



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,448

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Ahead of his guest lecture on libel reform, *felix* asks about his current lawsuit, see page 5



Students in the race for \$90,000

Raz Jabary News Reporter

At midnight on the 2nd December 2009, students from Imperial's Civil Engineering Department saw themselves as winners of a \$15,000 donation from JP Morgan. The prize money was won in an online competition on the bank's website and will be handed over to the charity El Salvador Project.

Over the summer, a group of Imperial Civil Engineers travelled halfway around the world to the small but troublesome country of El Salvador to help with the design and construction of houses that are earthquake resistant.

Part of the venture was financed by a \$25,000 donation from JP Morgan, which four student representatives of the charity were able to win in a competition in New York in April 2009, making a very worthy presentation to the bank's board of judges.

Having beaten competitors from amongst others Harvard and Stanford universities back then, the Project was again able to do outstandingly by out-voting big favourites Playpumps International in the recently won online competition. It puts the total funding to the Project by JP Morgan at \$40,000 so far and gives hope for securing a further \$50,000 by May 2010, when the final deadline of the online voting will be enforced.

Students in Skempton were able to breathe a sigh of relief when the first deadline was passed and the El Salvador Project was leading with a 56% majority, competing against five other charities from around the world. An overwhelming 20,000 votes were cast on the JP Morgan website.

Julian Bommer, Professor of Earthquake Risk Assessment, said: "Playpumps [International] is a heavily funded charity and needed the support far less than the El Salvador Project does".



Adam Yang, Feroza Kassam, Raz Jabary and Mohammad Mahbub (l-r) plan a monumental shopping trip to Morrisons in April 2009.

The team has received support from throughout College. Neil Tsang, Lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department, said: "I read the announcement of the win with great interest. Good work to the students. This amount of money is not easy to get under the current economic climate".

The donation is considered a particularly welcoming gesture after the recent landslides that struck El Salvador and left at least 192 dead.

The disaster is recorded to have swiped out entire towns and left tens of thousands of people homeless.

Currently, the El Salvador Project team, preparing to travel out to the troubled spots this coming summer is awaiting word from NGO REDES about which unfortunate town hit by the floods will be brought fortune upon by receiving the physical aid work from the Imperial Civil Engineers.

The campaign to acquire the most number of votes saw calls being sent to

all Imperial Engineering faculty members, urging them to go online and tick the El Salvador Project in for the grand financial contribution.

The 'Give-it-Away' competition by JP Morgan is a major initiative by the bank to enhance its image of social responsibility and shine light on its preparedness to make charity donations. The voting is still open on their website and anyone is eligible to vote until May next year.

Michael Davis, Chairman of the Project also passed on his congratulations to the team.

"Well done to all those involved and for the way the win was coordinated," he said.

Workers from the Reconstruction and Development Organization of El Salvador (REDES), which works closely with Imperial's El Salvador Project, were reportedly delighted to hear the news of the recent win of the prize money.

The world beyond College walls

Denmark

The United Nations Climate Change Conference opened on the 7th of December in Copenhagen, Denmark.

It is expected that representatives of 192 countries will attend the summit, which will last until December 14th. Amongst these are several heads of state, including American President Barack Obama and Chinese Premier

Wen Jiabao. Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen said in his opening statement that the summit is an 'opportunity the world cannot afford to miss'.

The European Union, which is keen to see countries committing themselves to cuts, has already pledged to reduce its own greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 1990 levels if an accord is reached, and 20% otherwise. In contrast the United States has offered to reduce its own emissions by 17% below 2005 levels (which amounts to a mere 1.3% below 1990 levels). Big developing country polluters, including China and India, have promised to reduce their carbon intensity (CO2 emissions per unit of GDP), but both expect their total emissions to continue rising. The process of reaching an agreement will be highly politicised, and few experts believe a global, binding solution will be reached at the summit.



United States

Virgin Atlantic unveiled the first commercial passenger spaceship in California's Mojave Desert on Monday, in a ceremony attended by the Governors of both California and New Mexico.

Already, over 300 individuals have booked a place aboard SpaceShipTwo, which will take passengers to a maximum height of 110 kilometres on a two hour round trip, of which only 6 minutes will be in zero-gravity. For the privilege, they are prepared to pay \$200,000 (£121,000). The spaceship is built from lightweight carbon composite materials and powered by a hybrid rocket motor.

So far, only 450 people have ever been into space, but Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic enterprise is hoping to surpass that number within just one year of its first flight. They are not expected for another 18 months however, as both SpaceShipTwo and its carrier must undergo extensive tests before being fully operational. A futuristic-looking spaceport with a 3000 meter long runway is also under construction in New Mexico to host SpaceShipTwo and its successors.

Japan

The Japanese government has announced another stimulus plan worth ¥7.2 trillion (£48 billion), which will be directed towards reducing unemployment and helping the environment.

The stimulus is designed to prevent Japan from slipping back into a recession, after the country's economy grew for the second straight quarter between July and September. The return of deflation however has sparked fears growth could stall. Furthermore, the strong yen has been hampering Japan's many exporters.

The deal, which was delayed by a week after a tiny but vocal coalition partner in the newly elected Democratic party-led government demanded more generous spending, will include ¥3.5 trillion of new spending. Of this, approximately ¥800 billion will be directed towards environmentally related policies, and ¥600 billion will be used for promoting employment.

By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor

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The Christmas issue of felix was brought to you by:

Editor-in-Chief
Dan Dingle Bells Wan

Deputy Editor
Madame Shubber

Deputy Editor
Gilead Ahh...mittens

Copy Chief
Sasha Nicolet-her-in

News Editor
Kadhim Hubba Hubba

Business Editor
Seen-him Ataherian

Travel Editor
Dyldo for Xmas Lowe
Olivia Davies

Puzzles Commodores
Sean Farres
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Science Editors
The B-atkins Diet
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Indy Le-bank-clercq

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Technology Editor
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Photography
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Guilds President to step down

Kadhim Shubber News Editor

The City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) has had a difficult time this Autumn. It came under attack for the disorganisation surrounding its Masquerade Ball in October and was undermined when serious conflicts between the President Kirsty Patterson and Treasurer Rikki Norris became public.

The Union which represents engineering students is facing yet more turmoil as President Kirsty Patterson is likely to be forced to resign by the end of this term.

The situation has arisen due to an uncertainty regarding Ms Patterson's registration as a student at Imperial. Miss Patterson formerly a 4th year Geology Masters student, was encouraged by her department to graduate immediately with a BSci instead of continuing her studies this year. Ms Patterson will begin a Masters course in the next academic year.

Although she has not yet formally been de-registered as a student, several reliable sources have made it clear to *felix* that it is all but inevitable.

Union President Ashley Brown commented, "I'm confident the operations of the CGCU will not be affected by the



CGCU President Kirsty Patterson (far right) at the ill-fated Masquerade Ball

changeover, but we'll try to give them any support they need."

However her likely departure has already had an impact as plans for a CGCU Beer festival in the Spring have been shelved.

Likely candidates for the post include Guilds Chairman Dan Lundy and Treasurer Rikki Norris.

Mr Lundy offered his thanks to Ms Patterson for her time in office, and

welcomed any future involvement with the CGCU.

He said "On behalf of the CGCU Executive committee we would like to thank Kirsty for her great effort this term in taking the Guilds forwards. It is a shame she cannot continue in this role but we wish her all the best and hope she will still contribute from a non-executive position throughout the rest of the year."

Lord Browne discusses HE with President Brown

On the 9th November, the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance was launched. This review, led by Lord John Browne will make recommendations to the Government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students.

On Monday, ICU President Ashley Brown attended the launch of the first call for evidence for the Independent Review, involving a round-table session with Lord Browne and two other members of the panel: Professor Julia King, Vice Chancellor of Aston Uni-

versity (and former principal of the Faculty of Engineering at Imperial), and Rajay Naik.

Despite "very little notice" of the event, representatives from other Lon-



Union President Ashley Brown blogged on the Union website that he had met Lord Browne at the Government's launch of a HE Review

don institutions were present including UCL, LSE, King's and ULU.

Topics covered ranged from the impact of fees on university choices to views on the proposed "food labelling" system for university quality. This system, proposed by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, will flag up teaching hours, career prospects and seminar frequency giving students more choice allowing them to act as paying consumers.

Despite the session being "very brief", Ashley Brown wrote on his Blog that "there would be many other opportunities to provide evidence to the review, something we'll be making use of".

Ex-Editor banned from Union as *felix* celebrates 60 years



13 past editors united; the dinner's organiser Jovan Nedic (second from right, top row) was banned from the Union as the night's proceedings wound down

Joanna Cai & Dan Wan

Around fifty past and present contributors of *felix* came together at the Union Dining Hall on Saturday 6th December for a special dinner to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Imperial College student newspaper. The night ended sourly as organiser Jovan Nedic ended up being banned from the Union with immediate effect by dinner guest and Union President Ashley Brown.

The evening began with a reception at the Union bar which was a great opportunity for multiple generations of *felix* editors and writers to share stories of their experience at the paper and at Imperial College. A tour of the *felix* office was conducted by the current team for those who had not seen it since they left which in some cases, had been a matter of decades.

For some of these guests especially, the change in the office was bewildering. David Cooper, who was the Editor-in-Chief of *felix* 40 years ago, later remarked in his toast during dinner how different the office looked from his days at *felix*.

The rest of the evening was enjoyed over a three-course dinner at the Union Dining Hall, during which speeches were given, including those by Dan Wan and Jovan Nedic. The first guest

speaker of the evening, Imperial alumnus and science writer Simon Singh, also recounted his years as a physics undergraduate and RSCU president. Singh went on to share his thoughts on the UK libel laws, before he gives a guest lecture at Imperial this week.

The second guest speaker during dinner was *ex-felix* Editor Pallab Ghosh, who is currently a BBC Science Correspondent. He spoke enthusiastically about his career in science journalism and admitted that working at *felix* gave him a taste of, and ultimately led him towards, becoming a scientific reporter.

A *felix* awards ceremony followed the speeches; each award was presented by Jovan Nedic and bottles of champagne were awarded to the winners of each section.

The event was wrapped up with a photo opportunity, and before we could all say 'cheese', the celebration of 60 years of *felix* had been captured in a photograph.

As the night's proceedings came to an end, tension strings snapped between the Union bar staff, providing drinks throughout the evening, and Nedic. The removal of the unused keg of beer from behind the portable bar sparked off an argument that resulted in an inebriated Nedic berating members of the Union staff behind Da Vinci's bar. He was subsequently banned from the Union for a week without a hearing by a present Ashley Brown.

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IS THIS LUXURY RIGHT?

As critics call for end to luxury for University chiefs, Alex Karapetian investigates the Rector's standing in all of this

University chiefs, namely the Rector of Imperial College (Sir Roy Anderson) and the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge (Alison Richard, who former IC Deputy Rector Sir Leszek Borysiewicz is due to replace, reported on last week), have come under criticism for living rent-free in multi-million pound homes while many other academic staff face job cuts.

The current Rector lives in a £6 million flat on the South Kensington campus while Alison Richard of Cambridge lives in a luxury £3 million seven bedroom suburban lodging. Chiefs have come under fire from critics who ask whether the six figure salaries in addition to the accommodation awarded to the top University positions are justified.

The response given by Universities is that chiefs are often required to entertain guests and prospective donors using their homes, so they are considered work premises. Sally Hunt, general

secretary of the University and College Union argues "staff faced with losing their job being asked to accept a real-terms pay cut and teaching more and more students will, understandably, be less than impressed at vice-chancellors' lavish lifestyles."

She continued, "they do not inhabit



Sir Roy Anderson's flat on Queen's Gate is said to be worth £6 million, and he is the second highest paid University chief in the UK.

anything like the same world as their staff. Thanks to inflation-busting pay rises in recent years, an incredible 71 of them now earn more than the Prime Minister."

The academic pay in Universities rose faster than the national average in 2007-2008, with turnovers matching those of major businesses. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), average UK academics earned salaries of around £43,486, while the average professor earned £69,870. Imperial has applied about 150 job cuts in medicine and languages. The vice-chancellor of Sheffield University earns £219,000 and is required to live in a four bedroom villa called the Croft, worth £950,000. Sheffield also plans cuts of 340 jobs.

A report on University standards was issued by Phil Willis MP, whose committee said "I do not believe that, given the remuneration of vice-chancellors, there is a need to have expensive private accommodation, although it may be different if the building is historically attached to the University." Imperial's response is that "leading a global University is not a nine-to-five job. The flat is part of a larger residence used for a wide range of academic and commer-

cial purposes and includes flats for visiting academics."

Imperial has undertaken major reforms of their academic pay scales, beginning in 2001 under the Rector at the time, Sir Richard Sykes, where the minimum salary for lecturers rose from £20,267 to £28,319 and the mini-

to recruiting, retaining and properly rewarding our high calibre academic staff" The pay reforms continued in 2002 where the minimum for senior lecturers and readers was increased to £35,249, as was the maximum to £43,000. Director of Human Resources at the time, Chris Gosling, said that "these changes continue the roll out of our policy to improve the recruitment and retention of high quality academic staff".

The question which remains to be answered is whether maintaining these six-figure salaries is justified enough to make job cuts elsewhere, and if not, how the job cuts can be justified.

Although critics condemn such high figures for University chiefs, one must consider the competition for recruiting high quality academic staff and the potential deterrence pay cuts may cause.

Furthermore, one ought to consider the effect such a deterrence may have on the internal structure of the University, should the top positions no longer be occupied by the best staff.

£193,970: The average University Chief's salary

£373,000: Sir Roy Anderson's salary

£600,000,000: Annual turnover of Imperial College

mum for professors rose from £39,004 to £45,000. This, he said, was to "retain our position as one of the top research and teaching institutions in the world" by "removing the barriers which exist

"The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation."

Jacob Bronowski, University of Cambridge 1927-1933

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FIGHTING FOR LIBEL REFORM



IN LIGHT OF SIMON SINGH RETURNING TO IMPERIAL TO GIVE A LECTURE ON THE LIBEL LAWS THAT HE IS PERSONALLY EMBROILED IN, **DAN WAN** GIVES AN UPDATE ON HIS CURRENT SITUATION

As Imperial alumnus Simon Singh prepares to return to College to give a guest lecture on the libel laws in science of which he has fallen foul of, the Government have announced the commencement of a working group on libel reform.

Singh announced his support of potential reform to guests of the *felix*'s 60th anniversary dinner last Saturday, and it is obvious to see why.

He is currently awaiting a hearing at the Court of Appeal on the 22nd of February 2010; the British Chiropractic Association are suing him for comments he made in his Guardian column in April 2008. He stands to lose a small fortune if the final verdict does not go his way.

"The decision could go either way. We are still only arguing about the meaning of the article, so we remain a long way from the trial itself and settling the whole matter. I suspect that this libel battle could continue for at least another year," he told *felix*.

Though, even if the final verdict falls in his favour, he himself admits in cases such as his, he is likely to lose a substantial amount of money anyway.

In this way, scientists and journalists have argued that current libel laws in England and Wales are severely stifling the advancement of scientific debate and free speech. In a case with two sides to the argument (as in the majority of scientific or medical discussions), English libel laws have been heavily criticised for encouraging the accused side of responding with defamation or slander lawsuit claims, rather than putting their own argument beyond reproach with relevant scientific evidence.

The formation of the working group, led by Justice Secretary Jack Straw, was announced in the House of Lords. Jack Straw called the current laws of which Simon Singh is suffering "unbalanced" and in need of a "radical change", whilst freedom of speech campaigners are lobbying firm proposals for the upcoming reforms in English libel laws.

Science-specialised journalist, TV producer and author Simon Singh fell victim to the ill-balanced libel laws in April 2008 when he published an article on the Guardian website called



felix and the Royal College of Science Union proudly present:

Simon Singh with a lecture on **Science and the Battle for Free Speech**

6pm, Monday 14th December
Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett Building
FREE (Imperial ID for priority seating)



"Beware the spinal trap." The article was in response to Chiropractic Awareness Week 2008, and condemned the (BCA) for promoting treatments that he claimed were "bogus".

Though he freely admitted chiropractic treatment can help cure localised back problems, he stated there "is not a jot of evidence" for the efficacy of chiropractic treatment with colic, sleeping and feeding problems, frequent ear infections, asthma and prolonged crying.

Subsequently, the BCA filed for libel against Singh, and contended that his comments on the national newspaper's website have "seriously injured its credit and reputation". The BCA made it clear that they are seeking damages from Singh personally, and not from the Guardian.

Though The Guardian initially backed Singh's case as the publisher of his article, they soon pulled out to leave Singh standing in the courts alone.

On Sense for Science's (a charitable trust that promotes fair and balanced debate in science) website, Singh reasoned with The Guardian's decision.

"To a large extent I understand The Guardian's position and its decision," he stated. However, critics of English libel laws claim it is not a situation journalists and authors should have to swallow.

Media groups, as well as individuals defending libel claims, can lose six-figure sums in covering legal costs alone. "No win no fee" rulings are to blame, putting the losing side heavily into the red. Simon Singh has reportedly already had to find £100,000 to just unsuccessfully defend himself in front of Judge David Eady, the UK's leading judge on libel and slander issues, in a preliminary hearing at the Courts of Justice in May 2009. The damages awarded to the successful party in such a case as the BCA vs. Simon Singh can easily be dwarfed by the legal costs incurred of running the trial. Singh, amongst many others, worries these costs are stifling ability to defend respectable work.

He said: "The current libel laws force many academics and writers to back down on matters that they believe to be accurate; this is simply because they do not have the funds to back their beliefs. Free speech should not depend on whether or not someone is rich or powerful."

During *felix*'s 60th anniversary celebratory dinner, in which Singh was a guest speaker, he endorsed charities dedicating support to fair journalistic freedom of speech, namely English Pen, a British-based international charity that backs persecuted writers. Together with Index on Censorship, an anti-censorship charity, English Pen has released a report outlining suggestions

for the Government's reform working group that is expected to produce the majority of its fruits within the next couple of months.

The report directly relates to the financial imbalance in libel action. They suggest a cap of £10,000 on libel payouts, and drastically minimising legal costs incurred by the losing party. They also suggest a shift of the burden of proof to the claimant. The claimant, the BCA in Singh's case, would first have to actually prove that Singh's comments had "defamed" their reputation before the hearing could continue. It would effectively add an extra layer of protection on the accused, and a fairer trial that would mean both sides of the claim would have to prove something.

The campaigners are also pushing reforms to prevent "libel tourism"; Singh also drew attention to this issue during his short speech this weekend. Current English libel laws are poorly designed so that they allow any publication distributed in the UK to be subject to libel action under English courts, and not the courts of the publication's origin. American newspapers have threatened to stop their limited circulation in London if the native libel laws continue to so heavily favour libel action against them.

"If we don't act we're at risk of becoming a global pariah. There are US States who view English libel law as so damaging to free speech they have passed laws to effectively block the decisions of English judge," said John Kampfner, the CEO of Index on Censorship.

Singh continues to show his unequivocal support for libel reform and the parallel lobbying of proposals.

"Libel reform is now an active issue the politicians are willing to listen and it up to the public to make enough noise to move the issue up the political agenda," he said to *felix*.

There is an air of poignancy as Singh returns to Blackett Lab's Lecture Theatre 1, where he was taught the scientific disciplines he defends today, to present a guest lecture to Imperial students about his own case and most importantly its wider meaning for the English legal fields on Monday 14th December. He stressed the importance of these issues to both current and future scientists.

"I want to explain what is wrong with English libel laws and then address any doubts that people might have about whether or not reform is necessary. I am keen that as many people as possible at Imperial sign the petition for libel reform. As they stand, the libel laws restrict scientific debate, so reforming the libel laws should be an important issue for both staff and students."

The long and winding road to libel reform

19 April 2008 - Simon Singh writes an article in the Guardian questioning the legitimacy of chiropractic treatment. This resulted in the British Chiropractic Association suing him for libel. The Guardian stands by him and covers the cost of the lengthy lawsuit.

7 May 2009 - Preliminary hearing takes place in the Royal Courts of Justice, the judge holds that Singh's article accuses the BCA of knowingly being dishonest. Singh denies this interpretation and points out that his case is now very difficult to fight.

14 October 2009 Singh is allowed leave to give him time to appeal. Speculation is generating as to how this will affect the right of freedom of speech in criticising alternative.

29 November 2009 20,000 people have signed a petition started by the charity 'Sense about Science' who issued the following statement: "The English law of libel has no place in scientific disputes about evidence."

14 December 2009 Simon Singh comes back to Imperial College, where he studied, to give a talk about his case and the surrounding issues.



Katya-yani Vyas

COMMENT

Comment Editor Ravi Pall
comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Honeymoon period? There wasn't one

Dan Wan Editor-in-Chief



All I bloody hear is the clock ticking. We all know what that sounds like, and we all know what the stabbing sounds of each second, 'tick' or 'tock', means. Time is slipping away, and there's just about nothing we can do to stop it (short from building a DeLorean and taking a joyride with Marty McFly).

A third of my time as Editor has meandered by and well, the realisation has upset me. When the first issue of the year came out, I was happily wearing a wife-beater outside and complaining to the Union that the air conditioning down in the *felix* office was on the blink. This week I wore five different layers to keep warm, and now I'm complaining that the heating's on the blink. Winter makes me moody, and since I'm unduly missing even more daylight (well, technically not because there's actually less of it in winter months, but we'll let that slip), I have every reason to be.

Don't fret though, everything in be-

tween those wife-beater-wearing days and now have been wonderful. We've released and published 11 issues, each of which struck a new chord of delight in my brain, and hopefully yours too. I've managed to turn unwelcoming panic, circa. early October, into a stressful confidence that allows the paper to go to print on time each week.

Aside from a Fresher being mugged straight after the Mingle (the poor little thing), our first big story was that the Faculty Unions had lost an unfunny ball-sack load of money on their formal first term events. On the backdrop of this, we exposed the first cracks in the City and Guilds College Union; internal squabbling ensued in public, and even more so in private I'd assume.

Their committee got themselves into a bit of a jumble, and a united front was the last thing anyone saw. Even in Council meetings, their senior committee members were arguing with each other across the room. I tried to stifle my bad case of I-told-you-so coughs,

but I just couldn't.

With the news this week that their President, Kirsty Patterson, is stepping down at the end of term due to academic and registration reasons, it is safe to say there is relief within the Guilds camp. Not explicitly because she is leaving, but because of the fiascos that her time in office has seen. A new leader is on the horizon, and my bets are on Rikki Norris. He's settled nicely in the Union this term, and I feel he'll jump at the chance to put Kirsty's debatable wrongs right.

However, as a proud Scientist, I am glad to see the return of mascotry, even if it did involve the solid blame laid upon me for losing about a third of Theta, the Royal College of Science's 86kg metal mascot.

Talking of exiting leaders, Sir Roy Anderson, The Rector, announcing his resignation really sent the office into overdrive. The sudden announcement and surrounding hearsay gave the impression there was something more than

"I believe that the staff and students deserve the full story. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we shall have exactly that."

what the College and Sir Roy presented to us. Something is certainly rotten in the state of Imperial College.

They may think we're foolish enough to believe their reasons at face-value, but I believe that the staff and students deserve the full story. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we shall have exactly that. No promises though; College are understandably tight-lipped about the issue.

Onto less suspicious happenings; *felix* celebrated its 60th anniversary. The team compiled a special celebra-

tory issue and special thanks must go to Carlos Karingal, our Layout Editor for producing the spectacular wrap that was a modified reproduction of the very first issue of *felix*. We also had a (rather drunken) dinner where we united thirteen past editors in the Union Dining Hall. Ex-*felix* Editor Pallab Ghosh entertained us with an after-dinner speech alongside ex-*felix* writer Simon Singh.

It was a lovely end to this term, and I've got Christmas and New Year's to look forward to. I will be leaving London for the first time in about six months and will be rocking up the pubs of Dublin, Eastbourne, and Leeds. Desperation sets in when your only escape from Central London is the mouldy M25-shouldered town of Watford.

My three 'holiday' destinations are hardly exotic either, but you try cruising the Carribean on a salary you've effectively pumped entirely back behind the Union bar.

Andreas Hadjivasilou odds were good



"Most people have never heard of the new president... That is most British people"



It may have come to your attention that in the last month something rather unique happened. I am not referring to the rather wonderful weather but the appointment of two 'unknowns' as the president and high representative of the EU. Appointment rather than election as no votes were cast? I always thought voting was the positive control for polling. What has struck me though in the last few weeks and indeed the run up to this whole event has been the media interest in it all.

The need to whirl up some news and fill the never ending comment pages of the internet blogs and opinion pages has led many to musing on the possible candidates for these positions. Once again it is interesting that anytime there is anything to do with anyone being chosen the media seem to designate a favourites list and give us a 5 line biography for each one of the supposed chosen ones. Of course even from the start of such articles it is nev-

er left to your own thoughts who might be the current favourite. Journalists tend to give us halfwits a rather clear tip as to who the favourite is. Usually it is something along the lines of 'The frontrunner' or score system. Gold stars are my preferred rating system. You always seem to know where you are with a gold star. The fact that none of you or me had any influence on the whole selection process just adds to the need to rate them in the first place. It is a warm and safe feeling knowing that the guy with 5 gold stars who was 'The frontrunner' got the job. It keeps order in the world, whichever one you may currently reside in.

The true interest this time round however lies not in telling you who might actually be getting the post but rather the fact that we, otherwise known as the Great British People, have a good chance of getting one of our own in on the job. Some guy called Tony apparently. Not sure if you have heard of him but the rest of Europe

seem to. In any case Tony did not get to be president which is probably what he wanted from the start. What is surprising is the fact that a large number of people in this country seem to feel that despite being more Eurosceptic than the average Russian ultranationalist, we should have one of our own in one of the new posts created by the Lisbon Treaty. The same country that seems to revile the thought of the evil Brussels bureaucratic monster that straightens our cucumbers and hides our Victorian light bulbs is all too ready to assume right and claim the most senior post created by a treaty most of us have not actually read or understood beyond the words United States of Europe. This expectancy is both intriguing and quite frankly utterly strange. Why chase the position that your people do not seem to appreciate, be interested in or even properly understand?

In the end Armageddon, or in European terms, having to waste a perfectly

good dinner deciding who should get which job, was averted by as it now seems a decision making process that involved eliminating the obvious candidates and plumping for the ones that would have the least impact in the job. Most people have never heard of the new president and high representative. That is most British people. I would like to assume most Belgians have heard of their soon to be ex prime minister. Maybe not, after all politicians do seem to be both expendable and infinite. But we still got one of the positions. Except it seems because our winner, I mean, appointee, is not some kind of political celebrity it was a bit of a waste. Shame, I am sure we were all looking forward to some Euro glitz. It will have to wait I guess.

As the week has gone on though it seems that the esteemed forces that govern us, astrology aside, have already decided that the presidents job specification is vacant. and therefore he will be a simple ornament and the

high representative is the true one with all the power. Time for a quick change of tact. Lets all swing behind the High Representative (I have even heard she is British!) Oh but it seems she cannot cope with the job. Something about not having a clue about what the job is or how to actually do it apparently is not attractive.

In this way it comes to bear that the final and most lasting piece of this whole affair has been the choice of two people who are capable of many things but will get license to do none. A fine dinner here, a great conference there but at the end of the day the people calling the shots, making the cars stop and having the real say are not the two appointed ones but the 27 elected ones. So it is back to square one, only this time there are some people in this far away magic land called Brussels, which can be blamed for even more of our own elected politicians failures and misdemeanours. I sense some Euroscepticism coming on...

Rhys Davies wishes you a merry Christmas



"A friend had to point out to me that I was sitting inches away from Keira Knightley dressed in naught but a bowler



I love Christmas! It's hard to say what exactly I love about it but I'll give it a shot. Christmas shopping is an experience in itself. I was on Oxford Street on the weekend – it was like another world. Even though they had closed the roads for the shoppers, there were still people steadfastly using the crossings, even going so far as to wait for the green man. And inside the shops, it got even worse/better! With the population of a small country on each floor, we moved not as a group of people but as one large amorphous being, with shop assistants gently herding us towards the shinier and more expensive products. When pressed intimately between an eight-year-old screaming for the latest lego set and a grandmother from Essex searching for the perfectly stitched teddy bear, myself laden with toys, gifts, clothes and

a cornucopia of chocolate, I really felt one with humanity. The connection was as much spiritual as it was physical. One caveat to this; never ever go to Hamleys. However, shopping was my secondary objective on Oxford Street; I really went to see the Christmas lights. Upon leaving the Underground station, my eyes turned heavenwards to the glittering displays of light and decoration suspended above the masses. They were magical, simply magical, and yet they serve the same purpose as the simple tinsel and fairy lights that adorn houses across the country. Maybe it's because I (like many an Imperial student) have a mental age measured in single digits but just the sight of those twinkling lights and displays is enough to lift even the most moribund of spirits. Adverts confuse me though. Long

ago, a primordial ad-agency made the twin discoveries that people buy things that they like, and that a lot of people like naked women. Thus the strategy developed that if you have a product to sell, you must drape it over a scantily-clad vixen (or vice-versa). But this has gone on for so long now that I find myself largely desensitised to it all. A friend had to point out to me that I was sitting inches away from Keira Knightley dressed in naught but a bowler hat – I honestly hadn't noticed. Conversely, it only takes a few seconds of those M&S food adverts to set me all aflame. I don't know if it's the decadently thick chocolate sauce or the seductive tone of the voice-over but those adverts effortlessly get my salivary (among others) glands going. As a result, I tend to look for women based not on the contents of their bra but their cookbook... which can get a bit awkward after a few

bottles of mulled wine and a DVD of Love Actually. And after the shopping comes the wrapping! The joy I get out of meticulously measuring out lengths of gaudy yet diaphanous paper and enfolded it in the strangest of shapes is only eclipsed by that which I feel on Christmas morn when I can, with primal abandon, rip it to shreds in a youthful effort to free the presents from their ephemeral prisons. I'm right in saying that the wrapping is half the present. I've known many a child who, when presented with the latest Nintendo-box-station-360, has ignored it for a good hour or more whilst held enraptured by the 99p wrapping paper it came in. And don't get me started on all the ribbons and accessories! Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat – but it's not the only one! Christmas has a fine selection of

foods particular to the season. Sumptuous mince pies, warm from the oven, heartily washed down with a glass or two of mulled wine, all to warm the belly...and the heart. And then there's the Christmas Dinner. It doesn't matter how lean a family lives for the rest of year, or how many relatives come to visit, it is a fact of life that there will be so much food prepared that there'll be turkey sandwiches for all well into January. But what I really like about Christmas is that for a small portion of the year, people go out of their way to think about others and do something nice for them. And I like to think this is what the guy who started the whole thing off was trying to get at, some two thousand years ago. So, may I wish you all a Merry Christmas (or a Happy Winter Solstice, if you prefer) and a Happy New Year!

"What a crock of shit."

Dan Wan, *felix* Editor

"I'd rather listen to Barry Manilow than read felix"

Sasha Nicoletti, Copy Chief

"I'm ashamed to be a part of such an embarrassment"

Carlos Karingal, Layout Editor

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Angry Geek asks the Sabbs what the f*ck they do



"Like a bucket full of vomit perched on a unicycle... bile spraying everywhere"



I like to think of myself as a reasonable man. I like to think that I can be depended on to make the responsible choice when it comes down to it, and that I speak my truth qui-oh wait. No, sorry, let me start again.

I like to think of myself as an inherently unreasonable bastard. I like to think that I largely cannot be relied on at all, and that anyone who's stupid enough to do so will end up disappointed and possibly barred from entering the US and its protectorates. I just want to establish that before we go any further, in case there's any accusations of holier-than-thouness. I'm a bitter, sociopathic twat.

But, you see, I'm not in a position of responsibility. I'm a student, and an anonymous commenter on a small student paper. I don't get asked for interviews with G2, I don't get letters from ten year-olds saying they want to be like me when they grow up, and above all else, I'm not being paid to

do anything in particular. I can basically do whatever I like and not feel all that bad about it, because no-one takes much notice.

So I take a pretty dim view of student politics. In all my many/few years at Imperial the only sabbaticals I've ever had any respect for have been the *felix* editors; other than that, the other political positions at Imperial are like flypaper for morons. Flypaper made out of large salary cheques, coincidentally. The problem with student politics is that whilst the argument for its existence is so strong - you need students deciding certain things, like what goes into *felix* or what we do in Freshers' Week - the actual usefulness of the positions rarely extends beyond the few tiny examples that are used to justify their existence.

So it boils down to two flavours of people - the backbiting incompetents, and the dullards. In the dullard corner, we've got the sort of people who elect themselves to look after finances, or

'welfare'. These are the people who run informal team-building exercises like they're the entrance exam for the fucking Delta Force. And in the incompetent corner, we've got... well, you know the sort. Like a bucket full of vomit perched on a unicycle; clumsy and unstable, and every time there's a slip up you get bile spraying everywhere.

Best not to think too hard about that one. The point is that a lot of the work these people do does not need to be done by a student. When you put these tasks into a job description, it attracts the kind of person who wants to do that sort of job. And unfortunately, that class of person is a tosspot.

Here's a neat example for you. On November 16th, the Student Council convened and received reports from the Sabbatical officers. These reports contained several 'joke' passages which the Sabbs claim were to test if anyone reads their reports. You may not remember this story - this is because it is entirely useless and devoid

of any interesting content whatsoever. It made the news pages of CGCU site Live!, though, and there was the usual muted bitching in the comment thread for it. But no-one took any notice, and no-one's complained about it. Why? Because it's about as interesting as a dinner date with a marine biologist.

Let's take another one. Not that I'm singling anyone out here, but when certain CGCU officers royally fucked up the situation regarding their ball earlier this term, there were clear examples of atrocious leadership and decision-making, as well as a neat round of pass-the-buck with everyone for the event. But the stupidity came to a peak when Kirsty Patterson responded to a page full of criticism in *felix* with a fucking poem. It's a good poem, don't get me wrong. I like poetry, and I like that one. But you can't pay for bail with an impromptu session of interpretive dance, and you can't dismiss allegations of fuckwittery with a poem.

But the really great bit is that every-

one let her get away with it. You know why? Because we were too busy reading Hangman that week in *felix*. No-one gives a toss, whether these people succeed or fail.

I'm not saying that's a good thing. I'm saying it's a sign that the current system doesn't work. And so we come back to the only branch of the Union worth bothering with - this fine organ you hold in your hands right now. Next term, I'll be holding the Angry Geek Idol once again, where I encourage you all to write a comment piece on week to win cash money. If you want to make a contribution to the student body, then write here. Because this is where it happens, this is where people communicate ideas and talk about what needs to be done.

And that's all I've got to say on that. Expecting a big festive themed comment piece for the final issue of term? Go submit a complaint to the Student Council about it. Merry fucking humbug, everyone.

Imperial Hitch thinks you're undersexed



"Looking for the right man or just 30 minutes of fun? The odds are good, but the good are odd"



Freshers, I am very sorry to inform you that if you came to Imperial looking for promiscuity and an abundance of girls you have come to the wrong place. As for you girls looking for the right man or just 30 minutes of fun (most of us men like to brag, but in reality we can't really even last that amount of time) the odds are good, but the good are odd.

Now I've scared you and got your attention. I am happy to inform all you students reading the *felix*, thinking this paper needs to be sexed up, that I am here to do exactly this. Some of you may call it a sex and the city column,

I call it a column that gets you ready for the weekend ahead (you know what I mean). But for this I need your help, I need you to write to me with all your problems, that doesn't mean work related or soppy stuff about missing home. I mean gritty stuff, page turning stories or even a little need for advice. But don't worry, I mention no names.

Anyway back to you freshers, and where better to start than Medics. Yes that elusive group of people that stick together and you rarely see in halls. They have stories of "tapes" on the internet, activities in the back of lecture theaters and at all of the medic bops. Medicine along with Biology are the

two subjects here that have a pretty even split in the sexes, and if you are ever so lucky to be at a medic bop then you may notice how many are gorgeous. I can hear you all thinking, yes a solution to my unforced celibacy, an intelligent, good looking girl to get with. Well if you are thinking this STOP. As I have mentioned medics stick together and gossip like nothing else, after a first date the entire of ICM would know, your size down there, favorite position and all your hidden little secrets. Trust me I know. Plus they are workaholics and you know "their course is sooo hard" (bullshit, try EEE or JMC), so you would be the second most impor-

tant thing after their course. Vent over.

So what to do? If you're a boy, then the odds are against you. I can see it now, 10 boys running in panic to crowd around the nearest good looking girl, all trying to get her number. Don't, you'll only scare her away, as my girlfriend says don't be clingy (I just call myself a romantic). If you're a girl then it is very good or very bad, all depending upon your personal standards. Don't let those standards fall, there are a few of us charming, good looking, single men. John Mansir perhaps, or Mr Smith (he knows who he is). They're gonna get me for that mention.

One piece of advice tho boys, a first date, first kiss and first time tell a girl everything she needs to know. So you better push the boat out.

I bet you're all thinking, who am I and why am I telling you these horrible truths? The answer is, do you really think I'm going to tell you all? I'd invoke a world of embarrassment on myself. I will tell you though, I've been here long enough and dated enough to know a little. Plus I may be the only boy to have watched every episode of sex and the city; and no, that doesn't mean I'm gay, I just know what you lot need to do. Think of me as a friendly, advice giving hitch like character.



Christmas hopes for future goodwill

Rory Fenton on his recent teaching experience with some of Kenya's poorest children on a Catholic mission

We are some of the luckiest people on this planet. We really do have it all; education, healthcare, security, democracy and, in the case of the author, astounding good looks. Never is this clearer than at Christmas; each year I get crap presents. I'm sure we all do. Gadgets that break, games that get boring and iPods that are capable of playing James bloody Blunt (it's the mere fact that at some stage they could go all whiney and high pitched that leaves one viewing them with suspicion). The problem is this; there's always so little we really need.

Yet there are so many on this earth who really go without, for whom Christmas Day means very little indeed. 26,000 children will die on the 25th of December this year of entirely preventable diseases. Nothing special about that, of course; the same number will die today, tomorrow and on Box-

ing Day. Half of the world's population lives on about one pound fifty a day. That certainly doesn't go far in South Kensington, and with a family to feed, house to keep and schools to pay, this doesn't go all that far in say, Africa either.

I had the privilege of spending a month last summer with some of the world's forgotten poor in the north of Kenya. I couldn't tell you the average income there, as goats were the main currency, but what I do know is that if it weren't for the World Food Fund's packages of maize, the people would starve and, even with it, the children have large, malnutrition-induced bellies.

But even here, some days were special for the children. I carried with me a whole tree worth of pencils, as I was to teach at the nursery, and every so often the children were allowed to use them (they had to return them, of course). I doubt in any Christmas that I've experienced, from as a child up to

now, was I as excited as those children when they got their one pencil each, on loan, from mwalim (teacher). They would literally shake with excitement. This was cute, moving perhaps. But it was also wrong.

Children shouldn't be excited by pencils or by paper. They shouldn't walk naked or half naked around a desert, pulling thorns out of their little feet. They shouldn't die of cholera and diarrhoea (1.8 million each and every year). So let's sort it out. Flood them with pencils and paper, wells and vaccinations. Spoil them!

This Christmas, consider something like an Oxfam Unwrapped gift, which you can find on Google. Ask for them, give them. Anything from a 'School Books' present for £8 to a whole 'School Library' for £400. There's a really huge range and it makes a real difference. Who knows, perhaps next year I'll be writing an article on how spoiled these kids are in Kenya. Super Nanny mightn't approve, but that's the dream.



Although Kenya is not amongst the poorest countries, poverty still exists

An alternative to cash aid-loans to spark enterprise

Hassan Jouidi

Ali is a car mechanic in Lebanon, Shamsaddin raises cattle on his farm in Azerbaijan and Judith owns a catering business in Peru where she cooks for weddings. All three are examples of entrepreneurs in a developing country. www.Kiva.org is a website that allows you to support Ali, Shamsaddin, Judith and others like them not by donating, but by lending them money.

The concept, known as micro-loans, is not new ever since Muhammad Yunus set up the Grameen bank in 1983 to help alleviate poverty in Bangladesh. What is new and unique about Kiva.org is the P2P (person-to-person) connection between the charitable-feeling web surfer and the loan-seeking entrepreneur. Micro-loans can provide huge economic benefits to a developing or third-world country. This is because they allow local entrepreneurs to start or expand their small businesses, which in turn may create new jobs or new trading opportunities.

Entrepreneurs would not otherwise have this utility because 'proper' loans from a bank demand collateral and a bank account, and are only available for far bigger sums. The average loan size entrepreneurs seek through Kiva is about \$400 (£240). Sustainability is embedded into the concept of micro-loans, as once their business has grown and they have repaid the money, the individual entrepreneur has a greater capacity to support themselves and their family. Relying less on charity like food aid and hand-outs is undoubtedly empowering, and there is more satisfaction and dignity in a community that can stand on its own feet.



Kiva.org co-founder Jessica Flannery with one of many entrepreneur recipients of the website's microfinancing support

Kiva.org works directly in the field by partnering with local Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs), organisations that operate on the ground, physically disbursing the cash to the entrepreneur, and collecting payments according to an agreed schedule. Kiva.org carefully selects these field partners to ensure they are trustworthy and reliable. Moreover micro-loans have a benevolent nature. Most MFIs are non-profit organisations whose raison d'être is usually community development or creating employment opportunities, unlike banks which lend money with the primary purpose of making a profit. Every month Kiva.org posts up the profiles of new entrepreneurs seeking loans using information they receive from the MFIs. Web surfers can select entrepreneurs they wish to sup-

port and lend them \$25 (roughly £16 at current exchange rates) or higher. Thus several lenders from Kiva.org's online community of over half-a-million users will contribute to a loan. Of course the risk associated with lending money, that the borrower cannot repay fully, can never be eliminated, but the repayment rate of all loans made through Kiva.org is roughly 98%.

The MFI already agrees a repayment schedule beforehand with the entrepreneur, which usually consists of monthly payments over a period of a year or longer. However one criticism levelled on Kiva.org is the high interest rates entrepreneurs that are charged by the field partners, often 30% or 35% on the original loan sum. Kiva.org justifies this by explaining that the nature of micro-lending is expensive. A high-

street bank in Britain can simply process forms and transfer sums between bank accounts for say a £10,000 business loan, while an MFI must have staff walking on foot to disburse and collect a £200 loan for a farmer in a remote village. Another criticism of Kiva.org is its decision in June 2009 to provide loans to US-based entrepreneurs, as the credit crunch has made times tough for American small business owners.

Many in Kiva.org's online community have not welcomed this, arguing that a poor loan-seeking individual in the USA is still significantly better off than one in a developing country. Others argue that if a micro-loan can assist someone in their life, it shouldn't matter whether the beneficiary is in the USA or any other country.

As the entrepreneur makes their repayments, the web surfer will receive their money back; this of course is the difference between Kiva.org and normal charities. The generous web surfer has the option of re-lending to another entrepreneur. This begs the question: Which is more effective at alleviating poverty?

Making a £100 one-off donation, or constantly re-lending a £100 sum to several entrepreneurs? While any economic analysis of this question would be a statistical nightmare, it can at least be said that each form of generosity has its place. Either way you are making a sacrifice out of your own good will, namely losing the ability to spend your £100.

Since its launch in 2005 Kiva.org has fast gained popularity in true Web 2.0 fashion by tapping into the masses. Its co-founders Matt & Jessica Flannery established the website as a U.S.501(c)3 non-profit organization, the US equivalent of being a registered charity, but their online community extends far beyond just the US. They've managed to gain the support of several organisations including PayPal, which has agreed not to charge a fee when processing payments to and from Kiva.org, making it the first organisation to benefit from this exemption.

One definition of philanthropy is the "active effort to promote human welfare", and it comes from the two Greek words that make it up -philos (loving) and anthropos (humankind). There is no one size fits all when it comes to human beings committing charitable or selfless acts, and for many generous web surfers who have joined the Kiva.org online community, lending is the new giving.



Long-awaited results from the LHC

Over a year since the first 'switch-on' and several setbacks later, CERN finally delivers first results from LHC

Kelly Oakes Science Reporter

The LHC has been subject to much media coverage and criticism since it was started up last September only to break down little more than a week later, but the first results from the record-breaking particle accelerator are finally in. Admittedly, nothing earth-shattering has been discovered yet, but the turnaround speed of the paper alone must be a record.

The first collisions took place on Monday 23rd November and since then the twin proton beams have reached an energy of 1.18TeV, smashing the previous record of 0.98TeV. Researchers working on ALICE, one of the six experiments within the LHC, however, took data from some of the very first collisions when the protons were circulating at only 450GeV per beam. They had their paper accepted by the European Journal of Physics just 8 days after the collisions took place. Presumably, most of the paper was already written before the LHC was even fired up, with gaps left to fill the results in when they came.

Before being accepted by the European Journal of Physics, the paper was published online at arXiv.org, an open-access repository for scientific papers not yet published elsewhere. Anyone interested in the paper can read it online, but be warned, you'll have to skip to page 6 to even get to the abstract due to the list of authors (over two pages worth) and involved institutes (more than 100 in total).

In the paper, Aamodt and colleagues describe how some 284 events recorded in the first collisions were used to measure something called the pseudorapidity density of the charged particles. Pseudorapidity is used in particle physics to describe the angle of the particle beam relative to the axis. This may not sound very exciting, but the ALICE collaboration are pleased as the results agree with theory and previous experiments, meaning that the LHC is working well and should provide high quality data to work with when they get to the really interesting stuff.

The first super high energy collisions at the LHC are on track to start in early 2010, and will reach energies of 3.5TeV per beam.



Result: After just eight days, the ALICE team had the data needed to submit a paper to the European Journal of Physics

Can science explain religious belief? Apparently so...

Chengyuan Zhang Science Reporter

Today, the main religions of the world hold the belief that God creates through evolution. What if evolution created our belief in God?

The claim is not as absurd as it sounds. After all, religious belief itself is a massive conundrum. Religious ideas are common to all cultures of the world despite the fact that we can never hope to verify these beliefs. To use an analogy akin to Russell's teapot, if I told you that there was an invisible pink flying elephant called Percy orbiting my head, then the chances are you would not believe me and most people would either ask for proof or attempt to verify my claim.

However, we are persuaded to believe when it comes to stories of supernatural beings walking on water, miracle healings and the power of foresight, which all seem to contradict the laws of science. It has been shown that in times of hardship such as in the aftermath of the Wall Street Crash of 1929, humans are more inclined towards religious belief. So why do we believe?

This is a question which has largely evaded scientific enquiry up until now. Right from the beginning, even Darwin himself skirted around the question in his consideration of natural selection. The fact is that subjecting religious belief to scientific enquiry is very much taboo and always has been. Religious belief has always been a puzzle to



A chicken and egg situation: Is science the cause of our beliefs?

scientists.

When Dawkins' reductionist view on genetics is considered, then some of the values which religion embraces such as altruism and charity would offer no benefit to the individual through the course of evolution. If we are indeed, only vehicles for our selfish genes, then why would our genetic make-up favour acts of one-way altruism. It is seemingly nonsensical.

Many scientists have put forward hypotheses about religious belief. Although, as Stephen Pinker highlights, very few scientists would point to the existence of a 'God gene' or a 'God module' in our brain, many evolutionary biologists are now beginning to view religion in the context of evolution. The idea is that religious belief provides a functional advantage to the individual who believes and thus

increases that individual's chances of surviving and passing on their genes to the next generation. This idea does not appear too far-fetched when you consider the placebo effect in medicine. Studies have suggested that some drugs such as the pre-operative anxiety-relieving drug diazepam do not function unless the patient knows that they are being given it.

Karl Marx has described religion as the 'opiate of the masses'. Indeed, one idea is that religion makes us feel better about our lives and also gives us purpose in life. Religious belief might also allow us to feel as if we have some control over different aspects of the world – after all, this might be where beliefs such as miracle healings stem from. In fact, it has been shown that belief does indeed have physiological effects on the

body, particularly whilst engaging in ritualistic dance, such as the release of cortisone and endorphins by the body, natural painkillers.

This point is reinforced by recent research conducted by EXREL (Explaining Religion) - a research group set up to scientifically investigate the phenomena of religious belief. This group has taken a big step in breaking down the barrier which had for so long made the scientific enquiry of religious belief taboo. As Dr Steve Jones explained in a lecture given on 'Nature vs. Nurture', EXREL uses a term called 'religiosity' to classify a person's willingness to believe. EXREL also utilises fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and PET (positron emission tomography) scans to see which parts of the brain illuminate in religious and non-religious people. An interesting finding is that the levels of dopamine in the brain affect religiosity and people with Parkinson's disease are less inclined towards religious belief.

Furthermore, as the philosopher and sociologist Emile Durkheim argues, religion acts as 'social glue'. It keeps people together and gives people a sense of community and belonging. This would have been particularly useful in the early hunter-gatherer environment or even as primates where sticking together in a tight-knit cohesive group would have conferred an advantage to each individual in the group in terms of survival. When considering evolutionary game theory and the famous prisoner's dilemma, there will be fewer

individuals who defect.

Ludwig Feuerbach may have been right when he argued that "God is a projection of the human mind", but not all scientists agree that religion is an adaptation. Many scientists view religion as a by-product of the evolution of the human brain. Indeed, it is possible to map the different 'phases' of religious belief i.e. the development of religious belief, alongside the development of the human brain through the course of human evolution. Essentially, our brains evolved to fulfil an entirely different function and as a result, religious belief emerged as a by-product. Some scientists feel that it could be linked to our propensity to believe in things we are told as a child. As an example, take red blood cells. The fact that red blood cells are red is a by-product of the evolution of the cells themselves. Red blood cells are red as a result of haemoglobin which is required to carry oxygen in the blood – evolution creating the haemoglobin molecule gave us red blood.

Whilst religion may have been used to subjugate the masses throughout history or as an excuse for a politically-motivated war, such that many people including Dawkins would question the benefits of religion in a modern-day society. Whilst the 'God Delusion' may be the case, belief can be rationally and scientifically explained and it raises the question of whether religious belief is 'the path of least resistance' and whether it is atheism that requires active thought and effort.

Christmas Ball 09

Friday 18 December, 20:00 - 03:00

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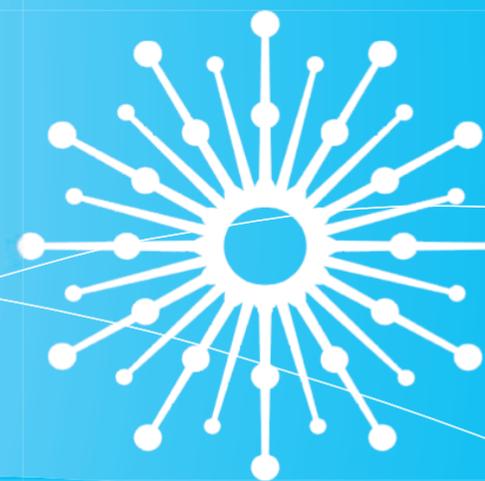
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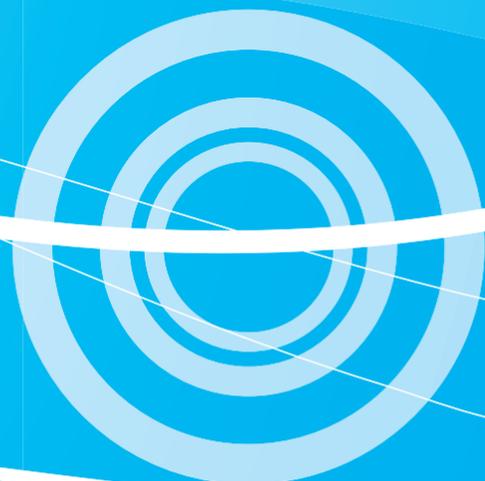
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Copenhagen Conference

Phil Murray Politics Editor

On December 7th began the 11-day 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in the Danish capital, Copenhagen. Although, if that comes as news to you, where have you been for the last few months!

This has been in the press since March, when the UN Climate Science Conference was held for current global research into climate change to be shared and presented to the decision makers.

Since then, news of the 'run up' to Copenhagen has grown, and in the last few weeks there has been a torrent of stories, with many, unfortunately, not looking at the climate issues at all, but on rumour and slander, which will only make those undecided upon whether climate change is happening more sceptical.

The media has a duty to educate the public into the matters that will affect their lives.

This is possibly going to be the most vital decision to our future ever made, and the public need to know what's going on, with accuracy, to be able to pressure their government into making the right decisions. The media has failed in this respect.

Trying to find a news story explaining exactly what is being debated is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. Instead are 'Climategate' stories – spin on hacking at East Anglia Climatic Research Unit, and the like.

I guess here at Imperial, we are open-minded enough to listen and think through media bullshit to believe that climate change is happening, whether it be due to Nature, Man or a mixture of both. But whatever the cause, we're in trouble and we have to sort this out. Lets hope so anyway. Although at times I do wonder... Outside these walls is a wide world, where that doesn't always happen.

On Tuesday 8th, I attended a lecture / debate at the Royal Society of Chemistry titled 'Chemistry, Energy & Climate Change'. I won't go into the presentation as I'm sure you can guess its contents, but what sticks in my mind is that during the debate after the lecture, someone asked, and I quote, "There was a time, before oil was laid down millions of years ago, that all that carbon was in the atmosphere. What's wrong with putting it back there?"

Fail.

Now, this being the RSC, he was laughed at, but in the general public, this kind of thing is quite common, with something like half of the public still unsure about whether climate change is happening and whether we need to be worrying about it. Scary that, isn't it...

This conference is the political follow-up to the science conference back in March. We scientists have armed the politicians with the information neces-

sary to save the world; now we need to see if they actually will. The decisions they need to make will be hard and unpopular, but taking the popular, easy way out will be catastrophic.

The main aim of the conference is to agree to a global cut in greenhouse gas emissions, chief among which is CO₂. By how much, is the key issue. There is a lot of optimism going into the conference, with big pledges from countries on their intended cuts. The EU pledges to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, by 2020, the emissions of 1990 levels. Japan by 25%. Australia by 25%, from 2000 emissions levels.

Interestingly, the United States of America has put forward some of the biggest pledges of all. The US did not sign up to the Kyoto Protocol back in 1997 at the 5th UN Climate Change Conference, the agreement to cut emissions by 5.2% by 2012, those of 1990 levels. Without the US, who in 1990 were responsible for 36% of global CO₂ emissions, the Kyoto Protocol was a bit pointless, even though the results are promising.

Now, the US is pledging a 17% reduction by 2020, a 42% reduction by 2030 & an 83% reduction by 2050! That is truly incredible. Let's be honest, Obama is a dude!

One of the main stumbling blocks has been that developing countries argue that development is a very energy-intensive, and therefore emissive, process.

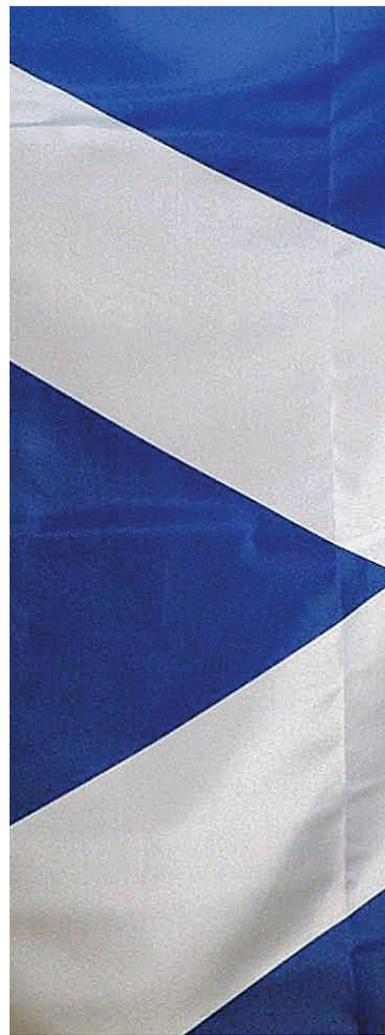
Developed countries have been allowed to say 'to hell with emissions' in the face of development in the past, why now, when it is our turn, are we not allowed to? That's a fair comment I think, but those leaders have to be mature enough to realise that the world has changed, and that is no longer possible.

But there is promise in this field too, as India & China both pledge 20% & 40% cuts respectively in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, from 2005 levels.

The conference finishes on December 18th. Keep a keen eye on the press that day. Wade through all the crap and find out what has been decided. Because that decision will affect your life, your children's lives, and every following generation.

We know now that, whatever is decided in the next week, we will be cutting emissions, and we will have to change the way we live. Realise that we have no other choice. How much we change, we find out then. How much we need to change, I am guessing, is more that what is going to be changed. But then these are politicians we are talking about...

Anyway, all that is left to be said in this final issue of the year is Happy Christmas, and a Wonderful New Year. For those of you with exams next term, and, being Imperial, that's most of us, the very best of luck.



Political Christmas

James Goldsack Politics Editor

Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, Leader of the SNP, has been accused of politicising Christmas.

He has revealed his Christmas card for 2009 which features a picture entitled "A New Journey" by Scottish artist Gerard Burns, portraying a young girl carrying a Saltire (Scottish) flag, looking over a winter scene.

Mr Salmond described the image as "an enchanting and evocative image by a talented artist" and added that "the proceeds from the sale of the canvas will be shared equally between four extremely worthwhile charities, CLIC Sargent, Glasgow the Caring City, J-A-C-K Foundation and Mary's Meals."

Opposition MSPs have accused Mr Salmond of politicising Christmas by using the Saltire in his card.

Scottish Conservative chief whip David McLetchie accused Mr Salmond of being "blind" to reality and having an obsession with independence.

"For the overwhelming majority of Scots, Alex Salmond's so-called 'journey to independence' is a road to nowhere."

The Scottish Liberal Democrats have also criticised the card with the party's chief whip, Mike Rumbles,

adding: "I'm sure people would be more impressed if the first minister had thought about the message of Christmas rather than spent time picking out the most nationalistic Christmas card he could find".

A spokesman for the First Minister dismissed the attacks on the Christmas card from "party poopers", saying: "Messrs McLetchie and Rumbles should lighten up and get with the Christmas spirit. They are obviously badly in need of a festive break".



The Christmas card in question

Think Tanks should think more



Forced labour camps may become part and parcel of being a student in the United Kingdom if these plans go ahead

James Lees Politics Editor

The think tank Demos has called on the government to bring into action a 'civic service'. The idea is that people would be obliged to perform work otherwise thought of as voluntary work such as being a community support officer.

The scheme would be aimed at young people, 18-24 year olds, both those at university and at work or unemployed with the aim of making us all more employable and building a sense of national altruism.

Demos estimated the scheme would cost £450m and could be paid for by increasing the interest rate on student

loans. So not only does this 'think tank' believe we should be forced to do voluntary work, we should also be paying for the privilege.

Not only is this outrageous on principle, it also makes no sense whatsoever financially. The justification for passing the cost of the scheme onto graduates is that Demos have randomly decided that graduates earn £600,000 more over their lifetime than someone with 2 A-levels.

This is just wrong. Until recently the government believed that a graduate could expect to earn in the region of £400,000 more over the course of a lifetime. This figure has since been revised following a report from Lord Browne to a figure much closer to

£100,000, this report having been commissioned as part of an investigation into the state of higher education since the instigation of tuition fees.

Another 'highlight' of the think tank's report was the idea that young people who have not gone to university should be able to take on loans at the favourable rates we receive, though of course they are also required to perform the 100 hours of community service.

In the report, Demos have also suggested that companies would be forced to allow workers a week off to perform the same kind of voluntary work. The report sounds as if it is set on ruining our economy, filling us all with nationalist pride and making everyone feel equal. I suspect a Marxist plot.

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Last arts of the decade

Rosie Milton Arts Editor

Dear Merrymakers, as I am sure you are all eagerly aware, the end of term is fast approaching and the jolly holidays are on their way! Of course I am upbeat for you all, even though I also know this time of year is exhausting! First term nearly out the way, we have all been working hard, and perhaps would benefit from a little bit of festive fun. Something that I think is worth doing: taking a trip around the city Christmas tree spotting! There is a plethora of lit-up and baubled beauties around public squares and in buildings. I would recommend going to the unveiling of Tacita Dean's tree at Tate Britain this Thursday, the design of which as yet has not been disclosed! The tradition

at Tate (for the last 22 years) to provide a Christmas tree has seen a variety of interpretations of the tannenbaum, and hopefully this year will not disappoint! In the meantime, for me 'tis the season for plays and evening trips to the theatre (well at least to the odd musical as well) and my co-editor Caz Knight has seen plenty to share with you this week in her reviews, including a treat of a play to kick off the season's festivities.

This week also features her review of the illustrious Anish Kapoor exhibition at the Royal Academy and also a recital-cum-exhibition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. And now, from all of us at *felix* Arts, 'we wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!' See you next term!

Merry f**king Xmas

The Christmas feeling is a drug... **Caz Knight** reviews hidden gem *The Night Before Christmas* at the Hen and Chicken's Theatre

Up the Victoria Line to Highbury and Islington, then out the tube and down the road and you arrive at a small and cosy pub, with Christmas stockings hanging above the fireplace and lights decorating the festive interior. This is the Hen and Chicken's theatre bar. The theatre itself is tucked up a narrow set of stairs in an even smaller studio space, the setting for the Signal Theatre Company's production of Anthony Neilson's *'The Night Before Christmas'*.

Pulled from his bed on Christmas Eve, Simon is dragged to his friend Gary's warehouse to see what he has found among the boxes of stolen toys and merchandise: an Elf! Rather, an "employee in an international present distribution agency". Trying to convince them that he is, indeed, an Elf

and not a burglar, Simon and Gary learn more and more about the true Christmas spirit (it's a drug sprinkled in the homes of children and only felt by virgins) with things becoming more complicated and more comical upon the arrival of Gary's "scrubber", Cherry, played by producer and co-creator of the Signal Theatre company, Kellie Batchelor.

This short little play is packed full of quick paced dialogue, superb jokes and just the right amount of smutty humour without relying on any of the cheesy slapstick that abounds in most modern comedies. The cast makes a brilliant team with all four performers adding their own spark to the play, acting with energy and quite clearly enjoying every minute of it. Watching the play is so delightful and easy; this is how theatre should be and how it defi-

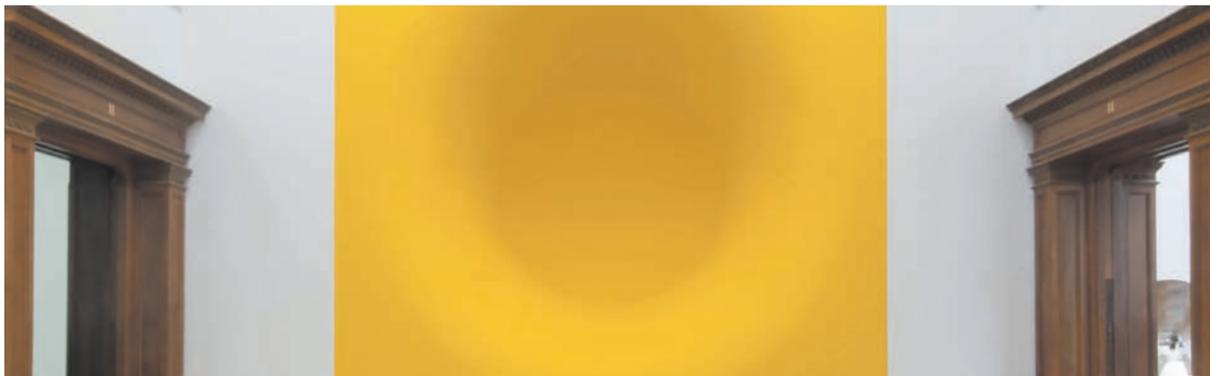
nately would have been for audiences watching Shakespeare's plays back in his day.

Such an intimate and unassuming setting makes for a much more unique and special experience and *The Night Before Christmas* with its enthusiastic and warm cast fitted the location perfectly. An ideal way to spend an evening away from the throngs of tourists and tides of the usual theatre-goers in Theatreland. If only more theatre was like this. I urge anyone and everyone to spare an hour and go to this hidden gem of a production regardless of how much of a Grinch you are!

The Night Before Christmas is on Tues-Sat 9.30pm until 19th December at the Hen & Chicken's theatre. Tube: Highbury & Islington Students £10

...and it was all yellow

Caz Knight takes in vortexes and colour at the Royal Academy



A cloud of reflective, silver spheres ascends from the courtyard of the Royal Academy and marks the beginning of Anish Kapoor's takeover of the Academy's main galleries. For the artist – one of the most influential of the last thirty years – has most definitely made his mark through this self-titled exhibition in which the sculptures themselves are as much implemented in their own creation as the artist is.

Kapoor wants to give us both a physical and psychological experience, exploring the concepts of form, space and colour. The pigment works from the 1970s have the dusty, delicate texture of velvet and challenge the notion that colour is merely an object's outer layer. Kapoor demonstrates that colour can hypnotise and take one into a reverie, intoxicating us. Yellow takes up an entire wall and makes it seem as if we are staring into a yellow vortex as the wall of the gallery seems to be sucked into a vacuum, at the same time subverting form as all we can see is the hazy out-

line of where the wall might be.

His works in the adjacent room also escape form and make the notion of space obsolete. Non-objects, a collection of concave, convex and curved mirrors, bend us, stretch us and squeeze us making us feel like we are at a fun fair in the hall of mirrors. We see ourselves reflected on their surfaces yet we appear two dimensional and as if in a parallel universe (not dissimilar to ketamine intoxication).

Anish Kapoor is captured by art that is 'self-generating' and contributes to its creation. From the ephemeral Non-objects, we progress onto the violence in *Shooting into the Corner*, where a canon blasts a twenty pound red wax shell onto the walls every twenty minutes creating a powerful bang and a splattering of red wax. This process continues for the duration of the exhibition and now, after almost three months the effect is wonderfully reminiscent of the wave of blood emanating from the elevator in Kubrik's *The Shining*. Even more impressive is the work entitled *Svayambh* (Sanskrit for

'self-generating') which sees a colossal wax block shuttled at a snail's pace (it takes one hour and a half from one end to the other) up and down through three of the gallery's rooms, leaving in its wake a smearing of red wax and bringing to our minds all our own associations with the colour red.

Other rooms house sculptures which range from the massive, twisting marble *Slug* to the 'scatological' *Greyman Cries*, *Shaman Dies*, *Billowing Smoke*, *Beauty Evoked* where Kapoor has used a three-dimensional printer that ejects cement to create these piles by inputting a design into the machine. All his works dominate the classical white interior of the Royal Academy, with their monochrome colour of reds, yellows and bronzes contrasting magnificently with the stark white walls. Anish Kapoor's exhibition leaves you with the feeling you have fully engaged with his sculptures and experienced something quite different from any exhibition you have seen before.

Ends today Friday 11th December

A lovely piano soiree



In 1870 composer Modest Mussorgsky and artist Viktor Hartmann became friends, sharing a devotion to the cause of Russian art. But four years later Hartmann died of an aneurysm leaving his good friend distraught. In his memory, Mussorgsky commissioned an exhibition in St Petersburg of over 400 of the artist's watercolours, many depicting locales from his travels around Europe. Inspired by such a vast collection Mussorgsky composed the suite *Pictures at an Exhibition* – a soundtrack to these images; an imaginary tour of the exhibition with the movements named after ten of the paintings and flowing in a way as a viewer might through the exhibition.

Joined by their fascination for *Pictures at an Exhibition*, internationally acclaimed pianist Leif Ove Andsnes and artist Robin Rhode have collaborated to bring us *Pictures Reframed*, combining the skill of Andsnes' piano playing with the ingenuity of Rhode's drawing, performance and video. Such multi-media collaborations may seem modern and, some may say, pretentious, but it is clear that such an idea of art inspiring music and then the two being combined dates back well over one hundred years!

The Queen Elizabeth Hall provides an ideally comfortable setting in which to enjoy such sumptuous playing teamed with the playful black and white sequence of Rhode's sketches and video, themselves projected onto

large screens behind the stage on which sits the majestic grand piano. Eighty minutes without hearing or seeing a word, in either their vocal or written form, only added to the powerful impact of both artists' work.

Disappointingly, Robin Rhode was not present for the introductory talk but perhaps this only reinforces the mystery about him; his face is never revealed in his sketches or his videos.

As well as music from *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Andsnes astounds us with his sheer technical genius as he also plays a suitably childish 'Kinderszenen' by Schumann, fitting in with the children present in Rhode's work. Lighting designer, David Weiner, lit the stage perfectly, revealing only the pianist's face and hands and the keys on which they played – highly reminiscent of a work of Rhode's *Keys*, which was on show this time last year at the Hayward Gallery in his exhibition 'Who Saw Who'.

What a treat it was to hear the velvet sounds of the piano and at the same time look upon Rhode's work which became ever more comical with a video of a chicken being chased and finally ending as we watched a grand piano being slowly engulfed by water as the tide comes in; a wonderful evening out on London's South Bank.

For an example of Robin Rhode's work, go to: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/minisite/robin-rhode/>



How our Christmas feast came to fruition

Holly Cumbers explores the origins of our favourite Christmas meal, and recommends a winter-warming drink

One of the main things about Christmas is getting together with family and friends to have a Christmas dinner. I thought it would be a nice idea to explore the origins of the Christmas feast. The Christmas feast has been around since the Middle Ages. However it was during the Victorian period that the Christmas feast that we are all so familiar with was developed - as part of the general transformation of Christmas. For the Victorians, the Christmas feast was the highlight of the day - people weren't concerned about presents but were really keen to celebrate with friends and family over a large feast.

At the end of the nineteenth century turkey became a popular Christmas dish. Previously, people would opt for goose and beef (just imagine Boxing Day without turkey sandwiches!). Apparently people in the North were likely

to eat beef, whereas people in the South tended to eat goose. The main reason why turkey became so popular was that it was a good size so would feed everyone in the family.

The plum pudding also has its origins in the Victorian period. This was one of the greatest rituals of the Christmas period. It would have been home-made - the whole family might have been involved in the great joy of making it - and then hung in a sack for several weeks. It was served by the head of the household who put a sprig of holly on it and set it alight - this is really fun and something I suggest you all try at least once in your lives. The Victorians even put rings, thimbles and coins in the pudding - if you bit into the portion with the ring this meant you would be getting married in the near future, if you found yourself eating a coin it meant wealth and if you were lucky enough to get the thimble it meant you would re-



main single. It is a shame that nowadays most Christmas puddings are bought from a supermarket and just shoved on the table. In addition to the Christmas pudding there was also a Christmas cake and mince pies.

So this Christmas when you are tucking into your Christmas feast be sure to think of the many generations who have sat around to eat their Christmas dinner. Long live the Spirit of Christmas!

Mulled Wine - enough to make all a tad jolly

One of my favourite parts of Christmas is drinking mulled wine either at home or at a Christmas market. The drink is full of gorgeous Christmas spices and as it is served hot, it really warms you up on a cold winters evening. The drink is also fun to make and can make you feel extremely Christmassy.

1. Into a saucepan mix together 115g sugar, 2 wine glasses of water, 5 cinnamon sticks, a few cloves, ginger and one orange zest. Bring to a boil, then simmer for 15-20 minutes (stir regularly) until it becomes a thick syrup.
2. Add 1.5l port wine to the mixture and stir. Increase the temperature until the mixture is piping hot but make sure that it does not boil.
3. Then it is ready to be served - how easy is that! Enjoy with friends!

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MUSIC

Music Editors: Alexandra Ashford, Kadhim Shubber & Luke Turner
 Online Editor: Christopher Walmsley
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Albums of the Decade

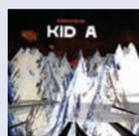


Arcade Fire 'Funeral' 2004

Arcade Fire's beautifully crafted debut 'Funeral' is an encapsulating emotional joy. Named in memory of several band members' deceased family, it's far from an overtly morbid affair; the euphoria and passion of the band pulling together drips out of the speakers to totally encapsulate you. This album paved the way for indie music in the second half of the decade and five years since its release, its quality remains undisputed.

1

Like all "Albums of the Decade" lists, this one reflects the Editors' personal tastes (Alex Ashford would like to point out that her list would be vastly different). Given that the decade began when we were aged 10-12, we tried to sum up the sound of the decade as we heard it during our teenage years. It's possible to swap and change the order ad nauseam but ultimately every album on the list is there for being simply damn good.



Radiohead Kid A

2000 **2**
 Truthfully, this isn't enough space to even begin writing about this album. Simply a pivotal piece of modern culture.



Jay-Z The Black Album

2003 **3**
 Ultimately Jay-Z didn't retire but his 'final' album called on the best producers of the day and was immaculately polished.



The Strokes Is This It

2001 **4**
 This album set off a decade of bands searching to recreate the genius that The Strokes exhibited which such apparent ease.



Arctic Monkeys Whatever people say...

2006 **5**
 Arguably the first 'internet band' to achieve significant mainstream success, their intelligent lyrics spoke to a generation.



Bloc Party Silent Alarm

2005 **6**
 An album that was at once interesting and accessible, Silent Alarm was the soundtrack to 99% of people's teenage years



Yeah Yeah Yeahs Fever To Tell

2003 **7**
 YYYs hit the scene with guitar riffs that electrified your ears combined with Karen O's vocals this album was a revelation.



Broken Social Scene You Forgot It In People

2002 **8**
 This album still remains the model for making credible pop-rock that remains interesting after the umpteenth listen.



Kings of Leon Aha Shake Heartbreak

2004 **9**
 Undeniably influenced by #4, KoL avoided being simple copies by introducing an addictive Southern sound into the mix.

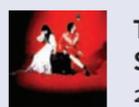


Kanye West The College Dropout

2004 **10**
 After years of making beats for other rappers, Kanye's debut showed his skill with an album that rejected thug life.



Animal Collective Merriwether Post Pavilion 2009



The White Stripes - Elephant 2003



Red Hot Chili Peppers - By The Way 2002



The Libertines The Libertines 2004



At The Drive In Relationship of Command 2000



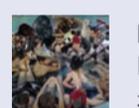
Sufjan Stevens Illinois 2005



Daft Punk Discovery 2001



Outkast Stankonia 2000



Panda Bear Person Pitch 2007



Portishead Third 2008



Queens of The Stone Age - Songs for the Deaf 2003



Muse Absolution 2003



Interpol Turn on Bright Lights 2002



Sigur Ros Takk 2005



Dizze Rascal Boy In The Corner 2003



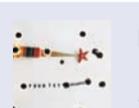
LCD Soundsystem LCD Soundsystem 2005



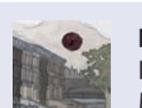
The Knife Silent Shout 2006



The Killers Hot Fuss 2004



Four Tet Rounds 2003



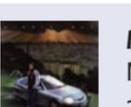
Bright Eyes I'm Wide Awake It's Morning 2005



Deftones White Pony 2000



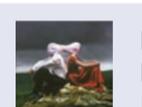
Death Cab for Cutie Transatlanticism 2003



Metronomy Nights Out 2008



Eminem The Marshal Mathers LP 2000



Funeral for a Friends - Casually Dressed... 2003



The Postal Service Give Up 2003



Brand New 'Deja Entendu' 2003



Laura Marling Alas, I Cannot Swim 2008



Fleet Foxes Fleet Foxes 2008



Elliott Smith Figure 8 2000



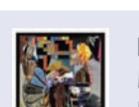
Justice † 2007



M.I.A. Kala 2007



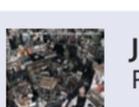
MGMT Oracular Spectacular 2007



Klaxons Myths of the Near Future 2007



The Flaming Lips Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots 2002



Jamie T Panic Prevention 2007



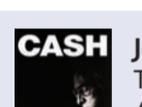
Blur Think Tank 2003



The xx xx 2009



Bob Dylan Modern Times 2006



CASH Johnny Cash The Man Comes Around 2002



If you're buying CDs this Christmas...

Kadhim Shubber Music Editor

I'll be the first to admit that my fellow Editors have perhaps a more esoteric knowledge of music. Or perhaps less tediously, they've listened to a hell of a lot more music than I have.

However since becoming Music Editor this year, I've been doing my best to catch up (which partly explains why if you see me around campus, I'll be wearing a pair of huge headphones that I bought in Thailand). With that in mind, I thought I'd give you a small recommendation for the Christmas break.

• **Tru Thoughts record label:**

I didn't have to go searching for these guys, we received a promo copy of their celebratory 10th anniversary album and it literally blew me away. Since the beginning of the decade Tru Thoughts have been re-inventing blues, jazz and soul music, mixing them with calypso sounds, dub, drum & bass and pretty much anything that they can get their hands on. If there's anything that I can rec-

ommend in the full knowledge that it's impossible to dislike, it would be any artist from this label; especially **Quantic**, **Bonobo** and **TM Juke**.

I'm going to devote the rest of the column to some artists that didn't get recognition on the "Albums of the Decade" but that have undoubtedly created some fantastic music.

Grizzly Bear's latest album **Veckatimest** didn't appeal to me on first listen but give the door a quick shoulder and you'll enter a beautiful world. One of those albums that you'll want to play from start to finish and again and again. **Gang Gang Dance's** album **Saint Dymphna** definitely warrants an extended listen and possibly my favourite single in a long time, **Matisyahu's** 'Jerusalem' will make you smile if you get the biblical references.

Finally thanks to Alex, Chris, Luke, Duncan Casey, Greg Power, Hugh Crail, Eliot Barford, Jamie Fraser, Joanna Cai, Tom Jennings and everyone else who's contributed. Merry Christmas!

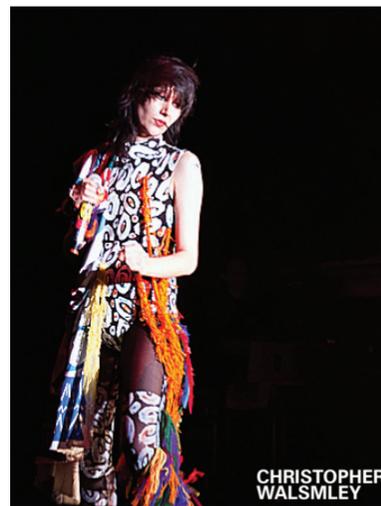
Yeah Yeah Yeahs @ The Brixton Academy

Luke Turner witnesses all seeing eyes and confetti explosions as the YYY hit Brixton

As the Yeah Yeah Yeahs support, Duchess Duke take to the stage the humming hive of The Brixton Academy erupt. The lead singer proceeded to make orgasm noises as they begun their opener. At first I thought this was for the shock factor, but they continued these painful sex noises throughout, leaving me in love with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' set before they had even lifted a finger.

The stage layout was an epic psychedelic piece of art before the YYY appeared in front of their hypnotised fans. Front girl Karen O, lived up to her name and wore artistic gypsy costumes, matching that of her stage. She danced in a god-like manner as the jovial sounds began.

The fun drumming beneath the echoing sounds of resonating guitars and the intense energy of Karen O's voice were mesmerizing. A giant blow-up eyeball was launched into the crowd and the energy hit incredible levels. The songs that people really wanted



CHRISTOPHER WALSMLEY

were played that night at the Brixton Academy which I respect. Ending with a quivering love song and encore-ing with some fast energy rock, they left the Academy full of happy, loved-up people that hadn't had enough of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs pure fight.

Most listened to this week

1. Animal Collective
2. Radiohead
3. Bloc Party
4. LCD Soundsystem
5. The Beatles
6. Coldplay
7. Grizzly Bear
8. Hot Chip
9. The xx
10. Yeasayer

Animal Collective stand proud at the top spot this week, this may be single handedly the work of Kadhim. Coldplay deviously sneak their way up, but at least half of the artists above feature in the best 50 albums of the decade...

- Luke

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Yeah Yeah Yeahs /
Duchess Says Photos

Hellbent & Hammered at
The Dublin Castle

La Roux Live
Review

Asobi Seksu make big noises @ Cargo

Eliot Barford finds big sounds can come in small packages from a night at Cargo

Asobi Seksu are a rock band from New York, and they're awesome. I'd forgotten this before I saw them on Monday, but they more than reminded me. Yuki, Japanese-American vocalist and keyboardist, may be small but her voice carries a huge chorus like few others. James, guitarist, is rather tall and erratic, but this doesn't stop his ethereal sound gracefully blowing an audience away.

These two songwriters are backed up by the solid foundation of Billy and Larry on bass and drums. Between them, the group sounds something like being crushed under a really beautiful chandelier.

For a label, Asobi Seksu normally get slapped with "nu-gaze". This basically means they are a throwback to the British shoegaze/dream pop bands of the 90s (My Bloody Valentine, Cocteau Twins), but they're more interesting than that. Yuki alternates between English and Japanese lyrics or often simply uses her voice as an instrument. Singing live she hits every note she did on record (an impressive feat, despite her naturally high range). James sings a bit as well, but his genius is in his



melodic, undulating guitar. It's surprising that one guy drowned in effects can bring about such a tide of auditory sweetness. This is the sound that dominates their performance and sets the audience swaying, until they explode in feedback and instrumental contortion, leaving us to absorb it for a while before the encore.

Having released an acoustic album, *Rewolf*, earlier that very day, it's surprising that they didn't do any acoustic tracks; perhaps a change of pace could have accentuated even further the ex-

tremes of their songs. Nonetheless, the well-mixed crowd filling Cargo – an excellent, friendly venue – were in good spirits. After their second stint on stage, the band finished the set without either of my favourite songs but with the indie-pop-ish lead single from latest album *Hush*, "Me & Mary". It doesn't have the gravity of some of their most recognisable older stuff, e.g. "Thursday", but it was a catchy and memorable conclusion to a still broadly impressive set; they saw off a satisfied crowd that night.

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Santa, Santa can you hear us?

The gifts Gabby Gentilcore, Renny Norman, Saksia Verhagen and Kawai Wong long for.



Ostrich

None of that Paris Hilton's stupid dog in the bag business. I want to ride an ostrich to Uni. I want to personalise the ostrich with a tiny tiara. And give it a personalised pet jacket complete with a Gucci ostrich cage. If at any point Karl decides to design a dress for me, the feathers will certainly come in handy... KW



Miu Miu Black leather handbag

Every girl needs a good bag and this is one that I would particularly love to see under my Christmas tree. You can take it from day to night, and it is large enough to hold all of one's essentials, with some space to spare (perhaps for a matching purse?). This bag is timeless, so the £750 price tag is really a bargain. In theory. GG



Dress by Hubert de Givenchy

Givenchy became the sole couturier to Audrey Hepburn, who was to wear only garments designed by him in almost all of her movies. His clientele included some of the best-dressed women of all time: Grace Kelly, Jackie Kennedy-Onassis, Elizabeth Taylor et al. It's an obvious choice really, Santa. SV



Jean Paul Gaultier fur coat

Santa baby, slip a sable under the tree? How about this Jean Paul Gaultier fur coat instead. I can fantasize about walking into a party wearing this coat or sitting in a bar, femme fatale style, with a 20s feather head piece. A piece this gorgeous, it's completely worth it. You say fur? I say FUR! I mean, we eat meat right? RN



The Entire Chanel Paris-Shanghai Collection (Bespoke, of course)

I want the combo of Desrues' custom-made buttons, Lemarie's feathers, Lesage's embroidery, Michel's hats and Massaro's shoes. Above all, Karl Lagerfeld's design! I don't care if the dresses are £200,000 a pop. KW



Tail feathers

To be honest, does anything more need to be said? These feathers are absolutely awesome. From the Victoria's Secret spring-summer 10 show, you'd definitely want these to compliment your sexy Christmas underwear... RN



Una Burke's Armour

I am smitten with the neatly constructed artwork. The layered strips of nude shade leather are strapped together with bronze studs. What I love the most is the medici collar. Avant-garde with a fetish touch. Schexy. Visit www.unaburke.com. KW



Custom-Designed Louboutins

A shoe that will bring other women to tears with desire, lust and despair. A ruby-red, patent leather, 4-inch Pigalle pump with a large, faceted scarlet crystal on the vamp, encrusted with tiny crystals and surrounded by an explosion of crimson ostrich feathers. SV



Bring Lacroix back to life!

The brand will be reduced to accessories and perfumery only. Haute couture and RTW dresses made by the legendary designer are now a thing of the past. If there's only one Xmas wish, I'll forfeit every wish above just for Lacroix to make a comeback... KW



A Louis Vuitton Bag

No, not your average monogram boring ass aristocratic bourgeoisie bag. I mean the flourescent green canvas bag with a fur pom pom. Mr Jacobs, how about sending me a couple of those? Or how about in every single shade and every single size too? KW



To live in the 50s

Women need no excuses to wear red lipstick. Dresses need no excuses to incorporate a décolleté neckline. Schiaparelli is the dress maker of choice; not H&M. 50's is an age when fashion nostalgia does not exist. Santa, can I have a time machine please? KW



Roland Mouret Chimera Long dress

Roland Mouret's dresses flatter the female form so it's only fair it is on my Christmas wish list. This will transform its wearer into the belle of the ball. Simply teamed with skyscraper black patent heels, a clutch and festive bling. Yum. GG

News Strip

Gabriella Gentilcore
Fashion Reporter

Naomi Campbell Becomes a Judge.

On TV anyway... Naomi is soon to become Britain's answer to Tyra Banks as she has been involved in talks to front a new X Factor type modelling show. Campbell has more catwalk experience than almost any other model working today.

Daphne Guinness as Akris' Spring Summer 2010 Spokeswoman

Swedish fashion label Akris has launched its new handbag collection this week and have chosen Daphne Guinness to be the face of its new range. The advertising scheme was shot by photographer Steven Meisel and the bags will be available in stores from February.

Fashion Friends Praise Victoria Beckham's New Jeans

Marc Jacobs and Rouland Moret are fans of Victoria Beckham's new clothing range. Beckham, who champions both the labels, is set to launch a sunglasses range under her Victoria Beckham label. Jacobs said of the fashionista "She is someone who has always wanted to design clothes. She knows the body, she loves it and she's working her ass off."



Wonderland Designs

French department store Printemps has enlisted the help of many designers including Christopher Kane to create dresses for its window display inspired by the forthcoming Tim Burton version of the classic story "Alice in Wonderland". Other names involved include Alexander McQueen, Ann Demeulemeester and Bernhard Willhelm.

Tamara Wins Lawsuit Against Her Mother

Tamara Mellon, the owner of the Jimmy Choo empire, has won a 6 million dollar lawsuit against her mother Ann Yeady. Mellon sued her mother for a breach of contract. Shares that should have gone directly to Mellon instead went to her mother.

A fashion conversation

Kawai Wong
Fashion Editor

Antonio Guerra, Stylist
Donna Karen

A: "Lady Gaga is a sell-out of Haus of Gaga. Traitor!"
K: "Why?"
A: "She was wearing the entire collection from Alexander McQueen in her new video. The whole look - everything - straight off the runway."
K: "Didn't she debut Bad Romance at Alexander's SS10 show?"
A: "Everything, off the runway! Not something Lady Gaga does!"

Saskia Verhagen, Reporter
Fashion

S: "How the McQueen sample sale drained my bank account!"
K: "I hate you! WHAT DID YOU BUY?"
S: "Two gowns - one of the gowns is in the pink/silver crystal print from SS10, short sleeved with draping around the arm (I had to fight for it!) The other is black, with clear mesh at the back, it's totally backless. A shirt - in large black and white houndstooth, with ties at the neck to make a bow. LOOOVE."

Antonio Guerra, Stylist
Donna Karen

K: "What's with this obsession with Balmain last season? Every single season looks the same."
A: "It was the excessive military look..."
K: "There are military looks in Balmain every single season since Decarnin took over!"
A: "Well, they were clever with their marketing. The ready to wear price point was raised and raised and they suddenly became the item to die for..."



Step inside the wild imagination of Spike Jonze



Jade Hoffman

There's a kind of dread that surrounds adaptations of classics, especially when it comes to childhood treasures like Maurice Sendak's widely-loved book, *Where The Wild Things Are*. How can a group of Hollywood filmmakers possibly do justice to these fragile relics from your childhood? And what if they can't?

These must have been thoughts close to Sendak's heart. Published in 1963, it has taken more than forty years for him to pick director Spike Jonze for the much-contested opportunity to craft a feature film from this book. When he did, however, he did so with an unusual amount of trust and abandonment, encouraging Jonze to reinvent it as he saw fit, and to morph it into his own unique style. The result is this: a visually stunning world that is unexpectedly raw and emotionally-charged.

After the film had finished playing, Spike Jonze fidgeted in his swivel chair

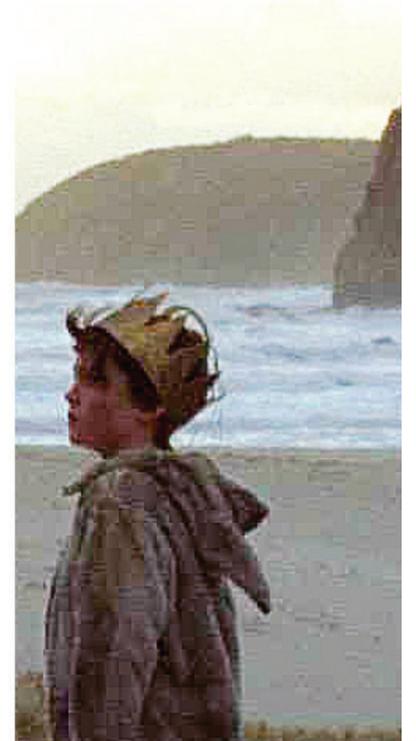
and pulled up his bright red socks when they slipped down. Of course, the *Being John Malkovich* director would be able to pull off a film like this but surprisingly, Sendak actually had to convince him to take the project on board as Jonze, who had himself loved the book as a child, did not feel he could. When he did though, it was with a vision of making it less about the Wild Things as monsters, but embodiments of those wild and strong emotions you grow up struggling to understand. After an argument with his sister and mother, Max (portrayed magnificently by Max Records) runs away and encounters the Wild Things who are neurotic and paranoid, scared and confused. Like a foil for Max's own frustration and fears, they magnify everything he's feeling; bouncing between elation and despair in seconds. And that's the thing that's so striking about this film, it's personal and intense and thus described as not so much a film for children, but about childhood.

Not just from Jonze's interpretation, either, but from co-writer Dave Eggers,

too. Eggers' debut book charted the years of his life following his parents' death which left him to raise his 8-year old brother at the age of 21. He was not a screenwriter when he worked on this project with Jonze but his input is clearly felt in the precise and powerful dialogue (although this does, disappointingly, sometimes verge on expositional). On the subject of the film's five-year production, Jonze says, "A lot of the people who worked on the movie hadn't done things like this before." And it shows. Not in a technical sense, the film itself is extremely well-cast and comes with a superb soundtrack from Yeah Yeah Yeahs' very own Wild Thing, Karen O, but in the unfettered earnestness that colours this carefully shaped film. It does not cut corners: before getting his voice cast together to record, Jonze took them – James Gandolfini, Forest Whitaker, Catherine O'Hara et al. to have a real dirt clod fight in a nearby park so to give Max Records something to react to when filming without the puppets. Jonze would perform spontaneous

stunts like "shooting the sound director with a fire extinguisher". Didn't he also learn to eat fire? Jonze smiles and nods, "Badly."

But maybe this passion is also where the film falls down. It is so burdened with the personal contributions of the whole cast and crew that it sometimes struggles to hold itself together. As the film progresses, you get the sense of its direction being pushed around by all these different intentions. It causes the focus to slip occasionally, and can sometimes be quite overwhelming; a sort of too-many-cooks situation. However it's rather difficult to blame them for this though. The adaptation has been one of the most anticipated films of its kind, and it's the attention to detail that makes it so impressive. From the Wild Things' puppets (as built by Jim Henson's workshop) to the spectacular cinematography featuring truly beautiful sets against the backdrop of the Australian landscape, Jonze has created something here which is touching, enthralling and really quite powerful.



Lies abound in the excellent *Mascarades*

Tim Davies

French-Algerian production *Mascarades* is an independent film currently undergoing a limited release at the ciné lumière in South Kensington, and if you get chance to see it, I highly recommend that you do.

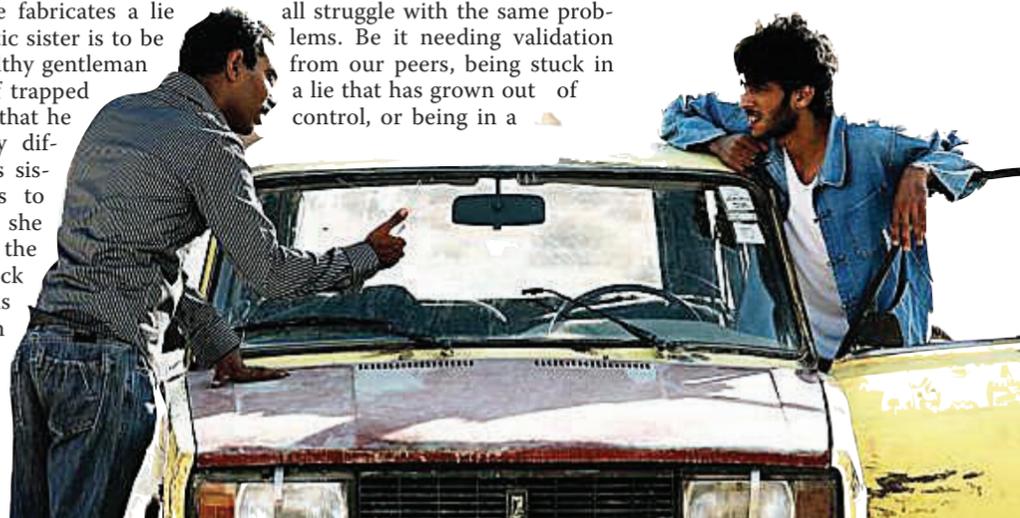
Lyes Salem writes, directs and stars in this tale of Mounir, an Algerian man stuck in mediocrity and mocked by his friends. However one drunken night he fabricates a lie that his narcoleptic sister is to be married to a wealthy gentleman and finds himself trapped in a masquerade that he finds increasingly difficult to end. His sister also happens to have other ideas; she plans to marry the local laughing stock Khlifia, but this doesn't go down too well with Mounir. Mounir finds his lie gives him a power and a sense of worth which he is reluctant to

relinquish. But despite his flaws, underneath it's obvious he is a devoted family man.

Salem's first feature length film is funny and charming. The whole thing oozes a character driven warmth which will make you connect with the small town Algerian setting in a way that will have you pining for the simple life. The performances are not only believable but highly relatable and demonstrate that however different our backgrounds may be, we all struggle with the same problems. Be it needing validation from our peers, being stuck in a lie that has grown out of control, or being in a

relationship that others disprove of.

Mascarades has already garnered a positive response from critics, having won 'best Arab film' at the Cairo film festival and 'best film' at the Dubai film festival. Lyes Salem has shown with his first feature film that he is one to watch out for, and if you find yourself hankering for a bit of World cinema during the Oscar season I'd advise you to head on down to the Ciné lumière and check this one out.



Competition winners

Congratulations to James Juillard-Maniece and Coranda Berry who won last week's competition. James Cameron is the director of the upcoming *Avatar*

In next term's issues:

More features including: 'A guide to London's best cinemas', 'A guide to the Oscars' and 'How to blag being a film geek'

A news column for all the juicy film gossip

Regular listings for film releases

Plus we will review *Avatar* and its

implications for the future of 3D and CGI

The top fifty films of the decade

Film Editor Ed Knock presents his choices, if you disagree, then tell him at film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

10. District 9 (2009) Neill Blomkamp

A controversial choice perhaps to be considered as one the ten best films of the decade. The highly enjoyable plot is an analogy to the real life treatment of Zimbabwean refugees in South Africa, only replacing the refugees with 7' tall prawns. The frantic plot is maintained by well choreographed action and the ultimately selfish protagonist Wikus is one of the most realistic anti-heroes ever committed to celluloid. Entertaining and thought-provoking, a balance hard to get.

9. City of God (2002) Fernando Meirelles

Set in a violent slum of Rio de Janeiro known as the 'City of God', this film does not rely on the plenty of uncompromising violence that inhabits it. Instead the personal relationships between characters shines through including nice touches such as the banana dildo conversation and the leaving party in which every clique of society is introduced. The film blew away critics and made Brian de Palma's *Scarface* look silly in its gritty depictions of gang warfare with a touch of style.

8. Gladiator (2000) Ridley Scott

How Ridley Scott reinvented the 'Sword and Sandal' epic is no mystery. Combining a great script and breath-taking combat scenes with incredible special effects, *Gladiator* thrust Russell Crowe into the 'A' list of actors. It took several viewings until I noticed the intricate plot and full appreciation of the supporting talent of Oliver Reed and Djimon Hounsou. Let's not forget the magnificent reproduction of Colosseum and the immortal lines "On my command, unleash Hell!"

7. Children of Men (2006) Alfonso Cuarón

Released to little fanfare but then slowly gaining critical acclaim and some commercial success, *Children of Men* has to be one of the best made films ever. The dystopian future is vividly imagined, more creative than the shiny skyscrapers of *Minority Report* and more believable than the perpetual darkness of *Blade Runner*. The plot slowly builds momentum resulting in the greatest tracking shot of all time presenting over 5 minutes of pure cinema gold.

6. No Country for Old Men (2007) Coen Bros.

Based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Cormac McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men* is most memorable for one man - Javier Bardem. His portrayal of sociopath who goes beyond any rational thinking gripped audiences across the world and he deservedly one an Oscar for it. Let's not forget the perfect pacing of the film by the greatest two directors to have emerged in the last twenty years, Joel and Ethan Coen, and combined with stunning cinematography - film ecstasy

5. The Proposition (2005) John Hillcoat

A relatively unknown film placed so far up my list? Hollywood was so impressed by John Hillcoat savage Australian pioneer drama they gave the new Cormac McCarthy adaptation of *The Road* for him to direct. *The Proposition* contains a stellar cast of Guy Pierce, Ray Winston, Danny Huston, John Hurt and Emily Watson. The film is daring and adventurous but masterfully directed with loving attention to detail of the violent landscape of 19th Century Australia.

4. Oldboy (2005) Chan-wook Park

The best film out of the *Lady Vengeance* trilogy, *Oldboy* gave Chan-wook Park an international reputation and introduced Korean cinema to Western audiences. An intricate plot with so many mind-blowing twists and turns revolving around the theme of vengeance and an ending so shocking that you finish the film wondering if you should have enjoyed it. Well yes you should have, the immortal image of Dae-su holding a hammer will be ingrained in your memory for ever.

3. Brokeback Mountain (2005) Ang Lee

It's so wrong to brand this film as 'Gay cinema' and therefore only good because of its brave portrayal of a homosexual relationship. The film is masterfully directed and contains delicate performances by Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. The story of a secret and forbidden love is hauntingly tragic as the decades span and the two lovers realise that their annual finishing trips are simply not enough to be happy. Outrageously, its Oscar was given to *Crash*.

2. There Will be Blood (2007) Paul Anderson

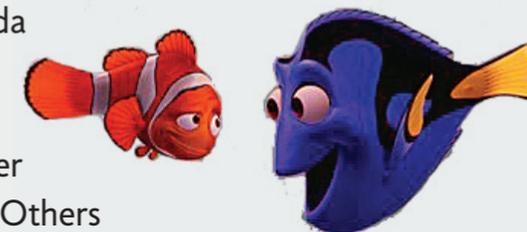
'I drink your milkshake!' has now entered the common pop culture vocabulary and it's easy to see why. The theme is greed, be it money or religious exploitation. Daniel Day Lewis' Oscar winning John Huston impersonation is the driving force of the film and his performance rivals Robert de Niro's in *Taxi Driver*. People complained of the lack of plot but this film is a character study into the dark heart of capitalism leading to a crescendo of immorality in the explosive finale.

1. Memento (2000) Christopher Nolan

Two films with Guy Pierce in my top five, some might say I have a man-crush on him. However *Memento* has to be top film of the decade. The backwards plot is beautifully constructed and it requires repeat viewings to fully appreciate the intricate plot and the twist at the end will leave you dazed for weeks. Joe Pantoliano soon finds himself out of his depth as he exploits the severely amnesiac Pierce who can't make new memories and so tattoos the 'facts' on his body. Genius.

50 - 11

- 50. Anchorman
- 49. Downfall
- 48. The Wind that Shakes the Barley
- 47. Amelie
- 46. Borat
- 45. Being John Malkovich
- 44. Lost in Translation
- 43. Into the Wild
- 42. Love Exposure
- 41. Hotel Rwanda
- 40. Wall-e
- 39. Traffic
- 38. 28 Days Later
- 37. The Lives of Others
- 36. Billy Elliot
- 35. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- 34. Casino Royale
- 33. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- 32. Crash
- 31. Inglourious Basterds
- 30. Thank you for Smoking
- 29. The Fellowship of the Ring
- 28. The Pianist
- 27. Control
- 26. This is England
- 25. Finding Nemo
- 24. The Bourne Identity
- 23. In Bruges
- 22. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
- 21. Battle Royale
- 20. Waltz with Bashir
- 19. Donnie Darko
- 18. The Constant Gardener
- 17. Pan's Labyrinth
- 16. Slumdog Millionaire
- 15. The Dark Knight
- 14. Dead Man's Shoes
- 13. Spirited Away
- 12. The Departed
- 11. Requiem for a Dream





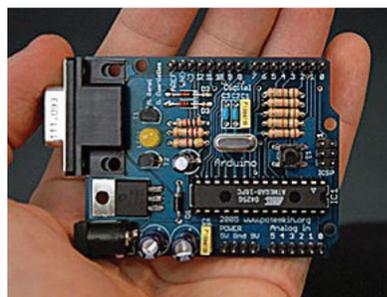
Gadget gifts to make your Christmas break

A couple of great gadget gift ideas for the tech-crazed in all of us

It's that time of year again, yes it's Christmas! The time for family gatherings, gorging on rich food, sloshing it down with lots of drink and passing out in front of the telly. OK, so not everyone loves a Christmas like the Royal Family, but I can guarantee that pretty much everyone loves presents and what makes a better present than a gadget?

It's not even just the tech-enthused that love a good gadget at Christmas either. Your sister, your Mother or even your Dad probably got something like an iPod for Christmas at one stage or another and while they might not see it, that's a gadget!

So to mark the occasion, we here in the tech section thought we'd put our heads together and come up with our favourite gadgets for Christmas.



First up we've got Feroz's suggestion of the Arduino. The little beauty pictured above is an open-source electronics platform and while it may not look like much, is the perfect tinker's toy. Bursting with potential, the platform couples easy-to-use hardware and software to enable you to create things you otherwise wouldn't have the skill or the time to do. The microcontroller on the Arduino is programmed using a language and development en-

vironment bespoke to the mini-marvel, but can be programmed from your choice of Windows, Linux or Mac.

The Arduino comes in several shapes and sizes down to the smallest of the bunch, the Nano. Each board can be programmed to operate on its own, or in communication with another computer. The little board can also be kitted out with a whole host of sensors and can react with lights, motors and actuators giving scope for all sorts of nifty home-made gadgetry.

If you fancy your hand at a bit of soldering, you can build the board yourself, or if you're more of an instant gratification type, buy it pre-assembled.

You're only limited by your imagination, but here's a few examples to show you just what can be done with the Arduino. How about Guitar Hero with giant sensors that you have to hit with footballs? Or a trippy laser harp for the ultimate show? Or even a self-balancing Segway-like robot?

If you need more inspiration, check out the top 40 best Arduino projects here from HacknMod: <http://bit.ly/felixtech>.

OK, so you may not want to pull your finger out and have to make something out of your presents so how about Simon's suggestion of an iPhone 3GS?



OK, so Simon's not the biggest of Apple fanboys on the whole, but even he can recognise a top-quality piece of

technology when he sees it. Sure, the iPhone may not be the market leader from a hardware perspective and many phones now have better touch screens and better reliability ratings, but the killer which still makes others jealous is the App Store.

The quantity and variety of apps available really blows everything else away. The apps help transform the iPhone from a flashy phone and music player combo into an indispensable tool kit. Where else can you instant message a friend and then flip over to the complete works of Shakespeare? Where else can you identify any song just by a few beats and then solve some truly solid integration calculations? And where else can you do it with a well-built and glossy interface that ties the whole experience together? Nowhere else, and that's why it's the number one this Christmas.



As for me, well, my perfect Christmas gadget has to be the Philips 21:9. I don't know about you, but I love films and there's simply nothing on the market that can beat the in-home cinema experience of the Philips 21:9, the only Full HD TV that matches the ratio of the big screen. No more black bars top and bottom and 56" to boot; the perfect accompaniment to that fancy Blu-ray player you've got. The only quibble has to be the £3000 asking price, but it's Christmas, right?



Turkey, booze and gadgets

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

What does Google hate more than adblockers? Slow web browsing of course, and that's what Google has been targeting with its recent round of services. Google's assault on the slow web kicked off with the now ubiquitous Chrome, which this week made its way in beta form to OSX and Linux, joining Windows.

Next up in the onslaught was the announcement of SPDY, a replacement for HTTP that is meant to speed up webpage delivery by two-fold. For those not in the know, HTTP is the standard that allows web servers and your browser to talk to each other. It's an interesting development for sure, everyone likes more speed and Google's proposing an implementation where HTTP and SPDY work side-by-side. Will this be a Google Chrome-only enhancement? I don't know but one day you might just be typing spdy: instead of http: into your address bar.

Google wasn't done however with just the computer server interconnect; its next target was the DNS. Google unveiled its public DNS service which it claims can speed up your browsing experience by using Google's indexing power. A DNS acts like an address book by matching the alphabetic characters you type into your address bar as a URL to the IP address of the web server you're trying to reach. Normally, this service is provided by your ISP or company servers and operates totally transparently meaning you'll probably never notice it. Sometimes, your ISP will change the 'page not found' message to something they provide; Virgin Media for instance does this as another way to serve you ads.

Google reckons that due to its expansive knowledge of the world's websites thanks to its indexing and crawling of every website on the planet for the

last decade, its DNS service is not only much more comprehensive, but also faster than your ISPs. Sounds great in theory; after all, the faster you can turn your URL into an IP address the faster you can pull down a webpage - but is it any use in the real world?

Recent offhand testing by myself as well as others around the web have shown that Google's public DNS is at least as fast as your ISPs. Whether it's actually any faster is pretty difficult to determine, thanks to all the variance produced by differing connection speeds, pings and traffic loads. You might find Google will resolve that URL for you faster than your ISP at peak times, so perhaps it's worth trying out on a case-by-case basis.

You might ask why Google is doing all this just to speed up your web browsing experience; what's in it for them? Well, Google being the world's largest online advertising service makes its money by getting eyeballs on ads. It's done this through quality search and all the other services it provides such as Gmail and Gdocs. By speeding up the web experience of your general internet user, you can get them more and more hooked onto the internet. You can serve them more adverts faster and keep your advertisers paying more by providing better and better targeting of their adverts. It's all about ads and money, not some higher purpose.

This term saw the *felix* technology section brought to you by myself, Samuel Gibbs, along with Feroz Salam and Simon Worthington, Technology Reporters with guest articles from Ben Smith, *felix* Photographer. If you think you've got what it takes to write articles for the *felix* Technology section and want to join a growing team, then send me an email to:

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

It's almost Christmas and everyone is waiting with baited breath to see what the Christmas gadget of choice is going to be. My money is on the iPod Touch or the iPhone, but I wish it was the Printer Toaster.



Yes, you read that right; the Printer Toaster toasts your bread, one slice at a time, using a bread feeder mimicking an ink jet printer. Genius.

Technology at large is predominantly built around visual interaction, but what happens if you're blind? Braille isn't exactly easy to create dynamically but the Squibble pocketable Braille interface aims to change that. Using 779 ultrasonic motors to push illuminated caps against a silicon overlay, the Squibble allows phones and other Bluetooth-enabled devices to be controlled using Braille letters and other easy-to-understand icons. The pocket-friendly device even has audio feedback and a grip that allows you to read the Braille without having to put it down, unlike some other Braille

readers.

OK, so hybrid cars like the Prius are pretty dull. They might help you save the environment - even that's debatable - but why can't you have a car that doesn't look like a box on wheels whilst you're at it? Well, Capstone might just answer your prayers with the CMT-380 hybrid supercar.



Looking like a cross between a Corvette and the Batmobile, the 380 boasts impressive specs. How does 0-60MPH in 3.9 seconds grab you? That's not all either, as it's got a top speed of 150MPH and an 80 mile cruise range on just battery power. The most unconventional aspect of the Capstone has to be the diesel microturbine in the back, rather than a conventional internal combustion engine. So what's the catch? How about a \$200,000 asking price? Not exactly student-friendly, but if anyone has a rich parent with money to burn and the Earth to save, maybe suggest they buy you one to cruise about London in.

Fusion Garage, the manufacturing partner of Michael Arrington's CrunchPad has unveiled what they're

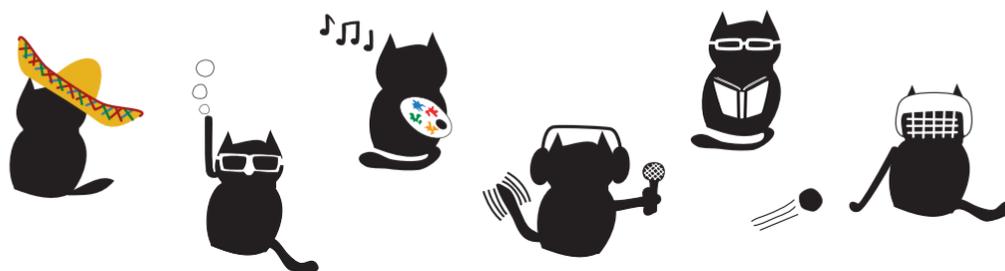
calling the Joojoo. Yeah, it's a stupid name, but the device itself has some real potential. According to Fusion Garage, the device which is essentially a web browser tablet was already underway before Arrington stuck his oar in. Whether that's the case is anyone's guess, but the Joojoo runs a UNIX-based custom OS, weighs just over 1kg and wields a 12.1" capacitive touch screen. With a 9 seconds boot time, 4GB SSD, WiFi, an accelerometer and about 5 hours surfing time per charge, it all sounds good until you hit the price: \$499. Ouch. Pre-orders are being taken from December 11th, but at roughly £308, I can't see it being as big a hit as the Arrington-promised price of about \$300. I'll stick with my Dell Mini 10 hackintosh, thanks.

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Fri 11th Dec

IC Choir Winter Concert

- 7:30pm, Great Hall, Sherfield
- Programme includes Mendelssohn's Elijah.
- Students: £3 in advance, £4 on the door
- Non-Students: £7 in advance, £9 on the door.

Ukrainian Society Meet and Greet

- 8pm, Hoop and Toy Pub, 34 Thurloe Place, SW7 2HQ
- The first meeting of the newly formed Ukrainian Society.
- Everyone welcome to come, meet the committee, find out more about Ukrainian culture and enjoy some pre-Christmas cheer!



Sat 12th Dec

Imperial College String Ensemble Winter Concert

- 7:30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road
- £3 for students, £6 for non-students
- Programme includes: Elgar - Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Britten - Simple Symphony

Sun 13th Dec

ICSM Carol Service

- 6:30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road
- Free (with retiring collection for RAG)
- Traditional medical school carol service with free minced pies and mulled wine.

Mon 14th Dec

Gospel Choir – Joyeux Noel

- 7:30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BA (next to Beit Hall)
- £3 students, £4 non-students
- Various traditional and contemporary performances by the choir, dance, poetry and a Christmas play to celebrate the festive season.
- Free refreshments will be provided!



Weds 16th Dec

Imperial College Carol Service - 'Carols By Candlelight'

- 6pm, Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BA (next to Beit Hall)
- Free. All welcome!
- The perfect end to the term. Led by the Chaplaincy and Imperial College Chamber Choir

Tues 15th Dec

Imperial College Entrepreneur Society

- 6:30-8:30pm, Metro Golf, 19 Sheldon Square, Paddington Central, London W2 6EP
- An inter-university social just across the park in a fantastic virtual golf bar; with UCL, KCL and hosted by Imperial.
- With guests including David Erasmus.

Sinfonietta Winter Concert

- 8pm, Great Hall, Sherfield
- Programme includes Pictures at an Exhibition, Hansel and Gretel and Heroide Funebre.
- £3 students, £6 non-students



To Do....

- 1) Buy turkey
- 2) Eat eat eat.....
- 3) Email club or society event to:
whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk
(Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...)
by end of Tues 12th Jan 2010 for events running from Mon 18th Jan-Sun 24th Jan.

GAMES

Games Editor Michael Cook

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



And so this is Christmas

Michael Cook Games Editor

Welcome to the last issue of the term for *felix* Games! This week we've got lots to get through, so this editorial will be blissfully short. This week, we look back on a great year in gaming, some of our writers' highlights, and then give you the chance to take home a lot of goodie courtesy of some really generous games companies. It's all good.

I mention my game of the year this week too – the sublime *Torchlight* which I only just managed to mention in earlier in term. We've been talking to Runic Games this month about their game, and we'll hopefully pop in an interview early next term.

We're also looking forward to *Napoleon: Total War*, also coming up next

term. 2010 should be a fine, fine year indeed. But as I say in my *Torchlight* piece, 2009 was a fantastic way to end the decade. A truly great year, full of games of all shapes and sizes, and some really landmark moments. Look back to 1999, and you'll come over all excited about the prospects of the next ten years. So do take a moment to read these pages and look back on the year.

Before I go and leave the rest of the spread to the games themselves, congratulations to **Tching-ye Yip, Lakshana Huddar, Sam Hayhurst and Sophie Lambrakis** who all took home a copy of *Dragon Age* for the 360. Hooray! And speaking of ludicrous prizes, well... we've got a few this week too.

Without further ado, then, let's stop there. Have a very Merry Christmas, and hopefully I'll see you in the new year.

Win! Santa's Sack

As you can tell, we've got a fair few competitions this week. Thanks to the beautiful people out there in Gameland, developers and publishers have given *felix* Games prize after prize so we can give a few readers a truly excellent Christmas. You'll see the competitions scattered throughout our special double-page this week.

On top of all that, we've also got a bumper crop of bits and pieces to give away in our Santa's Sack draw. One lucky reader will bag:

- A copy of *Dragon Age: Origins* for the Xbox 360
- A copy of *Blood Bowl* for the Xbox 360
- A copy of *World of Zoo* for the PC
- A woolly Mario hat
- A sexy Mario And Sonic At The Olympic Games T-Shirt

Massive thanks go out to Electronic Arts, Sega and THQ for supplying prizes to our big draw. One lucky runner up will also receive the Mario hat and T-Shirt courtesy of those lovely folks at Sega, too.

Phew. So what do you have to do to take home this particular smorgasbord of digital goodness? Well, simply e-mail games.felix@imperial.ac.uk. In your email, simply tell us; if a

videogame character had to replace Santa, which one would you send?

Most outlandish explanations of why Kirby is a responsible member of society (or maybe just whoever makes us laugh) will take home the delicious metaphorical bacon that is the Santa Sack O' Games. Good luck!

The closing date for this, and all competitions from this issue is **Tuesday December 15th at 6pm**. Winners will be contacted before Christmas, and we'll do our best to get those prizes to you in time for the holidays.



2009 in indie gaming

Indie gaming took a somewhat curious turn this year, as LucasArts announced they would be launching a game designed in an indie style, with a sharp game concept, small budget and a set visual style. The resulting *Lucidity* was charming, if ultimately quite shallow, and it remains to be seen if the monolithic developer deemed it an avenue worthy exploring. If they decide it was, then 2010 could be a very interesting year indeed, with more developers trying to emulate the indie style and get a portion of the increasingly huge market for small, clever games.

In terms of true, blue indie games, 2009 was a mixed bag. The 12th IGF awards list a variety of games, of which three stand out in particular – *Blueberry Garden*, the surreal and quite playable platformer from one-man developer Erik Svedang; *Osmos*, the hypnotic reverse-asteroids game; and the delectable *Machinarium*. *Machinarium* was a particular highlight for me this year, with the sort of sky-high production values that we associated with *Braid* last year. Taking the 'Excellence In Visual Art' award without even trying, *Machinarium* is beautiful, funny and well-designed, and surely one of the best fully developed in-

die releases of the year.

As usual, 2009 was also a year of amusing one-day-wonder web hits. *felix* Games readers wrote in praising the likes of *Don't Shit Your Pants*, *You Only Live Once* and *This Is The Only Level*.

Out of all the games that were mentioned, though, *Canabalt* is probably the runaway web hit of this year.

Ludicrously simple, coming from the superb Experimental Gameplay Project, *Canabalt*'s one-button, beautifully presented mechanics swept across the net before most websites had realised what was going on. More of this sort of thing next year, please.



Win! The indie puzzler superhero Machinarium!

Amanita Design are handsome and intelligent people. Not only did they release the superb and engaging *Machinarium* this year, a beautifully drawn and cleverly designed little puzzler that neatly manages to be simple but entertaining, but they even went one further to give *felix* a free copy to give away to a reader. I know! Talk about getting two out of two right, eh? If you'd like to win, send an e-mail to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk by **December 15th** with the subject line, "Do Robots Dance 'The Human'?", and tell us, readers; why haven't robots taken over the world yet? Make us laugh and win a copy.

The closing date is **Tuesday December 15th at 6pm**. So get writing!



Win Stuff On Good Old Games!

No, no, you can't win the whole website. But we have got some games to give away, which is just as good. To celebrate a good year at GoG.com, the nice people there have got a game of your choosing up for grabs for five readers. Huzzah!

Why are we excited about GoG.com? Good Old Games release the classics of yesteryear, the ones that are nearly impossible to find anywhere, for proper

budget prices and without any DRM whatsoever.

Whether it's a recently buried classic like *Psychonauts*, or older gems like *Fallout* or games I'd forgotten existed, like *Rise Of The Triad*, there's something for everyone. Although retailers like Steam do their best to get budget re-releases into their catalogue, no-one's done it to quite the depth GoG.com has.

To get your hands on a copy, e-mail

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk and let us know; if you could re-release an old game, which one would it be and why? Make us stroke our chins and nod sagely at your wisdom to win.

Closing date: **Tuesday December 15th at 6pm**.



Many thanks to the games developers, publishers and PR agencies that helped Felix Games out this week. Thanks especially to Cathy Orr and Ember Wardrop, Sophie Orlando, Kat Osman, Lukasz Kukawski, Wonder Russell, and a particularly huge thanks to the folks over at Amanita Games. Merry Christmas, everyone.

2009 in casual gaming

It's clear now that casual gaming has started to make a crack in hardcore gaming. While Facebook has now grown its gaming to the point where people are calling it a 'platform', casual gaming continues to extend in the opposite direction with titles like *Plants Vs. Zombies* from Popcap games, released this year to great applause and chuckles from the specialist media. While this brand of gaming was originally reviled by the hardcore, it's now becoming clear that it's a compliment, rather than competition, for the games industry.

Games like *Plants Vs. Zombies* and the superb *Mosaic Box* which took the "Excellence In Design" award at this year's Independent Games Festival awards are showing that casual gaming defines the mood of the player, not the weight of the game. *Mosaic Box's* laid-back attitude to itself hid an innova-



Bejeweled has sucked away the hours of many gamers, hardcore or otherwise

tive and engaging puzzle game where musical compositions were broken into jigsaws and had to be rearranged by placing pieces and listening to what you had put down. No boss battles, and no levelling system, but still great design.

Similarly, *Plants Vs. Zombies* was designed to have strategic depth despite being a game where sessions could last for a few minutes if desired. The 'tower defence'-style gameplay, now familiar to gamers thanks to a slew of the games

over the last two years, was remixed with a friendlier face and a kooky humour that people immediately latched onto.

I'm also hoping that indie developers might make the jump to casual-style designs in 2010 as a result. We've already seen some very slick and accessible indie efforts this year. Perhaps next year will see some crossover.

2009 was a good year for casual games. More of this sort of thing in 2010, and the stigma people associate with *FarmVille* may vanish altogether.

Win! Plants Vs Zombies Complete Survival Kits



Popcap have got two complete PvZ survival kits to give away.

Each includes a copy of the game, a PvZ mousemat, a "Your Grass Is Mine" t-shirt and a small gardening kit, to make sure those pea-shooters stay in tip-top fashion.

To win, send an email to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk with the subject line "Alan Titchmarsh Wants My Brain", and tell us which plant you'd use to defend against zombie apocalypse, and why. The two entries that we deem funniest win!

The closing date for this, and all competitions from this issue is **Tuesday December 15th at 6pm.**

2009 in digital WTFs

The Internet is a means of exchanging data over a large international network of computers. You may have heard of it. It turns out it has a great many uses, including – but not limited to – the transfer of financial and economic data, the distribution of gentleman's reading material, and the consumption of electronic videogames material.

Too far? Well, you might think it's a stupid way of talking about the internet, but 2009 has had a string of events that make you wonder if we know what we're doing with it any more. It's like everyone woke up on January 1st and looked at all the wires coming out of the back of the machine and had an epiphany.

It's fair to say that digital distribution is the platform for distributing PC games nowadays, thanks to an enormously strong showing from Steam, Direct2Drive, GoodOldGames and other digital retailers in 2009. With the consoles now catching up, providing older games for release in their own dedicated stores, and some limited new releases too, it won't be long before we finally embrace the idea that

storing games digitally is the way to go.

But there have been some bizarre attempts to take the idea too far this year, the most noticeable of which was the OnLive kerfuffle that kicked off earlier in the year, when journalists worldwide became convinced that we would end the year by playing *Crysis* on our mobile phones at full tilt.

Whoops! OnLive's idea – that gaming data could be computed off-site and streamed into your living room – isn't a bad one. But the infrastructure for such a service is so far off as to make it a fairy-tale right now.

For now, we'd benefit more from uni-

fying the way we store digital purchases. The Steam Cloud fiasco that very nearly got off the ground a few weeks ago was all based around the idea that Valve are putting too much of their Steam platform into digital releases, meaning that other digital retailers are shut out from the process.

It might be boring, but digital retail has got to the point now where it needs standards and shared protocols. I don't need to buy a special bookshelf for my Penguin books. There's no reason to change things online.



OnLive looks set to come back with huge funding in 2010. But will it work?

felix Games Of The Year

Tristan Allwood Wise Man

For the last couple of days I've woken up at 6.45 to get an hour of *MW2* in before uni. I need help. Mario's princess is redecorating her castle, *Borderlands* is still in the CD case, and *Ezio* is skulking in the shadows of Kensington Game waiting to be bought.

Why the hell am I racking up hours of *MW2* gameplay when I could be asleep before work? It's because Infinity Ward are evil. I'm weak, I like collecting things, and if you are going to give me little badges and keep giving me them, for just killing people, or even when I don't,

well, I'm going to keep playing until I get them all. I found all of *Twilight Princess's* golden bugs; I can burn as much time getting a ton of pictures I'll never use.

Having said that, my favourite game of the year was really *Flock*. There's something hilarious about aliens squashing cows, pinball pigs and loved up sheep...



Thomas Roberts Chief Elf

Shadow Complex is not the Game of the Year. But being released in a year that included *Left 4 Dead 2*, the zombies were going to overpower anything else. *Shadow Complex* will just have to settle with being *absolutely* brilliant.

I should have hated it. It contains a



litany of conventions seen time and time again in contemporary games: collectables to lengthen the gameplay, percentage completion to lengthen the gameplay, and of course, achievements! To, uh, compensate for the shortness of the game. Surely I should have saved my MS points for virtual hookers instead?

But no: gloriously high production values, a fluid control scheme, wonderful 2D platforming, fantastic graphics and a more-addictive-than-crack melee button. The last game I completed twice was *Super Mario 64*. I've finished *Shadow Complex* four times. *Shadow Complex* is the most polished, unoriginal game I've ever played, and even more compelling than a vial of Boomer bile.

Simon Worthington Cracker

If I say the latest installment in the ever-expanding *Grand Theft Auto* series, I bet the first title that comes to mind is simply *GTA IV*. You are wrong, I'm afraid. My number one this year is *Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars*, which stands out this year for many reasons. For me, the DS has really been struggling recently for interesting games, and this Rockstar title was a massive breath of fresh air. It makes use of pretty cel-shading-style graphics and a nice 3D engine to display from a bird's eye view, which is very nostalgic for players of earlier GTAs.

For once, it's *GTA* done right! With

interesting and varied missions, surprisingly entertaining mini-games and none of that 'going out with friends' garbage, the series was really taken back to its roots and is simply more fun. By the end, I was left with one striking conclusion which cemented it as my title of the year: this is the game *GTA IV* should have been.



Michael Cook Mince Pie

It's been a good year for gaming. It's clear to see that whatever you game on, 2009 delivered something superb for you. Among the many, many games this year spewed out, one in particular struck a chord with me.

Torchlight is the cover version *Diablo 2* was waiting for. We don't get many truly great games that rework an old concept so successfully, but with

Torchlight we see every aspect that makes a hack-and-slash RPG so great reflected upon, refined and remade in a better, simpler or more engaging way.

The inventory system is improved. Spells work more fluidly in combat. The drip-fed weapon upgrades edge closer to that sweet spot of gaming addiction. It's visually clean, it's simple to control, it's everything a game of its genre should be, and more.

It's the most exciting game I've played all year. Go get it.



Win Torchlight!

Runic Games has *Torchlight*: to give away to you guys. Email: games.felix@imperial.ac.uk telling us why caves are awesome. Make us smile and win a copy of the game!

The closing date for this, and all competitions from this issue is **Tuesday December 15th at 6pm.**



Climate and tubes conspire against Polo

...but the show goes on for the sport of kings, says **Carlotta Ridolfi**, as the club offers a free session.



The event had been planned for weeks. The entire Riding and Polo Club committee combined in a massive effort to give a FREE polo trial to ANYONE that fancied a go, even those who had never ridden a horse, and they say polo is an elitist sport...

The list was made, the food was waiting at the club (vegetarian option included) and the horses (and our kindly manager and coach Ollie Browne) were up and ready to go by sunrise. As we made our way to meet at the Union I'm sure I wasn't alone in casting an apprehensive look at the sky – DROP. Drop, drop, drop, drop. Perfect – it started raining. I thought to myself "It's OK, the people will have left their houses by now, there'd be no point turning back for a few drops of rain". Luckily I got to the Union just in time to avoid the torrential show-

ers that seemed to be engulfing South Ken, and the rest of London including Belmont Polo Club, our venue in Mill Hill at the end of Northern line.

Surprisingly enough about 2/3 of the people that had signed up arrived! As we waited, the waters calmed and the rain settled in time for us to head for the tube. I should have known that we'd lose recruits – the rain and the idea of muddy fields could have put them off a tad, who knows. Seemingly, apart from a couple of fallen pawns, the battle was not lost and we appeared to be doing fairly well. Had I believed in destiny, I would have known that what was about to happen could only have been fate. The driver makes an announcement: "This train has been diverted due to signal failure: it will not be going to Mill Hill East anymore." UGH! Alright change train, quick. We do, but our powers, and those of TfL, were nothing to those of the weather –

all we could do was take a bus. All take out their iPhones, Blackberries, Nokia E71s, ANYTHING to look for an alternative route on the dreaded buses. We found one – it added an hour and a half to the expected journey time, with two buses – the second we JUST missed.

Injured and scarred we arrived victorious at our final destination – Belmont Polo Club. The lucky few that had left before us or made their own way via alternative routes were casually riding on their ponies, happily holding a mallet and swinging it in the air as Ollie, Jon Matthews and Alex Savell painstakingly explained the art of the game. Jon Matthews, one of the club's top polo fanatics comments, "The arena was quite a sight with six people on horses and sixteen people being taught the basics of the polo swing on foot." The much-needed BBQ courtesy of Belmont was up and running and the Argentine beer was proving a great

success. Even though we got there so late, everyone got a go on a horse, everyone (or a good part) loved it and to add the cherry on the cake, the sun even started shining.

Polo is one of the most dangerous, high-adrenaline sports in the world. The rush you get from playing and the pure excitement of the game outweigh the risks, which in the end add to the experience, leaving you with a semi-permanent natural high many hours after you've played. Am I claiming polo is like a drug? Yes indeed. It's addictive, it's fast, it's fun and it promotes a beautiful bond between two species: humans and horses. These join forces to outcompete their opponenents in the game. The horse in fact, counts for 70% of the skill of the game. Polo ponies are amongst the most beautiful and well-kept horses in the world. They're powerful, slender, agile, and exhibit impressive displays of acceleration and manoeuvrability. They

can stop, turn and go with such rapidity and grace the human is left looking rather demeaned. Their responsiveness to commands leaves you in awe of them, and it doesn't take long to tune in with their mind – they want to play as much as you do, and enjoy it as much as you do. It takes a bit of time, but after the horse and the player share a common objective – there is no power that will stop them. To tell the truth, most of the time the pony plays a lot better than I do (amusing really). But once you try it, you don't want to stop, and though it takes a lot patience and practice to master a sport (in polo's case also quite a bit of money) I am prepared to sacrifice it all just so I can play. Fortunately for me, polo at Imperial isn't that expensive: probably one of the best deals in town.

Interested in joining? Email: polo@imperial.ac.uk

An introduction to the Ukrainian Society with Olga Sotulenko

We are the newly created Ukrainian Society of Imperial. Our aim is to promote a positive image of our country abroad, especially in the UK. We plan to organise social and cultural events, such as exhibitions of contemporary Ukrainian artists, attending concerts of Ukrainian and other Slavic singers and bands as well as to celebrate traditional holidays. We will also attend talks/invite speakers talking about topical issues of interest related to Ukraine, and encourage discussions between our society's members.

We are composed of Ukrainians, those with Ukrainian roots and other Slavic and non-Slavic people interested

in our culture. We are open to anyone wishing to learn more about Ukraine, its history, politics, economical issues, language and traditions, and anything else related to it. We will consider any suggestions of possible events to organize, and as long as there are enough enthusiasts, it should be possible to arrange them. We will also try to provide support to our members in terms of UK visa information and job applications. Furthermore, we would assist those wishing to apply to Imperial College, as representatives of it in our home country.

We are going to work together with other UK university Ukrainian Societies and the Association of Ukrainians in the UK to organize joint themed events. Also we are planning to inter-

act with various businesses, and political and cultural institutions to gain support, find interesting speakers and build a network of Ukraine-related organizations.

Our first event being organised is the introductory Christmas dinner, when the members and the committee will all get a chance to meet each other in an informal setting, and come up with ideas about what sort of events the majority of people would be interested in. Following on, the committee will work on putting those thoughts into practice, which would be implemented next term. One project we are already working on is inviting a contemporary Ukrainian painter to have an exhibition at Imperial. Our official website is also being completed and will be up

and running soon. There you'll be able to view our events and contact us to drop some ideas.

Overall, we hope that all the current members of the society will enjoy taking part in it. Also that with time we will attract more members, who will begin to appreciate that Ukraine is not just some cold country in Eastern Europe where people drink vodka, and that Ukrainians are not simply people who stick together, but that it is actually a great place with interesting people!

Already thrilled?! To discover more, please join our friendly Ukrainian Society, and we will make sure you will not regret it!

Interested? join on the union website for only £2!



IC Symphony Orchestra excel at their Winter Concert

Elgar would be proud that music and science are not as different as you might think, with **William Cowley**

After winning the title of 'Orchestra of the Year 2008' in the inaugural SymphUni national competition, ICSO might have been expected to rest on its laurels. On this occasion the orchestra surpassed itself in a performance of much subtlety and great joy that was very well attended.

Edward Elgar lived in Kensington for a while after his wedding at Brompton Oratory in 1889 and would have been familiar with the buildings of the Royal College of Science. The Queen's Tower was completed just before the composition of Cockaigne, and Elgar would have been delighted to know that a young orchestra would give such a confident, but sensitive, performance of his music a century later in a concert hall just a few yards away from the tower. He would have been even more delighted to find that the orchestra contained several chemists - he was an enthusiastic amateur chemist, with a patent for a device producing a reagent required for qualitative analysis. (When he lived in Hereford he had his own laboratory where he produced at least one large inadvertent explosion. Fortunately, when he moved to London, he confined his experimental scientific interests to microscopy). The Cockaigne overture, describing the parks, the pageantry and general good fellowship of London (features that, fortunately, are still discernible) de-

mands excellence from all the sections of the orchestra, but the brass section had the best opportunity and took it, giving a bravura performance.

Many composers (and Mozart in particular) are reputed to have enjoyed playing the viola rather than the violin, possibly because of the satisfaction felt at contributing more expressively to the harmony, but Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven did not compose concertos for solo viola. Both Benjamin Britten and his teacher, Frank Bridge, were violists, but neither wrote a concerto for the solo instrument. Only very recently has the repertoire expanded appreciably under the influence of Yuri Bashmet. So we are grateful to Franz Hoffmeister, Mozart's Viennese contemporary and very talented friend, who wrote two (now neglected) concertos for viola. Congratulations are due to whoever put it into the programme. The soloist for this performance, Duncan Anderson (Viola Section Principal for ICSO), gave an impeccable account with sufficient power never to have been submerged by the orchestra. As Hoffmeister intended, we were shown the mellow tones of the viola and, particularly in the closing rondo, its great agility. The two intricate and demanding cadenzas in the concerto were composed by Franco Gulli (1926-2001), an Italian-American violin virtuoso. The soloist negotiated them, apparently effortlessly, with great skill. On the basis of this performance, the

D major concerto is unjustly neglected and your reviewer will be looking for a recording.

I thought I knew the Rachmaninov second symphony pretty well, but the orchestra, under the deeply informed direction of Richard Dickins, showed several felicitous features of the orchestration that I hadn't noticed before and he drew some beautifully turned phrases from the strings. From the beginning, it was clear that we would be treated to the passionate kind of performance that the music needs and that a young orchestra can provide. The precision of the playing came out very well in the whirling fugato of the second movement. The beautiful main theme of the third movement (Adagio), on the clarinet of the section principal, could not have been better played. It was sensitively done, without too much rubato, and the woodwind section as a whole subsequently produced lovely decoration. The second movement (Allegro vivace) is a magnificent edifice with a glorious theme for the strings and is also a great joy for the brass section. At the conclusion, the large audience was drawn into wild applause. The symphony, without the traditional cuts, took about an hour. With a performance of this quality, one is left regretting that it all had to end.

The new style of the programme booklet, with several high definition colour photographs of the orchestra, soloist and conductor and text



that is easy on the eye, is very much appreciated.

The audience at the Johannesburg International Mozart Festival is in for a great treat when ICSO gives a few concerts, including Cockaigne and the Rachmaninov symphony, over a long weekend at the end of January. ICSO

is a great ambassador and not just for IC. The England Cricket Team will just have concluded their tour of South Africa and their results will depend on the pitches - but the ICSO pitch is always perfect!

Email: icso@imperial.ac.uk

Patrick Farrell joins the Fellwanderers in a Welsh storm



There are two kinds of people in the world, partitioned by how they react when facing adversity. Those of the first kind accept that life is not always easy, react with good cheer and a can-do spirit, and ultimately overcome. Those of the other sort moan, grumble, and ultimately buckle.

There was no shortage of adversity on the recent trip to Cadair Idris. The mountain is 893m high and lies at the southern end of Snowdonia national park. It is notable both in Welsh history and mythology: Dafydd, the last Welsh Prince of Wales, was captured at its foot in 1283, while those who sleep on its slopes are supposed to wake up either madmen or poets. Frankly, given the weather we faced, you'd have to be a madman to ascend it in the first place.

The trip started well. The club de-

parted the metropolis on the Friday evening for the long drive to Wales. As we approached the border, the weather started to turn; by the time we arrived at the cabin, it was raining quite heavily, and the unloading of the van was hurried so that we could take shelter. As we settled into the cabin, the radio informed us that we had arrived during the worst storm of the year. Excellent! We love a challenge.

During a brief break in the rain, Mireia and I took the chance to go outside and admire the sky; with few lights around, you can see thousands of stars. The night sky is one of the things I miss about living in the city, and so becomes one of the best reasons for leaving it. During the night, my snoozing was interrupted by thunder and lightning: just the sort of thing you want to hear when you're going hiking the next day!

The wake-up call was exceedingly gentle: no great hurry, porridge cooked for you, plenty of time for faff. The rain was pelting down, but we eagerly donned our waterproofs and set out in good cheer. As there were thirty of us, the group soon divided in two; I stayed with Alex, while the other half took a different route under the trusty stewardship of Jim.

One of the things I found odd about the English when I moved here was how much less chatty they are, compared to my fellow Irishmen. It has taken me a few years to understand

that it isn't that the English are trying to be rude; it's just that they are a bit more reserved, and once you get past that they are as friendly as anyone else. By contrast to the usual standard in London, the Fellwanderers are the friendliest bunch of people I have found at Imperial. I am not a sociologist, but if I were to hazard a guess, I would hypothesise that it is because when you are going out in a storm for half a day, it is much more pleasant to converse with your companions than glumly march in the rain. When you know that you will be talking for several hours, you are much more willing to partake in tales, yarns, digressions and tangents. It really does work: the time always flies, regardless of the weather.

The weather was indeed atrocious. The rain lashed down unforgivingly on the slopes, soaking everyone. In those kinds of conditions, waterproofs are at best approximations, and within some hours everyone was wet. We walked to the rhythmic squelch of soggy socks.

The approach to the summit is covered in scree, a haphazard accumulation of broken rock fragments that make for a treacherous path underfoot. The rocks jut at odd angles, shift and rotate as you put your weight on them, and generally make themselves a nuisance. Most of us tiptoed tentatively, testing the next rock before committing, but Valdas sauntered along, unconcerned about the ground under-

foot, as though he were on his way to a ball.

The best part of the trip was undoubtedly the scramble to the top. The rainfall had engorged a stream running down from the summit, so it meandered aside and through the route up we were to take. At times, the mountain presented an angle of sixty degrees to the horizontal, and we regularly had to use our hands to maintain balance while we sought the next toehold. Fortunately, the wind was to our backs, and halfway up the approach the rain lessened, then stopped. By that point, the drum of the rain had passed into white noise, and it took several minutes for me to even realise that the rain had waned. Near the top we even saw blue sky, for the whole of ten seconds!

We finally ascended the mountain, to find that the winds on top were incredibly strong. While Mathieu took the photo of me at the trig point on the top, I held on out of genuine fear that I would be knocked over. If your camera were held in the palm of your hand, it actually would have been blown away. Fortunately, some clever fellow had decided to build a hut on the top: it might have had five centimetres of water on the ground, but at least it gave shelter from the wind. We huddled and shivered and ate our sandwiches.

The way down wasn't much easier. On the descent, the wind was so strong that you had to compensate for it when

you were planning your next step; when it would gust or weaken for a moment, your planning went awry. With the wind came a lashing spray, which stung the side of your face. Everyone walked with their hand to their eye.

On the lower slopes, the weather eased, and we got some beautiful views of the Welsh coastline from the side of the mountain. By the time we got back to the cabin, everyone was drenched but smiling. I braved a cold shower in the cabin and sat around the fire to dry myself out as I waited for dinner. There is a wonderfully satisfying feeling that comes from being warm and dry after braving such conditions: not only do you feel glad that you achieved what you set out to do, but the contrast between the fresh memories of discomfort and your current situation enhances the whole experience. Between the roaring fire and the good company, the time until dinner passed quickly. Jim cooked an exquisite chicken and leek stew, followed by apple pie and custard. I went to sleep happy.

We also walked on the Sunday, but I am confident that you have gotten the idea by now.

Despite the weather, or actually because of it, I had an awesome time. The most striking part? No one moaned for the whole weekend. If you are interested in adventure, the outdoors, and good company, then the Fellwanderers appears to be the club to join.

CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

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

Drop us a message at felixonline.co.uk



FIRST CATNIP QUESTION OF 2010: WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Drunken-mate photo of the week



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

It's reassuring to know that we have an Editor who drinks and works 24/7 to bring us a high quality newspaper every week. Our thanks go to an anonymous Travel Editor.

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

The worst pick-up line you've ever heard?

Come on, love. Let's not turn this rape into a murder.
Second Year Medic

Catch a goat, you've pulled.
Anonymous Vodafone Employee

Get your coat, love. I've got a knife.
Kunal Ghandi

I wish I was your differential so I could lie tangent to your curves.
Imperial Student

If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put your sister and I together.
Anonymous

And now, a Rebuttal from the Medics' Rugby Team:
I can run faster horny than you can run scared.
B.O.D

CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

EMAIL TO
catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FACEBOOK
it on our 'Felix' fan page

TWITTER
just tag your tweets with
[@felixcatnip](https://twitter.com/felixcatnip)

OR TEXT US
on 07832670472

xkcd.com



Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

45 things to do with your Christmas tree

If you thought Hangman articles were getting ridiculous, feel well-assured that this one is no different

You're in the festive spirit. No you're not, don't be stupid. We're British depressives. We enjoy being miserable and taking it out on others. However, instead of sitting in your cold office and watching your nephew's son die of starvation and then enduring three tedious revelations from ghosts with a slender grasp of the space-time continuum, there is a much better way of ruining others' Christmases.

Have a better Christmas - 'out-Christmas' them. When they receive forty Christmas cards, write forty one to yourself. When they make a wreath and place it on their door, make a bigger one and put it on your house! And if you still think they're out-Christmasing you, it's time to pull out the tree!

That's right, there is more to that Abies alba than pine and tinsel. People just cast their Christmas tree into the dingy corner of the living room and leave it there to die slowly in a coil of pretty flashing lights.

Well fuck that! Ain't no Christmas tree gonna die on our watch! We'd take a bullet for our Christmas tree, and so would you.

Here is a list of 45 fun things to do with your beloved 'fir'iend:

- 1 - Take your tree go karting
- 2 - Poison it
- 3 - Burn it
- 4 - Take it to see a musical
- 5 - Hide your laptop inside it
- 6 - Dress it as a Mexican
- 7 - Humiliate it by giving it a silly girl's name like Janet
- 8 - Genetically modify it to grow a hand
- 9 - Shake its hand
- 10 - Buy another tree and decorate it to make the other jealous
- 11 - Cut it down after putting it up
- 12 - Acuse it of watching illegal sapping porn and throw it out of the house
- 13 - Buy it a fitted suit
- 14 - Introduce your tree to Royalty
- 15 - Get it addicted to crystal meth
- 16 - Give it an intervention and send it to rehab
- 17 - Kiss your tree goodnight
- 18 - 'Beat the shit out of your tree' goodnight
- 18 - Take your tree to the tree doctor
- 19 - Tell the tree doctor that the tree ran into a door
- 20 - Take Japanese evening classes with your tree
- 21 - Start a post-hardcore jazz funk band with your tree
- 22 - Split up over creative differences
- 23 - Laugh at your tree's solo album



- 24 - Take your tree to lectures
- 25 - Tell the A-grade twat girl from physics that the seat she reserved for her equally twattish friend is going to be filled by your fuck-off Christmas tree
- 26 - Start a fight with the A-grade twat girls from Physics
- 27 - Lose a fight with the A-grade twat girls from Physics
- 28 - Compliment your tree on its green-ness
- 29 - Teach it how to cyber-bully
- 30 - Tell your tree that you were deeply hurt by the abusive text message he sent you
- 31 - Laugh at your tree for using a mac
- 32 - Ask for your laptop back
- 33 - Tell the tree to stop laughing
- 34 - Co-write a sitcom with your tree about a bi-polar emu with time travel

- abilities
- 35 - Have a fling with with a Japanese Cherry Birch
- 36 - Tree finds out about the fling after talking to one of the Birch's friends - you shouldn't have taken it to those Japanese evening classes
- 37 - Comfort your tree through its goth/emo phase

- Travel and Tourism
- 41 - Ask your tree politely to stop photo synthesising so loudly
- 42 - Make your tree breakfast in bed
- 43 - Ask why your tree never makes you breakfast in bed
- 44 - Attend marital counselling sessions
- 45 - Order a DVD with your tree from Amazon.



- 38 - Take your tree to a psychiatrist for its phobia of tapas
- 39 - Take your tree hostage and demand that Germany pay you a ransom of 6,000,000,000 Yen
- 40 - Mock your tree for its BTEch in

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THE TROUBLED EMU

THE Series

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40 new

Hangman writes a Christmas Film

It's not hard to write a Christmas film, it only takes some basic ingredients and we've written a synopsis of our Screenplay, 'Bearly a Christmas'. We'll take you through the steps we followed in writing this family fun feature.

1 - We needed the generic Christmas film story-line. This consists of Christmas being ruined, and then fixed - The End.

So what constitutes a ruined Christmas? Someone dying. Being a family film, it needed to encompass all age ranges so we decided to have a child being savagely mauled to death by a jolly bear.

2 - We then needed a good Christmassy cast. One name that immediately fitted the bill was Hugh Grant - he would be the incapable, bumbling, but lovable Dad. Jennifer Garner is the pragmatic, but essentially hot mum/wife.



3 - The story takes place in Bear Town, Oregon. Hugh Grant is a well-established lumberjack. His lumber-team, however, are strongly against his pro-bear ethics.

4 - Grant's pro-bear ethics are tested when he comes home to witness his daughter being brutally shredded apart by the jolly talking dancing bear, played by Brian Blessed.

5 - Jennifer Garner is sobbing hysterically. She tells Grant to shoot the jolly bear, but he feels that too many lives have been lost for one day.

6 - Instead, he invites the jolly bear inside, determined not to have him ruin their family Christmas. After a comical evening of charades, Twister and After Eights, Hugh and Jennifer decide to put their differences with the jolly bear aside and ask him to live with them.

Hangfan

We love hearing from the fans and have received some really warm feedback. Send some of your love to hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

"Dear Hangman. I am an ex-editor of this shambolic newspaper. Firstly, we were much funnier in 1873. I am highly offended by your alternative history of felix, it was almost completely inaccurate. Although I believe we did sponsor the 80s - the 1880s that is. Mozart was making a comeback, and we were all fucked on opium anyway. I miss those days. Love, E.M. Mews"



TWATTER



SexySanta69

Work is Pretty fuckin busy atm. Elves r fuckin shit. And the wife is bein a fuckin slag



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

You could say she's being a HO HO HO :p



Barack_attack_l33thaxor

Gor shut da fuck up. Santa ur treatin dem elves like slaves. I think u shud set dem free. I got nobel peace prize! LOL Just kiddin. fuck da peace



SexyOsama69

Santa! WTF? U've stolen my name! And u've stolen my beard. I'm goin to paint my beard white and get sum flying reindeer

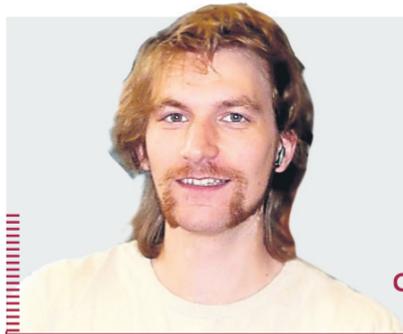


SexySanta69

Alrite Osie, I'll do Europe and America. U do the middle east. I'm well scared of dem roof-side bombs neway lol

COFFEE BREAK

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



And back to the Vomit Pit!

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

I am in an inordinate amount of pain. No srsly halp! Yesterday was the second ACC bar night of the term, and after the "difficulties" of the first, my vice (Zubin) and I brainstormed, Zubin bench pressed the desk a few hundred times and we got the new mobile bar more, much more jugs. Oh yeah, and karaoke, everyone loves a bit of the karaoke. The result... absolute carnage, literally the whole of my body hurts. Now I've never fallen out of an aeroplane at 40,000 ft without a parachute, I'm not an idiot, but I know how much pain that would induce. It was a night of epic proportions, we even bust out the yard glass! So yeah good stuff.

Moving back to the Vomit Pit idea that I brought up a couple of weeks ago, you'll all be glad to know that we have had a group meeting and there have been a few issues raised. Firstly the age old problem of throwing freshers down wells to see if they are witches or not. So to ensure that a poor fresher is not thrown down the Pit to see if they are a floater or not, we're going to have to install a grill over the opening. There will also be a handrail to hold onto whilst having your tech-

nicolour yawn, which doubles up as a barrier to stop people accidentally slipping on the vomit grill.

Secondly there are numerous events that go on in the upper echelons of the Union. Noticeably the tie club dinners and RSM events. Now these "dinners" tend to end up a little messy, and some poor sod has to rock out with a mob and bucket. Not good. So the simple way to solve this is to install one of those big blue shoots that builders use to drop stuff off of the top of some scaffolding and into a skip. This can be attached to and open window and take all the vomit straight into the pit. At the end of the night, the shoot can be washed down with a bit of water and it's right as the mail. If there's not a strike on. All these ideas have been submitted to Phase 3 development group, but we need *your* backing! Apologies for a few general 'mares last week, I was cocking busy and couldn't really be arsed that much. Anyway, as I forgot to change the quote last week, I've given you two to chew down. One is a particularly eloquent way to ask for a pint of two, I suggest you use it as often as you possibly can. The results are interesting, you'll be surprised! Hokay bai!

Stuff Imperial students don't like:

10. Slow People:

You've all been there, trying to get into college and there is a whole bunch of really slowly walking, normally tourists or children under your feet. Why can't they match their pace to the surrounding population, is it really that hard to do? If not, I firmly believe that a punch to the back of the head (donkey punch style) should be not only

accepted, but actively encouraged. The stress and anger they cause to us poor, normally hung over students in the mornings is something that we don't need at the start of a day. I am already a bit grumpy-it's not even 9am and I want to be in bed. So tourists taking pictures across the pavement, whilst walking slowly and asking me directions to the Science Museum, rattles my cage un peu. Trust me the next one is getting smacked in the head.



He's got legs, he knows how to use them

This week's best of lol woofs



Quotes of the Week

Jovan Nedic (last year's editor): "Stop being a fucking bitch and give me my beer." (He didn't get his beer)

Bill Vaughan: "In the game of life, it's a good idea to have a few early losses, which relieves you of the pressure of trying to maintain an undefeated season."

Wordoku 1,448

			Q			O
		I	L	A		
	D	A				S
	O	A	I			E
S		O	D			A
	L		E		S	O
	E			I	O	
		L	E	S		
I			D			

Solution 1447

H	S	W	C	R	E	U	M	O
M	O	R	U	S	W	C	H	E
E	C	U	M	O	H	S	W	R
R	W	C	S	M	V	E	O	H
U	M	O	H	E	R	W	S	C
S	H	E	O	W	C	M	R	U
C	U	M	W	H	O	R	E	S
O	R	S	E	C	M	H	U	W
W	E	H	R	U	S	O	C	M

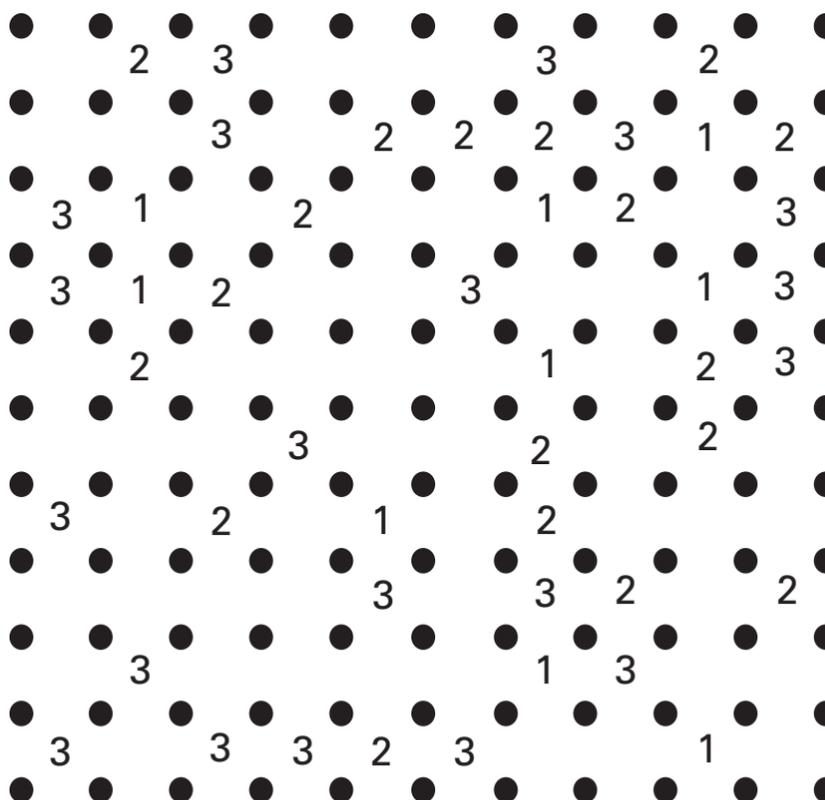
How to play:

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.

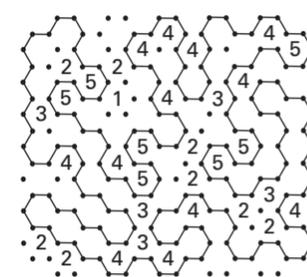
For the more observant amongst you, you'll have realised that there were two answers for Wordoku last week. If you did, you got double points. Winner was **somebody who posted it under the office door on Friday**, but I lost it!

Scribble box

Slitherlink 1,448



Solution 1447

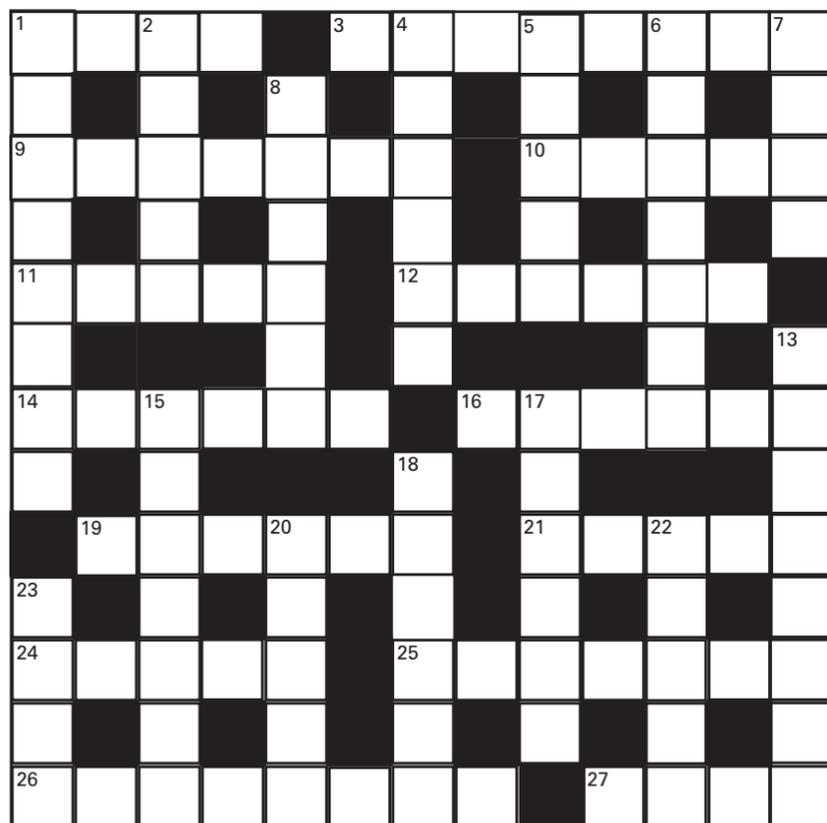


So last week was a bit of an uber Slitherlink, still we got loads of responses in. Winner was **Harry Potter Trio**, have gone back to the top of the FUCWIT. Well done.

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.

A quickie (crossword) 1,448



ACROSS

- 1 Bread rolls - A lady's cans? (4)
 3 Blast pod (anag.) (4,4)
 9 Lad edge (anag.) (4,3)
 10 i.e. (2,3)
 11 Cruise ship (usually one?) (5)
 12 Immoral (typically political) (6)
 14 "Please wait while we try to connect you" / "Our operators are very busy at the moment" / "We appreciate your call" (2,4)
 16 Clement _____ (PM 1945-51) (6)
 19 Disregard (6)
 21 Relative (5)
 24 Quanta of info. (5)
 25 Give it hell (vocally) (4,3)
 26 Group of knifers, or urinators (8)
 27 _____ pepper - _____ end - _____ pull (4)

DOWN

- 1 Ill will (3,5)
 2 Unadorned - Large, flat, empty land (5)
 4 Dignified and imposing (6)

- 5 Minor road leading to house (5)
 6 NY street foodstuff (7)
 7 Skirt (worn by Darcey Bussell?) (4)
 8 With an 's' on the end (usually) (6)
 13 Statue base (8)
 15 Masturbatory afternoon snack (4,3)
 17 What you do on piano-keys, or in a urinal (6)
 18 One belonging to a group - Skin flute (6)
 20 Energy, drive, vigour (informal) (5)
 22 What one does at Gretna Green (5)
 23 Lyrical verses (4)

Solution 1447



Scribble box

So a new record last week for getting this puzzle in. It was handed to Dan the Wan whilst he was putting the papers out, at 12.35! That means that the paper had been in the bins for about half an hour. That's keen. Oh yeah the winner was a new team- **The Cool Kids and Fergal**, well done to you.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

Fallo-scopes; putting the cock back into horoscopes

That's the last time I'm ever leaving a woman in charge of my twelve babies. Motherly instinct, my arse!



Aquarius

The Japanese. I love them, I do. All their cute little cartoons and culture. And their girls. Oh man, their girls. I would

do unmentionable things to them. Actually, they're quite mentionable. Spitroast, headfuck, upside-down-gasoline-in-your-ear, the wart-scraper, the felching, the clunge-hammer AND the cum-bucket.



Pisces

Florence from the Machine? How hot is she? She might be ginger, but my balls, is she hot. Look at her, prancing about

on stage with her 'machine'. Well, let me tell you now, I'd definitely be her 'machine'. OI OI, know what I mean? No, I'd happily be her vibrator. Yeh? Slow on the uptake, lad. Come on. Ginger lad. Ginger lad.



Aries

You've realised your destiny is to kill all ginger people. You don't know how you're going to do it, you just know it definitely

needs to be done. Pubes first, maybe. Getting rid of the trail of red that covers that covers their filthy genitals that allow them to breed more of their ginger filth. Oh no. Oh no. This can't be happening. I just found my own ginger pube.



Taurus

You'll get laid at the Christmas Ball. You get her back to your room, , but she's not that attractive or interesting. She's

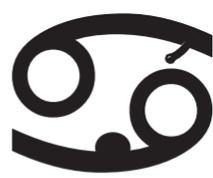
lying there doing and saying nothing. Suddenly, she pipes up with some of the hottest dirty talk you've ever heard. She's well good at mid-intercourse-dirty-talk, she is. Turrettes is awesome. SPLAT.



Gemini

You see a girl across the bar and she gives you a little cheeky smile. You move over to the dancefloor and give her a seductive

look to come join you. She's a bit short, and she's gliding through the club rather oddly. She's hot and classy, that's what classy birds do, right? SHE'S ON A CHAIR WITH WHEELS. I can't wait to wrap her legs up in knots.



Cancer

You're officially a cockjockey. No-one actually likes you and you have no idea why. Maybe it's something to do with the fact

you just sit next to people leaching their oxygen and generally their time. It's also something to do with the fact that you're ginger and have an annoying voice. Shut the fuck up and go away. No, seriously, go throw yourself off.



Leo

IF YOU SWEAR AGAIN I'LL GET YOU THROWN OUT, STOP BEING A FOUL-MOUTHED SOD. Well, that's the

last time I'm sitting in the home end of Vicarage Road with diseased pensioners surrounding me. Oh, it doesn't matter, Watford have just scored three goals against the QPR scum. The Golden Boys are on the march again. You 'oooooorns!



Virgo

You've come round for dinner and your friends are treating you like a king. They refuse to let you help with dinner, and

they're being abnormally generous with their food. You hear them whispering and it turns out they're got you lined up as their 'roast dinner' tomorrow night. Fuck. You go mental, they deny their dastardly plan, and you just look paranoid.



Libra

You're so paranoid from Virgo's happenings, that all your mates become very wary of you.

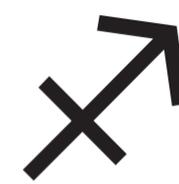
They stay away, and you're effectively a loner that only has wanking in front of your mate's mum as his only human interaction. All your mates' mums have been advised to stay away from you, and well, you've got nothing. Might as well top yourself, son.



Scorpio

You've just snorted the exact weight of Sir Roy Anderson's left foot (ankle down) in ketamine, and you've entered a serious K-hole. Con-

gratulations. You're this year's Nobel Prize Winner, and you're sitting there like a chump with no idea what's going on. They decide you don't actually want your cheque for £100,000, and give it away. £100,000. That's 100,000 items at Poundland!



Sagittarius

You go home this weekend and find your mum fucking your gardener. Wait a minute, you don't have a gardener. Oh, it's your

dad dressed up in overalls. Oh, wait your Dad ran off when you were 12. Oh, it's your brother dressed up in a moustache, grey hair and overalls. Shit bruv, your own brother is fucking your own mother. Incest is best. Apparently.



Capricorn

You're in the Union, and you're naked. Why are you naked and why is there a massive black dong hanging out of your arse? Either way

you need to take a step back and re-evaluate your life. Before taking that step back, make sure that you remove the dong from your arse though. That may get caught and you'll be unable to remove it. That *will* be bad times. Pint?

Aunty McPickle has put it all in a bag for you. Lovely.

Dear Aunty McPickle,

Today in yoga, I was stretching and getting into the zone, when a friend leant over to pull the long hair off my joggers. It was actually my pubic hair sticking through the fabric. I screamed. I'm not a massive fan of shaving or waxing, how can I avoid in this in the future?

Hairy Mary

Dear Mary,

I think you need to get over the shaving/waxing phobia. It is not normal to have protruding pubes which are noticed from afar. Unless you want to strap them in with a chastity belt type gadget, it would be very wise to take a trip to boots, NOW!

Aunty McPickle xxx



Yes, it's what you think. Have a bloody good shave once in a while, place the formerly attached entities in a little baggy, and snort it. You'll never be the same.

Are there any surgical options or am I doomed to live life with a wonky schlong?

Antony Benton

Dear Antony,

This sounds very worrying. Masturbation is normally very good for penile condition. You should probably consider your technique, may be you've been using too much force. There's a

small chance that you suffer from Peyronie's disease, which is associated with a large hard lump on side of the penis which can make the shaft bend. It is caused by localized trauma, so your vigorous pumping maybe the root of the problem. As far as treatment goes an injection may be necessary or in the worst case a surgical operation to remove the plaque.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am foreign student and has date with very pretty English girl. She study geology very hard. We went to nice restaurant. She sees stone table and look with special lens - I think very cute. And then she talks fast, I cannot understand but hear 'not dyke' and 'lick it'. She points table. I think I understand. So I go under. She scared, hit me in face and go home. I sad. I very love her. Help please Aunty!

Dylan Highe

Dear Dylan,

I suggest going to English lessons. This type of affair is only going to happen again. The consequences may be greater next time.

I'm sure being arrested for attempted sexual harassment is not on your to do list (or is it?).

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I'm a computer science student. I have never had physical contact with a girl. My problem is that because of my masturbation, my penis has changed shape so that it is no longer straight or functional. I am afraid that if a girl ever saw what I have done, she will be very afraid.

A-caroling we go!

Last Friday, three merry RAGgers accompanied the Imperial College Chamber Choir to Green Park Tube Station to raise money for the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Rounds of "Ding Dong Merrily on High" rang from the ticket hall and down the long corridors, letting the commuters know that Christmas has come.

Unusually for 7 pm in Central London, the passengers were reported to have actually smiled and to have looked somewhat merry, thanks to the angelic voices of our choir.

Londoners and tourists alike stopped to watch, listen, and most importantly empty their purses into our collection bins. The Christmas cheer gave on-lookers the patience and sense of charity to bother to stop and help make this RAG's most successful Tube collection in living memory, raising £1,400!

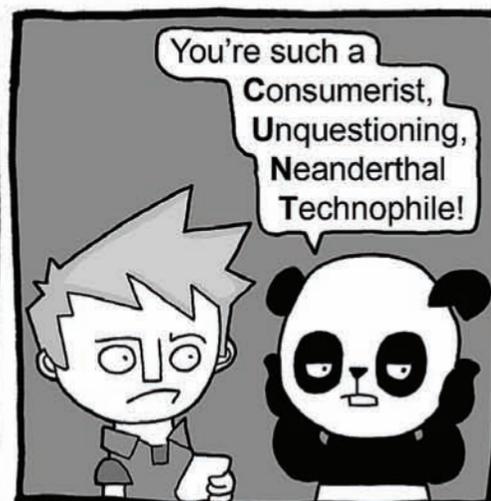
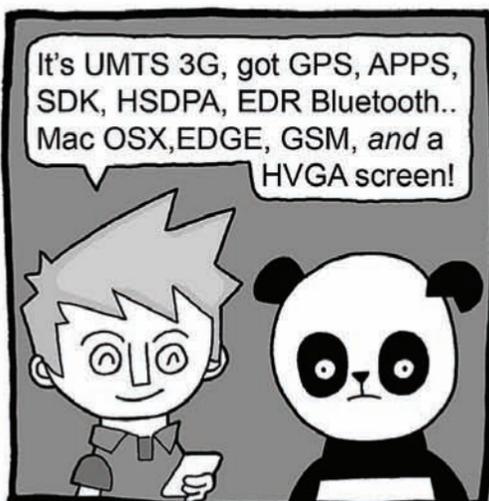
If you want to help rouse the Christmas spirit along with RAG, then come join us on Monday at Trafalgar Square, where we'll be collecting with the main choir, who'll be on the grand stage.

Contact us at rag@imperial.ac.uk.



ANDY PANDA

ANDYPANDA.CO.UK



IC swimming has a whale of a term

Thomas Whitehead-Clarke Swimming

It has been one of the busiest and most successful terms in the history of Imperial college swimming club, including 4 galas over 5 weeks, two of which taking place on the national stage. The term started with the first ever ULU swimming league fixture against teams from Queen Mary and King's College. This competition, designed to get all London universities more involved in swimming, looked to be a promising conquest for the swimming club, as one of the stronger teams in London.

The team did not disappoint, with all swimmers putting in 100% over the evening, which resulted in a convincing win over the other teams, in which imperial won more than 75% of the events swum, and gained nearly double the points of the other teams. Special mention must go to Hannah Collins and her victories in the 100m individual medley, breaststroke and butterfly over the course of the evening.

Next came the national BUCS individual gala, in which Imperial swimmers had headed up to Sheffield to take on some of the best talent in Britain, including team GB and Olympic swimmers, as well as a world champion.

Needless to say this was a tough ask for the team who all swam well,

with some of the new members of the squad posting promising times to be worked on, and relay teams that look to be reaching finals in years to come. Special mention must go to Thomas Whitehead-Clarke finishing 21st in the 200m butterfly, as well as Timothy Marshall's epic performance in the 50M backstroke.

Most notably, Imperial out-performed all other individual London universities, securing its place as the best swimming university in London. Following this was the BUCS team event, where once again competition was tough, especially as the team gained promotion to Division 1 last year, and so were taking on seven of the best teams in the country.

Despite some impressive swims, including a personal best for Florain Brock, a lack of fit swimmers for the club lead to an unfortunate relegation, and the team will now look favourite to gain points in next year's division 2 final.

Finally, last week came the second of three ULU galas for the year, and with such a convincing win behind them, the team decided to field a more modest team for the gala. All swimmers performed exceptionally, with many posting fantastic times, including Tom Trimmell, Giuliano Sison, Cecily Barber and Amy McCallin; giving great hope for the club next year.



ULU's best Swimming club are all smiles at their second successful Gala. In confident moods as they head to the next one

Imperial managed to go on and win the gala, meaning that they have now won the inaugural ULU swimming league with one competition to spare. They hope to go and make a clean

sweep of the year, bringing a new trophy home for the university. Next year the team will be heading up to Sheffield for another national competition, as well as a possible trip to Europe to

compete in the IDEA league

The club would like to thank the support they have received from their coach Sergio Catania, as well as Fast-Fins swim school and Jonas Grau.



FIXTURES & RESULTS

imperial college union sport Imperial
in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 5th December Badminton (ULU)

Men's 3s 8-1 LSE 4s

Football (ULU)

Challenge Cup

Men's 1s 1-1 Imperial College Medicals 1s

(a.e.t. College win 4-3 on penalties)

Men's 2s 0-1 King's College 1s

Reserve Cup

Men's 4s 2-4 Queen Mary 3s

Plate

Men's 5s 4-0 King's College 3s

Vase

Men's 7s 2-4 Queen Mary 4s

Monday 7th December

Basketball (ULU - Challenge Cup)

Women's 1s 44-39 King's College 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s 27-55 UCL 1s

Women's 4s 17-21 King's College 5s

Squash (ULU)

Men's 4s 5-0 SOAS 1s

Women's 1s 3-2 RUMS 1s

Wednesday 9th December

Badminton

Men's 1st 7-1 LSE 1st

Fencing

Women's 2nd 132-113 Royal Holloway 1st

Football (ULU)

Men's 4s 3-1 UCL 5s

Reserve Cup

Men's 3s 1-2 LSE 4s

Hockey

Men's 1st 1-3 Brunel University 1st

ULU

Men's 2s 0-3 Royal Holloway 1s

Men's 3s 2-1 St Barts 2s

Men's 4s 1-6 Goldsmiths 1s

Lacrosse

Women's 1st 21-0 Royal Holloway 2nd

Netball

Women's 1st 55-26 Royal Holloway 3rd

ULU

Women's 2s 26-27 Imperial College Medicals 3s

Rugby

Men's 1st 6-12 St Mary's 2nd

BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd 32-0 Roehampton University 1st

Squash

Men's 2nd 3-2 Brunel University 1st

Men's 3rd 2-1 University of Kent 2nd

Women's 1st 2-2 LSE 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st 11-6 Brunel University West London 1st

Saturday 12th December

Fencing (BUCS)

Men's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st

Men's 1st vs Oxford University 1st

Football (ULU)

Men's 1s vs UCL 3s

Men's 2s vs Queen Mary 1s

Men's 4s vs RUMS 2s

Men's 5s vs King's College 3s

Men's 6s vs King's College 4s

Men's 7s vs School of Slavonic & East European Studies 2s

Sunday 13th December

Fencing (BUCS)

Men's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st

Football (ULU)

Women's 1s vs SOAS 1s

Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs UCL Mixed 1s

Squash (ULU)

Men's 2s vs St Barts 1s

Volleyball (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs UCL Mixed 2s

Monday 14th December

Badminton (ULU - Challenge Cup)

Mixed 1s vs King's College Mixed 1s

Basketball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs Queen Mary 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs St Barts 1s

Women's 4s vs LSE 6s

Squash (ULU)

Men's 1s vs King's College 1s

Men's 4s vs St Barts 1s

Women's 1s vs UCL 1s

Wednesday 16th December

Badminton

Men's 2nd vs Kingston University 1st

Hockey (ULU)

Men's 1s vs Imperial College Medicals 1s

Men's 4s vs St Barts 2s

Men's 5s vs Imperial College Medicals 3s

Women's 1s vs St George's Medical School 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs Imperial College Medicals 1s

Rugby (ULU - Challenge Cup)

Women's 1s vs UCL 1s

Volleyball (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs UCL Mixed 1s

Courageous Gaelic Girls

Continued from Back Page

off Katie towards the end of the second half, continued superbly in this role for the first part of the second half with not just excellent saves but some great kick passes as well. Katie and Moira continued with the form we had come to expect and set up some lovely passes to Hilda and Eileen who were making great space and really threatening to score. With Imperial improving with every kick and push, St Mary's onslaught slowed and IC got steadily closer to getting on the score sheet. Then, in the dying seconds of the game, a well-deserved penalty saw Cork woman Moira square up in front of the posts. The grounds fell silent. Everybody in Twickenham watched as Moira stepped up and took the ball in her hands. The ball sailed between the posts as the final whistle blew and applause erupted.

The final score was "so-many-I-stopped-counting" to one but the team's spirit was admirable. As we limped back to the borrowed minibus, downtrodden but not down-hearted we vowed to one day return and beat those four girls who carried that team to a, let's face it, fluky victory - but not before we'd paid our fines in the Union.

The *felixSport* League Table Returns in time for Christmas!

Mustapher Botchway Sports editor

It has finally arrived. After painstaking deliberation over the format and scoring system, the phoenix that is the *felixSport* league table has risen from the ashes of its predecessor to grace you with its presence.

The format is simple; only BUCS teams that have played over 5 games are considered. Each win grants you 5 points, 2 for a draw and you suffer a penalty of 4 points for every loss you concede. Some would say the reason some teams exist at Imperial is to attain as high a position as possible in the infamous *felixSport* League Table. To extrapolate this view, we are providing an incentive for you to play all your games and are thus now enabling walkovers to contribute to the table, at

the end of the season. So no slacking guys and girls. This is BUCS after all

Though Tennis Men's 1sts cannot replicate last year's success of winning all their games, can they top this year's table? After Rugby Men's 1sts horrid season with the cream of the crop in the BUCS South Premiership B, they are once again topping the tables with an impressive 7 victories from 8 games. The Medicals will aim to improve on last year and by this year-end they occupy 3 of the top 10 spots. In contrast they do occupy 6 of the bottom 10 places.

Have fun reading and debating with your friends from rival sports and teams and please ensure you get your results to fixtures live or Alissa Ayling, the Sports Partnership Administrator up in the SAC as soon as you can after your games so we can have an as up to date table as possible. Stay winning all!

Team		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	<i>felixSport</i> Index
1	Volleyball Men's 1st	5	5	0	0	10	2	8	5.00
2	Fencing Women's 1st	4	4	0	0	529	353	176	5.00
3	Rugby Men's 1st	8	7	1	0	265	53	212	4.63
4	Badminton Men's 1st	7	6	1	0	39	17	22	4.57
5	Squash Women's 1st	8	6	2	0	26	6	20	4.25
6	ICSM Rugby Men's 1st	9	8	0	1	332	116	216	4.00
7	ICSM Netball Women's 2nd	5	3	2	0	199	157	42	3.80
8	Lacrosse Women's 1st	7	6	0	1	124	21	103	3.71
9	Table Tennis Men's 1st	7	6	0	1	96	23	73	3.71
10	ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	7	5	1	1	42	14	28	3.29
11	Netball Women's 2nd	7	5	1	1	245	137	108	3.29
12	Lacrosse Men's 1st	5	4	0	1	50	34	16	3.20
13	Squash Men's 3rd	5	4	0	1	11	4	7	3.20
14	Volleyball Women's 1st	5	4	0	1	8	3	5	3.20
15	ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	8	6	0	2	35	15	20	2.75
16	Football Men's 1st	8	5	1	2	26	17	9	2.38
17	Hockey Women's 1st	7	4	1	2	36	7	29	2.00
18	ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	7	3	2	2	10	18	-8	1.57
19	Hockey Men's 2nd	6	3	1	2	12	11	1	1.50
20	ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	6	3	1	2	15	13	2	1.50
21	Tennis Men's 2nd	5	3	0	2	25	25	0	1.40
22	Squash Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	19	16	3	1.14
23	Squash Men's 4th	7	4	0	3	12	9	3	1.14
24	Tennis Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	43	27	16	1.14
25	Football Men's 2nd	8	4	0	4	15	12	3	0.50
26	Netball Women's 1st	8	4	0	4	309	275	34	0.50
27	Basketball Men's 1st	6	3	0	3	387	388	-1	0.50
28	ICSM Netball Women's 1st	6	3	0	3	212	201	11	0.50
29	Rugby Men's 3rd	6	2	1	3	77	118	-41	0.00
30	Fencing Women's 2nd	7	3	0	4	687	875	-188	-0.14
31	Badminton Men's 2nd	5	2	0	3	16	24	-8	-0.40
32	ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	5	2	0	3	22	17	5	-0.40
33	Squash Men's 2nd	5	2	0	3	9	16	-7	-0.40
34	Hockey Women's 2nd	7	2	1	4	11	26	-15	-0.57
35	Fencing Men's 3rd	6	2	0	4	603	744	-141	-1.00
36	Football Men's 3rd	5	1	1	3	4	17	-13	-1.00
37	Badminton Women's 1st	7	1	2	4	24	32	-8	-1.00
38	Tennis Women's 1st	7	1	2	4	21	49	-28	-1.00
39	Hockey Men's 1st	6	1	1	4	13	21	-8	-1.50
40	ICSM Football Men's 1st	6	1	1	4	6	13	-7	-1.50
41	ICSM Netball 3rd	7	1	1	5	169	248	-79	-1.86
42	ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	6	0	2	4	5	26	-21	-2.00
43	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	85	81	4	-2.20
44	Rugby Union Men's 4th	5	1	0	4	49	127	-78	-2.20
45	ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	79	147	-68	-2.50
46	Netball Women's 3rd	6	1	0	5	108	220	-112	-2.50
47	ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd	7	1	0	6	84	253	-169	-2.71
48	Football Women's 1st	6	0	1	5	2	34	-32	-3.00
49	ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	7	0	1	6	5	59	-54	-3.14
50	ICSM Football Men's 2nd	6	0	0	6	4	33	-29	-4.00

Immortals yet to win with heavy loss to Brighton Tsunamis

Geoffery Chow	American Football
Imperial Immortals Men's	2
Brighton Tsunamis	23

The Imperial Immortals hit the road again on Sunday for their third game of the season, trekking to the south coast to face an experienced Brighton side. Battling a bigger squad and at times the elements, the injury-hit Immortals persevered bravely with a threadbare squad of nineteen, but were unable to prevent a Tsunami victory.

On offence, it was a war of attrition as running backs Daniel Jones and Alex Karvelas found yards were hard-earned against an organised Brighton defence. In the first quarter the Immortals enjoyed an early turnover as linebacker Charles Kennedy forced a fumble, but the offence was unable to capitalise on the error and fumbled the ball back. The Tsunami scored a touchdown on the next play but Kennedy again stepped up and blocked the following extra point attempt.

The Immortals answered with some good offensive plays, including a ca-

reer high 17-yard dash by Daniel Jones, a 30-yard pass by quarterback Edward Fisher to wide receiver Jacob Murphy and a 20-yard kickoff return by Geoffrey Chow. None was enough to gain points but good work by the defence, especially the linebacking corps of Richard Giles-Carlsson, Rob Wolsternholme, Artur Jarazbek and Dexter Valencia meant the Immortals went to the half time only 12-nil down.

In the second half the Immortals were hit early as Brighton ran the kickoff back for a score and then followed this with a touchdown on their next possession. The reeling Immortals settled back to playing tough defence and the effort was rewarded when defensive end Zubin Jehangir sacked the Tsunami quarterback in his own end-zone for a safety. The defence continued to inflict turnovers as Kennedy and Valencia forced more fumbles and free safety Arjav Trivedi picked his second interception of the season.

Despite some strong play by the offensive line, in particular Simon Archer and Nick Tovell, the Immortals were unable to add to the score and eventually fell to 2-33.

The loss leaves the Immortals still looking for their first win but they can be proud of their continuing development and emerging playmaking abilities.

MVP: Dexter Valencia (7 tackles, 1 forced fumble)



Some very happy swimmers smile for the camera

Enthralling Encounter between College and Medics

Continued from Back Page

giving a goal after the Medicals centre back climbed over the College centre back and new boy David Sapin.

From then on, College controlled 80% of the possession of the game and had several half chances that were dealt with confidently by the solid back four of the Medicals. Strong play on the left by both Theocharis Tofis and Matthieu Vallin caused moments of uncertainty amongst the Medicals back line but were eventually dealt with.

Going into half time 1-nil down, Botchway delivered a team talk that summarised that the previous half as 'frankly not good enough' and though they had the upper hand in technical ability, 'the medics want it more and deserve to be winning.'

After three big wins in BUCS, a disappointing 1-0 loss against King's Medicals 1st XI; a team who had achieved zero points until then, the previous week, had piled on the pressure to Imperial's 1st XI who now must achieve maximum points to stay in contention in the ULU league.

The second half was much of the same, with College dominating possessing and probing the final third. The pressure on the Medicals finally defeated them after a strongly hit free kick by Leslie Eshun ricocheted off

many players and fortunately fell to Matthieu Vallin who stabbed it home to bring his tally to 4 this season.

College, with even more momentum than before knocked on the door many times but though demoralised, the Medicals' defence was impermeable. Ex College player Karim Amer controlled the tempo of the game when he had the ball, causing panic amongst College's players who dove in recklessly creating space for Amer to feed in the Medicals strikers. This almost was rewarded with a goal after the Medicals striker beat the offside trap to place a stinging shot, which brought a fingertip, save from Botchway.

1-a-piece at full-time and with light quickly fading, the referee decided to play an extra time with two periods of 5 minutes. The Medicals almost got the winner in the first half of extra time after again the Medicals striker utilised the absence of linemen as well the high defensive line of College to race through, only to put his shot over.

The best chance of the match came in the second half of extra time where central midfielder Dion Benincasa delivered a cross field ball to Vallin who then crossed it in the box for Nathan Ferrol to flick it onto Eshun who unluckily put it wide after being put through one-on-one with the Medicals keeper.

After last ditch motivational team talks from both captains the game was to be decided on penalties. Tofis' penalty crept in after the Medicals keeper got a hand to it. At 1-apiece, Benincasa hit the post and the Medicals capitalised to go 2-1 up. Powerful penalties from Eshun and Nathan and a miss from the Medicals brought the games level at 3-3.

The final penalty from College went to Jonathan Hill, who delivered a reliable performance after being switched to centre back after the injury earlier on in the game.

He topped this off by placing his penalty to the top right hand corner of the goalkeeper's posts to send the now onlooking 4th and 5th XI players to pandemonium.

The Medicals final penalty was dragged wide and College emerged victorious again after an exciting cup tie. Imperial College Medicals proved to be stiff opposition and credit must go to the club after seemingly solved their grave defensive issues of previous years.

This game has left both clubs with an inkling as to the excitement next year's Varsity match could bring. College's next opponents are league leaders SOAS 1st XI, two take place at the beginning of next term, a week after their much awaited league fixture.

IC Hockey hit form



well to send us 2-0 up.

In the second half, IC dominated, only conceding a lucky consolation goal in the closing five minutes and could well have scored more, however despite some terrible administrative errors from their goalkeeper IC were unable to increase their lead.

The performance gives the 1st XI renewed belief as they move into the final two games, fighting against the threat of relegation in this tight league.

The following Sunday saw the Men's 1st XI open their ULU cup account against the Royal Veterinary College in the enchanting commuter town of Potters Bar.

The weather made champagne hockey nearly impossible, with rain, hail and high winds throughout the game.

Despite this hindrance, IC made light work of the Vets' side, with an early hat trick from Stumpy leaving the opposition in no doubt as to who was going to dominate the game.

Stumpy also had several more opportunities to hit the back of the net, although his attempts were thwarted on one occasion by the head of a defender, requiring the poor Vet student to make a trip to the hospital to get his skull stitched back together.

A fourth goal from Stumpy and a first for Dennis meant IC cruised into the break 5-0 up.

Goals from Krusty, Yogi and another for Dennis in the second half put the game completely out of reach of the opposition and also gave goalkeeper ET a chance to update his spreadsheets, prepare the club's cash flow forecast and visit the local bank to pay in the team's match fees, such was the (lacking) frequency of the attacks on his goal.

In short, IC came away with a thumping 8-0 victory, progressing into the second round of the cup where they are likely to meet Imperial College Medicals in the New Year.

Gaelic Ladies put up 'a fight' against St Mary's

Jessica Hargreaves Gaelic Football

Last Sunday, the Imperial College Ladies Gaelic football team set off in a minibus borrowed from the King's School, Pontefract (long bizarre story) for their competitive debut. Our expectations were not as high as our spirits as we drove through the pouring rain to St Mary's impressive sports facilities. Optimism levels were high as Katie "the wall" Cullen shouted our positions over the sound of rain hammering on the minibus roof and explained what the phrase "wing-back" actually meant. Finally, the imposing silhouette of the St Mary's captain filled the windscreen and took us to the club house where the Mary's girls were collecting, each decked out in inter-county attire and built like a brick sh*t house. Mia amongst others managed to keep team morale up as we "warmed up" in the ridiculous weather conditions.

St. Mary's eventually decided to grace us with their presence (after one or two trips from their cars to the clubhouse) and joined us on the rugby pitch. As they turned their county-level Gaelic football shirts inside out we, slightly smugly, tucked our Imperial Men's Gaelic football team shirts (which could be mistaken for Gaelic football dresses) into our shorts.

The game began. Carla was quick off the mark with her first (& only) contribution to the game - tonking the ball the wrong way and beautifully setting up a "girl" from St Mary's for a shot on goal. Unfortunately, she pulled a muscle executing this excellent assist and was subsequently stretched off to coach the team from the sidelines and record fines in Katie's little black book to be paid for in the union later. Sadly, the ball was to remain in our half for the opening of the game. As a wing forward, I plainly pulled out some popcorn and watched, with Cathy and Sarah, as our team mates wrestled with the team of "mountain women" for a few minutes before we had the revelation of going to help them. As the minutes ticked by, and one or two goals somehow skimmed past Katie, we learnt and grew as fast as the fame of an X Factor finalist and brought the game to a new level. With Chloe and Sophie, amongst others, getting on the end of some awesome kick passes from Moira and splitting the St Mary's defence, Andy and Phil would have been proud.

The half-time whistle blew and, though the score line was a lot to nothing, Imperial were un-phased and enthusiastic to get going again. Mia, who had taken the hallowed goalie gloves

Continued on Page 34

Chris Baker-Brian Hockey	
	
Men's 1st XI	2
University of Kent 1st XI	1
Men's 1st XI	8
Royal Veterinary College 1s	0

After a barren spell of results in the first two months of the season, ICHC Men's 1st XI hit a good run of form in the last week, with victories over Kent

University in BUCS and the Royal Veterinary College in the ULU Challenge Cup.

Freshly promoted into BUCS South East 1A, the men's 1s came into their game against Kent on knowing that a result was possible against a team currently lying just one place above them in the league.

ICHC played with discipline for the full 70 minutes for the first time this season, keeping possession well and limiting the visitors to only a handful of chances early on as IC went search-

ing for the opening goal.

After some fantastic wing-play from Diana that resulted in a short corner, a well drilled move was executed with a straight strike from Yogi nearly breaking the backboard and giving the goalkeeper little chance to save. This put us 1-0 up.

The next ten minutes proved that IC could really compete in this league and some champagne hockey upfront between Krusty, Koch and Diana proved to be decisive as Yogi got his second goal of the match, finishing the move

Challenge Cup Drama

Mustapher Botchway Football	
OLIVER WYMAN	
Men's 1st XI	1
Imperial College Medicals 1st XI	1
(a.e.t, College win 4-3 on penalties)	

ICUAFCs Men's 1st XI began their ULU Challenge Cup against the Imperial College Medicals 1st XI, familiar faces once a year in the Varsity match. This tie is sometimes a weird one to judge, especially when the seriousness of both teams is put into question. After a joke of a Varsity last where Col-

lege were 5-nil victors despite fielding a weakened side and having 2 players sent-off, respective captains Mustapher Botchway and Karim Amer ensured that this game will be played to a standard worth watching.

Despite the Medicals playing ULU football one league below College, they were more fired up at the beginning of the game. After an injury to College centre back Tom Fryatt, they deservedly went 1-nil up when a flurry of corners in the space of 4 minutes were not dealt with correctly; the 5th of these

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