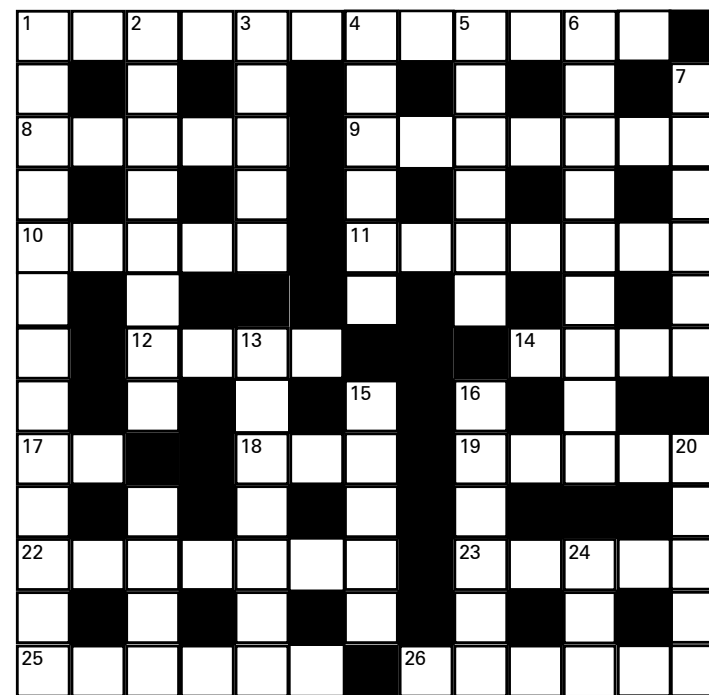
Recognisable facial features: Many battle wounds from numerous Davy rescues.

Famous Fans: The entirety of the population in the Royal School of Mines.

Interesting Facts: Danny may look like a budding Geologist, but in reality his desire is to become a farmer. This is the only explanation as to why he wears so much tweed. At any one time Danny has without fail at least three items of tweed on. From a ludicrous coat, to flat cap, Mr Hill has it all.

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,432



- ACROSS**
- Long, heavy tool, used for driving wedges, posts etc. (12)
 - Sneakily take over (5)
 - Large wooden percussion instrument (7)
 - Intoxicating - stupefying (5)
 - Chirruped like a small bird (7)
 - American TV award (4)
 - Primary squad - "Quit yo' jibber jabber, sucka!" (4)
 - 17/18. Grand English football tournament (2,3)
 - Spinning aerofoil (5)
 - Reservoir for pen fuel (7)
 - German submarine (1, 4)
 - Diverse Japanese engineering company (6)
 - Erection (slang) (6)

- DOWN**
- He who resides beneath the Watford Gap (8,5)
 - Learned (8)
 - Popular freshwater fish (5)
 - Fabled clumsy eggman (6)
 - 5/16. Author of "À la recherche du temps perdu" (6,6)
 - Krueger's hunting ground (3,6)
 - Bicycle made for two (6)
 - The "Scottish play" (7)
 - Fruit which preceded the Fall? (5)
 - See 5
 - Irritable - Friend of Mole and Toad? (5)
 - Glance through quickly - Remove floating scum (4)
 - Clumsy brute (3)

Congratulations to **Dr. Science!** who won the quick crossword again. Keep those answers coming in since the exam period seems an ideal time to catch up to your closest rival!

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

Solution 1,431

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

Scribble box



FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	360 Points
Team Shotgun	359 Points
Team What What	60 Points
Team Rubbish	30 Points

Individuals:

Giramondo	118 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	60 Points
Dr. Science!	27 Points
Jonathan Phillips	23 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved. There are now prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

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

5 points for the first correct answers for Slitherlink, Wordoku, London Underground, Mentalist Maze, Nonogram, Dingats 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!

Dingbats 1,432

Last week's Dingbats were wrapped up by **Team Shotgun**. They may have been a little easy, and I have not given you any points as there were no anecdotes sent in. This week's round are centred about common words or phrases, and in order to

win, each word must be send in with a small passage of prose in which the word is used. Do not take me lightly I am a on the edge and could snap at any time. I need light! I need stories, someone please be my friend...

1
S
I
T

2
0,_,2,3,4,5,6

3
Give
Give
Give
Give

4
Forgoodmation

5
Ever
Ever
Ever
Ever

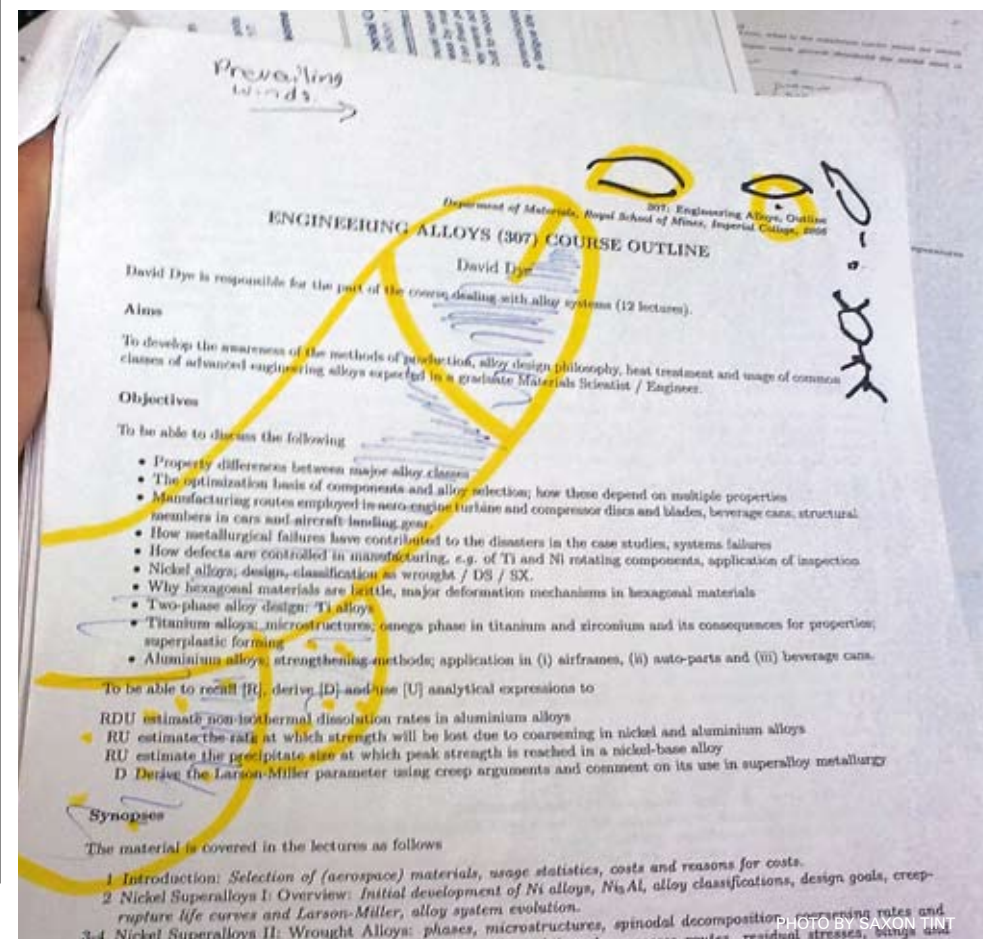
6
WEAR
??????

Me

- 1,431 Solutions
- My Big Fat Greek Wedding
 - The Longest Yard

- The Day After Tomorrow
- Top Gun
- The Last Samurai


Check this bitchin' contribution to my notes



Horoscopes: a gateway to the mind of a lunatic


So it turns out that you do like these Horoscopes very much, we knew that, we were only kidding you...

Aquarius




This week you decide to have a bit of tumble down some stairs for shits and giggles and hurt your leg. Good, you deserve it! You get the ambulance to take you to the doctor where you both decided that the leg is broken. After a few weeks in a cast, you both realise that you read the x-ray wrong and now you have a diminished leg. MEDIC FAIL!

Taurus



It's the big week for you, you finally pop the big question to the girl you're dating in halls. You cook her breakfast and as she's scoffing down the burnt toast with Marmite (that's just wrong!), you get down on one knee, look her in the eyes and smile. "Darling, you know I love you so much. With that in mind, will you let me fuck you in the ass?"

Leo



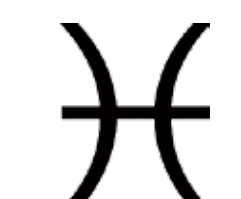
This week the cleaners in Beit decide that the latrine needs a good wipe down. On lifting the lid they are literally taken aback at the site that greets them. They decided that the only way to fix this is to use literally, a whole fucking can of bleach. The smell wafts into your room where the acid dissolves your throat. You cough up blood for a week.

Scorpio




You wanted an anecdote as well, right? Well, at some point over the Christmas holiday, one of my friends from uni came to visit me in Singapore (you might know him. He's little and Portuguese). One afternoon, we found ourselves watching a movie. It wasn't any movie, however. It was Coyote Ugly. Oh, and it gets better. Not only were we watching Coyote Ugly, we were watching it, not in a cinema or someone's living room, but in a salon, getting pedicures.

Pisces




Last week you posted a comment on somebody's profile picture. Even though the homosexual connotations of the photo were pretty fucking clear and even though anybody who saw it got the joke, you insisted on stating the bleeding obvious. You are literally the worst person in existence. I hate you, all of the felix staff hate you and I'm pretty sure most people at College hate you. Please, please be less annoying... give it a try, you might find that your life improves, and it might dissuade me from lodging an axe into your face.

Gemini



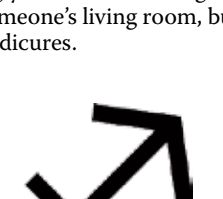
See, now if only our Coffee Break Editor had decided to ask what was in Taurus instead of actually getting engaged to his girl, we would not be mocking him. On behalf of all the men in the office: RAVI, YOU'VE CHANGED... YOU USED TO BE COOL BUT NO MORE (ed: sorry about the in joke guys, but if you can, check it out on facebook. Lad down!)

Virgo



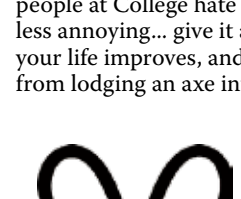
You pikie shit in the SAF. If you keep on stealing stuff from peoples bags you will have the spleen beaten out of you by a big Rugby player. Or the whole team. Once people find out what you are up to, I am pretty sure that many other teams will join in. We won't kill you- no that'll be far too nice. We'll keep you alive but just crippled. We will.

Sagittarius




"Oh Mary my sexy piece of sexy sex." Answer the phone like that again in my presence and I will, without fail, kill you by ramming your phone down your throat. I am disgusted by you.

Aries




I love you so much. I want to kiss you all over and over again. you beautiful Eastern European bar maid, you can pull my pint anytime you want.

Cancer



This week you decide you really don't like Lady Gaga. That stuck up, fringe faced yank mother fucker of a diva thinks she'll impress the British by saying "I drink tea too!". As revenge, you tie her up, shave that gelled mop off her head and boil her in some Earl Grey until her cologen lips explode. How do you like our tea now bitch?

Libra



I just can't take it anymore- these exams are getting to me so badly, I am tearing my own hair. My stress levels is so high, everytime someone does something that I don't like I lash out. Someone sat near me the other day, and almost invaded my personal space. So I stabbed him to death with the blade from a pencil sharpener. Will I get away with manslaughter?

Capricorn

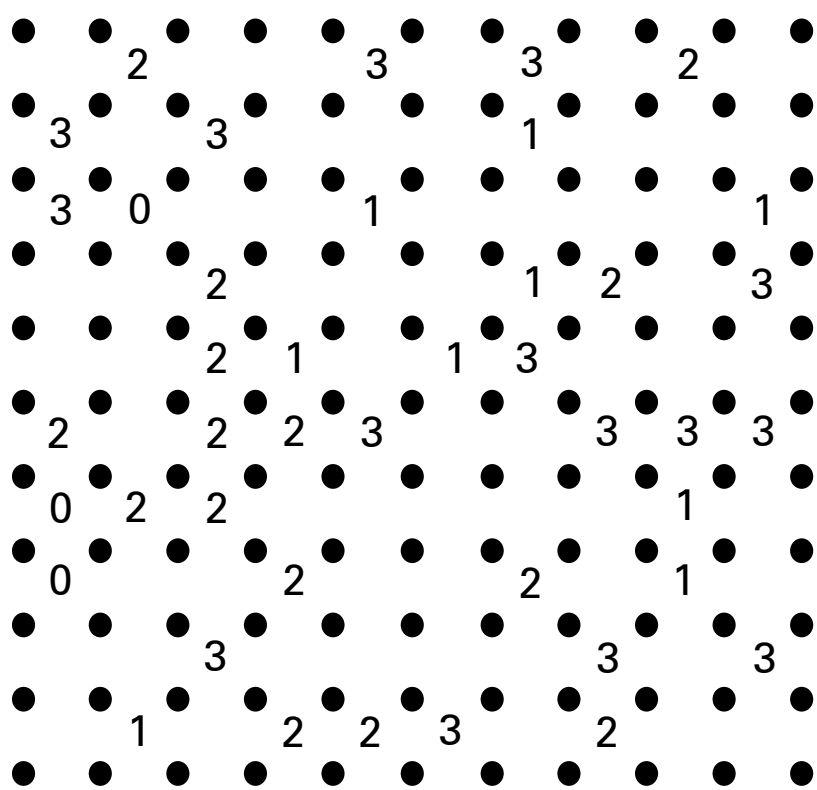


You sit there watching cartoons all day. After almost a week you begin find Bugs Bunny attractive. To confirm whether you are in fact mental you decide to knock one out whilst munching on a carrot. As you furiously masturbate your mother enters the room to find you with the carrot rammed up your arse and sperm all over the screen. You need help. Pint?

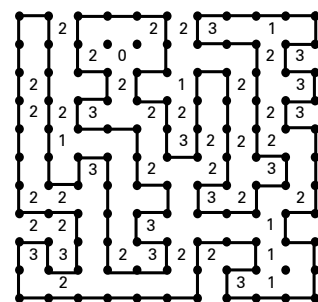
Fun & Games

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Slitherlink 1,432



1,431 Solution

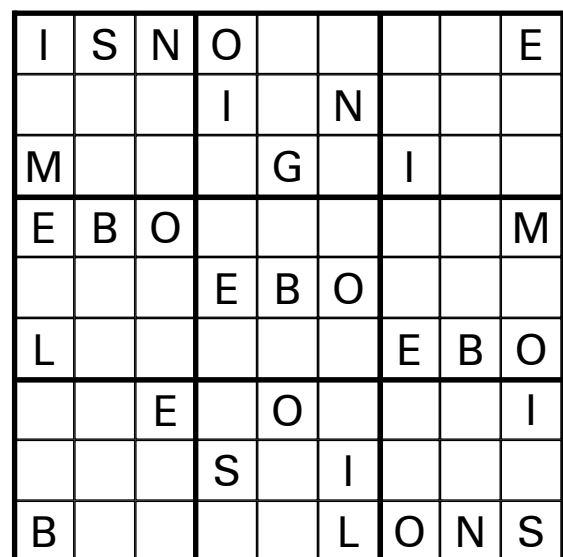


It's all over the place this week. The leading individuals entry, **Giramondo**, got the points this week. Only six more weeks to go guys, keep those answers coming in!

How to play:

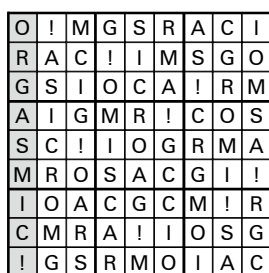
It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help.

Wordoku 1,432



Scribble box

1,431 Solution



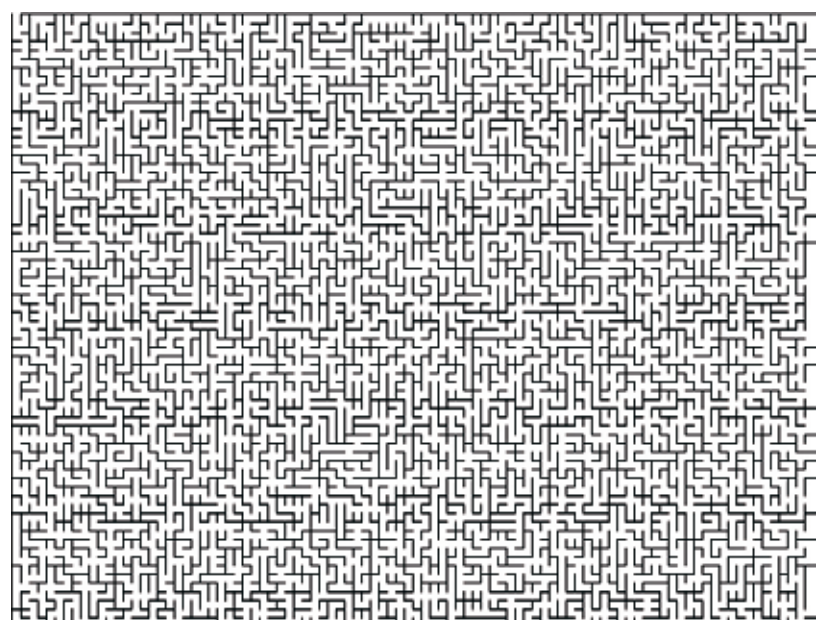
Dr Science! strikes yet again with another five points to add to his ever increasing tally. He also thought our wordoku wasn't ORGASMIC!, we agree; it was bloody blazin' bruv innit! Have fun with this week's one!

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

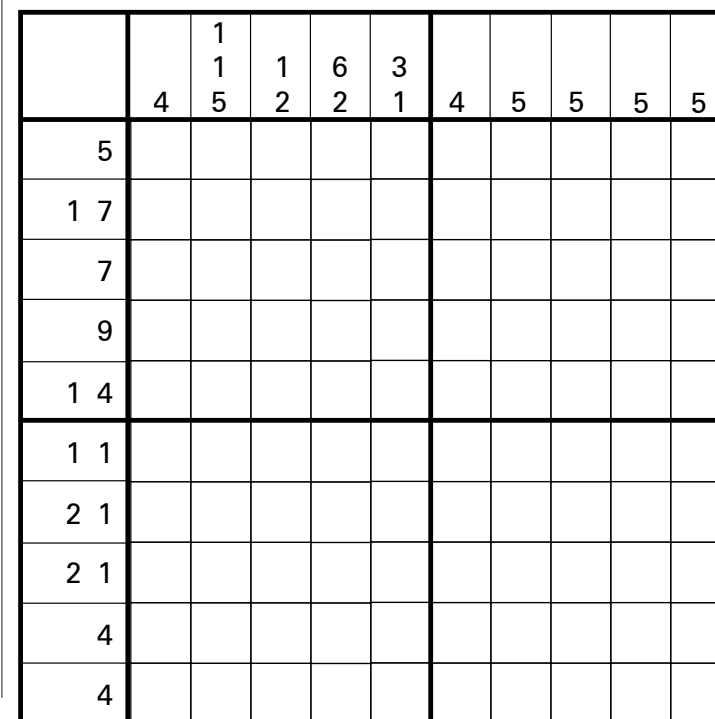
Mentalist Maze...

Oh, so now you decided to actually do the mentalist maze. I commend you **Nick "Princess Diana" Jones**. However, he said he doesn't want the

points because there's no point, he won't win. That's the attitude of a loser. Sit down, shut up and sort your life out. If you always quit you'll never win.

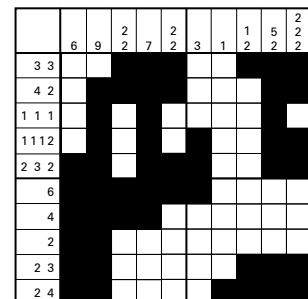


Nonogram 1,432



Team Shotgun have won the Nonogram for a second week running. It seems like they have come back and are actually giving **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** a run for their money. Not that many weeks left folks, so keep those answers coming in.

1,431 Solution



How to play:

Nonograms are logic puzzles in which cells in a grid have to be coloured or left blank according to numbers at the side of the grid. The numbers measure how many unbroken lines or filled-in squares there are in any given row or column. Look at the solution for help.

This week's Cat Phone:



NEW NUMBER:

07849 190 043

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

"To Eve behind the bar. You're stunning. Please can we do lunch sometime? Rupert M x x"

"Jithey jaan punjabi dhooma, Paahi dhiinde ne (x2) oh yes big up punjabi soc and PDL"

"im sick of seeing all the shitty chemists strutting around campus like bellends-fuck off and do a real degree"

"Dear felix editor. can you stop harassing me. i thought pulling your hairy little friend would make you stop but you just won't. please stop."

"You can catch swine flu off pigs. So stay away from jack's mum!"

Going Underground

Team Shotgun bring home to gold in the underground game! The correct answer last week was EAST PUTNEY, and it's a shit hole, never ever go there. Here's a hint, we're not keeping the spaces, if we did it would be too easy now wouldn't it. Deal with it!

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

So which London tube station sums to 182?

_____ = **182**

Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ACC Chair and Treasurer in expenses controversy

The Athletic Clubs Committee (ACC) has become embroiled in an expenses scandal that threatens to rock Imperial to its very core.

A Hangman investigation (by investigation we mean, reading the news section of *felix* - see Page 4) has found that ACC Chair Sam Furse has willfully misappropriated ACC funds for a range of expenses.

Private documents discovered (fabricated) by the Hangman team show that Mr Furse claimed £3,000 for horse stockings, £250 for horse lipstick and £22,000 on medical appointments concerning anal fissures.

Other expenses include holiday trips to Mongolia for Mr Furse and an as yet unidentified Mr A. Horse.

Hangman's crack team of investigative reporters (reporters on crack) cornered Mr Furse at the Mayfair branch of Wetherspoons. When questioned

about the claims, he spluttered into his glass of Veuve Clicquot, "Those expenses were justified and entirely within the rules!" before calling to the waiter, "Hey, Geoffrey, get rid of this pisswater of a champagne and bring me the Shipwrecked 1907... umm put it on the tab, you know the A.C... you know which one I mean".

Hangman's team of sleuths (sloths) were unable to track down ACC Treasurer Joseph Lees. His personal secretary, Mrs Lees (who is paid by the ACC), informed Hangman that he was on a fact-finding mission on budgeting practices in Harare, Zimbabwe. The mission, funded by ACC, included meetings with top government officials including Gideon Gono, the Governor of Zimbabwe's Central Reserve Bank and President Robert Mugabe who apparently congratulated Mr Lees on "A job well done".

ACC Chair-elect Chaaarlle Murdoch (the douchebag who conjures up the puzzles) has promised to clean up the ACC, "I'm going to usher in an era of austerity and thrift, no more gold plated toilet seats. The ACC Chair should be able to look Imperial students in the eye and say 'Silver is good enough'"

Other expenses uncovered by Hangman

- £3,000 on industrial strength lubricant
- £2,250 on "Horse-sized condoms"
- £30,000 on a horse shaped gimp suit
- £12,000 on 2 pairs of 'horse-proof' handcuffs
- £300 on metal piercing

(that's enough horse sex jokes, Ed)



Mugabe's lawyers have instructed us to state that this photo is faked and at no point did he ever meet Joseph Lees.

Exclusive interview with ICU's new 'Jock King'

To sort out the expense's crisis and deal with the burgeoning number of clubs and societies at Imperial, the Union has created the new position of Jock King. Hangman interviews Mr John Smith (a well established beverage maker) about the new role.

Hangman

Mr Smith, you are the new Jock King at ICU and you've come down from the wilderness that is Yorkshire to tackle the Union's problems. How are you feeling about the new role

John Smith

Oh! what dya mean wilderness, it's bloody picturesque, as the french would say. But aye, I'm feeling bloody great. Mainly cos you all drink me beer, you swallow it by the ball sack load! You're one of me best customers and the thought of loosing that would end me.

Hangman

Ball sack load?

John Smith

Yeah, every barrel of me beer gets a little something special, something only I can provide... ohhh yes...

Hangman

Right, let's ignore that and move onto the clubs you have. What are your thoughts?

John Smith

Well we've got t'everything you could possibly want; Thug'r'us? to Stick and

Ball to Cock Soc and Spock Soc.

Hangman

Thug'r'us? Stick and Ball? Cock Soc? Spock Soc? I've never heard of any of these societies.

John Smith

Oh aye, sorry you geeks probably call them by their normal names: football, hockey, meat soc, and sci fi... you bunch of boring bastards. There's something to cater to everyone's tastes, even if your tastes are dogging in the Hyde Park, we've got a club that will subsidise you!

Hangman

Erm, we don't actually have a Dogging society here, although I hear the Medics have tried in the past.

John Smith

Wrong, just set it up now! Me and me Yorkshire mates are gona have a wicked time!

Hangman

Whadafuh?! How is that a good spend of Union money? You're taking liberties and abusing your position.

John Smith

Ah you're just an old prude. Don't worry it's still early days, I haven't moved money from other clubs yet. The expenses for dogging are quite high y'know.

Hangman

(sigh), ok I'll bite, how? How in Jehovah's name could dogging could cost a lot of money?

John Smith

Well fura start ye have to bribe the rozzers. Then ye need to pay for the johnnys and sometimes ye gota hire an 'escort'...

Hangman

...hang on, we can help there, the DPEW has a load of johnnys in her office and you know... while you're there...

John Smith

Right, so we can save sum money there, but still, paying off the cops is the major point here.

Hangman

Ok ok, where is this money coming from? Most societies are already operating on a shoestring, you can't cut their budgets.

John Smith

I think u'll find that I can. I'm da wan in charge of the budget fur the societies. I can do what I like, like. Sure I chatted to the President of Dog Soc and he made a very strong argument fur giving his club lots of money and fucking other societies in the arse.

Hangman

Aren't you the President of Dog Soc?

John Smith

I know. I can be quite persuasive when I want to be.

Hangman

Right, we're doomed. Next week Hangman interviews the Head of Piss and Shit (Food & Drink)

Imperial students invited to genocide themselves...



"Make this summer different"... You know because you spent every other summer of your life having fun with friends, holidaying with family and generally avoiding ethnic cleansing. See you in September, I'm sure you'll have lots of stories to tell. Or maybe I'll just read your diary...

This summer the company behind The Killing Fields, The Siberian Gulags and the now 'controversial' Armenian holiday camp is offering Imperial students a unique opportunity to experience genocide first hand.

The so-called Thai work-camp promises 2 months of back breaking hard work and torture at a secret location in Thailand. Accommodation is reported to be 'sub-standard' and they promise to help attendees lose weight by 'not feeding them'.

Where previous camps saw the organisers coerce people into attending, this new strategy marks a bold move for the company. If successful there are plans to roll the scheme out in countries like The Congo and the Outer Scottish Hebrides. Hangman thinks this scheme couldn't reach the latter quick enough.



"I'm looking forward to the camp! I've nothing better to do this summer so why not?"

eVoting

GSA, POSTGRADUATE & SUMMER ELECTIONS 2009

STAND & DELIVER

Positions Open

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GSA Treasurer
GSA Secretary
GSA Activities Co-ordinator
GSA Postscript Editor
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Physical Sciences Postgraduate Representative
Business School Postgraduate Representative

Life Sciences Postgraduate Representative
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Council Chair
Community Action Group Chair
RAG Chair
Welfare Campaigns Officer
Equal Opportunities Officer
International Students' Officer

Nominations close 20 May

**For more information and to stand:
imperialcollegeunion.org/elections**

Brunel cricketers deal blow to BUCS promotion bid

Shiraz Sabah

Imperial Cricket was in full flow this weekend and by Sunday morning had already recorded two wins without even having played a game. Teams just didn't want to play us. That said, we knew that Sunday would prove more difficult as we faced a Brunel 1st XI still undefeated in BUCS competition.

We fielded a strong XI and opted to bat first in glorious sunshine on a flat wicket. We'd flown Srisai in a week before as our overseas player and confidence was high when he thumped first bowl of the innings over mid-on's head for four. However, when he tried to repeat the shot later in the over things didn't quite go so well, and he spurned a catch to mid-on this time. Luckily mid-on was polite enough to drop it.

Not quite so lucky was Matt Tarr who found himself victim to a straight pull from Srisai the next over. He moved right, then left before deciding to stop the ball with his tummy. "Good job he's a fat *****" was the shout. I won't name the player who shouted this, but needless to say "he ain't too trim himself". Matt, clearly riled by banter from his own team, went next over as one looped up off the shoulder of his bat.

Srisai was joined by Majid at the crease and both were in full flow. Unfortunately, for every boundary they scored, they shared a chance with the

fielding side and it wasn't long before both had thrown their wickets away for identical scores of 27 runs.

I then found myself at the crease with Ali Najefi, both of us prematurely disturbed from much needed revision. We battled through the next few overs against two good spells of bowling before Ali feathered one behind when on 13. As you might expect I played a sparkling innings and it wasn't until I got a leading edge on 44 that I had to return to the pavilion. Unfortunately, a few other wickets had tumbled by then for not many runs and it was thanks to some good batting at the tail that we managed to string together a defendable total of 172 all out.

Tea followed and after the interval we started brightest. Zirgham Afridi worked hard for two early wickets, but Brunel made steady progress in reply. Ahsaan Ismail bowled some jaffers at the other end, too good for players at our level yet not good enough for the wicket. Brunel's next partnership was a long one (and boring). They trimmed to deficit to 70 before Rajiv "Jeeves" Shah got the breakthrough, caught and bowled. After arranging and rearranging his hair with the aid of an Alice band he even got another wicket a few overs later.

Daniel Johnpillai was on at the other end and zipping through his overs. He always looked good for a wicket and

Rugby	
Imperial Men's 1st XI	173
Brunel Men's 1st XI	177



Textbook solid defense from the backbone of the team, Shiraz Sabah

he got it next over when I took THE best catch you've ever seen. Most readers will unfortunately have missed this, so if you're in this group I've saved a mental picture of the whole thing (and framed it). Ask me anytime. Jeeves

continued at the other end and took a wicket next over as the batsman skied one to Zirgham at mid-on for a catch I had money on him dropping. Did I say I was always right? Unfortunately the new batter was a full-on slogger. Ugly

as you like but effective. DJ felt the pain more than the other bowlers and Brunel ran home to a 3 wicket victory. This has made things difficult now for BUCS promotion and this was just another case of not enough runs.

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Rooms are going fast so book today!

Imperial Boat Club bring home the points after winning 37 medals at BUCS Regatta

Continued from back page

to push-off while they awaited their stroke. Stainthorp had just crossed the finish in the beginner 8+ and had to dash into the quad. After a desperate push-off, bow Tamsin Bromley reported the steering to have ceased functioning. Already late the crew could not turn back and had to steer up to the start by pressure. Despite the rush the crew were passed in the opposite direction by their race at the 1500 metre mark and shouted at by another Marshal who took great pleasure in informing the crew of their misfortune. There was no time to wallow in self-pity as three of the crew members had to be back to race in the champ 8+ (WC8+). The 8+ was now also late as a result of having to wait for the quad members and after more seat-switching the crew (Hart/Symmonds/Graham/Thompson/Philips/Duffy/Rouse/Bromley) hastily made its way to the start line but suffered a shoddy performance as a result. Luckily all losing boats were sent to the repechage where the crew improved form enough to secure a place in the final, but were not strong enough to medal. Stern pair Louise Hart and Chloe Symmonds were already exhausted having won the opening heat of the intermediate pairs (W12-) and missing out on gold in the final by 11 seconds.

The men's intermediate quad (M14x) of Tom Bell, John Dick, Matt Lunt and Andy Gordon finished third in their heat, second in their rep and fourth in the final behind winners Reading. Boatman Paul put the results of that race into perspective (and actually made the crew feel less disappointed), "2 novice scullers and 2 lightweights in a scratch crew managing to finish 4th... I think that's pretty good". Dick was appreciative of the comment: "It's the nicest thing I've ever heard him say". On Sunday John Dick and Danny Bellion teamed up for the intermediate

doubles (M12x) and finished second in their heat. Due to time restraints between races Tom Bell took the bow seat for the repechage getting them into a final where they finished fifth. Bell returned crestfallen and drenched from head to toe. As he dripped his way towards the tent there were muffled questions as to whether the crew had capsized during the race. "They must have, how could he be *that* wet?" When John appeared completely dry it was clear that Bell's wetness was the result of a splashing Dick. Again.

In the women's intermediate double (W12x) Chloe Symmonds and Christina Duffy boated with ample time to warm-up and practise some starts. At the 1000 metre mark on the way to the start the collar from Symmonds' stroke-side blade came loose and the boat had to make it's way painfully back down the return lane to find a screw-driver. With time now slipping away the blade was re-gearred and the crew set off at full pace to the start line. However the boat continually veered towards the bank on the way back up and by the 1500 metre mark it was concluded that the steering fin was still attached to the stern despite removing the foot steering earlier. Coach Ross Smitheman had been following on a bicycle and took pity on the traumatised crew. The boat pulled over to the bank and Smitheman waded into the lake to remove the fin mumbling something about killing Duffy if he got bird shit all over him. Sadly the crew were blown from lane 6 throughout the race and finished fourth missing the repechage by less than two seconds.

One of the few crews to have trained together was the men's intermediate coxed four (M14+). The four of cox Libby Richards, Iain Palmer, Richard Winchester, Bruce (Tom) Arnott & Gareth Brown won both their opening heat and semi-final but were pipped to pole position by Durham in the final and had to settle for silver.



The women's coxless four race to the finish

The disappointment of the weekend went to Georgie Philips who despite winning a silver medal in the women's beginner single sculls event (ahead of IC's Ella Burroughes who claimed an impressive bronze) was devastated at not winning gold. As she made her way to the medal ceremony the official

asked how her race went; a question he later regretted. Philips offered a cynical smile for the photo and headed back to the ICBC tent emotionally distraught. Comfort was sought from Bruce who offered an inspirational speech about how little things can mean a lot to some people and to be grateful of her silver medal. With a glazed eye and wistful stare across the lake he shared stories of his days down under with his mates and his rubber dinghy. "We loved that dinghy. Because it was our dinghy." Silence befell the mini-bus as we clung to his every word. Philips left composed, smiling and uplifted. "Good onya! She'll be apples". As the door shut Arnott admitted "I'm not happy with my f-cking silver, let's get real... this is shit, it's all about the gold."

There were plenty of Dingo's breakfasts (a yawn, a scratch, a leak and a good look round (i.e. no breakfast!)) before weigh-in for the men's lightweight 8+ (cox Henry Fieldman/Ole Tietz/Adam Freeman-Pask/Andy Gordon/Matt Lunt/Oli Mahony/Patrick Hudson/Alex Gillies/John Beaty). Gillies seemingly irrepressible energy levels were fuelled in the preceding weeks by cups of tea and coffee, marshmallows, lollipops, honey sandwiches and cans of red bull in order to make weight. The IC crew won their opening heat over Durham A and B but were beaten to first place by a strong Cambridge crew in the final by a time difference of over 10 seconds.

The championship men's lightweight quad event (MCLwt4x) saw Adam Freeman-Pask, Oli Mahony, Ole Tietz and Alex Gillies sail through the opening heat finishing a comfortable second. The crew made the classic error of confusing the women's Empacher quad with the non-existent men's lightweight quad. Bowman Gilles had

to row feet-out for the race as he could not fit into the steering shoe.

Despite Steve's email during the week saying "it is unlikely to be wet" the sunny weather turned to rain on Monday and the wind picked up resulting in racing being temporarily postponed. All crews returned to the finish in time to witness four female Durham rowers being plucked from the lake as their coxless four sank underneath them. With no signs of improvement repechages were cancelled and finals were drawn based on fastest qualifying times. This left crews who had raced in slower heats out for the final, i.e. IC's men's intermediate 8+ who dominated their heat and finished first by rating 18 for the last 500 metres. Further racing in the beginner sculls was cancelled and gold was awarded to IC's Patrick Hudson as fastest qualifier. Conditions slightly improved and finals were run in the evening. Erica Thompson and Louise Hart claimed silver in the women's championship double sculls (WC2x) event before jumping into the championship coxed four (WC4+) (cox: Richards/Hart/Thompson/Graham/Symmonds) and winning another silver for the club, without Captain Thompson having to sniper any of the Durham crews. Henry Goodier and Simon Hislop won bronze in the men's championship double sculls (MC2x), and the men's lightweight quad now racing in the larger BBG for stability (and shoes that fit), finished a respectable second.

Well done to all 52 students who contributed to the great results and showed good support over the weekend. Training is underway for the women's squad who will be competing in Ghent this weekend as well as a men's crew who will be racing in the Odra Cup in Poland. Good luck to all involved.



MLwt8+ nudge ahead in their opening heat.

Emotional Intelligence

Andy Roberts explains how being intelligent and having a high level of education may not necessarily be a recipe for success without social skills

Recent research suggests that success in life is not necessarily determined by intelligence levels, as measured by IQ tests, nor the level of education reached. This is regardless of whether "success" is defined as wellbeing, meaning in life or the accumulation of material possessions. Other factors such as Emotional Intelligence (EI), personality and the ability to apply knowledge in a wise manner have been demonstrated to be at least as important. In fact one of the leading psychologists in the field of EI, Dan Goldman, has stated that the ability to problem solve using emotions may be the prime driver of success.

Over the last 15 years UK education has emphasised testing and formulaic teaching of a broad national curriculum. During the same period there has been a general improvement in the number of students attaining top grades. There is also some evidence that intelligence, as measured by the narrow definition of IQ, has also increased. However a number of reports suggest that many new graduates find the application of their broad knowledge in complex work and social environments challenging. This may be due to the educational emphasis on results rather than the development of wisdom but equally it could be due to wider social factors such as reduced social interaction among young people.

Like general intelligence, EI can be measured using psychometric tools and can be developed through coaching. EI can be defined as the ability to problem solve using emotions and is subdivided into the ability to recognise, understand the complexity of, use and manage emotions. Unlike an IQ score, EI has four separate components and it is the shape of the profile, rather than the overall score, which is of significance. For example an individual may have a heightened ability to rec-

ognise emotional signals in faces but a low understanding of how they may have arisen and a low ability to manage the consequences of those emotions arising. The interplay of those abilities shapes thinking styles, actions and attainment of goals. Raising awareness of your unique profile provides a springboard for personal development.

To apply to take the psychometric test and receive a one to one coaching session contact Andy Roberts at andy@breathe-london.com or call 07766 34 39 31. Bookings can be made at the Ethos Centre on Wednesday evenings. For more information visit www.breathe-london.com

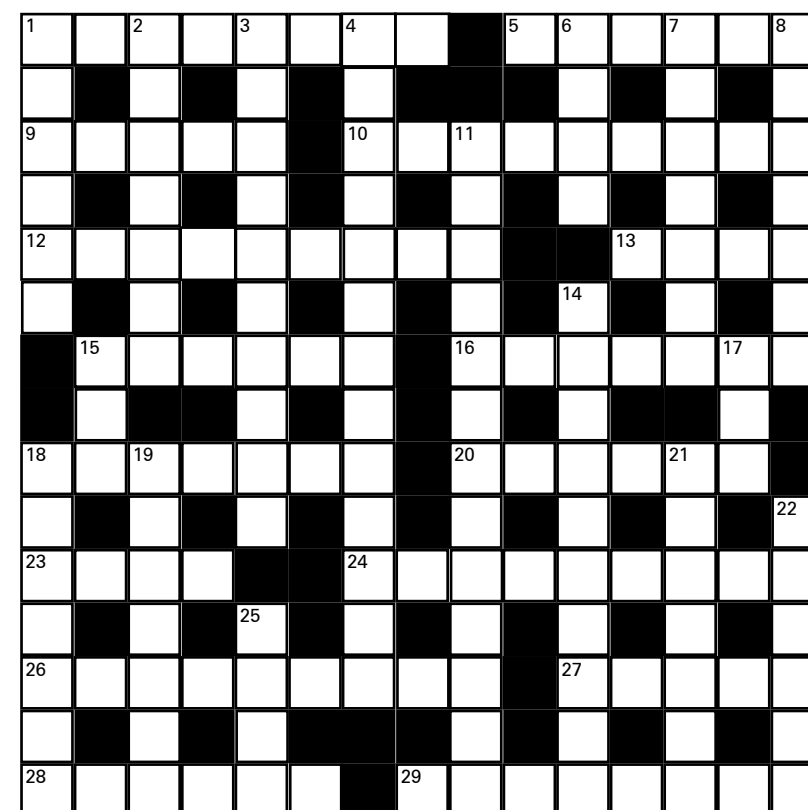


Sir Alan Sugar = LEGEND!!

Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Tennis Men's 1st	12	12	0	0	105	15	90	100	5.00
2 Squash Men's 1st	12	11	0	1	51	9	42	92	4.25
3 Fencing Men's 1st	11	10	0	1	1457	861	596	91	4.18
4 Fencing Women's 1st	11	10	0	1	1445	1160	285	91	4.18
5 Lacrosse Women's 1st	11	10	0	1	162	43	119	91	4.18
6 Volleyball Women's 1st	9	8	0	1	17	3	14	89	4.00
7 Hockey Men's 1st	13	11	0	2	65	19	46	85	3.62
8 Squash Men's 2nd	13	11	0	2	40	21	19	85	3.62
9 ICSM Netball 2nd	12	10	0	2	452	226	226	83	3.50
10 ICSM Netball 3rd	12	10	0	2	444	225	219	83	3.50
11 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	6	5	0	1	28	20	8	83	3.50
12 Table Tennis Men's 1st	15	12	0	3	163	88	75	80	3.20
13 Badminton Men's 1st	12	8	2	2	61	35	26	67	3.00
14 Netball 2nd	12	9	0	3	404	226	178	75	2.75
15 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	14	9	1	4	65	29	36	64	2.21
16 Hockey Women's 1st	16	9	2	5	54	38	16	56	1.81
17 Basketball Men's 1st	11	7	0	4	780	709	71	64	1.73
18 Hockey Men's 3rd	12	4	5	3	23	30	-7	33	1.50
19 Hockey Men's 2nd	12	7	0	5	50	36	14	58	1.25
20 Hockey Men's 4th	8	4	1	3	19	23	-4	50	1.25
21 Badminton Men's 2nd	11	5	2	4	49	39	10	45	1.18
22 Squash Men's 3rd	7	4	0	3	14	9	5	57	1.14
23 Badminton Women's 1st	12	6	1	5	57	39	18	50	1.00
24 Fencing Men's 2nd	9	5	0	4	1100	947	153	56	1.00
25 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	17	9	0	8	358	334	24	53	0.76
26 Squash Women's 1st	12	2	6	4	20	32	-12	17	0.50
27 Basketball Women's 1st	10	5	0	5	453	425	28	50	0.50
28 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	11	4	2	5	27	43	-16	36	0.36
29 Football Men's 1st	12	5	1	6	25	29	-4	42	0.25
30 Tennis Men's 2nd	12	5	1	6	42	69	-27	42	0.25
31 ICSM Football Men's 1st	13	4	3	6	17	26	-9	31	0.15
32 Volleyball Men's 1st	9	4	0	5	10	10	0	44	0.00
33 Football Men's 2nd	11	4	1	6	24	35	-11	36	-0.18
34 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	16	6	1	9	271	244	27	38	-0.25
35 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	15	6	0	9	264	324	-60	40	-0.40
36 Tennis Women's 1st	10	4	0	6	44	56	-12	40	-0.40
37 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	17	5	1	11	306	467	-161	29	-1.00
38 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	14	4	0	10	152	429	-277	29	-1.43
39 Volleyball Women's 2nd	7	2	0	5	13	16	-3	29	-1.43
40 Football Men's 3rd	11	3	0	8	18	33	-15	27	-1.55
41 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	10	2	1	7	13	28	-15	20	-1.60
42 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	9	1	2	6	11	39	-28	11	-1.67
43 Hockey Women's 2nd	11	2	1	8	10	46	-36	18	-1.82
44 ICSM Netball 1st	13	2	1	10	314	497	-183	15	-2.15
45 Football Women's 1st	10	2	0	8	11	34	-23	20	-2.20
46 Rugby Union Men's 1st	14	2	1	11	165	430	-265	14	-2.29
47 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	11	2	0	9	17	24	-7	18	-2.36
48 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	11	1	1	9	18	45	-27	9	-2.64
49 Rugby Union Men's 4th	15	2	0	13	162	623	-461	13	-2.80
50 Lacrosse Men's 1st	8	1	0	7	40	114	-74	13	-2.88
51 Netball 3rd	12	1	0	11	127	452	-325	8	-3.25
52 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	11	0	1	10	11	78	-67	0	-3.45
53 Netball 1st	11	0	0	11	220	428	-208	0	-4.00
54 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	5	0	0	5	0	15	-15	0	-4.00
55 Rugby Union Women's 1st	2	0	0	2	15	109	-94	0	-4.00

Crossword No. 1,432



ACROSS

- Neo-Nazi leader goes after southern family (8)
- Eat jokingly, by the sounds (6)
- Novelist is dumbass, no BS (5)
- Breathe in forcefully - something to do in winter (9)
- After combining vehicle and writing implement, attempt woodwork (9)
- In the past, time was reversed, and a man might wear this (4)
- Meaning well, being funny with a point (6)
- Mess with nature, left without bias (7)
- I'm a fruit to accuse public official of misconduct (7)
- Time to dine outside the post office - it might be good for a brew (6)
- Egg constituent changes hands in town (4)
- Guys into robotics with connections and facilities (9)
- EU make Ali upset, causing illness (9)
- Inappropriate to sleep in it (5)
- Artist, one who discriminates between boxes? (6)

- Convince rude apes mischievously (8)

DOWN

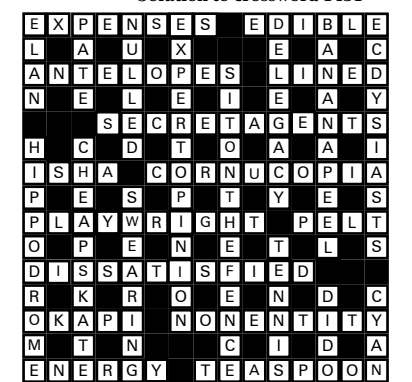
- Deuces somehow entice (6)
- I'm over a river, almost to plunge into water (7)
- Mad hairy Celts are uncontrollably emotional (10)
- Army figurehead sustained brachial bulletwound - this could give a lift (1,4,2,3,3)
- What's usual for weird moron who's lost a ring (4)
- Charm English with American belonging to us (7)
- Elation conjured by piggy's adornment? (7)
- Whiter than white, a step too far (6,3,4)
- Person one associates with history or languages, perhaps (10)
- Tramp, or what one sits on (3)
- Aesthetic work displayed at party (5)
- Picturesque lakes, 500 in Italy's borders to the north and a great university to the south (7)
- Sparkling wine Republican knocked over to unsettle someone (7)
- Look in a watery place for hidden

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

Congratulations to **Ian Gilmore** who was the first person to get the correct answer in this week. If we keep getting people who aren't at the top of the table submitting the correct answers in then we might be in for a real upset folks! Here is another delectable brain tickler from our crossword setter for you all to try out. Answers, as ever, in to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk please. Good luck!

Crossword by: **Sam Wong**

Solution to crossword 1431





Imperial students BUCK Up!

Christina Duffy

Five gold, twenty-eight silver and four bronze medals were won by Imperial crews at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham last weekend. This places Imperial fourth in the rowing BUCS championship table with 87 points behind overall winners Durham (184 points). The ICBC team was congratulated by Head of Sport Imperial Neil Molsey whose boat namesake was raced in throughout the weekend. 72 individual races by IC crews combined to a distance coverage of over 288 kilometres, 144 km of which were at race-pace. There were victories across the board in all categories and boat types with gold secured in M1wt2x, M12-, WB1x and MB1x.

In the men's intermediate pairs (M12-) Danny Symmonds and Alex Gillies claimed the first medals of the competition for ICBC and cruised through the opening heat into the semi-final. The pair lined up in the final against Durham A, B, C and D

and after hanging back for most of the race made their killer move within 100 metres to win by 0.12 seconds. Announcers were aghast at the brutal acceleration; "Wait... I think... yes! Imperial have taken the lead, can they have? Yes... Durham weren't expecting this! No one was expecting this." The duo was cool coming off the water attributing their win to "sheer skill". The men's lightweight double of Adam Freeman-Pask and Oli Mahony took pole position in their heat by 12.67 seconds. Durham again put up a good effort sacrificing Durham A, B and C to the IC crew in the final. When asked afterwards if it was a tough race there was much laughter: "No."

With such a vast quantity of entries there was little time between races and several athletes had to sprint straight from one boat to another. The women's intermediate quad (W14x: Stainthorp/Duffy/Philips/Bromley) had to ignore impatient Marshals' urging the crew

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Lacrosse club win ULU Challenge Cup Final

Chris Baldwin

Time had flown by and following an undefeated season, Imperial went into the ULU Challenge Cup final looking to seal the win. The sun was out and Sunday looked like it was going to be a brilliant day to play some cup winning lacrosse.

Arriving at Teddington, it was apparent that we were going to be up against some strong opposition. The UCL team had arrived far earlier and with a long warm up and bringing along an army of supporters, looked strong. However, having already beaten them once already this year, the Imperial team knew they could finish the job. Despite having to change on the side lines to save time and having little time to warm up, at 1.45pm, the game kicked off.

UCL started extremely strongly, pressuring the defence heavily but fantastic work from the likes of Sam Jayaweera, Elsa Butrous and Becky Singh kept them at bay, denying them time and time again. Imperial capitalised on every missed UCL opportunity and with UCL unable to deal with the pace of star scorer Ian Hunt and cap-

tain Akira Fukutomi, the first quarter ended 3 - 0 to Imperial.

UCL came back with a vengeance in the second and third quarters and Imperial was hard pressed to stay ahead. The defence proved themselves again, keeping UCL at bay and the pairing of Flo Slater and Ian in midfield made sure that UCL was given no room to breathe.

Going into the final quarter, Imperial was still ahead but UCL mounted a formidable offence. Goal opportunities came thick and fast at both ends, with 6 year veteran, Chris Allen towering over the UCL players and keeping the shots at goal going. The final 15 minutes were possibly the longest experienced by any player, but the final whistle was eventually blown and Imperial emerged victorious, winning 6-5. For the first time in their history, the Imperial mixed lacrosse team had secured both the ULU league and the Challenge Cup, with a completely undefeated season.

UCL had provided us with the hardest game we had played to date and after receiving the winner's medals and Captain Akira Fukutomi lifting the

Challenge Cup, both teams congratulated each other on an extremely tough match.

The game provided an absolutely brilliant end to a fantastic season, both on and off of the pitch. Despite the men's and women's teams being spread thinly with their many other additional league commitments, team solidarity kept us working well together to finally bring home the victory. Our many socials and sports nights have been really important to cement us as both individual teams and a club as a whole. It's not until you've seen someone drink from a lacrosse stick and then vomit snakebite out their nose that you truly get to know them.

This year had been phenomenal for Imperial Lacrosse. Winning both the ULU mixed league and Challenge Cup, putting the women's team in the top 16 in the country, the men having an extremely successful first season, but most importantly, winning ICSM Sports Club Of The Year 2008-2009! We are all looking forward to a new season of lacrosse in the autumn and welcoming some new faces to our incredible club!



The winning mixed team pose with the impressive trophy