



Funding review protest

Dan Wan Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College Union took part in a protest that saw students from the 20 leading English universities demand that "disingenuous" tactics by their institutions stop.

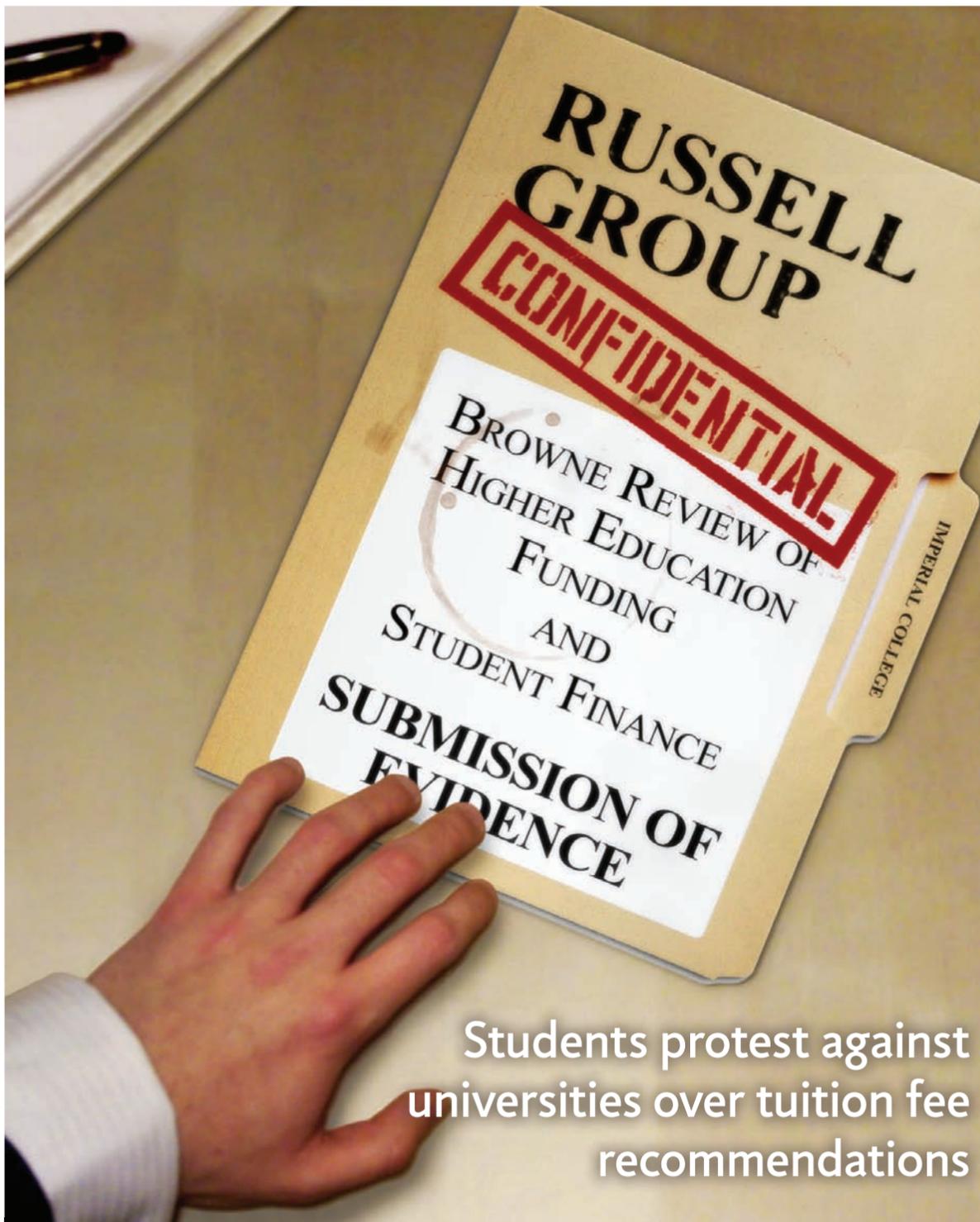
Ashley Brown, Imperial College Union President, entered the Russell Group offices alongside other student representatives from across the country this past Monday. They handed over a strong letter of protest insisting that the Russell Group publish their reports submitted to Lord Browne's review on higher education fees.

The Russell Group is a collective of 20 leading universities, including Imperial College. The Aldwych Group is a the student union counterpart, describing themselves as the Russell Group's "watchdog".

The Russell Group had reportedly refused to publicly divulge the content of reports that were to be submitted to the Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance. The review is led by ex-BP Chief Executive, Lord Browne. However, a spokesperson for the Russell Group told *felix* that they had "always intended to make the reports publicly available."

Lord Browne had asked all relevant parties from across the country to submit a first round of written arguments and viewpoints for a review that on completion, will influence the Government's decision on increasing university tuition fees. The 1994 Group, who represent a lower tier of British universities, have already submitted their reports alongside around 90 other institutions. They are all publically available on the Review's official website, but one report's admission has been noted: The Russell Group's.

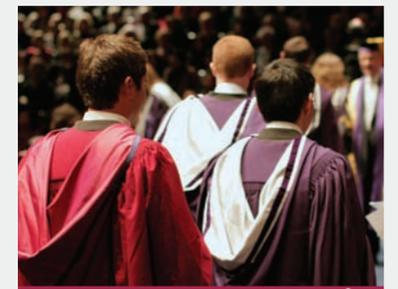
Oxford University Student Union had requests for freedom of information on this report previously rejected; The Russell Group had asked their reports to be kept confidential until publication. *Continued on page 4*



Students protest against universities over tuition fee recommendations

This week...

A promising future lies ahead for graduates



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Labour in government: The good, bad and the ugly



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A beautiful linger: Scents of the past and present



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How to lose friends, but win an argument



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Controversial cinema

Blasphemy, terrorists and 'freaks' are just some of the most contentious subjects in the history of film.

For more, see page 12 and 13



Students apprehensively pleased with Phase 3 designs



Artists' impressions of the unnamed bar (currently da Vinci's), left, and the new nightclub Metric, left. Students are wary of the overly "classy" look the Union have gone for.

Rox Middleton

As dBs is being stripped behind boarded-up doors, the Union's Phase 3 building redevelopment team have released the first artistic impressions of plans for the interiors of both Metric and the new (nameless) bar. Two detailed images can be found on the Union website, along with lots of photos of the work going on inside the old dBs.

These are the first designs to be released to student opinion, and the Phase 3 team are trying hard to gauge it, in line with their policy of involving students in every step of the development. They are replying to comments posted on the phase 3 blog with explanations of the scheme and promises to consider students' suggestions.

Metric's look, as described on the blog, will have a floor made of "polished concrete which is not only hard-wearing, but also provides an edgy, modern urban feel". Brickwork and beams that have been found behind

dBs' grubby façade will also be left exposed to give a "warehouse feel" although the dancefloor in front of the stage will be wooden. The permanent DJ booth behind the stage is described as the "centerpiece of Metric, complete with an LED acrylic wall which can change colour and design".

The scheme also gives more information about how Metric will be used, including a proposed low-ceilinged area with comfortable booth seating away from the dancefloor. It'll be open seven days a week and although not pictured, the plan is apparently for removable furniture to convert the venue for daytime use as well.

The bar which will replace daVinci's is also shown with exposed brickwork behind the counter. The rest of it is much more upmarket than daVinci's currently; plans show a polished wooden floor, concrete below and above the bar itself and baby-blue painted walls. Gone are the TV screens and instead there are plans to project sports and other programmes

straight onto the wall.

The Phase 3 team are calling for everyone with an opinion to comment online, and are stressing that there is still scope for alterations to the plans. *felix* went out to find out what the opinion was amongst students around Imperial. Reactions were reasonably positive although with typical pessimistic style, one fresher described the Bar plans as "way TOO nice" and another commented "it looks classy, but it also looks like a place where you'd get kicked out of if you were wankered". The plans were also described as misrepresentative because "it looks a lot bigger in the pictures than it is" and as "not stunning but they're a step in the right direction." One Union punter said ambiguously "if this bar was in Hammersmith I wouldn't go in." Comments online are mostly very supportive, and most people like the colours and modern design, although a few people were in favour of brighter colour scheme. One person we spoke to said "it needs to be a lot more fun and

colourful and have a bit more artwork" and an online commentator described the plans as looking like "oversized bachelor pads".

The biggest bone of contention amongst everyone surveyed, both on and offline was the furniture. Phase 3 were quick to point out that the furniture in the bar "is only an indication", and would be discussed in a meeting that took place yesterday. The chairs were widely criticized for their unsustainably light colour and fragility and were derided for not providing a convivial enough atmosphere. Most people complained that benches would be better to provide enough comfortable seating, although phase 3 said that benches were not consistent with the atmosphere they wanted to create.

Metric's plans were even more highly praised as "definitely ... an alternative to other clubs in London as a night out", "Fabric-esque" and "just the right mix of student and chic". Generally the 'industrial' atmosphere was commended although doubts have been

raised over acoustics in such a space and how nice it would be during the day. Phase 3 responded that they were consulting with 'professional sound companies' and that lighting would be key to the day/night transformation. They will also be working on measures to prevent the club getting too cold to drink in during the day. Many concerns were also voiced about the dangers of the concrete floor when wet for drunk people slipping over, but phase 3 were quick to reassure students that it would be perfectly safe.

There are a few comparisons of Eastside bar with the new venue, both positive and negative, with some people thinking the plans look too much like the existing bar-restaurant and others describing them as a good alternative to it.

Do you agree? Ensure your opinion is heard by commenting; to do so visit the Union website and Phase 3 blog.

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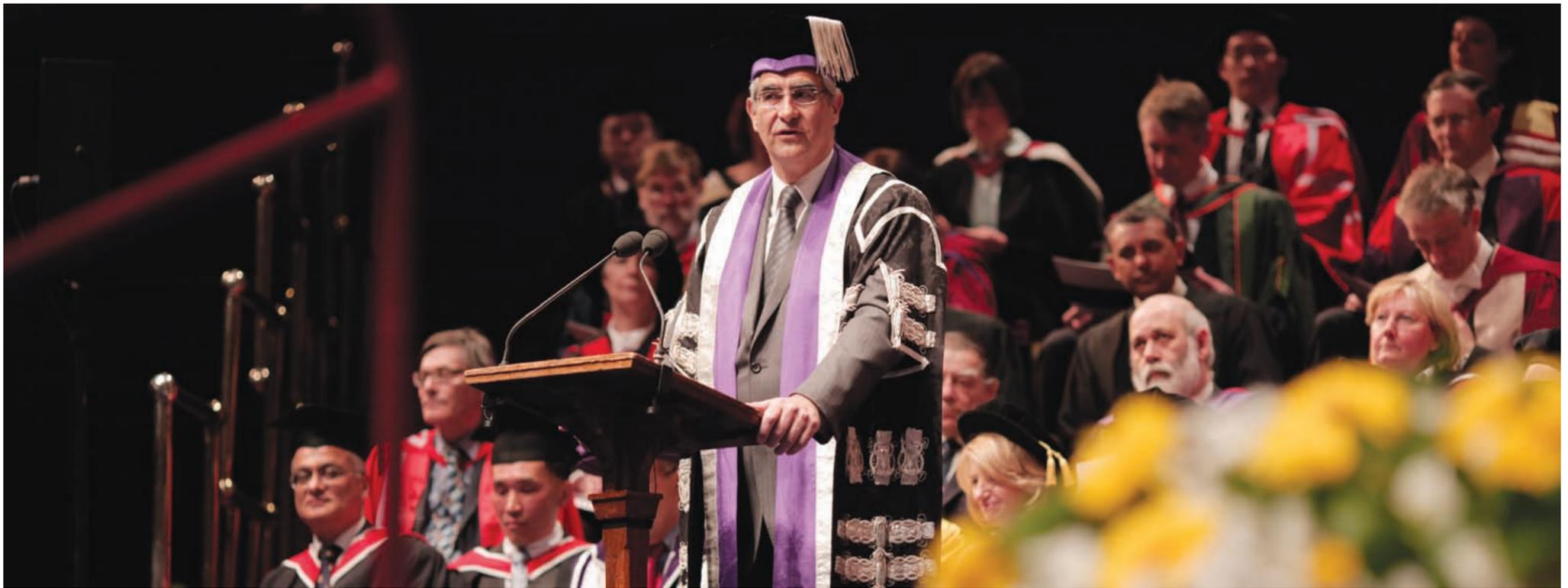
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Imperial graduates 'will mould future'

As 2,000 postgraduates were awarded degrees, Sir Keith O'Nions told Imperial graduates that they will be able to be the future of science. He might just be right. **Alexander Karapetian** and **Joanna Cai** report.



Flower Pot listens to Sir Keith O'Nions intently as he proudly graduates with a 1st in Material Sciences. A head full of mud, who'd have thought?

Sir Keith O'Nions has emphasised the need for optimism amongst Imperial's latest postgraduate students awarded degrees at the graduation ceremonies held in the Royal Albert Hall.

The ceremonies, the largest post-graduate awards in the history of the college, where some 2000 students received their degrees, were watched by roughly 4700 guests. The ceremonies were attended by Lord Sainsbury, Professor Robert Nerem and Professor Sir Andrew McMichael, who each received honorary degrees, as well as entrepreneur Ram Gidoomal, Chairman of Singapore's Agency for Science Lim Chuan Poh and Trustee of the Wolfson Foundation Lady Wolfson, who were admitted to the Fellowship of Imperial College London.

The Rector, who described the graduates as "our greatest contribution to societies around the world", said: "As you now pursue and develop your careers, you are amongst the most talented and able people in the world."

He continued to explain:

"Attributes such as pessimism and self doubt have always been in short supply at Imperial College and would in my view be entirely misplaced at these times. You have the knowledge and understanding that is key to meeting the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow - you will without doubt be part of moulding the world's future. Your skills, knowledge and expertise are necessary now more than ever, because it is only through innovation in science, technology and medicine and sound business sense that our economy will advance. We can only guess at the advances that your generation will make - but I am confident you will be part of it."

"You have the knowledge and understanding that is key to meeting the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow"

The ceremonies celebrated staff and students who had made substantial contributions, with Jad Marrouche of the Department of Physics receiving a Student Award for Outstanding Achievement to recognise his outreach work and Jane Mitchell from the National Heart and Lung Institute receiving the Rector's Award for Excellence in Research Supervision. Research Excellence Awards were also given to two academic groups specialising in molecular systems engineering and nanotechnology in recognition of research of significant future potential. The awards are worth £150,000 each.

Postgraduates after the ceremony were quick to mention their satisfaction with Imperial with comments praising the semi-taught, semi-research based approach employed in some degrees, explaining that this helped spark thoughts regarding whether they'd like to continue scientific research in future. **AK**

Doom and gloom in the job market? Think again

A recent poll by the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) has shown that the latest batch of graduates now face improved career and job prospects, for the first time since the recession took place.

The poll was carried out last month, surveying 91 major graduate employers about their hiring plans for this year. Two thirds of these companies said that they currently still had graduate vacancies, and according to AGR, the average graduate pay remains at 2008's levels. When asked about their recruitment targets for 2010, 37.4% of employers said that theirs were higher than last year's, 41.8% remained the same, whereas 20.8% were lower than last year's.

Graduate level vacancies saw a 10% fall last year, when many companies ceased to recruit graduates and some even withdrew their offers; the figures from this year have almost levelled out.

There are currently over 900,000 unemployed under-25s, 100,000 of which are graduates.

However, the students who are leaving university this year will undoubtedly face competition from the graduates of 2008 and 2009, since many of them are still in search of jobs. This will mean that despite the currently optimistic figures for job vacancies, the competition will remain fierce for entry-level jobs, in which one in three requires a degree as a prerequisite.

71.5% of the companies asked confirmed that their number of applicants were higher than last year. It can cost employers up to £3bn each year to run the business of recruiting, paying and training graduates, and employers will be working hard this year to try to attract the best graduate talents, whilst forecasting the trends in the graduate market.

There are currently over 900,000 unemployed under-



25s: 100,000 of which are graduates.

Nevertheless, many employers recruiting graduates still stress the importance of wider employability skills which are as, or even more, important than the specific occupational, technical or academic skills associated with degree programmes. In a 2007 Institute of Directors (IoD) survey, 61% of members stated that graduates' employability skills were more important than academic skills, compared to only 12% believing that they were less important.

A study carried out by Incomes Data Services found that graduate recruitment in finance would increase by 15% this year, compared to the drop of 38% last year. On the other hand, the public sector and charities will see vacancies drop by 7% as a result of public spending cuts, which is also the reason for the recent strikes and sit-ins undertaken by members of King's College and Middlesex.

Despite the recent increase in competition amongst job applicants, employers still find that applications are often bulk written and mass e-mailed to them, which does not do the applicant any favours. In AGR's poll, only 29% of employers got the impression that applicants were working harder on their applications in the current job climate.

For students who are, or soon will be, embarking on their quest for that mysterious graduate job, it is important to remember that this generation of graduates will probably have many careers and even more jobs within their working lifetime than any previous generation, so it is perhaps best not to consider a career as 'cradle to the grave'. **JC**

Confidential Review submission released

Russell Group insist student protest did not influence the release of their Browne Review reports

Continued from front page

The governmental department dealing with the freedom of information request was subject to a "public interest" exemption, saying that the information could be seen "out of context".

The Aldwych Group, led by LSE's Emmanuel Apkan-Inwang, responded by physically handing over a letter at the Russell Group head offices in Trafalgar Square. The protest letter pushed the influential Russell Group to make their recommendations to the Browne Review publically available alongside every other institutions' equivalent reports. They additionally requested a solid timetable for future review submissions be laid down after being given the vague timescale of "the next few weeks" for this submission.

"As student representatives, we find it disingenuous and underhand that the UK's elite universities have refused several freedom of information requests asking for its submissions to be published," said Apkan-Inwang.

"The outcome of the Browne Review may represent the most significant change to higher education funding in decades. It is completely unacceptable that it has been withheld until after the election and clear that the Russell Group are attempting to stifle debate."

The at-the-door protest yielded a 20 minute meeting between Apkan-Inwang and two Russell Group members, one being Director Wendy Piatt. Talking to *felix*, Apkan-Inwang described the discussions as "amicable and civil".

"I made the concerns of the Aldwych Group clear, and she [Wendy Piatt] sympathised. The meeting was about clarity and she gave assurances to us that their submissions would be

made public. I think they had plenty of time to think about their decisions before we turned up."

With the Russell Group seemingly taking a U-turn in their decision to keep their documents confidential and publishing their submission by the end of the week, Apkan-Inwang championed the power of student representation.

"We represent 20 institutions coming together, and our views are difficult for the Russell Group to ignore. There was also plenty of media coverage from the BBC and local newspapers," he said.

However, upon contacting the Russell Group, a spokesperson refuted the idea of their decision regarding confidentiality had been reversed in response to Monday's letter of protest.

"We always intended to make the submissions publically available, but we are publishing them to our own schedule. The publication of the reports this week has nothing to do with the Aldwych Group," she said to *felix*.

Speaking about the Russell Group's submission to the Browne Review, Dr Wendy Piatt, Director General backed up these claims.

"The Review invited those submitting evidence to indicate whether they would prefer that evidence to remain confidential. There is and has always been an intention to publish our submission and our final analysis of the issues addressed in the submission," she stated.

The Russell Group has taken up the option of confidentiality given by the Review during the submission process, but have stated that they would only exercise this option in accordance to their own investigations upon

similar matters.

"We are working on our own independently-researched report into the issues surrounding the funding of higher education. We submitted our early findings for this report to the Browne Review in time for their first deadline and asked the Review team to treat our advice as confidential pending the publication of our planned reports on the funding of universities and further analysis of the issues involved," Piatt said.

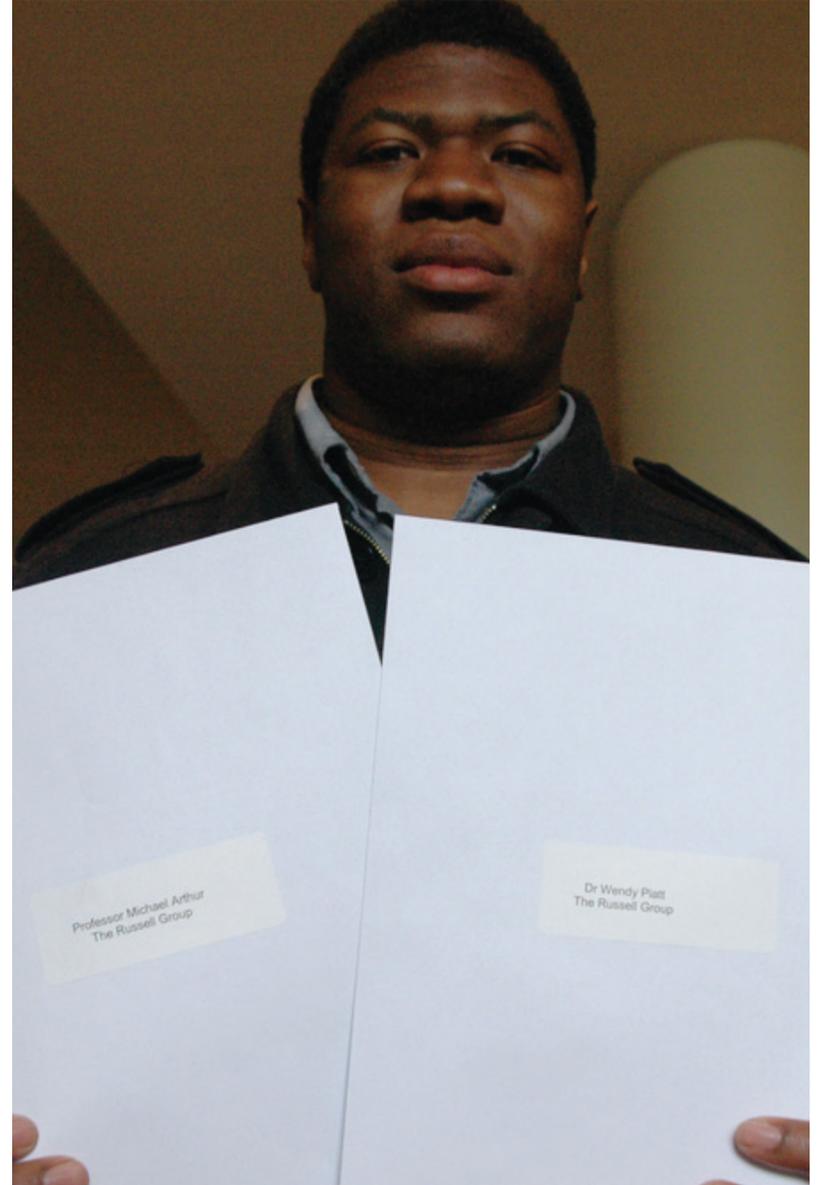
So, was the organised handover of the protest letter a waste of time? At the very least, the Aldwych Group have established the report's date of publication as Friday 14th May.

Despite imminent publication, Union President Ashley Brown was "disappointed" that the Russell Group had hindered any chance of higher education debate at the General Election.

"Its disappointing that this General Election wasn't about higher education which is vital to securing our economic recovery and affect the futures of millions of people. We want an open debate on the issues, which wasn't achieved by the Russell Group keeping their submission confidential for so long," he said.

Though the Russell Group expressed confusion at the students' appearance on their doorstep, The Aldwych Group have stated that they are "just happy that the [Russell Group's] report is going to be published and we will be able to see what they have to say."

Apkan-Inwang will now look to review the Russell Group's publication next week and make contact with all 20 offices of the student unions in England as they pay "close attention" to the Russell Group's next moves.



Aldwych Group Chair Emmanuel Apkan-Inwang with the protest letters addressed to two senior figures of the Russell Group

Why is this submission so important?

"Students deserve to know what is being said by an organisation representing our universities"

The Russell Group is an organisation that represents the 20 leading university administrations in England. These include Oxbridge as well as Imperial, LSE and UCL. This means their report will hold plenty of influence in these early stages of the Browne Review.

The conflict between the Russell Group and students arose when this report was kept confidential from students. Chair of the Aldwych Group, Emmanuel Apkan-Inwang argued that "students deserve to know what is being said by an organisation representing our universities."

Who are the Aldwych Group?

As Imperial College Union are to Imperial College, the Aldwych Group is to the Russell Group. It is the collection of the 20 student unions whose universities are part of the Russell Group. Imperial College Union have been an active member since its inception.

Current chairman and LSE Union Education and Welfare Officer, Emmanuel Apkan-Inwang said the Group's job was to "act and respond to the Russell Group accordingly, without causing wider effects like the National Union of Students." They look to lobby for the "best outcome for [their] members" in all decisions the Russell Group make.



13 Labour years: The good, the bad & the ugly

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Female fencers top of the *felixSports* league

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Lord Browne's Review on Higher Education Funding & Student Finance



In November 2009, then Minister of Business, Innovation and Skills, Lord Mandelson ordered an independent review on higher education funding and student finance led by ex-BP Chief Executive, Lord Browne of Madingley.

According to Lord Mandelson, the review will consider "balance of contributions to universities by taxpayers, students, graduates and employers" to University finances alongside the current and future states of university tuition fees.

The Conservative party, now in Government, are also in on the review and have agreed to consider the Review's findings accordingly, which are due to be published this coming Autumn.

A range of institutions, including stu-

dent unions, think tanks and lobbying groups have been asked to submit their arguments on the issues being reviewed.

Rising fees?

It has been reported that on the Review's recommendation, tuition fees could rise by £1,000 a year from 2013. This could eventually lead to students being charged £7,000 a year to attend an average course at university. Most importantly for Imperial students, science degrees may cost up to £14,000 per year.

Under a free market system, universities will be able to charge the full cost of the course. The Review is also likely to advise to Government to scrap subsidised loans, and allow students to pay national interest rates on money lent to them.

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

It is with great sadness, and shock, that I read of the passing away of Ms Sharine Brown, lately Head of Residences of the College. We did not always see eye to eye - particularly when negotiating annual rent reviews. She was, nonetheless, a strong champion for quality and choice in student accommodation and a considerable asset to the College. Whilst much attention has been focussed on the high profile building projects, Sharine quietly worked hard to ensure that the best was made of the crumbling facilities whilst they awaited redevelopment. I always recognised that no matter what problems arose, halls at Imperial College were generally better run than those at any other London university. She will be a great loss to the student body and deservedly missed.

Yours faithfully,

Mustafa Arif
President 2003-2005, Imperial College Union



The world beyond College walls



North Korea



North Korea claimed that it succeeded in creating a "unique thermo-nuclear reaction device" for large-scale energy production by nuclear fusion.

The announcement by North Korean state media coincides with the birthday of Kim Il-Sung, the country's founder. This day is known as the "Day of the Sun"; the country's announcement likened its fusion device to a "second sun". According to the country's state media, "The successful nuclear fusion in the DPRK (North Korea) made a definite breakthrough towards the development of new energy and opened up a new phase in the nation's development of the latest science and technology." Experts are taking the announcement with extreme skepticism and believe that North Korea likely conducted a small experiment if there is any veracity to its claims: the majority of the country's nuclear program is based on Soviet technology from the 1950's.



China



The latest in a string of attacks on Chinese schoolchildren happened Wednesday in central Shaanxi province.

Seven students were murdered and at least twenty injured by a knife-wielding man in Nanzheng County. The killer, a 48-year-old man who owned the home where the school was located, killed himself directly afterwards. The attack is the sixth similar attack in China in the past eight weeks. As many try to come to grips with reasons for why these attacks continue to occur, some experts are questioning the state of mental health care in China. Others have blamed the phenomenon on the inability of citizens to air grievances against local authorities and see some of the attacks as revengeful. Parents at many Chinese schools have stepped up security patrols in response.



Egypt



Egypt's parliament has extended the country's state of emergency by two years.

The powers given to the government include arrest without charge, limits on the right of assembly of groups greater than three in number, and limits on free speech. The powers were first instituted in 1981 following the assassination of President Anwar el-Sadat. Unusual for the Egyptian government was its desire to explain its decision regarding the extension as well as how it planned to limit their use. The government promised to use the powers solely for counterterrorism and against drug trafficking. In addition, the government also announced that it would revoke powers allowing censorship and property confiscation. Despite these limitations of power, many Egyptians were unhappy with the announcement due to the fact that the state of emergency has been in place for so long, as well as continued promises from the government that it would be removed.

By Tom Greany



Alex Kendall wants you to test him. Go on.



"Most students (and staff) are barely aware that a representation network in the Union exists"

Representation may be the most banal word used by the Union. Most students (and staff) are barely aware that a representation network in the Union exists, let alone how it can help them. It has the unfortunate status of being seen as too boring to engage with and yet, in reality, it is too important to ignore. Representing their members should be the primary function of all Unions. As much as we like to get drunk in the bars, and join clubs, I believe the Union's most important function it is to provide a voice for each student and if necessary, defend them.

The key to any representative system, like we have in the Union where students' views can be delivered to the Un-

ion and College, and in Britain where our MPs and Councillors take our views into account when making decisions (or are meant to), is accountability. Without some way to hold the elected to account, there can be no way the voter can make a balanced judgement on who will represent them faithfully.

Unfortunately, when people are elected for a year and then mostly move on, there is little chance for a voter to show their anger at the person's conduct. Let's face it, your Departmental Representative could get the position, never turn up to a single meeting, never pass on an email about bad coursework marking or poor treatment of students, and you can't do anything. He or she will sit in the job interview with that little addition on their CV which to the

interviewer says team-player but to you and your course says failure, betrayal and abuse of the system. Just something else that makes us think the Union is ineffectual.

I don't want to make out that I think everyone who takes these positions does it for their CV; in most cases, people do raise issues to the staff and further up the representation network. Problems also lie with getting staff to give feedback, and to take student representation seriously. But there is a problem. Up until this year there has never been a proper Representation Policy of the Union; this may seem strange, even abhorrent, that we didn't have guidelines on how the system should operate.

Luckily, Jon Silver, the Deputy President of Education, has been putting it

together. It is something we should be proud of. The body which first should discuss and pass this policy is the Representation and Welfare Board (RWB). At the last meeting they took a second look at the policy. Barely anyone attended. Yes: what should be one of the most important committees passing what will be the most seminal policy for some time, affecting everyone at Imperial, was seemingly ignored.

Why? Because there are no repercussions, no accountability. The only people who know about the absentees were at the meeting, or you if you read the minutes. This means that not only do we have a system where people can get away with not caring, but because of this, the positions themselves are demeaned. This makes them seem less

important, more of a CV-grabbing goal, where meetings to discuss the representation of some 14,000 students are a mere inconvenience.

I genuinely believe there are students who would be fantastic in every level of what soon will be a revamped, rejuvenated, high profile and serious representation network, backed by policy. If you have a problem, you will know exactly where to go. And your representatives will be accountable.

I want everyone to know who has turned up for meetings and what is being discussed, and for it to be easily accessible, at all levels. This starts right now. The elections for many positions on the RWB next year are happening now. Read the manifestos. Vote. And next year, test us.



Phil Sandwell is in love with our old neighbour



"A room filled with more beautiful birds than you could ever hope to see at the Union."

Very few things inspire an innocent sense of wonder in me like the Natural History Museum. Despite most of the visitors not being eight years old, the Diplodocus in the main hall still possesses the stopping power to freeze people as if he had bent down to introduce himself (his name is Dippy, if you were wondering, courtesy of Andrew Carnegie). Meanwhile the Ronson Gallery, identifiable by the swarm of children gaggling towards it, is the room that widens the eyes of the generation who grew up with Jurassic Park. If, unlike me, you can pass through it without a guilty mix of awe and fear at how large and pointy life was 150 million years ago then I pity the maturity of your inner child. Even the clunky automaton Tyrannosaurus rex should raise the hairs on the back of a twenty-something-year-old's neck, in the same way a sense of instant dread can be created by whispering "clever girl!" into an unsuspecting ear. Unearthly guttural screaming and the subsequent jumping onto your target are optional, but encouraged.

Down the hallway is a room of creatures that live on well past their best-before dates, stuffed and preserved for eternity in school-photograph-style awkwardness. Amongst the mounted kangaroos and bats there are, so typically of the Natural History Museum, a few specimens that pass under the radar of the crowds; discovering them made me feel like I was learning something completely new about a very good friend. One example is the fantastically-named pink fairy armadillo, with its especially armoured rear, but looking down the corridor of glass cases gives a solemn impression. Gazing into a leopard's lifeless eyes as they stared through me forlornly highlighted the fact that this animal died to educate a group of snotty, gawping children. Standing inches from one of the last remaining Tasmanian tigers to live before its species was extinguished gave me pangs of responsibility, which were only accentuated when I came to the polar bear further down the hall. Perhaps one day they might be together in a case headed "Animals Incompatible with the Human Race". On the other hand, some of the newer exhibits

look like expressing their feelings at being re-emboweled through their bottoms with formaldehyde and straw by tearing the nearest little reprobate to ribbons. If only.

One of my favourite places in the Museum is a room filled with more beautiful birds than you could ever hope to see on one night at the Union. The Himalayan monal – a metallic green pheasant – puts the native fauna to shame, as it does the shabby-looking dodo replica seemingly put together with a Pritt stick, some pigeons and a Victorian taxidermist's best wishes. Further down is an entire case devoted to hundreds of hummingbird specimens, confined to a life behind glass simply for being very small and very pretty; this display would have tugged at my heartstrings more only if it also featured a stuffed Labrador puppy. These are in contrast to the residents of the Large Mammals Hall, who qualify for admission by being relatively large mammals. Having the 10 ton skeleton of a blue whale above your head gives an appreciation that whales have no sense of retaliation: if I were their size, I would teach anyone who harpooned my buddies

a very swift lesson.

The (originally) inanimate exhibitions are often undeservingly overlooked. Given that astronauts of Apollo 16 travelled to the Moon and back to collect it, I feel that the Museum's collection of rock samples deserves better than a darkened corridor for a home. Likewise the Ruin Marble, whose pattern uncannily resembles a decaying city, should honour a plinth and not a porthole for convincing me that nature can imitate art. For the only items I have ever truly considered stealing from a Museum, however, head upstairs to the Vault. My inner magpie replaced my generally intelligent musings with "ooh, shiny things..." as I gawked my way around jewels mind-shatteringly out of my price range. And for fun, when I want to feel completely insignificant and worthless, I look at the small vial at the back of the room which is home to microscopic diamonds formed in the dust of a dying star.

The big news at the Museum last year was the opening of its new Darwin Centre, an eight storey cocoon in which visitors are meant to learn about

scientific methods. Intended to give an insight into the scientific discovery process by having professional scientists on display and ready to answer questions, I was impressed by its realism: visiting on a sunny Friday afternoon, I was met by understandably deserted desks. Although I appreciate that the Museum is trying to teach the general public what happens behind the scenes, and as much fun as identifying fly genitalia on futuristic, Minority Report-style screens was, I feel that they're missing the point of why people visit. I go there to the Museum to wander around, press my nose against the glass and to be impressed by what the Earth has managed to produce over the past few billion years. I don't want to hear about research papers when I visit, I want to skim-read a few sentences about where and when the Ankylosaurus in front of me lived and let my mind's eye do the rest. The Natural History Museum is the single greatest collection of inspiration in London, let alone within a five-minute walk of campus; put your pen down, leave your brain in the library and come here to give your imagination a well-deserved workout.



Tom Hills certainly doesn't love Gilead Amit



"Only bigots criticise others' systems without recognising their virtues."



I'm sorry to hear that Gilead Amit isn't convinced by the politics in this country. I don't think anybody would think it particularly rude of a foreign citizen not to take an interest in our politics as he may fear, but writing five columns about the failings of British politics and elections without providing either constructive feedback or a balanced argument is a different matter.

It'd be the first to admit that our electoral system has its downsides, but it also has a lot of positives too. Moreover, for those who plan to spend the majority of their lives in the UK, it is of great consequence. I completely accept the right to comment, but let him who is without sin cast the first stone. Show the British electorate, parliament and government a perfect democracy and we'll fall for it, head over heels, I promise you! But, while that utopian system still eludes us, we've got to work with what we've got. Is that really something to complain about using complex metaphors and to

deride using long words? The electorate knows of the system's failings, but if, as a country, we wish for electoral reform, they will vote for a party, such as the Lib Dems, who promise it.

Mr Amit, you mention insults on Facebook towards our politicians who advocate change as "a disrespectful way to address...a politician". To me, this behaviour seems quite healthy; politicians are like Marmite and there are always going to be differences of opinion and no matter how well a politician runs a country, there are always going to be people who speak out against him or her, even if some of it is quite crude. I do find it slightly hypocritical you can criticise those people whilst simultaneously showing disrespect towards those same politicians by implying that all they do is emit "copious doo-doo".

Change, and resistance to change, are mainstays of democracy and even if the UK's main parties have similar policies it is not fair to judge them, their leaders and their policies by commentat-

ing on the state of the country and its society before they've even been voted in. This country has been democratic to varying degrees for centuries and I interpret the lack of extreme views in the three main parties as a sign that the British electorate thinks that this country is working well and requires only a little fine-tuning. Furthermore, the fact that the population of this country has had cries of "Change!" thrown at it from every direction is, for me, a victory for democracy in this country, rather than an irritation. British citizens have been provided with many sources of information and opinion that, hopefully, allowed them to make an informed choice last week. It shows passion and conviction on the part of our politicians. This "sensationalist mess" may be boring for some, but it was necessary, in my opinion, to ensure that the election reflected the beliefs of the British people. An election without campaigning and calls for change would be a sad day for democracy anywhere.

Like I mentioned before, there are many faults with the electoral system in the UK. For one, in Great Britain you don't have to show ID to vote (strangely, it's required in Northern Ireland). Postal votes have been bought and polling stations closed with queues outside, and there is an overriding unfair advantage for Labour. I believe that we need electoral reform but a blanket PR system would remove many of the positive eccentricities of having constituency MPs. I propose a halfway-house, where larger regions of the UK (such as Scotland, Wales, the South-East, London etc.) elect a certain number of MPs on a PR system, allowing voters to hold local MPs accountable whilst providing a system which creates a more representative Parliament.

This country is diverse, with regional variations in history, geography and language as well as politics. Harking from Yorkshire, I feel great regional pride and anyone can see that these emotions of local belongingness are felt right across

the country.

The British political and media establishments aren't blind to this and certainly don't believe that the public can't think for themselves. If the public couldn't think and was homogenous, why would the government have introduced devolution? And since the UK is exposed to roughly the same newspapers, television channels and websites, why did the Conservatives gain so many seats around the UK, yet they lost share of the vote in Scotland? It is impossible to put the UK's 60m inhabitants in to a well-defined box labelled 'the general public'.

The United Kingdom has had a long, confusing and slightly eccentric history, and this is reflected across the country in our streets, pubs, humour, values, workplaces and in our electoral system, which for all its faults has many positive points. If people wish to criticise it, they may. But, as I'm sure Gordon would agree, only bigots criticise others' systems without recognising their virtues.

Steve Long wants to take the power back

"The current system is outdated and needs to be radically reformed. No government will give us this easily."



I'll try and keep this brief, not least because we've all got exams we should be studying for. Also, I'm thinking most people are getting a little bored of the election talk. I'll tell you now that you might as well skip to the last sentence for the key point of this article...The big debate that is flying around at the moment is reforming the electoral system. My guess (and hope) is that you've argued it through at your leisure and have more or less made up your mind on where you stand on the various different systems available. Taking that as the case, I won't go into huge detail trying to persuade you round to my view.

There are good points for and against all the different voting systems, and there is clearly no single perfect system, such is life. However, there is a large and increasingly vocal group

calling for the introduction of Single Transferable Vote (STV). STV put simply is larger constituencies, with multiple representatives in each, on your ballot paper you rank the candidates in order of preference, some maths happens and you get a group of winners (like in the Union elections). Like I said, I won't go into much more detail here, have a look on the internet for a better explanation (try "John Cleese PR"). The key benefits are that it would take the voting power away from the marginal seats and distribute it more evenly around the population, that you have a better representation of the views of the voters and that you still have local MPs (albeit a bit less "local"). It won't solve all the problems in the world, it does have its downsides as all things must, but the benefits are greater and many more.

Under the current system it is possible to get an increase in votes (and therefore popularity), but a decrease in seats (and therefore power). That isn't right, it isn't democratic. The current system is outdated and needs to be radically reformed. No government will give us this easily. As I write this Cameron and Clegg are looking round their new address, deciding where to draw the line down the bedroom. They are trying to fob us off with the Alternative Vote system. This doesn't go far enough and will not make a significant difference. We, the people, need to demand reform. Real reform. This is why I'm calling you all to join the demonstration in Parliament Square at 2pm tomorrow (Saturday) to present our demands, and make this government work for us. See www.takebackparliament.com for more details.

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Looking back over the Labour years

James Lees Politics Editor

Rousseau once wrote "The English people believe itself to be free; it is gravely mistaken; it is free only during election of members of parliament; as soon as the members are elected, the people is enslaved; it is nothing. In the brief moment of its freedom, the English people make such a use of that freedom that it deserves to lose it".

So with the one day of freedom we had, in what will now be a fixed 4 years, the outcome of that day was a coalition government. Personally I'm pleased to see the coalition which is saying it will scrap the worse pledges like raising the inheritance tax threshold and most of the Lib Dem manifesto, and is instead promising more sensible suggestions like scrapping income tax for the first £10,000 and most of the Conservative manifesto.

In about a month normal service will resume and we can all get back to blaming the Government for everything. So rather than make wild predictions about what the future may hold I've decided to take this opportunity to look back on the 13 years of New Labour and see what went right and what went wrong under some ridiculously clichéd subtitles...

The Good

When Labour surged into power in 1997 their campaign song was 'Things can only get better'. Undoubtedly the country has improved in many respects since then. Frankly, with all the money that was borrowed

and then thrown at any given problem it kind of had to.

Labour spent a great deal on the NHS and the improvements, especially in waiting times, have been dramatic: average waiting times have fallen from nearly 18 weeks in 1997 to around 6 weeks today. Record numbers of NHS patients are satisfied with the quality of care they receive, and the country has also seen a fall in crime rates, especially in areas such as violent crime during Labour's tenure.

Labour also implemented the Sure Start programme which has been given a resounding thumbs-up by new parents as an all round centre for

"A new dawn has broken, has it not?"

Tony Blair, May 1997

early child development and support.

One of the first actions Gordon Brown took was to make the Bank of England an independent body, a wise decision that helped to keep interest rates low during the good times and aided efforts in stopping the recession becoming worse than it has been.

The minimum wage was a Labour creation as well, before its implementation several captains of industry warned against it, but there will be few people in the country who would wish to see it abolished now. Had it not been for this it is likely that the difference in wealth between the very wealthiest and the very poorest would be even larger than it is now.

In an unusually liberal move, it was

also under Labour that the Freedom of information act was passed. This has had a great impact on making government more open and making government statistics, figures and the rest available to a greater range of people.

Labour has also ushered in a greater social tolerance to Britain with laws such as those allowing for civil partnerships.

Perhaps one of the greatest achievements was to bring about the end of years of violent trouble in Northern Ireland. The Good Friday agreement of 1998 and the 2007 deal between unionists and republicans will hopefully bring about a lasting peace and an end to the terrorist threat from at least one area of the world.

New Labour also gave the go ahead for the Scottish and Welsh assemblies, both of which gave people a greater say over the governance of their parts of Britain, and perhaps eventually should the people of those countries so desire, independence.

The Bad

However, this decentralisation of power from Westminster and Whitehall has far from been the story of Labour. The past 13 years have seen a massive accumulation of power at Whitehall into the hands of democratically unaccountable civil servants and across the country into bureaucratic quangos.

The result of this has been a series of top down targets being set with little to no reform of the institutions being run. One appalling outcome of this has been that while exam results have been steadily rising, the British education has been falling in international leagues.

Other cases of this poor system for running the public services have been seen in almost all walks of life. Huge projects such as the national database

"British jobs for British people"

Gordon Brown, Sept. 2007

for the NHS has soaked up enormous amounts of money with no gain at all. In general the NHS has not improved as much as might have been hoped considering the vast amounts of money poured into it. Workers in services such as the NHS and the police have also complained the amount of paperwork they are required to fill in that feeds back into the Whitehall bureaucracy machine. This is instead of spending time providing care or catching criminals.

Under Labour we have seen an enormous repeal of civil liberties in response to the rise of extremist Islamic terrorism. The scale of this really has been repulsive, with, in my view, the worst act being to allow trial



Gordon Brown remembers he has already sold the nation's gold reserves.

without a jury- what had been a fundamental component of our judicial system.

The Lisbon treaty paved the way for a more powerful EU which in turn means a less powerful British parliament. On this issue Labour had promised a referendum, though this never happened and as a result the British people had no say in the matter.

The majority of newly created jobs in Britain over the past 13 years have been in the bulging public sector, while this has been part of the force behind improvement in public services, it has not helped provide a route out of recession. At the beginning of the Labour era there were roughly five million people living on benefits and there still are.

The ugly

Until Bigotgate, Brown's most famous phrase was that he had ended boom and bust. A claim that came back to bite him during the worst recession Britain, and the world at large, had seen in decades.

Of course Gordon didn't cause the recession, but his years of deregulating the city certainly didn't help. Splitting up the responsibility for monitoring the banks between the FSA, the Treasury and the Bank of England is thought to have slowed the recognition of a problem and coordination of a solution.

Dr. Brown's apparent success as Chancellor was built almost entirely on unsustainable borrowing and his selling of British gold reserves at a very poor moment show that he was not some kind of financial wizard but a conjurer of cheap tricks. By cheap, I mean economy crippling expensive tricks.

Labour's most lasting legacy will be the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Re-

moving the oppressive regimes of the Taliban and Saddam was supposed to make the world a safer place, and this may still come to pass, but the effect of the invasions so far has been quite the opposite.

The Iraq war was thought to be illegal by many at the time, including ex-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. Protesters gathered in their thousands against the invasion. Intelligence reports were far from convincing and in the end the sources came down to mere rumours. Still that was not how Blair portrayed it and Britain was taken to war, following Bush.

While Britain was fighting on two different fronts, expenditure on the armed forces barely grew. In fact Brown, after telling the nation and the House for months that spend-

"No return to Tory Boom and Bust!"

Gordon Brown, Sept. 2000

ing had increased in real terms, was forced to eat his words and apologise.

In the end no government will ever be perfect, that's why we vote them out.

New Labour had a significant and likely long-lasting impact on Britain. Many of their intentions were good as indeed were many of their achievements, but after 13 years they have had their chance, at least until the next General Election.

Watching the massively underhand way the Lib Dems played their cards this last week, I expect they will pull out of the coalition as soon as a referendum on PR is passed causing the collapse of the government at the immediately following Queen's speech or budget.



Sometimes, a convincing finger point is all that's needed to take a nation to war

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New government promises urgent cuts

As the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government promises urgent spending cuts to reduce the deficit, **Sina Ataherian** reviews how the political events of the week may affect the British economy

New coalition Cabinet positions announced

Last Wednesday, the first of the government's cabinet positions began to be revealed. The Liberal Democrats secured five cabinet posts and twenty ministerial jobs in return for their participation in the coalition. The top two economic roles - Chancellor of the Exchequer and Business Secretary - have been split between the two coalition partners. George Osborne will follow on from his role as Shadow Chancellor by becoming the new Chancellor.

Having worked in the Conservative Party for his entire career, Osborne became MP for Tatton in 2001. He was promoted to the Shadow Cabinet by Michael Howard in 2004, and made Shadow Chancellor in May 2005, at the age of 34. Mr Osborne is a close friend and advisor to David Cameron, and the two have been compared with Blair/Brown for sharing important roles in transforming a major party.

Following the collapse of Northern Rock and the start of the financial crisis, Mr Osborne was instrumental in the Tories being the only major British party to criticise the government's interventionist policies such as bailing out the banks and printing significantly more money. However, he backed down from these positions after free-market solutions to the economic problems of 2008 and 2009 came to be seen as unpopular with the British electorate.

Although he was prominent in planning the Tory election campaign and in writing their manifesto, Mr Osborne was largely kept away from the public in the weeks preceding the elections because of the perception of him being too much of a lightweight for the office of the Exchequer. As Chancellor,

Mr Osborne will retain responsibility for overseeing banks and financial regulation.

The next most important economic job has gone to the Liberal Democrat's Treasury spokesman. Vince Cable entered parliament in 1997 after a career in economics, having worked for the Kenyan government, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, and Royal Dutch Shell.

He ran unsuccessfully for parliament three times in the 1980s and early 1990s as a Candidate on the leftist wing of the SDP, and later the Liberal Democrats following the merger of the two parties.

However, in recent years he has been considered to be on the right of the Liberal Democrats, having influenced their "Orange Book", a pamphlet advocating slightly more economically liberal policies for the Liberal Democrats.

He gained respect for having warned against the problems that could have arisen from the housing bubble and excessive consumer debt, but was criticised for his inconsistency in the debates on solutions to the financial crisis. For example, he embraced the government's quantitative easing program after criticising it and claiming that it was inspired by the "Robert Mugabe school of economics."

Despite personal disputes in the past - over both economic policy and certain allegations against George Osborne, over which Mr Cable filed a formal complaint - the two will now have to work closely with Mr Cable in order to deliver both party's optimistic election promises on the economy. Although the Bank of England has been seeing the green shoots for several months now, unemployment continues to rise.



Top: David Cameron and Nick Clegg have agreed to form the first Conservative-Liberal coalition in parliamentary history
Below: Osborne (right) will chair a new parliamentary committee on financial regulation, which will include Cable (left)

New coalition government's economic priorities and reactions from the BoE and the FTSE

£6 billion of emergency cuts

The Conservatives have announced that the new Chancellor George Osborne will prepare an emergency budget within the next fifty days that will include £6 billion of emergency cuts, in a bid to reduce the deficit and increase confidence in the market for British government bonds.

The cuts have been announced as part of the power-sharing deal with the Liberal Democrats. This will also include a new tax on banks, a parliamentary commission to decide on whether to force banks to divorce their retail and investment operations, caps on bonuses as well as plans to increase business lending.

The deal also accommodates a Liberal Democrat election promise to raise the earnings threshold at which people

start paying income tax from £6,475 to £10,000 pounds a year, although this will be phased-in and not implemented immediately, as promised.

The proposals will be funded by increasing national insurance tax by one per cent, increasing capital gains tax from eighteen to forty per cent, and scrapping the Tories' proposal to raise the inheritance tax threshold to £1 million.

King welcomes new agreements

Bank of England Governor Mervyn King welcomed the new Conservative-Liberal Democrat agreement to cut the deficit, saying, "the agreement I have been informed about that was reached between Conservatives and Liberal Democrats is a very strong and powerful agreement."

King also noted that while the economic recovery may "gather strength," risks "have increased somewhat, reflecting in particular heightened market concerns about the prospects for fiscal consolidation in a range of countries."

The comments came after the Governor released new quarterly figures on the economy. He predicted that the economy will improve, achieving 3.5 percent annual growth by the beginning of 2012. He also predicted that inflation will remain below the central bank's 2 per cent target.

The forecasts have not changed much since the last quarterly results were released in February, and are based on the interest rate staying close to its record low of 0.5 percent this year and reaching 1.7 percent by the end of 2011.

FTSE reacts to coalition deal

Last Wednesday the FTSE fluctuated significantly as news of a new Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition coincided with fears about the Greek debt situation and its potential impact on the financial markets.

"With the European problems likely put on the back-burner for now we should start to get a clearer picture of how the U.K. plans to tackle what is expected to be one of the largest developed-market deficits in 2010," Jim Reid, a strategist at Deutsche Bank, wrote in an e-mail to clients today.

The FTSE has fallen 8.6 percent from this year's peak amid concern that Greece's debt crisis will spread. It surged 5.2 percent on May 10 after the European Union agreed to offer financial assistance worth 750 billion euros.



BoE Governor Mervyn King

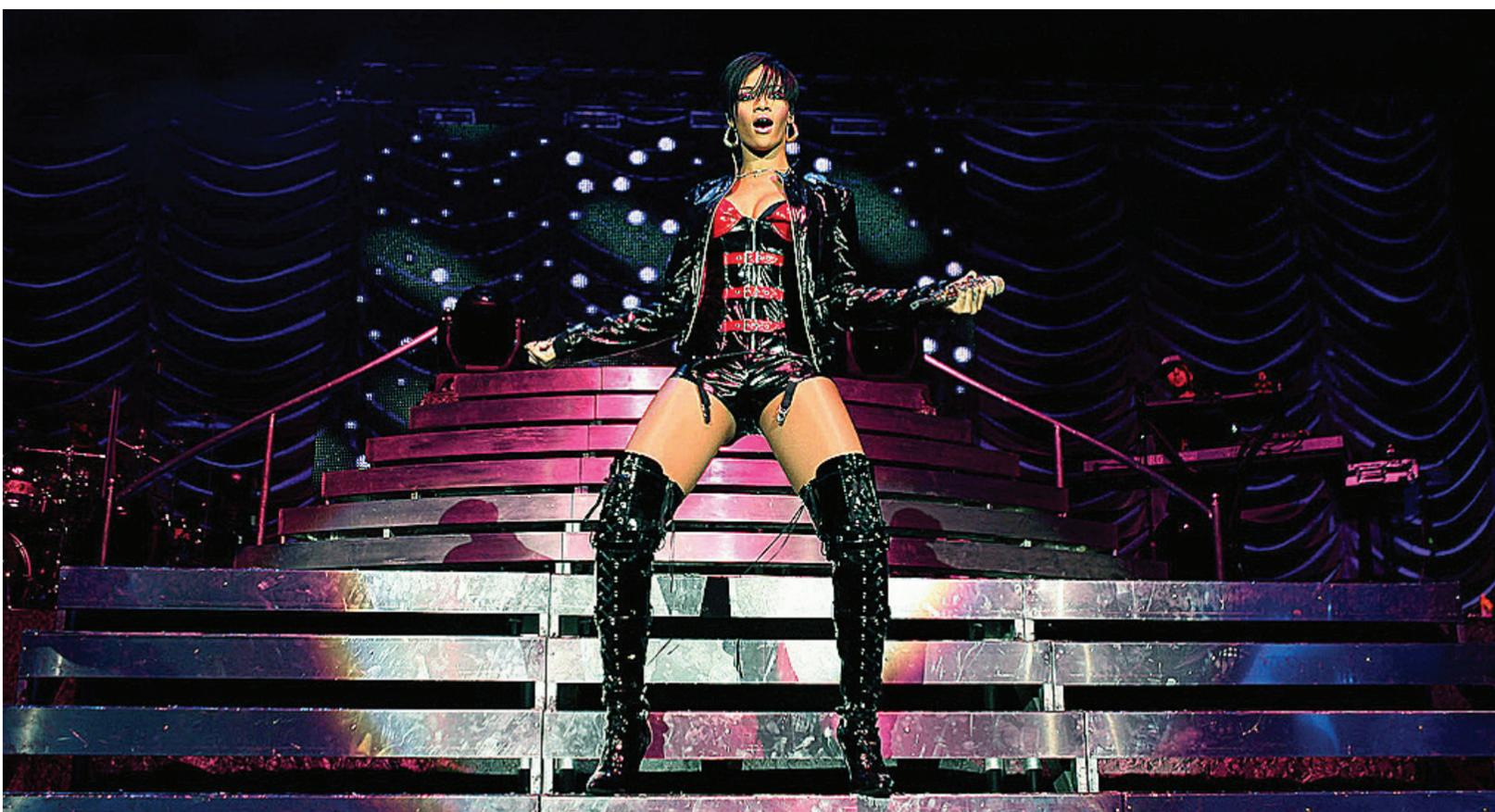
MUSIC

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Rihanna's Reign @ the O2

Mariam Zahedi isn't revising. Instead she went to the O2 Arena to see pop's other crazy-fashioned diva, with all the elaborate sets and aerial acrobatic displays money can buy.



Right now, the music industry really is all about the girls. Whether you love them or loathe them, there's no doubt that the likes of Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Cheryl Cole [Ed note: Cheryl Cole?] and co. are taking over.

RiRi has come a long way since she first exploded onto the scene with Pong de Replay in 2005. Only 17 at the time, the song showcased none of her powerful vocal skills, the video was hor-

rendously lacking in style and fashion, and, most importantly, you didn't get a sense of who Rihanna is. Make no mistake – this girl is not your typical pop princess, she's wild, she's dark, she's rebellious, and she does whatever the hell she wants to and doesn't give a toss about what you think about it.

It may come as a surprise to those who have seen her live performances on YouTube, but not only can Rihanna sing in tune, her voice is also compelling and powerful. Starting

her set with the haunting Russian Roulette, the song showcased not only her vocal talents, but her love of fashion too, with a black dress covered in red flashing LED lights. The set was comprised of all the big hits from her last two albums, as well as some of the lesser-known songs from her latest.

Memorable moments included her performance of 'Hard' on top of a neon pink army tank, the mini-rave she and her dancers had inside

a neon cube for 'Please Don't Stop the Music', and the emotional ballads 'Take a Bow' and 'Rehab' where one look at her face clearly showed exactly who she was singing these songs about.

Her costume changes ranged from Lady Gaga-esque leotards to big statement shoulders, asymmetrical body suits to gem studded FMBs, and her on-stage dancing and general behavior was at all times enthralling – she was clearly having

fun and the crowd was having fun with her. This is one girl who definitely deserves all the attention she's getting.

- **Mariam Zahedi**

Rihanna
 O2 Arena
 11th May
 ★★★★★

Don't know what to listen to while revising? Read this week's reviews...

THE DEAD WEATHER
 SEA OF COWARDS
 EMI
 ALBUM



Jack White takes more of a back-seat than ever before, bringing Alison Mosshart to the helm of this spooky yet sultry blues outfit. The album kicks off with "Blue Blood Blues"; with bass stomping all over it and Fertita's guitar shrieking in discordant yelps. WTF 'shake your hips like battleships' means I'm not quite qualified to say, all I know is, it moves my bones. "Hustle and Cuss" sees them slip into a more chilled groove akin to 70's soul band Funkadelic, which contrasts with the twisting snake-like "The Difference Between Us" driven by Fertita's Hammond organ and Lawrence's bassline. It's notable that this album is a more collaborative effort than their first album, with White restricted to the odd burst of showmanship, like his distinctive guitar solo on "Gasoline". Whilst several tracks feel unrefined and in need of trimming, the overall result is impressive, and serious kudos to them for finishing on a jaunty graveyard theme. - **Tom Jennings**

KEANE/K'NAAN
 STOP FOR A MINUTE
 UNIVERSAL
 SINGLE



I thought I hated this song and then it got stuck in my head and now it is growing on me. Completely unlike anything they have done before, it still has the distinctive piano riffs but with the added hip-hop vibe. It is definitely more accessible than their previous efforts and is very radio-friendly... AND my burlesque teachers are in the video! Ha.

- **Emily Beech**



Topman Ctrl are throwing free tickets at us to give to you for this show, so we're running a mini-competition for them, just email us at music.felix@gmail.com with the answer to this question:

In the wonderfully weird video for "Ambling Alp", what object are all the naked people at the end running towards?

First person to email us with the correct answer gets two free tickets. Easy.

Yeastayer describe themselves as "Middle Eastern-psych-pop-snap-gospel" but actually they're an experimental indie band from Brooklyn, New York. They released their debut album All Hour Cymbals in 2007 and this year they released their follow-up, Odd Blood.

Silver Columns are a home-grown duo playing synth-pop folktronica rock techno (that's journalist words for don't-know-how-to-describe-them) that maybe sounds a bit like Hot Chip, maybe even better?

Competition Time!

Win 2x tickets to see **Yeastayer & Silver Columns** playing on the 19th May (venue to be announced)

The Topman Ctrl tour involves different Channel 4 presenters hosting different bands in different cities. Nick Grimshaw is the presenter hosting this show. Now I don't know who that is but then I don't own a TV. Or a laptop. I can't even watch iPlayer! Sad times.

FILM

Film Editor Ed Knock
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A comedy about Jihadist terrorists? Chris Morris is back

Four Lions

Director Chris Morris
Screenwriter Chris Morris
Cast Riz Ahmed, Arsher Ali, Nigel Lindsay, Kayvan Novak

Ed Knock Film Editor

"Cake is a made up drug", Bernard Manning famously declared with utmost sincerity on *Brass Eye*, "One poor lassie cried all the water out of her body, just think how her mother feels. It's a f**king disgrace". Manning was just one of the many celebrity casualties tricked into endorsing ridiculous campaigns by the most controversial

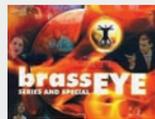
comic writers of all time, Chris Morris. The presence of the Morris on our screens has been sadly missed since the glory days of *Brass Eye*, the satirical show mocking sensational news which pushed the boundaries of taste to new heights. But Morris is back and his new film is certainly not lacking any of the controversy that made him a household name.

A comedy about the pursuits of a group of home-grown Jihadists from Sheffield plotting a terrorist attack on Britain sounds like the perfect recipe to cause offense but *Four Lions* cleverly circumnavigates any Islamophobia. The film's protagonists are idiots, confused between the anti-Western rhetoric they gleefully spout and the joys of British culture they unintentionally enjoy. The sanest member of the group

Chris Morris
Greatest Hits



The Day Today



Brass Eye

Omar (Riz Ahmed) struggles to keep a cool head around his band of deluded brothers especially his lieutenant Barry (Nigel Lindsay); a white convert to Islam who seems only interested in destroying mosques to inspire the 'moderates' to rise up. The lions are completed by Fessal (a timid individual whose brilliant ideas include strapping bombs to crows) and the innocent Hassan and Waj who appear to be completely unaware of why they are planning the massacres of their fellow countrymen.

The brilliance of *Four Lions* revolves around the fact that its protagonists appear to be completely ignorant of the religion they are fighting a Holy War in the name of. The terrorists are not shifty looking, "durka durka" shouting stereotypes but your average man on the street. They undertake their activities with all the bumbling diligence of *Dad's Army*. Let's not forget now that *Four Lions* is a comedy and so the question begs - is it funny? Hell yeah, Chris Morris has certainly not lost his touch and dollops plenty of comic brilliance into the film.

Four Lions is hilarious and unsettling at the same time. Your sympathies towards the men conflict with natural repulsion at the terrible atrocities they are trying to commit. As the film reached its climax I unconsciously found myself willing Omar and the boys to succeed before recoiling in uneasy horror at my thoughts.

The script bounces between well aimed shots at the contradictions of extremism and moments of surreal excellence. Omar explaining his predicament to his son by substituting himself for Simba and Osama Bin Laden for Mufasa is a highlight. A fieldtrip to a Taliban training camp in Pakistan results in pure slapstick involving a bazooka.



My one problem with *Four Lions* is that the Jihadists' motives are never really explained. Omar watches the bloopers of his martyr videos whilst his loving wife hugs his shoulders. Why does he seem to enjoy a secular lifestyle when he is determined to punish us 'unbelieving kafir b**tards'? Although the irony is probably deliberate to point fun at the ridiculousness of religious fanaticism, I found I could not fully identify with the protagonists and therefore the emotional impact of the ending was weakened. However, *Four Lions* is still a fantastic dark comedy but then I expected nothing less from Morris.

(cont.)



Jam



My Wrongs
8245-8249

Centurion delivers enough thrills and bloody violence

Centurion

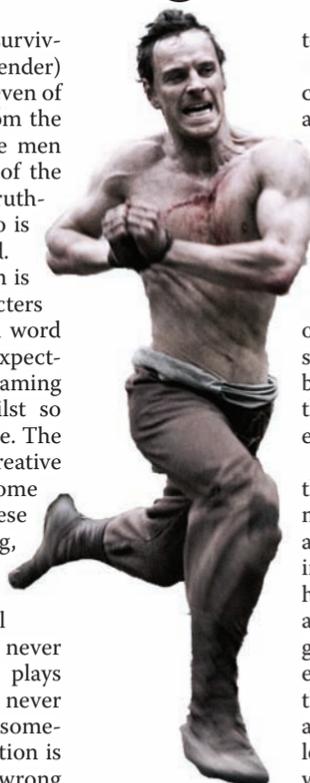
Director Neil Marshall
Screenwriter Christian Colson
Cast Michael Fassbender

John Park

Centurion may be a lot of things, but boring is certainly not one of them. The brief running time of 97 minutes is hardly challenging to sit through, even less so, when it is filled with brutal, raw, medieval action that comes with the ferocious looking warriors. In A.D. 117, the Roman Empire is facing difficulties as it tries to expand its territory to northern Britain. The Picts are giving the Romans hell with their endless guerrilla tactics that have managed to slaughter thousands of soldiers. The Romans have had enough, and they order the legendary Ninth Legion to wipe out the Picts once and for all. But after an ambush on unfamiliar ground, not only does most of the Legion perish, General Virilus (Dominic West) is also

captured. So now it's up to the surviving Quintus Dias (Michael Fassbender) and a handful of soldiers (only seven of them in total) to rescue him from the vengeful Picts. The seven brave men must also be incredibly weary of the band of Pict hunters led by the ruthless Etain (Olga Kurylenko) who is out for some more Roman blood.

As can be expected, the action is literally non-stop and the characters barely have the chance to get a word in. A lot of the script is quite expectedly filled with constant screaming but it's hard to complain whilst so much gritty action is taking place. The fight sequences are relatively creative throughout and they never become too repetitive. The scale of these combats can never be too big, since the number of soldiers we're dealing with is limited, and the director knows that. Neil Marshall knows the limits and never tries to be too ambitious. He plays within the set boundaries and never overextends himself to create something he cannot control. The action is always bloody and it would be wrong



to expect anything but.

Marshall also makes the wise decision of including some tense, cat-and-mouse situations whenever he feels like he has had enough of the swords, spears and axes clashing. The chases are hardly original, but the rapid editing and fast pace move the film along so quickly that it's hard to care. As the characters spring, so does the audience. Because of this general rushed atmosphere, some plot details are lost in the process but again, it's easy to just forget about them and get caught up in this high-energy, adrenaline-pumping ride.

The faultless casting is also something that adds to the film's enjoyment factor. The range of more than adequate British and Irish talent that includes Fassbender, Liam Cunningham, David Morrissey, Noel Clarke and Riz Ahmed form a reliable, steady group, interacting convincingly with each other. Fassbender is fantastic as the leader, showing both the strength and vulnerability of his character flawlessly. West, the macho general is also well-cast, despite having some cheesy,

epic-wannabe lines to churn out. Kurylenko, although having absolutely no dialogue, compensates for this with her deadly, piercing looks, an appearance that practically screams ferocity.

Oddly, a romantic subplot develops, and no, it's not between the male soldiers. A random, helpful, innocent-looking woman turns up out of the blue, suddenly having a major part to play. The film quickly shifts its tone and decelerates. Frustrating, and perhaps a tad unnecessary but we all knew this couldn't be 100% pure action. The introduction of this character opens up the possibility of the film reaching a horrific conclusion and surprise, surprise, this actually happens. Shame, since the rest has been such an effective guilty-pleasure.

Though the plot and character have not time to develop fully, "Centurion" satisfyingly delivers what is promised to: 90 minutes of hardly uninterrupted, hardcore action. If you're a non-action fan, this is clearly not for you, if not, as long as you can be patient during the awkward romantic moments, the film will prove to be tremendously fun.

The Legend
of the 9th
Legion

The 9th legion has become part of British mythology, they participated in Claudius' invasion. Their last record in the country was building the fortress of Eboracum, now York. However most historians agree that the legion wasn't exterminated in Scotland.

The most controversial movies ever

With the recent release of *Four Lions* causing the raising of eyebrows amongst the more politically sensitive of our nation, **Film Editor Ed Knock** presents the various films that have courted outrage over the last century.

The Life of Bryan

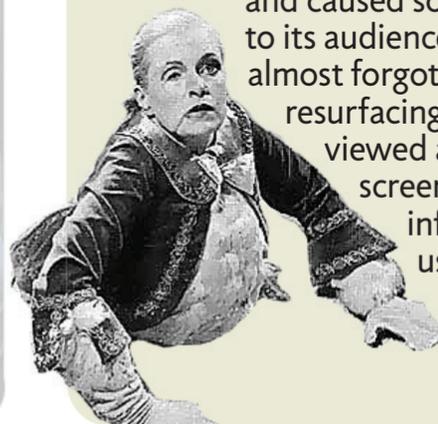


Monty Python couldn't believe their luck when *Life of Bryan* kicked off a s**t-storm with the Church. Whilst the film doesn't contain much direct blasphemy, it certainly is heretical by lampooning Christians as blind followers of anything. Many conservative councils felt the need to ban it for years.

The Exorcist

The Exorcist contains enough blasphemy to put the even the least pious priest into a catatonic state for years. Apparently this film gave my mother nightmares for a month. However, I found it scarily hilarious. Mary Whitehouse was out in full force during the screenings offering religious counselling to the victims of it's audience. Why is it so offensive? A twelve year old girl doing unpleasant things with a crucifix and her privates and the infamous head spinning scene.

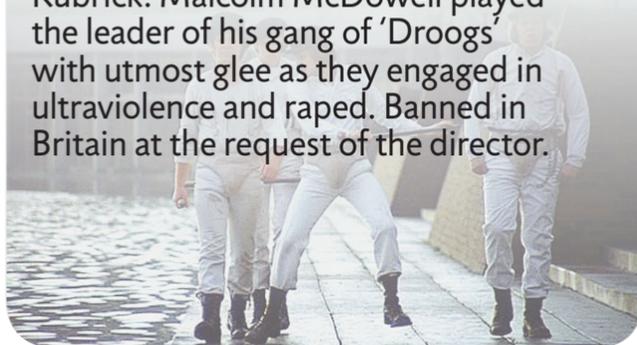
Freaks



Freaks was critically panned and caused so much distress to its audiences that it was almost forgotten about until resurfacing as a cult classic viewed at midnight screenings. It was infamous for the use of real sideshow 'freak' actors.

A Clockwork Orange

In my opinion *A Clockwork Orange* is the most perfectly directed film of all time by the master of cinema Stanley Kubrick. Malcolm McDowell played the leader of his gang of 'Droogs' with utmost glee as they engaged in ultraviolence and raped. Banned in Britain at the request of the director.



The Texas Chainsaw Massacre

This film re-invented the horror genre and it's audience were witness to the brutal antics of 'leather face' and his family of murderous inbreds. The onscreen violence was taken to a new level but the film was never banned in the UK.



Salo or the 120 Days of Sodom

Banned in the UK until 2000, this film is the definition of the word 'nasty'. Set in the fascist state of Salo in Italy 1940, a group of high ranking officials kidnap eighteen young men and women and force them into a world of sadomasochism and coprophagia. Based partly on Dante's *Inferno* and the Marquis de Sade's book of the same title, many felt that this was a snuff movie dressed up as an art film.



Cannibal Holocaust

I couldn't find a picture for this film which I was sure wouldn't make someone vomit on sight. The visceral horrors in *Cannibal Holocaust* were so horrible that it's director Ruggero Deodato was arrested on suspicion of murder. The documentary style of the film convinced some people that it was a real snuff movie. Ruggero managed to prove his actors were still in the land of the living but his film faced international censorship instead.



The Passion of the Christ

The furore surrounding Mel Gibson's account of Jesus Christ's apparent final day is best demonstrated by the South Park episode *The Passion of the Jew*. The original passion plays were performed to incite anti-Semitism and so it was no surprise that this film got criticised for the same reason. The 'good' Jews look American and the 'bad' Jews look evil, make your own mind up.

The Birth of a Nation

This film is incredibly important in cinema history as it was the first real feature length film to use all the techniques that are normal today such as multiple shots in a scene. It's a big shame then that the plot is about Klu Klux Klan putting them pesky ex-slaves back in their place after the American Civil War.



Photograph of the Week

'Squirrell'

by **Slobodan Radosavljevic**

"The squirrels in the Royal Parks are anything but shy - they've been known to go into people's pockets in search of treats. This one was lured in using a peanut husk, then papped and left feeling rather cheated as it skulked away"

Think you've got something better? felix@imperial.ac.uk

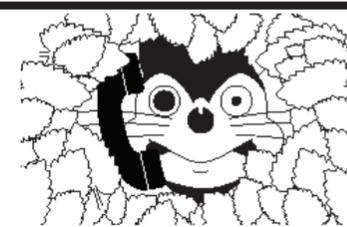


CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

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

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So What Does The Summer Term Hold?

There will be revision and sleep. Though I'm not too sure about the latter.

Third Year Physicist

Summer was invented especially to add insult to the intense agony that is my 25-hour-a-day revision schedule.

Second Year Mathematics Student

I've got some serious revision to do, sure. But it's not all bad. The Library does hot food (most of the time) and there are sinks in the toilets for personal hygiene. And *Molecular Biology of the Cell* makes a very acceptable pillow. The Library is practically a palace. It's my home away from home.

Second Year Biologist

Aw, it's gonna be sweet. Barbacues, Pimms on the Queen's Lawn, sunning myself in Hyde Park. Living it large in London without a care in the world! What's that? Exams?! Shit!!

First Year Chemist

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

Revision is dull but it doesn't haven't to be. Here are some Chemistry lads who stumbled upon an alternative way to revise covalent bonding.

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

A small issue with the Queen's Tower

I have recently noticed that the Queen's Tower is not very tall. I have always been ever so impressed with it, looking up and thinking, "Golly, it really is quite tall." And it's been there right back to when I was a fresher, and probably even before that. But then I looked up again last week and maybe I've got taller but suddenly it looked like "a Lilliputian little shrimpy stubby weeny whelk thing on a massive lobster and the lobster is Imperial" as Shakespeare once said.

Imperial College, the best university in the entire universe (except for Cocksbridgeford Agricultural College in Whocaresshire) (and we should know, eh?), has a tower only about fifty-five times taller than the incredibly short Dan Wan. If it's our phallic symbol then we ought to be thinking of tudor codpieces. All I'll say is bigger equals better. Forget spending money on dBs; use it on this. It's too short for our high status, and should be put on top of Blackett, preferably with the aforementioned editor, haha. I say the campaign starts here. Who's with me?!

Yours in fellowship,

Magnus Winklefilch (Aero)

Catnip: We happen to think that Editor is a towering giant of a man. No, really, he is! Remember, keep sending stuff in and see your name in ink!

Showdown! FOIL vs. LOIL Do we "Love Our Imperial Lives" or do they fail hard? You decide!

Having active competitions in Robot Unicorn Attack when I originally planned on revising – and I'm not even good at it! **Verdict: FOIL**

Running naked in Prince's Gardens at 4 am. **Verdict: LOIL**

If you google exam stress, Imperial College will be at the top of the list! haha, hilarious. **Verdict: FOIL**

This'll be the only time in my life I can afford to live in SW7. **Verdict: LOIL**

"Working" around midnight in the Library, surrounded by chinese people playing WOW and talking chinese. Joy. **Verdict: FOIL**

There were two girls getting off with each other at the Union. **Verdict: Undecided...LOIL?**

Riding on the Fire Engine to Sainsburys when you can't be arsed to walk! **Verdict: LOIL**

It was a tight race but LOIL just clinched it this week.

What do you think? Is Imperial an academic haven or a socially-inept hell? Both?! Let the Cat know!

Imperial's arts magazine is
rising from the ashes...

PHOENIX

H. G. WELLS

1904 ANNUAL

Phoenix, Imperial's historic arts magazine, returns in its original form as an annual this year. It was created in 1904 by Imperial alumnus and famous author, H.G. Wells .

Phoenix needs student contributions. If you're feeling the strains of science or just enjoy being creative, **send in your poetry, fiction, photography and artwork to phoenix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 21st May.**

Phoenix 2010 due out June 2010.



Election Drama

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

I'm sorry that David Cameron is the new Prime Minister. I'm even sorer that Nick Clegg has taken the arbitrary title of 'Deputy Prime Minister'. Not that there's anything political about *felix* fashion. But what with the obsession with the political wives, we can only brace ourselves for some months of over-cov-erage regarding maternity wear and worse – a year of baby clothes.

Such was the frenzy at the newspapers and fashion magazines: my colleague at the Telegraph spent a good 5 hours, post-election day, phoning all the press contacts out there, frantically in search of the red patchwork dress that Miriam Clegg – or Miriam Gonzalez Durantez as she prefers to be known – wore on election day. Well done on Melanie's part, we now know that the dress is from a Chiswick eco-boutique, from a label called From Somewhere and costs £225. And now...?

I curse the day when Michelle Obama became a style crush. Because of her, Britain suddenly feels the compelling need to propel our leader's wife into fashion stardom too. But we won't settle for just one icon. We need three.

Fed up with the constant pestering from the national press, Sarah Brown now prepares a sheet detailing each and every piece of her clothing items, ready to be sent at the expense of a media phone call. And once the info arrives at any fashion desk, words are to be said about her gnarly toes protruding from a pair of red wedges.

Miriam Gonzalez. She can't even be bothered to contain her chesty pups on election day. Any grown woman should realise the importance of a set of good lingerie. Any person, having been under 40 years of gravity and three labours (not governments) later, should realise the need of underwired bras. As for Sam Cam, I have a cunning suspicion that she wants to help fix her husband's 'broken Britain'. To do so,



she blends in with the kids-from-the-blocks by donning a pair of bling loop earrings. If Carine Roitfeld cares to flick through the British newspapers, she may choke on her morning espresso.

Andrew Marr once complained about the lack of effort demonstrated by the new breed of media people. I now understand why: comfortably sat in their air-conditioned office, who is willing to set foot in the polluted and congested real world in search of real stories when a potential 'story' is only a phone call and one PR away?

The million dollar question is: have we run out of fashion stories? Or is it simply that the fashion editors are too traumatised after the bazillion fashion shows they feel obliged to attend each year, that they fail to fathom the energy to march out of the security gates on Fleet Street? If this is the case, Cathy Horyn of the New York Times should probably zip her lips over the free Dolce and Gabbana fur airmailed to BryanBoy. At least he is ACTIVELY working it (whether or not we like BryanBoy's unabashed seeking, 'how I wish it's a DSLR (camera) but I can't afford one, hu hu hu' is another story).

Alexa Chung, Olivia Palermo, Dita Von Teese, the Olsen Twins, Ece Sultan, Chloe Sevigny, Joan Burstein... They all style themselves without the need of a stylist and hence should classify as bona fide style crushes. So why, when there are enough style crushes to fill the pages for at least 10 weeks, our national press chooses to focus on the lot who purchase M&S cashmere cardigans?

Not putting a halt on this sheepish style of reporting will only result in grave calamity. Mothercare has the potential to become the new Topshop with the arrival of another Cameron. Get very an-orexic, girls.



A Perfume Love Affair

Are we buying a fragrance or a dream? Asks Kawai Wong

Before all sorts of raffish perfume began to invade the perfumery counter, they were elixirs exquisitely crafted by perfumiers. A century ago, they began blending the most exotic floral and wood extracts from all over the world - Reunion Island, Corsica and India...

Traditionally perceived as the final element of an outfit, Guerlain's Mitsouko or Chanel No.5 are worn and not gaudily sprayed. To piece together a Balenciaga cocktail dress and a set of Bvlgari jewelry, a perfume has to be worn to capture the missing *je ne sais quoi*. Chanel's parfumeur Jacques Polge hits the nail on the head: 'The aesthetic is lacking something important when there's no perfume.'

Since day one, a perfume has been serving more purposes than a mere intangible accessory. You're also buying a dream that perfume makers sell. The latest Chanel No. 5 short film, featuring Audrey Tatou is one of these glamorous dreams. Audrey sleeps on the Oriental Express, the perfume bottle catches the light of dawn and casts a scintillating shadow in her wood-panel cabin. When she meets a handsome young man, the scent that emanates from her is what captured his curiosity. 'When a woman disappears, what that is left of her is her smell', such is Jacques Polge's aphorism.

Unfold the pages

of a fashion magazine, how many spokeswomen gaze back at you seductively in skimpy clothing? How many touch their lips with their mouths open? How many are accompanied by a sexy young man? Are they youthful or are they successful career women? More so than ever, we are also buying a lifestyle indicator. The arbitrary symbolism of perfume aside, how do you tell apart a woman who wears Jo Malone or Jordan?

Unfortunately, much to the dismay of the perfumiers that created the scents, blindfold an amateur aficionado and most won't be able to

"When a woman disappears, what that is left of her is her smell"

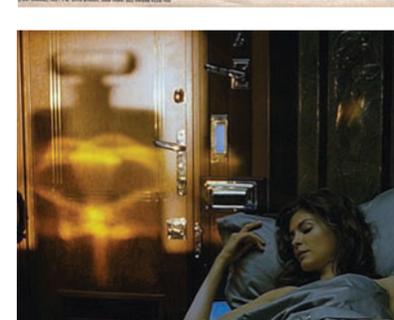
pinpoint the exact brand somebody is wearing. It proves the point that perfumes are so much more than the brand sticker or the price tag. Expensive as Victoria's Secret scent may be, Febreze probably does a better job at freshening.

It is palpable that we need to look beyond the veil that a pale and erotic Sophie Dahl casts on a branded fragrance. We know that it is a mammoth task to sequester a scrupulous scent from the squallion offerings on the perfumery counter. The compiled list here is the least effort *felix* can do to guide you through the search.

Keep an open mind when it comes to choosing a perfume. The classic floral and citrus fragrant are easy to



every woman alive loves Chanel No. 5



The first fragrance created by Coco Chanel, No.5. The latest of the film/TV advert starred Audrey Tatou.



Summer Scents

Dirt by Demeter Fragrance Library is unusual to say the least. Dirt is by no means a gimmick, it does smell of a damp dewy morning. Think of a breezy meadow when the fog is just about disperse. While other perfume smells of fresh blossom, think of



this as a the whip of fresh air above a grassy/earthy pitch. Affordable, 30ml is available at £13.98 from fragranceX.com. Wear with a cropped t-shirt and cargo pants.

Dream is a member of the Incanto series by Salvatore Ferragamo. The jaunty creation is like a child licking a lollipop in an amusement park. Smells colourful and sweet, it also reminds me of freshly washed hair. The perfume has amazing staying power, it smells consistently lovely and sweet throughout the day. Buy online for around £25/100ml.



New Scents

Acqua de Gioia by Giorgio Armani is a feminine fragrance crafted by L'Oreal's Luxury Products Division. It smells of a still shallow sea that is not too far away from the shore. This scent is inspired by rainwater as



well as terrestrial elements. The heart of the fragrance is water jasmine, mint and italian lemon. Wear with one piece beige lace dresses. Hits stores in June.

White Tie and Tiara by Jo Malone. This limited edition fragrance will be available in June. Each purchase will support Jo Malone's pledge of £150,000 to the Elton John AIDS Foundation. This girly, sweet and summery scent contains bergamot, tangerine, lime, hyacinth and musk. Mixing and matching with other Jo Malone fragrance will create your own bespoke signature scent. Jo Malone has a counter at Harrods.



Classic Scents

Paris by Balenciaga wears like a French woman. It has the sophistry of magnetism in the form of a musky base, and a baby like soft-core powdery scent that is ever presence throughout the lifespan of application. Very demure, this is the type of fragrance that sinks into the background and you forget about having worn any.



Bas de Soie is a new eau de parfum by Serge Lutens. Think a wild meadow filled with blossoms by a running stream. A squirt of the clear liquid delivers an elegant whiff of hyacinth, iris and grass flowers.



Special No. 127 by Floris smells like the bass tone in an opera, the cologne's base note is a masculine blend of musk and patchouli. The manly notes are balanced by the mellow rose and lavender.



Metric Stage

THE NOISETTES

PLAN B

TINIE TEMPAH

Quad Marquee

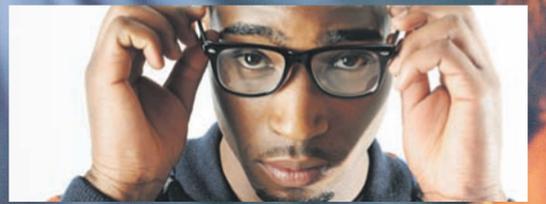
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ICU Dance Company compete on tour

Pernelle Nunez describes the trip to Loughborough and Edinburgh, in which the club gained impressive results

Months of training, rehearsing and organising paid off for ICU Dance Company after they had a highly successful haul of awards following two inter-university dance competitions at the end of February. The first of which was Loughborough University's Dance Competition. The day began with one of the hardest challenges of all – assembling 21 sleepy dancers outside the union at 5am but after a couple of jump-out-of-bed phone calls, two dancer-filled union minibuses headed up the M1 to Loughborough.

The first piece by the company (choreographed by Valentina Caorsi) was in the Advanced Contemporary category. A hard-hitting, technically strong piece with contemporary dance in its purest form lost out in a category which offered a diverse range of interpretations of "contemporary dance".

'A tango-inspired, energy fuelled routine ... 1st Place.'

The Beginners Ballet (choreographed by Soraia Pimenta and Pernelle Nunez) took to the stage next with a classical piece executed to perfection. Their performance earned them a thoroughly deserved 2nd Place. This was followed by the Advanced Ballet piece (choreographed by Soraia Pimenta and Pernelle Nunez) which had high expectations due to the strength of the advanced ballet team this year. A tango-inspired, energy fuelled routine showcased the abilities of the dancers who walked away with a well deserved 1st Place. To add the cherry on top, the piece also won for Best Choreography out of all the pieces in the competition.

The final piece at Loughborough was a cheeky, super-speed Advanced Jazz routine (choreographed by Elisa Bellomo) that faced stiff competition against 17 other universities in a category that always delivers pieces of a high calibre.

After success at Loughborough, the club was highly excited for a dance-filled weekend away in Edinburgh. This time the club's tap dancers led by choreographer Georgina Stroud also attended Edinburgh University's



Dance-Off along with the four other pieces.

The Beginners Tap piece was a polished, energetic routine which won 3rd Place in its category controversially losing out to some not-so-beginner tappers from Sunderland. The controversy continued in the tap category with the stylish, Fosse-inspired routine by the Advanced Tap dancers coming 2nd, losing out to an a capella piece by Newcastle making it the second year running an a capella piece has won.

This time the Contemporary piece fared better with the judges awarding 2nd Place while the Advanced Ballet piece was again placed 1st in its category. The Beginners Ballet piece was placed 2nd losing out to a piece by Sunderland University which included intermediate and advanced dancers.

All controversy aside, some excellent results for the club and these were topped off with an individual Best Dancer award for one of the club's freshers, Francesca Boughey who danced in the Advanced Ballet, Contemporary and Jazz pieces.

After the results were announced, over a hundred hungry dancers chaotically attempted to get their hands on the after party buffet. Following the feeding frenzy the IC dancers retreated to a booth where the drinking games began and elegant, once-composed dancers were transformed into bunnies and farm animals that had to know their four-times-tables. A fabulous competition season ended with a cocktail, tequila and champagne fuelled night of more dancing!

Release your arty side in Phoenix

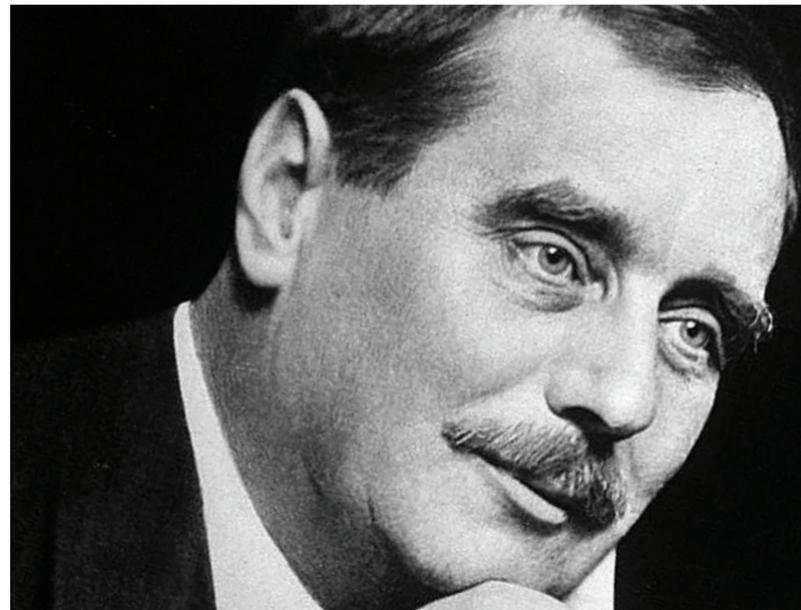
There are quite a few perks of being at an institute at Imperial. Yes, this is a top-ten internationally ranked institution. Yes, that is a Lamborghini garage down the road and yes, those women walking up and down Cromwell Road are wearing the equivalent of a small fortune. However, with every upside comes a downside and though it's not exactly cataclysmic in comparison to the relative benefits offered, there is a downside to being at a college so single-minded in its pursuit of scientific and technological nirvana.

And if you're the artsy type or to any degree that way inclined, you're sure to feel it. Not in a tortuous and quite unnecessarily gratuitous fashion such

'Write when the inspiration takes you - in the middle of the night, in the shower, on the bus or under starlight.'

as, say, something you would see in the Saw series or even any film containing Jason Schwartzman. The relative quiet of the college's arts scene and lack of diversity in the general student populace is understandable given its focus on science, but those of you who loved your arts subjects at school may find that part of yourselves undernourished as time passes. A reality is that most people will be wonderful but are not going to feel as passionately as you about art house cinema, interesting new music scenes sprouting up around the capital or that an international literary legend is coming to town to give a reading. For some, this will be a largely ignored itch that occasionally needs scratching. Others will resign themselves to turning to external sources to find their fix.

This is where Phoenix comes in.



H. G Wells, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, initiated Phoenix

Originally founded in 1904 as the college's arts magazine by H.G.Wells - yes, the guy who penned *War of the Worlds* and *The Time Machine* - its presence has fluctuated until a couple of years ago when a couple of overambitious Cardiovascular Science undergrads had a conversation on a bus down the Shepherd's Bush Road and decided it would be a great idea to resurrect it.

The basic idea is to take the creative work of the student body - that means you, arty types - and to pick the best for inclusion in a sumptuously designed extravaganza of literature and art published next month. Anything will be considered - collages, drawings and paintings (even your A-Level work), photography, poetry and short stories, flash-fiction, screenplays, haiku, original designs or ideas for articles on something you particularly feel passionate about.

Write when the inspiration takes you - in the middle of the night, in the shower, on the bus or under starlight.

Get in touch with us for potential ideas for sections, editorials or design. We are always looking for new contributors and potential editors and chances are, if you pitch it to us and you've thought about it, we'll probably consider it.

Speaking of which, now that there is more than one editor, Phoenix should be a very special thing indeed.

Whereas before, it would be mostly one person putting in 32 hours over the last two days running to print deadline whilst simultaneously being shafted by the latter stages of Undergrad Medicine, now with three highly passionate, intelligent and talented co-editors on board, Phoenix should be a work of art in itself come the end of the year. So get your creative juices flowing and send us over your ideas and submissions - we can't wait to see what you come up with. DP

Submissions to phoenix@imperial.ac.uk by 21st May 2010.

Your Club or Society Here.

Description of your awesome trip or event here.

There are 296 clubs and societies at Imperial. Want your club to be in *felix*?

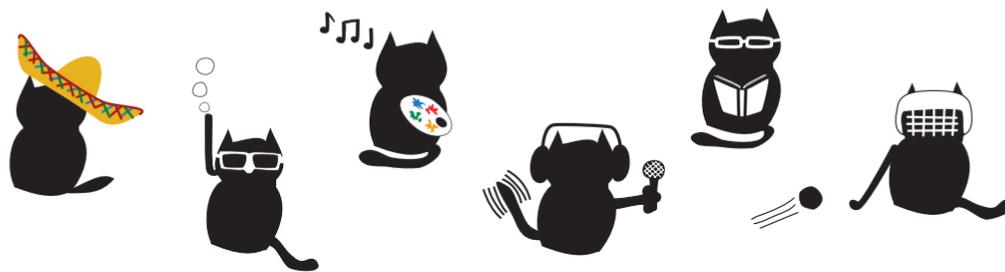
Send us a description of a trip, event, tour or social with some good pictures and everyone will know about it.

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editor – Ziggi Szafranski

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Tues 18th May

Lendvai String Trio - Lunchime Concert
 – 13:00 - 13:45
 – LT1, Wolfson Education Centre, Hammer-smith Campus
 – First come first served!
 – Programme to include a new work by Cecilia McDowall

To Do....

- 1) Say hello to everyone...Hello!
- 2) Send in your events!! This page only works if you actually send me things! Email your events to:
whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk
 (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 18th May**
- 3) Did I mention to send in your events?!

Weds 19th May

DramSoc Summer Workshop
 – 2 - 4pm in Activity Space 2
 – Free to everyone this term
 – Say goodbye to the drab world for two beautiful thespian hours. Comedy, Impro, games and scripts. Everyone welcome, even if you've never set foot on greasepaint!

Thurs 20th May

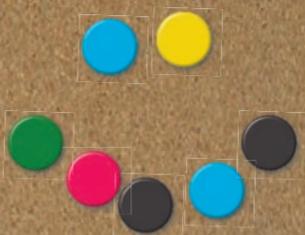
Banking and Finance Careers Fair
 – 17:00 - 19:30pm
 – Senior Common Room, Sherfield
 – Another exciting careers fair to pass the time away, this time about Banking and Finance. This is for everyone, from 1st year Undergrad to final year PHDs so if you're interested, why not pop along? There may even be freebies!

**We know it's exam season, but SOMEONE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING!
 Want more people at your event? ADVERTISE IT HERE!**

Anything else?....

For those of you who noticed our lovely banner last week, its effectiveness was somewhat less than we hoped, so this week the jaunty angle has been jauntily altered...did you notice?

Really?! Oh...you were just pulling my leg...well if you want to say sorry you could always send me your events? :)





World Cup fever hits the humble iPod speaker-dock

Samuel Gibbs reviews the little ball that wants to rock your iPod

The World Cup is on its way, about a month away now and everyone with a product to sell is jumping on the football bandwagon. We've got shirts, flags, footballs and even Pringles trying to get a slice of World Cup fever. It'll come as no surprise that electronics manufacturers are also trying to get in on the marketing buzz; the World Cup is a brilliant motivator to get people into stores and buying nice new large screen HDTVs. Even the Chinese electronics industry recognises the potential market the World Cup provides, which is why we've been sent the Lanchiya mi-football for review.

OK, I know what you're thinking: 'Lanchiya, who?' To be honest, I'd never heard of them before, but a quick Google shows you they make a few different iPod docks under the brand Speakal. You'll get no prizes then for guessing that that's exactly what the mi-football is, as the name might suggest: a powered iPod speaker dock in the shape of a football. The mi-football or miSoccer as it's known in the US, fits into a range that comprises of the iPig, the iPanda, the iBoo (think a Pacman ghost) and the iPom, all featuring similar riffs on the ball shaped powered iPod speaker docks.

Design

On first impressions, it's not immediately apparent what the mi-football's function is. It has a slot in the top that takes the universal dock adapters for your iPod, a few logos for the touch-sensitive control buttons on the top and comes with a little card remote; but the actual speakers and sub are hidden inside the ball. The sub, which vents directly down is heard but not seen, whilst the two stereo speakers are hidden in the dark panelling of the



ball, which itself is available in white and black or white and blue colour schemes. The white panels themselves are begging to have your favourite clubs crest stuck on them, be it England for the World Cup or Arsenal if you're a Gunners fan.

Function

The ball is suspended off the deck by four small legs with rubber pads that

keep it nice and stable on a flat surface. The bottom panel on the front houses the mi-football's IR receiver and LED indicator to keep you abreast of what's happening, plus a duct for the sub, hidden in the black. Underneath there's a socket for the power adapter, a 3.5mm socket for auxiliary audio and a switch to turn off the mi-football, as well as the perforated speaker grill of the sub.

Overall, the mi-football is anything but sleek, but it is a grower. The longer you look at it, the more attractive it seems, but it's certainly one for football fans, or someone looking for something cute.

That's the design, but what's it like to use? Well the mi-football is a 'Made for iPod' device meaning that it has access to the iPod play controls using the touch sensitive buttons and the iPod menu system using the included card remote. The remote has up and down buttons, a menu button and an enter button for navigating through the various iPod menus. Volume, track skip, play/pause, a mute button and a standby button are also included, along with treble and bass adjustment for fine-tuning the speaker's performance and an AUX button for alternative audio input. Overall, operating the iPod or iPhone through the mi-football is fine, a little frustrating using buttons on the remote rather than a scroll wheel or kinetic scrolling but as good as it's going to get using a remote without a screen. Of course, to see what's happening on the iPod you're going to have to be within touching distance of the thing, which to my mind slightly defeats the point of having menu controls on the remote. Another small annoyance about the mi-football when it comes to actual functionality is that when you stick your iPod in the dock it instantly starts playing at a default volume that you can't set yourself. That's great if

Compact and interchangeable

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor



Only six weeks left 'til the summer break. Whether this means you're finally free of Imperial's clutches or just on remand, everyone's looking forward to a bit of sun (hopefully) and a break. From iPod docks to phones, from cameras to tablets, tech doesn't stop when summer begins.

We've got quite a few things to look forward to in the tech-o-sphere this summer. First and foremost we've got the unveiling and release of a brand spanking new iPhone. OK, it's still only rumoured, but if the stars align, I'm pretty sure you're going to find at

least one new offering from everyone's favourite fruity company.

We've got a whole raft of new cameras to test including the Sony NEX5, which might be the answer to all your 'I don't want to carry a beast, but I do want amazing pictures' needs.

Of course football is also on the agenda, but it's pretty low-tech for the most part. All you need is a ball, some posts and a pitch. But this year, players such as Messi and Defoe will be sporting the lightest boots ever, made from a single layer of polyurethane. No padding means they're faster turning and lighter. Just don't get stamped on eh?

you want an instant loud blast of music, but if you're looking for something a little quieter or just want to charge your iPod or iPhone, it's extremely annoying. To make matters worse when you do want to turn it down quickly, the touch sensitive buttons that ring the front of the iPod slot aren't all that responsive. In fact if you don't put enough of your finger on the button it doesn't register the input at all, leading to frustrated stabbing at buttons whilst trying to shut the thing up. It's a shame Lanchiya didn't make a better job of honing the button sensitivity or just used physical buttons, but making sure you use your thumb or a large finger touch gets the job done in the end.

Sound

OK, so it works fine for the most part, but it's a speaker dock, so last but probably most importantly, how does it sound? Quite good is the short answer. Of course it's not going to win any medals for sound quality and it falls a fair bit short of the impressive and expensive Bose SoundDock, but

for the best part of £50 (£49.99 best price at the time of print), it's not bad at all. For the price, it's got punch, if not deep bass, relatively well defined highs with a decent mid-range. These speaker docks are often measured by their 'room filling sound', and the mi-football certainly has enough power and volume to fill a room. Its sub moves an impressive amount of air through its channelled duct at the front, which can be felt blasting out in operation and it shows in the loudness that the little ball is capable of. Even at high amplitude, the speakers in the mi-football do an admirable job with little to no distortion. There are a few caveats however, mainly that the bass and treble adjustments that Lanchiya has given you on the remote do very little, and the stereo separation of the small closely packed speakers is pretty poor, but considering it's size and compact frame it's not much to quibble about.

Can you get better sounding iPod docks? Yes of course, but the mi-football holds its own in the budget price range and at £50 it might be just the bit of football tech you need to see you through the World Cup.

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

Samuel Gibbs Tech. Editor

Another week's done and dusted leaving only six weeks left 'til the summer break, so let's get into it, shall we?

Sony turned a few heads this week with the unveiling of their much anticipated 'ultra-compact' DSLRs, the NEX3 and NEX5. The tiny camera bodies sporting massive DSLR lenses make the current crop of Micro Four Thirds snappers look positively porky whilst sporting Sony's current E-mount lenses.

Packing a 14.2MP sensor,



1080i movie mode with articulating 7.5cm LCD for looking at your glorious pictorial creations, the NEX5 brings lots to the party. The NEX3

drops the video down to a still respectable 720p/30fps. Available from next month, if you're after a bit more DSLR in your compact camera then maybe one of these beauties will suit.

Ever fancied designing yourself a nuclear reactor but don't know where to start? Got an iPhone or iPad? Well it's your lucky day because just like everything else, there's an app for that. Nuclear boffins from University of Utah have turned to the Apple iDevices using a freely available app called ImageVis3D to display reactor models and simulations on the

go. Great for the commute into work.

Apple's not had a great week this week. First NPD announces that Google's Android has bumped iPhone OS from the number two smartphone spot under RIM's Blackberry OS. Of course Apple wasn't having any of it and hit back with an IDC report that said, worldwide, the iPhone dominates 16.1% of the smartphone market 'far outselling Android'. Regardless of where you look however, it's clear that Android is indeed gaining traction in the smartphone space, something that

wasn't always guaranteed.

Apple also took a blow from another next-gen iPhone prototype going missing and turning up in the hands of the Vietnamese. Slight differences were noticeable between this one and the Gizmodo-acquired one, namely the two screws from the bottom of the device were now hidden. A teardown of the device also showed the prototype to be packing an Apple A4 chip, the same one that powers the blisteringly fast iPad. Good news for all

those iPhone 3G users hanging on 'til June/July.

If you're sick of your laptop and you can't stand the thought of a tablet, good news! The Asus EeeKeyboard is now available for pre-order! Packing netbook internals into just a keyboard with a screen, it's yours for \$599.

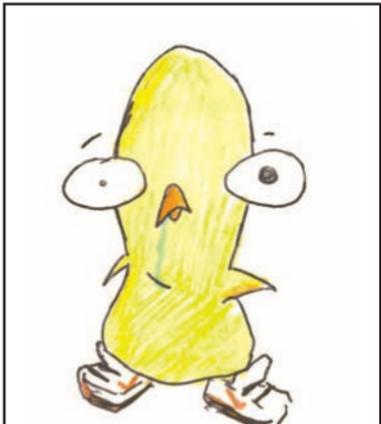


Hangman

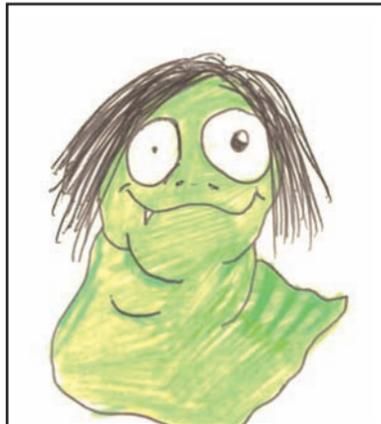
hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FAS* BIRD AND FAT SNAKE

The Nation's favourite Children's story. It's got a snake with hair



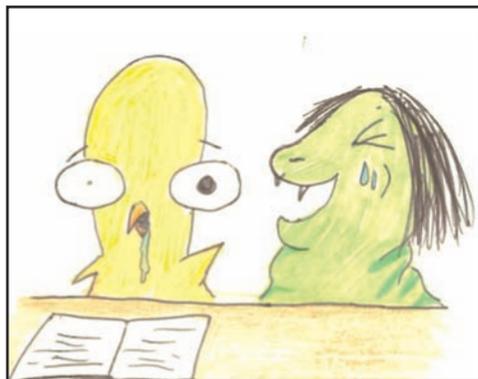
This is FAS bird. His mum was a drunken meth addict who died giving birth to his deformed head. What a hilarious, yet touching back story.



This is Fat Snake. He's a snake, but he's really fat! He wants to be a metal rock god, but can't play guitar because he doesn't have any hands. Silly Fat Snake



This week FAS bird is trying to revise for his quantum physics exam, but he has an under-developed brain so he's really stupid. HAHAAHAHAHAH.



'HAHAHAHAHA. You're so stupid FAS bird', laughed Fat Snake, despite being stupidly fat.



This made FAS bird sad, so one fine dreary evening he threw himself off a bridge. Fat Snake never made it as a metal rock god. **The End.**

HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS, BUT WIN AN ARGUMENT

We have had to endure our fair share of mind-numbingly dull debates over the last few weeks, but not just from the politicians. No, as an Imperial student, you are subscribed to an irrevocable spamming of useless information about the running of our government from that smug student in the lecture theatre reading the Financial Times.

Now I like to think that I'm moderately intelligent, at the very least sentient, but these people, wait no, these robots can suddenly make me feel like I dropped out of primary school to follow a career in dribbling.

They ask you what you think of the economic climate and you foolishly reply, 'I don't care'. Suddenly their eyes glow red and their automated response to political ignorance goes into overdrive; 'You don't care!? bleep bleep bleep fiscal deficit bleep bleep public spending..!' You just sit there and fidget uncomfortably as you're bombarded to death by money words.

So how do you win? How do you power down that bureaucratic android?

STEP 1 - SHAKE YOUR HEAD in disagreement. It doesn't matter if you don't understand what he/she/actually probably just he is saying, because he doesn't either. Just make sure you establish your objections. Once he sees you doing this, he'll become angry and will start throwing statistics and numbers at you. Don't be fazed, politicians use statistics like a fucking grenade launcher, only grenades are real and statistics aren't.

STEP 2 - Intermittently LAUGH at something he says. It doesn't matter what you laugh at, but avoid phrases starting with 'a black man from Shropshire told me' or 'a dying cancer patient asked me'

STEP 3 - INTERJECT. Nothing aggravates the debater more than constantly going 'but' at everything they say. They won't let you get further than 'but', which is great because you don't actually have anything to argue back with, you're just inching them closer to that inevitable aneurysm.

STEP 4 - KILL THEM with words and numbers. Political arguments might as well just be a fight between Wikipedia and Britannica; it's just facts versus facts and the one with the most facts win (reliability of facts doesn't matter.) When you finally get the chance to make your case, the only path to victory is nonsense. Just make up words like 'taxify' or 'monetarian' and then incorporate them into your own made up government policies like 'the bush fund administration for counter-parts of the civil gold alliance'. Combine these with made-up statistics like 'the National horsing tax has gone down by 0.8%' and your opponent won't stand a chance. The smaller the percentage, the scarier it sounds (to a politician).



TWITTER



[Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!](#)

Guys u need to come to my new house! Just bought new cinema system for xbox. I'm gona fill the hot tub with coke as well :D



[The_Cleggomatortrontown <3](#)

Cammy just checked ur public expenses and u've already spent well over two mil! Hope u put it towards the NHS and not ur coke bath :p



[Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!](#)

Cleggman I thought we agreed that ur in charge of fixin the economy and I'm in charge of the taxes. Don't ruin my dreams of a coke bath >:(



[Barack_attack_l33thaxor](#)

Cammy hav u seen dat facebook event for ur house party? It's well gay. Ne1 hu joins it is well gay. They've said I'm djing - just coz I'm blak.



[SexyOsama69](#)

Nah Osie, ur good at playin bass and basketball, not DJing. Got ur stereotypes wrong. Is the group ment to be funny? Facebook is so lame

*FAS - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome :)



Hangman has always maintained a bitter-sweet relationship with the social networking site, Facebook, but is curious to know what you think? Sure it's useful for keeping in touch with your friends you see and speak to every day, but what about those cringe-worthy statuses that make you want to murder a kitten? And has it reached the point where any passing thought already has it's own facebook group along with 50,000 members? Now I know that many of you will be periodically checking your facebook home page every two minutes, so why not make something productive of your addiction and send Hangman a few screen shots. Here's what I'm looking for:

1 - **THE WORST STATUS** - Send em in, (doesn't have to be a screen shot) but you need to need to provide a name to check for legitimacy, although names won't be printed. It needs to be a rage inducing citation, even if it's just two words; they're often the worst; 'LUCY JONES is hoping..' What are you hoping for Lucy? Why does everyone need to know that you're hoping? Your ambivalent status is either just there to annoy people or you're hoping that someone will actually reply and ask you to elaborate. Either way it makes you a twat! Platitudes, flippant remarks or just plain stupid comments- name and shame. You're failing exams so take it out on someone else! It's the right thing to do

2 - **THE WORST GROUP** - This will be a tough competition as there are too many to count. Most groups annoy me so you need to find the most infuriating waste of web space out there. Remember that small African children are working twelve hour days to provide you with these Facebook groups so bring them to justice! I WISH FEELINGS HAD A OFF SWITCH!!! (That's what you're contending with)

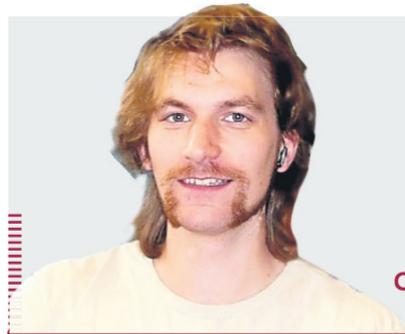
The winners will receive the coveted HANGMAN MYSTERY PRIZE! DON'T MISS OUT! YOU WILL REGRET IT! NOW GO AND STAB YOUR FRIENDS IN THE BACK :D Email hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk



COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Shite all has happened

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Everyone has been talking about exams, politics and ash, all dispersed with a little whining, that to be brutally honest, after a while interests me about as much as room temperature butter, i.e. not much. Now don't get me wrong, I love a good moan about all the shit that's going down in the world, but really ash just reminds me of dead people. So I am focusing on the better parts of life at the moment... and a quick scan of the horizon results in nothing. Yes, nothing that exciting is happening. Well, I got a nice fruit yoghurt with extra fruit from the SCR for breakfast today. Made the mistake of taking extra, or what I thought was extra, pineapple. Turned out that it was in fact grapefruit. I fucking hate grapefruit. That is a fruit that God let through the net, I cannae see how people enjoy that. It's as enjoyable as eating bitumen.

Well, now that I've bored you to the wall with that little antidote, I may try to actually fill this space with something worth reading. However don't hold your breath. Apparently David Cameron when once asked his favourite joke replied 'Nick Clegg.' Whoa! Roll

that back... is that some down with the kids Parliamentary banter? Fuck the kids! Now it's come back to slap you in the face like a massive lubricated horse cock. (Yeah, I just wanted to print 'lubricated horse cock.') Now even if he did think that it was a good banterish joke, which Dave, it wasn't, he obviously thought that it was a good idea at the time. Fine, maybe it was a good idea, but you can walk down the street wearing nothing but a thong. It's legal, but that don't make is a good fucking idea now does it?

If you want lengthened, and possibly more accurate rendition of this week's political news, I suggest looking elsewhere. That's all I have on that subject. Moving on, I have developed a penchant for poorly generated flash games. I sit there, crunched over the screen, closed to the world trying desperately to get past level five on Bouncing Balls. And those of you who just saw 'balls' and laughed, grow the fuck up. This apparently is what Gordon Brown is planning on spending his free time doing now, although with only one eye I can't imagine him being a threat to your top score.

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Harry Potter Trio	251 Points
The Tough Brets	148 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	40 Points

Individuals:

Matthew Colvin	214 Points
Sheryl	195 Points
Kelvin Wong	121 Points
GLT	101 Points
Louise Parchson	78 Points
Flavia Tang	44 Points
Absolute Cunt	33 Points
Bethan Matthews	33 Points
Dr Science!	30 Points
Jeff Wu	28 Points
The Three Kings	25 Points
Sophie Lambrakis	17 Points
Team Dirty Medics	16 Points
Herens Thibaut	12 Points
Giramondo	10 Points
Mark Mearing-Smith	10 Points
Zoe Dobell	10 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with an iPod nano for both the team and the individual with the most points at the end of the year.

5 points for the 1st correct answers for all puzzles on these pages, 4 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, 2 points for 4th and 1 point for 5th.

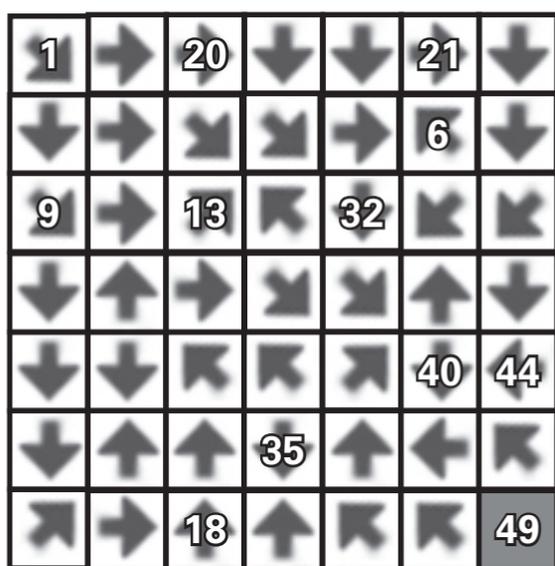
Now then FUCWITs, answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

New
Fuller
Individual
List
YES!!!

Music Quote
of the Week

Bob Seger: "Dreams die hard and we watch them erode, but we cannot be denied the fire inside."

Arrow Maze 1,461



How to play:

Fill all the squares with numbers to form a path from 1 to 49, such that the arrow under each number points to the square containing the number one greater (except for 49 obviously, which has no arrow, being the end of the path).

Hints:

26 is pointed to by three arrows but only one of them is pointing *only* at 26, so *this* square must be 25. The square immediately right of 4 is only pointing to one square so can temporarily be labelled 'A' and the square it's pointing to can be labelled 'A+1'. Now we no longer consider 'A+1' as a destination for other arrows.

Solution 1460

1	2	3	18	16	17	19
39	14	5	34	33	15	43
13	24	27	41	7	26	42
12	23	22	35	6	37	44
28	21	29	30	31	45	20
40	8	4	36	46	47	48
11	25	9	10	32	38	49

Congratulations to Ian 'come here little girl' Fulton and Ali 'vote Nazi' Philpott who were last's weeks winners. Boys, I know you love me and these puzzles, but you spent about three hours trying to compete this puzzle. Well done, you managed it, but on the other hand don't you have an exam to revise for?

On a different note, Ail has a bang tidy sister, seriously Ali, she got all the looks in your family.

As always we can put a guest puzzle in, so if you fancy your name in print drop us an email at sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

[Include a puzzle with your email or we won't bother with the ink.]

Wordpath 1,461

ORIGIN:

PUNCH

DESTINATION:

FIGHT

How to play:

Make a path from the origin word to the destination word by taking steps between words using one of the three following methods:

Letter Substitution: Substitute just **one** letter.

e.g. WORDS -> WARDS

Anagram: Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WORDS -> SWORD

Wordslide: Replace the current word with a new 5 letter word from any 6+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. WORDS -> CROSS (via CROSSWORDS)

No consecutive steps may be made by the same method.

e.g. WORDS -> WARDS (by LS) -> WARES (by LS) would be **invalid**.

Points are awarded for the earliest SHORTEST valid path between the two words. Dubious words will be checked against the OED. Send your solutions to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Solution 1460

PUNCH

????? via

[some steps]

FIGHT

What the fuck? This is possible, but there were no solutions last week, thus I declare it a *rollover* (and so worth double points). If you really can't do it, just send in a memorable story and if it makes me laugh I'll give you points. If it doesn't I won't. Its quite simple really.

Scribble box

felixSport announce the World Cup league table winners

As men's volleyball and women's fencing come out on top, we talk to them to find out more about what goes into an unbeaten season. This week : *fencing*

The *felixSport* league table championship for the 2009-2010 season was shared between Fencing Women's 1s and Volleyball Men's 1s. The female fencers were able to boast a superior point difference, however, it would have been unfair to demote the volleyball players into second place due to the different point scoring systems between the two sports. Both the fencing and volleyball teams completed their respective seasons with unblemished records; the fencers emerged victorious from their eleven bouts while volleyball secured ten victories throughout the season.

While most people have a general understanding of what the sport of fencing is about, the vast majority of the public don't know the rules regulations and procedures of the sport as it does not command the same level of publicity as the national sports of England such as football, cricket and rugby.

Fencing has a long historic tradition and is one of only four sports to have made an appearance at every one of the modern Olympic Games. Fencing competitors have a selection of three weapons; epee, foil and sabre. When competing, rules specific to each weapon must be observed when dueling. In epee and foil, points are scored with the tip of the weapon on a valid target area whereas sabre calls for a slashing motion, hitting the opponent with the side of the blade. The areas which competitors target differ according to the weapon, and hits are registered electronically with the use of a "box" that lights up. The general aim of a bout is simple - to outscore your opponent.

Epee uses a slightly heavier weapon than foil or sabre and allows hits to be scored on the whole body. The foil target area removes the head, arms and legs and is materialised by a metallic jacket which registers hits by completing a circuit between the foil and the box. The sabre is similar to the foil in



Imperial fencers in action during their undefeated season

weight and length, and the attacker may target anywhere from the waist upwards. There is a right of way rule in fencing which is implemented in foil and sabre to prevent simultaneous attacks, epee being the only weapon to allow double hits. Judging the right of way can sometimes be quite subjective and many a match will be decided by

the referee.

BUCS team matches involve a 45-point relay for each weapon. The team for a singlee weapon is comprised of three people, each fencing three bouts to five hits, with the first team to 45 being the winner. The scores from each weapon are then added up to give a total out of 135, which explains the

Meet the Captain: Women's Fencing 1sts



Name: Clare Harding
Age: 23
Subject: First year PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Cell Biology.
Height: 5ft 1

While studying at school, Clare represented Scotland and Great Britain at U17 level. During her undergraduate course at Durham, Clare fenced for Scotland in the five nations as well as captaining the Durham fencing team. As a qualified fencing coach Clare has taught children and Imperial students.

season began with high expectations with the team winning their league the previous year. "This season saw Alice and Outi join the team, both of whom are experienced fencers so we were fairly confident that we would be able to repeat last year's feat!"

Oxford University provided the stiffest competition for Imperial within the southern league this season: "Oxford beat us in 2009, but it was incredibly close with the teams only separated by a few points. We knew that they had lost a few of their key competitors from last year and on the first two occasions we met we managed to beat them quite easily. This was mainly thanks to the strength of our epee and foil teams." The Imperial team faced Oxford for a third time this season and were able to keep level headed and see off their challengers for a third time within a season.

After an undefeated season, plenty of exceptional moments stand out: "The highlight for the team was probably the BUCS semi-final victory over Oxford - when we met them the third time. The team felt a lot of pressure to win that match in order to qualify for the final in Sheffield". The victory was even more impressive as Imperial's opponents contained some competitors from the British circuit. "Luckily the team pulled through really well and produced one of the most resounding victories of the season".

Promisingly, Clare believes the team is unlikely to change drastically going into next season: "We compete in small teams so there can be large changes from year to year and it's encouraging that the team will not change too much for the coming season". Furthermore, the club was able to put out a second team, captained by Helen Pennington who is a part of the first team; this can only improve the prospects of Imperial's fencers. "This allows far more people to compete at a University level which is a great way to retain novices. Hopefully in future years we will be able to recruit from here which will give the team added depth."

very large 'goal difference' the fencers have.

felixSport caught up with Clare Harding, captain of the successful fencing team to discuss their successful season: "Six girls were on the team this year: Alice Mitchell, Outi Supponen, Emily Bottle, Hannah Bryars, Helen Pennington and myself". The

Imperial 2nd XI overcome Reading 3s but are unable to repeat feat against Portsmouth

Continued from back page

team had recovered to a very respectable 210, although certain (very) senior players were disappointed that the 2s hadn't managed to score more runs than the 1s for once. With a spring in the step, the players went out to field and some high quality opening bowling from Jonny C (3-13 from 10 overs) lead to the dismissal of the two openers in successive overs with two unplayable balls. The previously wayward captain, who wasn't exactly leading by example at the time, then got in on the act to remove the third batsman to leave Reading reeling. An inspired bowling change by Pete lead to debutante Will Baker collecting two wickets, before things got better when the only credible spinner, Luke, came on and took quick wickets (and ended up with figures of 9 overs 3-14). Pete then came back to wrap up the innings

as Reading were bowled out for 108, of which 50 was extras. This aside it was a top-quality performance to give the 2s their first win of the season. The man of the match was, without doubt, Jonny C for his all round performance: 20 runs, 3 wickets and two catches. Geek of the day could only go to Ben Bell for being sad enough to spend tea break working out the countdown puzzles that were on TV and consequently being prime evidence that playing Hockey has a negative influence on you.

Stirred from their first win in over a year, an energized Imperial 2nd team gathered together for their next game, playing Portsmouth to seal their position in the division. With a strengthened batting line-up and a typically strong bowling attack along with two extra spinners, things were looking

good. An uneventful journey was a relief in contrast to earlier this month when the team managed to get lost on their way to Harlington. Upon arrival, traditional pre-game rituals were undertaken; Pete went to buy some food for tea and Sid had a fag.

On a green wicket, softened due to the rain, bowling first seemed the way to go; but losing the toss, IC were put in to bat. After a strong batting performance from last game, IC were keen to repeat their performance. Joe started the innings soundly and looked like he was geared up to get a big score with more leaves than a tree. Unfortunately, at the other end, Rahul, his opening partner, was dismissed in the second over.

Sasha came in all guns blazing and bought the team a quick start before offering a catch to mid-off while looking to clear the infield. This triggered the haunting collapse that the seconds

experience all too often; Alex being trapped lbw and Sid falling cheaply after sending a sitter back to the bowler. Captain Pete also fell under the pressure and the biggest blow came soon after when Joe was also out leg-before. But heroics from Ian at the tail end of the innings, with support from Will Baker and Will Duncan, allowed IC to set a target of 140 and give the bowlers something to work with.

After tea the team was ready to bring their best to defend a low total. But a quick start from the Portsmouth openers started to put some heads down before Sid's loud mouth ensured some banter; the breakthrough came and the opening duo of Ian and Pete seemed set to cause some havoc as they had in Sussex. With a wicket apiece they had the Portsmouth team under pressure as Will's sharp stop and accurate throw provided another wicket but despite all this, runs were still flow-

ing. Joe bowled a top spell of leg spin, grabbing two wickets; his googly completely deceived the batsman who left the ball only for it to hit the top of the off stump.

This gave IC another burst of energy as the main threat to the team was now dismissed. But alas, with only 140 to defend the quick start from the Portsmouth batsmen turned out to be too tall an order for the bowlers to contain as the final runs were scored with ease. The team, unhappy with their performance, headed up to the Red Lion to drink away their sorrows. Will dominated the pool table and a good game of killer came to a thrilling end where Rahul's accuracy conquered Sid's flukes.

The team now has to prepare for what will be a competitive game against Brunel on Wednesday, where a win would solidify their position in the league.



Cricketers improve season records



Adam Hugill Cricket

Imperial College Men's 1st XI 210 all out
University of Sussex 1st XI 191 all out
Imperial won by 19 runs

Pete Swallow Cricket

Imperial College Men's 2nd XI 200 all out
University of Reading 3rd XI 108 all out
Imperial won by 92 runs

Imperial College Men's 2nd XI 140 all out
University of Portsmouth 3rd XI 144 for 5
Imperial lost by 5 wickets

1st XI achieve third victory of the season over Portsmouth 2s while the 2nd XI secure maiden victory against Reading 3s

The 1st XI were in good form having won both their opening games and so headed to the 'home' pitch in Harlington full of confidence of picking up a third victory in a row. Skipper Ankit Patel lost the toss and Imperial were put into bat on a green wicket that promised much for the bowlers with lots of cloud overhead.

Anirudh Sompalli smashed the opening two balls for one bounce fours before being undone by movement off the pitch; a bizarre lbw decision and a silly run out then did for James Musgrave and Matt Tarr, leaving the side 30-3 after just 3 overs. Majid Ali then made an eye catching 23 with some beautiful drives and good support from Yasir Malik's 17. Ali's dismissal brought captain Patel to the crease and he began to calm a turbulent innings with a steady 45. He put on good partnerships with Yasir, Adam Hugill and then Viran Par-

mer, who hit an enterprising 33 as the pair put on 65 for the 7th wicket. Cameos from Rahul Pai and Navin Surtani lifted the total before IC were bowled out in the 48th over for 210. This was a modest total but given the nature of the pitch, Imperial's bowlers were confident with their ability to defend the total.

A good start was necessary and Viran provided this with a very impressive opening spell of 3-26 from 10 overs, and he could have had more wickets if his keeper and slips had provided more support. Surtani, plugging away at the other end, lacked victims to go with his control. Despite the loss of these three wickets, Portsmouth were threatening to get away from Imperial, with some very nice shots from their batsmen. Fortunately, Superman Patel again stepped up with a beautiful spell of 3-28 from his 10 overs, removing the middle order that had looked like winning the game for Portsmouth,

while at the other end Hemal Malde kept things tight, bowling line and length to restrict the batsmen. However, as the frontline seamers ran out of overs, spinners Sompalli and Pai came on. With little help from the pitch, or Imperial's catching, the Portsmouth number 7 chanced his arm in a fortunate and fighting 50 to set up a tense finish; Portsmouth needed 5 an over from the last 10 with 3 wickets in hand. Surtani returned and Musgrave came on to both bowl very tidily, with a wicket apiece, and "come the moment, cometh the man" with Majid (not normally a death bowler) stepping up to bowl and take the last wicket; chopped on to the stumps with just enough force to dislodge a bail and end a thrilling match with a deserved win. With three wins in three, Imperial look to make it four out of four and all-but secure promotion.

Men of match – Ankit Patel & Viran Parmar (equal votes)..

After two disappointing performances, Imperial 2nds hosted Reading 3rds in a relegation dog-fight. All was well in the morning until Rohan Babla, club secretary, somehow decided that

the start time was 2pm instead of the widely publicised 12:30. After a social journey West to T6 with the 1st team, Pete decided there were no detours needed and the rest of the journey was uneventful.

After delaying the match as much as possible so that there was a chance Rohan would arrive, Pete relented and went for the toss, which he won and thus decided to bat. The opening partnership of Jonny C and Yash, the 3rd in as many games, got off to a good start with a year-record opening stand of 15 before Yash got out for a solid 12. Afterwards, things looked up and in contrast to the 1st XI's comedy top-order batting on the other pitch, the 2nds progressed nicely to 156 for 5; Jonny getting 20, Joe Dearsly 34 and fresher Sid a serene 57. With the platform set for a big score, the loss of Sid led to the inevitable collapse to 200 all out; Luke Smith smashing a quick-fire 14 at the death.

Feeling extremely pleased with the total, Pete and his troops went in for tea and to refocus for the second half of the game. The mood improved even more when it was discovered the 1st