

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1484

FELIX



25.02.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

THE DAILY FELIX

Don't miss your 6-page Arts pullout on Monday



College shuts down Union server

Union calls move “overblown” as Rector apologises

Matthew Colvin

Senior Union figures were left at odds with College last week when the Union’s server was shut down by ICT security following a complaint made by a member of the public about an article posted on the Rugby Club’s website. The Union reacted angrily issuing a statement calling the shutdown “overblown and unnecessary” and accusing the College of failing to follow proper procedures.

The main Clubs & Societies server had a ban placed on its primary IP at 13:30 on Thursday 17th February by ICT Security for just under an hour. This resulted in all Clubs & Societies websites becoming inaccessible, along with the room booking system and the eVoting site currently accepting nominations for Sabbatical elections. The shutdown is like to have caused significant disruption to students attempting to participate in the elections or book rooms for their Clubs & Societies; as a comparison, in the hour before the shutdown, the server received 14,429 page requests.

The offending article in question was a match report of Imperial Rugby Club Old Boys recent victory against London New Zealand II’s in the Middlesex Merit League 1 competition. It contained the use of the word “fuck” on two occasions and made indirect reference to a member of the public.

Upon reading the article, Deputy Pres-

ident (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones and President Alex Kendall concluded “that there was nothing offensive, and certainly nothing illegal about [the article.]” However, the member of public complained that the article was libellous.

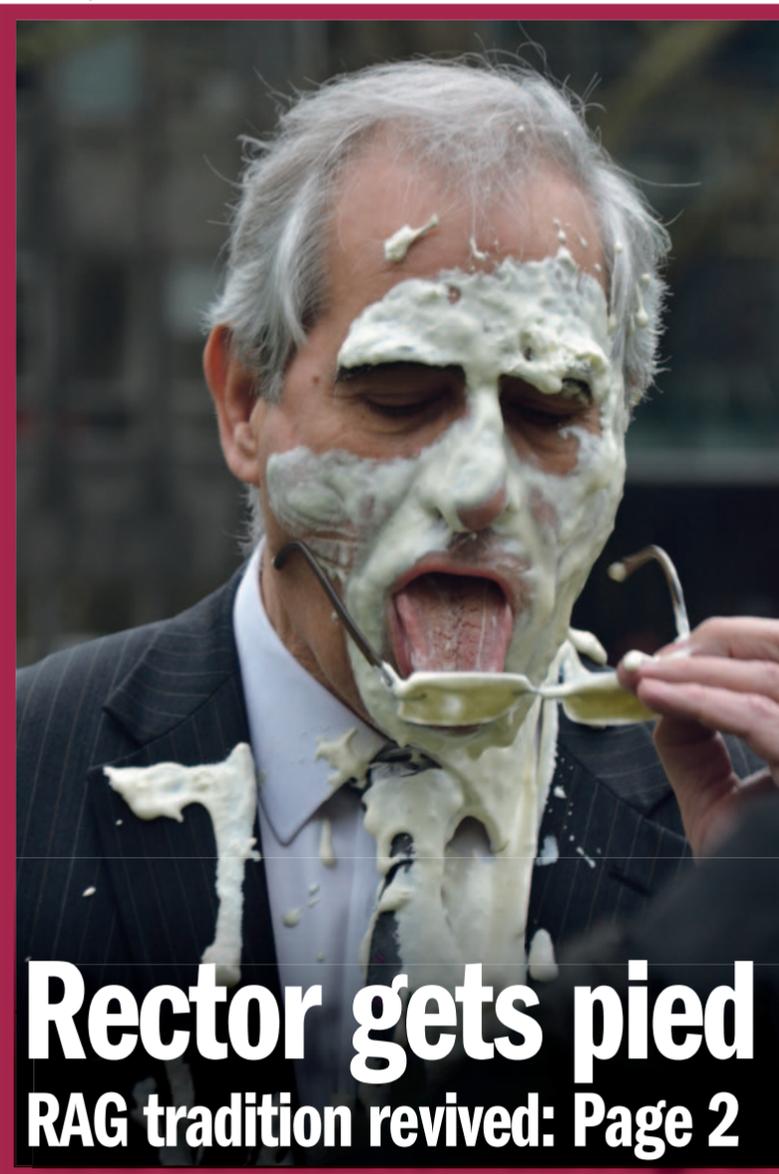
Before shutting down the server, emails were sent to the Union President’s personal Imperial account. According to the Union, no other attempts were made to contact other members of the Union, including the Union System Administrator who manages the server. In an email to senior members of the College, including the Rector Sir Keith O’Nions, Heather Jones called the lack of communication “utterly indefensible”.

IT Security Manager Chris Roberts commented: “ICT acted on the instructions of the Central Secretariat to disconnect the Union website. I understand that the Secretariat had tried to contact the Union President before disconnecting the website, but had been unable to reach him at the time.”

At approximately 14:20 the ban on the Union server was removed and it was fully operational again. However, the Rugby Club website remained disabled until around 17:30 by which time the article had been edited to asterisk out the swear words and the offending sentence had been removed.

Former-Felix Editor Jovan Nedic, ...Continued on Page 3

Robert Bishop



Rector gets pied

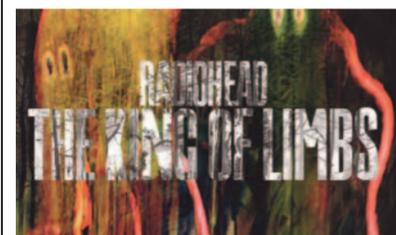
RAG tradition revived: Page 2

POLITICS



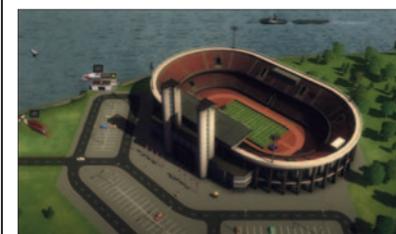
Bullets were coming across us from both sides: Page 10

MUSIC



The King of Limbs is good, but not for Radiohead: Page 18

GAMES



Locally-sourced fashion and cake? Yes please!: Page 21

Sherfield NatWest to close in May

Aemun Reza

The Sherfield branch of NatWest is due to close in May after the bank decided not to renew its lease. The closure will leave only one bank on campus, Santander, and there are concerns that international students will be badly hit by the loss of the student expertise at the branch.

By Wednesday it became that efforts to persuade the bank to retain its branch

had failed. The closure will force the College to change some of its financial procedures; the Commercial outlets on campus pay approximately £7 million in notes and coins into the branch annually.

Malcolm Aldridge, Financial Controller of Imperial College London, says that the main aim for the College it to determine how the closure of the branch will affect Imperial financially as well as to ensure that it won’t negatively affect

Imperial by taking significant security precautions

He declined to comment on whether another bank would replace NatWest, saying that no discussions had been had yet. However, with three months until the bank closes he is confident that the College’s financial operations will not be negatively affected.

But it does seem that International students may be affected the most by the

HIGHLIGHTS

felix@imperial.ac.uk

THE DAILY FELIX

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It's finally here. For one week only, Felix will publish every day. Read it online at felixonline.co.uk or on campus from Monday

Monday - Arts supplement

Tuesday - Music supplement

Wednesday - Science supplement

Thursday - Technology supplement

Friday - Elections special

Hyde Park Relays

Christopher Walmsley



Run! Run like you've just heard they're selling discounted Justin Bieber tickets in Leicester Square

The 63rd Hyde Park Relays competition – one of the largest student relay races in Europe – is being held on Saturday 26th (tomorrow). The annual race, organised by members of IC Cross Country Club, pulls in hundreds of runners across the UK and Europe and includes an after party in Metric. The race follows an historic route through Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, winds around the Serpentine lake, down to Hyde Park Corner, and finally finishes up at the band-stand. Students can continue to register until 6pm today (Friday).

www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/crosscountry/hpr

RAG Week

Sir Keith pied as RAG revive tradition

Finally! A Rector that isn't afraid to take a pie to the face! The annual pieing of the Rector, a tradition that was discontinued during the reign of Sir Roy Anderson (whether that's because he objected or due to lack of organisation is unclear), has been revived ahead of Imperial College Union's RAG Week which begins on Monday.

The devilish RAG Hit Squad assembled in the Sheffield Building at around noon on Tuesday and began their preparations. Whipped cream was the order of the day – shaving foam doesn't have the same feel – and just after the hour they moved to their ambush location on the steps of the Queens Tower.

Sir Keith O'Nions, who just happened to be walking onto the middle of the Queens Lawn moments later, smiled and laughed as the Hit Squad gave him three well-placed pies to the face. He took the pies with the jovial manner of, well, a man with a knighthood covered in delicious whipped cream.

However, the RAG Chair, Naida Dzigal, was not to escape pieing. The Hit Squad, after finishing with Sir Keith, turned on their leader and ensured that she did not escape unscathed. Go to felixonline.co.uk/gallery for more photos of Sir Keith being pied.

LOL'nions of teh week

Robert Bishop



FELIX

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Hall survey delayed

President attacked for amenities fund comments

Madhura Ghosh

Imperial halls of accommodation were the subject of much heated debate this week following the Union's announcement of a survey to see how the rent for Halls could be reduced. In particular Union President Alex Kendall's comments about the halls amenities fund, which is paid from rents and used to subsidise social events, have been roundly criticised with students forming a Facebook group to resist the scrapping of the fund. The survey has been delayed until a "a full breakdown of costs [can be received] to put the other measures in perspective," according to Alex Kendall.

In an interview with Felix last week, Kendall argued that "no alcohol should be funded from the amenities fund" and went on to say that it was "immoral" that some students were subsidising others to drink. His comments were met with a vehement response that highlights the importance the matter holds to students: "I don't believe he fully appreciates that the funds are there to support socialising and for the vast majority this involves enjoying a drink and food," wrote Adam Cribbs, a hall committee member at Clayponds. (Letters, Page 13).

Kendall responded to the criticism by saying that he had not called for the amenities fund to be abolished, "what I am against is it being spent on alcohol," he said. However, he said that the point of the survey was to gauge student opinion on such matters and that he would never "impose [his] opinion without student support."

From the initial debate, it doesn't seem likely that there will be student support either for scrapping the amenities fund or for prohibiting subsidising alcohol. Opinion so far suggests that students believe that the money spent makes a critical contribution to life at halls. Craig Court, creator of the Facebook group "I am against scrapping the Imperial Amenities (social) Funds", voiced his con-

Miles Robertson



Kendall says subsidising alcohol from the amenities fund is "immoral"

cerns that "without the amenities fund, [...] large events that are provided for residents to make new friends and meet new people (especially in the welcome week) could not be provided."

Some hall wardens like Dr Dan Read, believe the best method to cut down costs is to look at the budget as a whole, "to ensure that the costs are justified and that money is not being wasted on expensive outsourced cleaning, maintenance contracts etc."

Cuts have previously been made by abolishing hall senior discounts; John James, Deputy President (Welfare) last year warned that "In this economic climate we have to make cuts and [...] funding Hall Seniors is not sustainable". Similarly a wardening review is due to take place to address the costs of Hall wardens and negotiate a deal.

Overall, the measures to try and reduce rent have been positively received; how this will be realised, conversely, is a contentious issue. Excluding the overheads for utilities rent when broken down is dependent on 5 factors; as Alex Kendall outlined: "Ethos, the Amenities Fund,

Cleaning, [...] the contract length and the cost of wardening." Reduction in one or more of these costs will have the desired effect of reducing accommodation costs.

Kendall argues "students are concerned about hall rents, so the Union has a duty to at least make them transparent, if not reduced." The union's decision to conduct a survey is to understand student opinion and then tackle the issue of steep hall fees. "I was approached by several wardens [...] who raised concern that Ethos was part of the rent but no one knew about it. [...] Regardless of our personal beliefs, it is right to ask students about the amenities fund."

The greatest fear is that the social aspect of living in halls and university will suffer as a result of reduced funds to reduce rents. If the amenities fund is indeed scrapped, then socialisation may depend on residents' willingness to pay extra for events. So far, the College has declined to comment, saying that they will wait for the results of the survey. But as it has been delayed, students will have to wait a little while longer to have their say about this contentious area.

Kendall criticises teaching review

Matthew Colvin

Further details about the ongoing Life Sciences undergraduate teaching review have been provided to students, with Union President Alex Kendall voicing concerns over the review's relationship to the planned departmental restructure.

An e-mail was sent on Monday, 14th February, to students in the Department of Life Sciences from the co-chairs of the review, Professors Andy Purvis and Murray Selkirk, thanking students for over 200 responses to a questionnaire which provided the review group with information about undergraduate degrees and teaching.

As previously reported last month, individuals were critical of the 3 day time frame for submitting responses and of the questionnaire itself.

In their e-mail to students, Purvis and Selkirk were praiseworthy of what they considered to be "excellent suggestions and comments that are shaping [the review group's] thinking as the review process continues." Acknowledging queries for further details about the review, the terms of references used by the review group and a timetable pertaining to the process were also provided.

The terms of reference follow the main principle of aiming "to review undergraduate teaching in Life Sciences and make recommendations" with respect to 13 guidelines. Such guidelines include investigations into the "overall coherence of each degree," the "use of assessment and provision of feedback" and "implications on student satisfaction, applications, and position relative to competitors."

In terms of the timetabling of the review, the related information corresponds with previously reported statements, with the review period stated as lasting from January until March. A draft review document is due to be completed by early March, with the co-

chairs explaining in their message that there will be a further period of consultation. "Anonymised" student responses will be attached as an appendix to this document.

Following this, a response to the review document will be completed in early April. Mid to late April will see a deadline for proposals to be submitted to the Science Studies Committee ahead of the panel reporting to them on May 17th. The final process will be a senate meeting on June 17th. It is hoped that the new intake of student in October 2011 will be the first to see changes during their degrees.

However, not everyone is satisfied by the responses provided by the review group. In his online sabbatical blog on February 11th, Union President Alex Kendall responded to the impending release of the terms of reference, noting particular concern in the fact that they would not contain any reference to the planned restructure of the Life Sciences department: "The teaching review appears to simply be taking a long view about teaching without trying to fill in the 25% loss in teaching time in both degree streams, or replace any of the lost administrative positions."

Kendall was previously critical of last month's questionnaire and its lack of mention towards the restructure.

Felix contacted Purvis and Selkirk about the relationship of the restructure towards the teaching review and received the following statement: "The review of teaching that is currently underway is something that all departments do from time to time, in order to make sure their degrees remain relevant and up-to-date." The co-chairs then categorically stated that, "It is not part of the restructure."

This will no doubt raise some questions amongst opponents of the restructure, many of whom held the expectation that the teaching review would have some bearing on impending job losses.

Election nominations disrupted by shutdown

"It is impossible to persuade clubs to host websites with us if College can't be trusted to allow them access"

Matthew Colvin

...Continued from Front Page author of the article, criticised the College's response saying: "I thought it was a bit over the top, there wasn't anything bad in the article and it certainly wasn't libellous!" He said that it was "ridiculous" to take down the entire server.

Heather Jones warned that the events would make it more difficult to persuade

Clubs & Societies to host their websites on the Union's server, as required by the Union's web policy: "It is impossible to persuade clubs to host websites with us if College can't be trusted to allow them access when it's required," she said.

Earlier this term, IC Radio was shut-down after a complaint was made to the Rector's office about the use of a racial slur on air. In that incident, the complaint was passed to the Union, who

then made the decision to take down the entire website to show "how seriously [the Union] considers racially offensive language". The website was back online within 24 hours.

The Rector has apologised to the Union for the reaction of the College. The Union have said that they are working to form "a more coherent procedure for the future if a member of the public complains about content on the Union website."

Correction

The correction printed last week (Issue 1483 - 18/02/11) did not include Nigel Kheng Wei Hehn's name in full. Felix apologises for this.

Editor

NEWS

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In Brief

College meets with postgraduates to hear accommodation concerns

Tom Welch



I'm concerned about the colour scheme that they're using here...

Last Wednesday, senior members of the College met with postgraduate students to discuss their concerns and experiences with accommodation.

In an email to student reps announcing the meeting on Tuesday, Deena Blumenkrantz, President of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) told students that "College has heard our cries that their housing is too expensive". Jane Neary, Director of Commercial Services, Denis Wright, Dean of Students and John Anderson, Chief Executive Office of the College Fund were present at the meeting with around 20 postgraduate students.

The general feeling after the meeting was positive. PhD student Mikaela Smit applauded the College for reaching out to postgraduates, saying: "it is great to see staff are seeking out students' views."

Postgraduates at the meeting told College that they would prefer to live with other postgrads, in "family-sized" accommodation. This amounts to having a bathroom between 3 or 4 people, and a kitchen for every 4-6 students, rather than studio apartments with en-suite facilities.

The issue of cost was brought up at the meeting, with those attending saying that they paid up to £130 per week and that they would prefer to cycle than pay a premium for living closer to campus.

The GSA has said that they will be creating a survey based on the discussions to discover if these views are reflective of the wider postgraduate population. **Haralambos Dayantis**

Union elections hot up

The number of students running for positions has ballooned in the last week. Maamoon Hussain is now challenging Monya Zard for Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) while three candidates (Jehan Pasangha, Mevani Jagodage and Nicolas Massie) have decided to run for the previously uncontested Deputy President (Welfare) position. There is clearly a lot of interest in the election with three candidates already receiving over 100 nominations each. Nominations close on the 28th of February at 23:59.

www.imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Beit cash machine removed

...Continued from Front Page
loss of the on-campus branch. Sharon Bolton, Head of International Student Support at the International Office, is concerned that only one bank on campus isn't sufficient to serve international students. Although there are a range of banks close to campus, these branches do not have the same student (and particularly international student) expertise and close relationship with the College. In the International Student Barometer survey, for students starting in 2010, sorting out bank accounts was the least satisfying experience for international students; a problem likely to be exacerbated if banking services on campus are reduced.

The closure also affects the Union, who hold two accounts with NatWest, one of which is

for Clubs & Societies. They are looking into other precautions such as hiring a security firm to transfer cash from their commercial services – the bars and club – to other NatWest branches. Deputy President (Finances & Services), Ravi Pall is also considering the idea of letting Clubs and Societies pay into the Union "to avoid the unnecessary risk of students carrying large amounts of cash to South Kensington or Gloucester Road."

Other banking services on campus were removed last week. Lloyds TSB took away the cash machine from the Union building, citing low profitability according to a Union spokesman. The Union say that they offered to pay for the cash machine service but were unable to persuade Lloyds to keep it. They are currently

searching for other banks to replace the service, with Barclays expressing interest. Until a replacement is found, students will have to walk to the Sherfield building or get up to £20 cashback from the Union bars (providing they reach the £5 minimum card spend).

The International Office say that they are making extra efforts to work with branches near campus to ensure that they are sensitive to student banking issues. The impact of the loss of a NatWest branch that has such a close relationship with the College will inevitably be a big one, but with different options being considered by Imperial College and the Union, here's hoping that the effects won't be too serious for Imperial students.

NatWest declined to comment on the closure.

Is the future nuclear?

Rory Fenton

On Thursday 17th February, three of the UK's leading experts on nuclear power came to Imperial to discuss their pet subjects in a debate organised by A Global Village; Imperial's global affairs journal. Joining the debate were Prof Jim Skea OBE, Director of the UK Energy Research Centre, Prof Gordon MacKerron, Director of the Sussex Energy Group and Chair of the UK Committee on Radioactive Waste Management and Neil Hirst, Senior Policy Fellow in Energy Mitigation and Climate Change at the Grantham Institute at Imperial.

Although the title of the debate was 'Is the future nuclear?' all three experts quite clearly did agree that the UK's future would require increased nuclear power capacity. The real question was, how much should we invest in nuclear and how far do we have to go to make it safe? Prof. Skea started by stressing that the need to decarbonise the UK's electricity supply is undeniable, targeted to be completed in 20 years. However, he insisted that while nuclear power had its role to play, renewable should make up a significant part of the energy mix. He was sceptical of the role that fossil fuels could play in a low carbon energy future for the UK, pointing out that Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS) was 'yet to be demonstrated'.

Neil Hirst took a much stronger stance, saying that we need nuclear power in order to achieve Copenhagen's "fantastically difficult" target of limiting global warming to 2 degrees. He quoted figures from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which projected that ruling our nuclear power would cost the world's governments an extra \$6 trillion by 2050 in order to meet current climate change accords. Once new generation reactors are built, he said, nuclear will be the cheapest source of energy for the foreseeable future, with the occasional exception of gas. As for the issue of waste management, he insisted that "properly managed and regulated forms of waste disposal are safe", admitting that "win-

Christopher Walmsley



From left: Prof Gordon MacKerron, Neil Hirst and Prof Jim Skea OBE

ning support for waste solutions remains a big problem".

Prof. MacKerron presented a markedly more sceptical view of nuclear power. His own introduction to nuclear came in the 1970's when he conducted a study showing that coal was cheaper than nuclear power. Although he accepted that new generation plants should be more efficient, he pointed out that they seldom stick to projected costs. A new reactor in Finland, he pointed out, was 50-70% over budget and already 3 years behind schedule. He also took a stronger stance on waste disposal, quoted the late Lord Flowers, former rector of Imperial, "there should be no new project without a sustainable waste plan". He also said that industry should be made to pay for any nuclear waste cleanup operation.

Much else was discussed at the debate. It was pointed out that while nuclear power does increase the UK's energy security, most of our gas doesn't actually come from Russia, as is often thought, but from much friendlier Norway. If nuclear was to be used as effectively as possible, the experts agreed, the way in which we use our energy must change. Cars which

run on petrol cannot be run by nuclear power and yet contribute to a significant amount of CO2 emission; only when more cars are electric will nuclear power succeed in reduce emissions from this carbon-intensive sector of the economy.

Professor MacKerron duelled with members of the audience who accused nuclear power plants of having a huge hidden cost; that of decommissioning. He argued that decommissioning should cost around 10% of the total investment required in a plant and should be funded by companies setting aside a pot of money for this purpose. Neil Hirst was keen to stress that the only danger posed by nuclear reactors comes from those built in less stable countries with low quality research and regulation but that this is simply not the case in the UK.

Following a lively Q&A session with the audience, a vote was taken. Is the future nuclear? - the overwhelming majority of the audience said that yes, it was. Hardly a surprise at Imperial, perhaps. But as to how much to use and how to deal with the waste; these issues were left to be discussed over the free after-event orange juice and beyond.

Sabbatical
Elections
2011

Meet the candidates next week!

Watch online for your chance to get to know all the candidates.

Apologies!

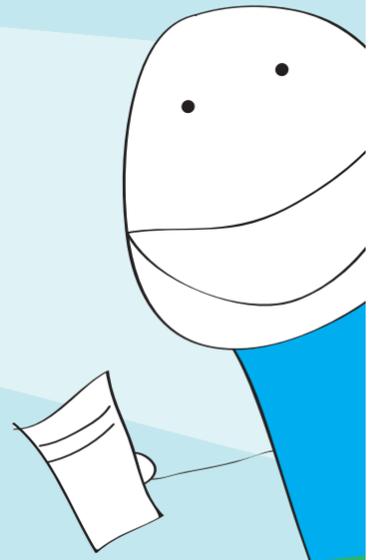
On Thursday 17 February nominations for all sabbatical positions and student trustees were unavailable between ~13:30 and ~14:20 as the server on which they are hosted was down. This was not due to the actions of the Union, rather the College made the decision to take the server offline. The Rector has apologised to all who were inconvenienced by this step but please contact the returning officer at elections@imperial.ac.uk if you feel your nomination was affected.

Meet the Candidates Live! Online at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections
Wednesday 2 February 18:00

For the first time online, your chance to ask questions to each of the candidates via Twitter, Facebook and email.

Hustings Union Building
Thursday 3 February 18:30

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Nominations close Monday 28 February
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SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Charlie Harvey**
Kelly Oakes

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Cute Animal News



Polar bear necessities

As well as melting vast swathes of their habitat, climate change has been held more directly responsible for the decline in polar bear numbers. In the early 1990s, nearly one third of pregnant females in the Hudson Bay region of Canada failed to give birth to cute polar bear cubs. Researchers from the University of Alberta modelled the polar bear population mathematically to predict how it would be affected by melting sea ice. Their work, published in *Nature Communications*, has shown that if sea ice breaks up a month earlier than usual, the number of female polar bears failing to reproduce could rise to 40-73%. This is bad news for polar bears (and people that like cute pictures of them).

Science Hoax of the Week



The Nipple Transplant Slimming Technique

"Why would you want to diet? It's hard! You can't eat what you want when you want!" It's an appealing case made by the website of Dr Zizlesse. However, this hoax website gives a rather unappealing alternative to dieting: nipple transplants. The theory is that by transplanting nipples onto rolls of fat you tap into societies fixation with breasts, turning the obese into multi-mammary Jordan-esque glamour models. It declares in their emails that "Fat is only ugly until you put a nipple on it!" Thankfully Dr Zizlesse and the 'Nipple Addition Surgery' are completely fabricated having been made up by persistent internet satirist and prankster *Hyperdiscordia*. What a boob.

Black holes cut down to size

Kelly Oakes

You might not be able to tell from wherever you are reading this, but black holes in the distant universe just shrunk down to as little as a tenth of their previous size. This is not some cosmic disappearing act; a new analysis of supermassive black holes at the centres of active galactic nuclei has revealed that their masses were previously overestimated by up to a factor of ten. The paper was published in *Nature* last week.

Active galactic nuclei, or AGN, are among the most luminous objects in the universe and are powered by massive black holes millions of times the mass of the Sun. Gas clouds, known as "broad line regions", surround the black holes. These gas clouds range from a few light days to hundreds of light days across; they are much wider than our solar system. Astronomers have been studying these clouds for over thirty years, but until now many of their properties remained a mystery.

Wolfram Kollatschny and Matthias Zetzl from the Institute for Astrophysics, at the University of Göttingen in Germany, looked into the relationship between the shape and width of spectral lines observed in the emission spectra of AGN. Spectral lines are spikes in the emission spectrum of a luminous object, and represent a peak in intensity of light at a certain wavelength.

However, for the broad line regions, it is not quite that simple. The regions are spinning very fast around the central black hole, and the light emitted from them is subject to the Doppler effect. When gas rotates around a black hole, the frequency of the light appears to change because some of the gas is moving away from the observer and some is moving towards the



Active galaxy M82 has a supermassive black hole at its centre, and is very pretty

observer. This makes the spectral line astronomers observe broader — an effect known as Doppler broadening. This is the reason the gas clouds are called "broad line regions".

Kollatschny and Zetzl looked at 37 active galactic nuclei. They worked out that fast rotating AGN created broader spectral lines, and slower ones made more narrow lines. They also saw that faster rotating AGN had flatter gas clouds surrounding them, and slower ones had more rounded gas clouds. As they now knew how fast AGN were spinning, they were also able to come up with new, more accurate estimates

of the masses of their central black holes. Previous estimates used just the spectral lines to estimate masses. This is a problem, particularly for very distant AGN, as astronomers can usually only see one spectral line from these.

The new black holes masses came out between two and ten times smaller than the previous estimates. While this isn't going to cause any major problems for the black holes themselves — they're still the most massive objects in the universe — it may pose a problem for astronomers studying the formation of black holes.

Genetically engineered vaccination

Charlie Harvey

A new type of vaccine for pneumonia based on genetically engineered bacteria has been developed, and may help in the fight against many other infectious diseases.

The vaccine, which protects against a virulent form of the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, works by introducing a modified form of the bacterium that produces less pneumolysin — a toxic protein that damages blood vessels in the lungs and interferes with the immune system. Researchers, from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, identified the genetic sequence that codes for the pneumolysin protein, and using computer algorithms created a modified gene which would decrease the amount of toxin produced.

Mice exposed to the modified bacteria experienced significantly less inflammatory symptoms than those exposed to the wild type. Most importantly, 80% of mice exposed to the modified form survived a later exposure to the wild strain. Traditionally, vaccines are created with ei-

ther dead or attenuated organisms, with the aim of inducing an immune response, but without the disease inducing properties. Attenuation in bacteria has, up to this point, come about by injecting the bacteria into a foreign host. Natural mutations will allow the bacteria to grow well in the host, but subsequently will grow less well when injected into humans. The new technique bypasses this process by designing the mutations using a computer.

While this technique has been successfully used to reduce gene expression in viral pathogens, the research, published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, is the first to successfully attenuate bacteria.

Currently, two vaccines have been created for different forms of *Streptococcus* using this process. However, as lead researcher Dr Pirofski points out "the vaccines don't cover all strains of disease-causing pneumococcus — some of which have recently emerged and are very virulent."

The researchers are confident, however, that the technique they have developed may lead

to new vaccines. Dr Pirofski says: "this idea opens up all kinds of possibilities in developing vaccines, not only against pneumococcus but other organisms as well."



"What a prick", cried the little boy

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TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Samuel Gibbs**
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Free App of the Week

iOS - Beluga Messenger



There are quite a few chat apps on the iPhone, but Beluga does one thing the iPhone's not great at: group chat. It's free, cross-platform. Sorted

Android - Beluga Messenger



Beluga Messenger on Android means you can chat to friends on iOS or any phone or computer with a browser. Group chat done right.

AI geek bests human rivals

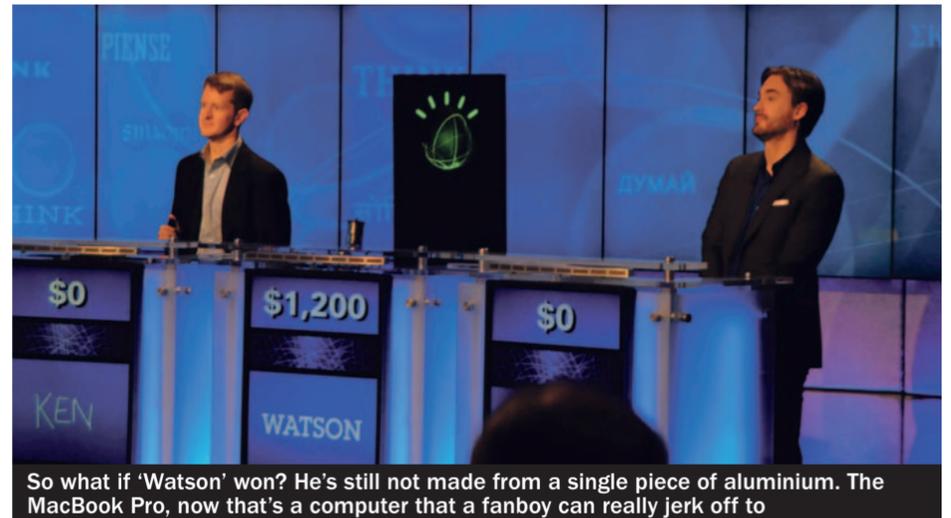
Feroz Salam

If you have an issue with a silicon based master race, you might want to start hunting around for a welcoming hippie commune, because things just got serious. In three rounds of the American game show Jeopardy, based on participants mastering wordplay to answer general knowledge questions, a pair of skilled human contestants were roundly defeated by a machine - a testament to the distance artificial intelligence has come since chess Grandmaster Gary Kasparov's epic six game battle with Deep Blue in the late 90's.

The conclusion of half a decade's efforts, the victory by IBM's 'Watson' AI program is a massive achievement, one that was considered virtually impossible in 2005. The complexity of Watson's system lies not in the knowledge of trivia; Watson has been endowed with a 4 terabyte data repository (that's roughly 512 Wikipedias, for reference).

Conquering the complex wordplay that the game show is based on, often requires contestants to draw together pop culture references, puns and even slang to merely understand the question. For example, 'This term for a long-handled garden implement could also be used to describe an immoral pleasure seeker'. (The answer, if you are wondering, is not 'What is a hoe?', but 'What is a rake?'. Look it up on Wikipedia.)

Watson proved to be more than able at this task, breezing through the three rounds having amassed a grand total of £47,923 (£30,000 more than his nearest human challenger). At each stage when the question was revealed to the contestants, a text file containing the question was sent to Watson. On opening the file, Watson would run through a series of algorithms in parallel to try and discover the answer, with his confidence in his response de-



pendent on the number of algorithms that came to the same conclusion.

How Watson compared to his human rivals is a matter of some debate. Watson's circuitry meant that he could often buzz in dramatically faster than his two distinctly fleshier opponents, and his vast data bank was optimised solely for the purpose of playing Jeopardy. Yet in his defense, he had none of the decades-long training in natural language that Jeopardy champions and opponents Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter enjoy simply by being human. In that aspect, it's probably fair to argue that Jennings and Rutter were playing a completely different game to Watson; the former testing their trivia skills while the latter tested his English language skills.

So what does IBM have planned for the young linguistic master now that his Jeopardy days are over? Watson more than served his original purpose, convincing the US public that IBM are still at the forefront of solving

some of the world's toughest computing problems. Yet running Watson as is in any other situation would probably be highly impractical. For the moment, IBM has announced that they will be exploring the use of similar software to aid medical diagnoses and legal research. The truly exciting possibilities of the software lie well in the future though - many personal computers today can play more efficient chess games than specialist chess computers of the 90s.

For a six year old idiot savant whose only skill is an American game show, Watson's domineering performance has served to bring AI and robotics back to the forefront of our imaginations but his legacy will lie in how far his performance goes towards bringing computers that understand the intricacies of speech into our homes. We're used to chess-playing computers, but if things go to IBM's plan it may be time to prepare for your GP being a copper and silicon box somewhere in Iceland.

Got a laptop bag, how about a tablet bag?

Samuel Gibbs

You've got a laptop bag, but what about an iPad bag? It might seem like an odd concept to have a bag just for your iPad, when you can fit it in almost any bag you're likely to be carrying. But that hasn't deterred be.ez from releasing an iPad version of its LE rush line of laptop bags, the En Ville.

Made from pretty sturdy nylon, and available in three colours, the En Ville is about the same height and width as an iPad, but almost four times the depth. There's a nylon non-removable, but length adjustable shoulder strap for carrying the bag, which feels just like a seatbelt, and is attached at the sides.

The main zippered pocket has a separate iPad compartment, a middle section for other things, plus two slip pockets for ancillary stuff. The front of the bag has a Velcro pocket with a zippered pocket inside it, containing two slim slip pockets, two more separate slip pockets

and a keychain clip. While you can't fit anything particularly thick in there, the bottom of the pocket expands a little from its streamline appearance, accommodating something about the same size as a wallet. The back of the bag features a slim popped pocket, ideal for something you need quick access to.

The sides and bottom of the back feature some thin but quite robust padding, helping keep the contents secure if you happen to drop the bag, while the nylon construction proves to be fairly weatherproof.

Of course the En Ville is quite small as shoulder bags go, and you can't fit a whole lot in there, but if you just want to carry your iPad and a few bits and bobs, the En Ville is about as accomplished as an iPad-only bag could be. On whether anyone really wants a bag just for your iPad, the jury's still out. But if you're after one, the LE rush En Ville is a solid contender, despite the obscure name. Yours for around £30.



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BUSINESS

Will the BoE raise its rates?

Fears about central bank inflationism have now come to the UK. Will it cause the Bank of England to change course? By **Sina Ataherian**

in.

Amid growing concern over the Bank of England's focus on and commitment to keeping its inflation targets, one more committee member joined calls to raise interest rates. According to minutes from the latest monetary policy meeting, three members now find "the case for removing some monetary stimulus" compelling.

Of the other six members, five (including Governor Mervyn King), want to keep the base rate at its current 0.5 per cent, whilst one, Adam Posen, wants to increase stimulus spending by £50 billion.

On the pro raising rates side of the debate, Andrew Sentence, the first committee member to start calling for this, argued that, "there was mounting evidence that firms were able to pass on cost increases to the prices they set, and noted also that nominal domestic demand had been growing for some time at near to the top of its typical range prior to the recession."

In other words, consumer demand has now returned to levels where, even according to static analyses that typically favour inflation in the monetary base, the danger of this causing inflation in price levels is imminent.

Moreover, "Of those members not favouring a rise in bank rate, some thought that the case for an increase had nevertheless grown in strength." Even Adam Posen indicated he is getting more worried about inflation for similar reasons, "a sustained upward trend in global demand prospects, or a shift in sentiment against sterling, could outweigh the domestic forces pushing down on inflation." These fears were summed up in the minutes as, "one possibility was that the recent increase in commodity prices, which in many cases had been associated with strong growth in emerging market economies, would continue."

On release of the meeting minutes, which indicate the likelihood of higher interest rates on Sterling in the medium to long term, the value of the Pound relative to the US Dollar rose by almost one per cent, before losing half of these gains.

This was partly due to the Bank of England Governor Mervyn King's warning to investors against assuming that the Bank would raise rates to limit inflation. Instead, he suggested that inflation is currently being caused by the recent VAT increase from 17.5 to 20 per cent, rising commodity prices and a weaker pound.

Whilst investors may have reasons for jumping on the news of a third man calling for fiscal tightening, as observers of the US Supreme Court have found over the years, no changes are certain until you can count to five. However, analysts are already predicting that Deputy Governors Charles Bean and Paul Tucker may be the next members to stand against Governor King's resistance to raising rates in the midst of a still weak economy.

Concerns over central banks' perceived cavalier attitudes towards inflation are not restricted to this side of the Atlantic. On the same day as the latest monetary policy meeting of the Bank of England, George Melloan, a former deputy editor of the Wall Street Journal, wrote in the paper, "The Fed is financing a vast and rising federal deficit, following a practice that has been a surefire prescription for domestic inflation from time immemorial. Meanwhile, its policies are stoking a rise in prices that is contributing to political unrest that in some cases might be beneficial but in others might turn out as badly as the overthrow of the shah in 1979. Does any of this suggest that there might be some urgency to bringing the Fed under closer scrutiny?"

Meanwhile, rises in oil prices that have resulted from the recent unrest in the Middle East have not help ease fears over accelerating price inflation. London Brent has already neared the \$110 per barrel mark at the time of Felix going to press. Worst still, the investment bank Nomura is now predicting that, "If Libya and Algeria were to halt oil production together, prices could peak above \$220 a barrel and OPEC spare capacity will be reduced to 2.1 million barrels a day, similar to levels seen during the Gulf war and when prices hit \$147 in 2008."

Despite reassurances from the Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi that OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) would tap into its spare capacity of 5 million barrels a day (one and a half times the combined production of Libya and Algeria), Nomura maintained that its call may even be an underestimate. An analyst at the bank even went as far as to compare the situation for the petroleum markets with that during the Persian Gulf War.

Despite the varying opinions on how the inflation rate will change in the near future, there is broad agreement amongst analysts that the next three to four months will reveal whether uncontrollable ratchet effects are going to kick



Unlike the Federal Reserve in recent years, the Bank of England is unused to direct criticism of its policies

Lehman loses law suit in US against Barclays

The estate of Lehman Brothers lost a law suit on Wednesday against Barclays over the sale of its investment banking and brokerage businesses to Barclays. The sale was made in September 2008 in the same week that Lehman filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The company received \$1.85 billion and was claiming in its law suit that the figure should have been higher. Attempting to raise funds to repay some of its \$360 billion debt to creditors, Lehman has also sued J. P. Morgan, Bank of America, and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce over similar complaints.

Lehman's case was that Barclays had misled the original sales hearing, but the Federal Bankruptcy Judge in New York, who oversaw the suit, rejects that claim. Judge James Peck wrote, "the court was not deceived in a manner that should now be permitted to upset the integrity of the sale order."

The Judge also took into account the urgency of the situation and the perceived gravity of systemic risks at that time, adding, "the sale process may have been imperfect, but it was still adequate under the exceptional circumstances of Lehman Week."

Barclays responded that it had done the best it could given the unusual lack of time for due diligence on both sides. The Judge agreed that "the court still would have entered the very same sale order because there was no better alternative and, perhaps most importantly, because the sale to Barclays was the means both to avoid a potentially disastrous piecemeal liquidation and to save thousands of jobs in the troubled financial services industry."

Lehman is currently considering whether to appeal the ruling, and a spokesman refused to comment further.

POLITICS

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The world beyond College walls



India

A special court in India has found 31 people guilty of setting fire to a passenger train in the town of Godhra in 2002. The burning of the Samarbadi Express killed 59 Hindu pilgrims and sparked a religious riot in India which left over 2000 dead. Tuesday's verdict supports claims that the attack was a planned attack. An earlier national inquiry on the incident, drew the conclusion that the fire was an accident, although other official investigations differed in their findings. The special court also acquitted 63 people of conspiracy and murder and is expected to read out the sentences of those found guilty on Friday.



Iran

Two Iranian warships have entered the Suez Canal en-route to Syria, according to canal officials. This has sparked concerns in Israel with the Israeli Prime Minister accusing Iran of trying to expand its influence in the region. However, Iran has dismissed Israeli claims saying that it was a planned year long training mission on intelligence gathering to prepare cadets to defend Iranian ships from Somali pirates. The two ships are armed with missiles and torpedoes and have been allowed to transit the canal as they do not contain nuclear or chemical weapons. Although, the Suez Canal is an internal body of water, Egypt is bound by the 1978 Camp David Accords and the 1888 Constantinople Convention to guarantee the freedom of passage of ships belonging to all nations.



New Zealand

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake has struck the city of Christchurch in New Zealand's South Island killing at least 75 people. The earthquake is New Zealand's deadliest natural disaster in 80 years and struck during Christchurch's busy lunchtime hour. Sections of the city, including the city's landmark Christchurch Cathedral have been damaged. Christchurch is built on silt, sand and gravel with a water table lying directly underneath the city. This makes the city particularly vulnerable to the process of liquefaction of the soil during an earthquake.



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Edited by Kenneth Lee

"Bullets were coming across us from both sides"

A plain clothed Kenyan policeman photographed shooting suspects on a busy road

Rory Fenton

We finished dinner around ten o'clock and the shooting started perhaps ten minutes later. It may be a cliché but the air really did feel electrified as I hugged the ground to myself in the pitch black night. Bullets were soon coming across us from both sides of our camp but two minutes later, twelve minutes after dinner was finished, the shooting stopped. Battles are inevitably short when a bullet cost as much as a day's food.

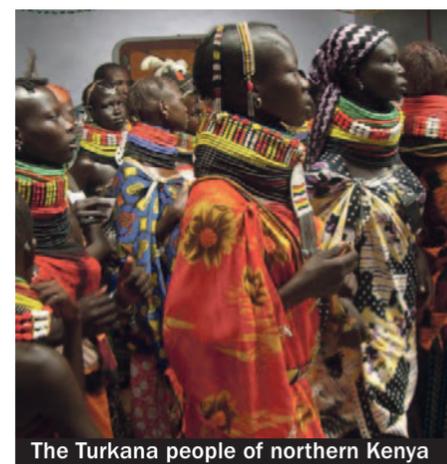
We were in a village turned refugee camp in Northern Kenya where perhaps 500 of the Turkana people were taking shelter from a tribal dispute with neighbouring Ethiopians. The Ethiopian tribe was known to attack even this concentrated group of Turkana – two members of my adult literacy class had been shot dead while fishing nearby just two months earlier. But it soon transpired that this attack, breaking weeks of unprecedented ceasefire, was evidence that the Turkana had a new enemy to contend with – their own police. Drunk and heavily armed, a group of Kenyan police (dispatched to the area to cool tribal tensions) entered the refugee camp to take a group of women away on invented claims of petty theft. When the men of the village, some of them husbands to these women, refused them permission the police eventually drove away, firing drunkenly at the camp as they left. When the refugees returned fire, police camped beside us started to shoot across our camp and into the village. Kenyans were firing on Kenyans.

Only alcohol and low visibility prevented anyone from dying that night and by morning, though feeling uneasy, most of the Turkana had shaken off the events of the night before. Men were tending to their goats, women salted fish for market and the children (those not out working) went to school. But this return to normality wasn't because no one cared. The only way that a whole village of people can accept the threat of rape and the knowledge that loved

ones were inches from death is if they have no hope. Nothing will change, so just get on with things. Injustice was robbing them of the little they had.

The Turkana aren't the only Kenyans to suffer at the hands of their own law enforcers; reports of extra judicial killings by the police are all too common. In 2008, a report by Kenya's own National Commission on Human Rights found that an estimated 500 young men were killed or disappeared in a single campaign by the police against the criminal Mugiki group. According to the report, the killings took place with the apparent support of political leaders, including the internal security minister. Since its publication, one of the report's key witnesses has been killed and several of the authors have had to flee abroad. Yet its findings were dismissed by police commissioner Major-General Hussein Ali as

"Worryingly, killings such as these often enjoy public approval"



The Turkana people of northern Kenya

being "rather infantile".

Worryingly, killings such as these often enjoy public approval; they are seen as preferable to a slow and often corrupt legal system. Just last month, photographs emerged in The Daily Nation newspaper showing a plain clothed police officer execute three unarmed men at point blank by the side of a busy road. The papers and radio stations were full the next day with ordinary Kenyans backing the use of lethal force by the police as an acceptable alternative to due legal process.

But the tide of public opinion is starting to turn. Revelations that at least 400 of the 1,500 who died during 2008's post election violence were killed by Kenyan police have made clearer to the public that not all victims of this 'rough justice' need be hardened criminals. The burst of civic education in the build up to the ratification of the country's new constitution last August has educated a new generation of Kenyans about the importance of rights and accountability. The immense popularity of the mobile phone means that more and more Kenyans can make anonymous complaints about the police. These developments can only be a good thing and must be encouraged.

But it remains to be seen how long it will take for change to trickle through to the Turkana people. Mobile phone masts don't reach that far into the country side and very few adults have the minimum education necessary to file a complaint. The Kenyan police alone wrote the report on that night's shooting – it was all started, of course, by the refugees. Changes in the public's attitude towards police impunity as well as tools to fight it are to be welcomed and can receive support from the international community but it is hard to see change on the horizon for the people of Turkana. Ill fortune may have robbed them of the health, education and prosperity given to so many others but to see them robbed too of hope is heartbreaking.

Why I still agree with Nick

The Liberal Democrats are doing the right thing argues Tagore Nakornchai

The Lib Dems have been criticized by everyone and their dog since they joined the coalition last May – the turnaround on tuition fees, their complicity in the public sector cuts, allowing the Tories in to Number 10. We've all heard it before: the Lib Dems are doomed, we'll never vote for them again, yadda, yadda, yadda.

But really, the Lib Dems have achieved way more than most people give them credit for. Yes, they have broken a manifesto commitment against raising tuition fees, yes, they have gone into coalition with the hated Tories but really, was there an alternative?

The election delivered a hung parliament, and with a hurricane of debt threatening to engulf Greece, the scarily large deficit seemed to put Britain at risk of having a debt crisis as well. Sure, in hindsight, we weren't likely to get caught up by the same tidal wave as Greece but we had no way to be sure at the time. A stable government, able to take the drastic measures needed, was necessary.

So that ruled out the Tories going it alone, or a Lib-Lab Coalition (the numbers just didn't add up). This left two options – either an unwieldy Grand Coalition of the Center-left, comprised of every party except the Conservatives and UKIP, or a Con-Lib coalition. With Gordon Brown less popular than a pile of dog turd, and the prospect of a 5+-party coalition with a whisker-thin majority

in the Commons, we chose the latter.

Political coalitions are common on the continent, and they are ultimately all about compromise. Both sides have had to give up a lot, the Tory right is just as, if not more, unhappy about the

“In coalition, we have made changes and introduced legislation that the Tories would never have done”

coalition than the Lib Dems. But the fact of the matter is the Lib Dems agree with the mainstream Tories on many issues – civil liberties, crime and prison reform, how to improve public services, controlling the deficit and streamlining the welfare state. We might not agree on specifics, and we support the policies for different reasons, but ultimately, that is fertile middle ground for compromise.

In coalition, we have made changes and introduced legislation that the Tories would never have done of their own accord: increasing the personal allowance by £1,000, increasing the rate of capital gains tax to 50%, actually putting in place a banking levy and stopping the Tories from increasing the in-



Nick Clegg fondly recalls his night of passion with Katie Price

heritance tax threshold. There are also more subtle influences: the “lock them up and throw away the key” mentality of the Tory right would have made Ken Clarke's position much harder (prison reform that much more controversial), defense cuts would have been less harsh meaning more cuts in other services,

there would have been more aggressive with their cuts to welfare, more aggressive to cuts to education and they would have plowed ahead with the rise in tuition fees anyway.

Ah yes, I bet you were wondering how long it'd take for me to get around to the elephant in the room - the rise in tuition

fees. The increases are a bitter pill to swallow, and I certainly don't agree with such drastic rises, but it is just one policy (albeit a major one), and given Osborne's determination to hack away at university budgets with a battleaxe, it's a necessary one. If we voted down the proposals, then the universities would be in a quandary – they'd have lost their government funding, but have no independent source of revenue to make up for it. There have also been measures to temper the proposals – increasing the loan repayment threshold, a bursary for the poorest students, and keeping the cap at £9,000 rather than having them uncapped like many universities wanted them to be. None of it is good – but it could be a lot worse.

Before you call me a sycophant, I disagree with the party and the coalition on many things. I still don't agree with higher education cuts in the first place – but given Osborne, we took the least bad option. I feel we should have bargained harder for good cabinet posts – particularly the Home Office, so we'd be able to better push through our agenda on civil liberties. The defense cuts were too small, and the NHS reforms are a recipe for disaster. But on the whole, 9 months into the coalition, the Lib Dems have made a substantial impact on the running of the government. The polls state the Lib Dems are headed for electoral oblivion but the election isn't for another four years; things can only get better.

Obama's muddled foreign policy

Rajat Jain

Last week a UN resolution tabled by Lebanon, condemning Israel's settlements as illegal, was vetoed by the United States. This came despite overwhelming support for the resolution from most of the international community, including the other fourteen Security Council members – even the United Kingdom, France and Germany did not abstain. Rather, the representative of Israel's European allies, British ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, described the settlements as “illegal under International law.”

Considering the history of the USA and Israel in the UN, this seems like business as usual. After all, the USA has vetoed 10 different resolutions condemning Israel since 2000. The tendency of other Western powers to support or abstain from such resolutions is often seen in Israel and the United States as

a political populist move. Unsurprisingly, the USA is seen as the only ally for a country surrounded by states that at best mistrust it and, at worst, want it wiped off the map. However, given the Obama administration's general policy regarding Israel as well as its fear over protests rocking the rest of the region, it is a strange political move.

After all, since coming to power, the Obama administration has taken a markedly less supportive view of Israeli policy than under George W. Bush. Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have openly disagreed over Israel's right to continue building in occupied territory. In November, Hillary Clinton said “The United States was deeply disappointed by the announcement of advance planning for new housing units in sensitive areas of east Jerusalem,” describing the new construction as “counterproductive.” Netanyahu

openly rejected the criticism, describing Jerusalem as their capital, not occupied territory. While being sure to guarantee Israel's security, Obama has, nonetheless, continued to push for a two state solution.

Let's be clear; this UN resolution, like

“The settlements are already deemed to be illegal”

so many others, did not hold practical implications but was one of principle. The settlements are already deemed to be illegal by the International Court of Justice and there was no serious talk of sanctions, let alone troops or peacekeepers, against Israel if the resolution was passed. In other words, it simply reflects

the current policy of the Obama administration.

It also comes at a time when Western policy towards other countries in the region is coming under close scrutiny. The potential transition from autocratic dictatorships to popular democracy in the Middle East and North Africa ought to excite liberal democracies. Instead, Arab peoples are asking why these governments, particularly the USA, so actively helped prop up these unpopular leaders whose ideology was apparently opposed to their own. Unfortunately, the cynical answers of “oil”, “money” and “to protect Israel” are popular.

The issue here is not simply whether or not it is right to support the resolution – it is what message the United States wants to send to the rest of the world. Openly disagreeing with Israel and then not supporting this symbolic move will anger both Israel and the Arab world.

This continued inconsistency has rapidly eliminated the United States' credibility at a time when a trustworthy arbitrator is vital for peace in the world's most unstable region.



Sending mixed signals

COMMENT

FELIX

Lessons to Learn

History does repeat itself. Earlier this term, the Union shut down the entire IC Radio website because of the content of one broadcast and last week the College shut down an entire Union server because of a single benign sentence and the use of a couple of swear words; if we were to extrapolate by magnitude and ridiculousness, one would expect the government to ban the internet next week when a member of the public is tagged in a particularly unflattering photo on Facebook.

Of course, while the nature of the College's response is irresponsible, their impulse to blindly pull the plug at the first sign of danger is not without rationale. They have a duty to uphold Imperial's reputation and this includes ensuring that libellous, racist or unjustifiably offensive material isn't associated with this university or its members. To suggest otherwise would be childish – our degrees and research rely, in part, on the good reputation of our university.

However, the College must also remember that it has a reputation within these walls. The move towards an increased role of alumni funding is dependent on students today maintaining a positive attitude towards their alma mater. This is not the only reason to act fairly; as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones astutely points out, if Clubs & Societies don't believe that their online content will be treated proportionally and fairly, they will lose trust and move it off the Union servers. Given that the reason to insist that all clubs host their websites on the Union servers is so that the College's reputation can be protected, this breakdown in trust is clearly undesirable.

The College could simply hold their hands up and say, "We made a mistake." Indeed the Rector has already apologised for the reaction of the College and that apology will go some way to maintain relations. But that is not nearly enough. A better and clearer understanding of the complaints procedure, guidelines for removal of content and process for appeal needs to be built between Clubs & Societies, the Union and the College. Otherwise these farcical events are doomed to be repeated.

Ciao NatWest!

The Sheffield NatWest is closing and though it's difficult to feel too sad (one never leaves its dreary premises with a spring in their step) the College shouldn't alter the use of the space. The Santander branch on the walkway alone is not sufficient to serve Imperial students. Another bank should be sought; as long as it's not a Metro Bank...

Playtime is over

The social events provided by the amenities fund is the best part of hall life. Why take it out of students' hands?



David Robertson

"For me, the social programme has been the best value of my rent so far"

Why did I choose to stay at Clayponds Village, the Imperial postgraduate hall?

Easy: I wanted to socialise and meet people. It's been great fun so far. Welcome Week was packed with events, introducing me to a new gang of friends. The major parties, such as the recent Chinese New Year, have run smoothly with loads of people attending – a credit to the managers, wardens and student volunteers who made them happen. They'd be impossible without the amenities fund – a central fund which uses 1–3% of the rent from each Hall resident.

Why impossible? It's a matter of risk. Without a central fund to draw from, events will only ever go ahead if they are zero-risk, like getting together groups for discounts on tickets to a musical. However, a big event might require a marquee, a band, food and drink – paid in advance. What are the chances of getting over a hundred students to throw down a tenner on an event, six weeks ahead, which won't even go ahead if the numbers don't add up?

The issue of Hall rents, and measures to bring them down, has cropped up recently, and there's a review to scrutinise of the funding in the works.

Union president Alex Kendall mentioned in a recent Felix interview that he believes "it is a fundamental principle is that no alcohol should be funded from the amenities fund... the fact that some students are subsidising others to drink alcohol is, I think, quite immoral."

Immoral? Really? The choice not

David Robertson



You can take away our amenities fund, but you can never take our sparklers

to drink is up to an individual; for my own reasons, I didn't drink until I turned twenty. However, it's ridiculous to say that central funds can't be spent on something if a small number of people choose not to take advantage.

Sure, with clubs and societies, grant money should be spent on the specific activity of the club, not booze. However, the specific purpose of an amenities fund is to pay for social amenity in the form of facilities and events, and many people in halls enjoy a drink when they socialise. Should we also make it a fundamental principle that we can't have karaoke at halls events, in case there are people who don't sing?

The argument also ignores the fact that hall residents can have an active say in the way the amenities fund is spent. Don't drink? Fine. Suggest and organise a cheap bowling night or theatre trip. Most subsidised activities at Clayponds are non-drinking; however, some of those with alcohol provided have been the biggest and best attended, by all kinds of residents.

The character and safety of living in a Hall is improved by the social cohesion created when students know each other. That's facilitated by well-run events

It's a matter of risk. Without a central fund to draw from events will only go ahead if they are zero-risk.

which are cheaper and more accessible than those we can organise on our own. When I took up my accommodation offer, I expected that there would be active encouragement of a community environment by the Hall. There has been, and it's because of the amenities fund, along with a great wardening team.

The issue can be solved with greater transparency, which I hope the review delivers (and who would argue against lower rent?). Why not show a typical full rent breakdown – not just of the 'non-fundamental' parts – on the accommodation website? If a student doesn't want to have £2 per week of their rent going towards a year-long, openly planned social program, they can choose to find accommodation elsewhere.

For me, that £2 has been the best value of my rent package by far. Where is the rest going?

Have your say on this article at felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

The opinions expressed on the Comment pages represent the views of the author only.

Why attack nurses?



Samuel Furse

I feel for nurses. I don't mean the sort of nurses who wear fishnets and appear readily in a Google images search, I mean the sort which work in hospitals up and down the country. After a recent report from a nursing ombudsman, this profession is in for yet another bashing for reasons I can only think of as spurious.

The recent accusations that are levelled at nursing staff in particular relate to a small number of very select cases, where nurses have been accused of poor care for dying patients. You will understand that as a scientist I am suspicious immediately.

Of course it is difficult to watch someone die, especially if it is a loved one who is, by definition, irreplaceable. It must be impossible to know what to do or where to look or what to say. Perhaps that is part of the problem. Should people who are not trained in healthcare, healthcare provision or even medical science and who are in an emotional state be in the driving seat on NHS reform?

Nursing can, of course, be done badly. But this applies to teaching, train driving and fox hunting as well though. That, as we have seen is not a good enough reason to lay into it. The trouble is that

nurses will not fight back. They are a compassionate race who, like medics of all kinds, are blamed when things do not go the way a sick person, or the relative of one, may wish them to. Let us try to look at it from the nurses' perspective. They have hospital policy, a boss, a consultant (or more than one) and innumerable guidelines to satisfy. And you can bet none of them went into the profession for any of that.

Even on a practical level, you have a ward of people needing your attention, do you attend to them or do you sit at the deathbed with the family? It might surprise you to learn that relatives interviewed seemed keen for nurses to sit there with them without consideration of other duties. With the best will in the world, and even if it were practicable, is it reasonable to consider that this is what everyone wants?

All the cases are littered with such incongruities to the point at which one cannot determine whether or not any malpractice was evident. Healthcare staff of all sorts do a magnificent job, usually under very difficult circumstances. Will working against them in this way help anyone's healthcare? I think not.

Letters

Amenities fund

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment on Alex Kendall's views on the social amenities fund. He mentions that he is fundamentally opposed to amenities funds paying for alcohol and food at social events. I don't believe he fully appreciates that the funds are there to support socialising and for the vast majority this involves enjoying a drink and food. He tries to make parallels with union clubs and how they have banned the buying of food and alcohol. However, this is a completely separate issue as the funds for union clubs come directly from Imperial college fund and therefore should not be used on socialising as the money they receive is allocated for the buying of consumables. The fund for the hall amenities comes from the residences accommodation fees which imperial College has no input into. Therefore, the residences should decide how they spend their money and not imperial college union. This is the reason we have hall committees.

I have been a member of the hall

committee at Clayponds, which is formed of hall residences alcohol and non-alcohol drinkers from the halls I live in, for nearly a year now and I have never heard anyone say that they are opposed to using the funds to buy alcohol or food. In fact I can use a parody of my own which highlights the absurdity of the argument Alex is trying to make: I am allergic to nuts but I don't expect nuts to be banned from social events, instead I choose not to eat them and try the alternatives that are available. This is the same issue I have with the comments that Alex has made about alcohol. If I didn't drink I wouldn't expect other people to not drink, instead I would drink alternatives that are always available such as lemonade or cola.

He was elected to represent the views of the students but I believe he has failed in his ability to grasp the views of the students he is supposed to represent. I think he should stop his egotistical, ill conceived views from spoiling our social events and let us decide how we would like to spend our money.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Cribbs

I, SCIENCE

THE SCIENCE MAGAZINE OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

NEXT ISSUE OUT 11TH MARCH

A FELIX PUBLICATION

FIND I, SCIENCE AT ALL NORMAL FELIX DISTRIBUTION POINTS

Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...

Kelly Osborne recommends an award-winning adventure story which explores spirituality alone on a boat with a tiger.

Life of Pi

by
Yann Martel



Looking for a thought provoking but comfortable and easy read? Look no further. A book which should not be rejected for having pi in the title. Don't worry, there's nary a mention of the ratio of a circle to its diameter between its covers.

Life of Pi follows the unusual adventures of the hero Piscine Patel (named by his parents after a parisian swimming-pool), through his childhood and his later unsuccessful migration to Canada. Not just a narration of the story, the book takes a deeper look into philosophical issues, addressing religion in its several forms.

Pi himself has dabbled in a selection of faiths, illustrative of his inquisitive and progressive nature that creates a character so likeable that the reader's stake in the story becomes more than that of a mere observer, Martel manages to completely immerse us until the character feels like a friend, in a way that causes us to dangerously invest ourselves in the story.

This may sound thoroughly pretentious and uninteresting, but the addition of a Bengal tiger (aka Richard Parker), an orang-utan and a long lived shipwreck spices things up halfway through. The second half becomes an epic journey through the Atlantic and the realms of insanity before reaching its both frustrating and deeply disturbing conclusion, that (rarely for a book, I find) leaves the reader satisfied.

The book won the Man Booker prize despite being rejected by almost half a dozen publishers before firmly lodging itself into print. This could be due to the simplicity of the novel and possibly the slightly ambling start – but those who put it down at this early stage are as foolish as those who think that bananas can't float.

Which books will get us through to the end of term? Tell us about your favourite in 300-400 words and send it to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Do you believe in Science?

The Heretic, a stone's throw from Imperial, asks about evidence and whether climate change is our new religion



This character is the leading environmental researcher and climate change sceptic, and she's explaining about polar bears apparently

Will Prince

Personally, I thought Al Gore had flogged the climate change donkey for all it was worth. Most people recycle now, protesters have found new things to riot over and we have a Liberal Democrat as Minister for Climate Change – the war seemed, to all intents and purposes, won. Was I wrong? Is climate change killing us? Will someone I've heard of ever play Metric? Will we ever find out? Personally, I don't know but I'm sure the Rector has it all in hand.

One thing I can say with semi-certainty, is that green plays are the new black on the theatre scene. After several years of mulling over the issues during sweltering dog days and grindingly cold winters, the playwrights have put pen to paper and heralded the forecast for 2011.

The first among the new wave is The Heretic, a play very close to the interests of Imperial students. Not only is it showing at the ever-reliable Royal Court, barely a post-code away in Sloane Square, but it explores the story of an Earth Sciences Professor and her struggles in the face of a ruthlessly competitive scientific community, the courtship of corporate sponsors and an equally volatile, vulnerable family life at home. The key difference being that Dr. Diane Cassell is a climate change skeptic, swimming against the current, and confident in

"If you're unconvinced, go simply for the Jeremy Paxman cameo. No joke."

her views. (Check Monday's Daily Felix for Greenland, the NT's own stab at global warming on stage).

I'll confess I was a little crushed upon realising it was set in Yorkshire – not as close to Prince Consort Road as I had at first hoped – but I was quickly assuaged by Juliet Stevenson's authoritative performance as Diane Cassell, the robust, assured scientist, as her life begins to unravel after she receives death threats from militant eco-activist groups. Through exchanges with her anorexic daughter, her hapless boss and a bright yet emotionally delicate student, we see a woman defend her principles in the face of a world that disagrees with her, beyond even the scientific.

Richard Bean and Jeremy Herrin, as writer and director respectively, have crafted a very economical piece in The Heretic. Its efficiency with cast and set is worthy of commendation and the script metes out tight punches of well observed, sardonic comment that maintain the flow of the piece throughout. The script's targets are wide and varied, Richard Bean doesn't

seem afraid to poke a bit of fun at anyone in the name of humour – Muslims, media studies students and James Lovelock beware. The cast are arguably suited to their characters; James Fleet, famed for playing bozo Hugo in the Vicar of Dibley (a smash hit UK sitcom that defined a generation, for the international readers out there), brings the same disarming goofiness to Professor Maloney, the head of department, and Johnny Flynn carries the satire of the green-fiend student well, without ever pushing the character into the ridiculous.

Whilst it is centred on climate change, the play takes on more of the guise of a romantic comedy – not to give too much away – which makes Quentin Letts' review tagline of "Hooray! This will make the right-on brigade hot and bothered" in the Daily Mail all the more distressing. The Heretic isn't going to win round Al Gore, it wasn't written to win round Al Gore. It is thought-provoking and heart-warming (what would a positive theatre review be without those two?) but is by no means scientific polemic and towards the end has touches of fairy tale that would dissatisfy the scientist in anyone. If you're as of yet unconvinced, go simply for the Jeremy Paxman cameo. No joke.

At The Royal Court Theatre until 19th March, £8 for under 25s.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

Gay and working at Imperial

Stuart Haylock speaks to an anonymous member of staff about being 'out'

So first off, why did you want to remain anonymous?

Don't get me wrong, I'm 'out' to friends, family and most staff around here, but I personally believe that staff should maintain some distance from their students. Though that being said, I think you'd have to be blind not to see my lesbian aura.

Haha, what is it like to be gay at Imperial, you were a student here, so what was life like as a gay student?

Well I met my fiancé in my last year as a Biochemistry undergraduate, so I guess I owe Imperial that. Imperial really is the safest place I've ever been, I mean I didn't come 'out' to anyone until I got to my third year here, and joined what was then called "GaySoc" though you now know it as Imperial Queers (IQ). They really helped me through everything and while I was afraid to come out to people, when

"I can't imagine anywhere as accepting as Imperial"

I did, I got no 'stick' for it. I swear people actually became friendlier towards me and not in the 'EUGH STRAIGHT BOY LIKE LESBIAN' brutish kind of way either. That being said, Biochemistry is just as full of gays now as it was back then... sorry I probably shouldn't say that as a lecturer, should I?

Don't worry; I don't think anyone is going to dispute it. So what's it like as a gay staff member?

As staff I can't imagine anywhere as accepting as Imperial, it has really allowed me to accept myself and really get back all those years at High School where I felt compelled to lie to myself for so many years. Wow, I think I'm getting emotional, come on, lesbians don't cry!

Do you have any words of encouragement for LGBT students here?

Well I would tell them to come to terms with who they are, don't fear anything, don't fear religion, don't fear bigots or idiots, don't fear anything and accept who you are and who you were born to be. Do something amazing and come out of the closet, trust me when I say you'll feel free and liberated!

Stuart Haylock



The LGBT Pride flag flying from the Union building

LGBT at Imperial

It is estimated that approximately 10% of the human population are LGBT and according to the Felix sex survey that figure rises to 15% at Imperial College; this may be because Felix attracts a rather skewed audience or because the gender imbalance creates some desperation in the crowd. In any case the rights and safety of a minority are taken care of by a number of groups in the Union; firstly, the Union has a LGBT welfare officer who ensures LGBT welfare; they are also a point of call on LGBT issues and sit on the Representation and Welfare board.

IQ (Imperial College LGBT) is Imperial College's LGBT society. Along with running social and welfare events, they have a welfare officer who can provide advice and information for any LGBT issues. IQ have been or-

ganising this month's events and awareness campaigns; you may have noticed a banner of famous LGBT icons on the Sheffield walkway and the rainbow pride flag flying on the Union flagpole (and no, the Union flagpole is not a code word for Alex Kendall's....). They've also had an exhibition in the business school, with a timeline of LGBT figures and historical events spanning from Sappho of Lesbos 600BC, all the way up to the recent repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell".

For two years running Imperial College has been in Stonewall's top 100 employers due, in part, to Imperial 600, who despite sounding like a superhero group, is actually a network of LGBT staff at Imperial College. They run events, provide advice and ensure the safety and wellbeing of all LGBT staff.

Moving towards an equal and open society

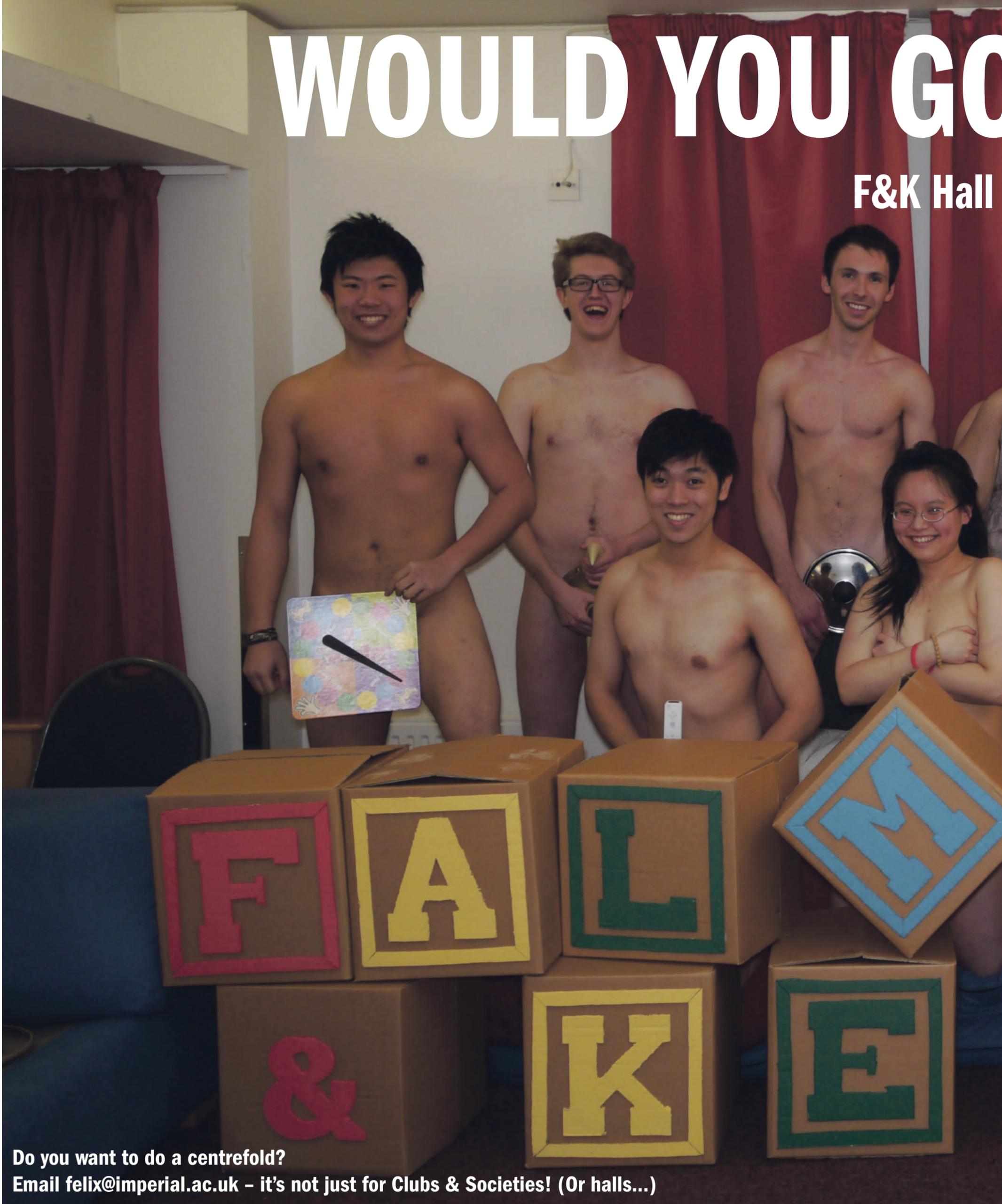
Homosexuality was decriminalised in the UK in 1967; just 2 years later the earliest homosexual rights groups start forming. The first LGBT History Month took place in 2005, in the aftermath of the abolishment of section 28, a piece of legislation that stated that a local authority "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship". The first ever celebration included over 150 events nationwide, celebrating LGBT people and the movement towards a more equal and open society. The rights and laws of the United Kingdom have changed dramatically since decriminalisation; equalising the age of consent, allowing civil partnerships and adoption for same sex couples.

In more recent times, gay rights campaigns

have been taken much further afield, some believe that countries where homosexuality carries the death penalty should be the target of new, fresh campaigns, a belief that is carried by many high ranking politicians and human rights campaigners. In the UK the battle for gay equality is not over, journalists for reputable newspapers and the Daily Mail have shown that homophobia still exists, some even suggest that "homosexuals are pushing an agenda to turn children gay". The Daily Mail anti-journalist Melanie Phillips seems to suggest that schools would teach 'gaydom' in every subject, including teaching why gay people move from the countryside to the city in Geography (a move that is suitably explained by the homophobia they receive in the countryside).

WOULD YOU GO

F&K Hall

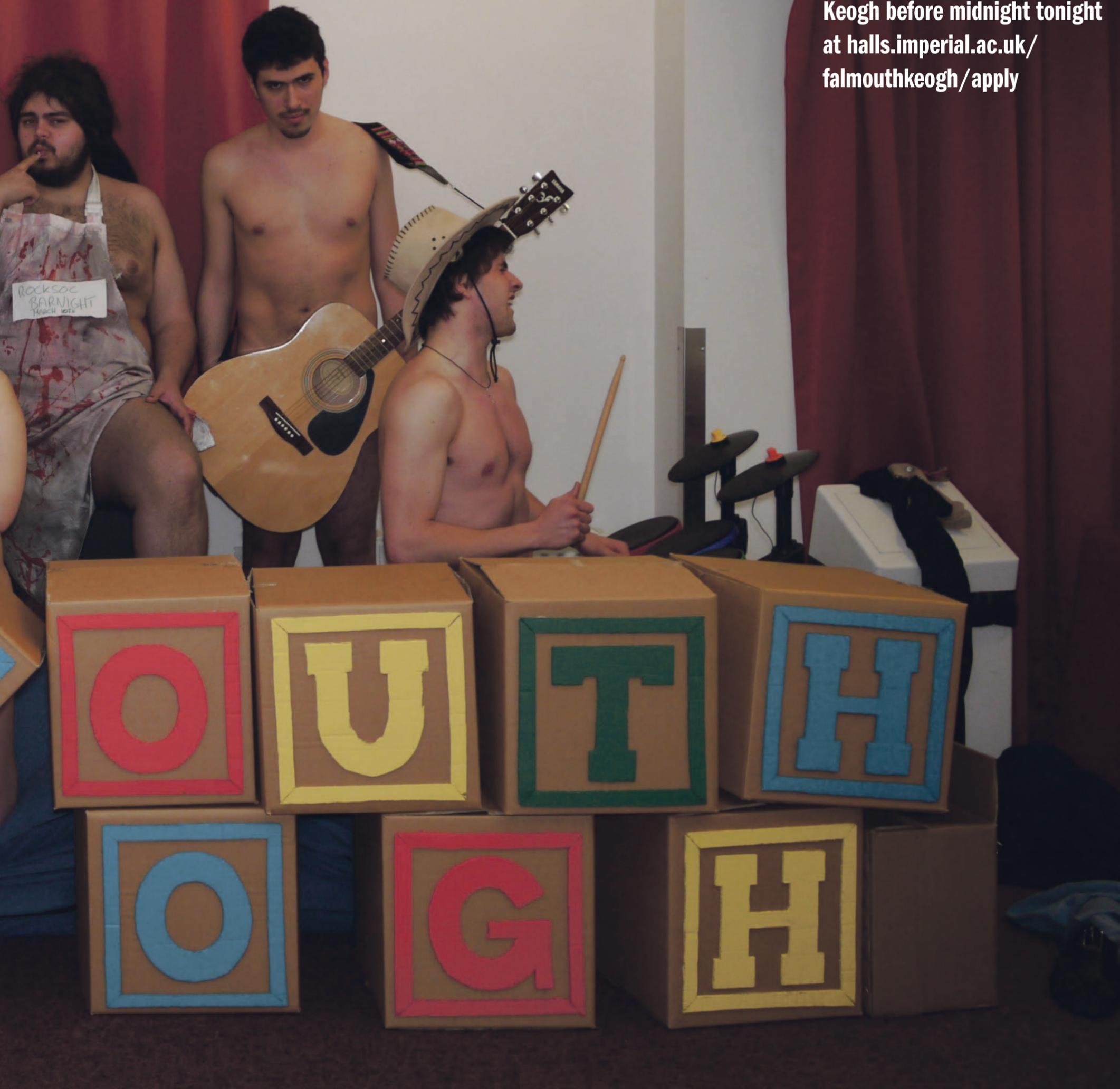


Do you want to do a centrefold?
Email felix@imperial.ac.uk – it's not just for Clubs & Societies! (Or halls...)

ALL THE WAY?

Seniors do...

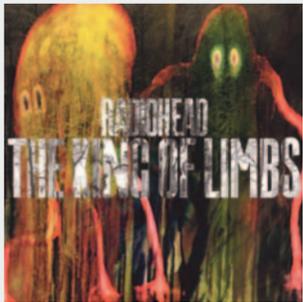
Apply for 2011/12 Hall Senior positions at Falmouth & Keogh before midnight tonight at halls.imperial.ac.uk/falmouthkeogh/apply



MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**
Luke Turner
Christopher Walmsley
music.felix@gmail.com

Album of The Week



Radiohead
The King of Limbs
2011

The extremely hyped **Radiohead's** first release since 2007's *In Rainbows* has finally made it into the public's hands (and ears) and, as usual, it caused plenty of agitation. Fans religiously waited for its entrance in the cyber world and synchronously unveiled **Thom Yorke's** band's 8th release and mixed emotions were thrown in all directions. Ranging between brilliancy and average-ness, consensus has yet to be reached. This has also been caused by the step back attitude taken by the Music Review behemoths. Therefore, I decided to add to the pile of personal, uninteresting and un-experienced reviews and controversy:

The King of Limbs is nothing new. For me it sounds exactly like a dubstep mash-up of *In Rainbows* with Thom's solo album. It is short (four years to make 37 minutes??) and sounds like there are only two songs (the first five and the last three). It is easy to listen to but not that catchy. It is nicely done but way below par for such a brilliant band. You forget it was put together by the creators of *OK Computer* and *Kid A*, you even forget you are listening to it at all. If the physical release of the album brings nothing more to this pot, my final verdict is that it is quite disappointing to see that the only band that has consistently changed and awed the music world for the past 2 decades might now be losing it.

Not because the album is not good, it is (had it been created by some xx-meets-burial'esque band and it would be a revelation), but because this is **RADIOHEAD** we are talking about! The day they stop dazzling you is a sad day for music in general, it is the same day you stop believing in it. Just like when you realised that your dad is not the superhero you thought he would be. Welcome to the real world, jack-ass! **Diogo Geraldes**

Most listened to this week by Felix Music members on last.fm

1. Radiohead
2. James Blake
3. Kanye West
4. Arcade Fire
5. Muse
6. The National
7. Daft Punk
8. The xx
9. RHCP
10. The Killers

Join in at: <http://www.last.fm/group/Felix+Music>

Make sure not to miss

Mogwai

Brixton Academy
Friday 25th February 2011 (tonight!)

The musical emodiment of energy rock Heaven

The Go! Team bounce around the stage and off each other

The Go! Team
Heaven
8th February 2011
★★★★★
Tom Jennings

Energy can be explained in many different contexts. I put it to you that **The Go! Team** are the musical embodiment of energy. And enthusiasm. And pizzazz, joy and childlike wonderment.

They flew onto the stage with lead single 'T.O.R.N.A.D.O.' and immediately established a raucous carnival atmosphere, with band members bouncing all over the stage and crowd members bouncing all over each other. So much so that frontwoman Ninja even had to give detailed visual instructions as to how to jump around without smacking into other people. Her crowd engagement was particularly impressive, as she encouraged people to dance at the appropriate moments (a lesson **The Flaming "motherfucking" Lips** could learn), evoked call and response and even returned to the stage to dance to the audience chants of 'Ladyflash' after the song had finished. Having something exciting to watch on stage is a useful way of turning a good concert into a memorable concert, so having Ninja jumping all over the speakers, strutting around the stage, high kicking and pulling shapes certainly added to the experience.

The setlist was a combination of the first and latest albums and drew from the best of their repertoire, using a concoction of distorted guitars, chanting, hip hop samples, crashing drums and charming woodwind solos. They essentially only had two types of songs – cute, mellow, childish songs sung by Kaori or Chi ('Secretary Song', 'Ready To Go Steady') and brash, shouty, bombastic songs rapped by Ninja ('Titanic Vandalism', 'The Power Is On'), but that's all they need for everyone involved to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Whilst they

Jaime Beeden



You can't be serious? Every single arrow missed? What a fail...

didn't have space on stage for the full and varied instrumentation of the albums, they were still able to treat us to some delightful clavichord, typewriter and harmonica solos (tbh, there's a reason why typewriters aren't usually employed for soloing...) They kept the momentum going throughout, using noise freakouts to fill the space between songs and finally finished the set on 'Rolling Blackouts', which prompted Ninja to mount several of her bandmates in an attempt to steal their instruments (of course).

I can't rate any other band more highly for live performance and considering that there's been talk of this potentially being the last **Go! Team** album, it's an experience to see as soon as possible.

When you go to see The Go! Team you don't expect to be lumbered with a dreary, wishy-washy support band that barely look interested enough to finish a song. But that's what 'Banjo Or Freakout' delivered, and they failed to supply even a single solitary banjo or freakout in their set, a challenge easily met by The Go!

Team afterwards.

The surprise opening DJ set by **Star Slinger** was cheery, laidback and the music was relatively unmemorable, a common feature of most DJs supporting actual bands. His most endearing feature was the 'slightly podgy Cousin It from the Adams Family wearing a sweater from his nan and throwing some hilarious dance moves' look that he was sporting. And his mumblings in between songs about 'treating your decks like your lover' were made all the funnier because he kept whinging that his decks were too sensitive.

Apology

The photo printed with the interview "Tin Cans talkin' Blues" (Issue 1483 – 18/02/2011) was not properly credited to Jennifer Caroline Ellis. We apologise for this. **Editor**

Competition time!

Win tickets to the opening night of **PROUD2!**



5 pairs of tickets to giveaway

The Millennium Dome once looked like a giant white elephant towering over Greenwich as a timely reminder of New Labour's excessive spending binges. However after a successful gutting and branding from O2, the dome structure now houses exhibition halls, gig venues and also a giant 'superclub'. Until its closure last year this was the home of Matter, but has now been fully redeveloped by the people of PROUD and will be simply called PROUD2. It will boast live acts and DJs set in a Las Vegas style environment, so expect circus acts and performers too. They have made efforts to rectify the transport woes that plagued its previous incarnation with shuttle busses from North Greenwich tube, and when that closes they will be

running buses into central London which will cost you a measly 2 quid. We are offering you the chance to win one of a set of 5 pairs of free tickets for their first night on **Saturday 5th March** where HER MAJESTY AND THE WOLVES will be playing live, alongside DJs Scott Mills, Sneaky SoundSystem and more.

What was the superclub at the O2 arena called before its latest revamp?

- A) MATTER
- B) ANTI-MATTER
- C) HIGGS BOSON

Answers to music.felix@gmail.com by 3rd March. Winners will be notified shortly after the deadline.

TELEVISION

How TV has affected my degree

Corrie Berry

I'm from Devon. Before then, I was from Africa. To entertain myself, I used to climb trees, go hiking, cycle to the beach, and for a few hours a day, do homework/music practice/mess around on the computer. I never really watched TV, and when I did, I always had something in front of me to keep me otherwise occupied. The transition from college kid to student has shown a marked change in my behaviour. I'm in my final year, and, thinking back on it, every year has started and ended with an addiction to a new TV show.

First year was **Charmed**. If you've never seen it, eight seasons of witchy goodness, starring Piper, Phoebe, Prue, and later, Paige Halliwell. It's innocent good fun. I get a lot of teasing from people for this one, but I don't care. It kept me occupied during long hours writing lab reports, revising microstructures, and doing those blasted maths problem



Do people actually revise without the tv in the background?

sheets.

Second year started out with **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**. I'd moved from witches on to vampires, slightly annoying college kids, the best baddy ever in the form of Glory, and a whole load of extra features and ways in which to immerse yourself into the world of Buffy. As if this wasn't bad enough, I managed to acquire a set of all ten seasons of **Friends**. I'd seen it before (who hasn't?), but let's face it – you can never get enough Friends. More lab report deadlines, a massive project written to the Rembrandt's theme tune and another year successfully completed.

Third year found its entertainment in the form of British Teen Drama, **Skins**,

Angel, the partner series to Buffy, and **Big Bang Theory**. Another huge project and exams completed with some memorable tunes in my head, and the associations these all brought.

Fourth year started off with **Gilmore Girls**. Revision for January exams was timetabled according to how many episodes I could fit into a 14 hour period, and after these were over I discovered **Glee** (and, of course, the new season of **Skins** started). My flatmate recently got the first five series' of **Grey's Anatomy**, and we have started working our way steadily through those.

So, what has this done to my degree? Well, there are certain things that I cannot write about/think about/discuss without a flashback to what was on the TV at that point in time. Wulff Plots are forever associated with Janice and her annoying laugh. Every time I have to talk about Crystallography, I get a very specific episode of **Charmed** in my head (I won't tell you which for fear of spoil-

ers). In my January exam, I was writing about the cardiac cycle when Rory Gilmore strolled into my head talking about coffee (perhaps NOT the best timing ever, but hey).

A lot of my friends ask how I can do it. They go so far as to say they would never get any work done with all the distraction. I've never really thought about it – to be honest, I can't actually sit down and make myself work if there isn't something playing in the background. Yes, this means that I don't always catch the action, and the finer detail of some episodes is lost on me. It does keep me sitting down at my desk, though, when I would otherwise be tempted to get up and go off somewhere for a little jaunt. "I'll go at the end of this episode, oh no wait the next one looks really good, just one more." There is no motivation like it.

Has it worked? Ask me in October, when I will know if all the square eyes paid off and I got the grades I wanted...

Imperial College London

Win an iPad!
free prize draw at the event

private housing talk

Monday 7 March

where are you going to live next year?

Join us at the Private Housing Talk for:

- tips and advice on when and where to start looking for a place to live in the private sector
- learning how much you can expect to pay on rent and other costs
- advice on how to deal with contracts and landlords and your rights as a tenant
- advice and tips for moving in/out
- exclusive opportunities to meet estate agents, landlords and other accommodation service providers

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when and where?

Monday 7 March 2011

- 16.30 Private Housing Exhibition opens in the Queen's Tower Rooms
- 18.00 Private Housing Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Private Housing Exhibition in the Queen's Tower Rooms continues

FILM

Classic Cinema

Casablanca



Don't worry darling, Kadhim can't hurt you now

Casablanca, a black and white timeless masterpiece, was released in 1943. The script for the unstaged play on which the film is based fatefully found its way to the desk of a Warner Brothers employee the day after Pearl Harbour, and was rapidly adapted into an iconic wartime romance set in the North African city of Casablanca.

Casablanca during the Second World War was a real melting pot for Europe. It was a holding point for refugees from the Nazi regime and this is the premise for the film. A phenomenal mix of different characters supports the signature performance of Humphrey Bogart as Rick, an American who runs a "gin joint" where most of the action takes place. Rick's resolution to never get involved with his customers is broken when Ilsa Lund, played by the stunning Ingrid Bergman, walks back into his life.

Despite its rapid conversion into a screenplay, the script is outstanding. The small, understated quips and witty dialogue are what really make this film memorable. This is the source of one of the great misquotes of cinema: Bogart never actually says "play it again, Sam". The Sam in question is Bogart's pianist and friend, who came with him from Paris and is the first to recognise Ilsa when she enters Rick's with a famous resistance leader played by Paul Henreid. Sam and his band provide a very well crafted musical backdrop to the night club scenes as well as the unforgettable "As Time Goes By". This song, coupled with the more overtly dramatic score and the passionate rendition of the Marseilles, make this film as acoustically impressive as it is visually.

Most of the film takes place in Rick's, which creates a very intense atmosphere at times – many of the scenes are almost like watching a play rather than a film. Made in a short time on a shoestring budget, this film is a welcome break from computerised over-blown special effects and shaky camerawork and is a great example of how a great atmosphere can be created just from a few locations.

This is a film which really deserves its reputation as one of the best films ever made, and don't let that reputation put you off: it's charming, thrilling and very fun to watch.

Guy Needham

Beat the Bush Administration

Fair Game

Director Doug Liman
Screenwriter Jez Butterworth, John-Henry Butterworth
Cast Naomi Watts, Sean Penn, Sonya Davison

John Park

Here is what happened: the United States government decided to invade Iraq for possessing dangerous weapons supplied by the African nation of Niger. An American international consultant was asked to gather sufficient evidence from Africa to prove that Iraq was in fact buying these weapons. He found none, and wrote a report that said exactly that. So when he realised that his very clear report was completely ignored and The White House went to war anyway, he wrote another article, this time to *The New York Times*, about the invalidity of the American invasion. Ill-advised of course, but his conscience didn't allow him to just look the other way.

Is this a win for him, and the constitution of free speech? Hardly, since on the next day, his wife is outed as a CIA spy in a national newspaper – as retribution for speaking out against The White House. This scandal, which caused quite a stir, is the "Valerie Plame affair" in which Ms. Plame (Naomi Watts), an active covert CIA agent mainly working in the Middle East with crucial informants, was publicly identified, as a result of her husband Joe Wilson's (Sean Penn) controversial editorial piece, titled "What I Didn't Find in Africa." Soon after the publication of Plame's real identity, their world comes crashing down. Several media outlets start spinning this story in the most

imaginative ways, and the couple is branded as being traitors of America. "Not supporting the troops," a popular saying used by right-wing Bush supporters to criticise anyone who has anything to say against the war, is also in full use here.

It may come across as a touch too self-involved, showing the trials of how one family struggles back in their comfortable house, whilst so many soldiers are dying. Plame's confidential informants are in danger as they are left out in the open. We hear the news of how a lot of them have been assassinated as a consequence of her being outed: but none of this is shown to any memorable level, and is scarcely mentioned in passing.

This story was covered extensively in the international media and for that, the film loses the element of surprise, but under the steady hands of Doug Liman, the director of *The Bourne Identity*, he makes sure there are characters for us to relate to. Plame may be an agent who travels around the globe, but to balance everything out, she has a loving family and a domestic life for her to get back to. Watts shows these two contrasting sides well.

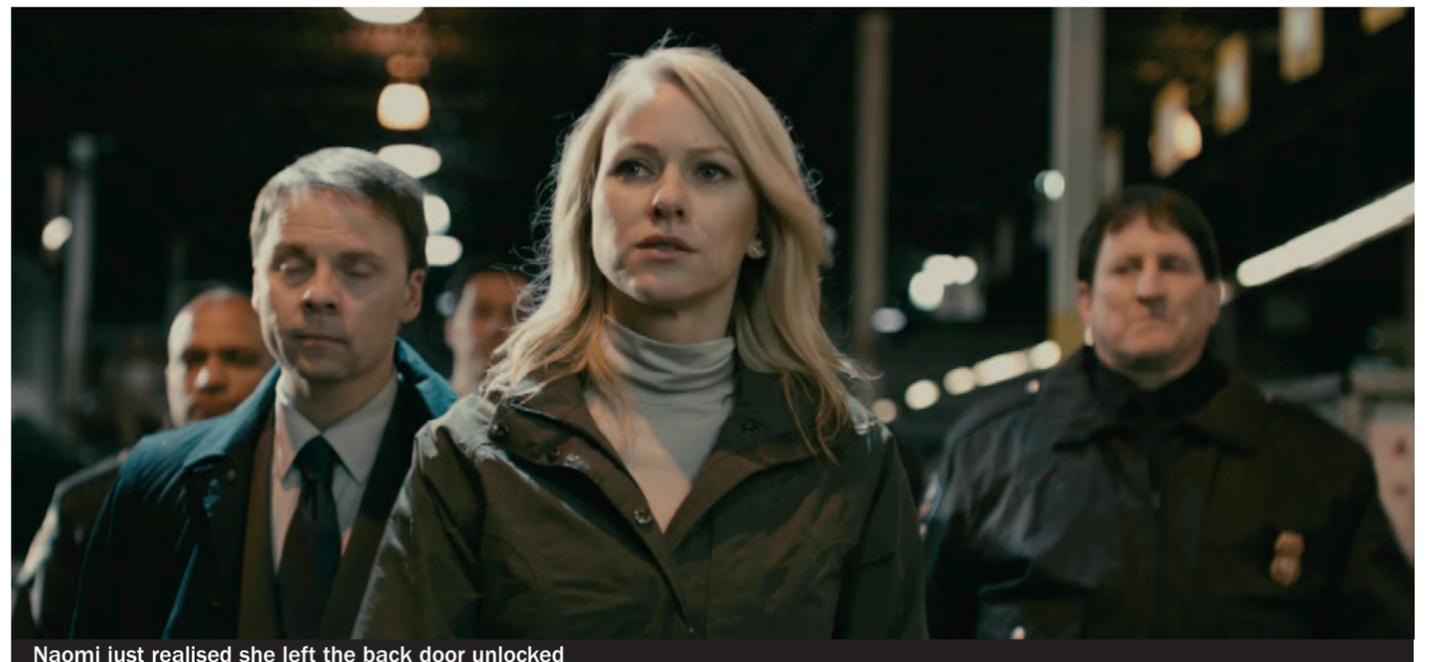
Fair Game has that odd but watchable mix of an inspiring biopic and politics. A lot of careful explanation is given as to bring everyone up to date with the Valerie Plame case and the film is more than successful at stirring up a strong, lasting feeling of discomfort and rage towards the government, people of high authority, and abuse of power. It's clear where the lead characters stand – they're not unpatriotic. She was a spy, and he used to be an ambassador. They were trying their best to serve their country until an unfortunate screw-up somewhere in between all the hushed conversations ruined eve-

rything. They are the victims here, and Liman lets us know it. Dealing with a subject that is still painfully relevant today, it's an admirable effort to get the story out there.

Watts and Penn, paired up here for the third time, showcase strong performances once more. Penn has less to do, and his character is less well drawn than Watts. He is the angry, betrayed citizen who is being hounded by those around him for doing the right thing. Undoubtedly though, the star here is Watts whose subtle performance, grasping the frustration and fear that surround the challenges she needs to face, is more than enough to carry the film all on her own.

Fair Game has that odd but watchable mix of an inspiring biopic and politics

It's not a 100% unbiased effort. Some of the villains are almost written to the level of caricature, and if you want a broader scope on the Plame scandal you would be better off reading about the whole thing on Wikipedia. But what articles won't tell you is how the incident affected Plame on a personal level. Don't be mistaken into thinking this is a political spy-thriller – the trailer wrongly oversells on this point. But it's a promising, touching family drama with some good old-fashioned Bush-Administration-bashing.



Naomi just realised she left the back door unlocked

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GAMES

Finally, a *SimCity* destroyer?

Chris Bowers reviews *Cities in Motion*, the most detailed mass transit simulator yet

Cities in Motion is a complex transport simulator based on a simple concept – you have to build and manage the public transport system in a city. While this isn't the type of game I'd usually opt for, I decided to take the plunge and take a look at what it had to offer.

But first, I have to make a comment about the specification that this game demands – I had major problems getting the game to run smoothly (or at all). On my laptop (powered by a 2.27GHz i5) the tutorial crashed every time and the campaign was utterly unplayable – the screen updated about once a second. Even when I installed the software on my gaming rig there were still huge issues. Enabling anti-aliasing would cause masses of slow-down if using the mini-viewport (an area of the window where you could monitor a selected point on the map), and disabling it caused display problems with some vehicles – I was presented in places with a blank, white space that would only be drawn when and where the vehicle intersected with it. Disabling HDR lighting solved the problem, and while the game looked a lot dimmer and less dynamic without it on it was the price I had to pay to have a fully functioning game.

With all the settings sorted, *Cities in Motion* is a very good-looking game. The textures are detailed, with realistic-looking buildings and interesting variation between individual cars. The behav-

our of the water particularly impressed me, especially with accurate-looking reflections that get perturbed by the ripples in the water. Overall, the game presents a very pretty spectacle.

Of course, the gameplay is a lot more important than how good the game looks. The tutorial gives a good introduction to the various aspects of the game, even with the slight niggle of having to click a green question mark button at the bottom of the screen to see the 'objective complete' message and then again to look at the next objective. Once I had finished with the tutorial, I was ready to delve into the game proper.

“You're given a lot of freedom when it comes to deciding how best to run your system”

The main objective is to have a well-equipped, customer-satisfying and profitable public transport system running in your city. With transport options including buses, trams, and the metro (which can run on up to three underground levels, at ground level, or elevated above ground level), you're given a lot of freedom when it comes to deciding how best to run your system.



All we need now is a giant lizard and Matthew Broderick and we've got ourselves a blockbuster

It quickly gets more complicated however. *Cities in Motion* has complex underlying mechanics that make it not only more interesting but also more challenging. Customers will soon become dissatisfied with things like having to wait too long for a bus (I certainly know that feeling...), and this will damage your company's reputation – an integral part of keeping people us-

ing your transport links. As time rolls on, you are offered objectives that, if taken and completed successfully, will give you a reputation boost as well as a healthy cash bonus. These add more direction to the game and help to keep play flowing.

In between these objectives I had time to notice the little things about the game that made a big difference. The attention

image of your company. It all adds to the experience, making it fuller and richer through the realism and immersion.

Alongside the campaign is the sandbox mode which, when coupled with the quite frankly amazing and comprehensive map creator, is where enthusiasts will probably spend most of their time. You can use one of the existing maps from the campaign, or one of your own creations, to build a transport system from scratch – with no restrictions other than the budget you set yourself. The lack of objective may not appeal to all, but those looking to form the perfect transport system will surely be challenging themselves in this mode.

I have to say, *Cities in Motion* impressed me. It was a lot more feature-packed than I expected it to be, and once it was working properly it provided a mostly enjoyable playing experience, especially with the little features that made everything feel that little bit more immersive. It's certainly a game that I'll be picking up again soon, even though it may not have made me a convert to the genre.

Felix Games would like readers to be aware that we played a pre-release build and the graphical problems encountered are likely to have been fixed in the release edition.

Cities in Motion is available now from Paradox Interactive and Colossal Order for PC.



Football and an athletics track? Ah man, I wish the London 2012 stadium was gonna be this good...

“Those looking to form the perfect transport system will surely be challenging themselves here”

to detail in the game is excellent. Occasionally a fire will break out, requiring a fire engine to go out to the scene, traffic will start to build up in an area, which causes irritated drivers to start beeping their horns, and more besides.

The realism doesn't stop there: fare prices and staff wages can be altered for each method of transport, with obvious effects on your happiness if set incorrectly. You can look at the global economy growth on a map, apply for a loan from a bank if money is tight, and even start a marketing campaign (with different types of campaigns appealing to different society groups) to improve the

FOOD

Food Editors: **Dana Li**
Vicky Jeyaprakash

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Gastronomical Musings

Dana says:



This ain't no normal apron, no no...

MasterChef. Nothing quite like another cooking programme to shove down our already gagging throats. Except MasterChef's been with us for almost twenty years so we can't exactly blast it for old time's sake. After creating various spin-offs to make celebrities think they can cook, in **Celebrity MasterChef**, and make young ones feel like there is meaning in life as they can always aspire to appearing on **Junior MasterChef**, the show has undergone a revamp. A revamp that is as tasteless as Cheryl Cole's fake tan. Because that is exactly what it felt like, an X Factor for the chefs. Taking a prime-time 9pm slot, I'm forced to watch as wannabe chefs sweat and glow a certain shade of ruby under the pressure of the new Masterchef kitchen. Bye bye white simplistic kitchen. Hello to tacky dramatic music when John and Gregg say yes or no. Now I'm just waiting for Wagner to turn up...

Look for this voucher every week to enjoy kickass waffles at Wafflemeister for the next month – you know you want to...



As Greek as it gets

Anastasia Eleftheriou reckons this is the real Greek deal

There are many students in Imperial that love Greek food and I am not talking solely about the Greeks! Traditional Greek cuisine is full of incredible smells and tastes: from the salty feta cheese; the tempting meat meze with the refreshing tzatziki; the thick pita bread and the skewers, the unique mousaka and many many more traditional and attractive dishes.

If you want to experience traditional Greek night and you are near Earl's Court, then you should visit the traditional tavern *As Greek As it Gets*. Great food, reasonable prices, a happy and friendly atmosphere and the best Greek music to cheer you up.

Highly recommended dishes are the pan-fried kefalotyri cheese with sesame seeds for starter and the mixed grill selection and gyros with mustard and tzatziki for the main course, which is best enjoyed together with a glass of Ouzo (or possibly more!). You shouldn't leave the place without having a Galaktoboureko or Baklava for dessert with a relaxing cup of Greek coffee frappe.

The tavern is not only a great night out with friends, but it seems ideal for parties and a lunch in between lectures during the week. If you're in a hurry, there is always the option to take out.

As Greek As It Gets was given the Food & Drink Award 2008 for 'Best Greek Restaurant' by The Times. Warning: This place is not recommended for those who are on a diet! Καλή όρεξη!

233 Earl's Court Rd, SW5 9AH. Open Mon-Fri 12.00-15.00 and 17.00-23.00 and Sat-Sun All day: 12.00-23.00.



Computing students have given their stamp of approval, will you?



Mixed grill with mustard & tzatziki, yum!

Next week, check out
THE DAILY FELIX

where we'll be ruminating over more exciting cuisine like this to whet your appetite...

Gessler at Daquise

Daquise Restaurant:
A South Kensington gem

Established in 1947, Daquise Restaurant on Thurloe St. never fails to transport alumnus down memory lane. Mr. Gessler, a prominent figure in the restaurant scene in Poland, has recently acquired into one of the longest serving Polish restaurants in London where impeccable food quality is coupled with a homely ambience that makes for a most enjoyable meal.

Polish cuisine, well known for its scrumptious meat, lives up to expectations with the world famous steak tartare. The visual impact of the head chef preparing the well-seasoned meat made to order by your end table completes the dining experience. Another exceptional starter, the marinated herring - soft and tender cured fish drizzled with linseed oil simply melts on your tongue. Another classic is the dish of dumplings with the golden ratio of soft white cheese and

potatoes sprinkled with chopped parsley and bacon, which has scored a respectable 9 out of 10 in dumpling wars. The two-course Espresso lunch offer for £9 (£7 with iConnect!) has a generous portion of soup and classic Polish chicken. Well roasted, with a strong home-oven scent and stuffing, the quartered chicken served with carrots and mashed potatoes beats Nando's hands down in both quality and price. The meat is a tad dry but the delicious mash more than makes up for it. Other mains include huge thinly breaded pork chop, fried to absolute perfection. The sauteed sour cabbage at the side is, again, done to the right taste. Make sure you leave room for the delicious cheesecake that has a crumbly home-made pastry crust and soft cheese filling that is to die for.

Having the Chef serving your meal is a rare experience so make sure you grab the chance to dine here with the 20% iConnect discount on all food on weekdays. Smacznego!
Nigel Kheng Wei Hehn, Tadek Kurpaski and Sheena Lee

Check out the **Espresso Lunch Discount** at www.iconnectimperial.com



Travel Editor: **Chris Richardson**

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TRAVEL

The underrated sound of silence

In this edition of **Priya Garg's** tales, we find her off the track in Argentina's answer to the Lake District, uncovering hidden beauties and inner tranquillity

A bus took us round meandering long corners and sharp curves on our way to San Carlos de Bariloche, which rests at the foothills of the Andes, until we finally reached Argentina's answer to the Lake District. Snow-capped mountains lay in the distance as we rumbled towards our destination, huge geographical reliefs looming in the bright blue sky. The chill of the air began to cut through our clothes. However, the undisputed masterpiece of the area, an unbelievably beautiful lake named Nahuel Huapi, quickly removed us from this vapid distraction.

Bariloche town centre revolves around this vision of the lake, with its log cabins, chocolate shops, youths in snowboard gear with backwards caps, women in high-class winter knitwear, and countless schoolchildren stumbling in to buy huge boxes of bonbons. However, if you step out of this clamour of distraction and noise and walk only ten minutes to the edge of the lake, you can be beside a wrecked jetty, parts of which have broken off in the charging waves, or sit on a swing watching windsurfers navigate the choppy water.

“We felt a sense of freedom unsurpassed by that experience within a city boundary”

On our first full day we decided, perhaps foolishly, to attempt the ‘seven lakes challenge’ – a twenty-four kilometre bike ride cutting through the Argentinian National Park. Given that it had been the best part of ten years since I had ridden any form of bicycle – and this was a circuit involving a sharp incline, several exhilarating turns and equally dangerous downward slopes – this was definitely risky. At the very start I doubted several times whether I could do it and was soon cursing my saddle sores and unfit muscles. Yet whether getting off to push my bike uphill, or letting the air fly through the vents in my helmet as we hurtled downhill, I motivated myself to ride around this gruelling circuit. The reward was breathtaking.

Snow peaked between the pine trees, with pink cherry blossom forming a fringe at the top of our perspective. At the pinnacle of each hill we rode up

Priya Garg



Hey, do you hear that? What do you mean “no”? It's the sound of silence – don't you get it? It's supposed to be ironic, or figurative, or deep, or something...

was a stunning view across the land. As we wearily pedalled slowly back to the bicycle rental shop after completing the distance, wheels wavering with fatigue, a sense of achievement filled our being. Becoming one with the surroundings, breathing the mountain air, sweating on the peaks of the hills and letting our future be carried by two tyres bouncing over the rocky ground underfoot, we felt a sense of freedom unsurpassed by that experienced within a city boundary.

In the evening we decided to try the local nightlife. Think small bars sitting on rocky mounds surrounded by a dis-

used beach, decorated with fairy lights, housing a strange reggae music scene where local Argentinians, schoolchil-

“At the pinnacle of each hill we rode up was a stunning view across the land”

dren and tourists sway to Bob Marley remixes. The smell of marijuana drifts throughout the vicinity. Used condoms

litter the beachfront outside in dirt piles beside the water's edge, incongruous with the natural beauty. There were too many people: it felt incredibly claustrophobic. Dodging drunken over-amorous affection we ended up slipping out to find peace in the night air.

We eventually slept, and the next morning decided to hike up to the summit of Cerro Campanario, a viewpoint situated seventeen kilometres outside of Bariloche. After climbing a short yet steep hike for forty minutes we staggered up to the peak. From the top we were compensated by a view of expansive forestry and tiny houses clustered

on the edges of large bodies of water. The sun sat high in the sky, causing the water to sparkle around us. Enclosing the scene were a full house of majestic snow-covered mountains.

Here, we took a moment to perch upon a rock and gaze upon what lay before us. With the world at our feet and the trees in utter stillness beside us, it became apparent what we had gained the most from Bariloche, a new-found appreciation for that most elusive of elements, something we had been seeking for a while: the simple sound of silence.

rastadude/flickr



Quit ruining Priya's travels: she's on a voyage of self-discovery, dammit!

Priya Garg



Priya manages to escape the douchebags (left) and get some country air

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

u guys comin to my set tonight? Obie is goin to be MC



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

I say Bruce! You say Willis! Bruce!



SexyOsama69

Willis!



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Bruce!



willyoujoinmymiliband?

WILLIS! LOLOLOLOL :P



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

why is your dj name Bruce Willis?



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

because he's a fucking badass like me.



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

FFS! I can't go. got to get some stupid twats out of libya. Like wtf they doin there in the first place?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

I say twats! You say libya! Twats!



willyoujoinmymiliband?

LIBYA! LOLOLOLOL :p

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. Stop sending naked photos...

Sexual content below...

The headline above is as misleading as the Felix Sex Survey

The Felix Sex Survey has done an R. Kelly at playtime – come and gone. We learnt some important facts. There are more bisexuals than homosexuals. I can only assume that the ratio forces you to branch out while still keeping your options open. Leveraging you into a position where you can either move teams or stay put. If nothing else – it produced a couple of great quotes.

One girl said:

"Boys NEVER hit on me here! Literally, the better I look, the more they run away. I get the most attention when I look a bit rubbish. They need to MAN-UP!"

Translation:

"I'm a 5 with delusions of being a 9"

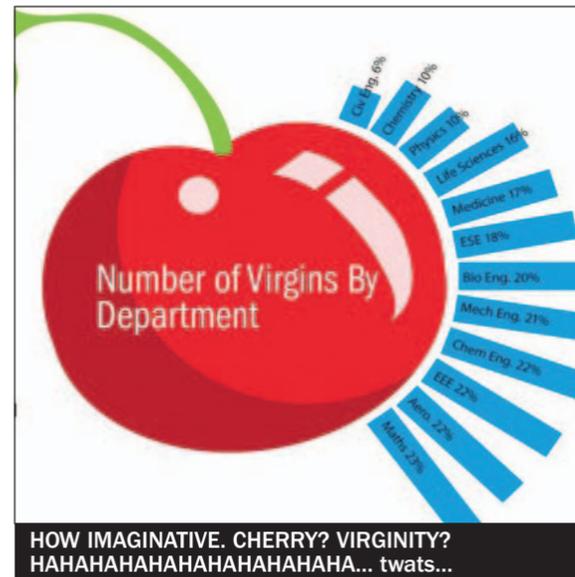
One guy said:

"[I attended a] 27 all-male orgy hosted by an ex-TV presenter. One of the most incredible experiences of my life – and another 'thing to do before I die' checked off the list."

That's put you off your food, hasn't it? Not the quote, you homophobe – if you thought that's what I meant you need to have a good look at yourself. The smell of bullshit is what is putting you off your food. It's emanating from that quote in an inverse square law (a joke for my geeks out there, peace out G-TOWN). This was an all male orgy, meaning the quote must have come from a man. This backs up my claim that it's bullshit. You see ... men lie all the time. If it's not a lie, it's an exaggeration. Here are some exploratory examples to ponder:

"Regional manager for a large corporation" = "Starbucks assistant store manager"

"Mate I got with her" = "She hugged me at the end of the night. It was the



HOW IMAGINATIVE. CHERRY? VIRGINITY? HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH... twats...

do. Below is a pie chart showing the breakdown of lies told by men:



The thin dark blue slice is how much they drank last night. The rest is varying lies about sexual prowess.

best moment of my life. I'm going to think about it during my alone time in bed tonight. I'm so lonely."

"It's 7 inches" = "It's 5 inches"

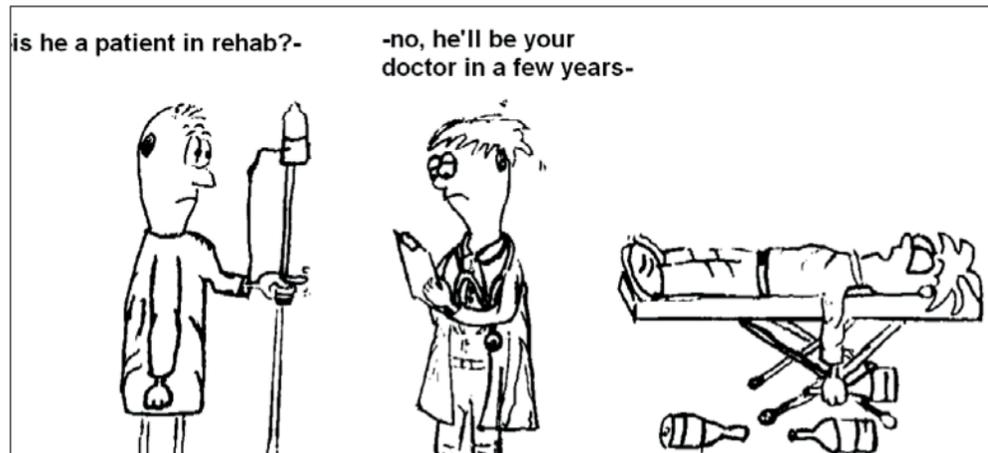
You want more proof? What the fuck is this, a lab report? You're not going to get any.

Basically, lying is exponential as fuck. "Why exponential, and not a straight line?" I hear you indignantly think to yourself. That is a good question, well done for asking. You see, for the first hour or so men are just too tired and dazed to lie frequently. Lying is mentally straining, and first thing in the morning is too early. As the day progresses the lies pile up. If someone has done an all nighter, they most likely don't even believe what they're saying any more.

That's not very detailed is it? You want more detail don't you? You are wondering if I am going to write another question aren't you? I spoil you I really

Ed – Hey! Stop pointing out Felix's flaws! *shakes fist...

Luca De Benedetti



The number of participants gives it away as a lie. It's like when you're making up results for a lab report. A 30 person orgy would be too round a number so they just took off three. It's still way too high, seriously, 27! How fucking big was that bed! Did they have to rearrange the furniture to make way for floor space?

Definitely noteworthy is that it says 'hosted by.' What the fuck did he do – walk out in a suit and tell a few jokes before announcing the first guest? He must have put a lot of work into planning and promoting. That sort of shit doesn't just break out, unless it's an episode of that pile of shit *Skins*. How the fuck do you organise a 27 all guy orgy anyway? You can't exactly make a Facebook event can you.

Do you call everyone up? It's not like you can text around is it. If you have ever organised a night out, you know that you need to get different groups of people to come if you want a large number. People will only go if a group of people are already confirmed. The real question is: how do you pitch that to the first guy you call? That must have been an extremely awkward conversation.

"Hey mate. So, I'm organising a 27 all guy orgy, are you game? Who's going, erm, that's the thing. You're my first call. You know, have to start somewhere. It's almost an honour for me to ask you first... Hello? Must have lost the connection, he's probably on the tube."

Would be worse if he didn't pick up. That voicemail would be extremely strange.

Remember how it's an odd number, 27. So one poor guy might have been left on his own, just watching, wondering why no one wants to explore his insides, or be explored by him. Poor guy. I bet he grows a beard and looks shifty at airports in the hopes of getting a cavity search. I reckon his doctor no longer believes that he is a 'hypochondriac' and therefore needs so many prostate exams. At least he had a nice story to tell though.

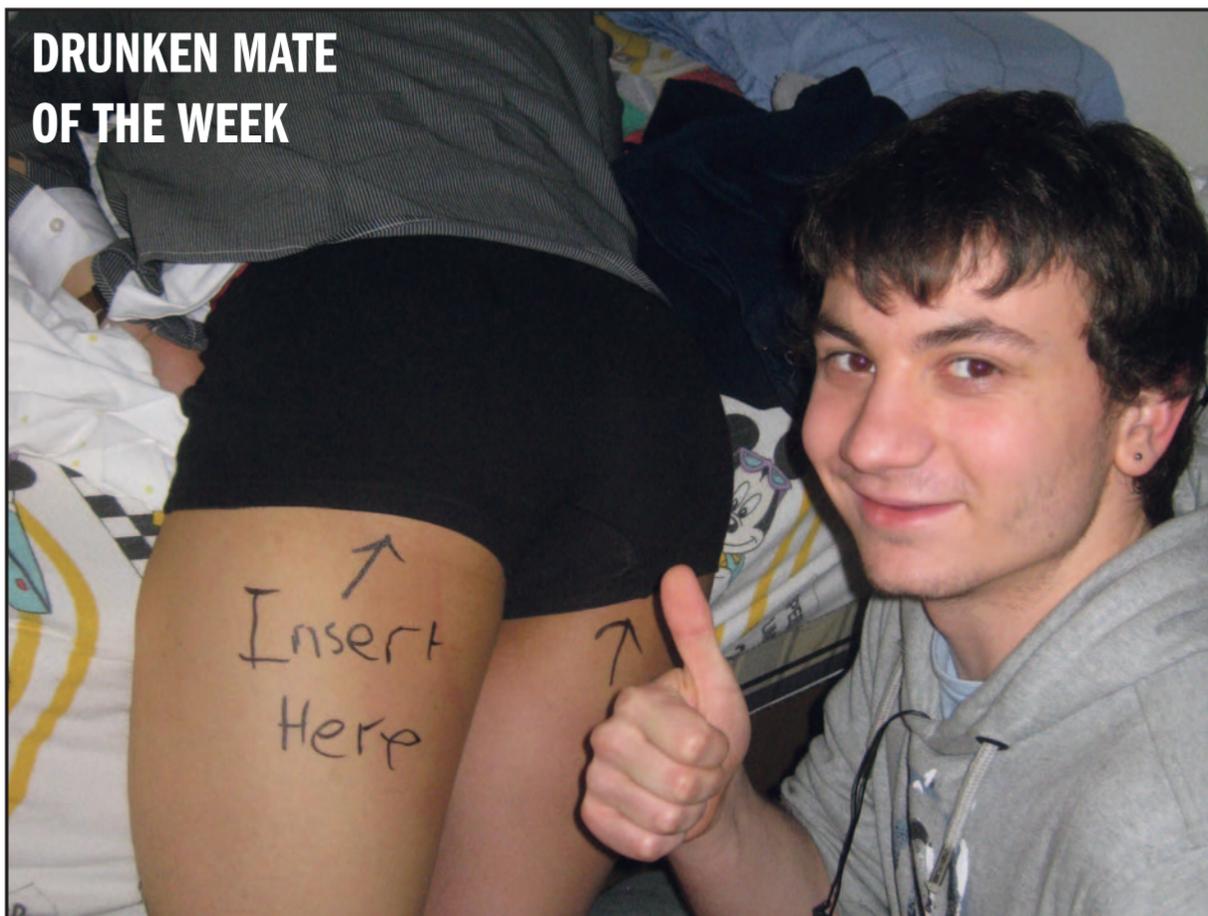
In summary: Don't believe everything you read, and rotate doctors.

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

National Rail pledge to use rulers when laying train tracks



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



This is one of those awesome situations where the guy playing the prank ends up looking like a bigger douche than the person being pranked. What's the thumbs up for? Are you 'going in'?

Horoscopes

Aries

Recently, you attended the Reynolds Pokemon Bop dressed as a slutty Pikachu. You realise your aim to 'Catch 'Em All' has come true as your STI test results come in. Team Rocket come to try and steal your 'Pokemon'. You use your STI Attack and splaff them away!

Taurus

This week, you listen to the new Radiohead album. It's good but the spiders crawling on the ceiling distract you. They swarm over you, engulfing your body. You scream and wake up in R Kelly's bed... He touches you and you wake up in your bed. Damn happy pills...

Gemini

This week, you go up to a small boy in the street, grab his balls and scream "MARRY ME!" in his face. He cries and you relent, releasing his underdeveloped gonads. He can't take the pressure. The wussy little twat isn't tough enough. Clearly not marriage material.

Cancer

This week, you challenge a grown man to a game of "Eye Spy". He's not very good at it, he keeps drinking coffee and talking about his relationships. No matter how hard you try, he refuses to stop being a boring twat. You stab him in the eye with a unicorn. LADADADADA!

Leo

This week, you are the Rector. It's totally cool because you're legally allowed to bang any College staff member whenever you want. Oh, you hadn't heard of that rule? It's always the way. You never find out about the "Rector Rectum Regulation" until it's too late...

Virgo

This week, you hope that nobody finds out that The Daily Felix is a complete hoax. It's like April Fools but more subversive because we're doing it in Feb/March. On every page we're actually just printing the word "LOL" beneath a picture of the Rector getting pied.

Libra

This week, you hoped to be done by 12 on Wednesday night but good Horoscopes require patience. Like letting a fine whiskey 'air' or waiting for that girl you like to leave her house before you follow her down the alleyway and BAM! you've revealed too much about last night...

Scorpio

This week, you decide to try and stick one of your toes up your arse. It'll take years of yoga and at least three tubes of lube. Finally, as an old wizened hermit, you achieve your goal. Mid 'toeing' you have a heart attack and die. Your gravestone reads: "LAD".

Sagittarius

This week, you scrap a Bieber related horoscope because it was shit and instead focus on that sensation on your knee. Oh God! Justin Bieber is licking my knee! What do I do? Can I keep him? *(In an unrelated matter, if you have a cellar going spare, email felix@imperial.ac.uk)*

Capricorn

This week, you cook a big bowl of spaghetti, shove as much slippery pasta into your mouth as is physically possible and wake your girlfriend up by trying to go down on her. She screams and tries to wriggle away before accepting the bolognesy goodness...

Aquarius

This week, it's you against the clock. The clock's just edging ahead. He's a total charmer and the girl is about to fall for him. It's time for drastic manoeuvres. You take off your shirt, beat your chest and say, "ME MAN, YOU WOMAN." It doesn't work.

Pisces

This week, you're out late at night. The streets are empty. It's eerily quiet. Your friends are wearing hooded cloaks. "It's time," they say, "to stop playing WoW." You have no say in the matter, they ritually sever your arms. You're like "WTF DUDE? chill out! jeez..."

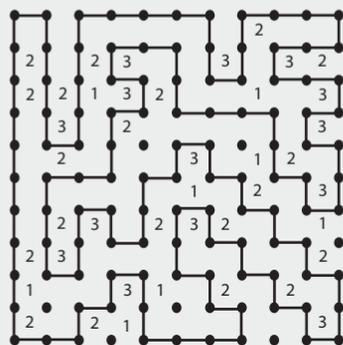
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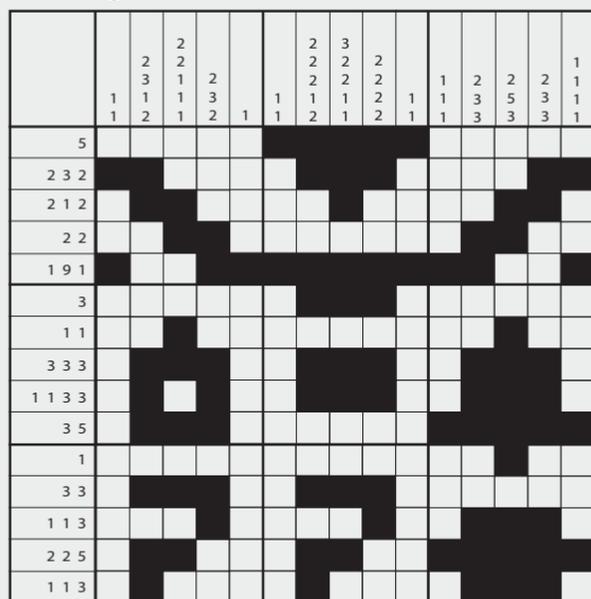
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Guess the tube stations!

Pimlico, Brixton, Bank

Pictogram

1. Goldfish 2. Bloodstone 3. Cowry 4. Sapphire 5. Pluto

Ans: Pyrite



CRYPTIC - Across 1. Succumb 5. Greave 8. Ill-Gotten 9. Pay TV 11. Leapt 12. Nostalgic 13. Hedonism 15. Hairdo 17. Blurbs 19. Niceties 22. A Cut Above 23. Zombi 24. Slain 25. Eccentric 26. Secret 27. Etagere **Down** 1. Spill The Beans 2. Collard 3. U-Boat 4. Botanist 5. Ganesh 6. Esplanade 7. Voyager 10. Vicious Circle 14. No Brainer 16. Wiseacre 18. Ululate 20. Immerse 21. Forest 23. Zonda

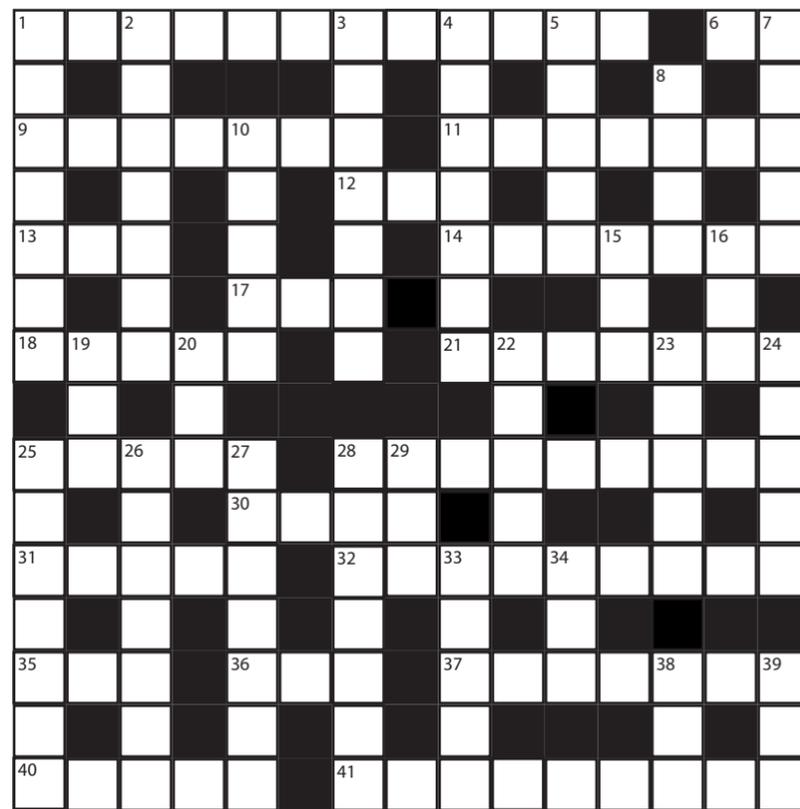
Going Underground

A	R	C	H	W	A	Y
3	15	12	12	9	5	18

Crossword

Across

1. A book of the Hebrew bible (12)
 6. Idiom: --- and behold (2)
 9. Dying from fright: scared --- (2,5)
 11. Try (7)
 12. A Pokemon (3)
 13. A school of Buddhism (3)
 14. Landed properties with large houses (7)
 17. Farewell (3)
 18. A Japanese beer (5)
 21. An inert medication; an English band (7)
 25. Mrs. --- A murder suspect in *Cluedo* (5)
 28. English Romantic poet (4, 5)
 30. Exhale hard (4)
 31. --- --- Time, a Radio 4 programme (2, 3)
 32. Taverns (9)
 35. A New Zealand parrot (3)
 36. An Australian ratite (3)
 37. A fish (7)
 40. Corroded (5)
 41. A medical procedure for looking inside organs (9)
- ### Down
1. External animal parasites (7)
 2. In music: an ornamental passage played/sung by a soloist (7)
 3. A figure in the Hebrew bible; believed to be Abraham's first born (7)
 4. A thorough reorganisation (7)
 5. Command: to consume an item (3,2)
 7. The man who said "I may be some time..." (5)
 8. A colloquial term for obscenity (4)
 10. A form of defence where the accused proves they were elsewhere at the time of the crime (5)
 15. Crescent (3)
 16. Flag, weaken (3)
 19. In music: the syllable naming the 5th note of any musical scale (3)
 20. Very warm (3)
 22. David ---, filmmaker (5)
 23. Tests (5)
 24. Watering hole (5)
 25. A feline facial hair (7)
 26. Lines connecting points of equal atmospheric pressure (7)
 27. Intoxication (7)
 28. Pen name of Elizabeth Thomson Clark, a Scottish playwright and poet (4,3)
 29. A nocturnal bird (3)
 33. An object in ancient Israelite culture (5)
 34. Unusual (3)
 38. Head of security for the space station *Deep Space Nine* (3)
 39. Pivotal, crucial (3)



Word Hunt

1. Absolutist
2. Adviser
3. Authoritarian
4. Autocrat
5. Boss
6. Chief
7. Commander
8. Despot
9. Dictator
10. Disciplinarian
11. Fascist
12. Hitler
13. Leader
14. Magnate
15. Mogul
16. Oligarch
17. Oppressor
18. Ringleader
19. Slavedriver
20. Totalitarian
21. Tycoon
22. Tyrant
23. Usurper



Pictogram

~ It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers ~

James Thurber



He proposed that science progresses in paradigm shifts and not in a continuous, linear fashion.

He was a philosopher of morality and emphasised the opposition of Apollonian and Dionysian dichotomy in art.

A student of Plato and credited with the earliest study of formal logic.

He said "I am thinking therefore I exist" and proposed the idea of methodological scepticism.

He is considered one of the founders of Western philosophy and is most famous for his dialectic method of inquiry, or elenchus.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

What's On

RCC Night Hike - Saturday 26th



It's always nice when the title of an event pretty much tells you everything you need to know

Still early in the night we were full of energy, bounding through the wood, with only moonlight to guide us... and our torches. The four of us were well stocked with chocolate to munch on, believed we knew how to use a map, and much good banter ensued. Perhaps too much, as soon we were facing the fence at the edge of a country house's garden, the only problem being that we were on the wrong side of the fence, having somehow ended up in their garden by accident! The night flew by, we raced our way to checkpoints, passing other teams dressed as ancient Romans, construction workers, glow ravers and the like! Tired but wide grinned we returned to the night hike base in time for a hearty cooked breakfast and prize winning...

The night hike is an annual event organised by the RCC (Recreational Clubs Committee), but it's open to anyone, as long as someone in your team (of 3-5) is a staff, student, PhD or alumnus of Imperial College. You get driven from Beit Quad (the Union, London) out to the great British countryside, armed with a map of various checkpoint locations you decide your own route – and you can go to as many or as few as you like, as long as your back on time before day light. Of course, the more checkpoints you visit the higher your score, but prizes are on offer for things like best fancy dress too. The night hike is always a good laugh with friends, and a bit of healthy exercise.

This year's hike is tomorrow, **Saturday 26th February**, and based amongst the rolling hills of Great Windsor Park, Berkshire; navigate your way through woodlands, over hills and between moon lit lakes. There's still time to enter a team – just visit the website for more information:

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike/>

This year prizes will be given out at the RCC bar night, this coming **Monday 28 February** from 7pm in the Union Bar, with great drinks deals on offer.

Joseph Rumer

Apply to be a Hall Senior

It's a great chance to be part of a fun community

Mevani Jagodage

With Hall Senior applications now open across the Imperial halls of residence, we thought it would be appropriate to fill you in on what it is really like to be a hall senior and our favourite experiences at Wilkinson Hall Eastside. As final year undergraduates at Imperial, we can honestly say it is a worthwhile experience. What first attracted us to apply here was the *joie de vivre* that seemed to emanate from Wilkinson! It was a hall that was clearly having fun. From the countless numbers of amazing people we have met to the epic events we have thrown, living in halls as a senior is an experience not to be missed!

Being a member of the warden-senior team is a unique experience and not everyone has the required skills-set to fulfil the role. A lot of hard work is put into being a senior and we believe the ethos of the halls is built from a strong warden-senior team, reflecting positively on the students who live in the halls. It is really an opportunity to welcome in freshers, share your experiences and make them feel comfortable in a new city, starting a new era of their lives.

The Wardening team at Wilkinson is one of the friendliest to be found in all of Imperial (and no, they're not bribing us to write this!). They are incredibly supportive of first year students and have a great sense of humour. It's during Senior Week that you really get to know your team and in our case, we bonded over Laser Quest and played rounders in the rain in Hyde Park. Moving in day was so much fun

Disha Dewan



You get to hang out with hot, young Freshers AND avoid the real world? Sign me up!

to prepare for, especially painting our amazing Wilkinson logo. We had to also organise a jam-packed schedule of events throughout the year to cater to different tastes. A small sample of events: Coming-up dinner at the Rembrandt; trips to the theatre (Les Miserables, Lion King and even Cirque du Soleil!); casino night with professional croupiers; overnight trip to Belgium; free Sunday breakfasts and monthly but-teries for the foodies.

So what skills are needed to ensure you survive as a senior? The most important is communication! Throughout the year you will be speaking to a lot of students, whether it is about their course, what to do in London or simply trying to persuade them to come to a hall event. Enthusiasm is also key, especially when it comes to ticket selling! Creativity is needed

for poster making; organisation when planning events; but simply being able to work in a team and get along with the many different types of people you will meet is essential.

If you think becoming a hall senior is for you then the deadline is approaching soon. We would definitely recommend it to anyone interested but remember it is not just a way to live in halls for another year; we look for serious candidates and only the best are chosen. If you want to make a few hundred new friends and live in a fun environment, this is definitely the place to be! We wish you all the best and look forward to meeting you at the Eastside interviews.

P.S. In case you don't know, Wilkinson Hall is located in Princes Gardens, a stone's throw away from the gym and the college!

Picocon 2011, the verdict: Fantastic

Maciej Matuszewski

Last week I attended my first Picocon, Imperial College Science Fiction and Fantasy Society's annual one-day convention. Having seen committee members preparing for months and having read accounts of previous Picocons my expectations were understandably high and I'm happy to say that I wasn't disappointed.

The day began with fascinating talks from each of the three guests of honour. Kari Sperring, a medieval historian whose debut fantasy novel was published two years ago, spoke about her early influences from Tolkien and Dumas, and how she set out to become a writer. Paul McAuley, the acclaimed hard science fiction writer, talked about how he wrote his books 'backwards', starting with a setting and adapting his story and characters to fit it. In particular he concentrated on the outer Solar System, the setting to his landmark novel "The Quiet War". Juliet E. McKenna, the prolific fantasy author, also talked about her writing process, focusing on how SF and fantasy authors need to do large amounts of research to make their settings, and whatever magic or science they

chose to use, seem plausible to the readers.

This was followed by a heated panel discussion on the topic "Steampunk, Harmless Fun or Silly Self-Indulgence?", which was joined by previous guests of honour Amanda Hemmingway and Jaime Fenn. The panel was quick to condemn modern examples of the genre as being simple nostalgia for the nineteenth century, ignoring the poverty, dirt and disease of that time. They compared them with earlier authors who used steampunk to highlight problems with society and treated the genre more seriously. It was pointed out that many people don't even consider this new wave of works to be steampunk, preferring to call it 'gaslight fantasy'.

For me the highlight of the day was the traditional Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise, where convention attendees bid at a charity auction for the right to take the aforementioned dodgy merchandise home or see it destroyed by liquid nitrogen, bolt cutters and a large sledgehammer. A notoriously bad Star Wars TV-movie starring the Ewoks was saved from the destruction, with the winner promising to send the society pictures of the reaction

of the person they were going to give it to as a present. One of the highest bids, £40.30, was for scriptwriter and past guest of honour Paul Cornell to destroy a figurine of the Hulk on a quad bike. The successful bidder dragged Cornell out the Union Bar and he performed his task quite admirably, shattering the Hulk into tiny pieces.

Other activities throughout the day included a LAN gaming session, which concluded with a tournament on the acclaimed nuclear war simulator DEFCON. DEFCON's designer, Introversion, which was founded by Imperial students, provided tins containing its entire games catalogue to the three winners. Metric was filled with stalls selling official Picocon T-shirts, books, live action role playing equipment and copies of the award winning anthology magazine "Murky Depths". The day finished off with a fiendishly difficult quiz.

I spent more than ten hours at Picocon, surely the best indication of how good it was. All of the record number of over 200 attendees seemed to share my opinion. If you missed out this year be sure to check it out next time. You won't regret it.

SPORT

Gaelic Sports: Football go to Birmingham

Edward Fitzpatrick

Imperial Gaelic footballers travelled down to Birmingham to meet their counter parts from across the Isles to compete in the biggest event on the calendar – the British Universities Championships.

The infamous weekend of football began with high spirits and an appropriate meal on the Friday, the general mood calm and collected, this with the knowledge of a strong and deep squad furthered any previous prospect of victory. A DVD of one of the greatest displays in footballing history, the 2005 All-Ireland final, was the catalyst of choice for the evening. Tournament coordinator, Shane O'Hanlon, phoned and informed captain Fitzpatrick of some registry issues, IC had to forfeit three pivotal players, Sean Dunne, Will Seez and club stoat, Frank O'Neill. Though a scar on the face would not damage any desires for IC, the reliable squad members Paddy Heugh, Luke Johnston and Toby Davies stepped in and ensured a

strong starting team for the morning.

A 5am start is never a pretty experience, throw in some Baltic conditions, a driver who hasn't heard of a clutch or gears lower than 3rd and an angry Yettie McCann - it's not anymore prepossessing. Having said that, the sky became a lighter shade of grey and tunes were banging as the men powered up the M1, the humour loudened. Like wizards they arrived precisely when they meant to, ready for the tournament of the year.

In the draw the night before Imperial were pulled out of the hat alongside Lincoln, Sterling, Rennes and Teesside. Having no idea of what the competition was like, even having played Sterling the previous year, nobody can guess what the turnover of players is like; it was imperative to watch all the games and devise some tactics from the sideline. So it began, game one.

Lincoln 0:00 - 0:03 Imperial

The awkward debacle of the two teams sporting royal blue was resolved by a

coin toss forcing IC to play in an unspoilt, all-white away kit. McCann and Roche harmonized to win the initial tussle at the throw in, a ball was delivered directly into the arms of Niall O'Hara, McCann followed on and his work was rewarded with a fine score from 20 yards. This early dominance and networking between the midfield and forwards tamed the opposition for a while. Fitzpatrick floated one over from a set piece, thereafter was replaced by Luke Johnston due to a niggling hamstring. The rest of the first half was more of a tennis rally with no team able to penetrate the others defense.

With IC only two points up going into the second half, it was imperative to get more scores on the board as a goal for Lincoln would have put them in the lead. The solid wall of Clancy and O'Driscall in the full back line cancelled any scoring opportunities that arose for Lincoln. Imperial's all important score came when an accurate kick out from Harry Evans was won by the determination of



What's that? You want to know what happened next, find out next week

Doolan; rising above his man, beating him and laying it off to playmaker Niall O'Hara whom after selling a handsome dummy pointed from distance.

Changing back to Blue, Imperials next opponents came in the form of Scotsmen

Sterling 0:00 - 2:03 Imperial

Unable to win the opening battle, Sterling got in on the breaking ball from the throw in – a shock to system for the Blues however the defense bounced back and disposed the Greens. The IC defense governed the play in the first half, Mick McGarvey, O'Hare and James S. snatching any loose balls coming their way, coinciding with the strong hands and determinant runs from player of the tournament, Paddy Comerford, the IC forwards could do some dam-

age. Introducing danger man Heugh into the full forward line ensured two robust goals from his left boot, conserving his reputation.

The adversaries were ruthless, though dirty in their tackling so gave away many fouls and those closer to the goal mouth Ed Fitzpatrick confidently, could ease the frees between the posts and over the black spot. Doolan eventually added the terminating point to the scoreboard with Evans keeping yet another clean sheet.

The following game would best go unmentioned even in The Times. Opponents were in the form of the well-travelled French team minus one or five, roll up the Rennes Ten.

Find out how they did in the rest of the tournament in next week's Daily Felix

Time to bring **The Bottle** home

Ben Moorhouse previews the 2011 Bottle Match

As another year quickly slips before our hands, it is already February and for the Royal School of Mines it is one of the most important months of the year. It is the month when the Bottle Match falls and is a weekend looked forward to by all past and present Miners, but what is the Bottle Match and where did it start from?

For those not in the know, the Bottle Match is actually quite old...to be precise it is 109 years old this year and is the 2nd oldest university varsity match in the country after Oxbridge! The match is between the Royal School of Mines against their constant rivals in Cornwall, Camborne School of Mines. The match began in 1906 on 16th December 1907 with the two sides battling it out on the rugby field for respect and glory for their institution. It wasn't until 1926 that the varsity match got its name, when some RSM students stole a 3 ft Bottle from a Bass Brewery lorry (showing students have always been badly behaved...in contrary to many newspapers' views of students) and this was adorned with the two colleges' crests and presented as a trophy for the winners of the match. The

Bottle Match was born!

With time the match slowly started to incorporate more sports to show the diversity of the colleges with football, mens & ladies hockey, squash, and golf. There are trophies for all the sports ranging in age from the Sharpley Cup presented by a RSM alumnus in the 1950s for the Mens hockey winner to the Golders Cup that was presented by the Golders Association in the 1990s. This may seem like the match is stagnant but new sports are being added to the varsity match and helping to invigorate the atmosphere with new blood. Netball was added last year and this year Basketball is being trialled for the first time.

Last year was a disappointing year for the RSM with only the newly formed Netball team winning their game against CSM. Even the Royal School of Mines Rugby team that tends to always retain the Bottle, with them winning the bottle 12 out of 14 years that included a 10 year winning run from 1997-2006, went onto lose 13-0 in a bitter boggy game. However with last year in mind, all of the RSM's teams have been training hard for the Bottle Match with some success stories throughout the season including ladies

hockey coming second in their league and vying for promotion again. The football team making it all the way to their ULU division cup final. And finally the rugby team looking stronger, faster and more deadly than ever before (I'm sure Martin Johnson will enforce the England rugby squad to watch the Bottle Match for tactics and inspiration before their crunch game against France that day). So we look forward to the weekend when over 180 players will compete, more than 200 supporters will attend and hopefully the chant "Oh RSM" will be resounding well into the night at Metric.

Schedule

FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Basketball - 18:00
Netball - 20:00

SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Ladies Hockey - 09:00
Mens Hockey - 10:30
Football - 12:00
The Bottle Match - 14:00

Aftermatch party in Metric from 21:00



In Monday's Issue...

Yes, you did read that correctly, our next issue is on MONDAY!

Bottle Match reports

Yes that's right, if all goes to plan then we should have reports from the games being played this weekend. With the mighty RSM bring the Bottle back to its rightful place behind the Union Bar? Find out on Monday. If any of you are taking photos this weekend, we would love you long time if you sent some good ones to us.

BUCS Tennis

The Men's 1st team are away to Exter for the BUCS Trophy. Can the boys build on their amazing performance over the last two seasons?

ULU Hockey

The Men's 1st team play King's Medicals in the ULU Premiership this weekend. Can they get a repeat 4-3 win from earlier this season, or will Captain Ewan Quince and the rest of the boys give them a good trashing?

SPORT

Felix Sports League
sponsored by



ERNST & YOUNG
Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing M1	8	8	0	0	960	757	203	5.00
2 Basketball M1	8	8	0	0	607	467	140	5.00
3 Fencing W1	7	7	0	0	940	497	443	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	6	6	0	0	94	8	86	5.00
5 Water Polo W1	5	4	1	0	72	12	60	4.40
6 Volleyball M1	10	9	0	1	19	4	15	4.10
7 Volleyball W1	10	9	0	1	18	4	14	4.10
8 Tennis M1	10	8	1	1	76	44	32	3.80
9 Lacrosse W1	7	6	0	1	103	27	76	3.71
10 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
11 ICSM Netball W1	10	8	0	2	399	269	130	3.20
12 Squash W1	10	8	0	2	31	8	23	3.20
13 Basketball W1	5	4	0	1	229	178	51	3.20
14 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	20	5	15	3.20
15 Hockey W1	9	7	0	2	53	16	37	3.00
16 Lacrosse M1	8	6	0	2	117	74	43	2.75
17 Netball W1	11	8	0	3	457	310	147	2.55
18 Rugby M1	10	7	0	3	217	143	74	2.30
19 ICSM Hockey W1	7	4	1	2	25	15	10	2.00
20 ICSM Football M1	7	4	1	2	23	14	9	2.00
21 Hockey M1	7	4	1	2	22	17	5	2.00
22 ICSM Hockey M3	6	4	0	2	11	19	-8	2.00
23 ICSM Rugby M3	8	5	0	3	168	209	-41	1.63
24 Badminton M1	10	4	3	3	44	36	8	1.40
25 Tennis W1	5	3	0	2	30	30	0	1.40
26 Hockey M2	9	4	2	3	16	23	-7	1.33
27 Netball W3	7	4	0	3	231	168	63	1.14
28 Hockey M3	7	2	3	2	6	5	1	1.14
29 Football M1	10	5	1	4	27	17	10	1.10
30 Badminton W1	10	5	1	4	34	46	-12	1.10
31 Fencing M2	9	5	0	4	1017	994	23	1.00
32 Netball W2	8	4	0	4	295	333	-38	0.50
33 ICSM Netball W4	6	3	0	3	152	149	3	0.50
34 ICSM Badminton W1	7	2	2	3	29	33	-4	0.29
35 ICSM Badminton M1	8	3	1	4	24	40	-16	0.13
36 ICSM Netball W2	9	4	0	5	282	298	-16	0.00
37 Fencing W2	9	4	0	5	1026	1051	-25	0.00
38 ICSM Hockey M1	7	3	0	4	13	14	-1	-0.14
39 ICSM Hockey M2	8	2	2	4	12	24	-12	-0.25
40 ICSM Football M2	5	2	0	3	14	16	-2	-0.40
41 Football W1	5	2	0	3	11	15	-4	-0.40
42 Badminton M2	8	3	0	5	33	31	2	-0.63
43 Football M2	9	4	0	7	12	27	-15	-0.89
44 Ice Hockey Mx2	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	-1.00
45 Water Polo M1	2	0	1	1	13	18	-5	-1.00
46 ICSM Hockey W3	3	1	0	2	3	13	-10	-1.00
47 Ice Hockey Mx1	6	2	0	4	24	41	-17	-1.00
48 ICSM Rugby M1	9	2	1	6	144	279	-135	-1.33
49 Squash M3	7	2	0	5	10	23	-13	-1.43
50 Fencing M3	7	2	0	5	755	843	-88	-1.43
51 ICSM Rugby M2	10	2	1	7	172	344	-172	-1.60
52 Squash M4	4	1	0	3	5	7	-2	-1.75
53 ICSM Hockey W2	8	2	0	6	20	39	-19	-1.75
54 Hockey W2	8	2	0	6	10	32	-22	-1.75
55 Rugby M3	8	2	0	6	66	281	-215	-1.75
56 ICSM Badminton M2	5	1	0	4	14	26	-12	-2.20
57 Rugby W1	6	1	0	5	76	195	-119	-2.50
58 Rugby M2	12	2	0	10	168	320	-152	-2.50
59 Football M3	7	1	0	6	13	24	-11	-2.71
60 Hockey M4	7	1	0	6	8	19	-11	-2.71
61 Rugby M4	7	1	0	6	49	295	-246	-2.71
62 Tennis M2	6	0	1	5	14	57	-43	-3.00
63 Squash M2	10	1	0	9	11	39	-28	-3.10
64 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
65 ICSM Netball W3	7	0	0	7	134	257	-123	-4.00

5 points for a win | 2 points for a draw | -4 points for a loss

Ice Hockey: Oxford falls to the power of the Devils

Will Mason

Ice Hockey

IC A's 7 - 3 Oxford

Imperial Devils A were confident on the back of their recent win against Kent Knights and were prepared to dish out some punishment to Oxford who had beaten them in the first game of the season. The roster was uncertain as many players had other commitments, including exams the following day. Nevertheless a strong team showed up at Oxford, ready to take the fight to the Vikings.

Within moments of the match commencing Devils' Centre, D. Belair (81), was called for roughing and proceeded to the sin bin. The Devils held out for the Penalty Kill, and shortly afterwards D. Belair scored his first (unassisted) at 7 minutes. The Vikings, perturbed, conceded again within minutes to first-time scorer Tim Runcorn (36) Club President, assisted by Lohner (67) and Grant (14). Determined not to concede again, Oxford woke up and contested the puck much more for the rest of the period. Despite several opportunities including Power Plays, the Devils could not add to their lead.

In the absence of Coach Coolegem, it fell to Team Captain Ed Grant to analyse the situation at the intermission. The focus was to convert more of the opportunities into shots and shots into goals. The team clearly took this onboard as the Devils scored again within 5 minutes, by Benani-Kamane (2). At this point the Vikings were visibly angry and with the Devils making good but fair physical play they were determined to hit back. Increasingly heated play culminated in a nightmare for the Devils with a simultaneous double penalty to Benani-Kamane and S. Belair (1) for roughing. In a disastrous 5 on 3 situation it was seconds before Oxford netted a goal. With one penalty cut short, the Devils were able to hold off 5 on 4 until back to full strength. Benani-Kamane shortly made up for his transgressions by slotting a fourth goal for the Devils to increase their lead. The intensity remained high but the period ended with no more penalties, just a parting goal by Benani-Kamane to make a hat-trick, this time assisted by Grant.

Comfortably 5-1 up the Devils were cautious about relaxing and knew they would be tested in the third period. This proved to be the case as 1 minute into the third Oxford scored. Another penalty for S. Belair for cross-checking and Oxford capitalised on the Power Play to score a third. The game seemed to be slipping away, especially as Goalie Collins (38) had been making some great saves. However, before long Oxford were similarly penalised for cross-checking and D. Belair scored on the Power Play, assisted by Halford (77). Back in the hunt, more raw passion was dumped into an already heated game. Roughing was called twice, once against Oxford and moments later against the Devils. The Vikings, if not already beaten, were subsequently broken as D. Belair forced a breakaway and scored a short-handed goal. With tension mounting by the second



Everyone stop! My contact lens has fallen out, I know its around here somewhere

nerves ran high and the final play resulted in an interference penalty for Oxford and a 10 minute game misconduct against Devils' Be-

nani-Kamane. At 2 seconds remaining this was purely academic and the game was another victory for Devils A.

Netball: Fantastic fours surreptitiously steal the show...

Feroza Kassam

Netball

IC 4s 27 - 26 Queen Marys 4s

Victory rarely tastes so sweet as when you spend 59 minutes behind on goals, only to seal the deal in the dying seconds. The ICs 4s appetite was whetted for the run up to the end of the season when they did just that against their visitors, Queen Marys 4s.

The writing was on the wall, as these gorgeous girlies, in short skirts and tight lycra, faced defeat against QM 3s just eight days ago. Keen to get our own back, we were disappointed to lose the centre draw and concede straight off the first whistle, but were determined to keep our chins up and our heads in the game.

Grit and determination was rife on the faces of the home side, and as the pressure started to mount on the visitors, things started to get a little heated.

The first quarter was end-to-end; a close finish with QM up 9-7, but with everything still to play for.

Tactical changes saw Captain Emma Oakton push forward to centre and impact sub Chloe Man come on to strengthen the defence. Despite our best efforts, the strength of the QM side was evident and they began to break away

to finish the first half up 22-16.

The IC half time talk needed to muster up immense courage and resilience to hold off the QM offensive. It really was a game of two halves, with IC basking in the limelight now. Deep in defence, Alex Hamilton repeatedly plucked the ball from the air and Laura Elliott, with her long, tanned legs, leapt to intercept. Sabrina Maas tracked back well on the QM centre passes, her luscious blonde hair blowing in the breeze, giving their WA no room to manoeuvre. And what a performance in attack, with Ayumi moving beautifully around the circle and Nancy Edge receiving the well-deserved accolade of Player of the Match.

The frustration of the visitors culminated with their chunky WD, on losing the ball to an IC free position and in a fit of rage, slamming the ball at the feet of our shell shocked WA, Feroza Kassam. This resulted in a two goal sending off; a punishment rarely seen in ULU Netball.

This didn't do much to stifle the temper of QM nor the fiery passion of IC, and the final quarter saw the home side knocking on the door to victory. The wise adage, 'it's not over till it's over' really rang true, with the IC ladies gaining ground in the last quarter; suavely scoring the winner as the final whistle blew.

SPORT

Boat Club bring in 111 BUCS points at muddy Peterborough

...Continued from Back Page
Men's Championship quad (Sullivan/ Goodier/ Hudson/ Steele) and the Lightweight Four (Pearson/ T Richards/ Kimberley/ Brown) were back on the water and were bringing home more medals; silver and gold respectively, with the lightweights having a lead of 35 seconds on every other crew.

The start of the second division also marked the arrival of the women's squadron whose Championship quad (Chloe Symmonds/ Louise Connell/ Christina Duffy/ Selina Graham) campaign didn't quite go to plan when a log tangled itself around the fin and gave the crew an extra deadweight to lug down the course, costing them vital time. Despite this, the girls managed a very respectable sixth place and increased the total BUCS points. It was then their turn to de-rig and re-rig their quad to a four

(Symmonds/ Connell/ Duffy/ Graham) and rapidly returned to the river for their next race, which they successfully smashed to bring home another bronze medal for the club.

By the time of the third division, 10km had already been raced flat out by many members of ICBC, and yet the most important race of the day (to many) was yet to come – Men's eights. On the way to the start, both ICBC crews kept the pressure light to let the aching legs attempt to recover before smashing it down the course for a second or third time. The Intermediate eight (cox: Johnson/ Pearson/ T Richards/ Bellion/ Lea-Wilson/ Seward/ Brown/ Lunt/ Jones) had an eventful finish to the race as they ambitiously attempted to overtake two crews at once but unfortunately this ended in a clash with Newcastle, causing Lunt to crab and break his footplate in one fell

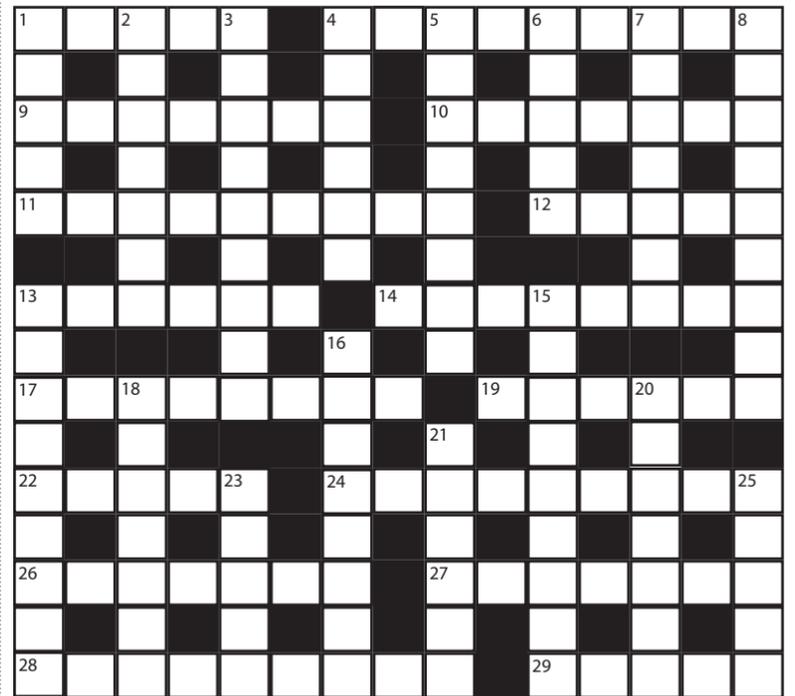
swoop 200m from the finish. Despite the theatrics, the bronze medal was theirs. The Championship eight (cox: L Richards/ Whaley/ Sullivan/ Spencer-Jones/ Goodier/ Steele/ Hudson/ Kimberley/ Carrington) were confident in their own abilities and Whaley urged the boys to focus on their rowing and rhythm and see just what they could do. The crew looked solid down the last 750m, holding their form, and were praised and cheered on from the bank. All the effort paid off and the silver medal was theirs, behind the Cambridge Blue Boat, all of whom had not raced earlier in the day.

In one of the club's most successful weekends, Imperial was the second university overall and every senior man walked away with a medal from each event he entered. At the start of the Head Race season, all wait with baited breath what ICBC can achieve next.



I'm sure there are supposed to be other boats racing against us...

Cryptic Crossword 1,484



Across

1. Bear extreme paranoia (5)
4. Leader of slaves in fight showing thanks before endless swearing (9)
9. No space for Jedi in African city (7)
10. Staggering arm belt showing light (7)
11. Bolt to draw nearer (5,4)
12. Young one with everything left missing. EVERYTHING! (5)
13. Drops off with the Spanish vehicle (6)
14. fans of gruesome demises (3,5)
17. Syntax far from positron, for instance (8)
19. Protean bizarrely missing a head (6)
22. Principle accepted as true whichever way you look at it (5)
24. Tell of reputation twice/second (4,5)
26. Toilet for Northern Irish queen who's crazier (7)
27. Loved one and girl set out (7)
28. Must commit to half of oblong, incomplete, for roof (9)
29. Loathesome dynast cut in two in New York (5)

Down

1. Harshly criticise Imperial, overcome by a sudden fear (5)
2. Nauseating moose in shambles (7)
3. Redemption by prayer containing emphasis on temptation primarily (9)
4. Outfit for headless date (6)
5. Place that's missing from world map containing books and me (8)
6. Appeal to interim worker for Tango (5)
7. Note fastball by fraudster (7)
8. Gets comfortable enough to confess in church, perhaps? (7,2)
13. Renaissance artist to put on a chronicle about nothing (9)
15. Crime a baseball player may do? (3,3,3)
16. Familiar story for one checked by Criminal Records Bureau in store...(4,4)
18. ...Until gets info about metal cover... (3,4)
20. ...Covering dinners, leftovers (7)
21. Result of dress mud gets on a little bit? (6)
23. Implement subtle gravity (5)
25. Soaked horse in herb enclosure (5)

Fixtures & Results

in association with

Saturday 22 January	Sunday 23 January	Monday 24 January	WATERPOLO ULU	FENCING	LACROSSE	Women's 1s	15
BASKETBALL ULU	HOCKEY ULU	BADMINTON ULU	Men's 1s 9	Men's 2s 94	Men's 1st 14	Royal Holloway 1s	56
Women's 1s 31	Men's 2s 3	Mixed 1s 4	St Bart's 2s 3	University of Kent 1s 133	Royal Holloway 1s 2	SQUASH	Men's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
LSE 1s 48	St George's Hospital Medical School 1s 1	King's College London Medical School 1s 5	Wednesday 26 January		Women's 2s 64	University of Sussex 2s 0	Women's 1st vs Queen Mary University of London 1st
FOOTBALL ULU	LACROSSE ULU	NETBALL ULU	BADMINTON	UCL 1s 135	University of Essex 40	TENNIS	Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
Men's 1s 4	Mixed 1s 18	Women's 2s 33	Men's 1s 4	Portsmouth 4s 0	University of Essex 38	Men's 1s 8	LSE 4
St Bart's 1s 1	St Bart's 1s 9	Imperial Medicals 3s 38	University of Hertfordshire 4	FOOTBALL	Women's 2s 2	Women's 1s 34	FOOTBALL ULU
Men's 3s 7	WATERPOLO	Women's 3s 17	Women's 1st 4	Men's 2s 4	UCL 1s 2	King's College London 1s 8	Men's 1st vs SOAS 1st
South Bank 1s 0	Men's 1s 8	RUMS 3s 21	King's College London Medical School 1s 4	Portsmouth 4s 0	King's College London 39	Women's 1s 4	Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 2nd
Men's 4s 2	University of Warwick 1s 8	SQUASH ULU	BASKETBALL	HOCKEY	Women's 1s 10	King's College London 39	Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 2nd
RUMS 2s 1		Men's 4s 0	Men's 1s 76	Men's 1s 4	King's College London 39		
Men's 5s 2		King's College London 2s 5	Roehampton University 1s 65	King's Medical 1s 3			
LSE 5s 1		Women's 1s 5		RUGBY	Men's 1s 26	Saturday 29 January	Men's 3rd vs Queen Mary University of London 2nd
Men's 7s 3		RUMS 1s 0		St Bart's 1s 7	Men's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st	FENCING	
St Bart's 3s 1				St George's School 1			

Boat Club bring in 111 BUCS points

Elizabeth Richards

The River Nene has been kind to ICBC on occasions, and this year's BUCS 4s and 8s Head was one of those as success after success was had over the weekend. Every crew entered were in the top ten of their event, 111 BUCS points were won from the club's performance in the Championship events and the medal haul was impressive with 4 golds, 2 silvers and 4 bronzes awarded.

It was an early start on the cold wet Saturday morning as the ICBC Novice Squadron made their way to Peterborough for the first day of racing, which is dedicated solely to Beginners. Once assembled on the boggy banks of the river with boats rigged, the Team Chat was given by coaches Don McLachlan, Stu Whitelaw and Dougie Thoms. The first races were for the women's four (Harriet Cross/ Maddy Whybrow/ Rosie Davies/ Sarah Tattersall/ cox: Libby Richards) and the men's eight (cox: Jess Johnson/ Tommy Hirst/ Tom McArdle/ Xavier Lorrain/ Tom Carpenter/ Alex Quigley/ Mattieu Burnard-Galpin/ Robbie Hernandez/ Reuben Hill). As they boated, with the rain pouring down, the 2.5km race ahead suddenly seemed much further.

All was going well in the men's eight as lengths of clear water were put on crews around them until the final 500m, when an unfortunate crab by the strokeman cost the crew valuable seconds and they finished 8th in their category. In the meantime, the women's four were storming down the course, avoiding crews crashing all around and crossed the line, snatching the bronze medal in the process. In the second division, four further members were added to the women's four to make the eight (Cox: Alice Wickham/ Rowena Harrison/ Tattersall/ Davies/

Rio Stoddart/ Cross/ Joanna Taylor/ Whybrow/ Lucy Adkins) who came 9th overall. In the meantime, the men's four (Hirst/ McArdle/ Lorrain/ Carpenter/ cox: Johnson) were hindered once again, this time off the start, by some "week-old novices" and yet still managed to take 6th place.

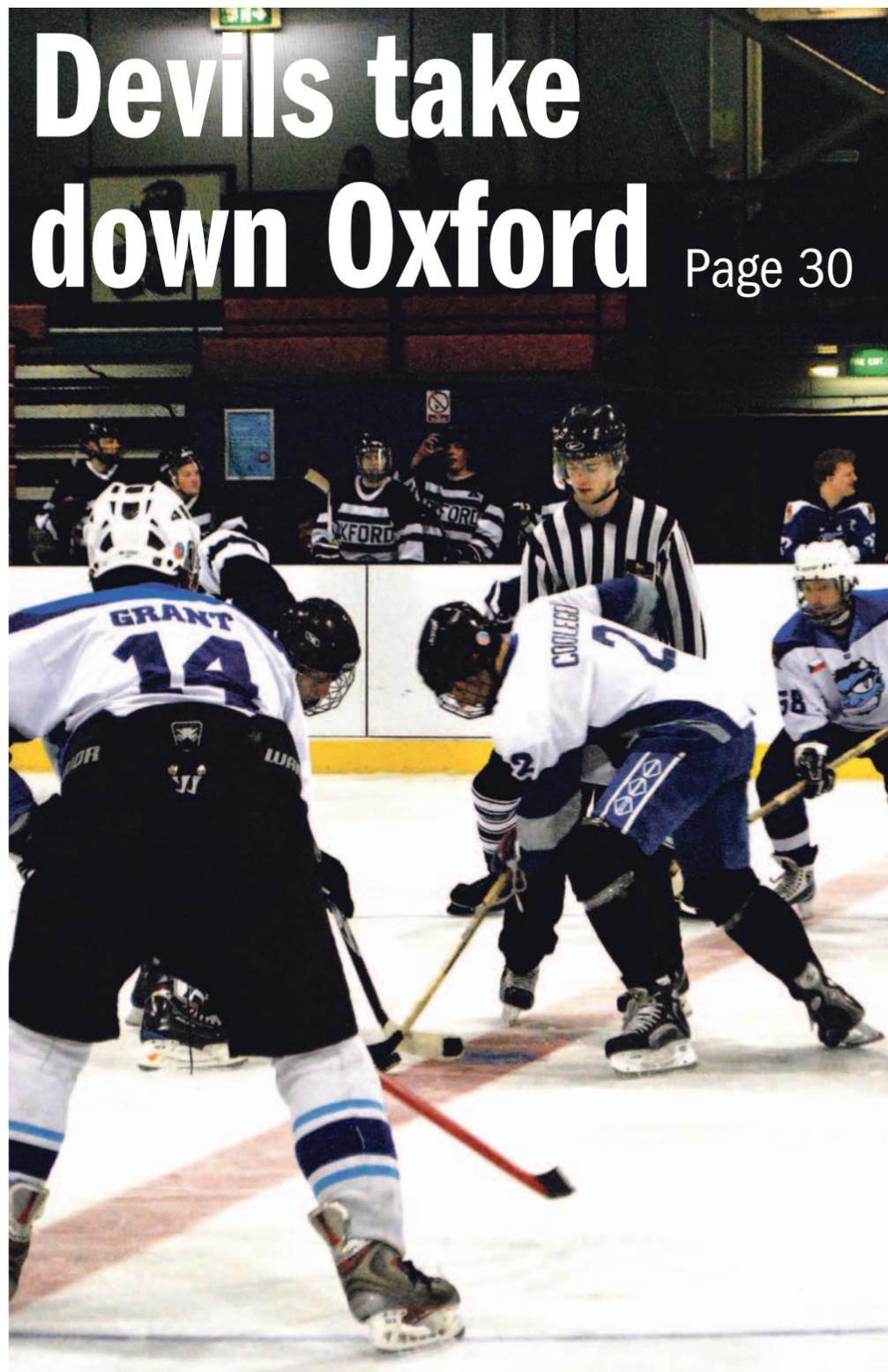
On Sunday, the senior rowers awoke to dry skies and all were feeling relatively positive. On arrival at the course, it was obvious why the locals refer to it as Peter-bog-rough Head; the field had become a mire overnight. Unaffected, all of the seniors boated for the first division. The Championship and Intermediate head is run over double the distance (5km) of the Beginner Head and, immediately, the squad started as they meant to go on, bringing home three golds and a bronze. The lightweight quad (Tom Pearson/ Tim Richards/ Wilf Kimberley/ Gareth Brown) was the fastest boat of the division, winning their category in 11 seconds ahead of every other. The coxless four (Danny Bellion/ Henry Goodier/ Matt Whaley/ Rory Sullivan) won their category by another convincing 9 seconds ahead of arch-rivals, Durham. Another gold was won by IC's Intermediate coxed four (Adam Seward/ Jake Leawilson/ Matt Lunt/ Paul Jones/ cox: Jess Johnson,) who overtook the boat ahead within 200m from the start. The Championship coxed four (Simon Steele/ Alistair Hudson/ Ben Spencer-Jones/ Leo Carrington/ cox: Libby Richards) started first in their division and brought home the bronze medal.

As soon as the first division was complete, preparation for the second began. Frantic re-rigging of the lightweight quad to a coxless four and the heavyweight four to a quad was required once the boats were off the water. In the blink of an eye, the

...Continued on Page 31

Devils take down Oxford

Page 30

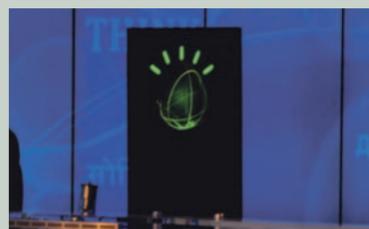


SCIENCE



Nipple transplants make you slim?
 Unlikely: [Page 6](#)

TECHNOLOGY



IBM's computer kicks ass at Jeopardy: [Page 8](#)

ARTS



Is climate change our new religion?: [Page 14](#)

FILM



Beat the Bush Administration: [Page 20](#)

TRAVEL



Argentina's answer to the Lake District: [Page 23](#)