



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year

Issue 1,444

felixonline.co.uk

13.11.09

Teaching to teach

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New Deputy Rector appointed

Joanna Cai News Reporter

Imperial College welcomes our new Deputy Rector, Professor Stephen Richardson, who began his new post on Monday of this week. He is also the Principle of Faculty of Engineering and will now assume both roles at the College.

Having walked within Imperial walls as an undergraduate, post-graduate and senior member of the College Faculty, Professor Richardson is well-qualified to declare that "Imperial is packed with great people all the way through, and I'm looking forward to working with all colleagues to set the College's priorities for the coming years." He adds to this, "To serve as Deputy Rector is a huge honour and I will work very hard to be worthy of it, and to advance the academic mission of this outstanding College."

Professor Richardson accepted his new position with gratitude and inspiration, which far humble his previous 30 years of work at Imperial. He began his undergraduate studies at Imperial in Chemical Engineering, 1969, and went on to complete his PhD in 1975. Once having said that "engineering is in my blood", it only seems natural that Professor Richardson has gone on to become a leader in his field of science. His main area of research led him, together with his colleague, to develop a computer program which has since been used in the design of over 200 vessel and pipeline installations for the production of oil and gas. Within his own Faculty of Engineering, Professor Richardson is fondly referred to by the students as the "machine-gun", to which he is attributed as a result of his tendency to talk bullet-quick whenever enthused by his ideas.

Sir Roy Anderson, Rector of Imperial, said, "Stephen is a highly popular senior academic, who has shown great dedication to Imperial throughout the more than 30 years he has worked here. He has



"No, it's true, it's actually this big. My pay cheque, I mean. What were you thinking I meant?"

been an outstanding leader within his department and the Faculty of Engineering, and I am delighted that the whole College will now benefit from his skills."

Professor Richardson aims to present himself as a role model, claiming "My aim is to lead by example, so if I expect other people to do things, I should also do them myself, in some measure. For example: I still teach, I do admin, I do consultancy work and I still conduct some research. A balanced diet is what you need in this job."

The new Deputy Rector has certainly already spent enough time here at Imperial to understand the philosophy behind what the College does as an entity, across all of its disciplines. He maintains a clear ambition for all Imperial students, which is "to see our students go on to be CEOs of companies, school teachers inspiring more kids..." Evidently speaking from his own experience, he adds, "Graduates at Imperial still have the very real opportunity to make a difference."

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

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13.11.09

The world beyond College walls



Germany

Leaders from all over the world have gathered in Berlin on Monday for events commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago.

The fall of the wall precipitated the end of communist rule in Eastern Europe, and two years later in the USSR. The wall was a symbol of division between the east and the west of Berlin, Germany, and Europe. Its collapse was surprisingly accidental, as East Germans followed Hungary's decision to open its borders, the communist government modified travel restrictions that imprisoned them and a flood of more than 3 million people crossed the border, many for the first time.

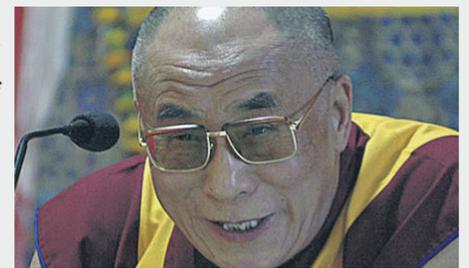
German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who grew up in East Berlin, retraced her steps on the night the wall fell by crossing what used to be the Bornholmer Strasse checkpoint, the first to open 20 years ago. She was joined by other European leaders and former leaders, including ex-Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former Polish President Lech Walesa, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who all held speeches for the event.



India

The Dalai Lama addressed tens of thousands of followers in the town of Tawang, in Arunachal Pradesh, eastern India.

The Tibetan spiritual leader is on a week-long tour of the region which has brought accusations from Beijing of his tour being an attempt to undermine Chinese authority in Tibet. Many of the people who attended his lecture, held on a packed polo ground, had been travelling for days, some even coming from neighbouring Bhutan, for the chance to be enlightened by the exiled Buddhist. The location of the Dalai Lama's speech is itself controversial, because India and China fought a brief border war over parts of Arunachal Pradesh in 1962, and the issue has never been resolved. In addition, the Dalai Lama fled from Tibet via Tawang after the Chinese occupation 50 years ago. The 300 year-old monastery there is one of the most influential outside of Tibet, and lies close to the border between India and China.



North & South Korea

The navies from both countries have reported that some vessels briefly exchanged fire at the border.

South Korean officials in Seoul explained that the incident began after a North Korean patrol boat crossed the western sea border, but the North Korean navy has countered that it was on its way towards an unidentified object within its borders, when it was suddenly attacked by South Korean ships. The North's boat "lost no time to deal a prompt retaliatory blow at the provokers", after which the South Korean forces "hastily took to flight to the waters of their side." Both sides have demanded an apology.

The countries have had at least two fatal conflicts at sea within the past decade, and neither can agree to fix a sea border. Although no casualties were reported this time, the North Korean vessel was apparently set ablaze before the South's fleet took off. The conflict comes just a few days before Barack Obama's visit to Asia, including his first to China.

By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor



Imperial win multiple awards at iGEM

Three of Imperial's award-winning team of eight at the 2009 iGEM competition talk to Sina Ataherian

A team of eight Imperial students has returned from winning a series of prizes at this year's iGEM jamboree in MIT. The iGEM, or international genetically engineered machine, competition considered the most prestigious Synthetic Biology competition in the world for undergraduates. It has grown exponentially out of an MIT course into an annual event attracting over 1200 participants from more than 110 teams this year from across the globe. Projects have ranged from banana and wintergreen smelling bacteria, through an arsenic biosensor, to buoyant bacteria.

Imperial College won the prize for the best manufacturing project; the prize for the best consideration of ethical issues in relation to device design; a gold medal and came fourth overall. The Imperial team had spent the summer working on their 'encapsulator' project.

The pill, the first of its kind, is self-manufacturing in the sense that it can produce a drug and then also produce an acid-resistant capsule around itself. Each encapsulator can produce one of a number of different drugs, making it a universal platform that can be widely used in the pharmaceutical industry.

The challenge for competitors is to specify, design, build, and test simple biological systems using only standard, interchangeable biological parts. The teams presented their projects at the iGEM Championship Jamboree between October 30 and November 2, but the Imperial team then decided to have a holiday in nearby New York, and so only got back this week. *felix* managed to get

an interview with three of the team members.

The team spent four months genetically altering cells so that they could manufacture a drug - such as an enzyme or protein needed to treat a disease - inside themselves, on demand. Pills usually need an acid-resistant shell in order to pass the stomach and reach the intestine without being ruined.

The unique aspect of this project was enabling the cell to then make this acid-resistant shell and encapsulate itself. Encapsulation is an especially important issue as the problem of safe transport to the intestine has been a major barrier for the rapidly growing biological drugs field. The team also encoded a control mechanism for the 'encapsulation' process, which is triggered automatically using genetic switches.

The Imperial team has thus shown that cells can be used as safe, flexible and controllable drug making devices. The implications of this could be significant for the pharmaceutical sector, which may be why drug manufacturers have already approached the team about possible research opportunities to further develop their concept.

They also used modelling techniques to show it would be possible to induce the bacterial cell to delete its own genome, effectively killing itself, once the drug has been made and the encapsulation process completed. This would render it completely inanimate, and therefore more palatable as a drug for human consumption. This aspect of the project led to them winning the award for the best consideration of ethical issues in relation to device design.

Professor Richard Kitney from Im-



Imperial (right) and Paris (left) winning prizes for considering the ethical issues around their respective projects

perial's Department of Bioengineering, who co-lead Imperial's students along with Professor Paul Freemont and Dr Geoff Baldwin from the Department of Life Sciences, congratulated the team, saying: "They did an absolutely brilliant job with a technically challenging project. The idea of having an all-in-one bacterial drug production and pill-like delivery unit is revolutionary. It could offer a low-cost, simple and efficient way of producing drugs that

can be safely delivered to the human intestine. That's why iGEM is such a fantastic competition - it gives undergraduates a unique chance to get their teeth into a ground-breaking research project, and explore ideas that could change the world."

Professors Kitney and Freemont, who co-direct Imperial's newly-founded Centre for Synthetic Biology and Innovation, say the students' work will now be developed in their lab, with particular focus on research to develop the synthetic biology device into a more general delivery system where drugs need to bypass the stomach. This was Imperial's fourth year of participating in the event and the deadline for applying to join next year's team is fast approaching. Whilst some of the other teams are thought to be strongly encouraged to choose particular topics, the teams that compete at iGEM from Imperial are completely free to pick their own topic. At the same time, they receive tutoring

from the staff supervisors that the team described as 'unparalleled'.

There is also a charitable element to the project as Imperial help UCL with their attempts, because they have less experience and because they generally need help. In addition, the teams also get a kit from the Registry of Standard Biological Parts.

This year's team comprised Bioengineering and Life Sciences students, but the team is keen to attract talent from all different departments for next year, as they believe a variety of skills will be helpful.

The team has asked interested undergraduate students to send, as soon as possible, their CVs to:

imperial.igem2010@gmail.com



Imperial team members present the ir award-winning "encapsulator" pill at the 2009 iGEM competition at MIT



The 2009 Imperial team in a group photograph ahead of the iGEM competition

Landslides hit El Salvador Project



One of the earthquake-resistant houses Imperial students built in the town of Colima in El Salvador over the summer. Colima was hit by 120 mm rain

Raz Jabary News Reporter

Two houses built by Imperial's El Salvador Reconstruction and Development Project in El Salvador's Colima community has been hit by devastating landslides. Over a hundred people have been claimed dead and many more are feared to have undergone the same fate. Thousands of houses have been either fully or partially destroyed, including the two earthquake resistant houses built by 11 Civil Engineering students this summer.

They worked with REDES, a charity organization committed to promising construction projects in an effort to rebuild the country after a sequence of deadly natural disasters, most notably the 2001 earthquakes.

Domingo Alas, worker for the NGO REDES (Reconstruction and Development Organization of El Salvador) says: "So far 154 women, elderly and children have died because of floods. We are in much sadness and suffering. Thou-

sands of families have lost their homes and belongings and are left with nothing, absolutely nothing."

Rolando Morales, REDES's Director of Planning, speaks of urban areas like Verapaz 'having been reduced to half their size'. "The scale of destruction caused without a doubt exceeded the devastation of tropical storm Stan and the Ila-matepec volcano eruption of 2005", Morales remarks.

The most affected areas in the country are the departments of San Salvador, San Vicente, Cuscatlán and La Libertad.

felix has obtained initial figures from REDES about the aftermath of the disaster: 154 dead of whom 40% are believed to be children, 13,860 people displaced, 209 homes completely destroyed, 1835 houses damaged and 18 crucial bridges collapsed or displaced.

The board of Imperial's El Salvador Project urges in particular Civil Engineering students to try to get involved over the coming years to provide crucial assistance to the parts of the poor country that need it most.

Inter-faculty mascotry kicks off this week

Waniel Dan Reporter

The time old tradition of mascotry at College has kicked off once again with the RCSU and CGCU reporting the disappearances of their violate mascots.

Bolt, one of two CGCU mascots was easily violated by the RCSU at last week's organised Bonfire Barnight held in the Union bar. However, CGCU have levelled the score as they stole approximately a third of RCSU's Theta with the equal ease this week.

Last Thursday saw the Union hold host to both the CGCU barnight and RCSU comedy night; CGCU Kirsty Patterson admitted mascotry was nigh on the night.

"I had expected one to go missing this evening but had thought Spanner protected by the Links Club."

Both of CGCU's mascots were on display on the night, with the CGCU tie club, Links, protecting the 68lb Bolt and the Miss. Patterson herself protecting Spanner.

However, little distraction was needed to violate Bolt on the night. Acting RCSU Vice President (Activities) Chris Gibbs casually picked up Bolt from the stool it sat on in the middle of a circle of Links Club members. The first Engineer to raise the alarm was reportedly CGCU Vice President (Finance & Societies) Rikki Norris as Mr. Gibbs wandered out of the Union bar to quickly conceal the mascot into hiding. Its whereabouts is currently unknown.

Spanner and Bolt have only recently been returned to this year's committee last month after they spent the entire summer at an unknown location off campus with anonymous captors. After a long and hard struggle, Kirsty Patter-

What is this 'mascotry' all about?

The sport of mascotry has existed as long as anyone can really remember at College and is steeped in tradition and superstition. It involves the capture and return of each other's Faculty Union mascots. Tactical skill and sometimes brute force has been used to capture rival Faculty's mascots.

Mascots involved are "violate", meaning the steal of a rival mascot is technically permitted but rarely desired. A stolen mascot is said to be "violated". The safe return of the mascot is ensured if the ransom fee set by the capturing Faculty Union is met. The ransom money is then donated to RAG charity (Raising and Giving).

The Royal College of Science Union's violate mascot is a 7ft steel thermometer, named Theta. Two mascots, Spanner and Bolt fly the flag for the City & Guilds College Union. Neither are traditional Faculty Unions, but both Royal School of Mines and RAG have their own violate mascots in the form of Davy (lamp) and Chris (large collecting bucket).

There are unwritten rules that accompany mascotry. Some include, the mascots are not allowed to be taken and hidden off-campus, they are not allowed to be driven around in cars. Tradition also states that if Theta is entirely violated, the RCSU's committee must throw it into the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens on its return, and commission a new Theta.

son agreed to the return of the two mascots back to campus at the Freshers' Bar Night on the 15th October.

The RCSU's success in violating the CGCU mascot could not be savoured for long however, as a section of Theta, RCSU's 7ft tall steel thermometer was taken from its hiding place in the Felix office this week by CGCU's Trojan Horse Society.

It is the first time in recent years that the RCSU has partaken in the annual rounds of mascotry, and have been criticised by rival Faculty Unions for their lack of activity. The design of Theta allows it to be taken into much smaller, concealable parts, and into hiding. It was said to have been assembled completely for the first time under the new RCSU executive committee this week, after

former RCSU President David Charles revealed the location in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building where he had hidden the RCS-engraved bulb component of Theta.

Jovan Nedic, Ex-Felix Editor and a Guildsman well known for his mascot-stealing antics, has got one up on his successor Dan Wan. The current Felix Editor and Scientist was entrusted with the piece by RCSU President Katya-yani Vyas, but Engineers easily located the Scientists' mascot in the obvious hiding place that was the Felix office. The RCSU President is understandably livid.

With scores level and RAG Week approaching, the tradition is to auction back the mascots to their rightful owners with agreed monies given to the RAG charity bucket.



A WINNER IS YOU!



We ran a competition two weeks ago giving away a month's supply of Relentless Energy Drink. We asked "In what year was the very first issue of felix published?" The answer was 1949. It's our 60th birthday this year, duh.

James Mardell, you lucky boy, you're going to be very awake and alert for the next month. To collect your prize, come down to the felix office in Beit's West Basement.

www.relentlessenergy.com

Even higher fees? It's not for us, thanks

Sina Ataherian News Editor

The government launched a review of higher education funding for students on Monday that, according to NUS warnings, could lead to soaring tuition fees. The review will be chaired by Lord Browne, former CEO of BP and the current president of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and is expected to report back next year. Lord Browne made the headlines following his resignation in 2007, after revelations that he may have used BP resources on his boyfriend, whom he reportedly met on the escort website Suited and Booted. He is said to be a close friend of Peter Mandelson.

The Conservatives have been talking about lower state contributions towards the cost of university degrees for months as one of many proposed measures to tackle the record budget deficit. Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, David Willets, has recently called for the cap on undergraduate student tuition fees, currently set at £3225, to be raised to £7000. The Rector of Imperial College, Sir Roy Anderson, has also called for the caps to be 'relaxed' in order to keep top universities globally competitive. Sir Roy is himself rumoured to be in line for a conservative

peerage and job as an education minister in the next government. The review now enjoys bipartisan support meaning that its recommendations will have a significant impact regardless of who wins the next general elections.

Ironically the review was initially promised in 2004 in order to appease rebel Labour MPs who were threatening to vote against the bill to introduce



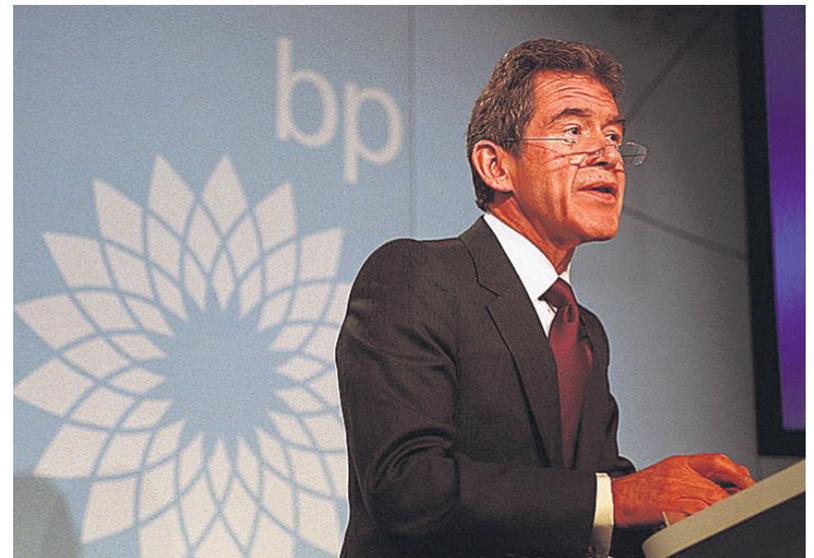
Union President Ashley Brown has signed letter of support conceived by the NUS which lobbies against any rise in higher education tuition fees

a £3000 annual tuition fee. They were under the impression that it could recommend scrapping the fee, yet now it looks almost certain that it will argue for higher fees and for loans to be charged at commercial rates. As part of that promise, the review had to begin this year, but the fact that it will not report until after the elections has led to accusations that both parties are trying to avoid this becoming an issue at the

general elections in May.

Although the recommendations look very likely to include higher costs for students, and to be implemented at all, they will not affect anyone currently at university or due to start next year. The review has been asked to consider how much students will be charged and to look at ways of increasing the numbers of students from poorer backgrounds at university, as well as simplifying the funding system. It is feared that if students cannot afford to enter higher education, it will lead to fewer graduates, reducing the competition for graduate jobs and increasing salary costs for employers. This means that the most vocal opponents of the proposals, student groups, could also be their greatest beneficiaries. To address this issue, the review will also consider getting employers to pay part of the cost of higher education.

On Wednesday 11th November, the NUS published a statement to the press, signed by ICU President Ashley Brown, calling for "Labour and Conservative MPs to come clean on their stance" over higher education fees, while suggesting that current policy aims to "duck difficult questions on student fees and finance at the next general election", thus implying that their silence aims to avoid alienating the student vote by voicing their true



Ex- BP CEO Lord Browne will head the review of higher education

opinions. The letter goes on to discuss that review panels are likely to be biased against students as it is "dominated by business and university leaders".

Speaking about the decision to position ICU alongside the NUS on this issue, Ashley Brown said: "I was asked to sign a letter from all students' unions in the country, which was published in the Guardian [on 11th November]. The letter calls for MPs to sign up to a

pledge that they will vote against an increase in fees and for a fairer funding system. Although we disagree with the National Union of Students on a number of funding issues, their letter agrees with our current policy, so I was happy to sign it."

Current ICU policy on Higher Education Funding was passed by Union Council on 18th February 2008 and can be found on the Union website.

College Hardship Fund 2009

Money worries affecting your studies?

EU and Overseas students may be eligible for a grant from the College Hardship Fund (home students can apply to the Access to Learning Fund.)

We understand that despite careful planning some students may face higher than expected costs or a financial emergency. In such cases we may be able to assist with a small award from the College Hardship Fund which could provide the additional support you need to continue with your studies.

Autumn term application deadline: **20 November 2009**

FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:

Web: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund>

Email: student.funding@imperial.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7594 8122



CARVING A FUTURE IN TANZANIA

IN THE CONTINUING SERIES OF IMPERIAL STUDENTS SERVING THE WORLD AROUND THEM, SIFE STUDENTS MELISSA NG, HANAN L'ESTRANGE-SNOWDEN, ALEXANDRA HO, & SAHIL CHUGANI CREATE SUSTAINABILITY IN TANZANIA THROUGH THE POWER OF ENTERPRISE

PHOTOS BY SAHIL CHUGANI

Ten SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) students flew to Tanzania on August 23rd 2009, embarking on a journey to help the TEKUA Centre become self-sustainable.

So, what is the story behind the TEKUA Centre? Two local Tanzanian volunteers, Chris and Ally, felt great pain seeing youths in their community forgotten due to their lack of education. In 2003, they took action and founded TEKUA, which provides free lessons in English, Computing, Art and Social Education.

They believed that education was the key to success, and that TEKUA would aid young people in obtaining the necessary opportunities to succeed. TEKUA has been educating its students against the struggles of poverty, illiteracy and the dangers of HIV which, unfortunately, for many Africans is still a death sentence.

The road has been far from easy, Chris and Ally have struggled to run and sustain the Centre. It depends mainly on external charitable support such as Helping Africa 100. This is unsustainable and TEKUA has had many financial difficulties. When asked about their future plans, many students answered that they hope to get external sponsorship to fund higher education. However, this is not always possible, and this is where SIFE came in!

SIFE's philosophy is "give me a fish, I eat for a day, teach me to fish, I eat for a lifetime." It is a global network joining university students and business leaders that together empower others to become self-sustainable through knowledge transfer and entrepreneurship. There were three aims: to first diffuse the culture of dependency on donations through our SIFE Vocational Programme. Secondly, to enable the Centre to become more financially independent through an Art Consultancy Project on the Centre's art business (their only self-generated income activity, which sells TEKUA students' artwork) and thirdly, to teach English

and Computing.

In the Vocational Programme, we taught CV, letter writing and interview skills. We also taught them how to make savings through small-scale businesses, allowing self-funding of further education rather than waiting for 'sponsorship'. The students had a simulated art sale within the Centre, and real life practice at the local market selling maize and bananas. They have learnt that it is possible to realise their dreams, to become the teachers, chefs, and tour guides that they aspire to be, in a self-dependent manner.

Take one of our students- Mary Gabrielle established her own banana business and passed her interviews to enter a Vocational Cooking School. Another, Emanuel Geoffrey, is establishing a hair salon. Due to the success

"They have learnt that it is possible to realise their dreams, to become the teachers, chefs, and tour guides that they aspire to be."

of our summer programme, we are working with the centre to permanently integrate it into the school curriculum, which will be taught by students who graduated this September.

The Art Consultancy Project identified the reasons for the lack of profit in the past few years. To improve revenue, the project revamped the art shop, rebranded their marketing strategy and reviewed their pricing and accounting system. The once muddy and unwelcoming TEKUA art shop is now clean and inviting. A signpost has been erected and brochures distributed to

nearby hotels. To expand their market scope, we are now identifying further opportunities for TEKUA in London for the sales of their original paintings, greeting cards, jewellery and bags. This would ensure long term and stable sales for TEKUA. As we have in the past, we will also be holding art exhibitions to further help the sales of their artwork.

We didn't change TEKUA overnight, but we are making a noticeable difference. We hope that we have inspired these youths just as much as we have been inspired by their optimism and determination despite all the adversities they face.

Congratulations to all 10 who volunteered this summer - Alexandra Ho, Alex Shen, Edward Poynton, Hanan L'Estrange-Snowden, Heather Wong, He-In Cheong, Janice Luo, Melissa Ng, Sahil Chugani and Sammy Ho.

Our best wishes go to all the staff and students at TEKUA who will always stay in our hearts - Chris, Ally, Pendo, Harry, Ezeziel, Lea and Tenopa.

Our special thanks go to IC Trust, IC Summer Tour Fund, Deloitte and Rotary Club Fund who provided financial support. Our deepest appreciation goes to everyone who made this project possible - Khushbu Lalwani, Garrie Bolton, Mary Goudge, Krishna Bakhai, Paul-

harveer Singh, Suraendher Shanmuganathan, Raghav Saboo, Advait Rao, Kathleen Pheasant, and Swiri Konje.

This project runs throughout the academic year and over the summer in Tanzania. SIFE also runs other UK based projects from working with youths and single mothers, to tackling environmental issues and encouraging science entrepreneurship. New project ideas are always welcome too.

Join SIFE Imperial (ranked 4th in UK), and transform the lives of others and your own simultaneously through the power of volunteering and enterprise! Maybe even represent UK in the SIFE World Cup 2010.



The Imperial College TEKUA Project team and the TEKUA Centre's volunteering staff after a day's work of teaching the 15-30 year olds ready to DalaDala back to Makumira for some Ugali na Kuku and a Serengeti beer mmmmm...

UniFaith

ROAD TO DIALOGUE

SAF Building
Imperial College Road
SW7 2AZ

Monday 16 November 2009

6.30pm

A series of insights from eight different faiths given by prominent speakers, chaplains and institutional leaders, followed by an opportunity for interfaith discussion in an informal format. Refreshments served.

Guest Speaker
Sir Roy Anderson
Imperial College Rector

Eight Faiths, represented by:

BAHA'I

Barney Leith

BUDDHISM

Bugoda Seelawimala

CHRISTIANITY

Br Mariesan

HINDUISM

Jay Lakhani

ISLAM

Monawar Hussain

JAINISM

Prafulaben Shah

JUDAISM

Gavin Broder

SIKHISM

Manvir Singh



Angry Geek is far too sexy for this column



"It's as if everyone she's met so far at Imperial tried to shag various appendages off her within sixty seconds"



The Internet has done many things in its brief forty years on this planet. But for something whose first act was to allow scientists to share jokes with each other from the comfort of their offices, its done surprisingly little for getting people to realise how sad they are.

Last year I did a little tour of the BBC's online "Have Your Say" website, highlighting the multitude of sandwichless picnics that spend their days tapping away on their keyboards like an infinite number of lobotomised monkeys. They're still funny now, not because what they're saying is dumb – although it really is – but because these people have no idea what they're saying. It takes a special kind of stupid to sit down in front of a system that connects billions of other members

of their species and not take a quick looky-loo to see if everyone else is as hare-brained as they are.

I only bring this up because last week's article by the delightful Mariash was one of those articles that makes me sit back and wonder whether people ever stop talking for long enough for their brain to finish checking it for sense. It's like there's a little civil servant sitting up there in their skull, watching a live broadcast of what their human is saying, frantically trying to get through to the press on the mobile telling them not to publish any of it. In case you didn't read it – and why would you, we only publish *felix* to pass the time – Ms. Mariash's article bemoaned the state of sexuality at Imperial. And that's fair enough, because a lot of the first years do spend their days staggering around in half-on, half-off clothes

with a look in their eyes like a walrus in heat. Then again, the first years are still teenagers, and you're at university. Explain to me which bit of this is surprising.

Anyway, bizarrely obvious assertions aside, the bit that really gets me is the hyperbole. It's as if everyone she's met so far at Imperial tried to shag various appendages off her within sixty seconds of meeting her, as if her entire life is one of those Japanese hidden-camera gameshows, 'Normal Workday Rapist Surprise' or something. I mean, I know that generalisations are part and parcel of writing comment pieces because I'm as guilty as anyone, but let's at least make them vaguely reasonable. It's not like you're a bastion of romance, standing ironically erect among a field of disease-ridden copulating youngsters, a single tear rolling

down your cheek and falling onto the rose you hold in your hand.

Romance is no more dead than teetotalling, helping old ladies across the street or not reading the Daily Mail. Just because fewer people are doing it the way you want it done doesn't mean you get to forge a soapbox out of unused Valentine's Day cards and declare yourself the last of the Queen's Tower Hand-Holding Society.

I'm really happy that you folk are getting the keyboards dusted off and writing for the comment section, but I'm fairly sure I'm not alone in being of the opinion that a few of you aren't tapping your sanity barometers as you walk past each morning to check if they're swinging to "Away With The Electric Boogaloo Fairies". The great thing about free speech is that it's a right, but not an obligation. You can say anything you want.

But you really, really don't have to. Honestly. So many more things you could be doing. Like getting drunk or having sex with strangers.

I jest. I do think it's kind of sad that people like Mariash still feel the need to declare their virginity, their sensible drinking, their desire for true love. Because what it means is that the people making all the noise are the small proportion of idiots trying to rut anything with a cavity at crotch height. Thing is, Mariash, the solution to this isn't for you to write in *felix* how the entire world is conspiring to get you into a sex education class. All that does is make your stance look sillier. And then someone's going to get depressed about how awful my grammar is, go and drink their sorrows away; you're just feeding the system Mariash. You're part of the problem. So go and talk to people, find others like you.

Erica Thompson: Are humans smarter than yeast?



"Unfortunately for the yeast, their little utopia stops somewhat nastily just on the brink of a population explosion"



What happens if you put a little bit of yeast in a dish full of sugar solution? Any biologist, or indeed a home brewer or amateur baker, can tell you the answer.

They eat the food, they reproduce, and they produce waste products which include CO₂ and (if you're lucky) alcohol. So far, so good. The populations of the little yeasty crea-

tures multiplies until they have gorged themselves silly on all of the sugar, excreting their waste into the dish as they go.

Unfortunately for the yeast, their little utopia stops somewhat nastily just on the brink of a population explosion (and no doubt all sorts of yeasty art, your-mum jokes and search for extradish-intelligence) because at some point they will either run out of food or poison themselves with their own

waste products.

This is why you have to distil alcoholic drinks to get them up much beyond a few percent.

A similar situation applies to ourselves. The human species feed on an underground source of calories, which BP, Exxon and the like are only too happy to sell to us in a million different forms to keep us happy. Transport, heating electricity, clothing, medicine, agriculture and almost all

aspects of our modern civilisation are dependent on these cheap fossil fuel calories to keep the economy growing. We burn it, releasing the energy of ancient sunlight, and discharge the waste product, CO₂, into the atmosphere.

Luckily for us, CO₂ isn't toxic in itself, but it is poisoning the atmospheric energy balance, and disrupting climate systems such as the Asian Monsoon that we rely on to maintain agricultural

conditions optimal for our food supply.

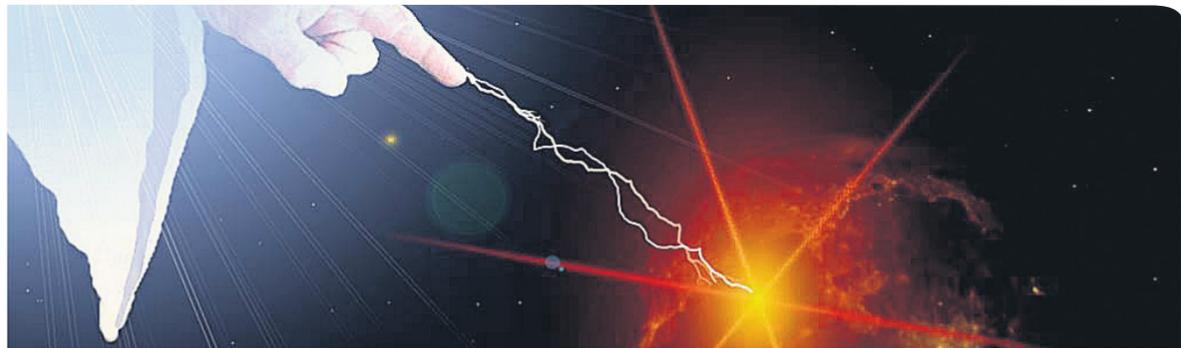
We are also on the brink of an energy supply precipice. The easy-to-get-at oil, on which we rely, is being used up. New discoveries of oil peaked in 1964, and it is likely that supplies will start to decline within the next few years. Population, meanwhile, continues to increase.

Let's hope that we have the foresight to recognise, accept, and do something about these problems. Unlike yeast.

Gilead Amit blasphemes. Ish. Just a smidge



"And the Lord said: 'let there be light', and the electrician said: 'I can fit you in on Thursday, at around 3:00'"



There's a great deal of casual hypocrisy floating around out there. Take the Creation of the World, for instance. We are happy to refer to the Greek, Norse or Chinese versions of this event as 'mythology', whereas even the most devoutly atheistic of us will accord a special status to the account set out in Genesis. A distinction made for purely cultural reasons – not because the Judeo-Christian timeline makes any more sense than the others. Well, we should at least be grateful nobody ever came up with a specifically English version of the Creation myth...

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And the Lord said: 'let there be light'.

And the electrician said: 'I can fit you in on Thursday, at around 3.'

And the Lord said: 'Thursday? That's no bloody good to me – I've got to bring the land forth from out the sea, cause the firmament to shine with the lights of a million stars and create all the creatures that swim in the water and fly in the air

by Thursday?'

And the electrician said: 'Sorry, guv'nor – it's not up to me. What you've got 'ere is a decontracted spindle, y' see. That could take – what, a week, a week and 'alf to replace? Ain't that right, Eric?'

And Eric said 'yerr.'

'Bu-ut, because I likes you, y'see, we might be able to fix it all up by Thursday. But that's the fastest I can do,' said the electrician. 'Nasty business, decontracted spindles.'

'Yerr,' said Eric. 'Very.'

'Well, couldn't I have some sort of replacement?' Quoth the Lord. 'I mean, it's all very well you talking about decontracted spindles, but it's bloody hell trying to create a Universe if you can't even see what you're doing. Believe me, I should know. Made a right mess last week when the fuse blew. Isn't there some sort of lighting I could borrow in the meantime?'

'I see' said the electrician. 'Well, it just so 'appens we do have a variety of replacement illyoominashun apparatus in stock, guv'nor. Ain't that right, Eric?'

'Narr' said Eric. 'We don't got none any more.'

'Oh Jesus Christ, Eric! No offence meant, guv'nor.'

'None taken' assured the Lord.

'Why ain't we got no lights?' asked the electrician.

'I went and gave them all to that Mr. Vishnu, didn't I?' Croaked Eric. 'He said he needed them for his Dee-wall-ee or something' Heathen, if you ask me.'

'Oh bollocks.' Said the electrician. 'Well, I'm h'awfully sorry, guv'nor, but I don't think we'll be h'able to furnish you with your replacement h'illyoominashun service at the present time.'

'Is there nothing you can do for me?' Cried the Lord.

'What d'you think I am, guv'nor – a bloomin' miracle worker?'

And the Lord knew that there was a witty comment that would be appropriate at a moment like this, but could not for the life of him remember what it was. Oh yes.

'Piss off,' said the Lord.

And Eric and the electrician did piss off.

And the evening and the morning of the Thursday did the Lord wait impatiently by his telephone. And the edges of the fingernails which he bit dropped onto the land beneath and became the mountains and the valleys. And little bits of snot which he picked out of his nose while nobody could see him because the lights were still out became marshes and swamps.

And lo, the doorbell rang, and the heav-

ens and earth resounded to a colossal 'Ding.' And then did they resound to an equally colossal 'dong.'

'Hello?' said the Lord

'Err, yes. Hello. Is this Mr. J. Hova?' said a nasal voice.

'Yes, it is I' said the Lord. And on reflection added 'or should that be 'me?'

'You see, Mr. Hova, I'm from the local branch of the RSPCA. Err – where are you, exactly?'

'I'm standing over here,' rumbled the Lord.

'Ah yes – thank you, sir. I'm from the RSPCA, and I'm here to follow up on a number of complaints that have been made about your property.'

There was quiet. A deep, profound stillness broken only by the sounds of an ostrich tripping over a pelican in the darkness.

'What sort of complaints?' asked the Lord, groping around for a cuttlefish he had put down only a few minutes ago.

'Well, Mr. Hova, is it true that you are keeping one of the world's largest menageries of exotic birds confined in utter darkness, lasting from moment-when-darkness-is-supposed-to-start to moment-when-darkness-is-supposed-to-finish?' asked the inspector as he sat

down on a penguin, mistakenly believing it to be a cushion.

'Ah, well –' started the Lord

'And is it also true, Mr. Hova, that a number of particularly fine species of maritime life are forced to endure existence in a body of water where they are not receiving enough light to survive?' the voice continued.

'Yes, but that's all temporary. You see, I've only just moved in to the neighbourhood and my lighting isn't sorted out yet – the electrician should be around later today, as a matter of fact.'

'Is that so, Mr. Hova. Is that so?' said the inspector. The penguin squawked, loudly. The inspector jumped up and tripped, heavily.

'No no, Mr. Hova, I'm afraid these conditions are quite appalling. I'll be back at the same time tomorrow, and if things haven't sorted themselves out then I will take steps to have your planning permit for this little Universe revoked. Good undefined-timespan, Mr. Hova.' And the inspector did turn sharply on his heel and fall flat on his face in the Aegean Sea.

And the Lord sighed and said: 'If you want to get anything done in this country, you're better off doing it yourself.'

Emilie Stammers thinks she is not a twit



"I suggested a chicken walking along holding an umbrella... which is now... in the final picture"



I have Facebook. No, I didn't think that would come as a surprise to you either. I also have a blog. I can see some raised eyebrows in the back, but it seems that blogging is fairly normal too. OK, what about if I told you that I have Twitter and frequently use it? Yep, just as I predicted: most of you are sniggering. What's so funny about it, though?

Most people who dismiss Twitter as pointless and laughable mumble something along the lines of, "Why do people need to know what you're doing all the time?". Well, they don't, but I could

apply exactly the same argument to certain people who frequently blog, or even constantly update their Facebook statuses. Apparently, broadcasting inanities on Facebook is acceptable, whereas tweeting is not.

That's not to say that said inanities should be posted on Twitter, either. Contrary to popular belief, most people don't tweet things like "havin my dinner lol". Many Twitter users post links that they think would be of general interest to their followers, or directly communicate with each other using @ replies, as well as answering the ques-

tion Twitter asks on its homepage: "What are you doing?". To pick at random from my homepage at the moment, one of the people I'm following has failed her ECDL, another is asking his followers what colour HeartBeats he should buy, and yet another is looking forward to her English Language lesson. To quote a certain Sue Denim (any Robots In Disguise fans in the room? Nope, I didn't think so either) tweeting is like leaving your curtains open, and following is the equivalent of peeking inside. Part of the appeal of Twitter is that it's a bit like a legal way

of stalking someone, and who doesn't indulge in the odd bout of Facebook stalking? Plus, if you want to follow celebrities, you can, safe in the knowledge that they won't file a restraining order.

If I had to classify websites, I would put Twitter somewhere between blogging and social networking. I asked the student union here a question via Twitter before I arrived as a bright-eyed and bushy-tailed fresher. Ashley Brown himself tweets. Other people use Twitter for slightly insane projects. The artist Johanna Basford, who got

her followers to submit ideas for a 'Twitter Picture'. I suggested a chicken walking along holding an umbrella, for example, which is now sandwiched between a laughing Buddha and a llama in the final picture.

I'll freely admit that Twitter isn't for everyone. Gaining followers is pretty difficult in itself. People you start following might follow you back, but the chances are fairly slim in general, and close to nil if it's a celebrity. Most of my followers are bots of some sort.

I'm not telling you to rush out and get Twitter. Just let me tweet in peace, OK?



We're doomed

As the UN Climate Change Conference looms, are our attempts to slow global warming too little, too late?

James Beal Science Reporter

Barely a week goes by without another scientific report and another batch of headlines telling us yet again that the Earth is doomed. Climate change has become such a big issue in the media that paradoxically it's becoming hard to take seriously and all too easy to ignore. As selective hearing steadily slides towards carefree impassivity, there is a real danger of forgetting about global warming altogether.

We've all done it. You check the BBC News website and see another gargantuan lump of ice has fallen off Antarctica. This promptly jump-starts a fit of tutting suffused with a noble desire to be the best friend the environment ever had. After faithfully screwing in your energy efficient light bulb, you wake up the next morning all too happy to throw away recyclables, leave lights on all day and generally spew as much carbon into the atmosphere as possible.

But how much effect do these actions really have on what is evidently a planet-sized problem? Some scientists have suggested that our potentially climate-changing chemical emissions are offset by the Earth itself. The Gaia hypothesis loosely describes the Earth as one giant organism, and is a theory often hijacked by those unconvinced of climate change or otherwise unwilling to change their ways. In much the same way as the human body will attempt to keep the temperature of the blood constant through certain physiological alterations, the Earth is said to be composed of a series of feedback loops that keep the atmosphere hospitable and conducive to life.

This is a beautiful idea. It is beautiful partly because it suggests an all-encompassing compassion for all spe-

cies around the world, but mostly it is beautiful because it means we can do whatever the hell we want with the planet without worrying about the consequences. Mother Earth may be a tolerant and forgiving parent, but I fear the level of damage currently being done might be akin to pushing a bottle of gin into her hand and poking her with a stick.

Okay, so this problem isn't going to go away by itself. But as a race we've developed the technical genius required to create computers, space ships and deep-fried Mars bars. Surely we have the know-how to come up with a solution.

Paul Crutzen, a winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, has suggested a radical solution involving using high-altitude balloons to supplement the stratosphere with sulphur. The sulphur particles would reflect light and heat from the sun, effectively cooling the Earth. His idea mimics the cooling effects of volcanic eruptions and seems a wonderfully innovative and simple idea. We should, however, be extremely apprehensive about any such schemes of geo-engineering. Among other things, his proposed solution would lead to an increase in acid rain, killing millions of fish and huge amounts of plant life.

The fact is that at current rates the global temperature is set to rise by anything from 2-6°C in the next 50 years. Our children and grandchildren will inherit a world being overwhelmed by deserts, droughts and famine. So do recycle, reuse shopping bags, buy food without much packaging and turn appliances off instead of putting them on standby. The small things really will make a difference. I know the effect of each semi-regurgitated warning becomes ever weaker as our apathy overcomes our better senses. I just don't think that excuse will cut it.



Photo Credit: Credit photographer

Has the standard 'polar bear in broken ice' photo lost its impact through over-use in the media?

Artificial penis engineered

Functional penises now able to be grown from animal cells

Nathan Ley Science Editor

It's a tabloid headline writer's dream when a story such as this comes along. The headline may only relate to a minor detail of the story, and it may be 'selling out' to exploit it in this way, but at least it's made you read the science section for once rather than having you just brushing straight through to find the more entertaining parts of the paper as usual.

But this is actually a fairly important piece of work. The penis was engineered in rabbits using cells from the animals themselves. It enabled the rabbits to use the new organs to father baby rabbits.

Whilst the creation of a penis for a rabbit may seem a little bit pointless, it is the implication of such research that matters, that of actually being able to generate an organ using non-stem cells. It helps take scientists closer to creating other complex organs such

as livers and hearts, organs which are quite possibly more critical for actual survival.

The study was led by Dr Anthony Atala of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's Institute for Regenerative Medicine in North Carolina.

Dr Atala focused on the penis not because of a deep-rooted obsession with phallic objects, but because of the fact that he is a urologist who has for a long time specialised in disorders and defects of the bladder and sexual organs.

"That was the inspiration for this work. We are seeing babies born with deficient genitalia all the time. There are no good options."

Dr Atala's team first created a scaffold for the rabbit penis removing all the living cells from it, leaving only cartilage. They then took a small piece of tissue from the penis of another rabbit and grew the cells in a lab dish.

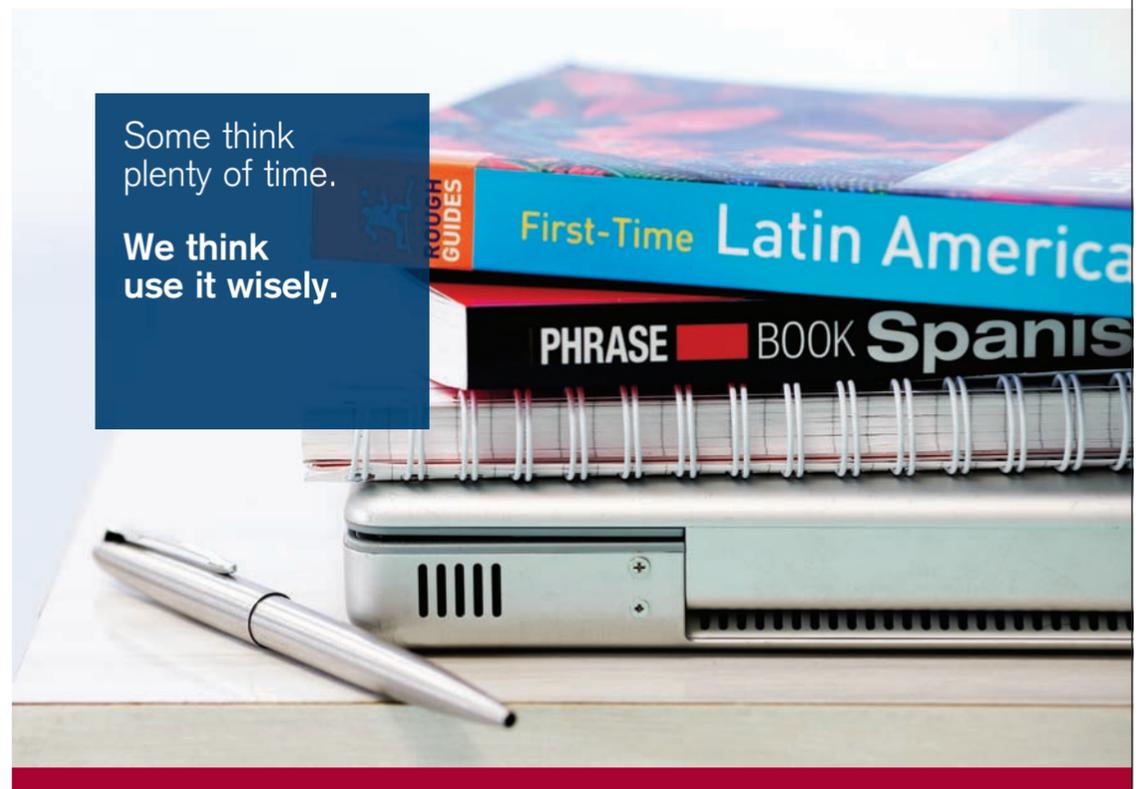
The work took his team 18 years to

18

The number of years spent by Dr Atala in completing his work on the Penis

complete. "We had to find the right growth factors, the right soup to grow the cells in," he said

The key thing about this research is not that an organ was generated, but that normal animal cells were used rather than stem cells, which have the potential to generate any cell type but also whose usage in research is limited due to the crazy ethical and religious shit that accompanies them (especially in America with all their fundamentalist nutters). But anyway, let us rejoice in this quite seminal piece of work.



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Fall of the Berlin Wall: 20 years on

Twenty years after the symbolic end of Communism in Eastern Europe, Business Editor Sina Ataherian looks at the changing public understanding of socialism, markets, economics and government intervention

This Monday saw the twentieth anniversary of the East German government announcing that its citizens were free to visit West Germany. This started the tearing down of the Berlin Wall at the hands of iconic crowds on both sides, amid euphoric scenes. Those celebrating in Germany were joined by people around the world who saw his as a symbol of the most deadly ideology the world had ever seen self-destructing. The rallying cry “five years before the fall of the Berlin wall no one could have predicted it” is still used across the globe by seemingly weak movements fighting tyranny.

Twenty years on, it is saddening to read a recent global poll of 29000 people by the BBC. It shows that many of the lessons learned from the results of seventy years of ignoring the laws of human action appear to have been forgotten. The poll was conducted to assess changing levels of confidence in markets over the past two decades. The results, reported in an article titled “Free markets flawed, says survey” suggest that eight out of nine people across the 27 countries surveyed believe that the free market does not work well and that more regulation will make it more efficient.

The silver lining is that at least it should help end the absurd idea many have that “but most people think that X” is a legitimate argument for X. But the ignorance shown is sickening given the extent to which the same electorates that typically believe economics is a difficult area best left to experts are willing to go in endorsing the imposition of policies advocated by one school over others.

The recession has served a useful purpose in restricting a zoo of economic schools into two: lazy and sound. There is a strong consensus amongst the exuberant crowds that the financial crisis was caused by a lack of regulation. Most politicians and their court intellectuals pander to this view relentlessly. At the same time, anyone willing to spend sometime thinking through what happened and why, is in for a treat. It is easy to see that the Austrian school is unique in all of its leading figures predicting the events of 2008 in great detail years before they occurred.

For the first time in a while, the incentive for individuals to favour sound over lazy economics is obvious – not being caught out the next time state intervention messes up the economy. Much as the likes of Summers and Stiglitz would like to pretend otherwise, free markets will always exist in one form or another, and especially in the analysis of current affairs. In the past non-economists who got confused by Krugman’s New York Times articles advocating a housing bubble (precisely his words) may have turned to similar writers dominating big media. After seeing that each was as nonsensical as the next, they may have concluded that the subject must just be too complicated for them to understand.

But more recently, analysis that cuts through the spin and explains in an intuitively convincing and exact way the causes of economic woes and predicts the effects of further screwing with markets has grown exponentially in popularity. Such analysis could always be found in sources dedicated to advancing rational scholarship, such



East and West Germans meet on November 9th 1989 to tear down the Berlin Wall and reunite their nation

as mises.org, home of the prestigious Ludwig von Mises Institute in the US. But today it is even creeping its way slowly but surely into mainstream media, especially on Reuters and Bloomberg.

In the week that ironically saw both the twentieth anniversary celebrations of the fall of the Berlin wall and the passing of the Affordable Healthcare for America Act, we should pause to consider the significance of the BBC poll. Are the results as bad as may be feared? Many who felt capitalism was not working, such as Michal Moore who has made entire films on the subject, confuse it for the existing system of corporatism and special interest groups. In fact, the word capitalism sounds like a system that favours capital above the other factors of production and so is unnecessarily confusing.

Advocates of free markets should emphasise that their position is not to serve capital above all else, but to allow individuals to buy and sell what they want on a voluntary basis without the government intermediating. They should make clear that they oppose all redistribution – including from society to the banks – and all central planning – including of the money supply. Again, only the Austrian school has done this and so only they can legitimately claim to understand and support markets.

The government claims to want to help the poor, yet introduces car scrappage schemes that destroy the entire market that they could previously have accessed: cheap, old cars. It transfers billions to the same banks that it regulates to stop individuals and smaller firms competing with. It starts unde-

clared wars promising quick victories and ends up staying aimlessly for potentially decades. If you can see that there is something amiss in all this, but cannot see an alternative, it is because we have never really had one within living memory.

The political side of free market advocacy may be the most impassioned, but it is unlikely to get us anywhere, as individuals. Instead, we can rely on the principle that any informational advantage tends to yield material returns. In this case, rejecting anti-market propaganda confers two immediate benefits. It helps us understand the true value of jobs that rely upon open and fair competition and thus be more inclined to go after them. Almost as importantly, this rejection will enable us to accurately predict the real affects of government policy in any line of business that we may chose to enter.

The recent financial crisis saw panicked Keynesians and assorted other pro-Fed sidekicks gain an early upper hand. They established into our conventional wisdom the idea that because banks are associated with markets and with the crisis, we can conclude the crisis was itself caused by markets, especially unregulated ones. This is therefore a good place for anyone interested in uncovering the link between damaging markets and causing damaging to the economy to begin.

The recession, great or otherwise, was caused by the US government combining the fraud of paper-money printing (in legal tender currency that we would be imprisoned for not using) with the theft of guaranteeing mort-

assets, an increase in risk-aversion, and liquidity issues for firms and their customers. These are all problems that free markets naturally incentivise entrepreneurs to solve. Unlike all predecessor administrations to date, it did not pick out the one saving grace of recession – lower price levels – as the problem to ‘correct’.

Of course it is always tempting to end our studies here and revert to lazy economics, where we assume the people whose views get the most coverage must be right. If their thoughts are too incomprehensible to be worth exploring, we may think it is because we lack the ability to understand and give up. But it is extraordinarily dangerous to assume something is as it is for reasons beyond our comprehension.

It is interesting that these pseudo-economists tend to be from universities, and so are hardly unbiased commentators on government spending. They have never had to test their ideas in real markets. Far greater sympathy for sound reasoning can be found amongst those who do so regularly, in places such as Mises or Bloomberg. Economists who argue that we fail to understand the situation should verify this by at least attempting to enlighten us. More and more people are now demanding his, and educating themselves, which would explain support for auditing the “Federal” Reserve, currently sanding at 75% amongst Americans. The obvious signs of discomfort in Bernanke’s body language on his tours earlier this year to campaign for Fed ‘independence’ left us wondering whether the sneers are merely attempts to cover deep insecurity.



Raegan delivering his famous ‘tear down this wall’ speech in 1987



Warning! Contains Rant

Phil Murray Politics Editor

This place really pisses me off at times. This place being Imperial. Over the few weeks of term this off-pissing has been building up, & it's time to get it off my Chest. Here is a brief summary of what I'm moaning about. So I'm a Chemist, just entered my second year. I live relatively close to college, in Fulham, a half-hour walk away. My general day will go as follows; 9.00 till 11.00 lectures: some dull lecturer teaching some dull topic. Fair enough, I understand that we have to cover the basics to be able to move onto the interesting stuff, but it feels like they are actively trying to make them as boring as possible.

Then comes lab, 11.00 till 5.00. Either a computer lab, where you spend weeks in a dark basement computer room playing with an annoying piece of software just for the sake of it, or proper lab – that in my opinion isn't too bad, it's actually what I want to be doing, as a Chemist.

Ahh, just had a nice productive-ish day, maybe if you're lucky, and didn't lose all your product to a rotary evaporator. Time to go home, and relax – 'O shit, we have another lecture. Dam!' Seriously, who thought that 5.00 till 6.00 lecture would be a good idea? Looking around the theater, it reminds me of nap time at primary school, just with more facial hair (Yes, chemistry are a hairy bunch, and that's worrying when we have one of the highest male : female ratios on campus).

Then I'll go home, do some food shopping, cook, eat, and before I know it it's 8pm. That leaves about two hours before I have to go to bed, but even the slimmest chance of getting up in the morning. Yes, I admit it, I go to bed at 10.00. So, I struggle through the problem sheets, lab reports, thinking I really couldn't care less how the reducible representations can be expressed as the sum of irreducible representations (Don't ask...).

What about the hour-per-lecture at least we are told to spend looking over our notes. If I did it on the night we had had the lecture, obviously the best time to do it, since it's fresh in your head, I'd be lucky to go to bed at 1am, then miss the lecture's next morning by oversleeping – something I have done far too often. How about at the weekends? Nope, afraid not, there's lab reports to be done.

They tell us this problem has been addressed, and this year, reading weeks have been introduced, to give us that all-important time to review the course's. This week in fact. Brilliant, you would think. Just what we need! Until they go and set all the deadlines for this term's major pieces of coursework right at the end of the week. Before you know it, it's Friday, and you've only just figured out what an irreducible representation is, handed in another mediocre piece of work, and no

review done.

You keep telling yourself that it'll be OK, and you'll be able to pull it together come exam. I've been telling myself that since the end of term 1 year 1, and nothing has so far changed. I feel like I am constantly swimming against strong currents, never managing to get ahead, and barely keeping afloat.

Maybe when I decided to come here, I should have known I'd have no social life, no free time, no between-term holidays & no fun for the next four years, but I don't remember seeing that in the prospectus anywhere. Maybe I am being naïve, and I'm sure a lot of you are telling me to man-up, but I know that I am not alone in my year. Maybe again, it's just chemistry that unfortunately got it wrong, but I think not. In the *2010 Times Good University Guide*, Imperial ranks 3rd overall, behind Oxbridge, but a sorry 58th in terms of Student satisfaction.

Anyway, rant over. Ahh, feeling better already. Now onto proper politics.

This week has, of course, involved far more important issues than me failing my degree. Sunday was Remembrance Sunday, Tuesday was 20 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall & Wednesday was Armistice Day.

This week, we have seen World Leaders put aside political differences & past disagreements, to honour those who have died defending freedom. I am talking about the countless millions who have died in the numerous Wars that have been fought in the name of freedom. And Wars are still being fought. There are currently 4100 UK troops in Iraq, & 7800 in Afghanistan. It matters not whether you think the Government was morally or legally right or wrong to participate in these Wars, all that matters this week is our unwavering public support of our troops in the difficult & dangerous job they are doing.

The leaders of the UK, France, Germany & Russia stood side-by-side, with the US president on video-link, Monday, at the Brandenburg Gate, the site that has come to symbolise the fall of the Wall. The 96 mile long Wall was to separate the enclave of Capitalist West Berlin from Communist East Germany, to stop East Germans fleeing to a better life of democracy. The razing of this wall has come to symbolise the fight of the people over a tyrannous regime. The ceremony on Monday included a toppling of 1000 massive dominoes, along the course of the wall, followed by fireworks, and for some reason, a Bon Jovi concert.

So I'm sitting here trying to think of some poignant closing remarks, but I can't, & I'm tired & hungry, so farewell, and have a good week.

Think this is total crap? Why not try to do better? Email us at politics.felix@ic.ac.uk

Yemeni Rebels Bombed



Yemeni Rebels cross northern border to Saudi Arabia, and kill officer, prompting a military response from the Airforce

Anthony Maina

The growing conflict inside the Arab peninsula's oldest multi-party democracy has not exactly taken over world headlines, even though fighting has been going on between the central government and rebel fighters for the past five years.

With attention to the Middle-East devoted almost entirely to negotiations in between Israelis and Palestinians, and the threat of a nuclear Iran, it has been all too easy to completely ignore less flashy, though by no means insignificant altercations occurring in the Gulf.

On November 4th, Yemeni rebels crossed the country's northern border into Saudi Arabia, killed a Saudi officer and claimed to have taken a strategic mountaintop within the kingdom. The very next day, Saudi aircraft reportedly bombed strategic rebel positions within Yemen, sparking anger and giving credence to rebel claims that Saudi Arabia has been meddling in Yemeni affairs. The Saudi government directly disputed all accusations, claiming its air force had only been deployed on rebel strongholds within its own borders. What interest could a prosperous Saudi state have in getting so deeply involved in the sensitive affairs of its close, markedly less wealthy and powerful neighbour?

Despite taking power in 1978, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah al-Saleh's government has never exerted much control outside the country's main cities; rough mountainous terrain that,

as in Afghanistan, is notoriously difficult to police. That he has managed to stay in power so long owes more to his skill in manipulating, co-opting and coercing rival factions and tribes than the existence of any form of widespread popular support. However, with his government mired in corruption and revenues from oil dwindling fast, he has found it increasingly difficult to satisfy demands in this fragile juggling act. Perceived coziness with Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia has not helped feelings within the minority Shia community, who view their radically conservative northern neighbor as a pernicious cultural influence.

The clashes of the last five years pit government forces against fighters loyal to the Houthi family, a powerful northern clan. They style themselves as mujahideen, in the manner of the guerrilla fighters who chased the Russians out of Afghanistan. Although their chants and slogans suggest links to more dangerous global jihadist groups, most of their adherents belong to the Zaydi sect, a markedly quietist sect that is unique to Yemen. Confusingly enough, Zaydis, who represent a third of Yemen's population, are in general markedly well represented in the Yemeni government; President Ali Abdullah al-Saleh is himself Zaydi. But his perceived ineptitude as a ruler, his neglect of northern regions of the country, and, perhaps more profoundly, long-held resentments over the way he came to power (he overthrew the clerical rule of a Zaydi monarch) have bred and produced a radical Zaydi group staunchly in opposition to the

central government; the Houthis.

Although the Houthis are less well equipped than government forces, the army's ferocious yet unskilful approach to dealing with the guerilla fighters (bombing and open artillery fire) has resulted in significant civilian casualties, with the counter-productive effect of turning local sympathy in favour of the rebels. Guerrilla fighters have quietly gained control of a few strategic roads and positions, and a general increase in lawlessness across the country has begun to cause serious concerns among international observers on the ability of the government to run the country. Saudi Arabia is especially concerned that a failure in Yemen to contain Shia rebellion could spill across the border and undermine its own hitherto successful efforts in quashing similar dissent.

Most significant perhaps is the suggestion of regional power-games. Houthi rebels accuse the government of truckling to Sunni Saudi Arabia, while the government maintains that Shia-controlled Iran has quietly been supporting rebel efforts. The possibility of a proxy struggle between Shia and Sunni interests in the Arab world would heighten stakes considerably, with serious potential implications for the rest of the world. Saudi newspapers have described the problem as a "mushrooming cancer"; something that the entire surrounding community of Yemenis, Saudis, and even Omanis must deal with collectively. However, without a strong central government in Sana'a, chances for this happening remain slim.

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On My
Own...

Lucy Harrold Arts Editor

I've always had mixed feelings about doing things on my own. I definitely know that I don't like eating on my own as it makes me feel sad and lonely, whereas I prefer to shop on my own as I get more done. The arts appears somewhere between these two extremes. I used to hate going to musicals on my own - who can you chat to about the fit-as-a-leader man and the catchy tunes?

So this week I tried out solo culture by taking in Little Fish (review on the page opposite). It was a spur of the moment thing. I'd received an offer of reduced price tickets through the Finborough's facebook group, and so, after a fruitless day in lab, decided to treat myself. Luckily I've been there before so I didn't have the embarrassment of not knowing where anything is and looking like a lost child (in my case literally, I look about twelve). Once I got into the theatre I began to reap the rewards of being on my own. For a start, there's no having to hold the other person's coat as they grab a drink. I actually enjoyed not having anyone to

remark to because: a) I could concentrate on the show without feeling that I had to check they were happy and, b) I didn't have them complaining at me for constantly analysing everything from the plot to the lighting. I don't think this works for every show - I could never imagine going to the Rocky Horror Show on my own or anything that makes me look like a middle-aged matinee lady. My flatmate loves to attend arts events on her own, she thinks it makes her feel cultured. I think I've finally realised what she means.

This week we've got a bit of everything to delight you. Caz Knight has been to see John Baldessari's new retrospective at the Tate Modern. My last memory of the Tate Modern is buying a ridiculously tiny and overpriced coffee but I guess we shouldn't go to art galleries for the caffeine fix. Christopher Self has been waxing philosophical about I Am A Cat, a collection of Japanese tales and we start a new feature: Science in Art and no, its not a typo, this week's is by my sister but it was just too awesome to not put in.

Science as Art: Part 1

We take a look at art without leaving the comfort zone of science



Medics, you can tell everyone you're an artist! That's one way to get the girls

This is from a series of paintings looking at the microscopic world inside our bodies. Blood clots are usually seen as something a bit icky, but close up they're really quite pretty.

This picture makes me think of lots of squishy rubber rings all piled up, ready to take a dive through the blood vessel. Or maybe some delicious raspberry doughnuts. Art is all about the using your imagination, so what do you see? Answers on the back of a postcard.

The harsh attack of the yellow string, instead of destroying the painting, adds another dimension and makes us realise how delicate our bodies are.

I think this painting shows just how awesome the body really is; there are millions of these floating around our body and we don't even realise the beauty of them. And red blood cells are just the beginning: the body is full of little systems like this each with their own beauty and wonder.

This week's Science in Art is Blood Clot by Lisa Harrold, 2009, acrylic and string on canvas. Made any amazing art w/science discoveries of your own? Send us a picture and description and we'll show it.

Conceptual Art? Must be Tate Modern

Caz Knight challenges common art as she embraces the world of John Baldessari's retrospective Pure Beauty

Level four of the formidable Tate Modern is a hive of activity this autumn. Visitors swarm to the neon glow of its Pop Life exhibition following the controversy that photographs of a naked, thirteen year old Brooke Shields had to be removed on the grounds that they overstepped the line of what is acceptable. Just opposite, is the slightly less ostentatious entrance to Pure Beauty, a retrospective of the work of American artist, John Baldessari. This latest exhibition coincides with the retrospective of Ed Ruscha (reviewed here a few weeks ago) almost next door at the Hayward gallery; another Californian of similar age.

Upon entering Pure Beauty, it is clear why the parallels are drawn between the two artists. During the seventies, Baldessari painted words onto canvases which bring to mind Ruscha's fascination with letters and word-play. While they might pale in comparison to Ruscha's bright, bold colours, Baldessari makes up for in humour. In one work the artist has painted, in capitals, Tips for Artists Who Want to Sell, instructing that paintings with bright colours tend to sell better. This sense of humour pervades all his work during the seventies and eighties as Baldessari challenges the way in which art has

hitherto been created as well as trying to order and categorise the things in our world. In one example of this, Baldessari photographs all the cars parked in a street so that one sees only the colour of the car door and mounts the pictures in frames in the order they appear on the street to give the illusion of a paint chart.

John Baldessari was one of the pioneers of conceptual art and, walking through this collection, it is clear to see where other artists have been influenced by him. His photographic series, The Artist Hitting Various Objects with a Golf Club, capturing him trying to hit inanimate objects to the centre of the photo is mounted as a series of twelve (three by four) and recall the work of the much younger conceptual artist, the South African, Robin Rhode.

Another instance where an artist has emulated Baldessari is Tracey Emin's burning of all her work in 1989 when she decided to change her direction. In 1970 Baldessari conducted the 'Cremation Project' of all his earlier works and this act is commemorated in the exhibition by an urn shaped like a book.

Not only did he kick start the notion of conceptual art - where the process is just as, if not more, important than the final product - but Baldessari also questions common art practices. The

notion of aesthetics is put into question by a canvas upon which is painted a statement declaring that we are powerless with respect to whether we like a painting or not: the aesthetic judgment is made in a split second outside of our consciousness. In order to eliminate subjectivity, Baldessari photographed his hometown of National City, snapping away at random without ever looking through the viewfinder. This captured the city as it was without any influence from the artist's aesthetic judgements.

This approach seems haphazard and unconventional when compared to what would have been standard practice at the time (Baldessari also got others to paint some of his works such as Commissioned Painting: A Painting by Anita Storck) but it makes for pieces which make one laugh out loud frequently and sigh in wonder at his ingenuity.

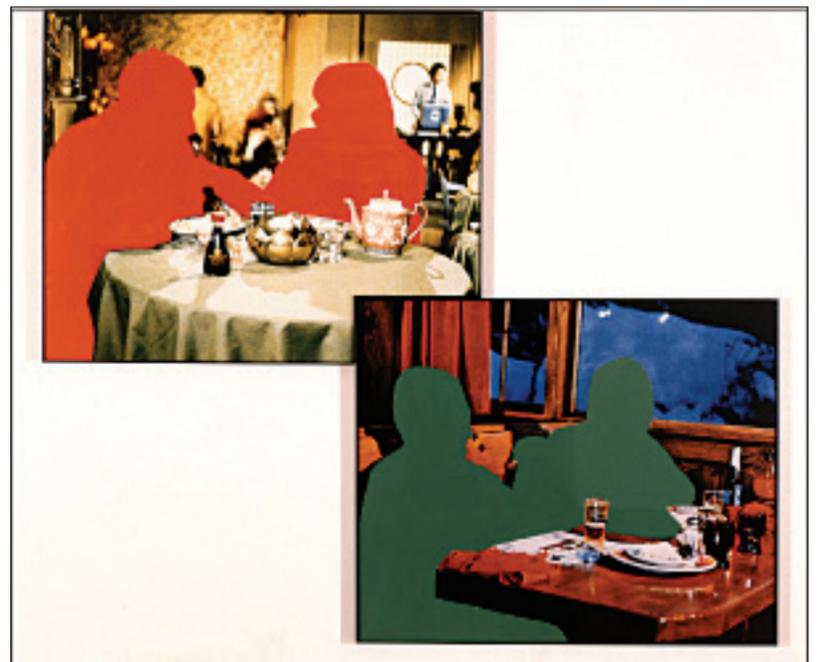
The next stage of Baldessari's career is filled with images taken from the society pages of newspapers, the faces of the people obscured by coloured dots, movie stills and collages. His later collages made up of a collection of appendages are often unsightly and make one miss his witty earlier works. But, like Ruscha, Baldessari returns back to common themes. The 'clouds' apparent in Cigar Smoke to Match Clouds

That Are the Same make a reappearance in Brain/Cloud artwork.

A huge brain is fixed to the wall of the last room and visitors become part of the art as they watch themselves projected onto the opposite wall but with a time delay, showing that while

Baldessari may have grown older, his sense of humour is still well and truly here.

Pure Beauty is at the Tate Modern until 10th January, entry costs £10 so treat yourself to an early Christmas present.



Those large coloured areas must be covering up some really ugly people

Little Fish- A Parable For The Smokers?

Lucy Harrold finds it all smoke and no mirrors as she goes off-westend in search of good theatre and new shoes

I arrived at the Finborough theatre rather grumpily (no matter how awesome cowboy boots are, they should never be worn to walk from Battersea to Earls Court) to find I was the first person there; well it was first matinee so I didn't expect a crowd. I had come to see Little Fish- a small scale musical by Michael John LaChiusa, a prolific if not eminent writer in the off-Broadway scene. I've always found LaChiusa's writing a bit intellectual just for the sake of being intellectual and not very riveting. Therefore I was dubious about this production but willing to be proven wrong.

The theatre has changed a lot since I last went; the seating has switched sides which makes a lot of sense as the entrances are now on the same wall as the set so actors do not have to pass by the audience. The set itself was innovative and made clever use of such a small space- cupboards appeared from nowhere, a bed was concealed within a cupboard and even anonymous looking frames became swimming pool lockers. As has become the fashion in off-West End shows, the band were placed above the set which I always find amusing as I enjoy watching the musicians almost as much as the actors. And everything was in blue...

The title, Little Fish, was more than a bit deceiving. The play actually focuses on Charlotte, a thirty something New Yorker who has just given up smoking and her tales on how she got there. The little fish is reference to both

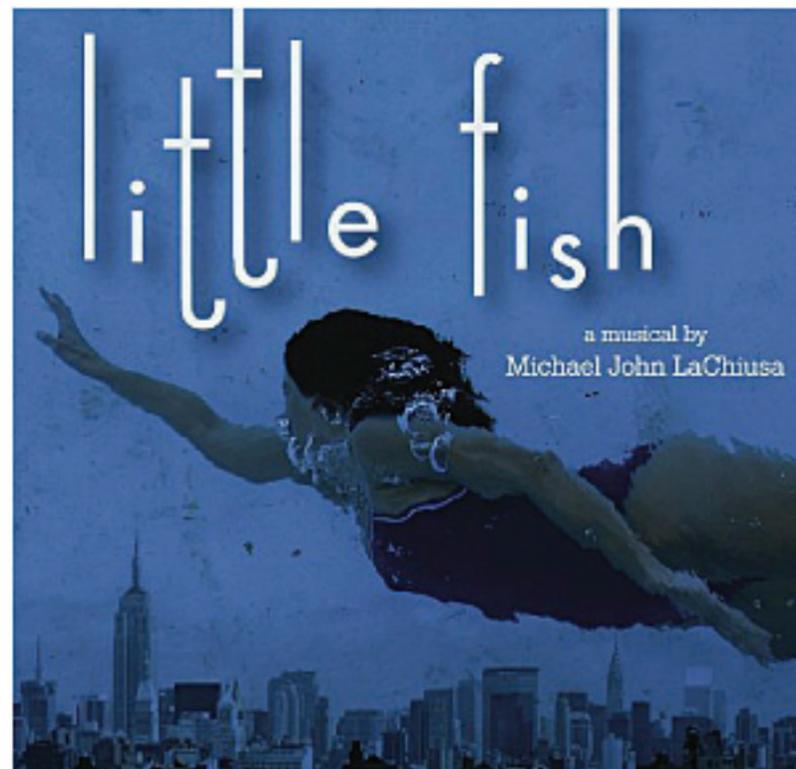
Charlotte's new hobby of swimming and the feeling that we are all little fish in a big world. It is propositioned that Charlotte's smoking habit is due to a doomed relationship with Robert, her college boyfriend. We see in flashback that Charlotte ran away to New York, made friends and developed relationships. In the present, she is trying to give up smoking and occupy her mind with various new hobbies.

LaChiusa's score is rich and intelligent but ultimately forgettable bar a few numbers. The opening number Days got me rather excited- a multi layered number with slight jazz influences and a Sondheim-like use of rhythm to conjure up the idea of taking the last puff. Another number that got me excited was Perfect, sung by Kathy as a plea to be treated as anything but perfect. There were some awesome harmonies and just clever lyrics and music, another song I'd be interested in performing. The benefit of writing both score, lyrics and book are obvious in the seamless way they combine

The storyline is quite flimsy- the show is definitely more of a character study than a plot driven musical, yet the characters, besides Charlotte, aren't very well developed. Characters pop in and out for one or two songs seeming superfluous to the plot. Those characters that do carry Charlotte through the musical are her friends Kathy and Marco. Kathy is at one minute flighty and journeying to Peru and the next minute, the most sensible

person in the room. The addition of a cancer storyline right at the end of the show seemed like LaChiusa suddenly remembering his Theatre 101 classes that all musicals must contain tragedy. I don't know whether my gaydar was failing or whether the writing was failing but I actually thought he was Kathy's straight boyfriend to start. Later on we find that Marco is in a violent relationship. This is, again, added right at the end with no resolution but is another tick in the box on LaChiusa's end of term Theatre 101 exam.

Despite the somewhat patchy writing, the cast were brilliant. Julia Worsley holds the show together with an understated but charged performance as Charlotte and was well backed up by Laura Pitt-Pulford playing a slightly neurotic Kathy. Another standout was Alana Maria as the cocaine sniffing, boutique owner Cinder with an amazing belt and crazed energy that lit up the stage. The direction was top class, Adam Lenson's use of the space was ingenious especially in the swimming and track scenes, portraying an entire track or pool only 6 feet from the audience. Although somewhat puzzled by it at first, I loved the use of spotlights to move the story on and distinguish Charlotte's thoughts from her real life. My only problem was then distinguishing flashback from the present as these scenes are scattered throughout play, whenever Charlotte is free to think. The choreography was also well thought out with some delightful



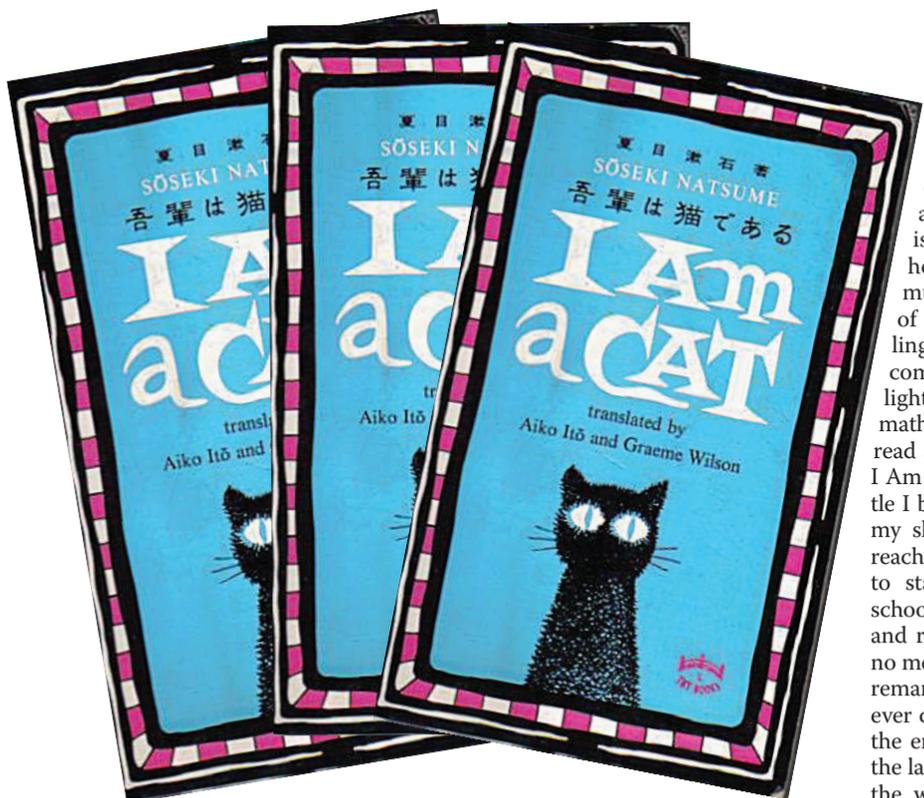
touches like the use of glitter covered floats in a slight nod to Bob Fosse.

Overall, Little Fish was not a bad way to spend an afternoon but just wasn't memorable enough - it lacked a sense of urgency or just a big push to tell you that this show will affect you beyond the theatre. At times it did make me

think of Company- a similar character study although the impetus in this case is much stronger; the need to have someone to love. Somehow smoking just seems too trivial to base a musical on it, and although it is just the starting point for other stories and tales, it doesn't hold the show together.

I Can Haz Japanese Literature Pleeze?

Christopher Self takes a look at I Am A Cat, learns to enjoy himself and lets go of the Imperial social stigma



Let's be honest, one of the joys of reading a book is getting to the end. Standing over your defeated opponent with a self-righteous smirk of contempt is the main reason anyone does anything and this is no exception. It doesn't matter how much you liked the book, how much you engaged with the plight of the characters or how compelling the fiction; at the moment of completion you cast it asunder and light a cigarette like you just aced a maths test. Or so I thought. I recently read a book by Soseki Natsume called I Am a Cat. Attracted by the quirky title I bought it on a whim and it sat on my shelf until late summer boredom reached critical point and I was forced to start reading books and revising school work. So, I picked it up and read, and read, and then it was over. It's by no means a short book but it's the most remarkably readable piece of prose I've ever come across. And when I reached the end the glory of my conquest was the last thing on my mind, lost beneath the waves of sadness that it couldn't

simply go on forever.

The book itself is a translation of a series of articles published in an influential Japanese literary magazine, Cuckoo, over the early years of the 20th century. Within them, Natsume follows the life of an unloved, unwanted, wandering kitten who spends his days observing the human world and commenting on human nature. Set in a time when Japan was at a crossroad struggling to retain independence from the encroaching European empires. The Meiji era saw an explosive period of modernisation where Japan's borders were opened to the world and an influx of western values and fashions inevitably ensued. This allows Natsume to give a rare objective analysis of the culture upon which our modern world is built and the often incongruous juxtaposition of western values and eastern spirituality that the cultural revolution of the 1960's brought back our way.

I could quite literally talk for days about the stories themselves; with their surprisingly modern style of the humour, cynical deeply philosophical feline narrator and perfect cast of characters. But I won't because, while I would recom-

mend it to anyone, plugging I Am a Cat isn't my main goal here. At Imperial we get a lot of work and too often we let that get in the way of less important things, like being happy or enjoying ourselves. This of course leaves absolutely no time for spiritual and philosophical development. Which is tragic since considering most of us won't become scientists it means Imperial's main impact on a lot of our lives will be the deep-seated social awkwardness and isolationist mindset that permeates the campus. This should not and need not be the case. Natsume's cutting analysis of people, religion, philosophy and our modern world has changed my view on a lot of things, not least that it is possible to miss the reading part of reading a book. Something I had never questioned and here, at last, is my point. Don't let the only questions you consider at your time in Imperial be scientific problems; look out at the world and into your mind, read quirky books and discuss Descartes not for his coordinate axes but for his philosophy. After all, you'll need a world view much more than you'll need to know how to solve that tricky second order partial differential equation.

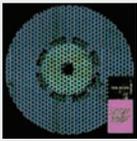


Albums that you should know

Hugh Crail looks at modern classics that shaped music today

THE KNIFE SILENT SHOUT

2006



Q magazine, the self-applauding, Oasis obsessed, Bono baiting UK music publication called this album "A hideous mess of electro noodling and maddeningly obtuse, tuneless vocals." And they are perfectly correct; to the same crowd who bought Razorlight's second album on their 5/5 recommendation, this album should make no sense.

The brother-sister duo, the Knife garnered an international reputation shortly before the release of this, their third full-length album, from a cover of their song "Heartbeats" by Jose Gonzales that featured on a prime time TV advert. But instead of responding to this new found acclaim like most artists do, they decided to use their new found stage to show a more subtle, introspective vision of their music.

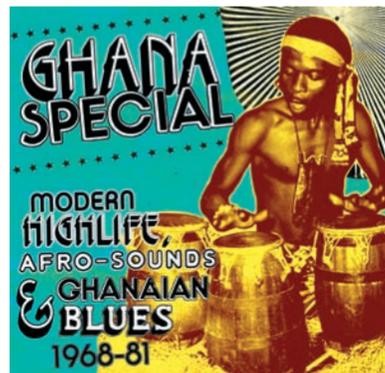
They had previously gained moderate success in their homeland Sweden by producing typically Scandinavian eccentric pop music, but their cheesy beats became masterfully intricate

electro, combining the simplistic synths of Kraftwerk with rotating Aphex Twin drums. From the robotic bass drums of the intro of 'Silent Shout' they create a sparse sound that is built on with restrained precision to form a sound that is as equally unsettling as it is playful. The pitch-shifted vocals create a choir of different personalities, with Karin Dreijer Andersson singing all the parts as if it were a one-woman play. Her lyrics seem to touch on everyday life, but a life bent until breaking point to fit her dark imaginary reality.

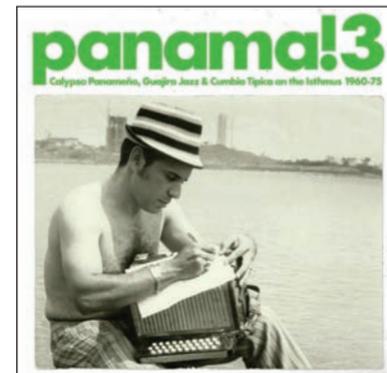
Unlike many recent critically acclaimed albums, the songs stand individually. 'We Share our Mother's Health' is a single that is almost perfect, adding an urgency and simplicity that makes it danceable and likeable from the first listen. The synth refrain itself has an uncanny ability to grasp your attention after every listen.

The Knife is currently on hiatus, with Karin Dreijer Andersson releasing her solo album 'Fever Ray', which explores domestic psychosis. Her brother has just finished writing an electronic opera about the theory of evolution for Darwin's birthday. No matter what the readers of Q would like to think, the Andersson siblings have more significance than the Gallagher's have had in the last 10 years with their rotting corpse of a band.

felix dives into the musical unknown



It's difficult to write an informed review of Ghanaian afrobeat if you've spent your entire life in the home counties listening to alternative rock. That said it sounds so familiar to me, yet so different. It appears to be based around early 70's funk and r'n'b music but translated to fit to the complex cross rhythms of traditional african drumming. Famously adopted by Paul Simon in the 80's, it's very relevant to modern music and seems to be about to take over. Already having been adopted by rock bands like TV on the Radio, Vampire Weekend and Foals, it's making inroads into hip hop, being championed by up and coming rappers like Wale and K'Naan. The effect of this music is mesmerising, every song on this 2 disc compilation will make you wanna get up and dance, but you won't know how - what's more fun than that?



Ghana Special review by Hugh Crail
Panama! 3 review by Kadhim Shubber - Both albums are out now on the fantastic Soundway Records

This mesmerizing record is the third in a series of compilations from Soundway Records. It explores the musical delights of 60's and 70's Panama, through records which the compilers, Will Hollan (Quantic), Roberto Gye-mant (Beto) and Miles Cleret, found in radio station backrooms and dusty record shops in the unique Isthmus.

I'll assume that not many Imperial students know a thing about this vibrant music scene and you may similarly assume as much about myself.

However, this compilation is presented sympathetically and allows the unversed listener to form an appreciation of the exciting context in which Panamanian musicians mixed language and musical form with obvious success.

A 22-page booklet accompanies the compilation and greatly enhances the experience. It contains vintage photos

that provide a great visual scenery for the music and crucially, the compilers provide enthusiastic notes which cement the compilation's accessibility. A prime example is in the notes for "20 de Enero en Ocu" where Beto highlights the "rumba" of the song by noting the lyrics sung when the section begins.

Beto hails "Chombo Pa' La Tien-da" by Frederick Clarke as the compilation's "centrepiece" and, notwithstanding my aforementioned innocence in this area of music, I wholeheartedly agree. The title roughly translates as "Chombo goes to the store" and the comedic theatre of his mother's shouting along with the colourful language make it an unforgettable song.

As a whole, the compilation is a highly enjoyable record which will appeal to anyone with a curious ear.

Reviews

LADY GAGA BAD ROMANCE POLYDOR SINGLE



"The Fame Monster" and self-proclaimed rock star Lady Gaga presents her latest offering in the name of music, performance art, fashion and just plain kookiness. Her new song "Bad Romance" features everything from Baroque harpsichord and distorted strings (no doubt coming from her classical piano training) to throaty consonants bellowed in the form of 'Roma' in homage to her native land's capital. It's a dance track like all of her others, the opening lines being as eccentric as always - "I want your ugly, I want your disease". It then builds up to a chorus that somehow anticlimaxes in its unfittingly mainstream, "normal" style. Nevertheless, it has a catchy chorus and is effective in its purpose. It's sure to say that it will engage many in an absent-minded humming of its melody upon release. One might even notice the 3 lines of French if they listen carefully. - Joanna Cai

BEATEN AWAKE THUNDERSTROKE FAT POSSUM ALBUM



Warning! This music contains soft edges! The floating melodies with minimal accompaniment make it ideal background music to listen to while concentrating on all the studying you said you would do... Even songs that show a little bit more urgency like 'Danger Pins' have an ethereal dreamlike quality that seems to charm you and make you want to sigh at their loveliness. 'I Shot The Mayor, Not the Deputy' is a personal favourite and this album deserves a soothing 2:1. - Tom Jennings

DIGITAL LEATHER WARM BROTHER FAT POSSUM ALBUM



Not unlike the brooding MGMT with its psychedelic industrial drones; if you like new wave, it's likely this band will be right up your alley. 'Bugs On Glue' sounds like the clangs sitting in a jacuzzi having an argument with a kazoo and a vacuum cleaner before kicking into cool-as synthpop. The drums and synth will march and pull you through each track respectfully, this really is 'close your eyes, nod your head and lose yourself in the music' music. - Tom Jennings

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- felix music charts, find out who's No1!
- "Political music doesn't have to be shit"
- Do Make Say Think album review
- Mechanical Bride live at the ICA

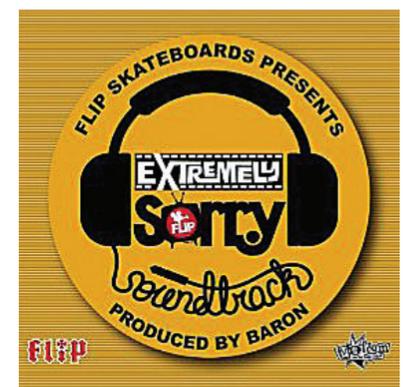
Heads up skaters!

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What was Flip Skateboards known as before 1994?

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The soundtrack, mixed by legendary producer and DJ Baron, features collaborations with artists such as Lemmy Kilmister (MOTORHEAD), Dave Lombardo (SLAYER), Black Mountain, Early Man, ((SOUNDER)) Snoop Dogg and Warren G.

Face2Face

Alphabeat Interview @ Heaven

Stuart Higgins speaks with the Danish invaders of the pop scene

S: Stine Bramsen Simonsen (Lead vocals)
R: Rasmus Nikolai Nagel Nielsen (keyboards)

Danish pop-stars Alphabeat reveal a love of a rye bread rider and how it is impossible to be a popstar in Denmark... Stuart Higgins interviews lead singer Stine and keyboard player Rasmus before their last gig at the end of their current UK tour.

Alphabeat is quite an unusual name, where did it come from?

S: It was our bass player, Andreas R. We were playing around with words and liked the alphabet and the visuals it brought to mind. The whole children's way of looking at the alphabet, it's quite colourful. And then we thought of Alphabet Street by Prince, played around with the word and it became Alphabeat.

How did you guys get to know each other, were you friends beforehand?

R: It was our singer Anders SG and drummer Troels who started things off and got together. And Troels knew Anders and Anders... (There are three Anders).

That must be quite confusing?

R: Yeah! And that was about 8-9 years ago, and then Stine and I joined about a year later, so we've been Alphabeat together for about 7-8 years now. It was formed from early high school.

How do you write songs? Does it begin with a particular melody or lyric?

S: That's actually very different this time round. For the old album it was mainly our guitarist Anders B who wrote most of our songs, and we would finish them off in the rehearsal space.
R: We'd then go directly into the stu-

dio. But this time round we've been writing and producing at the same time in our home studio.
S: So the forming of sound and song is entwined into one. The new album sounds more synthetic, one hundred percent pop this time.

Your new single The Spell has just been released in the UK. What's it about?

S: It's a love song, like most of our songs. We like classic lyrics about love, and like the title suggests, you're supposed to be under a spell – something universal that everyone can relate to. And then, it's of course inspired by early 90s pop...

R: ...artists such as Black Box, and the track Get Serious by Cut and Move. We were definitely influenced by the whole house piano thing.

S: Anders SG wrote it and is debuting as a singer songwriter type, which is cool. We also tried to put a bit more modern pop into the album. We love Britney and Rhianna, all of that American pop.

What are the differences between playing a gig in Denmark or the UK?

S: In general the fan culture is very different. In Denmark you can't really be a popstar, you can't really idolise anyone because it's such a small country. No matter how famous a person is, you'll always know someone who knows them, there's always a link. So you're not really impressed, or at least you're not supposed to be. It's fun to experience the celebrity vibe over here, there's much more screaming.

Do you have any riders or rituals for gigs? I can't see any champagne around here.

S: No, we have quite a boring rider really.
R: Yeah, we've just added Rye bread to

it, just to feel a bit... Danish.
S: We have a little thing that we do before we go on stage, but I'm not sure if it's a secret or not. Did we ever tell anyone?

R: No, I actually think it's kind of a secret.

S: We have a little séance.

R: For like a minute...

S: But we can't go into detail...

Has anything unusual or crazy ever happened at one of your gigs?

R: We were playing at V-Festival this year and Amy Winehouse was there on stage, and Pete Doherty.

S: They sat on the stage watching our whole show, and then afterwards Pete said he'd really enjoyed the gig to our bass player. It was kind of weird - it was the last person you'd expect to compliment us.

If you heard Alphabeat on the radio, would you sing along?

S: No, I wouldn't.

R: Actually, when I heard The Spell come on the radio for the first time, I did turn the volume up.

S: Oh yeah of course, the first time you hear it come on the radio - that was an amazing feeling. But you only put the record on when you're in the process of making it. You keep listening to it every day.

Say you were to meet someone attractive, what would be a bigger turn on, if they said they were a physicist or a medic?

S: Medicine

R: Yeah medicine!

Oh god, no! No! Wrong answer!

Here are some quick fire questions: London or Copenhagen?

R&S: London

Coffee or tea?

R: Coffee **S:** Tea



Alpha, Beta, Gamma... wrong Alphabeat!

Meaning of life in one word?

R: Enjoyment **S:** Love

Best song ever?

R: Whitney Houston, all of them.

S: I want to dance with somebody, that's probably the best sing ever.

Bill or Ben?

R&S: Ben

Sunshine or Snow?

R: Snow **S:** Sunshine

Favourite Mood?

R: Really happy **S:** Excited/fascinated

Abba or Ace of Base?

R&S: Ace of Base

Physicist or Medic, just to be sure...

R: Medic

Are you sure?

R: Yes

S: Hmm... no wait – it depends who I'm talking to.

That's better, but still not perfect...

Where would you like Alphabeat to be in one year's time?

R: We would definitely like to go to the States at some point, if that's possible. Or just carrying on playing gigs, hopefully sold out - having a good time.

S: Our new album will be out early next year, and we're just hoping that it goes really well. I feel really good about it and we're quite proud of what we've done and hope people get it.

Alphabeat's new single The Spell is out now, to be followed up by their new album early next year.

Band Bio

Hailing from Denmark, Alphabeat provide quirky, upbeat, dance pop at its very best. Heavily influenced by the 90's pop scene, their forthcoming album The Spell strives to recreate that feel good vibe. The track Fascination, from their first album This is Alphabeat reached number 6 in the UK chart last year.

Friday

- Muse :: O2 Arena :: Rock
- Tegan & Sara :: Shepherds Bush Empire :: Indie Pop
- Carter The Unstoppable
- Sex Machine :: The Forum :: Alternative Dance
- Scratch Perverts/Skream/Benga/Noisia :: Fabric :: Electro/Dubstep
- Hadouken!/Hijack/A1 Bassline/Micky Slim :: Matter :: Dance
- Flo Rida :: Brixton Academy :: Hip-Hop
- Jay Reatard :: The Underworld :: Synth-Punk
- Stylish Riots :: Camden Barfly :: Hip-Hop
- Divas Of Motown :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Motown

Saturday

- Kasabian :: Wembley Arena :: Rock
- Deep Purple :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Rock & Roll
- Annie Mac :: KOKO :: Dance
- Beyonce :: O2 Arena :: R&B
- Bryan Adams/Gabriella Cilmi/Kiki Dee :: Rock/Pop

Sunday

- Patrick Wolf :: London Palladium :: Folk Electronic
- Lupen Crook :: The Flowerpot :: Folk Rock
- Riverside :: O2 Islington :: Metal
- Melody Gardot :: Royal Festival Hall :: Acoustic Jazz Blues

Monday

- 30 Seconds To Mars :: KOKO :: Emo
- Alice In Chains :: The Forum :: Alternative Metal
- Pink Martini :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Jazz Pop
- Ash :: Gypsy Hill Tavern :: Alternative Rock
- Fionn Regan :: The Social :: Folk

Tuesday

- Arctic Monkeys/Eagles Of Death Metal :: Wembly Arena :: Rock / Indie
- Seasick Steve :: Brixton Academy :: Tramp Blues
- Alberta Cross :: Bush Hall :: Rock

Wednesday

- 65daysofstatic :: Heaven :: Math Rock
- A Place To Bury Strangers :: Garage :: Indie Rock
- Blue Rose :: Bush Hall :: Bluegrass
- Chipmunk/DJ Luck/ MC Neat:: Matter :: Dance

Thursday

- White Lies :: Brixton Academy :: Rocky Alternative Rock
- The Enemy :: The Forum :: Indie
- Gilberto Gil :: Royal Festival Hall :: Acoustic
- BBC Symphony Orchestra :: New Slang @ McClusky's :: Classical
- Dragonette :: Notting Hill Arts Club :: Electropop

LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::

FILM

Film Editors Zuzanna Blaszcak & Ed Knock

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Soundtrack of my life

Ed Knock Film Editor

Strolling down Exhibition Road the other day I had a rather strange experience. Now I was in quite a bad mood after forgetting to top up my Oyster Card again and being forced to take the tube. To relax myself I played some Arcade Fire on my ipod and suddenly I was transported into another dimension - that of film.

Yes it sounds ridiculous but I actually imagined that I was a character in a low-budget indie drama. Various depressing scenarios started to flow around my head; a close friend or relative had died and I was looking for answers amongst the mean streets of South Kensington or I was searching for my junky biological father after learning I was adopted - all backed up by the sombre tones of Arcade Fire.

I know I have a strange mind at times and it can be perhaps a bit *too* creative but I'm sure you've all had similar experiences. Maybe you're sitting on a bus in the rain with your earphones in and then a sad song comes on and you find your head slowly turning to stare out of the window in despair. It's not that you're genuinely upset, it's just sometimes your brain unconsciously constructs fabricated surroundings in a reaction to the music you're listening to.

I decided to experiment with this effect. I put on some Arctic Monkeys,

the music of my homeland (Yorkshire). Nothing in my behaviour changed apart from my accent which has the habit of acclimatising when I'm around other northerners. However The Prodigy had me itching for some violence in a typical footy hooliganism film. Next Bobby Dylan placed me on an open road in the American Mid-West travelling in no particular direction.

I was really enjoying myself so I tried some iconic music from famous films. The Rolling Stones Jumpin' Jack Flash did not turn me into Robert de Niro as I had hoped but Iggy Pop's Lust for Life did put me in the mood for some shop-lifting and being chased down King Street by police. Unfortunately Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries only reminded me how annoyed I get when another lazy advert parodies *Apocalypse Now* (British Gas are the culprits this time). Finally I dared to walk through Hammersmith late at night with the *28 Days Later* soundtrack in my ears. I must admit, it did freak me out slightly.

I suppose I'm trying to highlight how important music is to a film, imagine *Jaws*, *Psycho* and *The Great Escape* without their fantastic tunes? Anyway enough of my rambling, this week I've slaved over a French themed special film section. We are extremely lucky to have Ciné lumière just around corner so read the article and then hurry your bums down to fill their seats!

The Ten Best French Films

Ed Knock runs through his reckoning of the best Gallic films

Les Quatres cent coups (the 400 blows). Usually mis-translated the title actually means 'raising merry hell'. Truffaut's ode to youth is a semi autobiographical account following the rebellious Antoine as he tries to break from the rules of society. The famous ending will leave you in a pensieve mood for weeks.

Amelie; the French film that everyone has seen. It's a joy to watch of course and Audrey Tatou shines as the selfless protagonist who learns to find love in the city full of it.

La Haine. Hate fuelled troubles in the other side of Paris as suburban youths look for revenge against violent police. The *Taxi Driver* of French cinema, La Haine is shot in stylish black and white and always holds your attention. Did you see the cow?



Jean Claude taught me this hold

Delicatessen. Post-nuclear apocalyptic France involves the surreal tale of black market human meat, militant vegetarians, saw playing clowns and patched up condoms. Pure genius from Jeunet and Caro (*Amelie*)



That's going to make quite a headache

Au Revoir les Enfants. One of the few films that has brought me to tears. Students at a boarding school run by monks in Vichy France are puzzled by the arrival of three new curly haired students who don't take communion. A lot of life lessons to be learnt and the most harrowing ending of a film ever.

Les Visiteurs. The best French comedy ever. Two knights find themselves out of the depth after been transported to modern times by a witch. Their first experience with a car tops anything Basil Fawlty could do.



Should I be scared or laugh?

Jean de Florette/Manon des Sources. Bonjour Monsieur Depardieu! Set in rural Provence, these gentle tales

of greed and revenge are some of the most beautiful films ever committed to celluloid.

The Choir. Mixed critical reception, I loved it. A new master at a borstal slowly wins over the troubled boys through the power of singing. Think *Goodbye Mr. Chips* en français!

Belle de Jour. Bored young housewife becomes prostitute to suffice her needs and fantasies. Sounds like your contemporary gritty drama. This film was released in 1967 by the legendary Luis Buñuel and is probably the sexiest film ever made (Come, on this is a French film list!)



Sexy non?

Breathless. French cinema at its most brilliant, pretentious best.

Godard's breakout is a love affair to cinema with all the classic conventions of French New Wave in this pseudo Noir story. Ignore the plot, this is how films should be made; pure auteur theory.

Memory, A season of European documentaries

Memory celebrates the wealth and diversity of contemporary documentary films in Europe. The festival runs for six days (15-21 November), and is now in its third year. It will showcase the work of new and established directors from across the continent.

Communism and its fall is a strong theme in the festival. *Children of the Decree* is a chilling look at the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his enforcement of the infamous Decree 770, which banned birth control and abortion.

Other highlights include *Up! November 1989*, followed by a panel discussion which brings together the key representatives of the November revolutionary forces. To mark the 20th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, there will be three shorts forming a screening entitled *Close*. For those seeking a look at the history of feminism the documentary *Et ELLE créa la femme* offers a fascinating insight through the French magazine ELLE.

Memory is running at the Ciné lumière (read the article on Page 19 for more information)

Programme:

Children of the Decree
Romania/Germany | 2004 | col | 68 mins | dir. Florin Iepan & Razvan Georgescu
sun 15 nov | 6.30pm | £5, conc. £3

With Extreme Cruelty
Bulgaria | 2006 | col | 58 mins | doc | dir. Rosen Elezovsun
sun 15 nov | 8.30pm | £5, conc. £3

Being Jewish in France
France | 2007 | col | 185 mins | 2 parts with one interval | doc | dir. Yves Jeuland | comments by Mathieu Amalric
mon 16 nov | 6.30pm | £7, conc. £5

Et ELLE créa la femme
France | 2006 | col | 84 mins | doc | dir. David Teboul
tue 17 nov | 6.30pm | £5, conc. £3

Life Stories
Estonia | 2007 | col | 28 mins | doc | dir. Rao Heidmets
tue 17 nov | 8.30pm | £5, conc. £3

Close Up! November 1989
17 November, 10 mins; **Reflections**, 10 mins; **Ten Days**; 16 mins | Czech Republic | 1989 | col

Followed by:

Making History Discussion
Part of the season Velvet Evolution; 1989 - 2009. See www.czechcentre.org.uk for more details.
wed 18 nov | 7.00pm | £7, conc. £5

Bucarest, Memory Lost
Spain | 2008 | col | 80 mins | doc | dir. Albert Solé
thu 19 nov | 6.30pm | £5, conc. £3

Miners' Memories
Cyprus | 2007 | col | 60 mins | doc | dir. Paschal Papapetrou
sat 21 nov 2.30pm | £5, conc. £3 | Ciné lumière

For more information and film synopses go to www.institut-francais.org.uk

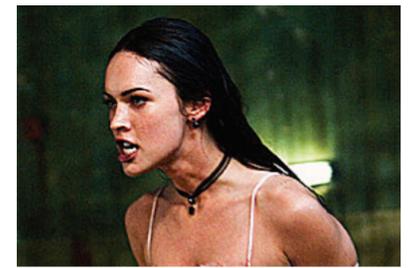
We all admire Jennifer's Body

Tim Davies

Jennifer's Body, the latest film to star FHM's "sexiest woman in the world" Megan Fox, is a horror comedy about a high school cheerleader turned cannibal demon. No, seriously.

Fox shot to fame playing the improbably hot love interest of 'that guy from Even Stevens' Shia LaBeouf, in the summer blockbuster pap, *Transformers*. Fox's newest role sees her playing Jennifer, the most popular girl in high school who, after an unfortunate incident, becomes inhabited by the soul of a demon and in order to sustain herself in her new demon infected state must track down and feed on men.

The whole film seems confused as to what exactly it's trying to be, it flitters between angst teen drama, lightweight horror and situation comedy. What emerges is a film that does nothing particularly well. Some scenes in the film stick out jarringly. You can almost hear the cogs working in the minds of the cynical movie moguls as you watch Fox swim naked, and have a lesbian kiss, for seemingly no other reason than appeasing male viewers.



Oh you still would, wouldn't you?

After all, we all know demons are renowned for their liking of skinny dipping and sexual experimentation.

But then it's obvious why this film was made. It was never going to push the boundaries of modern cinema. But what confuses me is why Megan Fox, after gaining huge success in *Transformers*, and now presumably able to pick pretty much whichever role she wants, chose this as her next part. But, bad career decisions aside, *Jennifer's Body* is a film which is probably best avoided. However if you've been looking for an excuse to stare at Megan Fox for two hours without feeling guilty afterwards, this may just be the film you've been waiting for.

Welcome to the Ciné lumière: French film heaven

Ok, so you think you've found all your local cinemas; the rip off Odeon on High Street Ken, the slightly less dear Cineworld on Fulham Road and even the Electric Cinema in Notting Hill. But if I were to tell you that the nearest cinema to college was just down road you would probably look at me blankly (not necessarily in disbelief!). Let me introduce you to the Ciné lumière, your most accessible location to keep up on World and European cinema.

Ciné lumière is based at the Institut français du Royaume-Uni in South Kensington which is the official French government centre for language and culture in the UK. It is one of 150 Institutes worldwide and one of the oldest. Beyond its primary mission to promote French language and culture, the Institut is also committed to encouraging cross-cultural exchange, and to the promotion of European and World culture. Comprising a language centre, multimedia library and a cinema, it welcomes thousands of people each year.

Recently refurbished and reopened by Catherine Deneuve in January 2009, Ciné lumière, the Institut's cinema, has established itself as one of London's top repertory cinemas. With a particular emphasis on French, European and World cinema, its programme com-

bines new releases, repertory screenings, previews and exclusive on-stage events attended by directors and actors. Recent guests include François Ozon, Sophie Marceau, Jude Law, Bertrand Tavernier, Mathieu Amalric and Patrice Chéreau. Among the annual festivals it programmes or hosts are the French Film Festival, Spanish Film Festival, London Film Festival and the Mosaïques Festival of World Culture.

Ciné lumière enjoys a well-earned reputation as one of the best places

in London to see French film. Thanks to this reputation, it is able to attract some of France's top acting and directing talent for on-stage debates and masterclasses; recent guests include Claire Denis, Christophe Honoré, Romain Duris, Sophie Marceau, Mathieu Amalric, Fanny Ardant and Jean-Pierre Bacri. It is also the cinema of choice for UK distributors previewing new French releases: *The Beat That My Heart Skipped*, *Couscous*, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *La vie en rose*,

Female Agents and more have all previewed at Ciné lumière in recent years.

The cinema screens all the best new French releases, but is also known for its carefully curated seasons of classic French cinema on particular themes (Paris at the Movies, French avant-garde cinema of the 20s and 30s, French cinema under the Occupation) or devoted to particular actors or directors (Truffaut, Godard, Claire Denis, Jacques Demy). Ciné lumière also champions the work of directors such as Marguerite Duras and Alain Robbe-Grillet whose films are rarely shown on London screens, and regularly organises special screenings of new French films without UK distribution deals.

Though its programming naturally reflects a French and francophone bias, Ciné lumière also supports European and World cinema, and is part of the Europa Cinemas Network. It works with a variety of outside partners, especially other European cultural institutes in London, on seasons celebrating other national cinemas (Armenian, German, Romanian), or retrospectives of non-French actors and directors such as Pier-Paolo Pasolini, Werner Herzog, and Marcello Mastroianni. In recent years the cinema has welcomed such distinguished guests as Francesco Rosi, Abbas Kiarostami, Julian Schnabel, Alexi Gherman, Otar Iosseliani

and Pedro Costa; its spring Mosaïques Festival of World Culture and the London Spanish Film Festival in September have become popular annual events and are especially significant in that they give screen space to films which would not otherwise be shown in the UK.

So there you go, a fantastic cinema with great films you may never have the opportunity to see elsewhere in London and it's just on our doorstep! There are many film festivals taking place soon including the French Film Festival and the European Documentary Festival which are featured in this week's issues. So if you're feeling adventurous one day, pop in to the Ciné lumière and you might find a gem.



Ciné lumière

Telephone: 020 7073 1350
box.office@ambafrance.org.uk

Institut français

17 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DT
www.institut-francais.org.uk
mon-fri: 8:30am-11.00pm
sat: 10.00am-11.00pm
sun: open 1 hour before first event

French Film Festival UK: la crème du cinéma français

At Ciné Lumière, London, 11 November - 6 December 2009

Ciné lumière will be the London host for the 17th edition of the French Film Festival UK from 11 November to 6 December.

The festival showcases the best of contemporary French cinema from established auteurs to new talents, and this year will feature tributes to two legendary figures: Jacques Tati and Jean Eustache. Central to the festival are several monumental biopics, notably Sagan, Tabarly, and Séraphine.

Highlights of the festival include the preview screenings of Jacques Audiard's Cannes Grand Prix winner *A Prophet* (now France's contender for best foreign language film Oscar) and the seven César award winner Séraphine.

Director Pierre Marcel will be attending the festival to present his documentary *Tabarly* about Gallic master mariner Eric Tabarly who finally was lost at sea en route to Fife Regatta.

The Totally Tati season will celebrate the genius of the film-maker and actor who reinvented the art of slapstick comedy and through his Mr Hulot character found the perfect foil for his musings on humanity in the face of consumerism and mechanisation. The retrospective includes a newly restored digital print of the classic *Mr Hulot's Holiday*.

Jean Eustache's outstanding achievement was his 1973 feature, *The Mother and the Whore*. Here his early works are presented.

Programme:

Sagan

France | 2008 | col | 120 mins | dir. Diane Kurys

The film follows Françoise Sagan from the stardom year of 1954 to her death in 2004, depicted as one long, intoxicated downhill ride, marked by scandals, arrests and the occasional drug overdose.

sat 14 nov | 6.00pm | £9, conc. £7

Le Cochon (The Pig)

France | 1970 | col | 50 mins | dir. Jean Eustache

An amiable ethnographical documentary, filled with respect and generosity towards the farmers of the Massif Central as it follows the death and dismemberment of a pig, and the process through which the dead animal turns into different food products

sun 15 nov | 2.00pm | £7, conc. £5

Special Correspondents

Envoyés très spéciaux

France | 2009 | col | 93 mins | dir. Frédéric Auburtin

The film retraces the incredible misadventures of a leading radio journalist and his technician as they pretend to report live from Baghdad after losing their plane tickets and money for the trip to Iraq. The routine soon gets out of hand

sun 15 nov | 3.30pm | £9, conc. £7

Séraphine

France/Belgium | 2007 | col | 121 mins | dir. Martin Provost

Wilhelm Uhde, an enthusiastic advocate of modern and 'primitive' artists discovers Séraphine Louis, a maid who paints with everything that comes to hand during her free time. Winner of 7 César awards this year,

thu 19 nov | 8.30pm | £9, conc. £7

Tabarly

France | 2008 | col | 90 mins | doc | dir. Pierre Marcel

Director Pierre Marcel charts the inspiring and moving story of the renowned adventurer Éric Tabarly who set a remarkable string of speed and distance records in his sailboats but went missing in the Irish Sea in June 1998. Followed by Q&A with the director.

sun 22 nov | 6.15pm | £9, conc. £7

Mr Hulot's Holiday

France | 1953 | b&w | 114 mins | dir. Jacques Tati

Monsieur Hulot creates unintentional havoc among the hotel guests with his well-meaning but terribly clumsy antics. A soundtrack of lapping waves, laughing children and transistor radios, all merging into an absurd symphony of cinematic delight on this newly restored version.

wed 25 nov | 8.40pm | £9, conc. £7

Parade

Sweden/France | 1974 | col | 85 mins | dir. Jacques Tati

fri 27 nov | 6.30pm | £9, conc. £7

Trafic + shorts

France | 1971 | col | 105 mins | dir. Jacques Tati.

sun 29 nov | 2pm | £7, conc. £5

Jour de fête

France | 1949 | col | 76 mins | dir. Jacques Tati

tue 1 dec | 3pm | £7, conc. £5

Playtime + shorts

France | 1967 | col | 126 mins | dir. Jacques Tati

wed 2 dec | 1pm | £7, conc. £5

Louise-Michel

France | 2008 | col | 90 mins | dir.s Gustave Kervern

wed 2 dec | 6.15pm | £9, conc. £7

My Uncle

France | 1958 | b&w | 110 mins | dir. Jacques Tati

fri 4 dec | 3pm | £7, conc. £5

Bellamy

France | 2009 | col | 110 mins | dir. Claude Chabrol,

sat 5 dec | 8.40pm | £9, conc. £7

Competition

We have five free tickets for Bellamy to give away, that's right five!

Bellamy is showing at the Ciné Lumière as part of its French Film Festival and they have generously offered us five tickets to give away. All you have to do is answer this (French themed!) question. From what film is this still taken?



If you know the answer then send it to us at:
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Fighting the good fight

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Rupert Murdoch, you know that old guy who keeps ranting about things that he obviously doesn't understand, hit the headlines this week for his ham-fisted abuse of Google. Murdoch insists that Google is profiteering off of stolen News Corp content. What he seems to not understand is that yes, Google does make money from search, and perhaps search including News Corp articles, but when someone searches for something in his articles they end up going to that article on his website. Surely the fact that they can't capitalise on that is their own problem? Murdoch even went as far as to say:

'If they're just search people.... They don't suddenly become loyal readers'

Murdoch wants to make all of News Corps online content paid for and make users access it directly. Well for one, I don't see that actually working (would you pay for The Sun online?). And second of all, if you don't want people to be able to search your articles, then why not block search engine spider access? It's pretty simple, you just put a 'don't access this' in the Robots file on your domain and the search engine will ignore.

Google itself responded to these accusations with a statement to the effect of 'Whatever man' telling Mr. Murdoch that all he needs to do is tell Google to not index his sites and just as easy as that they'd be removed. What I don't think Murdoch understands about all this is that without Google and other search engines leading users to the content, not many are actually going to find and read the content. OK, a few dedicated people might read it like a newspaper, browsing around it, but at the end of the day News Corp content for the most part is hardly unique. People will just go somewhere else rather than pay.

In other search news, Google has

finished testing of its new back end search architecture, nicknamed Google Caffeinated, and will start rolling it out across its data centres in the near future. You won't notice anything different about the Google search page, but you might about your searches. Polls have shown that generally people think their searches are better with Google Caffeinated over regular old Google. Will your searches be better? I guess that will depend on your use of Google, but overall Google Caffeinated seems like a win for all. Whether you'll notice however, is debatable.

One of my favourite programs this week is going HD. The new series of Top Gear starts Sunday and is being broadcast in both SD and HD. For those with Virgin, Sky or FreeSat it'll surely make the rampaging challenges and beautiful cars even more visceral. For those stuck with SD TV, you'll probably be able to get it in HD on iPlayer, which shows quite a lot of programs these days in HD. After all, almost all programs recorded for TV are currently shot in HD only to be converted later to SD with a lot of image processing.

Talking about TV, Channel 4 is running a 3D week next week with vintage 3D films and shows being shown in all their glory. Admittedly, the technology Channel 4 are using to broadcast in 3D isn't the most up-to-date but free's free right? Derren Brown will feature and there's also a greatest 3D moments from TV, film and music videos show. The highlight of the week, however, has to be the first ever broadcast of the Queen's coronation in 3D, allowing views to step back in time and be in some small way, a part of it. Now I don't know about you but I'm not that fussed about Derren Brown in 3D, but the royalist in me is pretty stoked about Queenie in 3D. Get on over to your nearest Sainsbury's to get some funky glasses to watch C4's 3D week while stocks last.

Strike Three! You're Outta Here!

Feroz Salam reports as the dark Lord Mandelson pushes for three strike filesharer disconnection without trial in the UK

The ethical issues involved in piracy have been in the news a lot over the last decade or so. As the music and film industries tried to come to terms with an entirely new distribution format and a new generation grew up with Limewire and the Pirate Bay, conflicts sprouted everywhere as the industries attempted to strong-arm the file-sharers, only to be met with stubborn resistance. At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the dust has settled a fair bit. The Pirate Bay lost their court battle against the recording industry, several large torrent trackers were shut down (with the fate of many more uncertain) and Limewire (along with all the adware that is bundled with it) has more or less been consigned to history.

That said, it appears that the RIAA and the MPAA aren't done yet. In a new piece of legislation that will come into force in the summer of 2011, persistent filesharers can be blocked from their internet connections as part of a "three strikes policy". This, as the name suggests, is an American concept that coincidentally has previously only largely been used on murderers and rapists, never before on the average spotty teenager. The implementation of this law therefore, raises some interesting questions. Is your average music thief banned from using the internet for life? What if he moves house? What about the people who move into his old house? Can he work somewhere with access to internet or is this an all-encompassing burden he must carry with him to his grave? Most importantly, where is he to find quality Japanese tentacle porn?

The obviously confused man behind this new law, Lord Mandelson, had shown little interest in piracy and copyright issues until he flew to Corfu for a meeting with Dreamworks' co-



Three Strikes, YOU'RE OUT!

founder David Geffen (Dreamworks being the studio that churns out mediocre animated films that no one has ever really watched). Immediately after his small trip, Lord Mandelson saw it fit to attempt to push this law into existence, all the while denying the two events were linked, in the same way that me setting fire to my carpets and my house burning down would not be linked.

Aside from the political aspect of the law, there's the issue of innocent users incorrectly being identified as illegal filesharers. The ISP TalkTalk, in a recent stunt, showed that roughly 34% of wireless connections in your average street have either little or no security at all. Wireless security hasn't been able to keep up with the explosion in wireless internet; the average user probably has no idea about the differences between WPA and WEP, and probably doesn't care. To cut these users off from the internet is rather like permanently banning a supermarket just because there was a shootout in their parking lot. It makes no sense.

Looking at the broader picture, one has to ask whether such laws are really

required, and whether they add anything in the long term. The meteoric rise of Spotify has been a testament to the fact that financially viable free music distribution is possible. By pushing this new law forward as strongly as he is doing, Mandelson is taking away any incentive the recording companies have to innovate and giving filesharers an incentive to find smarter ways to beat the system, setting the stage for another round of long and bloody legal battles.

As we drift along into 2010, it's worth recalling a relatively small music sharing service that operated between June 1999 and July 2001, Napster. Facing a massive set of lawsuits from big name record labels at the turn of the millennium, Napster declared bankruptcy and slipped into oblivion. Yet the practice of filesharing wasn't affected much as users simply moved on to different technologies. 10 years on, it appears that the film and recording industries have learnt little, if anything, from the past – and with laws being drawn up by politicians who apparently have no understanding of the underlying issues, there doesn't seem to be an end in sight to the vicious cycle.

Xmarks the spot for free bookmark and password sync across multiple browsers

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Today I'd like to introduce you to another student friendly free service that helps you keep your bookmarks, passwords and other things in sync across multiple computers, browsers and operating systems. Now this doesn't sound all that exciting but if you've ever used a college computer and wished you had access to all the bookmarks and passwords you've got stored on your home machine then Xmarks is for you.

So what is Xmarks? Well it started as a plugin for Firefox called Foxmarks, which simply synced your bookmarks

between Firefox browsers via cloud storage. Of course Firefox isn't the only browser on the planet and so the company branched out to other browsers and other platforms including Internet Explorer and Safari on OSX and changed their name to Xmarks. Google's Chrome on both OSX and Windows is also currently supported in a limited capacity through a new Xmarks alpha build and the Chrome dev channel, which leaves only Camino and Opera out of the major market players unaccounted for.

Xmarks essentially gives you a sync service for all your bookmarks across multiple systems and browsers with one login. Bookmarks are synced

seamlessly as well as logins and passwords, if you use Firefox 3, for any and all sites that your browser happens to save. The client syncs the data in the background to the Xmarks servers



with encryption to keep your logins safe on their servers and across the Internet. When you next logon to a computer Xmarks updates any changes you happen to have made, allowing you to continue where you left off, regardless of which computer or browser you happen to have in front of you.

If you find yourself in front of a computer that you can't install the sync client on then Xmarks also provides you with a handy online repository of all your bookmarks. Simply browse to Xmarks.com, which includes a mobile optimised site, and login to find all your bookmarks laid out for you. This is especially handy if you just want to show something to someone on their

computer without overwriting all their bookmarks and passwords.

For students this means that you can carry your bookmarks for research, notes, articles and of course YouTube videos and time wasters (everyone needs a little break here and there right?) between home, college and anywhere else. I would have killed for this kind of service in my 1st year simply for research, let alone everything else. The kicker is that it's totally free, no catch, no ads, just a great service and something everyone should be using.

So what you waiting for? Head on over to www.xmarks.com to register and get your sync on.

The war for neutrality rages

Simon Worthington reports on why your freedom to use the net as you choose is at risk with the European Parliament considering a non-neutral Internet as ISPs line their coffers

With all the debates on knobby vegetables, it's easy to forget that the European Parliament plays a huge role in the way that we all live. MEPs from all over Europe are currently debating the proposed 'Telecoms Reforms Package', which will put in place new laws to regulate the way we use and access the Internet here in the EU. In doing so they will decide the outcome of the most important, yet least reported, debate the Internet has ever faced, about 'net neutrality'. What is decided now on net neutrality will shape the way the Internet grows and changes, and will ultimately affect the way we work and play in the future.

OK it's important, I get that, but what the hell is net neutrality? Well simply put, net neutrality is the principal that all information on the web should be treated equally.

'Net neutrality is the principal that all information on the web should be treated equally.'

Tim Berners-Lee, often credited with invention of the web, defines it as "the freedom of connection, with any application, to any party", meaning that everybody should be able to use their Internet connection without any sort of limit to access whatever they want. If you're thinking that's how it works already, then you'd be right, but all that could soon change.

Telecoms companies such as Virgin Media in the UK, as well as Comcast and AT&T in the US, have expressed interest in limiting or blocking access



to certain websites owned by competitors or charging website owners a fee to have their site delivered at unrestricted speeds to users as they are at the moment. Those who couldn't pay would have traffic from their sites slowed down through traffic shaping or even stopped from passing across the company's network.

Hopefully by now it's pretty easy to see why net neutrality is a good thing. Freedom on the Internet has been the main reason that the web has grown into the powerful tool we know today, with surfers able to drive innovation of ideas and technology from their back bedrooms or garages. No-one can doubt this innovative force when they remember that Google, Skype, eBay and Twitter, tools many of us use daily, were all started by a regular person with an idea.

Without a neutral Internet it would make it hard for those sites to even come into existence today as single

developers struggle to pay the fees required to get their idea noticed.

Anti-neutrality systems would be beneficial for the present day Google and eBay though, as it would help to stifle their competition and generally reduce the competitiveness of the Internet as a whole. Big companies like Amazon could afford the prices to have their service upgraded whilst smaller companies offering the same home-delivery services wouldn't be able to pay the money and keep low prices and so would fall out of the market. This is of an obvious disadvantage to me and you, because loss of competitiveness would hamper the drive to the low Internet prices we know and love. Enforcing neutrality across the web would help ensure even small companies get a slice of custom and so can make the market competitive.

Another area in which the Internet is often applauded is free speech, with blogs providing a platform for any-

one and everyone to air their views on whatever they want. There have been countless examples in Internet history where bloggers have made a difference in the real world, in everything from the revival of Family Guy to your screens,

'Whatever you do, don't just sit there, because your freedom to browse, play and work across the internet really is at risk.'

to forcing the resignation of ethically ambiguous US Senator Trent Lott. Everyone can contribute equally, and with that comes choice and diversity. Without a neutral network the playing field isn't level any more. Rich commentators would have more impact on discussion because they wield the financial power to get themselves a better quality of service.

Thankfully, it's not too late just yet to do something about this. There are several campaigns (Internet based, of course) to fight for net neutrality, and many of them have active petitions. If you want more information, go to www.laquadrature.net for the low-down on net neutrality in Europe, and also check out the rather corny sounding www.savetheinternet.com. Whatever you do, don't just sit there, because your freedom to browse, play and work across the internet really is at risk. In the end, the governments and commissions have to listen to somebody, and it's either going to be us or the telecom companies looking to line their wallets. Who would you rather it was?

Google acquires AdMob

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

This week Google extended its advertising reach deeper into the mobile market with the acquisition of the mobile advertising leader, AdMob. The purchase is reported to have cost Google \$750 million in stock, making waves in the relatively small mobile ad serving market. It's important to note that the mobile ad serving market benefits from the lack of widely available ad-blocking technology that plagues the desktop market meaning that in most cases each ad served is in fact seen.

Google already had a mobile advertising system in place that mimicked its signature Google AdSense text ads from the desktop. In purchasing AdMob, Google not only buys a significant market share but also the technology for mobile display ads. Google's VP of engineering, Vic Gundotra said that acquiring the AdMob engineering team was critical to Google's acceleration of its mobile ad efforts.

AdMob, which has good links with content providers and the lucrative mobile app space, will propel Google to the forefront of the mobile sector. Having Google leading the charge in mobile ads may also see an expansion of the market sector, especially with Google's tie-ins with its open-source Android operating system. The mobile app space, which has seen rapid expansion on the iPhone and Android platforms in recent years, has increasingly seen ad supported programs providing a potentially lucrative market for Google to have bought into.

Weekly Wrap-up: A quick guide to the best of the rest you might have missed

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor



Another week in tech has passed us by and what do we have to show for it? How about the hideous looking OpenOffice Mouse?

Featuring 18 buttons, 63 programmable profiles and even an analogue joystick, this instant carpal tunnel surgery inducing monstrosity is soon to hit the stores for the bargain price of £45. Obviously not a fan of the MagicMouse, a World of Warcraft-loving gamer decided his mouse didn't have enough buttons and went ahead and

set up a company to do it better. War-Mouse is aiming this at the OpenOffice MMO playing crowd and they might go potty over it, but I think I'll stick to my trusty Logitech thanks.

This week Mozilla had a party to celebrate Firefox turning the big 5-nothing. Yes that's right, the browser of choice for the web savvy, but Google hating, user really is five years old. The project which grew out of the death of the Mozilla suite (aka Netscape Navigator) celebrated its fifth birthday by being crowned the vulnerability king and not in a good way.

A recent study found that Firefox suffered from 44% of the total vulnerabilities affecting today's browsers. Safari, which includes Mobile Safari came in second and the normal culprit of the browser wars Internet Explorer came in at number three. The winner in all this happens to be the least used browser Opera.

Now I know there are Opera fanboys about and for good reason, it's fast and reliable, but it goes to show there's

safety through minority.

Speaking of vulnerabilities, this week it's emerged that there's a new threat from the computer virus. Your normal everyday virus either wants to steal information from you, send out a load of spam or turn your computer into part of a botnet. Although that's pretty inconvenient and could potentially be damaging to your finances or identity, it doesn't come close to causing jail time for the infected.

A new type of virus has started to crop up which paedophiles use to essentially store their collections of kiddy porn on your computer. Now this is pretty disturbing just from the thought of kiddy porn being on your computer and some hideous person accessing it for their 'needs'. But you might be shocked to know that it might even lead to you facing a conviction for paedophilia because who's going to believe 'a virus did it' claim? It all comes down to the fact that the exams that courts do on your computer are costly and they don't like paying for them meaning

they're often skipped. In essence unless you fork out a pretty penny for the exam you could be convicted straight up for having kiddy porn. So next time you click on that .exe or browse that dodgy website with the 'free stuff' just think twice and always use protection.

NEC this week showed off its Tele



Scouter glasses in Tokyo. The glasses work by projecting information directly on the wearers retina providing a HUD type overlay. If that wasn't

fantastic enough, NEC aims integrate this technology with real-time spoken language translation which would give the wearer the ability to read translated text projected into their eye balls when someone speaks to them in a foreign language.

OK, I know that sounds a bit fishy, but we're nowhere near April and it's not inconceivable that with advances in voice recognition, this kind of system could revolutionise the way we communicate in foreign countries. For the time being NEC said the Tele Scouter glasses could be implemented using facial recognition to give salesmen an overview of a particular clients recent purchases.

NEC hopes to have the glasses tested and available in November 2010. I just hope they can build in a bit of Terminator style augmented reality for the ultimate wearable computer system. Forget Layar and the other phone based augmented reality apps, having info beamed into your eyes is definitely the way forward.



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Michael Cook Games Editor

Why am I bothering to write this. You're all playing Modern Warfare 2. You're not reading this. You probably even bought a copy and left it open at the games pages next to you as you play, just to symbolically underline the degree to which you're not reading this. You bastard. However, while you're feverishly not reading this on Friday night, I'll be equally fervently not caring either, because this week I bought Torchlight.

And man, is it good. It aggravates all my RSI problems like no other game, but I cannot stop playing it. It's a beautiful effort to create a "Diablo 2.5", a 3D version of the ultimate RPG hacker, with a modern take on it and a good few years of reflection on the design. The management side of things, with inventories and optimisation, is streamlined beautifully. The world is more alive, thanks to a solid graphics engine and more interaction with the landscape - hordes of spiders piling out of concealed mineshafts or caves, the kind of dynamism you just don't get in traditional isometric hack and slash affairs. And above all else, the drip-feed of points, improvements and areas is tuned to perfection. I went on for half an hour the other night. I emerged three hours later.

But enough of my complete inability to control my own schedule. The point is, you either decided to buy Modern War-

fare 2 despite the string of PR cockups, or you didn't. Chances are you did. Games, like almost every other entertainment product, tend to avoid boycotts exceptionally well, because for all the interest that is generated about the development process, the people involved, the impact, the inspiration and so on, what people are here for is an experience. Whether that experience came off the back of a homophobic advertising campaign, whether that experience is being sold on a date that makes it slightly distasteful, whether that experience is provided by the most hilariously incompetent and PR-inept community team ever, the experience is the experience, and as long as that hasn't changed it's still worth looking at.

It's been a bad month for Infinity Ward, from the first announcement that they were dropping dedicated servers right up until the last announcements about smaller matches online and controversy over advertising. But it's all over now, and finally you're now able to judge what they actually produced. Ignoring the business side, the media side, you now have the game. And it's probably best just to stop writing this, and leave you to it.

Before I go, though - we're lining up a whole bunch of exciting stuff for the December issues - if there's a game you want us to cover, a developer you want us to talk to, or something you just think we need to see right now, we'd love to hear what you want to see, so email us at the address at the top.

Ten Long Years - 2004

God, you're a miserable bunch, eh? Roll on 2004 - the year of the hatred

Damn, if this year isn't a big one. Let's get cracking straight away. **Half-Life 2**. Talk.

"Not an incredible game, but a pretty major step forward for FPS."

Oh. Anyone else?

"Yeah, it has real cinematic quality but isn't a classic game. I enjoyed my first play-through, but ultimately it's all a bit underwhelming, especially the gun-play."

Right.

"I really hated HL2 when I first played it."

Alright, you miserable bastards. Not a single one of you really came out strong for one of the big hits of the year 2004, but while that was surprising, you still had a wide range of likes.

"**Ninja Gaiden** was, and is, utterly badass. This was the first console game to really push me, and I loved it for it. Ninja Gaiden gave me challenge, and when I got past a particularly hard bit I felt like the KING OF THE WORLD."

Big changes in the console world set this year up to be the beginning of the resurgent Nintendo. **The DS was released** this year to great celebration, and alongside this came **the an-**



nouncement of the Revolution, the console that would eventually become the Wii. Other than that, the Gamecube didn't have that exciting a year - **Twin Snakes** came back to Nintendo at last, but the real gems were in the future.

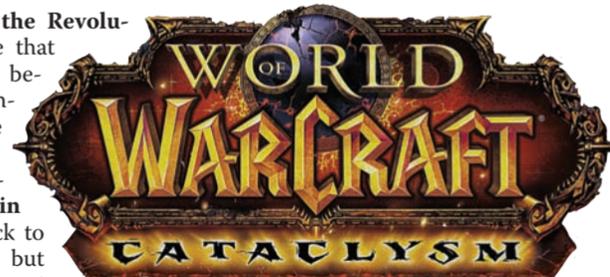
No, this was the year for the consoles. **Killzone** and **Halo 2** make up the exclusive headlines for the year for both PlayStation2 and Xbox, with Grand Theft Auto: **San Andreas** proving equally popular once it hit.

On the PC, things didn't look so great. "**Year of the Ill-Received Sequel.**" *Colt* tells us, "Invisible War, Deadly Shadows and Doom 3."

While it's true that **Deus Ex 2: Invisible War** and **Doom 3** were both criticised on release, **Thief 3** has quite the following over here, it seems.

"Worthy of the Thief name. It really is brilliant and is only just pipped by Thief 2. It was quite surprising how good it was actually." *Karan* tells us, while another reader said: "Thief: Deadly Shadows. Even though it lost the number (in an effort to attract new audiences on Xbox primarily), it was still a worthy sequel. And it looked gorgeous. It was basically shadow porn."

We lost **Acclaim** this year as they declared bankruptcy. It's really a year of transitions - the last-gen was dying off. Think of a game that reminds you of being young - from **Crazy Taxi**



to the old Turok games - and **Acclaim** probably had a hand in it. With their death, and the rise of the big, clever and future-looking games, things really changed in 2004. **Rome: Total War** seems to be a good example.

"A great game. The Rome campaign map made me involved like I'd never been with Medieval and the AI's propensity for sending armies to face you at bridges meant that I got pretty attached to specific battlefields. And the screaming women and burning pigs and head hurlers and war dogs were amazing."

This is also the year, as many will know, that **World Of Warcraft** launched. From there 'til today, gaming has never really been the same. The MMO formula was finally cracked, coinciding with a burst of new technology that meant **WoW** could offer an experience that gamers had never had before.

Not everyone likes it, but it's hard to deny its era-defining quality. It's a stand-out game of the decade, perhaps not for gameplay but for concept.

So, a good year for gaming, but not for games? Feel confused.

In Pictures - The Week In News: EA feel the squeeze; wide variety of other stories

EA Struggling?

EA shed 1500 jobs and have cut 'the bottom third' of their games lineup after sales figures hit.



Modern Warfare 2 Released

That game that's the sequel to another game that was alright, I guess, has finally been released. So prepare to read NOTHING BUT MW2 for the next three weeks online.

MW2: is it a game?

Some non-gamers discussed whether Modern Warfare 2 might be a bad game because it involves guns and quotes by Napoleon.



MW2 Ships

Some game got released this week. I dunno. A man on the news talked about it, I guess it sounds pretty fun.

Yet more reasons to stay on the sofa

The Xbox Fall Update is here, with tweaks and goodies. But should you care? asks **Simon Worthington**

Ah yes, it's that time of year again. Leaves are falling off the trees, the nights are drawing in. Halloween? Nope. Christmas? Hell no! We're due another Xbox 360 Fall Update of course! It's been a year since the New Xbox Experience launched, and since then we've seen downloadable games, an avatar store, games on hard disk and many other features besides, but this is the time of year where Microsoft typically release their latest and greatest developments to the public at large. This year sees the uncaging of a myriad of new social networking features, new ways to access music and video and a number of subtler changes to the Dashboard. The update is reportedly happening in November, so we can hope to see these features in the next few weeks.

Whilst not strictly part of the Fall Update package, some of you may have noticed the new Sky Player has

"gamers will find little of interest"

dropped onto consoles in the past week or so. From BSkyB (the satellite TV people), it will allow you to watch television channels and programmes live on your console. The download is free, you'll need some kind of subscription to actually watch any content: if you've already got Sky with the multi-room package then you can start viewing right away, but if you don't have a box or dish you can subscribe to the online service whose prices start at £15 a month. People who can't afford that



Hah! Where's your evolution of gamers gif now, science editors. That's right. We're all modern and social and hip.

(all of us) are stuck with free access to Sky News.

By far the most discussed new feature is Xbox Live's new Facebook integration. One quick download will allow you to log in to Facebook directly where you can access news feed items, update your status and view and comment on photos in a cool, full screen slideshow mode. There is, however, no support for videos or any other applications so any dreams of playing FarmVille on your 360 are unfortunately scuppered. One of the cooler aspects of this feature is that

compatible games can also post status updates and even upload photos or screenshots straight from the game itself. The first game to support this will be a future version of the Tiger Woods PGA TOUR® series.

Twitter also makes its first appearance onto consoles with an Xbox screen allowing you to post tweets, read the top fifty tweets from your feed, browse by tag and also view tweet trends. Actually typing tweets however is a massive faff because using the controller is painfully slow, but this can be alleviated by using the Chatpad

controller add-on or a USB keyboard. Twitter, along with Facebook, can be found in an all-new My Community section of the Dashboard, which also becomes home for all the Xbox Live events that happen from time to time.

The last social networking feature to look out for is integration with the music discovery service Last.fm. Any tracks available to play on the site can also be played on your 360, and all of your favourites and preferences are brought down when you log in. The familiar features are all there, including the 'like' button, and this infor-

mation is also sent back to Last.fm for synchronisation. Unfortunately it seems unlikely that you will be able to play this music outside of the free download, so anyone wanting to play Last.fm stations during games may be disappointed.

Microsoft's Zune music and video service and Xbox Live have never really got along, but all that changes with this update. Zune's HD video shop will allow you to rent 1080p quality movies on your Xbox, and will also allow you to fully purchase movies for the first time. Content is streamed in HD directly so there are no lengthy download times and purchased content can be watched on the web or a Zune

"it takes the Xbox in a new direction"

HD device as well. Movies can also be watched in party mode with friends, allowing chat during the film.

Apart from a new music store for music game downloadable content, that's pretty much the full selection of features available this year. Microsoft has clearly tried to take Xbox in a fresh direction with this year's update to establish it as an all-round entertainment console. Don't get me wrong, all the new video and music features are pretty cool, but people who still only want to use their Xbox to actually play games will find little of interest in this update. If these really are Microsoft's latest and greatest developments, it'll be interesting to see if come next year they've got any tricks to pull out of the hat at all.

The Gamers' Voice - Videogames come over political

A Labour MP stepped into the discussion of Modern Warfare 2's controversial game sequences this week by creating a group on Facebook that he described as "unashamedly pro-video games".

Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East, started the group apparently in response to Keith Vaz MP's comments on Modern Warfare 2 in

the Daily Mail, where he deemed the game 'shocking' and said he was 'particularly concerned about how realistic the game itself looks'.

Watson's group, titled The Gamers' Voice, only has a Facebook group, where Watson himself admits that 'I don't know how it should work, but it intends to bring the gaming community into the political debate on games and become part of the discussion.

Keith Vaz is well-known in British politics for taking sides in the videogames debate, claiming that the killers of schoolboy Stefan Pakeerah had been influenced by the videogame *Manhunt*. Amusingly, the investigation into the murder concluded that the only person involved who owned a copy of the game was the victim himself, but this has done little to dampen Vaz's enthusiasm for games-bashing.

"Last Thursday, the British Board of Film Classification gave a 15 certificate to a video game formerly called "Bully," he told the Commons back in 2006, "The game contains scenes of violence, including scenes of players terrorising teachers and students, teachers being head-butted and the aggressive use of baseball bats. Currys has banned it. Given the link between video games and a propensity to encourage violence that some research has demonstrated, will the Prime Minister convene a meeting of stakeholders—including representatives of the industry and parents' groups—to discuss the issue?"

The problem stems from Vaz's claim that research has demonstrated a link between video games and an increased



tendency to violence. It's a point made again and again worldwide, but never really investigated or pulled apart. Hand-waving and vague assertions are often made, and that's all that's needed to convince people reading the Daily Mail's articles on Modern Warfare 2.

Watson's group wants to solve these problems, not through immature campaigning and shouting but through dialogue, examination of the issues, and a discussion of misunderstandings that have already occurred.

In this writer's opinion, neither side is really prepared to discuss the topic, and Watson may have quite a job on his hands. Parliament will be unlikely to make large concessions in the face of heightened media interest, which the mass media always affords discus-

sion of violence in games. Similarly, many games may find themselves unprepared for dialogue too.

Although the group - which has nine thousand members at the time of writing - is full of enthusiastic wall posts and messages of support, many gamers are expecting a walkover, where politicians immediately see the light and come to see gaming in the same way that its proponents do. It's the same mistake that Vaz has made in the past - the truth is that neither party is going to have an easy time. What Vaz has failed to do in the past is make any concessions. If gamers are willing to propose solutions and - crucially - accept certain compromises, then we may really be looking at a brighter future for the PR face of the games industry.



Keith Vaz has been critical of videogames - Watson hopes to challenge him

Photograph of the week

'Cries of the Nomadic' by Sahil Chugani

Tanzanian Maasai children chasing our Safari vehicle desperately crying out "maji, maji" (Swahili for water) searching for mankind's most basic commodity. I took this over Summer on my 6 weeks travelling with SIFE Imperial. And yes, we gave them water.

Submit your photographs of the week to felix@imperial.ac.uk





Restaurant Review: Cay Tre worth it

@ 301 Old St, EC1V 9LA. Yes, I know what you're thinking, it's pretty far from Imperial. But well worth the visit.

Imagine you've been overindulging on fatty and greasy nibbles and your body starts to cry out for a good detoxing. Or if the after effects of a big night out on the town start to wreak havoc on your stomach and brain. Such times call for light, refreshing, and if at all possible, healthy meals. Few cuisines can truly claim that they fit the bill for this situation, but in my opinion, Vietnamese food is king.

The advent of 3 'Pho' outlets around London has got people talking about cuisine from this former French colony, whose aromatic soup noodles and fragrant rolls seem to satisfy many Londoners' cravings for health-conscious eating. Overall these little eateries aren't bad, but they don't quite stand up to the more authentic offerings of the 'Pho Mile', an area which for me consists of the eastern end of Old St and a good chunk of Kingsland Rd. This area has been known to foodies for a while, but I reckon it's about time it really got put on the map.

If you haven't had Vietnamese food in this area before, Cay Tre is a pretty good place to start. I'm not one of those who likes to stand outside and watch the red buses career their way down Old St, so if you're like me, advance reservation is recommended for dinnertime. As you'd expect from a restaurant with hoards of expectant



'Banh xeo'. I guess it's the Vietnamese answer to a French crepe. Just go try it.

customers outside pondering what delights will fill their bellies, the service was efficient and we were promptly guided to our table. Nothing about the interior of this eatery struck me as special, but the tables were fairly spacious and the seats adequately comfortable.

The menu was one of the most interesting and varied that I had seen in quite some time. It revealed that the classic dishes such as Pho or summer rolls were available, but also on of-

fer were eloquently described tummy rumbling-inducing regional specialities from both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

My curiosity directed me to try both classic and regional dishes. I'll start with our classic beef noodle soup, a.k.a. Pho. Ok, I lie, it wasn't exactly the classic version. It was their Hanoi version, which was basically the same but just 50p more. The price increase could be justified by the inclusion of

extra beef. Overall, I was satisfied, but it didn't blow me away. The soup base was aromatic and the fresh herbs really added an extra dimension, but that's what you would expect from Pho. For me, I felt the soup needed an extra depth of rich beef shin taste and the noodles could have been a tad thinner.

At this point, I really couldn't understand the rave reviews about this place. But this was about to change, and fast. 'Bun cha ha noi', a dish comprising of beautifully cooked, tender pieces of lemongrass infused pork loin, accompanied with a wonderfully light vermicelli salad, delighted my senses. The temperature contrast of the warm meat with the chilled noodles, brought together by the refreshing tastes of mint and Vietnamese basil, got my tastebuds dancing. All for just £6.50. I was now halfway to being happy man.

But the fun didn't stop there, not only because I was excited by the novelty of a regional speciality, but also because of its sheer brilliance. 'Banh xeo', whose rather misleading description of being a Vietnamese pizza, turned out to be a true gastronomic gem. This Saigon speciality comprised of an elegant crispy pancake, folded in half and filled with juicy pieces of chicken and succulent prawns. The beauty of this dish takes on a new form when you place a chunk of the

pancake in a lettuce leaf, top it up with fresh herbs and pickle, and dip it in 'nuoc cham' (the omnipresent sweet and hot Vietnamese dipping sauce). Upon placement into your mouth, I can guarantee a merry-go-round of savoury, aniseedy and sweet flavours and a serenade of crunchy and soft textures will soon follow. Also sure to get your tastebuds talking is 'Bun Bo hue', a spicier version of Pho, whose fragrant lemongrass and chilli infused broth will please those fans of curry-based soup noodles. I'd recommend that you get this dish with their morish crab cakes.

With each of these dishes giving more than adequately sized bowls of quality cuisine, this place really hits the mark in terms of value. I guess the only downside about my visit to Cay Tre was that I didn't get to try their house speciality of Cha Ca La Vong, a unique fish dish hailing from an appropriately named restaurant in Hanoi. All the more reason to return.

Food: 9.0
Value: 9.0
Service: 7.0
Ambience: 7.0

Overall: 8.0/10

Hummingbird Bakery – a delicious experience not to be missed!

@ 47 Old Brompton Road South Kensington – a taste of America literally on your doorstep.

There is a little bakery near Imperial College. It sells cakes so delicious just walking past it makes your mouth water! I thought it would only be fair to tell you about it so that if you wanted to, you could pop in there yourself for a special treat.

Hummingbird Bakery in South Kensington really can't be missed as there is a picture of a hummingbird on the shop front. There is also a long queue of people, which tells you just how popular it is. The bad thing about this is that you do normally have to wait at least ten minutes before you get served. Don't let this put you off – it is well worth it!

On its website the owners describe their cakes as being freshly-baked and only using the best ingredients, which would explain why as soon as you enter your mouth begins to water. There are so many delicious cakes to choose from that it is incredibly tempting to buy more than one. The bakery is well known for its American-inspired cupcakes, however there are also many other desserts to try. A particular favourite of mine is the red velvet cake. This cake is topped with a scrumptious mixture of whipping cream, mascarpone and cream cheese and it is so

rich that one cake is definitely enough!

Some other favourites of mine include the Brooklyn Blackouts - a chocolate sponge covered in custard, and I cannot forget about the New York style cheesecakes.

The cakes they make don't have any preservatives in them, which means you don't have to worry about harmful chemicals. So if you want to buy these cakes as a present for little children you can do so without worrying about the harm it may be doing them. However this means that they don't keep their cakes in stock so if you are after something in particular contact them in advance.

One of the bad things about this bakery is the price. Like anything in South Kensington it really isn't good value for money. Expect to pay at least £2 for a small cake. However you do get an absolutely scrumptious cake for your money so it is worth forking out the cash – at least once in a while. Because of how expensive these cakes are, I only visit this bakery if it really is a special occasion, perfect for a birthday treat or even a treat for simply going into university.

I also tend to find that the staff are not the friendliest, they don't make you feel like a valued customer. It

feels more like you are just another customer with money to spend – you can almost see the pound signs flashing in their eyes! However, this can be explained by the sheer business of this place. Whenever I go in they are always rushed off their feet and therefore they don't really have the time to give you the best service.

Once you have chosen which cake to get you can then decide whether you want to eat in or take your cake away. It is usually a lot more expensive if you want to eat in and therefore I tend to take my cake away as there are so many nice places in London. You can sit and eat your cake and watch people at the same time – a perfect way to spend an afternoon. I make sure I take one of their wooden forks with me, which I think are really cute. Although this may be because it doesn't take a lot to amuse me!

If you are really celebrating something special, or want to treat a loved one to a cake they will not forget, it may be worth taking a peek at their website as they can make a cake especially for you. This includes drawing and writing on your cake and even adding sugar flowers, coloured sprinkles and other colourful decorations – perfect if you like pretty cakes like I do.





Racking in karma being Daddy's Girl

Olivia Davies travels on a seven-hour drive to Brighton tailing a 1904 Cadillac in the 2009 LBVCR

It was 6am on Sunday, Westminster Bridge. I'd had less than one hour's sleep and was very hung-over. At this point, I was seriously wondering why I'd martyred myself to help my dad film the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run. This is the longest running motoring event in the world (2009 was its one-hundred-and-thirteenth year), and veteran cars made before 1904 travel from all over the world to take part in reliving the first ever "long distance" car trip. It is immortalized by the 1953 film *Genevieve*, filled with sun, lots of old cars and a drunk woman trying to play "the plumpet" (trumpet).

However, what I was experiencing was not a rose-tinted view of sun and old automobiles. Frankly, I was very cold, it was windy and I wanted a coffee from Starbucks. Did I mention it was raining? It was drizzling; a bleak, Irish-style rain that kept most onlookers away apart from the professional cameramen. These men looked like club bouncers and had lenses about a foot long; the Nixon equivalent of a Ferrari in manly compensation. The only other people around were police and two girls dressed as witches coming back from a Halloween party, one of whom stopped to take a drunken picture. Overall, it was a depressing scene but with an air of expectation.

After about half an hour, the sunrise was stunning – a beautiful blaze of pink over the Eye, which even my vodka-narrowed eyes could appreciate. Actually, it was a shame not more people were watching because when the first cars came up over the bridge, mingled with London buses and modern traffic, they looked rather good. The oldest cars came first, tiny delicate little motor vehicles, some powered by steam, wound up the bridge at 10mph towards us, set against the sun rising over Big Ben. Even me, who knows nothing about cars, was impressed at 104 year old cars navigating inner London. Being used to seeing lots of ostentatious cars around South Kensington, I also enjoyed the different kind of show put on by these old cars. Travel has definitely moved on during the century; we get pissed off when our AC breaks when some of these cars couldn't even make it up the hill and had to be rescued

by bemused RAC vans.

Cadillacs, a fire engine and many more all motored past us at a very slow speed. I had a chance to space out; imagining a time when a drive to Brighton from London was an ambitious journey. For a start, travel back then took so much longer! What we would class a long journey (for me, I guess this would be the twenty-three hour long flight to Australia), would probably be the same as London to Scotland for someone living in 1904. The documented trip my great great (etc.) grandmother made as a convict to Australia took four weeks in a ship – a month travelling would be a much bigger chunk out of your life, and for her, the start of a whole new one.

London to Australia aside, the cars that hadn't broken down in Hyde Park (the start), were passing me in more frequent numbers now. Some were steam driven and eerily silent, others sounded weirdly like lawnmowers. Most drivers had recruited passengers, who all seemed to be smiling and waving despite being soaked. After the four-hundred-plus cars passed, it was time to follow them in a much more modern car.

The rain continued as the cars made their way out of London and I tried to read the map as our TomTom had failed. This highlighted how much I rely on that thing to get around; I had no idea how to navigate without a female voice saying "At the end of the road (pause) turn right". I drive around with no idea of where I am half the time, relying on a GPS signal from a satellite to guide me to Tesco's. In dad's Ford Ka, trying to stab the re-set button on the TomTom with an earring, I felt even further from the cars in front that didn't even have door-handles or windows, let alone an automated female voice to direct them.

Considering the weather, quite a few people had come out to watch us pass. The children in particular looked at the cars like they were made at NASA; it was so unlike what they were used to seeing on the London ring roads. For once, travel by car seemed less like a small non-event during the day and more like an uncertain adventure. The street was lined with cars that had run out of steam or water, had wet brakes or gear failure or any



Cramped in the back behind two quintessential 'car enthusiasts'

of the other multitude of odd problems that occur with cars that often had what looked suspiciously like a big bike chain underneath them to turn the wheels. This novel uncertainty, in place of the "you have arrived at your destination" robot style transportation, was vaguely exciting.

We made several stops along the way, one in Crawley on the outskirts of London where all the cars congregated in a tiny car park. Old style banners displaying adverts for American "lube" were hung up, and all the men were drinking pints in the pub (I think possibly the drivers were still in the mindset of the old style drive-thru liquor stores...). Surprisingly, there were lots of different people there, not just the slightly geeky and loveable enthusiasts. Young guys with full leather motorcycle gear were riding the (slightly more bike-like) oldest cars, loud Americans were talking about different paint jobs and authentic trimmings, and I saw a really cute couple under the rug of an old black and yellow Ford.

About seven hours later, and after another stop at a Welcome Break for Krispy Kremes (me) and an M&S sandwich (dad), we arrived in Brighton. I rode in one of the finishing cars, squashed in the back between two Dutch people. We passed though a line of people on the Madeira Drive walkway along the beach and got interviewed by a man over the tannoy. For some people who I heard interviewed, it was their fourteenth time completing the run. Getting out of the car, I walked down to the beach. I had been to Brighton once before but had forgotten its "run-down-but charming" appeal. Fish and chips were everywhere, as were those sugary hot donuts that

every sea-side has. £1 stores ruled, and the pier, sticking out into the sea, was filled with rides and arcades. For me, it was the sea that really stood out – a big raw grey expanse of waves that was so different from London streets. Christmas lights were already up, and they twinkled dully as I walked back up to the cars.

Back where the cars were parked, people were all talking about the run. It looked like we had it good going up, as some people had taken more than nine hours due to many rescues by the RAC. Coffee was handed out, and an apparently traditional beer that tasted a bit like Hoegaarten.

After about an hour though, we went home. This journey took about three hours, and before I knew it I was being dropped off back at South Kensington. It

felt so strange to be back in London after a whole day travelling to a destination I only spent an hour at. On the back of my bus map, there is an advert for IKEA that says "Travel is a means to an end. Home." In the case of our return journey, this was definitely true; I couldn't wait to get back into my room and warm up after a whole day being wet. On the way there though, travel was purely for the travel. The seven-hour journey was all about the cars, with Brighton's pier as final destination only a quick interlude between the main journey there and the journey back. It was a cold, wet and long day but it did bring home to me the satisfaction of actually working to get from A to B. It was also a chance to step back to a time when travel was an event in itself.

For more information, check out <http://www.lbvcr.com>



travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TRAVEL



Interview with the **Extraordinaire**
by **Dylan Lowe**

To spot an extraordinary in the middle of *Power Shift*, a climate change conference hosted by the UK Youth Climate Coalition, is like finding a needle in a needle sack.

Not so much about the fact that there was ingenuity in every corner of the Institute of Education – the venue playing host to the event – but the overwhelming humility that prickles when I waded through a sea of individual whose portfolios are at least a hundred times more illustrious than mine.

Ian Katz, the Deputy Editor of the *Guardian*, whizzed by; I expressed my gratitude for my nomination and him dismissing any responsibility for granting me such prestige. Any chance with seizing the opportunity and conduct an interview with him? Not a chance.

Lucy struck me as the 'someone else'. Her stage presence, though slightly undermined by a lack of experience, was no less spectacular, especially when our judgement was based on the achievement of the speakers in the 'environmental' circles. But the concept of what she spoke about – and its sheer scale – snatched my attention, especially when I was still grief-struck from returning from the South Pacific only weeks ago.

And so I approached her, found a spot within the cacophonous conference hall, and fired away with questions at a young explorer whose deeds would shame me a thousand times.

Dylan Lowe Hi guys, your travel editor here, at the first day of *Power Shift* where I've heard from speakers talking about their work they've been doing, Lucy here being one of them.

Lucy Shepherd Hi.

DL So you're about to embark on an amazing adventure – tell me more about it?

LS I'm off the Arctic wilderness of Svalbard for ten weeks in April 2011 with the

British School of Expedition Society.

DL Like I said earlier, well done for being the most courageous girl I've ever met.

LS Thank you.

DL I applied to go on an Antarctic expedition once, though what *BP* said to me is that they don't usually accept first-years, and that I was too young and inexperienced. Being a seventeen-year-old, what makes you think that they accepted you for the trip?

LS I think I showed the right skills, and the right experiences – they don't really want to take first-timers. I've just returned from Nepal in the summer. You have to be quite motivated, work well as part of a team.

DL And the selection process?

LS I saw an advert in the paper for BSES expeditions. Went onto the website and downloaded an application form. It was a bit like the questions you answer in a personal statement or interview: for exam-



Lucy in Nepal

Lucy Shepherd

Seventeen-year-old Sixth-former and Arctic explorer

ple, why do you want to go, what would you bring to the team, your experience in extreme environments and mountainous areas. If you impressed the guys at BSES then you get invited to an interview. A few weeks after the interview you get a yes or no.

DL What is the most daunting thing about the trip you can imagine?

LS The idea of – even though it's never dark with 24-hour daylight – getting out of my tent one morning and perhaps seeing a polar bear.

DL Really?

LS Because apparently it happens quite often. And staying in a tent for ten weeks in -25°C will be a bit frustrating. [Chuckles] And no washing.

DL Well, you haven't been through university life, have you?

LS Not yet.

DL You'll get to experience untidiness then.

LS [Laughs]

DL On the contrary, what do you reckon would be the most fun part of it?

LS Meeting new people, spending time in that kind of situation. We'll be hacking through ice and snow, travelling long distances by sledges and skis. It'll be ten weeks of constant adventures, constant challenges. Not to mention travelling on dog sleds.

DL Sounds awesome. So you'll be coming off the trip – will you be going to university soon?

LS Hopefully.

DL It'll be weird for you as you'll be going into university, and everybody would have come straight from school; you would have been through a year in the University of Life. You would have done all these amazing things that you'll be so far ahead of everyone else. Does that worry you?

LS At the moment I don't know – I don't know how I'll be like when I come back from the trip. I'm hoping to meet different people who would have done different



things. I'm more worried about settling down after spending a lot of time travelling – hopefully it won't be too hard.

DL One thing they've mentioned today in *Power Shift* is motivating people. How do you think what you're about to do will motivate people, especially – in conjunction with the conference – with the awareness for climate change?

LS People will hopefully hear my story and think, "this girl went on this big trip to the Arctic, perhaps I can go on an even bigger trip." Linking that with climate change, it's all about ordinary people going ahead to do extraordinary things.

DL This might sound a bit premature, but will you be up for any future projects? Any plans?

LS Hopefully, after the expedition, I'll have a feel for expedition life and maybe do similar trips to raise money and awareness for combating climate change. Possibly something involving trekking to the North Pole? Not a clue at this stage.

DL I understand that you enjoy film-

making in your spare time – tell me more about it?

LS [Chuckles] I direct, produce, edit, screen-write films and occasionally act. I get my friends to act, having to boss them around. I now send in some films to competitions – so far I've won two out of two. I'm currently waiting for the result for another.

DL Thank you for the interview – best of luck with the trip. Maybe you could write an article for me when you return from the trip?

LS Only if you'd sponsor me.

DL What for?

LS I will need to purchase expensive, specialised equipment for the trip, for instance crampons for ice-climbing.

DL How about if I say to people in Imperial that, if they want to help out, they can do so by contacting me through felix.travel@imperial.ac.uk?

LS Sounds good.

DL Now can I have my article?

LS No.

Arrogance is expecting things laid on a plate for you

Aditya Narayanan is scornful of last week's featured article, and offers his perspective on travelling

I am a reasonably well off Indian, and I walk whenever possible. So does my grandfather – at the age of 78 – and my grandmother, even after a double knee replacement. Outside of Mumbai's elite, most Indians will find it more trouble than necessary to start their engines for a trip to the local shops. Of course, it could be that Fleur Thomas was being ironic but the rest of her article reads as the experiences of someone who decided to travel abroad on a whim without reading up on the destination. Indeed, the article itself provides an unabashed critique of Indian traffic masquerading as advice, something sadly symptomatic of the lack of effort shown by tourists towards understanding a locality bemoaned by Dylan Lowe's piece a month ago.

In fact, most of what Ms Thomas says

contains a vague element of truth that is lost in the mists of 'humour'. It is far less eloquent and knowledgeable than the average *Lonely Planet* guide, which any diligent traveller should have stuffed in his back pocket anyway. Traps exist certainly but exaggerating aspects of a country that occur all over the world simply diverts attention from them. Incidentally, that dripping 'liquid' is water from the exhaust.

Firstly, it is no secret that Indian traffic is chaotic. The population is immense, and expecting the roads not to be crowded is like going to Fabric without expecting to be approached by drug dealers every five minutes. Crossing the road is based on instinct, and other road users tend to swerve to avoid you anyway; problems only occur when you hesitate, something also true of places like Vietnam and

Thailand.

Auto drivers only tend to play up if they spot weakness or aggression on your part, yet they are still safer than your average unlicensed minicab. Do not be fooled by the flashy N95 in his hand, it will have cost him his last three month's earnings. As a tourist, chances are you have more money (and less nous) than a local, hence his persistence in getting your fare. The mode of transport is basic in the kindest terms and cheap to use even at the 'foreigner rate'. If someone fresh off the boat went to Portobello Market, do you think the traders would refrain from ripping him off? Groups of stationary autos should be avoided as the drivers are friends who tend to bargain as a collective. Auto drivers in motion will sometimes even squabble for your attention. Regardless, ask for half of what he

quotes and haggle like you mean business – chances are he will slash his price. This attitude works in all markets in the world, can it not be extended towards transportation?

Public transport in India is heavily subsidised and so has a negligible effect on your bank balance. They are understandably crowded, but it is nothing if you have used the District line during rush hour. They break down less often too. If you want luxury, then you can still hire an air-conditioned car for a full day's usage. This comes at the same price as a one-way trip between London City and Heathrow Airport.

In terms of safety, my mother and her contemporaries have all used the buses for years (nay, decades) without any problems whatsoever. In my case, the only times I have ever felt threatened occurred

on the Tube. Should you find yourself in trouble, screaming blue murder will result in the satisfaction of seeing your assailant being clobbered by helpful strangers, and is especially true for women and foreigners.

The truth is, I could have also singled out aspects of any country's structure citing some personal experience as justification (eight of the world's worst cities for pickpockets are European, how appalling!). Outside of Western Europe and North America, most of the world is still quite poor and suffers from poor organisation. As a traveller, you can choose to highlight common issues negatively, or you can adapt and offer constructive advice on how to deal with the real issues you will face. If you cannot do the latter, then stay at home, because it is your attitude that is the real problem.



Third annual Imperial IV comes around

With over 88 speakers, the annual Imperial Debating competition kicks off in SAF, with **Kin-Hing Lo**



Members of the debating society pose for the camera at the annual Imperial debating competition

The Imperial College Debating Society has been hard at work over the summer to organise the third annual Glencore Imperial College Intersociety Debating Competition.

One of the real highlights of debating is that you have the opportunity to go to championships all across the country and to meet students from other universities who are also interested in current affairs. I was new to debating when I joined the club last year but I was able to enter competitions at Kings, LSE and the University of Nottingham. Our society has sent a

team to the World championships in 2008 and the European championships earlier this year.

But playing a role in organising a competition was very different from

'The big day was here - the Imperial IV had started as an idea: now it was a competition.'

just taking part in one! There was a huge amount of work to be done... convenor Dominic was hard at work over the summer making room bookings, contacting our sponsors Glencore for funding and finding a team of judges for the competition. Meanwhile, social secretary Enrico was hard at work organising a (epic!) social event for the debaters. Other members of the committee spent a large amount of time promoting the event to other societies – for example by designing promotional material and setting up our Facebook group.

As the new term began and attention briefly shifted to Freshers Fair,

everything finally came together and the big day was here - the Imperial IV had started as an idea: now it was a competition.

Debates were conducted in British Parliamentary style with four preliminary rounds and a break into the finals. The overall best speaker for this tournament was Mr Max Kasriel from Cambridge University out of 88 speakers. The winning team was Cambridge A with Mr Sam Block and Mr Harish Natarajan. The teams debated five topics:

1. This house would force all sitting representatives who leave their party to immediately stand for re-election.
2. This house would abolish all libel and slander laws.
3. This house would break the law to protect animal rights.
4. This house would ban all pornography.
5. This house believes that the religious organisations that suicide bombers belong to should be punished.

After the extremely close finals of the competition (judging took well over an hour!) a social event was held where much food was consumed and drink was drunk. The Imperial IV was one of the first debating events of the academic year and also one of the

highlights.

The Imperial College Debating Society has organised public debates on many high profile current issues. We exist to promote informed, intelligent debate in all aspects of human enquiry. We organise show debates and provide professional coaching by national debaters to members of our society. The next show debate is on Thursday 19th November and we will be discussing environmental policy.

If you would like to find out more about debating, please come to one of our weekly meetings on Wednesday evening 6pm-8pm in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building room 120. You can also visit our website at <http://union.ic.ac.uk/scc/debating> or email debate@imperial.ac.uk.

So how does university debating work? British parliamentary style is the most common style of debating at university level.

The debate consists of four teams with two different sides, the proposition and the opposition. Speeches are 5 minutes long.

Motions are released 15 minutes before a debate, which means that debaters will have to come up with ideas impromptu without using electronic references such as the Internet.



felix assumes there are other people in these rooms.

An ERASMUS Halloween with Desiderius Roterodamus

Last Thursday, in the early evening, over one hundred European lovelies (and not-so-lovelies) invaded the level 7 common room in the Biochemistry building.

The shelves at Poundland (a little known country somewhere to the rough side of Glasgow) had been raided for Halloween decorations, and the shelves at Lidl for cheap lager.

There was even a 'large' pumpkin, lit by a bicycle light due to that old chestnut: health and safety regulations. The party was held in collaboration with Kings College Erasmus club, who managed to send almost 7 members.

Lured by the promise of free cans of 'Foster' and the presence of fanny

magnet Sam 'Je parle francais avec un accent essex' Campaigne, the room was full by 8pm. Members handed their paltry £3 to Andrew 'World Domination' Leung and were rewarded with a free bar and nibbles. Costumes were worn, ranging from the shit to the spectacular, and prizes were given. The stock of 250 beers and 10 litres of wine was destroyed in a little over two hours.

Small talk was provided by el presidente, Nora 'from Norway' Tandberg, face paint by Stuart 'Hairspray' Higgins, food by Poundland (again) and heating by Aga 'Spelling Bee' Langner. Later followed the after-party at Onanon.

Sam, Anthony 'Dark Horse' Maina and Jon 'Human Dustbin' Worboys

benevolently escorted the erasmusites to Picadilly Circus and bogged the night away. Rumours that at breakfast time cunning linguist Anthony was still up and enjoying a croissant neuf, are pure speculation.

Upcoming events organised by our event managers Mark 'Marky Mark' Smith and Sarah 'my surname is also a first name. Which is weird' Jane include a fireworks night, a trip to Oxford and Bath, and a Twin Tigers night.

If you are a student here on an exchange or are going on an exchange in one of your years here at Imperial, come along to one of the events we have planned!

Or you could Join the facebook group!



The Fellwanderers' Summer Tour to Slovakia and Poland

Heather Jones on walks in Eastern Europe with weather extremes, odd alcohols and Polish bear-riders.



Following in a long tradition of ambitious summer tours, the Fellwanderers bravely set off to Poland and Slovakia. We were soon on our way to Zakopane, the gateway to the Tatra mountain range. As we all know, nothing can be accomplished without full stomachs so the group's first major effort was to find some typical Polish cuisine. With this mission accomplished we returned to the hostel to try and share out group kit. Despite our best attempts at fairness Ande persistently protested about his inability to take too much kit lest it not tessellate perfectly in his rucksack...

6:45am the next morning felt very painful. However, the free breakfast certainly went some way to livening things up and a short bus ride later we were well and truly in the Tatras at Javorina (~1000m) and taking our first steps into the mountains.

Continuing upwards we were rewarded by alpine meadows and the stunning views we would become accustomed to, though by the first pass the costs of not properly breaking my boots in were already becoming apparent. By lunchtime we had reached our first hut and most of the group decided to bag our first peak, Jahnaci stit, 2230m. We got within perhaps 100m (vertically) of the summit before peals of thunder started echoing round the mountains and after a hasty photo we beat a swift retreat. However, as thunderstorms move a good deal faster than people the retreat was not swift enough and we had the hair-raising experience of crossing a snowfield whilst lightning flashed around us. With our first hearty drenching under our belts, the Spicy Sausage Pasta was fed to very approving masses.

Day 3 was the day where the epic fail mentality of the trip truly came into being. Starting with an annoying alarm setting error depriving us of an extra half hour of sleep it was also the day of the legendary vodka fail. The walk itself was uneventful, highpoint 2038m, impressive thunderstorms in the Tatra basin and a bypass of the imposing Lomnický štít which stands at 2634m. From the hut, the "metropolis" of Strybský štít was a mere hour and a half's walk away. Some took this opportunity to gorge on icecream and

buy essentials such as Tang and Vodka. Joe was guardian of the vodka and after lovingly carrying it all the way back up the hill and cooling it mountain spring disaster struck! Those back at the hut were peacefully playing cards when they heard a smash and a suspiciously familiar smell... After carrying the bottle for over 2 hours Joe dropped and smashed it on the steps of the hut. Morale sunk lower after the vegetarian nature of the following week became apparent and we had to watch the dog lapping up our vodka!

Day 4's walk was where the challenges of the terrain became apparent. Our route was still impassable due to snow and instead we had a change of plan to conquer a 2376m snow-covered delight before beating the rain and descending to intermediate hut Teryho Chata for lunch. With strict sausage oriented instructions yet another party made an afternoon trip to Strybský štít returning with a giant sausage to appease the carnivores.

Day 5 was my worst of the fortnight, instead of "contouring" as promised it soon emerged that the Slovaks prefer paths which are a sequence of impossibly uncomfortable ups and downs. By the time we stopped for lunch at Sliezsky dom, Chris had to perform minor foot surgery to allow me to continue. We continued in blistering heat and as if Chris's first aid skills had still not been adequately proved Nathaniel, Jim, Ande and Joe decided to take a cooling dip in a lake, each emerging covered in various cuts and bruises. To add insult to (at this point considerable) injury, the high point of the day, whilst only at a mere 1966m, was round a corner the likes of which I hope never to see again. Its never-ending nature baffles me even now; geometry just didn't seem to work with this beast. I very nearly shed a few tears of gratitude when the pole of the summit appeared.

Combined with the threat of impending rain we started descending the sheer 500m slope to our next hotel/hut. After never ending zig-zags we were down almost without mishap.

On Day 6 the group split into 3. Rafal and I saw an impressive thunderstorm, whilst having a restful shopping day, Chris and Yvonne bagged the mighty Rysy (2499m) and the others did a

long circular walk with Eva (highpoint 2314m). After all of this activity, the seventh day was (nominally) a day of rest. In Fellwanderers terms this turned out to mean either a conquering of Koprovský štít at 2363m or a trip to Poprad. In Poprad we experienced culinary delights such as vampire quelling garlic soup and in Joe and Nathaniel's case – raw sausage!

Day 8 was Rysy day. Chris and Yvonne went back to England, leaving only 7 of us behind. Though Chris and Yvonne had already conquered Rysy, they hadn't done it hauling up their packs with them, as we were about to attempt. We were walking by 7 hoping to beat any bad weather. Despite calf-strain issues we made good time up the 1100m ascent to the summit, though decreasing visibility and increasing doubts about the weather for the most technically demanding descent of the tour were concerning.

As we started the 1000 vertical metre descent the rain commenced and visibility dropped to ~5m. The chains were more or less constant for 500m of the descent across rock faces with streams of water providing the lubrication none of us needed to make a quicker descent than desirable. By the time we reached the path section we were brutally tired and hungry but vowed not to eat until we reached the lake just a short distance from our next hut. The exhaustion took its toll and Rafal dramatically slipped and gashed his forehead open. We realised at this point that Nathaniel's first aid certificate may need renewal when he stuck the plaster over Rafal's left eye...

As a mark of how exhausting the day was, we were in bed by 8:30 after merely boiling some water, putting it with some couscous and stirring some random ingredients into the mixture: trekking cooking at its best.

After Rysy the next day was merely a walk into Zakopane (Zak-the-Pony, if you're asking Jim) and despite aching muscles and wounded feet we still summoned the energy to walk to an out of town restaurant, recommended by Rafal's friends to celebrate our survival so far and some excellent exam results! The food was amazing and was followed by a night of wild celebration, perhaps a little too wild for some as it concluded with Nathaniel throwing up

out of the hostel's window...

The next day a hung-over Nathaniel sheepishly went outside with a mop whilst most of us conquered Koscieliec, which Rafal found an inexplicably frightening experience. Ande managed to scare him whilst just sitting still on the top whilst moving his arms around excitedly. Tired of authentic Polish food we defected to an Italian for dinner, eagerly anticipating our next day of trekking. However, the next day the weather was bad and we all woke up feeling fractious. After getting to the hut most of us just sat around playing bridge, though Jim and Joe somehow summoned the energy for another walk, getting a cable car ride in the bargain.

We battled through Wales-esque weather for the day, climbing a ridge so windy we considered turning back. Whilst walking along the top we suddenly discovered we'd lost Ande, a matter of concern considering the steep cliffs and strong winds. Eventually he was found, but we were relieved when the clouds cleared at last for beautiful lunchtime views.

At the next hut Jim had his epic fail: he locked himself, and the key to our room, in the shower. Rafal came to the rescue eventually after dark mutterings about stupid undergrads (in the previous hut we blocked their only sink during doing the washing up).

Day 13 was our last proper trekking day and by now, I for one was feeling truly exhausted. However, clearly not everyone shared my sentiments as Jim, Joe and Gavin decided to do an afternoon walk and managed the 4h15 walk in under 2 hours!

The last walk of the trip was, in my opinion, also one of the best. After a slog up through a forest we emerged onto a giant horseshoe ridge encompassing 7 major peaks and affording magnificent views of all the different parts of the Tatras. Even the weather spared us the customary afternoon thunderstorm, it really was a perfect end to the trip. Which, and I'm sorry to say this, is more than can be said for the attempts at food on the last night... We had sort of accidentally run out of carbs, which resulted in Jim, Ande, Joe and Gavin being convinced that with onion, garlic salt, milk powder, gouda, sausage, porridge, sugar, herbs and spices and a pack of bourbon biscuits they could make something edible. We were all doubtful, especially Rafal who resorted to hut food even before their attempt.

I have to say that especially considering their ingredients the main course at least was a great success, oat balls with a creamy sausage sauce and a cheese side were truly excellent however "dessert" was where they fell down a little. For any freshers reading this; be warned you CANNOT make cheesecake with Gouda and attempts to do so are a crime against humanity. The prevailing kitchen opinion appeared to be "if we add enough sugar it will work". Error. The tang and powdered milk sauce as custard substitute was particularly unwelcome. Never try this at home.

Too soon, tour was over! We returned to Krakow and after all Rafal had put up with from us, we promised

to meet him promptly at 6:45 to go to his favourite restaurant in Krakow. Despite the challenges this posed to a group of people with no clean clothes we so very nearly accomplished this mission but for our small, reoccurring problem on this trip: OCD, tessellation obsessive Ande somehow managed to separate himself from the group... After waiting for 5 mins on a street corner we decided he must have missed us and gone ahead. We met Rafal on time but had to confess that even in this, us undergrads had disappointed him. Eventually reunited we ordered "The Trough", a giant shared platter of meat, dumpling and all other amazing Polish food. After a quick drink we all rolled back to the hostel except Jim and Joe who went off for a night out in the town, rolling in around 5 having fallen prey to kebabs.

As I assume is customary, it came to light at this meal that many more fails had taken place than first imagined. In fact, it appeared that almost everyone had an interesting story to tell about getting to Krakow bus station, from Ande's wallet loss, to Chris and Yvonne sharing a carriage with a woman throwing up into her handbag, to my personal favourite, Joe's rescuing all the carbs that he had previously thrown into an airport bin to save weight in his luggage.

Of course, with this group there were so many hilarious fails it's impossible to recount them all here. So, I shall leave you with just a few more of the best:

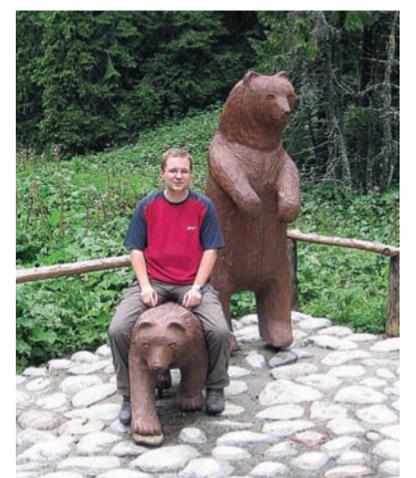
1. Joe knocking over a full pint of beer, trying to grab the last few drops of a shot of rum

2. Nathaniel "what are these?" I know I'll eat a teaspoon full of them, them being chilli flakes

Ande adding salt to his sweet pancakes instead of sugar before anyone could warn him off, he maintained it still tasted good but I'm fairly sure he lied

3. Jim's failed attempt at dealing cards: he was so tired he managed to deal himself and Joe twice the number anyone else got.

Finally, I think everyone who attended would like to wholeheartedly thank Eva, Rafal and Nathaniel for making this trip happen; it really was amazing and has definitely set the standards of both organisational excellence and undergraduate stupidity for coming years.



The Polish army's secret weapon

Green Week 2009

Green Week is the Union's annual sustainability awareness campaign which encourages students and staff of the College to adopt more sustainable practices at university and at home. This year we'll be focusing on a few key topics, including the impact the food and clothing industries have on the environment, meeting our growing energy demands and encouraging people to get digging!

The week isn't about preaching, but rather enthusing everyone to get involved and make a difference. While it might feel that as an individual you won't have much of an impact, multiply your efforts by 20,000 to match the number of people in the College community and we're talking big numbers! During the week we'll be encouraging people to sign up to the national 10:10 campaign which is an individual commitment to reduce your personal carbon emissions

during the year 2010 by 10% while providing more information about the College's own targets for the upcoming years. We'll be tying up the week with a finale in the Union with live bands and other acts.

Above all the week should be fun- we'd love to see you at some of our events!

Highlights include:

- Meat-Free Monday
- Digging for Victory workshop
- Energy Forum
- Climate Change and Health
- Make do and mend workshop
- Flash Mob and more....

Green Week is just the start of a number of initiatives by the College and the Union this year. As the UK and 191 other countries prepare to send delegates to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, millions

of people across the globe will be anxiously discussing possible outcomes and urging their country's representatives to take meaningful and timely action on Climate Change. We have the science to prove that our actions are responsible for the observed changes in our global climate- now we need politicians and individuals to follow up with firm policy. We'll also be attending the national demonstration on the 5th of December in anticipation of the Copenhagen summit.

For more information about the events during Green Week and other sustainable initiatives at Imperial visit: imperialcollegeunion.org/green

Look out for the Green edition of Felix which will be coming out next week!



Green Week 2009

23-27 November

imperialcollegeunion.org/green

Battle of the Bands!

After the success of the Battle for the Ball, where we witnessed great Imperial bands fight it out for the chance to play at the Summer Ball before the headliner Athlete, we are running the Union Battle of the Bands. But we need you and your bands to compete!

If you are interested in appearing in the competition you need to send an email to m.macpherson@imperial.ac.uk with the subject line "Battle of the Bands" and details of your website or myspace with examples of your music. Good luck!



Real Ales
from
£1.50-£2.00
a pint!

SATURDAY 14TH
NOVEMBER

INCLUDING HOG
ROAST AND
TRADITIONAL
ENTERTAINMENTS

CITY & GUILDS COLLEGE UNION
Beer Festival 2009

★ENTRY ONLY £5★

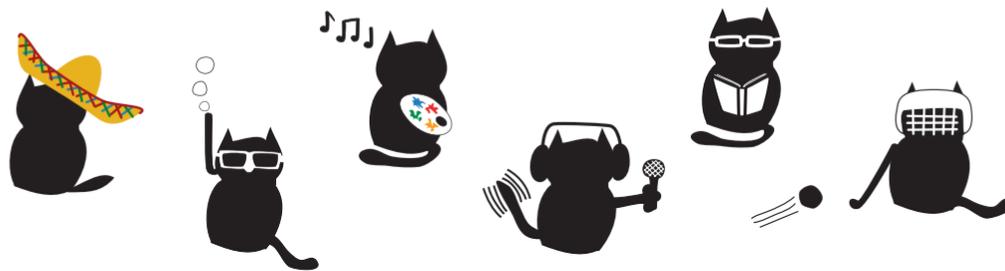
FREE COMMEMORATIVE PINT GLASS
TANKARD WITH FIRST 500 TICKETS

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Mon 16th Nov

CSSA and PPS

- Asia Series 2 – The Political Unrest in Thailand (Free)
- 6pm, Elec Eng room 509
- Talk by Danny Richards (Thailand affairs expert from Economist Intelligence Unit) & Natalie Bennett (Editor of Guardian Weekly)



Tues 17th Nov

Christian Union

- Impact discussion: "Thou shalt not have fun - Isn't Christianity a straitjacket?"
- 12pm, Union Dining Hall (Free)
- Lunch and drinks provided!

Chocolate Society - Valrhona Evening

- 5pm, SAF G67
- Try five different types of Valrhona dark chocolate... yum..!
- £2 non-members, free for members

Weds 18th Nov

Polish Society – "Decades of Solidarity"

- 8pm, SAF G34 (Free!)
- Wine reception
- Talk by Wiktor Mszczynski on "Solidarnosc" movement in UK
- Watch & discuss "Fall of the Empire" film
- Exhibition in SAF Foyer throughout the week



Thurs 19th Nov

Polish Society – "Decades of Solidarity" exhibition

- All day, SAF Foyer

Model UN – Nuclear Proliferation Simulation

- 6-7.30pm, Pippard LT, Sherfield
- Free for all!

Law Society

- College of Law taster lecture
- 7pm, Meeting Room 2, East Basement, Beit
- Free for all!

Fri 20th Nov

Polish Society – "Decades of Solidarity" exhibition

- All day, SAF Foyer

Boxing Society - London Mayor's Cup

- See the best up and coming boxers in action...live!
- Porchester Hall, W2 5HS
- Tickets £15, email boxing@imperial.ac.uk for more details



To Do...

- 1) Buy dark chocolate
- 2) Email whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) by end of **Tues 17th Nov.**
- 3) Work...hmm...

CAT-NIP

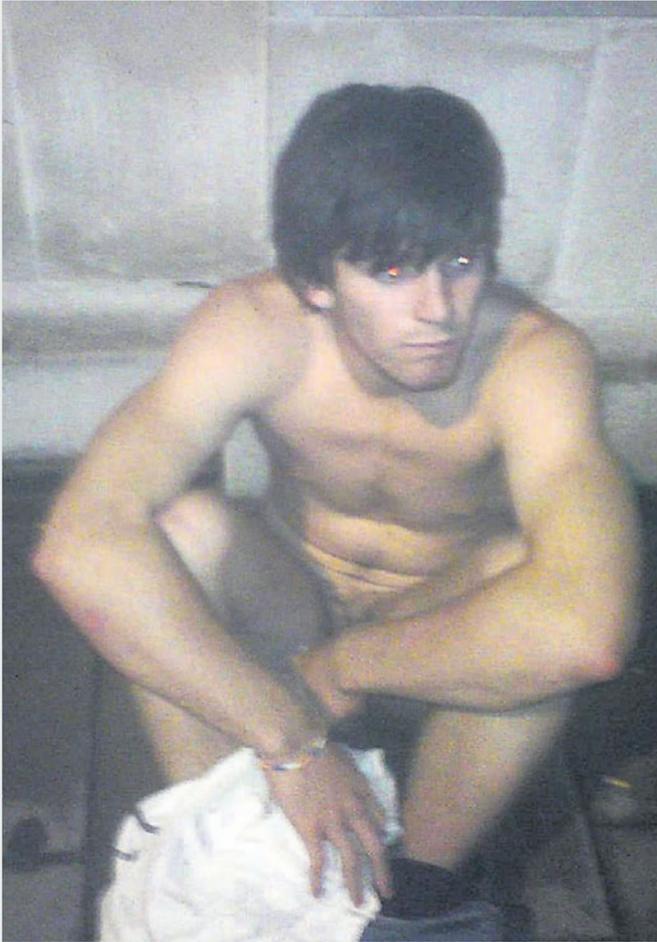
Text in to 07832670472

Email in at catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Drop us a message at felixonline.co.uk



Drunken-mate photo of the week



This guy was trying to prove that taxis don't give receipts. We're not sure how exactly...



This cheery fellow looks like a lobster...on fire. Still, it's an achievement to get sunburnt in November...

Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Well, get your camera out and email your drunken-mate photos to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Senders must have permission to use for submitted photos and accept full responsibility for them

Reggae reggae, BBQ or ketchup on chips?

bbq, obv

Alexandra Ashford

Vinegar.

Marcus Shephard

how is reggae reggae already up there with ketchup and bbq sauce? There are many much more well established sauces. Hollandaise, for instance, is one of my personal favourites

Alistair Garner

Personally, you can't beat a bit of foie gras on wedges. Sure, it's expensive but you can make a real cheap substitute with some pigeons and a lead pipe. Mmm, bludgeony!

Anonymous

**NEXT WEEK'S
CATNIP QUESTION:
WHAT'S THE RANKEST
MEAL YOU'VE EVER
HAD TO EAT?**

EMAIL TO

catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

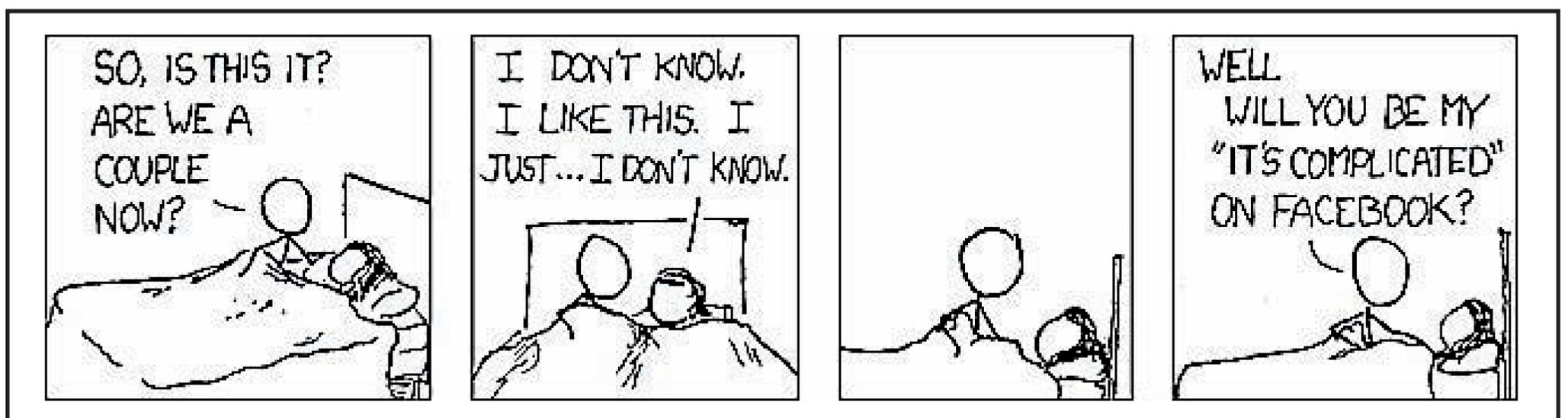
FACEBOOK

it on our 'Felix' fan page

TEXT US

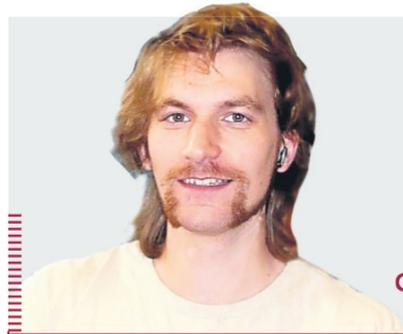
on 07832670472

xkcd.com



COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



I've been brutally raped

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

For those of you who don't know me, me and my hair have a special relationship. It can be likened to the relationship between a girlfriend and your mother- if they are not spoken of in the same sentence then everything is deemed fine. It's not that I don't like my hair, more that I just couldn't give a shit. It grows, I was it and it grows. Whatever I seem to do, I look like a nonce, and when I finally get it cut I get a cold head. Your classic lose-lose situation.

However this week I decided that it was about time for a trim, so took myself down to South Kensington with the hope that by the time I return I'd have the hair of Beckham. Not to be, as the hairdressers was closed. Not the be defeated, and now feeling like a lion after its prey I ventured to Gloucester Road and strode into the first one I found. Despite the fact that I have (*he looks like a girl- ed*) flowing locks that any female would be proud of, access to the premises was denied. Apparently they only cut the hair of the fairer sex. Bastards. I made sure I didn't make my mistake at my next stop, walked in and

asked the woman if "she could lop all this off?". Apparently she could, which was good. Now, I may be acting a little harsh on the girl, but that was the brief. When asked if I wanted the clippers, or if she should taper it, what did she really expect? Seriously love, if I come out with less hair than I what I came in with it's pretty much job done. Yet the barrage of questions was unstoppable, surely after the first few grunts and blank looks she'd understand?

Well moving onto the whole 'hair-dressing experience'. What and experience! I cannot possibly fathom as to how it can ever be classified as enjoyable. What with the inane chitter chatter about Lola- who the fuck is Lola? and the hair dryer constantly blasting hot air in my face, I was almost ready to just call it a day and bail. As my long suffering ex-girlfriend will tell you, hair dryers and I don't get on that well- all that hot air in my face... it's not for me really. So when I grimace at the first jet stream, please don't do it again, any why do it right at the very end just before I leave? Since when did the hair-dressers become a torture chamber? I feel, abused and brutally head raped!

Stuff Imperial students like:

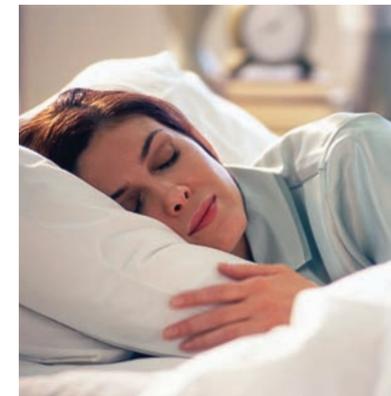
6. Sleep:

Since coming to Imperial, we all have found a new penchant for a good long nap. Not since I was a small child have I ever had such a desire for an afternoon nap, or not being able to make it through the day without one!

In fact, I believe that it should be actively encouraged to nap through any 9am lectures that you may have and doze through the 10am

ones. If you've been up partying/ nailing many chicks into the small hours of the morning you get pretty tired. We all know that you can't work tired, so a quick power nap and boom, you're back up to 100% working capacity.

However be warned, this is not something that I recommend you should do in as exam for the fear of the dreaded over-sleep. This may hamper your chances of a first.



She'd defiantly get it long and deep

This week's best of lol catz



Quote of the Week

James F. Byrnes: "Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death."

Wordoku 1,444

						N	
N			E	O		A	;
				A	G		B
)			B		N	A
	A		;)		G	
B		N		A			;
E		O)				
G	N		E	;			D
	B						

Solution 1443

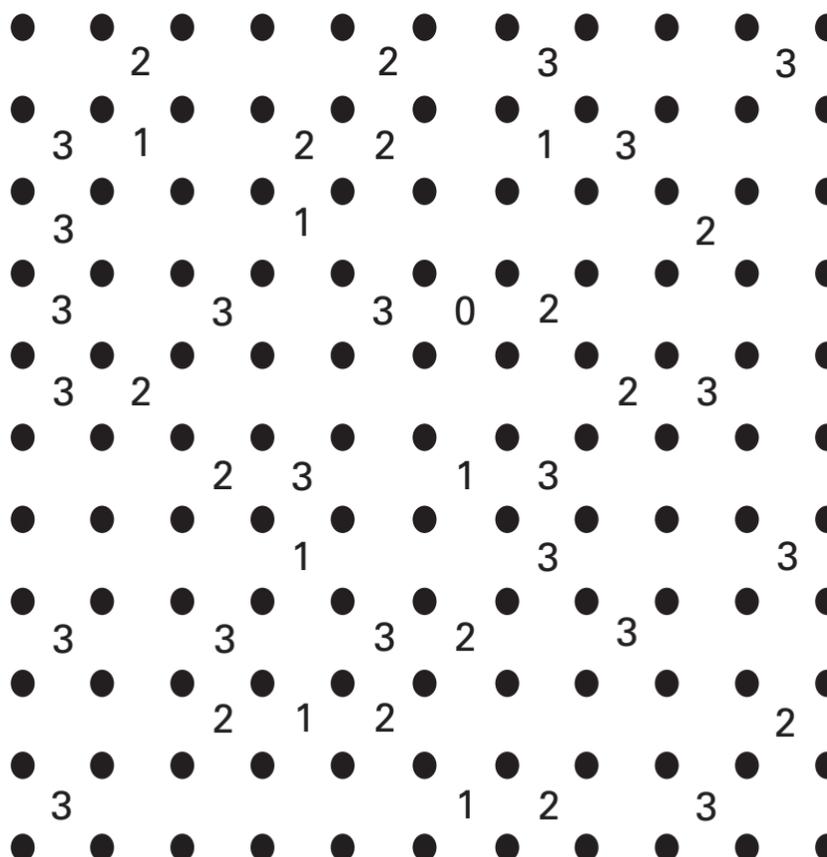
E	O	G	D	U	R	S	N	A
S	D	N	A	G	O	U	E	R
A	R	U	N	S	E	O	G	D
U	A	D	G	O	S	N	R	E
G	N	R	E	A	U	D	S	O
O	E	S	R	D	N	G	A	U
D	S	E	O	R	G	A	U	N
N	G	O	U	E	A	R	D	S
R	U	A	S	N	D	E	O	G

How to play:

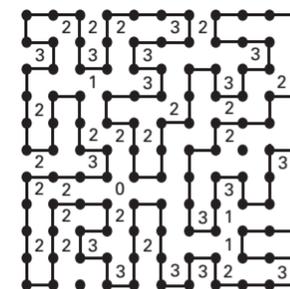
Wordoku is identical to Sudoku; we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

Scribble box

Slitherlink 1,444



Solution 1443



Again, Matthew Colvin took the line and dotted chequered flag at great speed. Keep sending in these correct answers to keep us happy as Larry. Or else all will kick off, and you don't want to see that.

How to play:

It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number of 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.

Aunty McPickle says all your problems are real. Oh dear

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I finally met someone who I enjoyed being on a date with and the evening went really well. We spent the night together at his. In the morning he had to get up for work and left before I woke up. I had breakfast and then went to the loo. Of course I had to do a number 2 and much to my horror couldn't get rid of it. I flushed and flushed. Eventually I resorted to putting it into a carrier bag to take with me and then dispose of. I left a note on the work top to say how much I had enjoyed the night before and was looking forward to seeing him again and hurried out of the door.

As soon I had shut the front door, I had a pretty upsetting realisation: I'd left the carrier bag by the note on the work top. I now have only 3 hours until he'll get back. HELP!

Carrie Gab

Dear Carrie,

Ok, you need to act swiftly. Call him and say that you forgot something at his house and that you need it desperately. Then wait outside the door until he gets back. As soon as he does, run upstairs, grab the bag and discreetly stuff it in your pocket. Then rapidly make haste



It's an entirely normal solution to a massive turd and a weak-pressured toilet. Pick it up and put it in a bag. You're not a fucking dog, love! Maybe you are.....

for the door and try to pass it off as normally as possible. Hopefully the smell won't be too bad. Good luck.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

One of my best friends has a really embarrassing habit. Whenever he is pondering something, he scratches his balls, which makes a flappy wet sound and then he sniffs his fingers.

I am pretty sure he has noticed my horrified expression but doesn't seem to stop him. Please help me out as I have no idea

what I should do?

Tess Tickles

Dear Tess,

This does seem to be quite coddly condendrum and which may take some fishing for a solution. I believe that he might be sniffing his own smeg, otherwise known as willy cheese. Some people might associate this smell with success and it can relieve stress. How about sniffing his fingers, maybe it just smells really good. You could give him an exaggerated look of disgust or just socially shun him for a while. It might be nicer to just bring up the next time

he does it but be sure to remain at arms length.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

Last week me and my girlfriend were enjoying a cosmical sexual session and reached for some lubrication. The room was dark and two tubes lay at our disposal. One was the desired KY jelly and the other was some super glue, left over from my model plane making kit.

We were soon stuck in a very sticky situation which involved a humili-

ating trip to A&E and some very intimate doctor hands. I know have some of her parts left on me and on her. Can it ever be the same?

Louis Ligase

Dear Louis,

This is as cliché as it comes, Louis! I would have loved to see the sight of you two waddling down Fulham Road to Chelsea & Westminster A&E. It would be an idea to keep super glue away from bedroom area, especially when embarking on the love journey.

Aunty McPickle xxx

20 kegs of free alcohol! Intrigued? Well, read on...

Q: What are the two things Imperial students love most?

A: Free alcohol and dressing up like twats! If you answered stochastic differential equations and solving Sudoku, then quit reading and get a life.

This Wednesday, RAG is taking over the Union, fancy dress style! The theme will be ANYTHING starting with R, A or G.

All you Rambo, Angel or Gollum etc wannabees throw your textbooks aside

and head over to the Union for our Sports Night! Only £6 will get you unlimited alcohol until we run out (£8 if you're lame and don't dress up).

As always, ALL profits go to our chosen charities; it won't get rid of your headache the next day, but it sure will make it worth it!

On another note, we still have some vacant Tube collection permits, so if you're interested then pop us an e-mail at rag@ic.ac.uk..



ANDY PANDA

ANDYPANDA.CO.UK



Tennis coast to Success

Continued from back page

that "the team played their best match of the season and the good work by our coach Phil Jakeman on doubles play is really paying off". He also gave particular praise to Pierre saying "the Brighton number 2 was the strongest player and Pierre played a great match to come back and win".

Overall a very satisfying win and let's hope they can maintain their winning form for the rest of the season. Next week we're up against UCL 2nds away!

Also, the tennis club has exclusive access to tickets for the ATP World Tour Finals – the end of year Grand Slam event! It will be held for the first time ever at the O2 arena from November 22nd -29th. If you are interested in tickets for the semi-final or final (all of which are now sold out!!) please email lawn.tennis@ic.ac.uk.



Rodger Federer winds up for another ACE

Handball in need of improvement

Continued from Back Page

the deadlock with a precise throw from 9 metres, which sparked more hope amongst the Eagles. Thanks to some excellent defending by Romain Henry and Ivan Prnja, Imperial extended their lead and looked to be in for a good result in their Development League debut. Unfortunately, the team was unable to make their counter attacks count and with Warwick's strong half-wing slowly warming up, firing a few shots past Imperials seemingly helpless goalkeeper the half time score was not in our favour.

After an elaborate analysis of the repetitive attacking pattern displayed by Warwick, we managed to come back strong after half time. Our top scorer Kolja Ortmann added a few to his tally and with Ruben Freytag man marking the only player that posed a threat to Stefan Bauer's goal, the Eagles were in for the fight.

However, with only one substitute

available in a game that allows unlimited substitutions, it was always going to be the last minutes, that will decide on who is going home with the 2 points on the league table.

Still being 4 goals down with only a few minutes to go, the Imperial Eagles had to go all-or-nothing in defence to force quick turnovers and hope to be more clinical with their counter attacks, but luck was not on our side. Despite the very encouraging performances by David Müller-Wiesner and Michael Capper in their first ever Handball game, Warwick broke our defence on a few occasions thereby securing their victory.

In spite of the result, the team can be very pleased with their overall performance after merely 3 training sessions in the term so far. Plenty of team spirit has been displayed and some impressive attacking combinations have been shown and I will look forward to reporting the teams' first victory of the season in the near future.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 7th November

Football (ULU)

Men's 25
SOAS 15

Men's 35
LSE 35

Men's 45
St Barts 25

Men's 65
King's College 55

Sunday 8th November

Football (ULU)

Women's 15
St George's 15

Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 15
Royal Holloway Mixed 25

Monday 9th November

Netball (ULU)

Women's 35
Royal Veterinary College 35

Tuesday 10th November

Squash (ULU)

Women's 15
Imperial College Medicals 15

Wednesday 11th November

Badminton

Men's 1st
University of Kent 1st

Women's 1st
University of Chichester 1st

Fencing

Men's 2nd
University of Surrey 1st

Men's 3rd	115	Queen Mary 1st	121
Men's 1st	4	University of Surrey 1st	3
Men's 2nd	3	University of Greenwich 3rd	1
Men's 3rd	0	University of the Arts London 3rd	5
Women's 1st	0	Roehampton University 1st	3

ULU

Men's 75
St George's 35

Hockey

Men's 1st
St Mary's University College 1st

Men's 2nd
King's College 2nd

Men's 3rd
University of Reading 4th

Women's 1st
University of Reading 1st

Women's 2nd
Imperial College Medicals 2nd

ULU

Men's 55
Royal School of Mines 15

Lacrosse

Men's 1st
Royal Holloway 1st

Women's 1st
University of Portsmouth 1st

134
93

Netball

Women's 1st
LSE 1st

Women's 2nd
Roehampton University 2nd

Women's 3rd
City University London 1st

Rugby

Men's 1st
University of Portsmouth Men's 1st

Squash

Men's 4th
University of Surrey 2nd

Table Tennis

Men's 1st
University of Kent 1st

Tennis

Women's 1st
LSE 1st

Men's 1st
UCL 2nd

Saturday 14th November

Football (ULU)

Men's 55 vs UCL 55
Men's 75 vs Goldsmiths 35

Vase

Men's 65 vs Royal Veterinary College 25

Monday 16th November

Badminton (ULU)

Challenge Cup
Badminton Mixed 15 vs SOAS 15

Basketball (ULU)

Men's 15 vs King's College 15
Women's 15 vs UCL 15

Men's 25 vs UCL 25

Netball (ULU)

Women's 15 vs RUMS 15
Women's 25 vs King's College 45
Women's 35 vs LSE 45
Women's 45 vs SOAS 15

Squash (ULU)

Men's 15 vs UCL 15
Men's 25 vs LSE 15
Men's 35 vs St George's 15
Men's 45 vs LSE 45
Women's 15 vs St George's 15

Volleyball (ULU)

Mixed 15 vs UCL 15

Water Polo (ULU)

Mixed 15 vs King's College 15

Wednesday 18th November

Badminton

Men's 1st vs King's College 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church 1st

Basketball (BUCS Cup)

Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church 1st

Fencing

Women's 2nd vs University of Sussex 1st

Football

BUCS Cup
Men's 1st vs London South Bank University 2nd
Men's 2nd vs London South Bank University 3rd
Men's 3rd vs University of Essex 1st
Women's 1st vs St George's 1st

ULU

Men's 45 vs St Bart's 25
Men's 55 vs Queen Mary 35
Men's 65 vs Goldsmiths 25
Men's 75 vs RSM 15

Golf

Golf 1st vs University of Essex 1st

Hockey

Men's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 3rd

ULU

Women's 25 vs Imperial College Medicals 25

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st
Women's 1st vs King's College 1st

Netball (BUCS Cup)

Women's 1st vs Brunel 4th
Women's 3rd vs University of Brighton 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs King's College Medicals 1st
Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 3rd

BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs UCL 1st
Men's 4th vs LSE 2nd

Squash

Men's 2nd vs UCL 1st
Men's 4th vs University of Surrey 2nd
Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 2nd

BUCS Promotion Play-off

Men's 1st vs Leeds Metropolitan Carnegie 1st

BUCS Cup

Men's 3rd vs University of Reading 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs UCL 1st

Tennis

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

BUCS Cup

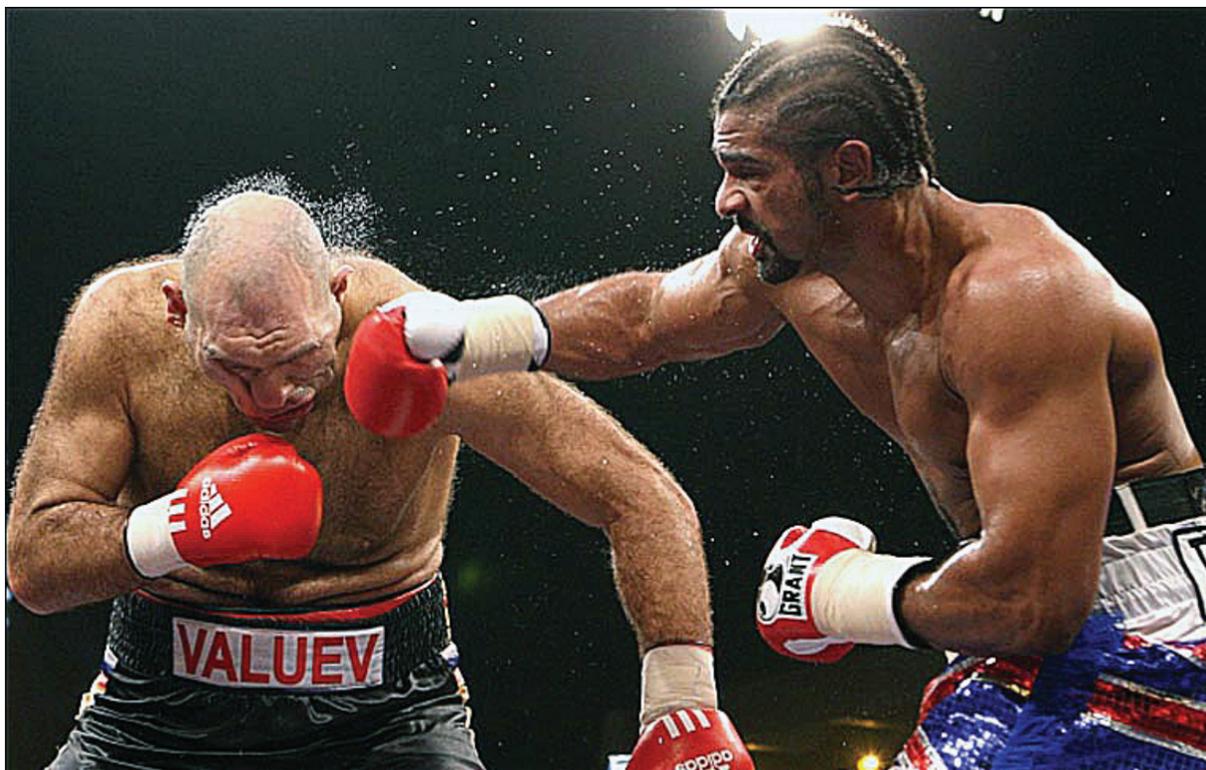
Men's 2nd vs Royal Veterinary College 1st

The Haye-maker hits home

David Wilson Sports Editor

Bigger is not always better. This point was proved perfectly by Britain's new WBA heavyweight champion David Haye in Nuremberg on Saturday night when he beat the gigantic Nikolai Valuev on a majority points decision. In victory Haye became the first British Heavyweight champion since Lennox Lewis who retired in 2003 and he has already got his sights set on one of the Klitschko brothers Vitali and Wladimir who hold the other World heavyweight titles. Any unification fight will however; have to wait primarily for Haye's right hand to heal from a suspected fracture sustained during the Vauev fight. Secondly Haye will need to successfully negotiate a mandatory defence of his title against former champion John Ruiz.

Haye himself has publicly stated throughout the build up to the fight and indeed this week after winning the title that he has dreamt of becoming the heavyweight champion since he was a little boy. However, his coronation some may feel is slightly overdue: Haye established himself as an explosive power puncher in the cruiserweight division, the weight below heavyweight. He won 18 from 19 contests with seventeen victories coming through knocking his opponent out. At this stage in his career Haye had yet to win a world title and cement himself as a big player in the cruiserweight division. Despite this he stepped up to heavyweight for his next fight in April 2007 where he destroyed Tomasz Bonin within one round proving he could transfer his destructive punching up to the heavier weight division. Even this commanding victory was not enough to appease some critics who thought that to prove he was the best cruiserweight in the division, Haye needed to fight the French cruiserweight world champion; Jean-Marc Mormeck. Not a man to shy away from the challenge, Haye fought Mormeck in France picking himself off the canvas after being knocked down to defeat the champion in the seventh round, proving himself to be a world class fighter. One final fight at cruiserweight followed against the Welshman Enzo Maccarinelli. Maccarinelli was knocked out in the second round following a barrage of punches from Haye. Before last Saturday's fight against Valuev Haye had fought just once more at heavyweight almost a year ago, beating former



The Haymaker lands another direct shot to the face of the 'Goliath' Valuev

heavyweight hopeful Monte Barrat. Since then a fight with the aforementioned Vitali Klitschko fell through and a fight with Wladimir in June this year had to be cancelled as Haye injured his back whilst training. So to say that David Haye has had to bide his time before becoming become heavyweight champion is somewhat of an understatement.

Before Saturday's fight Haye talked himself up insisting he would knock out the 7ft 2", 23 stone Valuev, who in all 52 previous fights had never been properly shaken. Throughout the build up Haye goaded the champion calling him a 'circus freak', taking a pop at Valuev's hygiene and comically decapitating a cardboard cut out of the big Russian at a press conference. Haye oozes confidence, he will never enter the ring thinking that anything but a victory for him is possible, and this is exactly the attitude that a boxer needs. His confidence and the ways in which Haye can sometimes act such as his brashness and swagger shown before this fight have, for some people, made him a difficult character to like. Like him or not but David Haye is exactly the character that is needed to spark some much needed life into what has been, for recent years, a dormant and boring division both in the ring and out. Haye is an articulate and confident young man

oh, and he has proved he can box a bit too, at 29 years old he is a spring chicken of the heavyweight ranks. He talks the talk and backs it up with victories, his pre fight antics are reminiscent of Ali while his power, although not as devastating is a throwback to Tyson's one punch knock outs. His ambition is to become the undisputed heavyweight champion and retire by the age of 31. It remains to be seen if this will remain a realistic aspiration as too many boxers retire but cannot live without the ring and return to fight as a shadow of their former selves with George Foreman, Larry Holmes and Mike Tyson being prime examples. However this week it has been reported that Haye could earn around £72million from a showdown with a Klitschko brother in America, getting up to train is always harder when you sleep in silk sheets.

Haye entered the ring on Saturday seven stone lighter and almost a foot shorter than his Russian opponent. Valuev is a spectacle his entrance to the ring was just comical though especially the sight of his diminutive trainer, Alexander Zimin, scurrying behind him. Haye's camp were decked out in blue shirts which symbolised the fight plan for the night. This was the first sign that Haye was bluffing when he had claimed he was going to knock out the champion as the team wore

red shirts the night Maccarinelli was beaten in what was always going to be a quick fight. Haye fought a perfect fight in the 10,000 seat arena using slick speed to move in and out, landing consistent punches and using the whole ring space evading the lumbering champion. Valuev seemed glued to the centre of the ring, few shots he threw landed due to Haye's elusiveness. Haye was no doubt the better boxer of the two with his work rate and boxing ability superior to that of the champion; however whether he was being 'busy' enough to get the decision from the judges was not a full gone conclusion. Haye finished in the twelfth round with a flourish wobbling the giant Russian with a crunching left hand but both boxers remained standing as the round finished. As is the Haye way he celebrated enthusiastically confident he was the new champion. After an anxious wait for the judges' scorecards to be collected Haye won on a majority decision with two scores of 116-112 in his favour and the third judge scoring a 114-114 draw.

Haye now has numerous commitments to attend to as the new champion before he can start training for his next fight in the New Year. Congratulations on a well deserved victory, David D Haye, WBA heavyweight world champion.

Vital away win for the 1st XI

Mustapher Botchway Sports Editor

OLIVER WYMAN

Imperial College Men's 1st XI	4
University of Surrey 1st XI	3

A distinctly average start to the BUCS (league) season for the Football Club's 1st XI was something captain Mustapher Botchway wanted to put behind him. After a performance deemed as "Not good enough and not to the level required to gain" the half-expected promotion, last week against Chichester, Wednesday's trip to the University of Surrey became the third 'biggest game of the season' in a row.

Though an average start has been made, the quality of football played by 1st XI has at times been of the quality to fight for promotion into the 2nd South Eastern division. The 'imperialitis' of falling apart in the second half has resulted in leads being reduced to draws and closely fought games ending in narrow losses.

To this fact, Botchway decided to adopt narrow midfield formation with wing-backs Theocharis Tofis and Gavin Graham having the freedom to use the flanks. Within 10 minutes of the start, fresher Nathan Ferrol continued his hot-streak of scoring in every game he has played in with a cool finish to the goalkeeper's near post, after jinking past the Surrey right back.

Just before the twenty minute mark, Surrey had equalised after a loose ball rebounded off Botchway and fell fortunately to the Surrey centre midfielder who slotted it into the empty net.

A well worked free-kick by Romain Chauvet fell to debutante Tim Lunn whose header was stabbed in by Leslie Eshun on the rebound. Lax defending of a set piece led the ball falling to the Surrey midfielder who finished it well in to the bottom corner.

The score 2 a-piece at half time, and the new formation working well, the team were encouraged to increase the work-rate and improve communication to ensure consolidation on their first-half domination of possession.

A miss-kick by the Imperial captain gifted Surrey a goal to go 3-2 up before the 55 minute mark.

The outfield players responded strongly to this increase in pressure and after impressive composure from the centre backs Tom Fryatt and Pat McMullen, along with midfielder and debutante, Jon Hill led to a counter-attack which fell to Eshun who lifted the ball over the out-running goalkeeper to equalise 15 minutes from time.

The reversal in momentum in Imperial's favour was rewarded when Eshun completed his second hat-trick of the season after reacting well to knock in the rebound off his first shot, 7 minutes from time.

A vital away win for the 1st XI now restores our aims for this season and will put them in good spirits for next week's BUCS Cup 2nd round match against London South Bank University.

Road to Victory - How Haye's got to the Title Fight

Tomasz Bonin

27.04.2007



Jean-Marc Mormeck

10.11.2007



Enzo Maccarinelli

08.03.2008



Monte Barrett

15.11.2008



IC Men cause a racket in Brighton

Rebecca Smith

Tennis

The men's team fought through sun, wind and rain to crush Brighton 10-0. The afternoon started with the doubles. Despite admitting to not being the greatest of doubles players, both Imperial pairs came through strongly against their opponents.

Our first pair consisting of skipper Pio, and Frenchman Pierre, had a close match. Even at 7-7, the Imperial boys kicked up a gear to take the match 9-7. Second pair Avinash and fresher Adam made quick work of their opponents to win 8-4. A special mention must go to Avinash whose volleys during the match would have put Pistol Pete's (i.e. Sampras) to shame.

For the first time this season, the Imperial lads were 2-0 up before the singles started – a position which they will hopefully be familiar with by the end of the season. Adam and Avinash,

playing at 3 and 4 won comfortably, 6-0 6-0 and 6-0 6-1 respectively.

Our esteemed captain Pio (playing at 1) was back in form taking the first set 6-2 and at 5-3, 40-0 up in the second, victory seemed inevitable. However, a good passage of play from his Brighton opponent, and missing a volley that he could have made in his sleep, put the score back to 5-5. He quickly bounced back to take the match in style 6-2, 7-5.

Pierre had a tough singles, the Frenchman struggled to break down his very classy opponent in the 1st set, losing it 5-7. However, a short rain delay at 1-1 in the second set allowed Pierre to regroup and reconsider his game plan.

Once the clouds had passed, Pierre jumped back onto the court to take the following 2 sets 6-2 and 6-3.

Our Brighton-born club president, Robert Bush, currently injured, agreed

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Imperial Eagles still learning to fly

Stefan Bauer Handball

Imperial College	0
Warwick University	4

Last weekend marked the start of the Handball Division 2 and also the first time Imperial College has ever been represented in a national Handball League.

Thanks to the coaching support from Marc Fayemi, captain of our partner team, we had the opportunity to play a test match against some very experienced Handball players on Friday and get some last-minute advice

Despite the fact that we were only 14 hours away from the start of the first League game, we managed to tackle the difficult issue of playing with two line players and worked hard on our defence.

Motivated by our good performance the day before, the Imperial Eagles ventured to Leyton to face Warwick University for the second time, after beating them to 5th place in last year's University Championships.

The game started off rather slowly, but after a few hesitations in attack our team captain, Roberto Galli, broke

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