

felix

The student newspaper of
Imperial College London

Freshers' Special Issue
Friday 21 September 2007
felixonline.co.uk



Welcome to the beginning of the rest of your life

Welcome to Imperial and to the Freshers' Special Edition of Felix, jam packed full of truly useful information on how to survive Freshers' Week and the rest of the year

If you're reading this then you've successfully made it to Imperial. Well done. You'll have worked very hard to make it to Imperial and now you're here, that's not set to change any time soon as you most probably realise.

That doesn't mean you're necessarily destined to a life of books, lectures and labs. When you picked Imperial as your higher education institute of choice, its location must have played a part in your decision making process. London is teeming with people, activities

and things to do. Get out there and explore. Visit the famous landmarks and soak it all up, but don't forget the little guy holed up off the beaten track. There are so many little gems to discover: record shops owned by passionate music aficionados, cosy night clubs hidden away in the city's alcoves, bunny-chow restaurants where a meal costs you a pittance and so much more that's undiscovered. Arguably, there isn't a more diverse mix of people and things to enjoy in one place on Earth and perhaps in the universe.

Closer to home we have the Union

and its array of societies. Make sure you turn up to Freshers' Fair. The clubs and societies will be fighting for you to join them. Indulge them in their methods of grabbing your attention and pop your name and email address down for at least a few of them.

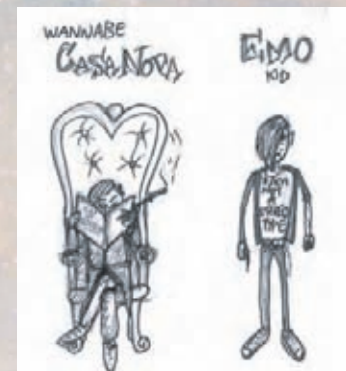
Of course, the Felix stand located next to the Queen's Tower should be your first port of call. Whether you're a budding journalist or if you want to become a staff writer and just contribute from time-to-time throughout the various different section, we want to hear from you.

Don't wait for university to come to you, grab hold of it and run like a mad man high on meths. Saying that, it can be difficult to know where to start and that's where the Union comes in to help. The Sabbatical Officers that you'll be hearing about throughout the year are there to represent the student body. If you need information on clubs, your hall of residence, money, your health or anything else you can think of, they are there to help. So use them!

Anyway, Enjoy the issue and more importantly your time at Imperial. Welcome!

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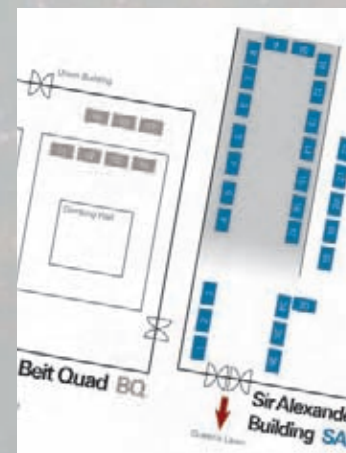
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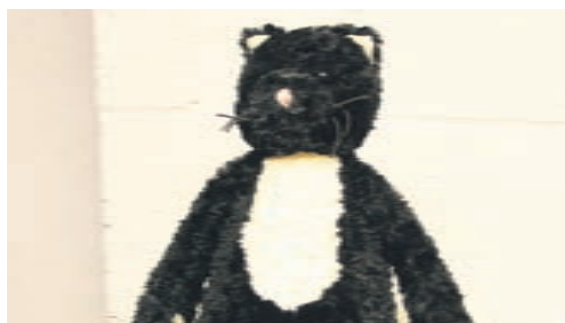
The Union President and ex-Felix Sport and Comment Editor **Steve Brown** writes about his time with Felix

Writing for Felix is perhaps one of the most illuminating activities you can get up to at Imperial. At times it can be thankless, particularly during those long winter nights when you have an irate editor bearing down on you glaring impatiently at his watch and muttering something about deadlines.

Felix plays a crucial role in holding College and Union sabbaticals to account and the beauty of Felix is that it can do it with a giant helping of irreverence and general ass-hattery. I had a lot of fun over the past 2 years coming down to the Felix Office (in the west basement of Beit Quad) to hear how the editor intended to lambaste those incompetent buffoons up in the sabbatical offices or expose anything that College were doing that we didn't rate too highly.

The first editor I worked with was Rupert "if there is no news we'll create some" Neate. Under Rupert's stewardship this newspaper was the proud winner of the Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year award and dear old Rupert now goes about his days safe in the knowledge that a mere mention of his name still causes shivers in the Faculty Building. Needless to say both the College and the 2005/06 Sabbatical Officers took a slightly less charitable view of Rupert's unique skills than The Guardian's awards panel.

Working for Felix means you also get to make friends with lots of other section editors, most of whom you probably wouldn't have met and you do get involved in some entertaining banter.



Clockwise from top left: The dons' desks, the futsal table (it's free, come and play us!), Felix the Cat kicking back and finally, the media award box without said award. When we find out who took that...

For example if you are in a mischievous mood after a long day and want to annoy the Environmental Editors just keep threatening to write lots of articles praising Jeremy Clarkson's views on global warming, organic food and Greenpeace. By far the best (not that I am biased or anything) section to write for is Sport. What better way is there to console yourself/celebrate after a defeat/victory than insulting your opponents mum/ability to defend in print?

If all out confrontation with your fel-

low students isn't really your thing then I'd recommend that you come and offer your services to the Food, Arts, Film or Music editors. These guys give you a brilliant deal. They give you free tickets to various cultural happenings and all they expect in return is a 500 word rundown of how brilliant (or crap) it was. Felix also had a travel section for a brief period but it never really got off the ground after the newspaper realised the most glamorous destination it could afford to send some writers

was Slough. On reflection I suppose this exercise was a useful illustration of the interaction between youthful idealism and harsh reality that always seems to creep into anything that Student Unions do.

That's about all the shameless plugs for Felix I can fit in to one article. It is remarkable that Imperial has such a successful independent press given that we don't have a ready supply of the so-called "full time" students (Historians, whinging faced Politics hacks

etc) who traditionally dominate campus media. Felix aims to be as inclusive as possible and always welcomes new volunteers with little regard for whether or not you are actually any good at writing. If you are not a confident writer we offer all students the opportunity to contribute to the student newspaper by appearing as a Page 3 model. Please give Felix a visit during Freshers Fayre if you are interested in finding out how a newspaper runs and want to get involved.

I've already done my spiel about the Union in the handbook and have lovingly prepared various slide shows about the services we offer that I will talk to you about at one of the welcome meetings. I remember from my first week at Imperial I got to the end of it suffering from information overload (as well as a lack of sleep) so I'll do my best to cover what you need to know as briefly as possible.

The Deputy Presidents and I are paid to take a year out of our studies to assist you with anything and everything to do with your time at Imperial. From assisting you to organise social events right down to sorting out any academic problems you might encounter we are here to help so don't hesitate to email us with your concerns or visit us in person in our offices on the 1st floor of the Union building.

I suppose that all there is left to say is have an awesome time during your first week at Imperial. My one tip would be that if you want to avoid the infamous "freshers flu" eat lots of fruit and catch up on sleep where possible. I look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and months.

felix needs you!

Felix is written by students for students. We need your contributions so that we can report on news stories and keep everybody entertained during the most arduous of lectures.

Everyone is welcome to contribute to any section and you can even create a new section, but we particularly need:

News reporters to get out and about on the prowl
Feature writers to research and create unique articles
Design editors to lay out lovely looking pages
Comment columnists to rant, rave and write entertaining pieces
Food and fashion contributors to enlighten people
Crossword setters to set cryptic or quick crosswords
Proof readers with an eagle-eye for grammar mistakes

Come and see us at **Freshers' Fair** next to the **Queen's Tower**.

The Freshers' Special was brought to you by:

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We're at your beck and call

Kirsty Patterson
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Welcome to the Felix Welfare Section. This is where motherly advice and care will keep your parents content in the thought that you are being well looked after. It's where you will be reminded about all those things you know you should be doing and feel a bit guilty about not doing (like eating vegetables and not skipping breakfast) but struggle to fit into your hectic social schedule. We fluffy welfare types will even come round and make you cocoa while you finish off your homework and make sure you are tucked up safe and warm in bed by 9:00pm.

Ok, so now your Mum has stopped reading over your shoulder that is quite enough of the patronising twaddle. May I suggest sending your parents off down to the kitchen to make a cup of tea? Even if you don't like tea it will do them both the world of good.

Congratulations! You're free! Let's go wild! By now you probably know quite a lot of people as the wonders of Facebook have taken the Fresher world by storm. If you are lucky enough to have landed yourself a roommate (even though your first seven choices were single ensuite) then look at it this way – at least you have an extra friend to show off with when all the Hall Seniors try to get you to 'integrate'. At this point you should probably start feeling sorry for us oldies as we probably can't keep up with your boundless energy, enthusiasm for everything and e-networking prowess. (Yes I am beginning to feel old. Back in my day...)

If you haven't discovered Facebook yet then you are probably slightly confused that everyone else knows each other. Here is the reason: If you aren't on Facebook you don't exist. Apparently. Learning how to balance Facebook with work is difficult. Trust me, I signed up a week before my exams last year. Big mistake! You will get caught up in the competition to have 'more



You can call Kirsty on 020 7594 8060 or dial extension 58064 using your telephone in halls

friends on Facebook' until you realise later you haven't got a clue who any of them are. And you spend a lot of time pressing refresh hoping that something new will happen. A catch-22 situation really because, if all of your friends are sat on Facebook hoping something will happen then by virtue of that fact, nothing will happen.

As I am having a good day I will give you more friend making advice – biscuits. If you want to be original try Jaffa Cakes. Or pink wafers (mmmm). I once even tried prunes. People are surprisingly nice to you when you offer them food. If you are a little on the shy side and shoving biscuits in people's faces isn't your idea of fun then kick back, relax, put on your favourite music and prop your door open. (Preferably not with a fire extinguisher.) You might find people come to you. 'Manic Street Preachers are one of my favour-

ite bands. Have you seen them live?' can be a great ice breaker.

I will take this opportunity to introduce my co-writer this week, Dr David Hayton. He is one of our friendly in-house GPs over at Imperial College Health Centre. Every week David, myself and our trusty friend Nigel Cooke, the Student Adviser, will be writing relevant articles to keep you up to date with changing issues in College. We'll also try to give you advice on things like managing your money, lynching your landlords, eliminating exam stress and helping with health costs. Many students are unaware that they can qualify for free prescriptions, due to having a low income, and the Union can provide you with all the information you need to apply. If you find the Welfare Stall at Freshers' Fair (on Upper Dalby Court outside the giant blue lego brick) we will be giving out HCl

forms so you can be means tested for additional help on the NHS. The form is complicated and annoying so we can also provide a short guide explaining how to fill it in courtesy of the NUS. If you miss us at Freshers' Fair you can still pick these up at Union Reception or from my office which are both on the first floor in Beit Quad.

Other exciting Welfare related freebies at Freshers' Fair will include panic alarms, condoms and cycle maps so make sure you pop by to say hello. We will be asking you for your thoughts on what campaigns to run this year and creating a priority list for student issues.

Don't forget to have your say as we really do want to make your time at Imperial the best time of your life. With this in mind we will also be giving out complimentary Hugs! Hope to see you at the Union soon!

Information and Advice Centre



Nigel Cooke
Student Adviser

So you have done it, you have made it to Imperial. Congratulations! Now it's time to unpack, get out and meet new friends, join a society, get down the Union bar, have a look around good old London Town and maybe find out when your lectures start.

During the freshers' period of joining University it is often easy to get caught up with the freedom of it all, and as there is not much studying at this time, to think that University is great and one of the most enjoyable experiences of your lives. For most people it will be.

However, what happens if all doesn't go to plan? If you are struggling to settle in, unhappy on your course, struggling to make friends, unhappy with the standard of accommodation in halls, what do you do then?

Imperial College Union offers a totally independent service called the Information and Advice Centre (IAC) which can help you with these problems and more both in the freshers period and beyond.

The service is staffed by a professional Student Adviser called Nigel Cooke. That's me! I'm trained to deal with the following issues:

- Housing rights
- Employment rights
- Consumer rights
- Debt advice
- International student issues
- Personal safety
- Drugs and alcohol
- Academic appeals and complaints

The Information and Advice Centre is here to offer you confidential, impartial and independent advice on all the issues mentioned and also to offer you welfare support during your time studying at Imperial.

The centre has close links with College and local community welfare agencies, so if the centre can't help then they are sure to find an agency that can. The centre is a full member of Advice UK which is the UK's largest network of advice giving services so the centre is sure to find someone who can help.

The centre also has a limited supply of condoms that are available free to students and also has a large supply of personal attack alarms which are also available free to students (including a limited edition pink colour alarm!)

The centre is based in the East wing of the Beit Quad next door to the College Chaplaincy and works on both a drop-in and appointment basis, which means you can just turn up and see me straight away if I'm available.

So if something has gone wrong or you just need some information on the College or local area please do not hesitate to contact us, let the Information and Advice Centre find the answers to your questions.

Make sure that you're vaccinated!

David Hayton
IC Health Centre Assistant GP

Fortunately, mumps and meningitis are rare illnesses. However, they *do* occur, and when they do they tend to be in the student age group. There are several reasons for this, but the first week of term is not the time (and Felix is not the place) for an epidemiology lecture in infectious disease and herd immunity. Suffice to say that a large group of partially vaccinated adults from different parts of the world, living and working in close proximity and often in close contact with each other provides an ideal opportunity for these rare infections to occur. And they do.

Unfortunately, when they do occur they can be serious. Meningococcal disease (meningitis) can kill, and mumps can lead to reduced fertility. For this reason in the UK there is a free vaccination programme for those up to and including 24 years of age i.e. those most at risk. The vaccinations dramatically reduce an individual's chances of developing these illnesses, but they are not perfect: there is still a small chance

of infection.

Under the current NHS vaccination criteria, people aged 25 and above are not eligible for free vaccination as they are at much reduced risk.

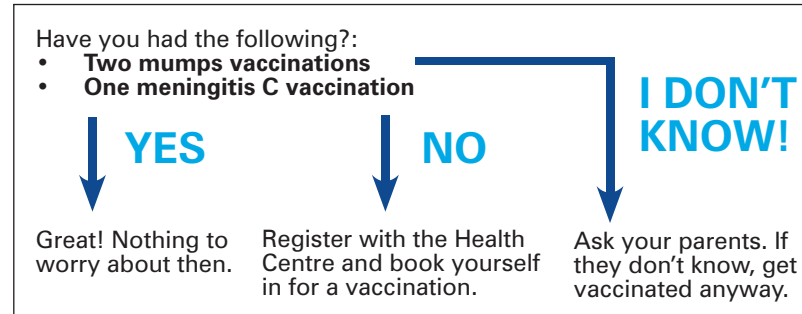
Regardless of our vaccination status, age, or any other factor, all of us need to be aware of the early signs of these infections. For more information see the leaflets in your Health Centre Welcome Pack or visit our website www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk.

You need to make sure that you are covered. Have you had:

- **Two mumps vaccinations**
- **One meningitis C vaccination**

If you are under 25 years old you need to be absolutely sure you have had the appropriate vaccinations against mumps and meningitis C.

The best way to find out whether you have had these vaccinations is to ask your parents. Your GP may have a record of your childhood vaccinations but may not know if you have had MenC (the meningitis C vaccination). Even if you are eligible to register with us, Imperial College Health Centre will not receive your NHS notes for several



months, by which time it is too late.

If you are at all unsure about having had these vaccinations please contact the Health Centre as soon as possible. This is urgent as the vaccinations take several weeks to work, during which time you may be at increased risk of these illnesses. We are running special vaccination clinics during the first week of term to try and minimise the risk to students so visit www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk/vaccinations.

Having too many vaccinations is not a problem, so where there is any

doubt we usually give the vaccination rather than put you at increased risk of infection.

Before I go, there's time to tell you more about the Health Centre. Your health is likely the last thing your mind is on at the start of term. However it is strongly recommended that you are registered with a GP local to where you live in term time. Most students are eligible to register with us. Do this quickly, before you become ill! We offer a host of services so please visit www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk for more information.



...wash your clothes without making them shrink/turn pink!

Similarly helpful to the Washer buttons... Whites & Colors = most clothes. If in doubt, leave it out! Hang it to dry on your door or something.

How reassuring!

Wonga here. Now.

Ah, such helpful descriptions. Whites is probably 60°, Colors = 40°, Bright Colors = 30° and the others are not worth worrying too much about.

This is not where you put your washing powder. Finding that location is part of the game! Joy!

Know something that other people don't? Got a talent such as moonwalking whilst flying a magic carpet around the Sun? Email your wisdom to felix@imperial.ac.uk and tell other people How To...

Now that College have brought in washing facilities that charge you to clean your clothes: the front of the washing machine/tumble dryer hybrid might look something like that pictured above. If the coin slot located on the right isn't present on your hall's washing machine, count yourself lucky.

You're not going to be able to chuck your dirties in the corner of your room for your mammy to pick up and subsequently wash and dry. Try as you might, regularly hauling your laundry back to your old neck of the woods isn't going to work either. It's time to familiarise yourself with the numbers 30, 40 and possibly 60 if you're feeling adventurous.

Situation: you're standing in front of the washing machine, basket filled with soiled clothes. Firstly, sort out the coloured clothes from the white/pale things. Good. Now check the labels for a little 40° symbol. Turn these clothes inside out and put them to one side. If some say 30°, you can run the shrinking gauntlet and ry your luck, or you can just leave those clothes for later.

Assuming your washing machine is similar to the picture you'll have to insert some coins into the beast. Hopefully this will open its gaping mouth ready for you to feed it clothes and washing powder. If you've got little tablets bung two of those on your washing. For powder, pop it into one of the tray compartments, and if you've got fabric softener pour that in the one which looks designed for liquid. No one really knows what goes where, so go wild.

Next, we need to tackle the six squidgy buttons in the middle. Rather than simply let you set the temperature of the wash yourself, you're faced with deciding whether your clothes are COLORS or BRIGHT COLORS, or some other patronising (and incor-

rectly spelt) description. Presumably, COLORS corresponds to 40°, so press that button and the amount of time on the cycle should flash up on the screen.

Ding! The sound of success! The final stage is to check the labels again for these symbols:

☐ ☒

If the clothes have the left-hand symbol on them, sling them in the dryer. Otherwise it's a no go! Hit the WHITES & COLORS button so that it shows about 60-90 minutes and then come back to collect them later.



...pass your first year with top marks and make dad proud

There are a number of sure fire ways of failing your exams. Obey the following examples and you're certain to be retaking the year!

Ensure that you miss the majority of your lectures. Really, who needs to go to them? You never really understand them at the time anyway, so you might as well not bother going. Heck, a lot of lecturers just put the notes on the web anyway, and failing that you can just copy a friend's notes.

If you're not quite hip enough to dodge your lectures, how about reading a book or a copy of Felix during the lecture? That way at least you'll absorb the information even if you aren't really paying attention. Right?

Another technique you can employ to help you fail your year is to make sure you're fully occupied whenever you're supposed to be working in your department. If you actually turn up to all the clubs and societies you sign up to at Freshers' Fair, rather than the odd one or two, you'll be on the road to exam failure success. Brilliant!

A hedonistic lifestyle full of sex, drugs, and hardcore Union nights out will also help the cause. Make sure that the Union and the nearby pubs get the most they can out of your student loan by drinking glass after glass of the amber nectar. This will encourage your hangover which will subsequently discourage you from getting out of bed in the mornings and attending lectures.

If this isn't quite drastic and immediate enough for you, there are a variety

Course Unit	Course Unit Type	Title	Earned Credit Points	Mark	Result
P3.1	STANDARD	Nuclear and Particle Physics			
PO3.2	STANDARD	Plasma Physics			
PO3.3	STANDARD	Lasers, Optics and Holography			
PO3.6	STANDARD	Astrophysics			
H.23	STANDARD	Film Studies			
PL3	STANDARD	Physics Laboratory III			
P.COMP1	STANDARD	Physics Comprehensive I			
P.COMP2	STANDARD	Physics Comprehensive II			
P3.2	STANDARD	Solid State Physics			
PO3.7	STANDARD	Medical MRI & Ultrasound			
P.YEAR1	STANDARD	Physics Year 1 Average			
P.YEAR2	STANDARD	Physics Year 2 Average			
P.YEAR3	STANDARD	Physics Year 3 Average			
P.YR123.AV	STANDARD	Physics Years 1, 2 and 3 Average			
Overall Year Result					
Total					

The IC Student Online Service academic record page. Come the end of the year, your results page should look something like this too, albeit without the blur and with some glowing scores. We hope. Good luck!

Had a bit of a mishap? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk and warn people How Not To...

of other methods by which you can fail the year miserably.

For the enthusiastic of you out there, you might want to streak through your lecture theatre. You can bet this will go down like a lead balloon when the doctors and professors discuss what to do with you as a result of your exposure. A slap on the wrist and a naughty pat on the arse cheek later and you'll be packing your bags.

If somehow you make it to the end of the year with your university placement still intact, exam time is an easy time to make sure you fail. It goes without saying that if you do no revision you're going to struggle in your exams. However, it's not a given that you'll fail just by doing no revision. Getting below that 35% pass barrier is going to take some serious easy going.

To help you on your way down you might want to consider only answering all the even numbered questions on the exam. But still, that means possibly half marks! Not good enough soldier. Instead when you sit down at your desk in the examination hall, just pretend to get your pens and calculator out. In actual fact you should take out a single red pencil. When the lecturer tells you to begin, you should start drawing red circles and shapes on your piece of paper. Every twenty minutes, get up and ask for a toilet break. Take five minutes in the lavatory each time to arouse maximum suspicion. Finally, make sure that you shout out the answers to at least two or three questions and you'll find yourself clutched by the ear and heading on your way to the Rector's office!

Take the Freshers’ personality test!

With such a diverse selection of people at university, it can be difficult to pigeonhole yourself easily. Clearly, this is something you’re going to want to do. Take this test today and discover which type of person you are! Simply decide whether you’re a boy or girl, then jot down your answers and head to the answers box

BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS BOYS

1

You arrive in halls for your first day of university life. How exciting!

Do you:

A – Unpack your wealth of black jeans and black T-shirts with mythical beasts on the front, before meticulously arranging your textbooks in alphabetical order by author.

B – Let your mother unpack your clothes into your chest-of-drawers whilst you head to the nearest of-fie to stock up on booze.

C – Unpack your cravates, loafers and love sheathes.

D – Sharpen your eyeliner pencil, touch up your fading roots and cut the tips off the gloves your mum-my bought you.

2

You say goodbye to your parents and then go to see your hall mates. Do you:

A – Ask everyone what their fa-vourite episode of Babylon 5 is and discuss which actor was the best Doctor Who.

B – Immediately ask where the nearest watering hole is, then lead a procession of students to the pub.

C – Hang back in your smoking jacket watching the ladies go by.

D – I HATE THEM ALL. WHY WON'T THEY DIE?!

3

Your first day is nearly over. It's the evening on your first night in halls. Do you:

A – Invite “everyone” back to your room to compare A-level marks (not grades; grades are far too ambiguous) compare pokémon cards whilst enjoying a few simple maths problems.

B – 4 pints down! 10 to go! Do well. GET IN MY SON!

C – Light some candles in your room, fluff the pillows and smooth out your tiger-striped satin sheets in preparation for marking off Notch 1 on the bed-head.

D – Liberally apply some black and white face paint, listening to My Chemical Romance whilst feeling sorry for yourself.

4

It's two mornings after the night that was two nights before. Do you:

A – Soldier on with your maths problems. Schrödinger's Equation isn't going to solve itself is it?

B – Roll over in your bed and go back to sleep ignoring the slight jab in your side. After all, morn-ing? What's morning?

C – Strike Notch 1 on the bed-head before slinking off to the billiard (pool) room for morning cognac and cigars.

D – Head to the nearest independ-ent bookstore (CORPORATE GREED SUCKS) to buy some Syl-via Plath literature.



5

It's a glorious Sunday afternoon. Life is good, the world hasn't blown up. Do you:

A – Make a trip to the Games Workshop to increase the size of your Warhammer 40k army. With this student loan, heck, I can get a 5000 point army rather than my measly 2500 point regiment.

B – Head to the Union bar with your newly acquired drink-ing partners ready to shout and scream at the overpaid footballers on Super Sunday.

C – Move on to bed-head notch number 2 by going for a delight-ful tea and scones picnic in Hyde Park followed by a bit of “whistle” underneath the weeping willow trees.

D – Head off to Camden Market to buy yourself some stripey black and white tights.

6

It's Monday. I don't like Mondays. It also means induction day where you have to sit in the Great Hall and listen to the Rector's speech. Do you:

A – Attend the induction lecture and even get complimented by the Rector for raising an important point.

B – Go for a kick about in Prince's Gardens, a dip in Ethos swimming pool before hastily heading to the Union bar.

C – Skip the speech and introduce yourself to your tutor in a bid to begin making intimate head way.

D – Set fire to the pamphlets and Union Handbook that you were given on your first day in halls.

7

Freshers' Fair fever is everywhere and you're infected just like every-one else. There are so many clubs. Which do you join?:

A – Sci-Fi! War Games! Internet & Gadget! Linux Users! Chess! This is heaven!

B – Football/Rugby/Netball. Er... the last one is obviously for chas-ing tail. You'd never actually be seen dead in playing the sport itself.

C – Dramsoc, Leonardo, Artsoc, Meat Appreciation, Wine & Fine Drinks. I'll show them all a thing or two.

D – Clubs... What the hell? LAME. (Well, except from Alternative Music Society. But still, that's just within the realms of non-com-merical acceptability.)

8

The Union has sched-uled lots of events to keep the Freshers entertained during their first week. Do you:

A – Head along to see Stevie Star The Regurgitator dressed in your



9

Unfortunately, it's time to start commencing the next stage of your education. It's your first lec-ture. Do you:

A – Head straight the to front row ready to answer any questions the lecturer has and more importantly, to correct him whenever he makes the slightest mistake.

B – Sit in the back row throwing paper aeroplanes whenever the lecturer's back is turned. Really though, you wish you'd taken that course in finance.

C – Skip the lecture and head to your tutor's office to conclude where you left off the other day.

D – Sit off to the side of the lecture theatre taking down the notes and listening attentively whilst keep-ing your air of solemnity. After all, you're ultimately out to please daddy so you can continue with the family accountancy business.

10

Fast forward to the end of the year and the summer holiday. Your results are in. What's the most likely situation you'll find your-self in?:

A – You're still going over the question papers from your first year exams. You can never get enough practice in!

B – You're preparing for your Au-gust resits whilst bed stricken and holding out for the NHS waiting list to decrease so that you can get that liver transplant.

C – You've bought two tickets to Dubai. One for yourself and one for Dr L'teet.

D – Daddy's pleased that you've passed your exams with flying col-ours. It's time to bin your stripey tights and repack your normal, colourful clothes before you re-turn home to the country retreat.

GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS

It's a glorious Sunday afternoon. Life is good, the world hasn't blown up. Do you:

A – Orientate campus and fam-iliarise yourself with your new place of learning.

B – Go for brunch on King's Road with your girlfriends to gossip about Prince Harry and compare stories.

C – Buy a scale replica of the Eiffel Tower from the Crest Of London before taking off on your flight on the London Eye.

D – Change your sheets. Snakey B vomit is not an attractive colour. Then it's off to the Union for Super Sunday of course.

1

You arrive in halls for your first day of univer-sity life. How exciting!

Do you:

A – Unpack all of your clothes and enter into your hall's induction program.

B – Unpack your pearls, thongs and Jimmy Choo's, not forgetting to apply the lippy liberally.

C – Attempt to decipher the Un-ion Handbook and the rest of your welcome pack. Hold on, why the hell is the water flowing the other way round the toilet bowl?

D – Watch whilst mum unpacks for you, then stock up the fridge.

2

You say goodbye to your parents and then go to see your hall mates. Do you:

A – Observe the boy-to-girl ratio, but think... "Hmm, oh well, not to worry!"

B – Feel disgusted at the amount of chavs there are in South K.

C – Find yourself thinking that you wished everyone would speak more slowly.

D – Follow the lad who is lead-ing the procession to the watering hole.

3

Your first day is nearly over. It's the evening on your first night in halls. Do you:

A – Have a few sociable drinks not forgetting that you need a clear head for tomorrow.

B – Head straight to Boujis. Prince Harry, here I come!

C – Recoil in horror at the vast amount of liquid in the pints given to you.

D – 4 pints down! 10 to go! Do well. GET IN MY SON!

4

It's two mornings after the night that was two nights before. Do you:

A – Think: "Wow! Imperial Col-lege London! It's really beginning to sink in."

B – Wake up in Prince Harry's bed. My, oh my, that's what I call a four poster bed.

C – Hop on a London Tour Bus. How much is a bottle of Evian?!

D – Elbow the bloke next to you in the side to make him get his knee out of your groin.

5

It's a glorious Sunday afternoon. Life is good, the world hasn't blown up. Do you:

A – Orientate campus and fam-iliarise yourself with your new place of learning.

B – Go for brunch on King's Road with your girlfriends to gossip about Prince Harry and compare stories.

C – Buy a scale replica of the Eiffel Tower from the Crest Of London before taking off on your flight on the London Eye.

D – Change your sheets. Snakey B vomit is not an attractive colour. Then it's off to the Union for Super Sunday of course.

6

It's Monday. I don't like Mondays. It also means induction day where you have to sit in the Great Hall and listen to the Rector's speech. Do you:

A – Feel incredibly smug because this speech is all old hat. You learnt it all by reading the Union Handbook cover to cover.

B – Sit there, leg crossed, filing your nails. Pouting. Never forget the pout.

C –Notice how pale everyone looks.

D – Watch a load of guys have a kick about in Prince's Gardens. You think they're beginning to re-member your name. Swoon.

7

Freshers' Fair fever is everywhere and you're infected just like every-one else. There are so many clubs. Which do you join?:

A – Labour/Conservative/Ap-plicable Government Society/DebateSoc.

B – Fashion Society... like duh, what else would you join?

C – Your OSC (Overseas Society) of choice.

D – Netball/Hockey/Women's Football/Women's Rugby/Real Ale Society.

8

The Union has sched-uled lots of events to keep the Freshers entertained during their first week. Do you:

A – Follow the prescribed timeta-ble which is certain to be a great



way of meeting people.

B – Pour out of a limousine in Leicester Square exposing more than you ought to, before waltz-ing up the red carpet hanging off the arm of Duncan from Blue. Or used to be Duncan from Blue. Now just: Duncan from Blue.

C – Head to the Union now that you've become accustomed to your new surroundings. London's not so bad after all!

D – Freshers' Week = Seven days of drinking. GET. IN.

Unfortunately, it's time to start commencing the next stage of your education. It's your first lec-ture. Do you:

A – Scribble down the notes safe in the knowledge that you've thor-oughly read around the subject beforehand. At the end of the lec-ture you nominate yourself as year rep and win convincingly.

B – Catch the heel of your Jimmy Choo's on your way down the lec-ture theatre stairs, falling flat on your arse. BLUSH.

C – Thank the Lord that the lec-ture is all numbers and not words.

D – Regret not taking that BA at King's/UCL/Queen's.

Fast forward to the end of the year and the summer holiday. Your results are in. What's the most likely situation you'll find your-self in?:

A – The First is in the bag and you enjoying the summer but secretly excited for the next year to start.

B – You've got to retake the year because you missed all your ex-ams due to entering Big Brother. Even then, you were evicted half way through.

C – You survived the permanent winter and you're heading home for a summer full of decent food.

D – You're preparing for your Au-gust retakes and your fingers and toes are firmly crossed that the pregnancy test is negative.

ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS ANSWERS

BOYS

Mostly As:
Congratulations, you're a lovable little GEEK.

Don't fret though, you're in good company here at Imperial and really, we're all just like you.

Mostly Bs:
Congratulations, you're one of the LADS.

It's all about the racing, football, beer and of course the Snakey B's. You'll leave Impe-rial for the high pressure world of finance.

GIRLS

Mostly As:
Congratulations, you're a DILIGENT WORKER.

You're the cream of the crop. Recruiters will hunt you down in an attempt to em-ploy you.

Mostly Bs:
Congratulations, you're a WEST LONDON IT GIRL.

You're destined to grace the covers of Nuts magazine (and the Felix centrefold).

Mostly Cs:
Congratulations, you're an EXCHANGE STUDENT.

Don't stress. Imperial is full of friendly peo-ple who'll help you get accustomed to your new place of residence.

Mostly Ds:
Congratulations, you're a LADETTE.

You can chug beer with the best of the lads. Get your suit on, you're off to the world of finance.

Test devised by: Phil McCracken, Neil Cockburn, JJ Rabbit, Tank Roger and Michael Hoghop. Illustrations by Michael Hoghop.



Freshers' Week Placard

To save yourself time and your sanity, fill me in and hang me round your neck during Freshers' Week



My name is _____.

I am from _____.

I am _____ years old.

I got 100% in my _____ and
_____ modules.

I am studying _____.

I'm glad I didn't get into Oxbridge
because _____.

Imperial College Union

Freshers' Fair 2007



Alistair Cott
Deputy President Clubs & Societies

Want to find one of the 260+ clubs that Imperial College Union has, then read on. The day is all about visiting as many different clubs and societies as you can find. Then again, if you have a burning desire to find one club (such as the Handball club!) look at the index page and find them on the map. Once you've found them visit their stall and find out a bit more about the club.

As a rough guide, in the Great Hall you'll find the overseas societies. The large marquee on Queen's Lawn is full of sports clubs, and external stalls giving away freebies. There is also a stage setup in the marquee where you can catch club demonstrations and live music. While around the base of the Queen's Tower you'll find the motoring clubs and some of the larger objects that clubs own, plus all the media moguls you could ever want to meet. There will be tours up the Queen's Tower during the day, however places are very limited so get there with plenty of time. The Main Dining Hall (MDH) is stuffed with arts clubs and more companies handing out freebies. Inside the Junior Common Room you'll find the food and drink societies. The Sir Alexander Fleming building is the place for clubs run by the Medics Students' Union, and these are open to all. Follow the walkway ramp up from the Queen's Lawn to Upper Dalby Court. In this area you will find a variety of societies including the Royal College of Science Union and City and Guilds College Union, and all the religious and ideological societies. If you are into outdoor type clubs, then head over to Beit Quad, where there will be a rotating climbing wall for you to have a go at amongst other things.

The stalls are spread out all over campus and there will be volunteer officers walking around in red T-shirts who will be happy to help you. If you are hungry or want to take a break, there will be barbecues in the Quad and on the Queen's Lawn. To quench your thirst the Union bars will be open as well. Once you have finished for the day and you've decided which clubs and societies you want to join, just login to the Union website at imperialcollegeunion.org. There you'll find that each club has a page and a shop for you to buy individual lessons or membership for the full year.

Finally why not join us at the Union in the evening for a few celebratory drinks, there are entertainments on all night long!

- ABACUS

Aeronautics

Afro-Caribbean

Ahlul Bayt

Ahmadiyya Muslim

Aikido

Airsoft

Alternative Music

American Football

Amnesty International

Anime

Apple

Arabic

Archery

Arts & Photo (ICSM)

ArtSoc

AstroSoc

AstroSoc Telescope

Athletics (ICSM)

Backgammon

Badminton

Badminton (ICSM)

Badminton Net

Bangladeshi

Barclays Bank

Basketball

Basketball (ICSM)

Belly Dancing

Bio Engineering

Biochemistry

Biology

Blackwell Books

Boat

Boat (ICSM)

Boots The Chemist

Bridge

British Medical Association

Bruneian

Buddhist

C&G Motor

Canadian

Canoe

Capoeira

Catholic

Caving

CGCU Exec

Chamber Music

Chaplaincy

Cheese

Chemical Engineering

Chemistry

Chess

Chinese

Chinese Church In London

Choir

Christian Student Action

Christian Union

Cinema

CivSoc

Community Action Group

Computing

Conservative

Consultancy

Cotswold Outdoor Ltd

Cricket

Cricket (ICSM)

Croatian

Croquet

Cross Country & Athletics

Chinese Students & Scholars Assoc.

Cycling

Cypriot

Czecho-Slovak

Dance

Dance – Funkology

Dance Company

De La Beche

Debating

Debating (ICSM)

Department of Humanities

Dr. Bike

Drama (ICSM)

DramSoc

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Electrical Engineering

Endsleigh Insurance

Engineers Without Borders

Environmental

Erasmus

Every Nation Christian

Exploration

Fairtrade

Fashion

Felix

Fellvanderers

Fencing

FilmSoc

Finance

Fire Safety

Fitness
- UDC35

UDC1

GH18

UDC41

UDC42

QL64

BO5

MDH19

QL14

JCR15

QL92

QL36

UDC43

QL4

SAF22

QL93

MDH26

QL90

SAF8

QL59

QL66

SAF3

QL91

GH2

QL45

QL67

SAF12

QL52

UDC2

UDC3

UDC15

QL35

QL75

SAF1

AR9

MDH20

SAF35

GH9

UDC50

QL83

UDC34

BQ3

QL55

UDC47

BQ1

UDC23

MDH12

UDC48

JCR8

UDC4

UDC5

MDH21

GH7

MDH1

MDH13

UDC45

UDC46

MDH32

UDC6

MDH24

UDC7

UDC27

JCR4

AR1

QL68

SAF15

GH26

QL69

QL70

GH16

QL7

GH29

GH36

QL49

QL50

QL51

UDC14

JCR5

SAF25

MDH2

CP3

SAF29

MDH34

BQ14

UDC8

MDH36

UDC24

UDC31

QL60

UDC49

BO7

JCR9

QL94

QL79

BQ4

QL42

MDH33

JCR6

CP1

QL23
- Football – Mens

Football – Mens (ICSM)

Football – Mens (RSM)

Football – Womens

Football – Womens (ICSM)

Football Goal

Foyles

French

Friends of MSF

Fulham Havana

Gaming

Gazette

German

Gliding

Golf

Golf (RSM)

Gospel Choir

Greater London Middlesex West Scouts

Handball

Hastings & St. Leonards Excellence

Cluster

Hellenic

Hindu Student Forum

Hockey

Hockey (RSM)

Hockey Mens (ICSM)

Hockey Womens (ICSM)

Hope for Charity

IC Centenary

IC Diversity & Equalities

Opportunities

IC Health Centre

IC International Office

IC Library

IC LINKS

IC Volunteer Centre

Imperial College Aid to the Balkans

Ice Hockey

ICSMSU Exec

Imperial College Lodge

Imperial Entrepreneurs

Imperial Queers (LGBT)

Indian

Indonesian

Indoor Hockey

International Tamil

Internet & Gadget

Iranian

Iraqi

Islamic

Italian

Japanese

Jazz & Rock

Jazz Big Band

Jewish

Jiu Jitsu (Aiuchi)

Joint Maths & Computing

Judo

Juggling

Ju-Jitsu

Karate do Shotokai

Karate Shotokan

Kendo

Kenyan

Kickboxing

Korean

Kung Fu

Labour

Lacrosse (ICSM)

Latin-American

Lav

Lebanese

Leonardo

Liberal Democrat Youth & Students

Linux Users

Live!

London Nightline

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Mah Jong

Mainliners

Malaysian

Mathematics

MatSoc

Mauritian

Meat Appreciation

Mechanical Engineering

Medical Defence Union

Medical Education

Medical Humanities

Medical Protection Society

Medin

Milkround

Model United Nations

Mosaic

Mountaineering

Mountaineering (ICSM)

Music (ICSM)

Musical Theatre

Musical Theatre Tour

Muslim Medics

- QL2

SAF4

UDC17

QL3

SAF5

QL89

QL72

GH25

SAF27

QL27

MDH27

SAF33

GH28

UDC55

QL13

UDC18

MDH14

QL18

QL39

MDH3

GH27

UDC52

QL12

UDC19

SAF6

SAF7

MDH4

AR13

MDH5

AR14

MDH6

MDH35

CP2

SF1

SAF28

QL30

SAF26

AR11

UDC22

UDC40

GH5

GH13

QL21

UDC53

MDH28

GH21

GH22

UDC51

GH31

GH10

MDH17

MDH18

UDC54

QL46

UDC10

QL28

BQ13

QL37

QL11

QL19

QL10

GH30

QL1

GH8

QL65

UDC26

SAF16

GH17

JCR7

GH20

QL95

QL9

MDH29

QL78

AR10

MDH7

QL61

MDH8

GH4

UDC11

UDC13

GH1

JCR10

UDC9

SAF34

SAF24

UDC33

SAF36

SAF23

AR6

JCR14

QL77

BQ11

SAF19

SAF30

MDH10

MDH11

SAF21
- Netball

Netball (ICSM)

Opera (ICSM)

Orchestra – Sinfonietta

Orchestra – Symphony (ICSO)

Orchestra Of The Age Of

Enlightenmnet

Orienteering

Origami

Outdoor

Paintball

Pakistan

Parachuting & Skydiving

Parkour & Free Running

PhotoSoc

PhySoc

Pilates (ICSM)

Pimlico Connection

Poker

Polish

Political Philosophy

Portuguese

Pugwash

Punjabi

Racing

Radio

RAG

Railway

RCS Motor

RCSU Exec

Real Ale (RSM)

Riding & Polo

Rifle & Pistol

Risk Management

RockSoc

Rough Hill Ltd

RSM Exec

RSM Motor

Rugby – (ICSM)

Rugby – Mens

Rugby – Mens (C&G)

Rugby – Mens (RSM)

Rugby – Women

Russian Speaking

Sailing

Save The Children

Scandinavian

Science Fiction

SCUBA Diving (ICSM)

SCUBA Diving (Underwater)

Shaolin Kung Fu

Shorinji Kempo

SIFE Imperial

Sikh

Singapore

Skate

Snooker

- QL71

SAF17

SAF31

MDH16

MDH9

AR5

QL15

QL96

BQ2

BQ6

GH11

BQ10

BO9

UDC36

UDC12

SAF9

SF2

QL8

GH24

UDC38

GH32

JCR3

GH6

CP7

QL74

QL73

CP8

QL80

UDC21

JCR11

QL34

QL43

UDC37

MDH25

AR7

UDC16

QL81

SAF18

QL24

QL26

UDC20

QL25

UDC39

QL58

UDC28

GH23

MDH22

SAF2

CP5

QL56

QL47

QL53

UDC44

GH12

BQ8

MDH31
- Snowsports

Socialist Worker Student Society

Spanish

Sport Imperial

Sports Partnership

Squash

Squash (ICSM)

Sri-Lankan

SSETI

St Mary's Fitness

STA Travel

Standard Chartered Bank

stoic tv

Stop the War

String Ensemble

Student Industrial Society

Student Respect

Surgical

Swim & Water Polo

Synchronized Swimming

Table Football

Table Tennis

Taekwondo

Taiwan

Team Bo'

Ten Pin Bowling

Tennis

Tennis (ICSM)

Thai

The Bible Talks

Turkish

Ultimate Frisbee

UNICEF

Union – Campaigns

Union – Elections

Union – Welfare

UoL Royal Naval Unit

UoL Air Squadron

UoL Officer Training Corps

Volleyball

Vue Cinemas

Wakeboarding

War Games

Waterpolo (ICSM)

Web Design & Software

Welsh

West Indian

Wind Surfing

Wine & Fine Drinks

Wing Chun

Women Into SET

Wushu

Yacht

Yoga

Yoga (Charing Cross)

- QL22

UDC29

GH33

QL63

QL54

QL48

SAF13

GH14

UDC14

UDC25

SAF10

AR12

SF3

QL76

UDC32

MDH15

JCR1

UDC30

SAF32

QL5

QL6

QL16

QL88

QL20

GH3

QL82

QL17

QL57

SAF20

GH15

AR8

GH34

BQ12

JCR13

BQ17

BQ15

BQ16

AR4

AR3

AR2

QL87

QL44

CP6

MDH23

SAF14

MDH30

GH35

GH19

CP4

JCR12

QL38

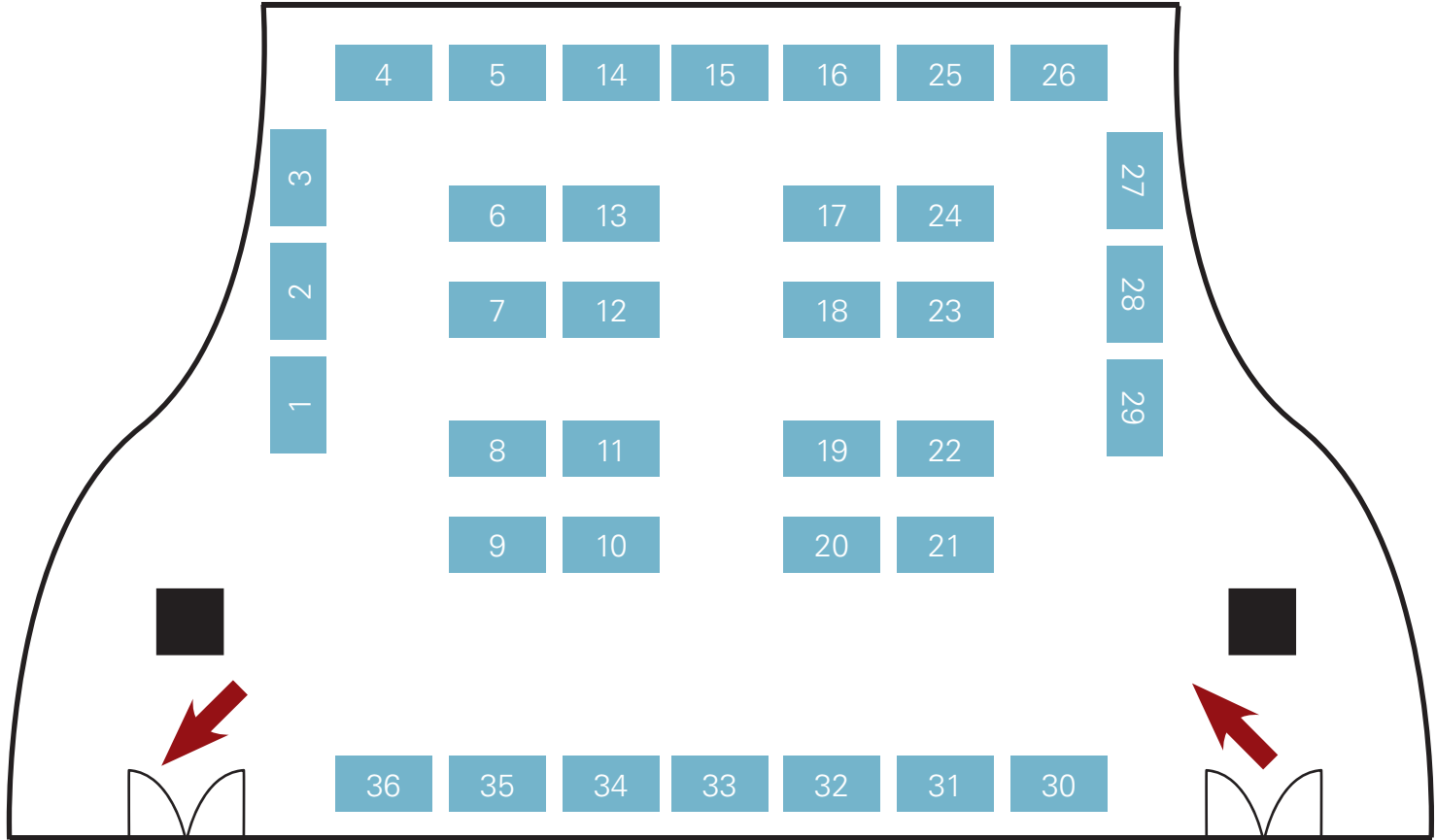
JCR2

QL29

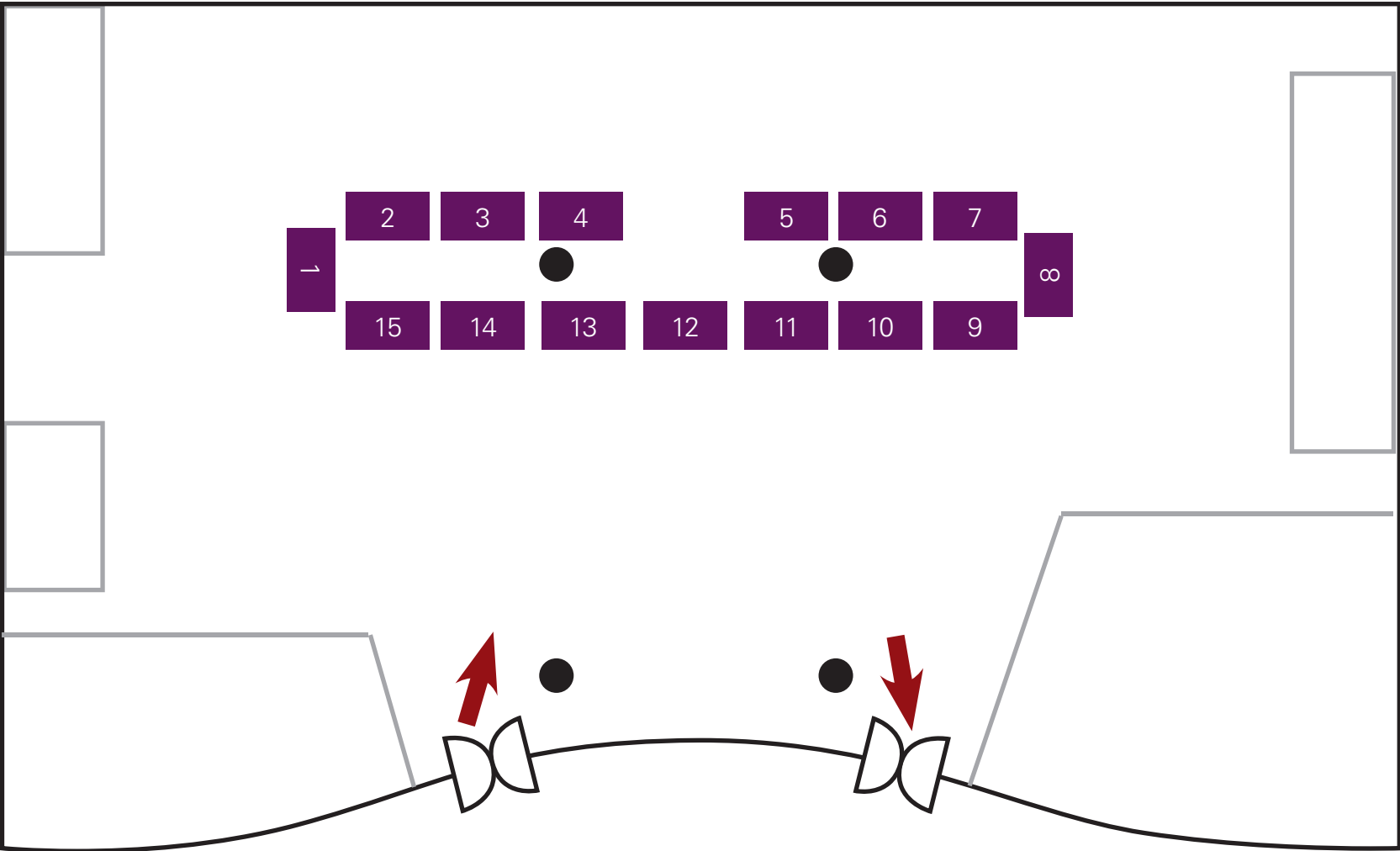
QL32

QL40

SAF11



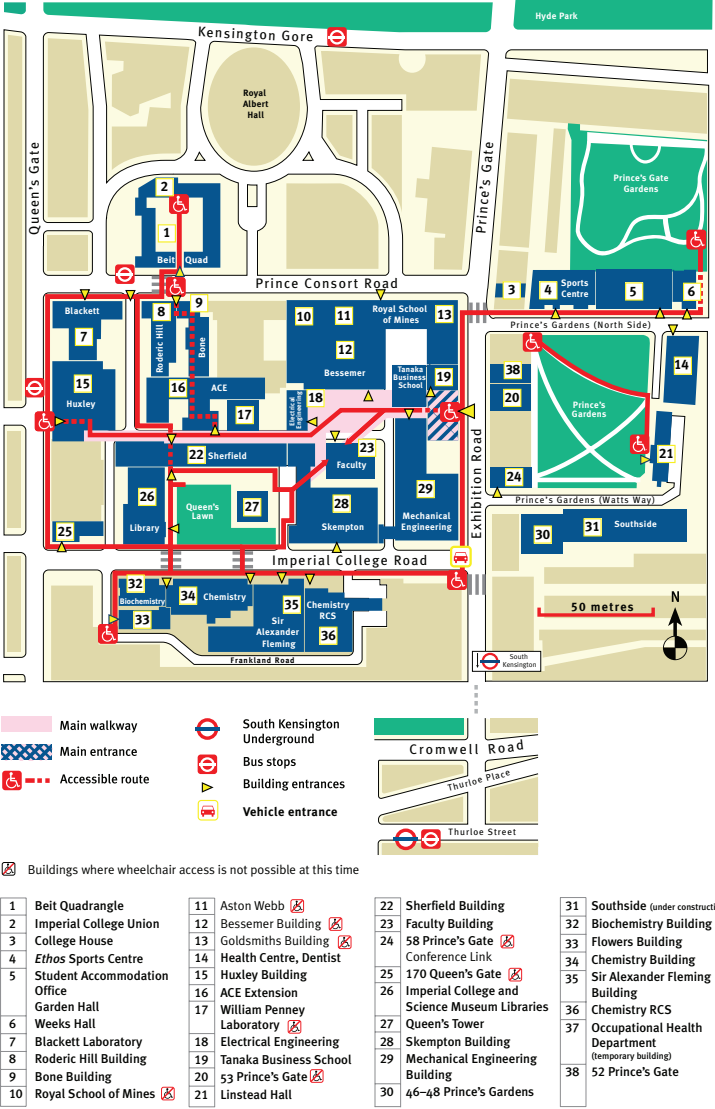
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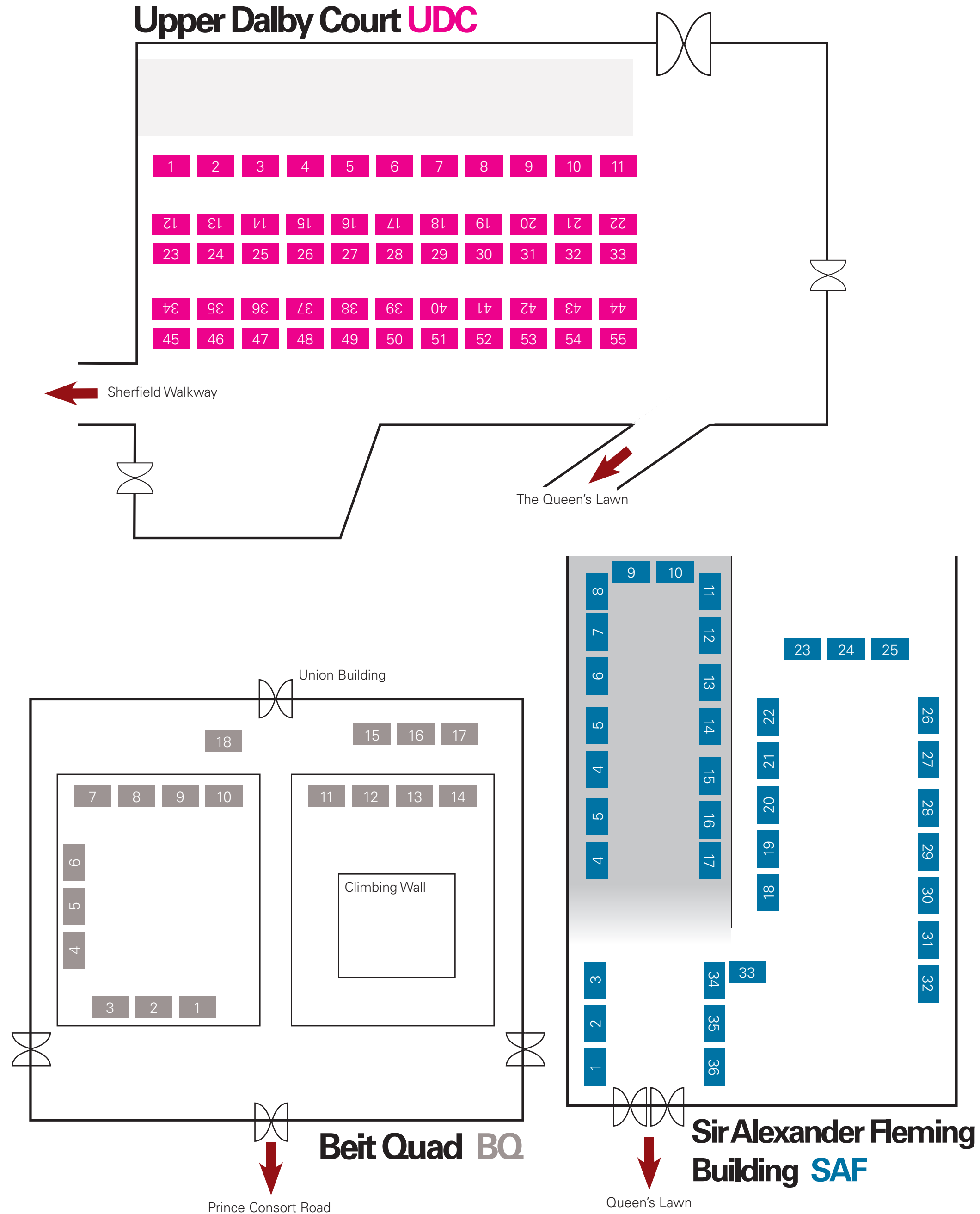
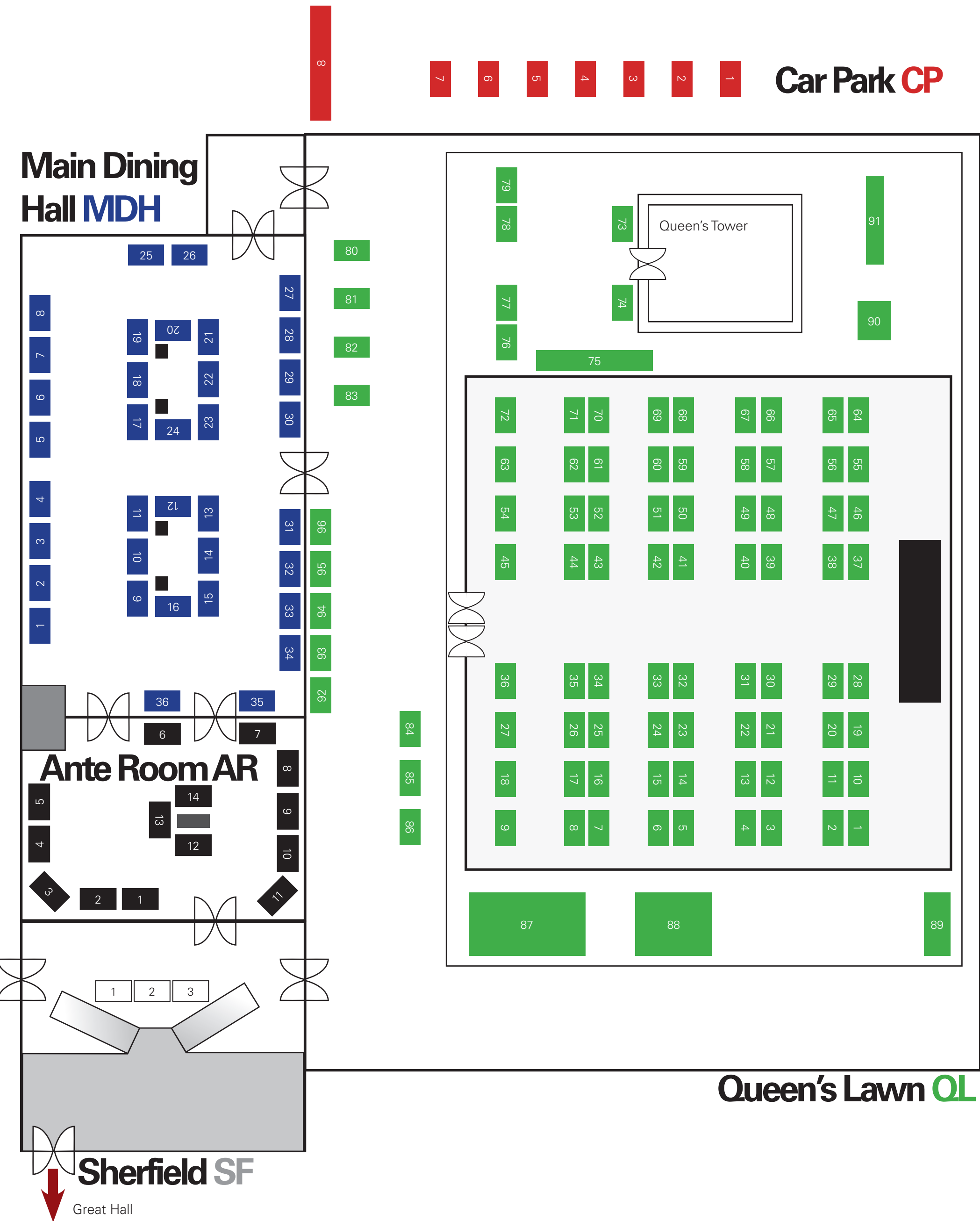


Junior Common Room JCR

Imperial College Union

Freshers' Fair 2007







Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Mike Cook, Rosie Greyburn, Caz Knight and David Paw

Budding culture vulture? Write for us.
arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Imperial student's bookshelf

Michael Cook uncovers the unofficial reading list for the average IC Fresher. This may be examinable

Being an upstanding student publication priding itself on quality journalism, Felix would never stoop as low as stereotyping; nevertheless, it takes a certain kind of student to come to and work at Imperial. If you're wondering what it's going to take to get you through the three, four or however many years left, then... well, this article isn't going to be as much use as a trip down to the Union is. If you want to know what kind of books keeps the average Imperial brain ticking over, though, read on – here's Felix's shortlist of Must Reads for Life at a Science and Technology College.

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy – Douglas Adams

It's difficult to place just how important this is to students at Imperial. Being a very British comedy based on the most British entertainment imaginable – a BBC Radio Four production written by Adams – it's fermented in its own cult status for a good couple of decades now, and holds a dubious sort of fame, mingled with the shame of being responsible for the extremely overdone joke about that number, which we're definitely not going to mention.

The book – which is the first in the five-part trilogy, but arguably the best anyway – charts the adventures of Arthur Dent, a rather unfortunate chap from Guildford, who ends up narrowly escaping vaporisation when Earth is destroyed in the first chapter of the book. Stowing away on board a spacecraft with his best friend Ford Prefect, he soon discovers that his friend's secret alien identity is the least traumatic thing the universe has in store for him.

You don't need an English sense of humour to appreciate the clever wit and charming philosophy of Arthur's search for The Answer to, what else, The Question Of Life, The Universe And Everything. However, it doesn't strike a chord with everyone. While it remains one of Geekdom's rites of passage to read Adams' best-loved work, you may find it too surreal to push on through. It's worth sticking with though, as the writing is extremely funny and though it's been quoted to death, Arthur's quest is as clever today as it was when it first aired on the Beeb all those years ago.

The Selfish Gene – Richard Dawkins

This is a difficult one, but whether you agree with Dawkins' line of argument or not it's hard to deny his impact on the public conception of modern-day science, ethics and society. His most widely-read book, *The Selfish Gene*, outlines his views on the modern-day interpretation of Charles Darwin's original theory of evolution as published in *The Origin Of The Species*. He expands on the topic, relating the concept to a wide number of other areas that Darwin would have had, at best, a limited knowledge of.

Dawkins' theories are unpalatable to many, as his approach to religion is critical to the point of fundamentalism – and not always the ironic kind. But as scientists of the twenty-first century, Dawkins is one of the big names we



cannot afford to ignore. While he might not be throwing his weight around in papers and research as much as other leaders in the field, he has captured the public imagination and continues to challenge people's view of how science and religion interact with society.

Even without a trace of biology in your degree course, *The Selfish Gene* is recommended reading. The theories surrounding the selfishness of nature and the implications this has for our own world cannot help but have an impact on most degree courses at Imperial, even if it doesn't appeal to you on an intellectual level.

Engineering Mathematics, Fifth Edition – K.A. Stroud

Oh yes. Oh baby yes. Those English students over at Kings might think they're clever, waving their copies of Chaucer and Proust, but when we scientists do textbooks, we really go to town. Stroud's mammoth mathematics companion is two and a half inches thick, a meaty giant that dominates pretty much any table or bookshelf it's laid to rest on.

Unless you like Maths, you probably hate Maths. By which I mean, there's no happy medium. Either you see calculus transformations magically conduct themselves in your mind, or the numbers merge into one big inky mess as you go cross-eyed from staring at the same question for half an hour. Stroud's book is a brilliant reference for most first-year courses at Imperial, not only offering a selection of topics that crop up in many degree courses, but also hiding a sneaky chunk of A-Level stuff, allowing

you to check back on all of those topics you thought you'd never need again last July.

The newer versions are supplied with a CD – which isn't so great – but the most helpful aspect is the layout of the book itself. It teaches incrementally, a step at a time, making even the most painful topics relatively simple to pick up. Whilst its methods might not always correlate with what you've got on your notes, you can at least be sure that you're getting the right answers.

The Millennium Problems – Keith Devlin

Seven years ago, American philanthropist Landon Clay collated some of the world's most brilliant mathematical minds to find the seven most crucial challenges the field faces in the twenty-first century. He offered a one million dollar prize for each of the problems, which are now known as The Millennium Problems, and Keith Devlin's book is a perfect in-

troduction to them.

As students at one of the world's foremost science and engineering institutions, it's a real possibility that some of the people destined to solve these puzzles are already enrolled here. They range from unlocking the mysteries of quantum physics to deciphering the true limitations of a computer, and touch all manner of arithmetical and logical cornerstones in between, which Devlin handles in a manner that ensures even if it's not your field, you'll understand the challenge.

Is it likely that you'll see a solution straight away? Not really. Most of these problems are already four or five decades old, and one in particular is touching on two centuries. But the book is delivered with a kind of passion and enthusiasm that is only really found in certain fields of research, and it's quite possible that this could be the book that you look back in a decade from now as the story that led you on to the field you now work in. It's a fascinating collection of puzzles with a sense of mystery about their potential for our future.

War And Peace – Dostoyevsky

Alright, not this one specifically (though we're reliably informed that the Russian masterpiece is pretty absorbing), but we do

recommend adding a bit of culture to your bookshelf when you're stocking up for the year. And no, that doesn't mean a copy of *Heat* magazine, or the latest Jeffrey Archer novel. Check out the Penguin Classics line and stock up on one or two real pieces of fiction – one of those books you said you'd read one day, except this time really make an effort to push through.

1984 is a very readable book and has a gritty dystopian flavour that'll appeal to any fans of sci-fi, or you may even wish to trip further back and try some Jane Austen or Thomas Hardy (we revisit *Pride and Prejudice* this week, in fact). The Penguin lines are dirt cheap and have the kind of classics that Mark Twain was talking about when he said that "everyone wants to have read [them], but no-one wants to read [them]". Sure, many of them take a little time getting into, but that should be something you're able to find, and it doesn't hurt to keep the culture side of things alive while you're hammering away at equations, or actually hammering away with a hammer.

If you're not feeling like going all the way into a big novel, then pick up some plays – it needn't be Shakespeare. *Waiting For Godot* is a nicely surreal take on religion and life, and many of Arthur Miller's plays are really readable, especially *The Crucible*. Reading is a great form of relaxation, and forces your mind to stop working on whatever it was doing. In four or five weeks from now, you'll find that's quite relieving.

The Usborne First Cookbook – Angela Wilkes and Stephen Cartwright

Here's the problem with 'Student Cookery' books – they assume you'd rather have seven utterly disgusting meals a week than four good ones. Not to mention they have some strange fixation with tinned tomatoes that I could never get around. Our advice when it comes to getting a cooking companion for this year is this – get a book that assumes quite literally nothing.

The Usborne First Cookbook is brilliant. It doesn't tell you how to make soup out of a chicken stock cube, because it knows that if you wanted to improvise you wouldn't have bought a cookbook. Instead, it focuses on basic meals and cooking techniques, and since it's written for children it really couldn't be any more explanatory.

Instead of strange spaghetti dishes and instructions on how to dice a cucumber, the book goes through main meals, desserts and party foods, and it even has miniature chefs in the illustrations.

The good part is that the recipes are all flexible, so you leave out the flavourings you don't like, and over time you'll find yourself replacing ingredients for others you know will taste better or cook more to your liking. While you can get by your first year without touching a frying pan, it's always best to have something on-hand in case the desire to cook comes upon you – or everyone else is out and you're really bloody hungry.





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

Science

Science Editor – Edmund Henley

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Better living through science?

A hodge-podge of recent science news: new skiing technology to get you down slopes faster; a study into whether heading the ball causes brain damage to footballers and a symposium on warp drive research

Edmund Henley
Science Editor

Greased Lightning

If you're planning on joining the Snowsports society, who offer trips to indoor skiing sites here in the UK and at least one to a continental resort in the winter, you may be interested in a new device developed by Wildfire Snowstorm Limited, a spin-off from the University of Sheffield.

At the heart of the device, which can also be fitted to snowboards, lies a reservoir located between the front of the skier's boot and the ski itself. The natural motion of the skier acts as a pump, pushing an optimum quantity of a special environmentally-friendly lubricant from the reservoir, along a series of pipes and valves to the underside of the ski. This continuous layer of fresh lubrication means skiers equipped with this system can complete a run 1-2% faster than when using conventional skis, as the latter lose their pre-applied layer of wax over the course of the descent. This is a significant improvement for competitive skiers, especially as the device complies with International Ski Federation Rules, and heralds a bright future for Wildfire – they're due to start testing it with a major global ski manufacturer in December.

Which may be a little late for your trip this year, but may be no bad thing for those of you fresh to skiing. Exhilarating though speed may be, halfway down a black run, cheeks flapping in the wind, you may be rather glad of a lower limit to your terminal velocity; a term may strike you as being all too appropriate...

A head for figures

Meanwhile, those of you who'll be signing up for the football teams will be glad to hear of new research recently published in the British Journal of Sports



Turns out the guy on the right won't get brain damage. No matter how hard the defender's wishing for it

Medicine. Provided of course that you balance your playing time with actual study, they've shown an indulgence in the beautiful game won't see Imperial showing you the red card.

To be more specific, researchers led by Henrik Zetterberg, an associate professor of neurochemistry at the Sahlgrenska Academy, have found that heading the ball does not appear to cause brain damage. Previous studies, looking for direct evidence, had been

inconclusive on this point. Zetterberg's team took a different approach, monitoring neurochemical markers in spinal fluid instead – a previous study on boxers had shown the presence of these markers was linked to brain damage.

Looking for the markers in a study on 20 amateur football players, Zetterberg's team found no difference between players who headed what were effectively balls from corners 10 or 20 times, nor between the players

who headed and a control group who didn't.

Zetterberg concluded that as an average match contains far fewer headshots, heading the ball is not dangerous, and he attributes the difference with boxing to the lower kinetic energy of impacts with footballs, and a greater ability to stabilise the head. Which may mean explanations for [insert name of preferred footballer with limited mental ability] may need to be revised.

Rocket Science

Fancy yourself as a hot shot in the most fanciful realms of theoretical physics? Watched Scotty at work and thought "No! You're doing it all wrong you fool!"? If you can answer yes to either of these questions, get cracking: the British Interplanetary Society (www.bis-spaceflight.com) is calling for abstract submissions for a symposium, entitled "Warp Drive, Faster Than Light: Breaking the Interstellar Distance Barrier". Held on the 15th of November, this symposium will discuss the current state of warp drive research.

Unbeknownst to this author, this technology has advanced from our television screens to our laboratories (well, almost): a seminal 1994 paper by Miguel Alcubierre apparently showed general relativity permits the creation of a space-time "warp bubble", whose interior, as well as any spacecraft within it, would move faster than the speed of light. This seems to have sparked interest in the academic community, as demonstrated by around 50 publications, some of which have suggested (as one would expect) that there are significant technical obstacles to such a proposal.

Leaving questions of whether she can or cannae take much more aside, the crux of the problem appears to be that unrealistic quantities of negative energy are required to provide sufficient warpage. If you know what this means, doubtless you'll already be aware that several people are already booked to talk at the symposium, including Remo Garattini of Bergamo University on the subject of "Casimir Energy: A Fuel for Traversable Wormholes". And you've probably already written your abstract, far in advance of the 28th of September submission deadline. If contributing anything is a little beyond you, but you want to attend, have a look at the website: a quick glance suggests that it costs £23.50 for students.

The Dana Centre: how to stay interested in science, despite studying here

Edmund Henley

The Dana centre, just down Queen's Gate from Imperial, is somewhere well worth your while. If you've ended up at Imperial, it's presumably because you've got more than a passing interest in science, engineering or medicine.

Unfortunately, as many of you will soon find out, there's nothing quite like intensive study of a subject for dampening enthusiasm; a series of stultifying first year lectures resembles nothing so much as a large bucket of water in this respect. Except that a bucket of water would wake you up.

To improve your familiarity with science in all its forms, without breeding contempt, it's worth keeping a regular eye on the Dana Centre's programme, available at www.danacentre.org.uk. Often topical, always interesting, their events provide an opportunity to hear about current research, often from scientists themselves.

As this is a forum for the general public, the talks are pitched to the

interested layman, making it very accessible. Furthermore, this level means the presenters have to be good at outreach, and cannot drone – you won't fall asleep in one of these talks!

"It's a stone's throw away from the College"

The nature of the audience also means the topic is often related to the impact of science, technology and medicine on the public. You may well find these talks help inform you about the implications and ethics of science, and provide a fresh perspective on what you do and how others may perceive it.

Check, but attendance of most events is free, you merely need to email tickets@danacentre.org.uk or phone 020 7942 4040 to book tickets.

Events coming up in the next couple

of weeks include a series on the senses: **Sight** (25/9) discusses solutions for the blind and visually impaired, such as sonic canes and artificial retinas, whilst **Touch** (2/10) looks at the latest in haptic technology.

For thought-provoking issues, consider **Mind Wars** (26/9), which will present the worrying concept of how brain research may affect the way in which future wars will be fought, or **DNA in the Dock**, (27/9), a debate on the fairness of the National DNA Database, which contains the details of over 3 million people.

"Attendance of most events is free"

Biology for Freedom (3/10) a discussion with the authors of a new book of this title, also offers food for thought, exploring how experience

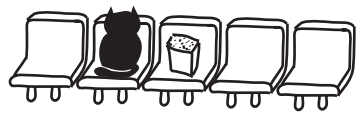
shapes changes in the brain to generate an inner reality.

Following the recent publication on the future of the UK's space policy, **Spacebots v. Spacemen** (4/10), ostensibly commemorating 50 years since Sputnik, is suspiciously topical, as it will outline the plans for both human and robotic exploration of the solar system. Go, and you can see live action of Bridget, a possible Mars rover; hear from a space medic (what a job!); catch up with past missions, and hear about plans for future ones.

That's all that will fit here, but a glance at the website will reveal there's plenty more. Even if you don't go to any of the events mentioned here, remember the centre exists, that it's a stone's throw from college, and that attending is free. If you feel jaded with science at any point over the next year, or it all seems impossibly hard, come here – there's no better way to persuade yourself that it's worth sticking out the hard times, and to remind yourself why you wanted to study at Imperial.



The scientist couldn't quite believe the parking fine Bridget had managed to run up



Film

Film Editor – Alex Casey

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Freshman Films: Ultimate Guide

Whilst everyone suffers from having the same unused textbooks lining their shelves, your DVD collection will quickly tell potential friends everything they need to know about you, so make sure it's something good

Alex Casey
Film Editor

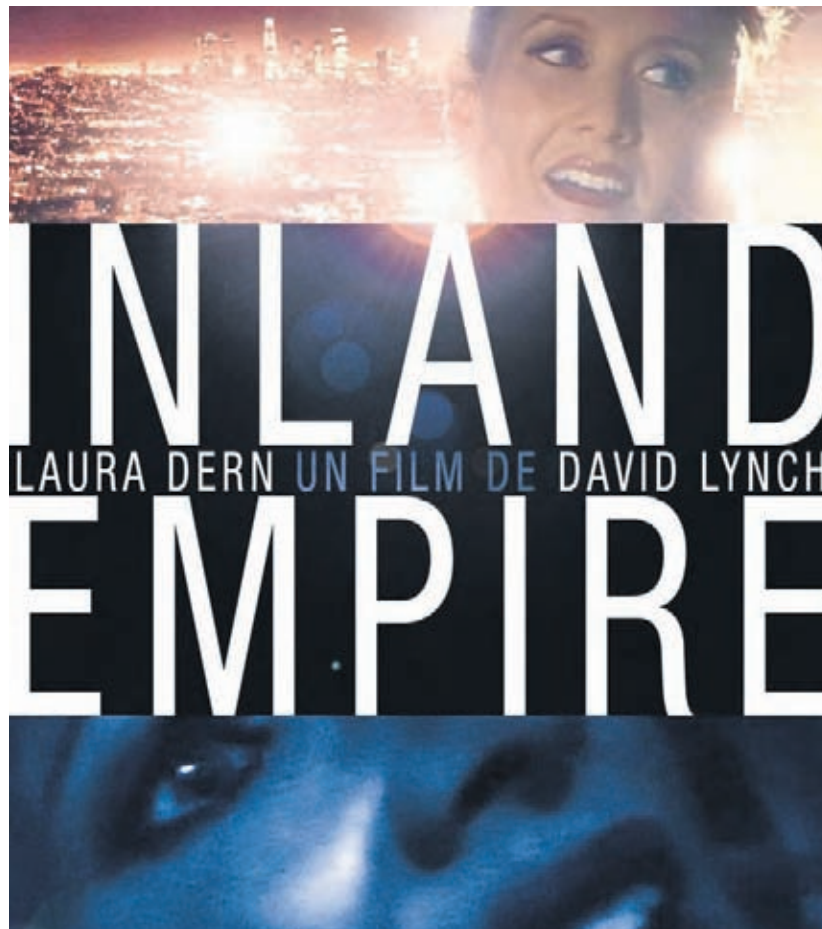
Movie nights may not be the first thing you want to do with the newly-found freedom that university life will give you, but the truth is that they are still a great way of bringing people together. A good DVD collection paves the way for loads of great nights in when the wallet feels empty or when the hangover refuses to subside. So, in order to help you make your choices wisely, here's a list of the top 10 films the Felix office recommends you keep on hand to entice all those new interesting people you've met back to your room for a night of celluloid gold. They can bring the popcorn.

1. Y Tu Mama Tambien

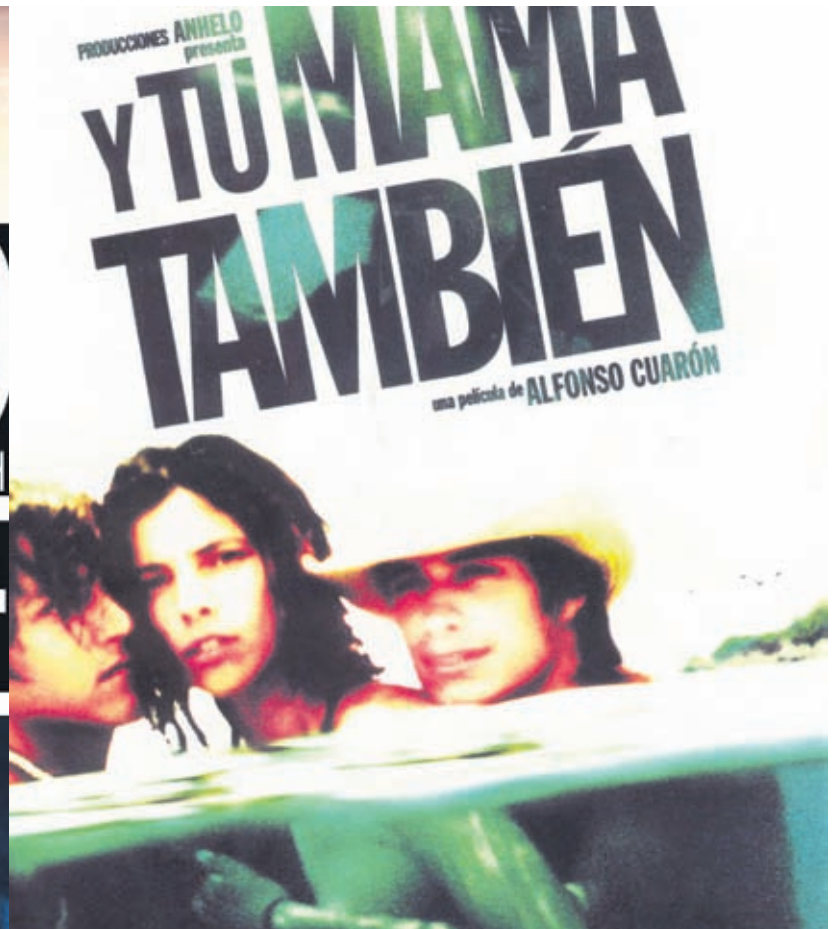
Sun, sea and sex may not seem like London on a rainy winter night but this is the ultimate 'buddy flick' that would make Hitler and Churchill put aside their differences. The theme of seizing the day will make you want to make the most of every minute of these years, the best of your life, so set aside the two hours for it as an investment. You'll laugh, cringe and smile relentlessly and if you screw up spectacularly at any point with your new best mates (and you inevitably will), this film will make them realise it's not worth fighting over.

2. Breathless (A bout de souffle)

French New Wave Cinema is the Louis Vuitton of your DVD collection. You don't have to understand it, just accept that cinema was never cooler than this quintessentially French offering that kicked off the 60s. There aren't many films out there as historically important as this and every frame oozes an old Hollywood glamour with the mod-



Do these two pictures really need a caption? Oh well: posters for David Lynch's Inland Empire and Alfonso Cuarón's Y Tu Mama También



ern edge that kicked cinema into gear.
3. Mean Girls / American Pie

Yeah, they're, like, 'high school' movies, but you're in a position to look back now and have a retrospective over your school days. Watch and learn; you may not have been as cool as you think and remember that you've now got a chance to be whoever you want without the same social constriction of

'band geeks' or 'plastics' hanging over your head. The double package here implies MG for girls and AP for guys but don't feel constricted. Personally I prefer MG despite a loathing for Lohan but the pretty-in-pink packaging was a bad move on the distributors part. So I'll just settle for the Pie.

4. Die Hard

Diminishing returns don't hurt the fact that this is the most solid blockbuster of the 80s, perfect for that Friday night when everywhere has a cover charge higher than the GDP of most developing countries. Bruce Willis steps into the messianic boots of John McClain and takes you on a ride so thrilling you're left with a post-coital sigh to finish. Look around you, because in a group viewing these are people who you just shared an intense experience with. Best friends are nothing on Die Hard friends.

5. Inland Empire

David Lynch is always a great talking point, and for those of you who've already seen Mulholland Drive, you'll know what to expect. Is it Hollywood satire? Why are there talking rabbits? Does it all, in fact, mean anything at all?

Who knows, but watch this one with all the lights off, sound up full and it feels like you could be in one of those sensory deprivation tanks, at the mercy of the master of modern surrealism. You'll feel assaulted afterwards but one day your corneas will recover and when your mind stops asking questions about what it's been through, you'll be able to return to life. But you won't forget it. Especially the fantastic performance from Laura Dern.

6. Empire Records

Easy viewing all the way here and a killer soundtrack straight out of any self-respecting student union. The danger here lies in the fact that you may want to give up entirely on University and leave to work in a record shop, but with any luck you have slightly more sense than that. Just put it on, dance around and lay back after a hard day at uni when you don't fancy the mind bending of Inland Empire. A great one to watch with a can of beer early on a Friday night.

7. The Seventh Seal

This is one for the intellectuals out there who want to show off. Ingmar Bergman's signature piece has all the doom and gloom you'd expect from death personified but there's a lot more to this than playing chess with the reaper himself. Recognise a new stage in your intellectual development and step beyond the Bill and Ted parody. Go back to the original, and at least give it a try. It's not for everyone perhaps, even Bergman said he couldn't watch it in later life. But give it a chance as a fitting last tribute to this cinematic genius, it's the cinematic equivalent of Ulysses on your bookshelf.

8. Blade Runner

For Imperial students, this list may seem seriously lacking in science fiction, but that's because Ridley Scott's dystopian vision is the first and last word in all things sci-fi. Los Angeles in the year 2019 as Scott envisaged it in 1982 may not look like it's just around the corner, but his panoramic cityscape has become iconic for its postmodernist clash of cultures. Visually stunning,

thematically relevant and eternally entertaining, Blade Runner is the reason why the Director's Cut of films has become so appealing. On initial release it was panned, but Scott's cut is now hailed as a classic so make sure to see that one. You might want to try his new cut which just premiered in Venice, but it's a mystery why he's attempted to try and fix what was certainly not broken.

9. Withnail & I

The ultimate in cult is one of British cinema's finest moments, as well as perhaps being the progeny of some of the deadliest drinking games you'll find. Drink when they drink, not what they drink. We would never advise lighter fluid for a beverage no matter how long it will take you to find an off-licence after midnight, but while seeing Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann drink their way out of London may not seem like the healthiest way to live, the classic antiheroes hold a charm that captures you throughout. Watch it, but demand you have some booze present.

10. Fight Club

Student anarchy may have taken a bit of a back seat since its sixties heyday but don't think that you can't wage your own private war against the forces of capitalism. Embrace the mantras of Tyler Durden: "You're not your job. You're not how much money you have in the bank. You're not the car you drive. You're not the contents of your wallet. You're not your fucking khakis. You're the all-singing, all-dancing crap of the world." Remember it, and go out there and make your mark on the world. Plus, if you get bored of your newly inspired war, you'll have a fantastic DVD to come home to.



The legendary Blade Runner poster



Music

Music Editors – Jenny Gibson and Matty Hoban

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Matty Hoban
Music Editor

I love music; it is one of the great unifiers throughout history. Whether it is Pythagoras putting music in a mathematical context, Beethoven embracing the folk instrumentation of the lowly labouring classes or punk leading to the breaking down of social and ethnic barriers, music is one of the greatest achievements of humanity (in my opinion). At a personal level, my closest friends got that way through our mutual love of music and so I owe a lot to it.

Some of you will feel like this, some of you won't and some of you can understand why I would feel like this and think university is a great time to go further with the appreciation of music. I hope that all three groups could take some interest in the focus of the inaugural music page this year so that we can get on with the business of reviewing, interviewing and erm, previewing.

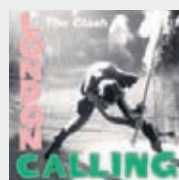
Anyway, as I was saying, I met my closest friends through music and that is the brilliance of university; you can meet people of similar interests and there is a good chance that because you like similar things you have similar personalities. However, don't make the mistake I have made countless times and write someone off because they do not have *exactly* the same taste as you. People think you are an elitist [insert highly offensive insult here] and will either feel patronised or angered and at a time when first impressions mean a lot, polarising opinion of you can at least wait until you're disillusioned with meeting new people. Actually I mean just don't be a jerk, and instead of being patronising and dismissive, be engaging and make suggestions; it'll make you out to be an oracle of good taste and you will have someone to go to gigs with, feel superior and more importantly make friends and chat about something in those early days.

The following article might aid as an ice-breaker that you can discuss whether jazz or punk-rock is your thing. I have compiled five obvious albums that you might have and are established as classics which can be talking points which such words as 'awesome' or 'over-rated' being thrown about, either way they should get you talking. The five LPs following those albums are possibly a bit more obscure and more personal to my tastes but are essential to me and my first year. They are considered classics (not only because they are quite old) but because they exposed the listener to a new world, scene or movement.

If you have any suggestions of how to change this list (as you rightly should have because my own personal bias weighs heavily on the list) then get in touch with us so we can motivate discussion and get you, the reader involved. Also, if you would like to write for this section then get in touch, you need no experience, only enthusiasm. Come and see the *Felix* team at Freshers' Fayre and spend your time here getting involved.

Albums for your first year

The first five are albums that are ubiquitous in various publications as classics and latter five are albums that can be ventured out into to show your shelf credentials



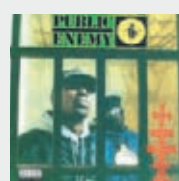
1) London Calling
The Clash

A bit of a mawkish album to begin with I guess because of the title but it is an important album that the majority of humanity has listened to. It has also been a talking point in the past with me on whether the track *Jimmy Jazz* is actually any good; it's not by the way. So many terrible bands you'll see in London owe their living to this album, knowing this fact will spare you of terrible gigs and evenings spent in far too tight trousers worshipping men with bad haircuts. The reason for this emulation is because the original product is actually pretty good and diverse in sound and inspiration.



2) The Smiths
The Queen is Dead

Pete Doherty is pathetic and not worthy of your attention. He continually apes all of The Smiths output until there's nothing left except a gladioli covered in semen and a hearing aid used as a crack-pipe. At one point in many people's lives The Smiths are the most important thing in their lives. The at once witty and morose lyrics resemble the desperation embodied in being English. The guitar lines distill all that was good in guitar music from the 1960s and The Smiths bridged pop music with an artistic vision in the sleeve artwork. From *The Queen is Dead* to *There Is A Light And It Never Goes Out*, you are never left wanting as the music itself is timeless.



3) Public Enemy
It Takes a Nation of Millions...

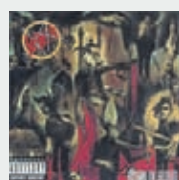
I often find it difficult to talk about a specific album in relation to hip-hop, partly because it is not my real background even though I was brought up

on De La Soul and Wu-Tang Clan. The other reason I find is that so many artists are incredibly prolific making it difficult to find the best album overall. Public Enemy were always around when I was growing up and I took that for granted. It took me until my early teens that I stumbled upon the Public Enemy/Anthrax collaboration and was convinced I should've paid more attention. Combining classic soul samples with hard-edged production along with a political outlook ingrained as if they were invoking the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.



4) John Coltrane
A Love Supreme

Jazz gets associated with coffee shops, empty intellectualism and lifts. This is mainly due to the accessible Cool Jazz period (I avoided listing Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue* for this reason) and proliferation of this as highly intellectual music. *A Love Supreme* is a passionate record despite associated with Cool Jazz. John Coltrane had this amazing musicianship that rose above the music and tapped into pure emotion and the opener of this record is sombre and reminiscent of a religious chant or invocation. The prayer in the liner notes provides somewhere for the listener to gain entry into this delicate yet expansive record. Even those fearful of jazz can enjoy this record.



5) Slayer
Reign in Blood

"*Raining Blood, From a Lacerated Sky!*" Never was a truer word sung. Slayer invented and perfected music. That is a scientific fact, it is not proven but it is a fact. This album is compulsory for anyone who likes even a moderate amount of volume in their music. Slayer's grand opus is compulsory listening if only for *Raining Blood* and *Angel of Death*. Also the brilliant thing about Slayer is that at Jazz and Rock events, everyone covers Metallica but noone tackles Slayer. Metallica are forever tainted by this but Slayer still pure and really, really loud. They are also what Metallica should have become many years with song structures being torn up, thrown back together and then played at quadruple speed.



6) Pavement
Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain

More people should listen to Pavement. I'm sick of when people talking about indie-rock as it is defined by the NME and the latest 'The' band. Indie-rock was defined and perfected by Pavement and this album is full of great pop songs. Stephen Malkmus' lyrics are ingenious, ironic and post-modern (especially on *Range Life*) without being irritating and self-referential. The guitars are all over the place without being irritatingly incompetent. The times I despair thinking if only Pavement were still around and they'd defeat all these terrible indie rock bands that don't say anything new and are uninspiring in their blandness.



7) PJ Harvey
Rid of Me

"*Lick my legs, I'm on fire, lick my legs and I'm desire.*" One of the sexiest lines ever to emerge from rock music from one of the sexiest women in rock music. I am not being sexist, I am being appreciative. And she is not attractive in the traditional sense but in an iconic sense so it is okay. Many will argue over which is her best album but as far as I am concerned this Steve Albini (who engineered albums by Nirvana, The Pixies and The Jesus Lizard) recorded album is so emotionally tense that I have nothing but love for it. PJ Harvey taps into the primal side of rock'n'roll that isn't lazy rock riffage but extremes of dark and light whilst oozing tunes.



8) Fugazi
Repeater + 3 Songs

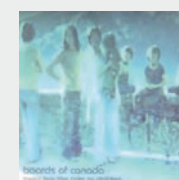
Fugazi are perhaps the most inspirational band ever to emerge ever. They are associated with that most ill-thought out (besides math-rock) of

words: emo. I mean, what kind of good music isn't emotional? Anyway. Fugazi aren't overwrought like the nonsense spewed by My Chemical Romance, they are concerned with exploitation, freedom and the ills of capitalism and materialism. When Guy shouts, "*You are not what you own!*" You know you should be paying attention. Fugazi also set the template for any band who makes slightly alternative music to maintain their freedom of expression.



9) Sonic Youth
Daydream Nation

It amazes me how many people have heard of Sonic Youth (mostly thanks to *The Simpsons*) yet have not heard their music or just assume they are 'grunge'. *Daydream Nation* is their greatest album in my opinion, with *Sister* and *Goo* following and once you have begun listening to this noise-soaked opus is hard to disengage from its labyrinthian ways. Basically what I am trying to say is it is well good. Every single indie club in London should be playing *Teen Age Riot* and not The Enemy or whatever drivel is cool this week. I do apologise for sounding cynical and despairing of all the latest British music at the minute but I am giving you pearls of wisdom here; why bother with a McDonald's cockburger (a carrot for vegetarians) when you could have a juicy steak (a tofu and olive pie with corn topping in my case)?



10) Boards of Canada
Music Has The Right...

Just as the Sonic Youth are known mostly by name and not music, you have probably heard the music of Boards of Canada on various TV programmes and adverts yet do not know the originators. I think this is exploitation of the subtle textures and ambient layers they utilise repackaged as 'chill-out' music. Boards of Canada have a unique approach to the music-making in that they create the sounds themselves then record them onto analogue equipment rather than digital means so that the sounds they use have a 'classic' found sound sample feel to them. They also never overuse a sample and tracks flow from one into the other whilst being constantly engaging.

An in depth look at sport at Imperial

(TT), fencing (F), riding and polo (R), cycling (C), handball (H), hockey (Ho), ski sports (S) and rowing (Ro) have all kindly agreed to take part in this group interview, and will hopefully answer some questions that are on your minds as you decide which club to play for.

1. How big is the club and how many teams do you have?

T.T: We are aiming for around 50-60 members this year. We have 2 teams participating in the BUSA League (1 Men's, 1 Women's) and 3 in the Central London League.

F: Fencing is one of the largest sports at Imperial, with around 50-60 members, so a pretty socialable size. We will be fielding three teams in this years BUSA leagues – Mens 1st and 2nd and Womens 1st. Each team contains up to nine members.

R: The club has about 60 members, having risen sharply over the last two years. We have two BUSA teams, and are in the process of putting together a polo team.

C: The club is fairly small and as such we usually get a close group of about 15-20 members. We have 3 main teams that compete at races: downhill, cross country and road cycling, however we have members from other disciplines as well that just go on social rides.

H: We are a new club so we are looking for new members to establish a women 's and a men 's team.

Ho: Imperial College Hockey Club is one of the largest and most successful sports clubs at the university with nearly 100 members. There are seven teams – four mens, two ladies (competing in both BUSA and ULU) and an occasional mixed team.

S: We are a really big sports club, taking away as many as 200 people at Christmas on a huge trip out to the French Alps. This year we are going to Tignes, a lively resort close to Val d'Isere for only £279.

As for teams, we have 3 teams, Ski, Snowboard and Freestyle. And if we have enough keen women we enter women's teams as well.

Ro: Varies from year to year, but usually we have two women's boats and between four and seven men's boats... Around seventy to ninety people.

2. What does your club have to



Cycling Club

sport. Experienced players have the opportunity to play competitive league table tennis, whilst others are welcome to join our 'Social table tennis' sessions where they can either use the time to hone their skills, or just have fun.

F: We have a huge range of experience within the club from many new beginners to several highly experienced fencers, both men's and women's. Our coach runs a series of classes for beginners, and offers individual lessons to those with more experience. There are also opportunities to enter competitive events that cater for all standards. And to everyone we offer a great social scene...

R: We offer group combined training for all members. The yard where we ride has over 130 horses making it one of the largest in the country,



IC Table Tennis Club

and so there are horses for everyone. Those who have never ridden are put together in a group and taught by experienced instructors. Training for our teams is more intensive and is carried out by senior staff. The yard is a BHS

sponsorship, extra training space and extra friendlies/fitness there is always room to get better!

S: We offer extensive training for skiing, snowboarding and freestyle every week for those who have some experience, and for those of you who are interesting in learning, we run special beginners lessons every week for about 6 weeks before we go away at Christmas, so you wont be a total beginner when you hit the slopes.

Ro: For those new to the sport it is a chance to try something new, get some exercise and become part of a very tight family. For the experienced rowers we have scholarships, accommodation, coaches who have competed at the highest level themselves (past Olympic oarsman, World champions and Henley winners) and state of the art facilities and boats.

3. What is the clubs greatest achievement?

TT: In recent times it would have to be the individual success of Nan Luan at last season's BUSA Individual Championships. She won the Women's plate competition but all participants that weekend were fantastic, and with a bit of luck, maybe we can come away with more prizes this season.

F: Oh I dunno, whooping French and German ass at the International University competition back in June?! Plus our women's team came top of their BUSA league last year.

R: It's hard to narrow it down to one thing, but in recent years we have reorganised the club to allow an increase in membership, we have started polo within Imperial College (previously, the only way to play was to join the UL club), and have enjoyed healthy BUSA



IC Riding and Polo Club

results.

C: Its very hard to keep up a sport like cycling when you move to London because of the lack of anywhere to ride. Getting a group of people out of the big smoke and into the country on a regular basis is probably what we are most proud of.

H: Greatest achievement so far is to becomg an Imperial sports club this year!

Ho: ICHC has been very successful,

and in 2006-07 our teams were ULU cup champions, ULU league winners and BUSA league toppers. Oh, and we retained the Varsity Cup! So our greatest achievement is being the best hockey club in London!

S: Organizing the two huge ski trips and getting people that are new to the sport involved.

Ro: There are many through the years. ICB (Imperial College Rowing Club) is one of Imperial and Britain's most successful clubs every year and competes year round. Most recently, ICB won the Prince Albert Challenge Cup at Henley in 2006.

4. What do you offer to your members besides the sport?

TT: We're a very friendly bunch. We always have a few laughs at our sessions. Freshers' week can be a little intimidating at times for most, so it's nice getting to know people via a club or society (any club/society) to help you settle in.

F: There is a strong social side to the club – with club nights at the union or in a local bar after training, post-BUSA match socials and occasional member's events – like bowling, cinema trips and club dinners. The atmosphere is always relaxed and everyone is friendly.

R: We offer a social atmosphere and a chance to meet like-minded people from across the College.

C: Being a small club we are very social and get to know each other very well over the course of the year. Being the only university cycling club in London we also get to meet and make friends with people from other universities which is not something that happens at other clubs. When we do trips



IC Fencing Club

sports clubs means there is a great social life with off-pitch activities all year round such as dinners, curry nights and weekends away. Summer tours are a feature of the club with highly successful trips to Barcelona, Ghana and most recently an epic tour to Cyprus.

S: The trips, which certainly aren't just about the skiing!!! We get discount cards to loads of bard and clubs on resort, and always have a great laugh with the apres ski.

Ro: There is an incredible team spirit and everyone at the club is very close. We also have a variety of events throughout the year, for example our Freshers' Toga party on Oct. 13th (come check it out!)

5. What is the clubs biggest sporting event of the year?

TT: It would have to be the BUSA Championships. Really exciting couple of days playing against some top players.

F: The BUSA Individuals Competition, held in Nottingham, which is a tournament open to all university fencers. We usually send about a dozen fencers to represent Imperial. This year there are also plans afoot to send a decent contingent abroad to an international universities competition.

R: We run a number of events throughout the year, including our BUSA competitions, club show jumping (open to members of all abilities) and Christmas pony games

C: The BUSA championships are held every year just before Easter break and attract cyclists from almost every university in England. There are over 300 riders that compete in downhill and cross country events over 4 days. Last year it was held in Scotland and the year before that in Wales. It is always a great event that is just as social as competitive and gives you the chance to meet riders from all over the country.

H: We are currently looking into options for competitions, depending on how fast we can establish teams so hurry up and join! Handball is an extremely popular team sport in the rest of Europe, although fairly unknown in the UK, it is an Olympic sport and

C: Every summer a group of us go on holiday abroad for a week. Ok, we take our bikes with us but it is all about riding during the day and then socialising at night. Last summer we went the French Alps and had an amazing week away with plenty of sun, riding and partying. Look out for the article in Felix Sports pages.

H: Suggestions are welcome for the biggest non-sporting event of the year since we are a new club!

Ho: The Annual Dinner is a black-tie event held in a classy hotel in South Kensington – be prepared for a night packed with awards, speeches and copious amounts of frivolity!

S: The biggest non-sporting event is probably either the apres ski on the trips or the usual post session drinks in the union on a wednesday.

Ro: The Boat Club Dinner, held half way through the year. A chance to dress up posh, rub shoulders with past members and enjoy one hell of a party!!!

7. What impression do you think you give to other clubs?

TT: I have no idea. I guess it would be fair to say IC table tennis has been fairly quiet for a couple of years as we were not playing in the BUSA League. But we really exploded onto the scene in the Individuals so I hope we've drawn some attention.

F: No idea, hopefully they all have a positive one though.

R: Having increased in size relatively recently, I think our image will have changed a bit -- but I expect they think we all smell of horses!

C: No idea! A friendly society, welcomes all, active with lots of trips, social, supportive ??

H: Impression to other sport clubs – what IS handball??? Friendly, sociable and multicultural (handball is particularly popular in mainland Europe such as Germany and Scandinavian countries for instance).

Ho: We are obviously a big club but we are not complacent – we endeavour to improve the standard of hockey and strive to make the social events fun



IC Hockey Club

and welcoming for everyone within the club. Overall we are very friendly and do our best to encourage anyone who wants to play hockey.

S: The club that has the largest turn over due to the ski trip, so loads of people know it but only a dedicated few do the racing.

8. Who are your rivals?

TT: I guess it's UCL. But that's because they're the only other university team in the Central League. We should gain a few more this season. Visit our website at <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/tabletennis> for more info about the club and dates for teams trials.



IC Snow Sports Club

F: Our main rivals are probably the ULU (University of London Union) fencing squad, along with the other major fencing universities – Oxford, Cambridge, Bath, Bristol.....oh, and pirates!

R: In BUSA competitions, we are regularly drawn against UCL, Brunel, Kent, Southampton and the RVC. Polo competitions will be on a national level and so we could be drawn against anyone, theoretically. In terms of the Union, unlike some clubs, we do not duplicate others' remits, so we have no rivals within the College.

C: The sport is more individual so

friendly rivalry is always encouraged to push each other further. Other than some expected friendly rivalry with other unis at the BUSA champs, we don't have any big rivals as we mostly tend to ride with friends or make friends with the people we ride with.

H: We don't really have any at the moment, mainly because we haven't played any games yet.

Ho: Top three: 1-Medics, 2-Medics, 3-St Georges (Medics!)
S: Medics ski trip!!!! Never sure why they do that one.

Ro: Definitely, it's definitely Oxford Brookes.

Hopefully this questions and answer session will have helped you choose a club to join this Tuesday, or at least given you an idea of what the sports team atmosphere is like within Imperial.

All that is left to say is a big thankyou to all the people that have taken the time to answer the questions: Michael Sathyendran (Table Tennis), Nathan Blundell (Fencing), Samuel Furse (Riding and Polo), James Atteck (Cycling), Inger Eriksson (Handball), Jack Cornish (Hockey), Emma Perskey (Snow Sports) and Johannes Hesketh (Rowing). All of them will be eagerly awaiting to see you at Freshers' Fair, so go down and say hello!



Freshers' Week Guide to Sports

Sport Guide

There are bound to be people out there that are still struggling to decide which team to join, you may have played rugby whilst at school but fancy trying hockey or you've played netball at school and want to carry on playing. But don't feel like that's all the sports that the college has to offer, why not try some of the more random sports out there that you would have never had the chance to participate in before, such as handball or riding or even ultimate frisbee.

Well fear not, since Felix has managed to get a small interview with some of the sports teams at Imperial to give you a more in-depth look at their teams. Table tennis

Continued on page 18



Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

Congratulations on getting into Imperial and welcome to a very special freshers' edition of Felix. In the following week you will undoubtedly be bombarded with so much information, so this edition will hopefully make it easier for all of you out there who are interested in joining one of the many sports teams at Imperial.

You will have, hopefully, read the freshers' handbook before you came to university, but more specifically the clubs and societies section where all the sports teams, both medic and IC can be found. On a slight side note, it will take you probably about a week to realise that there is a very very small

rivalry, hardly noticeable, between the medics and the rest of the college, do your best to take part in this tradition! Anyway, you have seen all the sports teams and the next task is to find them at the Freshers' Fair this Tuesday.

Freshers' fair is a relatively simple thing, you go to the stall of the team you want to join, say hello, give them your name and email and then leave! It's that simple. So what's next? Well most of the sports teams will hold their trials on Wednesday, which is frankly a whole day event so leave it free if you're going to join one of the sport teams.

The day basically involves everyone meeting in the union quad around midday then head off for trials, once the trials are done most of the teams stay behind at Harlington for a few welcome drinks before getting ready for the first unofficial 'Sports Night' at the union.

If you're still undecided about what clubs to join, join them all and make your mind up later; talk to the people at the stalls, they are all keen to help, or have a look at what the ACC Chair and some of the club captains have to say about their club. Enjoy Freshers' Week and I'll see some of you at the rugby stand.

A Welcome from the Athletics Club Committee

Luke Taylor
A.C.C Chair

What do you want out of sport? A chance to hone your already renowned sporting ability to perfection? A means of shedding the summer pounds? Or an excuse to get drunk in the Union bar with a group of mates? Whatever the case, sport at Imperial is definitely for you.

With so many sports on offer, there is something for everyone. There are your traditional sports such as rugby, football and hockey, we also have 16 different types of martial arts. Despite the fact that we're a long way from the sea, you'll find the opportunity for sailing, yachting and windsurfing.

The British University Sports Association (BUSA) provides a national league system that many of our clubs play in, allowing you to compete with other universities at a range of levels. The University of London Union (ULU) with over 150,000 students, has its own leagues for 16 different sports.

Imperial has some of the best and

most modern university sporting facilities in London, including two large outdoor sports facilities for the likes of rugby, football, cricket, and lacrosse – one at Teddington and one at Harlington, which also happens to be the training ground for QPR. There are various indoor facilities on the main campus providing suites for martial arts and halls for fitness classes. You will also no doubt have already seen the brand new, state of the art Sports Centre that has just opened on the South Kensington Campus. It is totally free for all students to swim and use the fitness gym!

Finally, the headquarters of the Imperial College Union Boat Club, arguably the most successful student rowing club, are located on London's Putney Embankment, a superb location.

For many people, the social side of a sports club – or indeed any club – is one of the most important reasons for joining. There's the obvious 'making friends' advantage, having an instant new circle of friends outside your halls, course and especially your year, and the

instant acceptance into the Wednesday post-match gathering at the Union, undoubtedly the best night of the week to be a Student at Imperial!

In addition, there is a vast amount of fun to be had at more formal events such as annual dinners, colours awards and bar nights.

Imperial College Union sports clubs collectively have one of the best reputations in London, regularly winning ULU trophies. At a national level, we have a rugby team in the BUSA Premier League, and the Boat Club is undoubtedly one of the best in the country, having repeatedly seen ex-members win Olympic gold.

Success, however, is not merely measured in silverware. If you have fun, meet new friends then your time at Imperial will become much more worthwhile. So go along to the Freshers' Fair this Tuesday and sign up to one of the many sports teams Imperial has to offer. You will undoubtedly meet some great friends and have a great time whilst at university. What more can a fresher ask for?