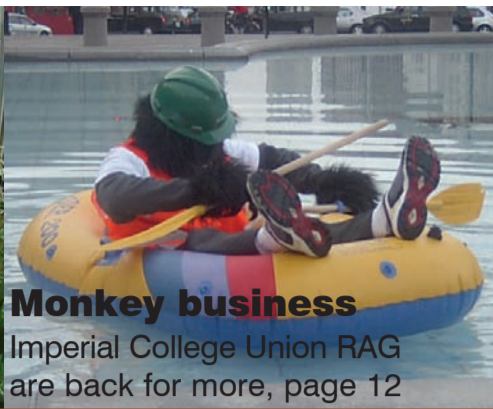




Freshers Fair

Pull-out guide with maps and stall directory, page 13



Monkey business

Imperial College Union RAG are back for more, page 12



Hero worship

Felix Film has a glorious visual treat, page 24



Doctors on tour

Imperial Medicals Rugby Club tour Canada, page 28



Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1299 ● Thursday 30 September 2004 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

Maximum fees

Two thirds of all universities are set to charge the maximum fee of £3000 for every course. Many are driven by fears of appearing second rate and having insufficient money to fund bursary schemes.

►NEWS page 3

Super size me

Morgan Spurlock's film has brought attention to an inherent conflict between consumer and corporate interests.

►SCIENCE page 5

"Corporate responsibility is a nice theory, but it's not something we can realistically expect in our commercial world."

►COMMENT page 7

Welfare support

"Your personal tutor should monitor your academic progress, ensure that you get all the help you need, and make sure you know what's going on in your department."

►COMMENT page 6

Summer success

The Imperial College Union Boat Club ended a strong season with victory at the Henley Royal Regatta.

►SPORT page 26



The Boat Club celebrate at Henley

THIS WEEK

News	page 2
Business	page 4
Science	page 5
Comment	page 6
Around campus	page 9
Listings	page 10
Freshers Fair	page 13
Music	page 18
Nightlife	page 19
Arts	page 21
Books	page 22
Film	page 24
Crossword	page 25
Sport	page 26

Students to have no voice on College Council

By Dave Edwards
Editor

There will be no student representation whatsoever on the main governing body of Imperial College, if current proposals are accepted at its next meeting.

Felix has obtained a copy of a letter sent to the members of Imperial College Council which outlines recommendations for sweeping changes to the governance of the College. The present student representative, the Union President, would be removed from the Council, as would all members of academic staff outside the senior management team.

Dr Eileen Buttle, the Council Chairman, wrote the letter to report on the progress of her review of the Council and its Committees. She is due to present formal recommendations on 15 October.

The letter states that "the governing body should be seen as a meeting between those responsible for delivering the College's plans and non-executives charged with ensuring that those plans are delivered in the interests of wider stakeholders in this prestigious UK university... If this revised model for the Council is adopted, elected members have no role to play."

The letter continues: "I would propose that the Imperial College Union be treated as analogous to a department outside the faculty structure. The President of ICU should be invited annually to Council to submit his Union's annual report."

Imperial College already has a low level of student representation on the governing body compared to other universities, and if the proposals were accepted, it would be the only university with no stu-



Student silence at 170 Queen's Gate: students will no longer be represented at Imperial College Council meetings if proposals are approved

dent representation at all.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, called the proposals "misguided" and told *Felix*: "Students are the most important stakeholders in higher education. Council is there to hold management to account over College's long term strategy. The College's future depends on attracting and retaining the best students, so student representatives should be able to contribute to that process."

Senior figures within Government would appear to disagree with Dr Buttle's recommendations. Answering a written question in the House of Lords on 13 September, Lord Filkin, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, said: "In our response to the Dearing report in 1998 we supported the recommendation that students should be represented on the governing

bodies of all higher education institutions. We continue to support this principle."

The Council is expected to approve Dr Buttle's proposals at its next meeting. However, students' groups and teaching unions are likely to lobby against them. The forthcoming review of Imperial by the Quality Assurance Agency is seen as extremely important, and it could count against the College if the Agency decides that students' views are not being heard.

Tony Mitcheson, the College Secretary and Clerk

to the Council, said: "Council is about the non-executives holding executive management to account. Students should be focusing their effort and input on day-to-day management and operations." He stressed that the plans were only proposals and were to be debated at the next meeting.

Professor Rees Rawlings, the Pro Rector for Educational Quality, told *Felix* that the proposals would have "no negative effect on educational quality, because that is all dealt with by the Senate [the College's senior academic committee]".

Although the Senate may be able to deal with academic issues, it remains to be seen how the Council of an academic institution can govern effectively without representatives from the student body or the academic staff.

● State of the Union, page 6

"If this revised model is adopted, elected members will have no role to play"

Future of Wye campus in doubt

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Last month, Imperial College announced plans to transfer most courses away from the Wye campus, close the Department of Agricultural Sciences and consider the future of the campus in a review.

The College Management Board has launched a consultation process recommending that the Faculty of Life Sciences is restructured. In a statement, the College said that the principal aim was to maintain "a world class institution for teaching and research in life sciences".

It appears that the changes are financially motivated, with the Faculty of Life Sciences predicting a deficit of £11.6m by the end of the 2006-7 financial year. The Department of Agricultural Sciences, which is wholly based at Wye, contributes a loss of £1.8m per year.

Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Deputy Rector designate, said: "The financial position of the Faculty of Life Sciences is unsustainable and cannot be allowed to continue. The Faculty's presence at the Wye campus in its current configuration is not economically viable."

The proposals were met with dismay by students and staff at Wye. Imperial College Union issued a statement expressing its concern at "the lack of consultation and vague nature of statements about the future of agricultural sciences and teaching at Wye".

Continued on page 2

Felix

Issue 1299

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NEWS

Emergency night bus returns to Union

By Dave Edwards
Editor

An emergency night bus service from the main Union building in South Kensington will return on a trial basis this term.

The service, which will provide safe transport home for vulnerable students on ents nights, was cancelled in summer 2003, when a senior Union officer described it as "inefficient" and "a waste of money".

However, Sameena Misbahuddin, the Deputy President (Finance and Services), told *Felix* that the service had been "badly managed in the past" and that "a lot of students have asked for it to be brought back".

Miss Misbahuddin, whose pledge to reintroduce the service may have won her crucial votes in this year's sabbatical elections, continued: "It will be an emergency service intended for the vulnerable, which means single women, single men, small groups of women, and others at the Ents Manager's discretion."

The night bus will run during Freshers Week and on Friday nights throughout the autumn term, typically with two trips each evening, though this will depend on demand. The trial will gather information on who has used the service, why they have used it and where they have been taken.

The 'worst case scenario' cost of the trial has been calculated at £1073.15 per term,



Student safety: a Union minibus will provide transport for the vulnerable on busy ents nights

although Miss Misbahuddin is confident of cutting this by recruiting volunteers to drive and navigate the minibus.

The emergency night bus has been criticised in the past for providing transport for students who do not genuinely need it. Groups of people have been allowed to travel in previous years, and students may have become reliant on the possibility of a 'free ride home'.

Miss Misbahuddin stressed that this would not occur in the future, as only emergency

cases of vulnerable students would be permitted to use the night bus. She added: "We're

"It will be an emergency service intended for the vulnerable"

going to keep a much stricter record of who is going on the minibus and why, and we have

to check if they are using it every week because there is an issue there as well."

Club and society officials have expressed concern at the reintroduction of the service, claiming that it will divert money and resources away from club and society activities.

However, Miss Misbahuddin insists that the trial will finally allow the Union to consider the future of the emergency night bus properly, as no suitable data has been collected in the past.

New handbooks published

The *Imperial College Union Handbook 2004* was published last week. This 176-page A5 publication is a comprehensive guide to the Union and everything that it can do for students, whilst also serving as an introduction to life at Imperial College.

All UK-based freshers should have received a copy by post, and all other freshers will be given one at the overseas students' welcome meetings.

Copies of the handbook are available to all students from Union reception and the Student Activities Centre throughout the year. You can also pick one up at the *Felix* and Union stands at Freshers Fair. Any comments or questions about the Union handbook should be directed to the *Felix* office.

Also available is the latest *Imperial College Student Handbook*, which has been put together by the College Registry. This is a separate publication from the Union handbook, and can be accessed online at www.ic.ac.uk/studenthandbook. It is designed to help you throughout your course of study.

There is important information about where to go for advice and support, and about student facilities at Imperial College. The pages will be updated throughout the year, so it would be useful to visit them regularly. Comments and suggestions about this handbook should be sent to Ruth Ellis, the Assistant Registrar (Undergraduate Admissions) at ruth.ellis@ic.ac.uk.

Imperial plans sweeping changes at Wye

Continued from page 1

The Union urged the College to "safeguard the current student cohort at the Wye campus, in particular ensuring that they are examined and graduate with degrees of the academic standard they expected on admission" and to "engage in consultation with students at Wye and other life sciences departments".

The College has discussed the plans with representatives from teaching unions, but their statement expressed no intention to consult students.

Under the proposals, some staff will move from the Department of Agricultural Sciences into other departments, but around 30 academic staff will lose their jobs, as will a corresponding number of support staff.

Undergraduate teaching will continue at Wye, but only in Applied Business Management. The

Management Board has also recommended that a new Department of Environmental Sciences be created.

The College insist that students starting courses at Wye up to and including 2005 will not be affected. Their statement continues: "The partial withdrawal of teaching, and

"The Faculty's presence at the Wye campus is not economically viable"

the withdrawal of research, from the Wye campus will be planned in detail after the consultation exercise."

The Wye campus has been a centre of learning since 1447, when it was founded as a college for secular priests. It merged with Imperial College in August 2000.



Rural restructuring: under Imperial College proposals, far less undergraduates will be able to enjoy the picturesque surroundings of Wye in future years

NEWS

news.felix@ic.ac.uk

Two thirds of universities to charge maximum top-up fees

By Emily Gwyer

Two years before universities become able to charge variable fees of up to £3000, a new poll has found that two thirds of vice-chancellors are planning to charge the maximum amount for every course.

The poll, published in *The Guardian*, revealed that the heads of the majority of universities in the country have taken the step of charging the maximum rate allowed, with many driven by fears of appearing second rate and of having insufficient money to fund their bursary schemes.

It was originally thought that universities would charge differential fees to distinguish between courses on the basis of their popularity or the amount it costs to run them. Now, as vice-chancellors make the big decision in time for the 2005 prospectuses to go to press, that appears not to be the case.

It was always known that Imperial College and the other Russell Group universities (the major research-based universities in the country)

would charge the full amount. Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College, told *Felix*: "I find it difficult to believe that an organization of the standard and quality of Imperial College would not charge the maximum £3000 for their science courses, since even when we charge £3000 we're losing a hell of a lot of money." He argues that the maximum

"It does suggest that the idea of 'choice' is a misconception"

level should be raised higher, to around £5,000.

Student numbers will not fall at Russell Group institutions if fees are set at the new maximum level, such is the competition for places. It is the smaller, newer and less rich universities which face an agonizing decision about how much to charge. Charge less, and they run the risk of appearing second rate; charge more, and students

might not think it worth the cost.

Many universities are finding it difficult to do the maths: how much are they able to charge to appear competitive while being able to fund the essential bursary schemes that will also begin in 2006? This difficult balancing act has left most seeing no way out but to charge the maximum amount. However, a wrong turn could be disastrous - setting the cost too high could deter students from enrolling, which could bankrupt a small university.

Although this news is unlikely to affect future Imperial students, it does suggest that the idea of 'choice' is a misconception: all that appears to be happening with the new education marketplace is that, in essence, fees have jumped from £1150 to £3000 per year. We are yet to discover whether the bursaries will provide enough extra income to allow poorer students to overcome this, and whether universities will be able to attract enough students to survive.



Student views ignored? Many protested, like these at Imperial in 2002, but tuition fees look set to reach £3000 for most courses

faster pussycat

Saturday 2 October

Faster Pussycat is a tidy selection of R'n'B / Bashment and Hip-Hop from the very best cutting edge djs. Bump and grind with a world class line up. Blazin'.

KISS FABRICLIVE.
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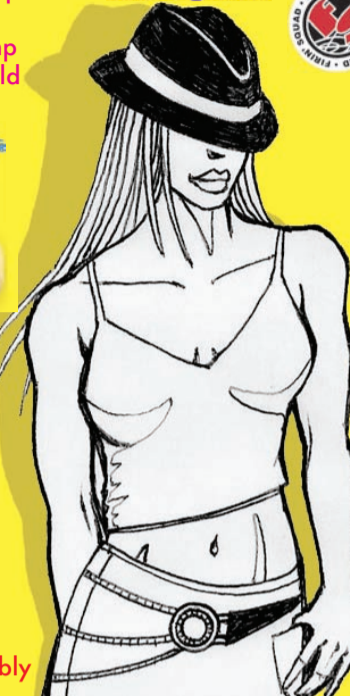
1Xtra
BBC

8pm > 2am
Cost: £8



Free Smirnoff + Mixer voucher in dBs + free Shark & cocktails samples in Concert Hall Free

The Union and Smirnoff encourage you to drink responsibly



dBs: BBC1 Xtra Skitz and Rodney P. The most upfront UK R'n'B and Hip Hop act. Plus Fabric Live's Joe Ransom and Faster Pussycat resident dj Ben Beiny
UDH: Paradise Bar Chill Out, smooth grooves and smokin' hookahs
Concert Hall: KISS FM, Firin' Squad and Cleo live PA plus break-dancers. Faster Pussycat resident dj Matt Carpenter
Gym: Casino blackjack and roulette with prizes



Ben Beiny



Skitz + Rodney P



Matt C

ROCK CITY Vs CHEEKY Wed October 6
8pm > 1am
Cost: £5

dBs:

ROCK CITY

Resident djs Way Way and Miss K playing the best in party rock music and a very special guest band, with a massive stage presence, Keith Flint - Clever Brains Fryin'.

This will be a night to remember!



Concert Hall:

Flirty current chart music and party classics



UDH:

Paradise Bar with hot snacks and chill out dj sessions

Gym:

Fight Club
Bouncy Boxing and Inflatable Fun



The Union and Twistee encourage you to drink responsibly

2 Twistees for £2.50
Plus give aways in dBs

Business

business.felix@ic.ac.uk

Why a bottle of beer is bound to bear a burden on a budget

Numaan Chaudhry gives a gentle introduction to the new Business section by looking at the factors determining the cost of alcohol

With the beginning of the new academic year comes a new group of young and eager students ready to embark on a journey that will probably transform their lives completely by providing a gateway to fun, freedom and even fortune due to the increased employability of Imperial graduates. However, before we start contemplating buying an Aston Martin DB9 over a Ferrari Scaglietti, we need to look at our current financial state first.

Instead of telling the reader how to manage their finances, for which there are many hundreds of books that cover the issue in depth, I

“Alcohol tax in the UK is the highest in the European Union, bar none”

will expound the underlying conditions that determine the price of one of the most financially consuming commodities for students and lecturers alike, namely alcohol.

Although the stages in the production of alcohol have changed very little since its conception many centuries ago, the price has risen like there's no tomorrow. There are several factors that can be attributed to this extreme price change, some of which I will now outline.

At the forefront of the pricing mechanism is the issue of alcohol duties. Initially introduced to assist native brewers in competing with much cheaper imported beverages, alcohol duties have turned out to be a handsome source of income for Customs and Excise. Duty rates are dependent on the alcohol content of the beverage being sold and the origin of the source, with home brewers being charged much less than those importing alcohol. Although there is an array of different duty rates for spirits and wines, the rate for beer is a constant figure, currently £12.59 per hectolitre per cent of alcohol in the beer.

The next source of 'Government funding' comes from alcohol taxes, a discreet yet distinct (from alcohol duties) contributor to pric-

es. Alcohol tax in the UK is the highest in the European Union, bar none. Although it is not as volatile as alcohol duty, this tax can be up to a staggering 70% of the nominal price you might pay.

However, this Government scheme has had its desired effect to some extent. By rocketing up the price of beers, spirits and wines, this policy has reduced the alcohol consumption level considerably. Subsequent research has shown that there has been a significant decrease in alcohol intake by youths and the tax has thus led to fewer alcohol-related car fatalities, assaults and health issues.

Location, location, location. This is one of the few opportunities where the reader has some control over how much he/she pays when it comes to buying beverages. There is a huge variation of price when it comes to alcohol, ranging from the dirt cheap booze of parts of Wales to the ludicrously overpriced spirits of the Che restaurant in Green Park. More often than not, the alcohol is overpriced due to the greediness of pub owners, restaurant managers and multinational vendors such as SABMiller and Diageo.

In some respects, the UK is lucky with regard to the pricing of alcoholic beverages compared to other EU nations. Norway's breweries, for instance, have been hit hard by the increasing cost of alcohol due to their intricate political situation. Also, inflation has without a doubt been one of the key factors underlying the base price of the whole beverages suite.

From what has been discussed, it is clear that Customs and Excise have no intention of lowering their income from alcohol, and the price of beer seems set to continue to rise without bounds. Combined with the living costs of South Kensington and the forthcoming introduction of top-up fees, this could have a devastating effect on student finances that could leave students struggling to get out of the red for many years after graduation. With so much at stake, it is apparent that there is very little scope for a student to be drinking on a night out, let alone go on a binge at the Che restaurant.



Does anyone fancy a pint? The price of beer seems set to continue to rise without bounds

MONDAY OCT 4

URBAN BASHMENT SCRATCH BATTLE



DJ P

dBs: Scratch Battle DJ P vs, DJ Hal 1200

Dancehall, Bashment R'n'B and Hip-Hop showcase

UDH: Paradise Bar Chill out and Hookahs

DJ P is one of the best scratch djs performing on the university circuit, with your favourite tunes. Great technical ability and a blazin' style, he knows how to make a party jump.

vs

DJ Hal

VODKA MUDSHARE

Vodka Mudshakes £1.80 in dBs

Plus scratch card promotion in dBs

The Union and Mudshake encourage you to drink responsibly

7.30pm > 11.30pm
Cost: £2

TUESDAY OCT 5

STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8pm > 10pm
Cost: **FREE**

At: DaVinci's

Quiz night is an Imperial tradition.

Turn up with a bunch of friends or make up a team on the night. Either way you will be in with a chance of winning beer and cash. You will be surprised by what you know.

JAZZ BIG BAND

7.30pm > 11.20pm
Cost: **FREE**

At: dBs

An Imperial Union phenomenon - 24 amazing musicians playing together delivering the unmissable Jazz Big Band sound. Smooth songs and sexy syncopation.

The Union and Bacardi encourage you to drink responsibly

Bacardi + Mixer for £1.00 plus in dBs
Bacardi B-Bar Party with Conga Drum Prize Draw

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

This is your platform, the next train is for science



DARIUS NIKBIN
SCIENCE EDITOR

Welcome back to the science pages of *Felix*. In my second year as science editor, I intend to continue along the same lines as last year. The

aim, as before, is to report on some of the latest developments in the world of science and to publish your opinions and feature articles on science in its larger, societal context.

To believe that it is possible to continue practising science in a political and cultural vacuum is a myth just about as absurd as believing that the Earth is flat. For science to progress in the modern world, scientists have to be able to communicate the meaning and purpose of what they are doing to society. A research interface exists not only between science and business (as we

are only too keenly aware at Imperial College), but between politics, culture, the media, and even the arts.

At the same time, scientists have to stay true to scientific values and reaffirm the importance of objectivity in their work. How should the scientific community reconcile the objectivity demanded by their vocation and the subjective values that are so prevalent in politics and the media? This is one of the issues, amongst many others, that Felix Science can address during the course of the year.

Last year, we had articles on a very wide variety of

subjects, ranging from the controversy surrounding genetically modified foods through to quantum theory, the existence of God, and even the effect of LSD and crack on spiders. There are many other things to write about, of course.

And it doesn't always have to be serious – a sense of humour is obligatory, because you can't take anyone who hasn't got a sense of humour seriously. So I hope that this year you, the reader, will continue to find something of interest in these pages and will also find the time to contribute to this, your forum.

Felix Science is looking for regular and occasional contributors. If you are interested in writing science news, reviewing websites, or want to write a feature article about a subject you are interested in, email science.felix@ic.ac.uk and we will provide you with the platform to write for Imperial.

A 'super size' food industry gone berserk

Morgan Spurlock's new film *Super Size Me* has brought attention to an inherent conflict between consumer and corporate interests that has given rise to the obesity epidemic

By Darius Nikbin

The release of Morgan Spurlock's highly anticipated *Super Size Me* has drawn the public's attention to a \$1 trillion industry whose unscrupulous and immoral marketing tactics have damaged the health of millions.

Be it in lobbying for favourable trade laws, pushing for changes in food legislation, or strategically recruiting nutritional scientists to promote the dubious health content of their products, today's food industry has unprecedented influence in government and science to promote its interests at the expense of the consumer's health.

Hardly a day goes past without us being told what we should be eating. On television, on the radio, in scientific journals, various foods are championed or denounced for their so-called health value. In addition to the dissemination of confusing dietary advice, microbial outbreaks, uncertainty about GM foods, and the emerging fear of food bioterrorism have contributed to bewildering the masses and have led to a climate of dietary paranoia which suits the interests of food marketers. From obesity epidemics to childhood diabetes, from foot-and-mouth to salmonella, over the years the system has failed to find a balance between consumer interests and the food industry's insatiable greed.

The facts are uncompromising. In a matter of seven years between 1991 and 1998, the rate of adult obesity increased from 12% to 18%

in the US. Today it is reckoned that one third of the US population is clinically obese. The figures are reflected in the UK where the blame for increasing rates of childhood diabetes in recent years has been placed at the door of poor dietary practices. The number of people dying from the effects of a highly sedentary lifestyle, dietary apathy and an increasing calorific intake is also on the increase. Can this be blamed on the food industry, whose unscrupulous marketing of their products has consisted of a constant "eat more" message? Should the food industry be regulated

"The facts are uncompromising... one third of the US population is clinically obese..."

so that unhealthy products are labelled in a similar way to tobacco products? Should advertising aimed at children be banned in order to promote healthy nutritional ethics from an early age?

In no area of industry is the failure to consolidate public and commercial interests more evident and paradigmatic than in the field of public nutrition. And nowhere are the difficulties more manifest than in the US. There, the government has been advising people on what to eat for over a century now. To begin with, and up until the 1970s, a succession of administrations advised the populus to

"eat more". The objective was, ostensibly, to address issues of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency that afflicted a significant proportion of the population. However, towards the late seventies the government's message had to change. Scientific research identified a high-cholesterol diet as a major cause of heart disease and other chronic health problems. In its duty to protect the nation's health, they had to radically shift policy from "eat more" to "eat less". This was a move that would never sit well with food producers, who had long been used to favourable market conditions for selling products. To this day, the food industry has fought in the law courts and lobbied Congress to prevent this simple message of "eat less" getting to a public eating themselves to death.

The American food industry manipulates the public through marketing and influences Congress legislators and regulators through lobbying. In doing so, the actions of the food industry are thoroughly analogous to that of the US tobacco industry in trying to influence scientists, federal agencies and the government to promote the marketing and legitimacy of their product. Food companies use every means available to create and protect an environment that is conducive to selling their products to a public.

It could be argued that in this sense food companies are no different to a whole host of other industries in the US that lobby Congress and fund



Morgan Spurlock: spent a month eating only McDonalds

scientific research in order to effect political change. However, when more studies are showing that foods which are high in sugars and cholesterol are potentially addictive, and more hospital beds are being filled by people suffering from the consequences of a high-calorie diet, questions have to be asked about the legitimacy of their practices. Research on rats at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, for instance, has found that the changes in the rats' neurochemistry from having a high-sugar diet were similar to those inflicted by heroin and morphine.

Food addiction is an area that scientists are only just beginning to explore, but the signs are not good for the food industry. McDonald's has already been threatened with legal action accusing it

of promoting bad diets and selling intrinsically unhealthy food. Although the first few lawsuits have been thrown out, it is only a matter of time before one ruling in favour of the customer leads to an avalanche of lawsuits against food companies – especially if further studies confirm that fatty foods have addictive properties. The fact that McDonalds are now selling salads on their menus is a direct result of this threat of legal action. But many think that the damage has already been done. In the past 20 years, obesity levels in American children have doubled.

Defenders of the food industry would say that unlike tobacco, food products, by their very nature, cannot be intrinsically unhealthy – since they can always be incorporated into a balanced

diet. At face value they have a point, but the consensus forming in the scientific community would disagree – for them, there is not much difference between smoking cigarettes and eating junk food. Both habits are addictive and both can have fatal consequences.

There is now a community of people who want to change the operations of an industry worth \$1 trillion and the dietary habits of a nation of 290 million people. Bona fide nutritionists want to promote dietary education in schools, campaign for food labelling, have TV advertising for unhealthy foods restricted, taxes levied on soft drinks and other high-sugar products, and healthy foods like fruits and vegetables to be subsidised.

The anti-'big fat' legal community will be looking for the same kind of success that tobacco litigators achieved in 1998, when cigarette companies agreed to pay out \$246 billion over 25 years to settle lawsuits brought by US states for tobacco-related health-care costs. Although they are unlikely to succeed on the same scale, due to the fundamentally poisonous nature of tobacco constituents, the anti-'big fat' movement believe that, on the basis of scientific results, food companies should change their ways or be punished for their irresponsible commercialisation of junk food.

James Robinson argues that consumers should take more responsibility. Comment, page 7

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

New beginnings

Greetings to everyone, to new students, returning students and those of us who have been slogging it out through the summer. You can look forward to my scribbles in future editions of *Felix*, as I have the privilege of running Imperial College Union for a second year and shall be writing here to explain what I am doing with my time and your money, as well as issues that affect the Union or students generally.

Representation and elections

The main purpose of a students' union is to act as the representative voice of the students of the College. You will read on the front page that the College is embarked on a process of reviewing its governance structure. Most of the outcomes of the review (streamlining of committees) will, in my opinion, benefit students as they will improve the way that the College is run. Unfortunately there is a negative outcome which is that there should be no staff or student representatives on Council, the College's governing body.

At present there are six elected academic staff members of the College Council in addition to the Union President. A Union Deputy President attends as an observer. The proposals envisage there being no representatives on the governing body as it is felt that this is inappropriate, the role of governors being to bring external scrutiny to management on long-term strategy. The College's view is that staff and student representatives' role is to interface with management, not governors, on operational issues – in the same way that trades unions are not represented on the board of directors of a company.

I believe that this recommendation is misguided. Universities are not conventional "businesses". Imperial College is, largely, a public funded body with responsibilities to wider stakeholders. The role of the governing body is to ensure that the College is acting in the wider public interest. Students are important stakeholders in higher education. We all pay fees to be here – money we could take elsewhere. At the end

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

of the day, the future of the College (and the reputation of our degrees) is dependent on attracting the best students to study here. Surely students should be able to influence that at the highest level?

The proposals are, at present, just proposals. They need to be approved by the next meeting of

College Council (unfortunately full of 'yes' men) and they then need to be approved by the Queen through the Privy Council, a process which will take months, at least. It is important to use this time to demonstrate the importance of student representation. There are elections taking place for membership of Union Council (the students' governing and policy-making body) in the second week of term. Be sure to vote. Every vote in a Union election is a vote in favour of the principle of student representation. All registered students are automatically Union members and can vote online. To find out more, or to stand for election, visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

Freshers Fair

Tuesday sees the Union's annual Freshers Fair. This year it will last the whole day. If you are a fresher, or even a continuing student, make it an absolute priority to go around and visit the stalls. Imperial College Union spends more, per student, funding clubs and societies than any

other students' union in the country, and it shows.

There are some 300 recognized student societies at Imperial – far more than anywhere else, offering an unrivalled diversity of activities and interests to get involved in. Remember that the opportunities you have now to try new activities and hobbies at cheap prices will never be matched again. I have friends now who have graduated and moved onto high-flying jobs with no spare time who wonder what they did with all their time at Imperial – so make the most of it while you are here.

Finally...

The Union is here to serve you. If you think there is something we are doing wrong or have ideas for things we could do better, please do not hesitate to get in touch. My office is on the first floor of the Union Building and I'm always happy to make time to see students.

Enjoy your time here.

The joy of... personal tutors

Hello and welcome! If you're a returning student, then welcome back, chin up, it's not as bad as all that; if you're a fresher, congratulations, you've arrived, you're going to have a superb time at Imperial College.

Imperial (as I'm sure you're fed up of hearing) prides itself in the quality of its research and its teaching. If you're a research student, you will be allocated a supervisor to help you with your work; if you're an undergraduate, you will be assigned a personal tutor to keep an eye on your academic progress and your general welfare. We'll deal with supervisors later, since that's a whole can of worms of its own, and concentrate for the moment on personal tutors.

Many people have told me that, whilst some tutors are great, the quality varies between departments

and individuals. In order to achieve greater consistency in the personal tutorial system, I will be conducting a survey to find out what you think. Watch this space!

Here are some typical things I might be emailed about (or even hear in the bar) regarding personal tutors:

"Dear Sam,

I am a first year student in the Department of X. At the beginning of the year, some administrator mentioned something about a personal tutor, but I don't know who mine is, and I certainly haven't met them. Some of my friends in other departments tell me that their personal tutors are really helpful, and a re-app in my hall once mentioned that his tutor helped him get back onto his course after he'd failed. I'm worried that I'm missing out by not

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

knowing who mine is. It would be great if you could help me, because I don't know who else to turn to."

I would reply:

"You are right to be concerned about not knowing who your personal tutor is. They are an invaluable contact within your department. They should monitor your academic progress, ensure that you get all the help you need, and make sure you know what's going on in your department. If you haven't done your coursework, you might find them chasing you up, but remember, they have your best interests at heart!

It is also important that someone in the department is keeping an eye out for your personal well-being: in cases where this affects academic performance, they can help you more the earlier they know about any problems. This help can include anything from pointing you in the direction of appropriate welfare support to helping you with your case

should you need to make an appeal against an academic decision.

Your tutor is also a good person to ask to write you a reference when you apply for a job, so it's important that you have a good working relationship.

You should make it a priority to find out who your tutor is, meet them, and stay in regular contact.

Good luck!"

● Sam Rorke is the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) of Imperial College Union. His remit is to oversee academic affairs, welfare, accommodation and student development, and ensure that students' views on these issues are effectively communicated to the College. If you have any comments or questions, please contact him on dpew@ic.ac.uk.

When you find yourself in times of trouble...

The Imperial College Union Advice Service is a free, impartial and independent advice service for all Imperial College students.

The Advice Service can help you with a multitude of problems, big or small. It can also help if you just need someone to talk to or would like some information.

Areas covered by the Advice Service include:

ACADEMIC ADVICE: Academic appeals, complaints, withdrawals, help with course problems and transfers.

MONEY ADVICE: Assistance with student loan, fees and grant queries,

debt advice, international student funding, assistance with applications to the Hardship Fund, post-graduate funding information.

HOUSING ADVICE: Tenancy agreement checking service, help getting unfairly held deposits back, assistance on getting your landlord to carry out repairs, information about illegal evictions, your general housing rights.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ISSUES: How to get a national insurance number, international students' funding, local and general information for international students.

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
UNION ADVISER

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ADVICE: National insurance, tax refunds, national minimum wage, holiday and break entitlement.

CONSUMER RIGHTS ADVICE: Help with your consumer rights, internet buying, advice about illegal traders.

PERSONAL SAFETY: Tips and advice on personal safety, free supply of attack alarms, a selection of leaflets and publications that can help you.

SEXUAL HEALTH: The advice service has a wide range of leaflets on sexual health and has a list of local sexual health clinics.

LEGAL ISSUES: Referral to local legal centres.

If you have any problems during your time here, whether with the college or externally, then make the Imperial College Union Advice Service your first port of call. It is professionally run and can help you to solve any problem.

If you wish to contact us, please feel free to do so. Our opening hours are 9am to 5pm every weekday, on the first floor of the main Union building in Beit Quad. You can make an appointment or just drop in. Telephone 020 7594 8067 or email advice@ic.ac.uk.

COMMENT

New year, new Felix

Hello and welcome to a new era for *Felix*, the student newspaper of Imperial College London. For the benefit of all our freshers, I should say that *Felix* is here to inform and entertain Imperial's 11,000 students each week with news, reviews, opinion, puzzles, sports reports and lots of other interesting stuff as well.

Anyone who has read *Felix* in the past will notice that we've made a few changes. The last time it had pages this size was in 1974 (it's been A4 since then), so the decision to go for a 'compact newspaper' format was always going to be a difficult one. I'm confident that this will firmly define *Felix* as a student newspaper, rather than lying somewhere between newspaper and magazine.

Having consulted previous editors, it becomes clear that the main reason why we've stuck with A4 for such a long time is because *Felix* used to be printed in-house and the machines couldn't go any larger. The majority of respondents to last term's survey expressed a preference for newspaper over magazine, and we will also save a certain amount on printing costs, allowing us to print more pages and use more colour. Anyway, I hope you like the new look!

I also want to mention that *Felix* will now be released on Thursdays. I felt that the Friday release meant that it was often 'missed' by some students until Monday, by which time the content was already three days old. Moving it forward should

EDITORIAL



DAVE EDWARDS
EDITOR

allow everyone to get hold of a copy within one day of publication. Aside from being read by thou-

sands of people each week, *Felix* also exists to allow any student to get involved in running a newspaper. You can take part in anything and everything we do, and if you'd like to get involved it would be great to hear from you – just email felix@ic.ac.uk or come and see us at our offices in the West Wing of Beit Quad (the Union building in South Kensington). We're always looking for new writers, editors, columnists, designers, reviewers, photographers... the list goes on. Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before – training is available, and enthusiasm is just as important as experience.

At the Freshers Fair on Tuesday 5 October, I'll be at the *Felix* stand in the Union Dining Hall, together

with various members of our current staff. Come and see us to find out more about what we do and how you can get involved. You will also be able to pick up a copy of the *Imperial College Union Handbook 2004*.

By the way, just in case you're interested, I have just finished four years of maths here at Imperial, and I'm now lucky enough to work on *Felix* full time.

I would like to thank all my staff for their hard work on this, the first and probably the most difficult issue of the year. Finally, to anyone who told me that I'd be working hard and would probably have to stay up all night on deadline day: I know I said it wouldn't happen, but you were right. It's 5am.

Where does personal responsibility end and corporate responsibility begin?

This is the somewhat disturbing question posed by *Super Size Me*, the latest in what seems to be a new trend of big screen documentaries. The film follows writer and director Morgan Spurlock as he embarks on a month-long diet consisting solely of McDonalds food. In addition, he reduces his physical activity to a minimum in order to mirror that of an "average" American. The burger munching, including the obligatory vomit scene, is interspersed with examinations by horrified doctors and personal trainers.

With a synopsis like this, I think I was justified in my scepticism. I must admit to having a mental draft of this article even before buying the popcorn – in fact I only really saw *Super Size Me* so that I could rip it to shreds effectively. This plan was somewhat ruined by the film

not actually being as ridiculous as I expected, so a severe re-draft was called for.

Don't get me wrong – the central storyline is a daft shock tactic that tells us nothing we don't already know. Nobody can seriously be surprised to hear that Spurlock's extreme diet results in dramatic weight gain, but there are other, perhaps less obvious effects of the junk food binge such as depression, tiredness and lack of sex drive. Sufferers of these symptoms may well be surprised to learn that their diet could be to blame.

Spurlock did not deny that his experiment was extreme, nor was the sole point of the film to demonise the golden arches as I had expected. In particular there is a troubling investigation of school meals in America, where a diet of



JAMES ROBINSON

chips and fizzy drinks is promoted to an increasingly inactive and obese youth. Cost is not to blame – we visit one school that serves up nutritious meals to its once unruly students who have been turned around at least partially by their improved diet.

McDonalds' targeting of children through its marketing inevitably comes under the spotlight. From Ronald McDonald to in-store play areas and the happy meal, it would be naive not to realise what they're trying to do. Is it morally questionable? Probably. Does the buck stop there? I don't think so – children will always have wants, be it fast food, holidays to Disneyworld, toys (I'm still bitter that I never got a Mr Frosty), and surely it's up to the parents to draw the line somewhere and say "no". More importantly, simply banning our children from eating junk food is pointless, as one day they will be old enough to go out and get it themselves.

What we need to do is educate our children so that they know why these things are bad for us – that goes for smoking, drugs and many of life's other evils. Education is an area highlighted by Spurlock, with the startling revelation that not many people even know what a calorie is.

Top marks must go to the marketing bods at McDonalds for their response to this attack, which basically echoes most people's reaction: "The film is slick, well-made and yes, somewhat annoyingly, doesn't portray McDonald's in the most favourable light. And yet, what we do agree with is its core argument – that if you eat too much and do too little, it's bad for you." They have scrapped the super size option in America, supposedly for commercial reasons rather than as a result of this film. I hope that's the case – the super size meal is a ridiculous concept which deserves to fail but only because nobody would be daft enough to buy it.

I remain sceptical about the director's reasons for making the film. The genre is currently dominated by Michael Moore, the man behind *Bowling for Columbine* and the Bush-bashing *Fahrenheit 9/11*. Like him or loathe him, Moore does seem passionate about what he does. I can't help thinking that in this case Spurlock has spotted an easy buck in making a "shocking" film that capitalises on the anti-capitalist voice of today, at a time when bash-

ing the evil corporations is the new black. And in no way is this guy the new Moore – aside from *Super Size Me*, Spurlock's most notable and recent credit is for MTV gross-out show *I Bet You Will*, in which he persuaded America's youth to do humiliating things for cash. It's like *Jackass*, but without the taste and decency.

What I really have a problem with is the responsibility question that introduced both the film and this article. Where does personal responsibility end? It doesn't. At no point can any of us just switch off and assume that someone or something else will deal with the repercussions of our behaviour. It's a lovely idea, and one which is at the root of many of today's problems and certainly the growing compensation culture – people have tried and thankfully failed to sue McDonalds because their food made them fat.

Corporate responsibility is a nice theory, but it's not something we can realistically expect in our commercial world. If a company of any size is doing wrong, we have the right to know. Thanks largely to the internet, now more than ever before information is available to those who want it. And if you have a problem with the McDonalds or the Nestlés of this world then by all means boycott them and do your best to dent their turnover. In a free market, it is the consumer that makes or breaks a company – it's up to us to support the good guys and squeeze out the bad.

Unfortunately this well produced documentary devalues some important points with its ridiculous headline-grabbing stunt, and it certainly hasn't turned me against the occasional burger for lunch. Perhaps I'll have one today, followed by a coffee at Starbucks. They'd better not make it with hot water again – how am I supposed to know it will burn? Right, get my lawyer on the phone...

● **Darius Nikbin investigates a 'super size' food industry gone berserk in this week's Science section, page 5**



Rotund McDonald: the corporation gets the blame, but is it really their fault if burgers make us fat?

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Around Campus

felix@ic.ac.uk

Silwood Park finds a voice

By Andrew Brown
Silwood Park Correspondant

Following the success of the Wye column in *Felix* in previous years, it is time that another of Imperial's campuses finds its voice. Silwood Park is situated in the Berkshire countryside, around 45 minutes' drive from the main campus at South Kensington.

Originally a biology field station, we are a growing community of around 120 students. Being all postgraduates on site, this does not stop us from celebrating Freshers Week like the rest of you! Students on the five masters courses offered here are introduced to life on the wild side. Everything from

the natural history society to rabbit catching and recipes are covered in our extended freshers fortnight.

To reassure newcomers that living in the middle of nowhere does have its advantages, students are shipped in to central London on their first day to register (apparently the carrier pigeon system we have here is unreliable for getting important registering details across). Students then get the chance to look around London and visit the Union bars.

From then on they are introduced to the social side of Silwood, our pride and joy, the bar, with activities ranging from the usual pub quizzes, discos and pub crawls

to the Silwood specific beer-enteering. Drinking with an additional element of danger, we give participants a map with locations of where beer is hidden and three hours to find as many as they can. If they have not returned within five hours, we try to find the lost students, but it is not so easy when you combine alcohol with 100 hectares of land to get lost in.

Contrary to popular belief (especially of those who live here), it is not all about alcohol – with a diverse community such as ours there are regular trips to Reading, Southall, and Bracknell.

Life then calms down for a few weeks while students find their feet and start their

courses, but the much anticipated Silwood beer festival looms around the corner in November, followed by Christmas, Burns Night (not only for the Scottish contingent), and the many events planned for the coming year.

Some find it difficult to adapt to the slower pace of living in the countryside, miles from any civilisation, but once you have got into the swing of life, the vast majority of people enjoy it. We do not have anywhere near the population size as any of the other campuses, but if you are not one of the few biology or engineering undergrads who have the pleasure of being sent out here, Silwood is well worth a visit.



A lovely building situated at Silwood Park

If you would like to bring us news on any of Imperial's campuses, or just write about your own experiences, email us at felix@ic.ac.uk

Competitions

Win Railcards

Felix has five Young Persons Railcards to give away, worth £20 each

A Young Persons Railcard is an invaluable way to save money. It is available to anyone aged 16-25 at a cost of £20 for a whole year, and entitles the holder to one third off most rail fares in Britain. So, whatever you choose to spend your money on this term, make sure a Young Persons Railcard is on your list.

To buy a Young Persons Railcard, all you need to do is go down to your local staffed railway station, rail appointed travel agent or authorised student travel office with:

- A passport-sized photo of yourself
- A completed application form (you can pick one up there)
- £20
- Proof that you are either 16-25 years old or a mature student aged 26 or over in full-time education

For more information visit www.youngpersons-railcard.co.uk.

For the chance to win a Young Persons Railcard, just answer this question:

In *The Simpsons*, what method of rail travel is introduced to Springfield by entrepreneur and con man Lyle Lanley?

Email your answer to felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday 7 October. The first five people to be randomly selected after the closing date will win a railcard each. *Felix* competition rules apply.

imperial college union

BBQs in the Quad on Wednesdays and Fridays

Daily hot specials from £1.70, plus jacket potatoes or chilli plus a weekly roast in daVinci's Café Bar; 12:00-2:00pm

Hot soups, jacket potatoes, baguettes & baps plus fresh salads in dBs Café Club; 12:00-2:00pm

Evening meals including pizzas, potato skins, chilli & paninis in daVinci's Café Bar; 5:30-8:30pm

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BB. 0207 594-8080

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

GIGS YOUTH MOVIE SOUND- TRACK STRATEGIES

7-11pm
Bar Lorca, Brixton
YMMS are an up-and-coming band, combining the guitar work of Mogwai with the brutal riffage and electronics of the Mars Volta.

GIGS KELLI ALI + SUPPORT

7-11pm
Dublin Castle, Camden
Ex-Sneaker Pimps vocalist strikes out on her own.

FRIDAY 1 OCTOBER

GIGS 65 DAYS OF STATIC, THE MASS, TEAM

7pm-11pm
Sheffield band on the way up, touring in support of their new album. Expect fuzzy guitars and glitchy beats.

CLUBS THE GALLERY

10.30pm-7.30am
Turnmills
£10-£15
Legend Paul Oakenfold returns to Turnmills. Catch him while you can.

CLUBS FABRICLIVE

9.30pm-5am
Fabric
£10-£12
Breaks from Plump DJs, Freq Nasty Soundsystem, UNKLE and Ali B, plus Skitz and Rodney P in the hip-hop room.

CLUBS MOVEMENT PRESENTS RETURN TO V

10pm-6am
The End
£10-£14
Drum and bass with Brian G, Andy C, Shy FX and Ray Keith.

SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER

GIGS HAPPY HARDCORE MORNING

6.30am-12.30pm
414
£5
Start your Saturday the right way with this crazy hardcore morning party.

UNION EVENTS THE MINGLE

8pm-1am
Beit Quad
£2
The Mingle is the opening freshers welcome event. There's R'n'B from BBC 1Xtra's Ollie and Jason in dBs, current chart and party classics from the Cheeky Crew in the Concert Hall, and chill-out vibes from the Paradise Bar residents. Tickets are available from subwardens at halls of residence.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS AS ONE PRESENTS ALL NIGHT LONG

10pm-7am
The End
£12-£15
Layo and Bushwacka take over both rooms at The End for their famous all night session.

SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER

UNION EVENTS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' RECEPTION

10.30am-2pm
Great Hall, Sheffield Building
FREE
This is the Union's official welcoming event for overseas students. There is a free lunch in the Main Dining Hall after the reception.
Contact: zhi.lim@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS MEDICS' FRESHERS BARBECUE

1pm
Queen's Lawn
After settling in, come down to the Queen's Lawn in South Kensington to meet the Medics' Union.
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

GIGS SENSIBLE SUNDAY

2pm-10pm
Nambucca, Holloway Road
Chill out, have a roast dinner for a fiver, listen to some acoustic acts and downbeat DJs.

GIGS WHEN GRAVITY FAILS, HUGE BABY, LEEVIL

7pm-11pm
The Barfly, Camden
Another solid Barfly night with three great new bands.

CLUBS JUST GROOVE

10pm-6am
414
£8-10
Finish off your weekend with residents Skol and Roosta bringing you the best in upfront hard house, hard trance and acid trance.

MONDAY 4 OCTOBER

UNION EVENTS BARBECUES

12-3pm
Queen's Lawn
Union catering and the City and Guilds College Union are both having barbecues on (or near) the Queen's Lawn.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS URBAN BASHMENT SCRATCH BATTLE

7.30-11.30pm
Beit Quad
£2
dBs is the venue for a dance-hall, bashment, R'n'B and hip-hop showcase featuring DJ P, one of the best scratch DJs on the university circuit.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

GIGS MOSE ALLISON

7pm-11pm
Pizza Express, Soho
The old man of blues continues his stint at Pizza Express. Well worth checking out, if only for the song *I'm A Certified Senior Citizen*.

GIGS KAITO, ART BRUT, HELP SHE CAN'T SWIM, ARTROCKER DJs

7pm-11pm
The Marquee
Artrocker collect together some, well, art-rocking bands. Promises to be a good night.

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER

COLLEGE EVENTS SPORT AND LEISURE 'COME AND TRY IT' DAY

9am-5pm
Southside gym and Paddington pool
Try out some of Imperial's sport and leisure facilities.
Contact: k.broster@ic.ac.uk;
cosmo.murphy@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS FRESHERS FAIR

11am-5pm
South Kensington campus
FREE
The fair gives you the chance to pick up loads of free stuff and find out about all the clubs and societies you can join at Imperial. It happens all over the South Kensington campus, and you can find a full guide on the centre pages.
Contact: dpcs@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS BARBECUE

12-3pm
Queen's Lawn
Union catering are running a barbecue on the Main Dining Hall terrace, next to the Queen's Lawn.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

Running an event? Want people to know? Tell us about it!

Felix will print your listings free of charge.

Just email felix@ic.ac.uk and tell us:

- the name of the event
- who is running it
- the time
- the location
- the cost (if any)
- a brief description of the event
- a contact email address

UNION EVENTS DOCTORS AND NURSES PUB CRAWL

7.30pm
Meet at Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£3
Your medic guides will help you make your way around the area's finest watering holes, finishing at the institution that is Po Na Na to dance the night away (badly).
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS JAZZ BIG BAND

7.30-11pm
dBs Club, Beit Quad
FREE
The fantastic Jazz Big Band will deliver their unmissable sound to a packed audience.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8-10.30pm
Da Vinci's Bar, Beit Quad
FREE
The quiz is a bit of a tradition at the Union, with cash and beer prizes on offer. Turn up with friends or make up a team on the night, and you might just be surprised at what you actually know.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 6 OCTOBER

COLLEGE EVENTS SPORT AND LEISURE 'COME AND TRY IT' DAY

9am-5pm
Southside gym and Paddington pool
Try out some of Imperial's sport and leisure facilities.
Contact: k.broster@ic.ac.uk;
cosmo.murphy@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES- BADMINTON TRIALS

12-5pm
WHERE?
If you're interested in playing for the men's or ladies' teams, come along to the trials.
Contact: badminton@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES RUGBY TRIALS

12.30pm
Meet outside Beit Quad
Try out for the Rugby Club, the 2003-4 President's Club of the Year.
Contact: hamish.pearse-danker@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES ARCHERY CLUB 'HAVE A GO' SESSION

1pm
Meet outside Beit Quad
FREE
This is your chance to try out archery at no cost and with no obligation to join. All equipment and training is provided.
Contact: james.thatcher@ic.ac.uk

GIGS WINNEBAGO DEAL

7pm-11pm
The Underworld, Camden
Hyped by Kerrang, the Winnebago lads tour for what must be the thousandth time.

UNION EVENTS ROCK CITY vs CHEEKY

8pm-11pm
Beit Quad
£5
Six rooms are open in the Union building for the first Wednesday night of term. There's party rock music in dBs, plus an appearance from Keith Flint (of Prodigy fame) with his new band Clever Brains Fryin'. The Concert Hall has current chart music and party classics, while there's bouncy boxing and inflatable fun in the Union gym.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS BANDS NIGHT

8pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£3
A midweek music fest full of med school home-grown talent. Come along and soothe last night's inevitable hangover.
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS SWERVE

10.30pm-3am
The End
£5-6
Fabio headlines the weekly drum and bass workout at The End.

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

10am onwards
FREE
Pick up the next issue of your very own student newspaper from your department or the Union building.
Contact: felix@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS RED HOT SALSA

7.30-11pm
dBs Club, Beit Quad
FREE
Imperial Dance Club take over dBs for an evening of salsa. Try out some steps with guidance from their professional teachers. There's also food and drink with a Latin flavour.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

ARTS BARBICAN GALLERY

Featured exhibitions are Space of Encounter: The Architecture of Daniel Libeskind; and Communicate: Independent Graphic Design since the Sixties.

ARTS TATE BRITAIN

Gwen John and Augustus John; Michael Landy: semi-detached; Art Now: David Thorpe; BP British Art Displays 1500-2004.

ARTS TATE MODERN

Untitled: Mohamed Camara (from 2 October); Tate Modern Collection 2004.

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Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Insanity for charity

RAG

By Chris Jackson
RAG Chair

RAG. Some of you may have heard of it, some not. Put simply, it is the Imperial society that gets people to cause havoc, make fools of themselves and push the patience of authority to its very limits – and beyond.

It is the only society whose name, when mentioned, might just persuade the police to release you back into the public domain without charge following arrest. The only requirement for you to be allowed to partake in the chaos is to carry a collecting tin and get the London fat cats to put some of their unearned bonuses into it.

For those in doubt as to the kind of insanity I am talking about, past examples include rowing around the Trafalgar Square fountains dressed as a monkey, streaking through the Bank of England, tiddly-winking the entire length of Oxford Street and pub crawling your way around all 26 streets on the Monopoly board.

“But why do people do this?” I hear you cry. Well, it’s for charity. This year our nominated charities are Cancer Research UK and the Mercury Phoenix AIDS Foundation – worthy of a bit of time and effort I’m sure.

The focus of all this mad-



Monkey business: the last time Imperial RAG were released on London

ness is RAG Week in February, when a great many students will miss lectures to help put a little laughter into the World of Highly Depressed Londoners in what is, after all, one of the more miserable months of the year. To join in the frivolity, all you have to do is turn up – a member of the Union is automatically a member of RAG.

If you fancy doing more than just turning up and want to get involved in the organisational side of things, visit us

at the Freshers Fair. In fact, visit us anyway, for we have a large stock of pint glasses and mugs to give away in return for donations to our cause.

We know that February is a long way away, so this year we have decided to end Freshers Week with a warm-up pub crawl on 9 October from midday. The route is a tour of central London’s landmarks, giving you the perfect chance to practice drunken navigating whilst familiarising yourself with this great city.

To join in the fun, just get a selection of your friends together (about six would do nicely) and come along to the Union from midday on the 9th. You will be kitted out with tins and buckets, and the route will be disclosed in all its glory. As with all RAG events, silly dress is optional but strongly encouraged. Prizes will be given entirely at my discretion for anything that vaguely amuses me or for making stupidly large amounts of cash.

Anything Goes Devon style

MUSICAL THEATRE TOUR

By Martin Chong

So once again I found myself ready to head down to Devon for two and a bit weeks with a bunch of all-singing, all-tap-dancing cast, some “I might dance if drunk enough” band members and a “not even remotely going to try to dance crew” (or so they claimed). The purpose? To convert the town hall into a theatre for ten performances of Cole Porter’s *Anything Goes*, just like the other 30-odd times that MTSoc Tour have done it!

Before we left the Union, there was the fun task of packing steel deck, bits of set, lights, microphones and about two and a half weeks’ worth of kit multiplied by lots of people into an 18 ton lorry.

Upon our arrival in Devon, our first stop was the local pub for a well-earned pint, before heading off to the school. This became our home for the whole of the tour, with the option to sleep in a tent or in classrooms. Airbeds were definitely essential items.

For the next five days, the hall was filled with the sound of power tools and the smell of fried breakfast amid much drinking of tea by the crew. Meanwhile, the cast did their usual last-minute panic rehearsals, with the band sauntering in a few days later. The tech rehearsal ran fairly smoothly, as did the huge order of fish and chips halfway through for cast and crew. Afterwards, it was a case of all hands on deck as we strove to finish the set for the dress rehearsal the next morning and the first performance in the evening.

Thus the fateful date arrived. All in all, it went very well, up until when I, as the lighting operator, switched off the band lights just as they were doing their exit music. Never mind. Fortunately, the Donkey award for the worst gaffe of the night was pre-

sented to the sound operator for forgetting to mute one of the mics, resulting in a muttered ‘shit’ ringing around the venue from backstage. And then the party began...

The next two weeks saw a general pattern form: get steamed out of your tent at some point in the morning, have breakfast, find a shady spot, fall asleep (the hall with the fans on was found to be best for this), find lunch, resume sleeping, reset stage, find dinner, do show, go to pub, have party, and get into tent just before crack of dawn. This was punctuated by after-show barbecues, visits to the local purveyor of ice cream, costume parties, a jazz night and of course the middle weekend dinner.

“The Donkey award for the worst gaffe of the night was presented to the sound operator”

The venue got more and more packed each day, culminating in the final night being completely sold out. Then, all too soon, the curtain descended for the final time. The crew immediately got to work to strike the set, giving up at about 4am to catch a couple of hours’ sleep before loading up at 8am. Until, that is, we returned to the venue to find that the lorry hadn’t even left the depot in North London yet.

For me, that was the end of the tour, as some of us had to dash back to London. But loading finally occurred eight hours later, and when everything was finally packed away in the Union on Monday, the tour officially reached its conclusion.

All that leaves is for me to find a nice work placement that lets me go again next year! Roll on tour...



On stage: MTSoc’s production of *Anything Goes*

Thursday 7 October

An evening of Red Hot Salsa from our national champions, the Imperial Dance Club, and the Union.

Try out some sexy salsa steps with guidance from our upfront teachers.

Kick the night off with food and drink with a Latin flavour, then practice your moves until late, with the Union’s experienced Latin dancers.

At: dBs

7.30pm > 11pm
(Food only till 8.45pm)

Cost: FREE

Jose Cuervo Margaritas Free
+ Mexican party dBs

Cuervo

The Union and Cuervo encourage you to drink responsibly

red hot salsa

Freshers Fair Pullout Guide

Tuesday 5 October
11am – 5pm
 South Kensington
 campus



RICHARD WALKER
 DEPUTY PRESIDENT
 (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

Bonjourno and welcome to an all shiny, bright, brash new year at our esteemed college.

I believe that whilst most perusing this shall be seasoned readers, I should expect that some will be fresh faced, polished cheeks young first years. However, no matter who you are, I sincerely hope you've had a delightful summer and let me assure you that this tasteful pullout is the accessory to hold this Freshers Week, especially on Tuesday, which is the only day that the information is relevant as it just so happens to be Freshers Fair.

Imperial College Union supports over 250 clubs and societies and you'll find them all at the fair propped

up behind trestle tables, bawdily booming out to all and sundry why thee and thou should join their club. For whilst Professor Plum will pickle your mind with maths, clubs and societies will bring your dreams to life. And, dear reader, we have more pleasures to suit all tastes than anyone else, from football to finance and arts to archery et cetera et cetera!

As a rough guide, in the Great Hall you'll find the overseas societies. The Queen's Lawn is full of outdoorsy-sporty-type clubs, as well as all the motoring clubs. The Main Dining Hall (MDH) is stuffed with sports clubs and in the Junior Common Room you'll find the religious and ideological societies. The

Sir Alexander Fleming building is the place for clubs run by the Medical Students' Union, and these are open to all.

Follow the walkway ramp up from the Queen's Lawn to the new and exciting Upper Dalby Court. In this piazza area next to the blue duplo lego building, you'll find the performance stage where one can catch club demonstrations from fire juggling to latin dance along with City & Guilds and RSM. Across the road at the Union, there is a plethora of activity! The stage in Beit Quad will be hosting live music. Those of you with an artistic streak should head for the Concert Hall, which houses arts and entertainments. The Union Gym is

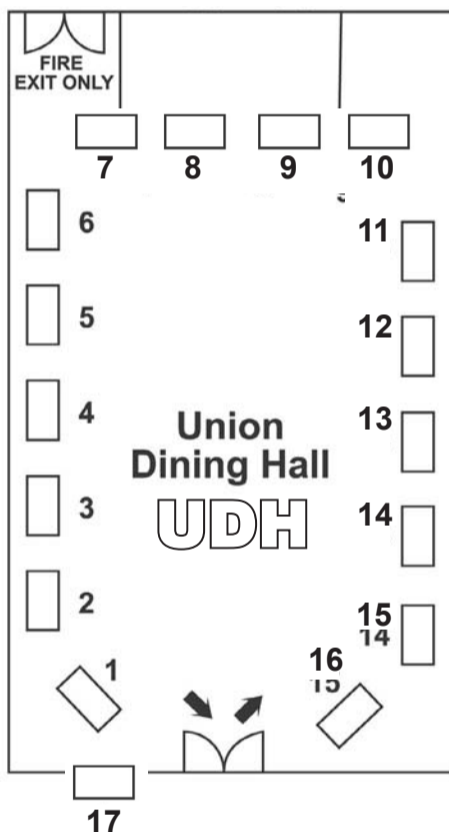
jam-packed with social clubs. The Union Dining Hall will find you face to face with recreational hobbies whilst in Beit Quad you'll find more adventure clubs than you can shake a canoe paddle at!

You're all pretty much spoiled for choice so don't waste the opportunity because "all work and no play makes Jack a dull little boy".

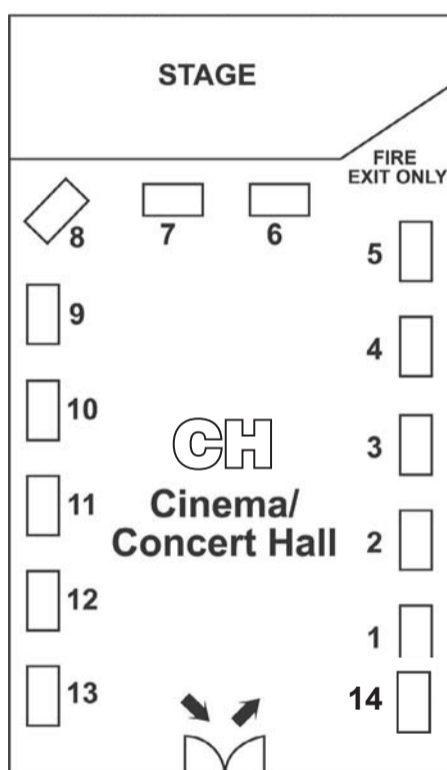
Anyhoo, enjoy the day, relax, meet some clubs and take pleasure in the fact that you've got no lectures because by the weekend you'll be running, swimming, playing, jumping, reading, tooting, speaking, debating, singing or whatever with the nicest bunch of reprobates that you ever did meet!

The Union Building: Beit Quad

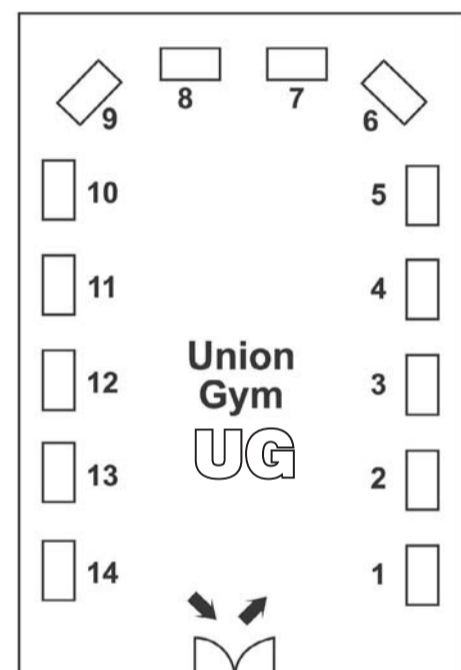
First floor



Second floor

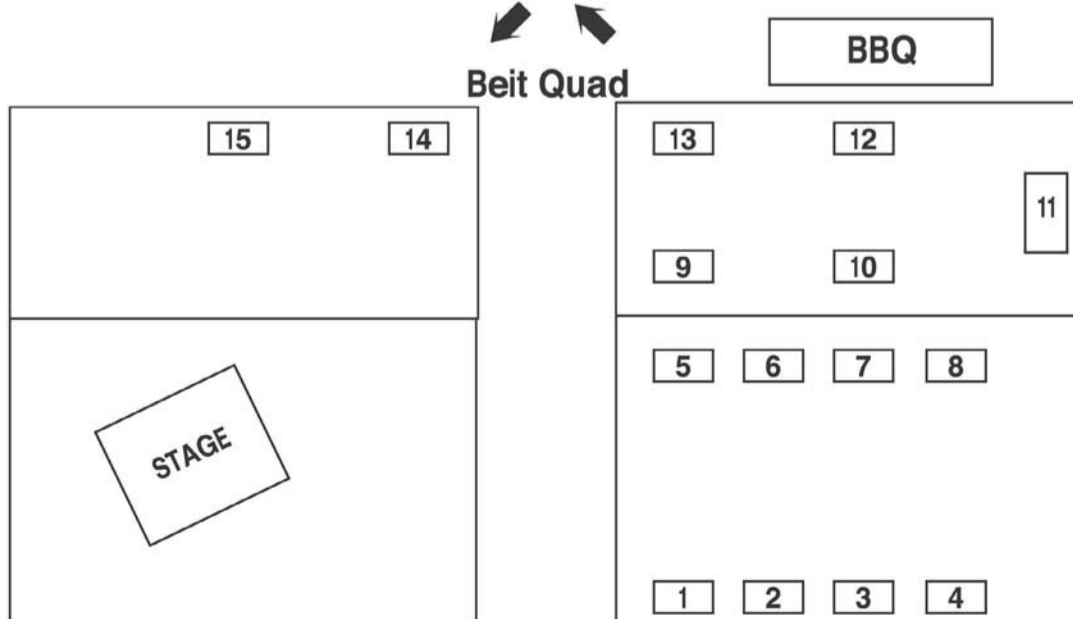


Second floor

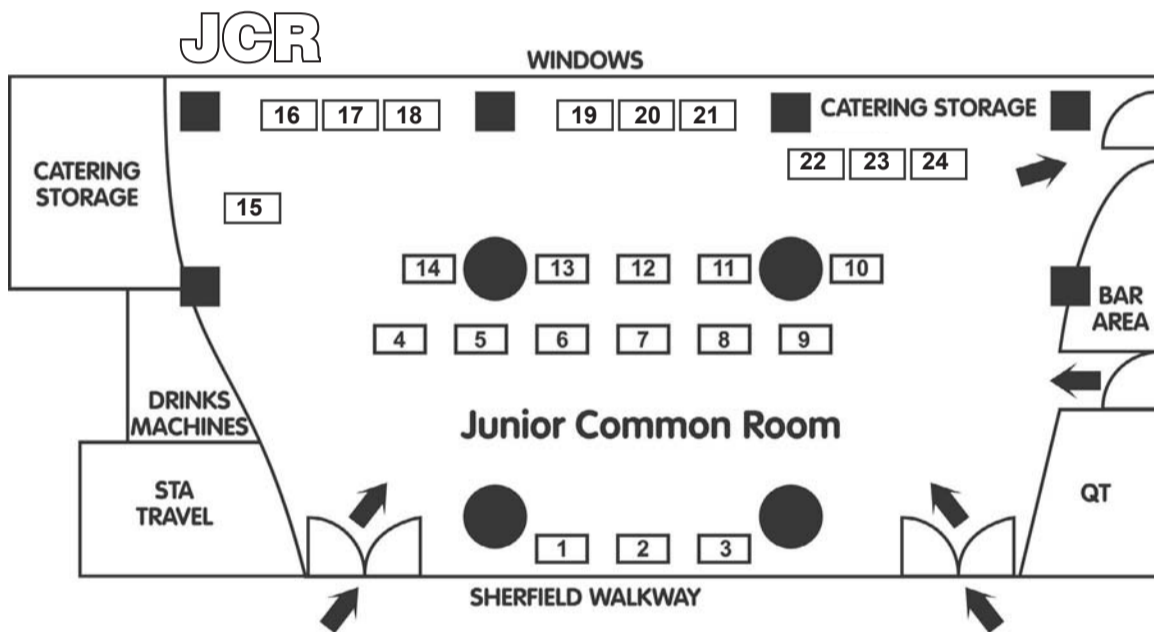
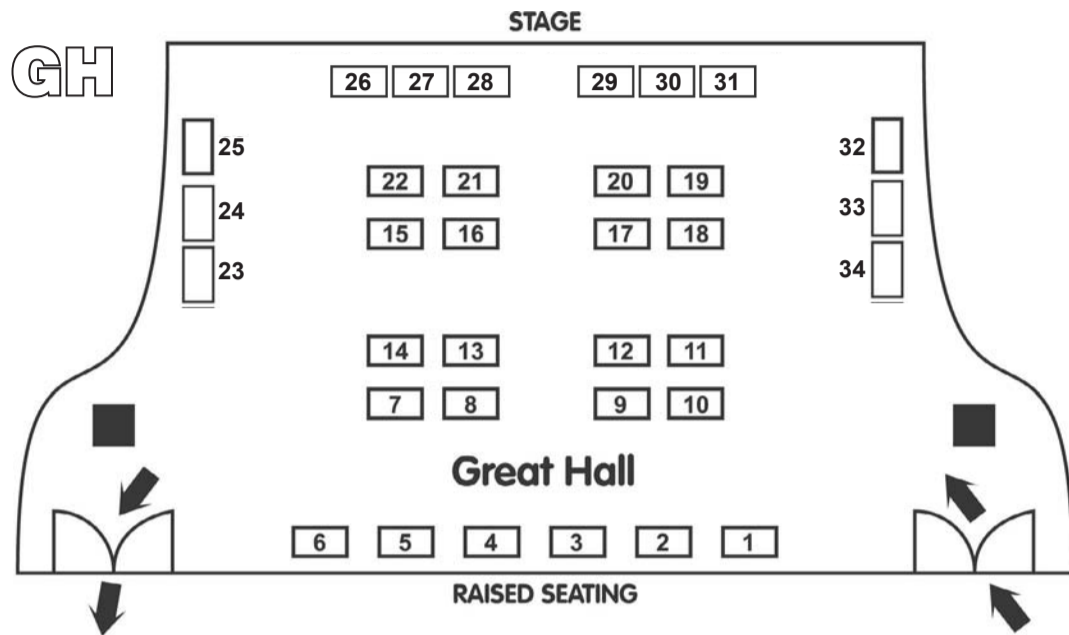


The Quadrangle

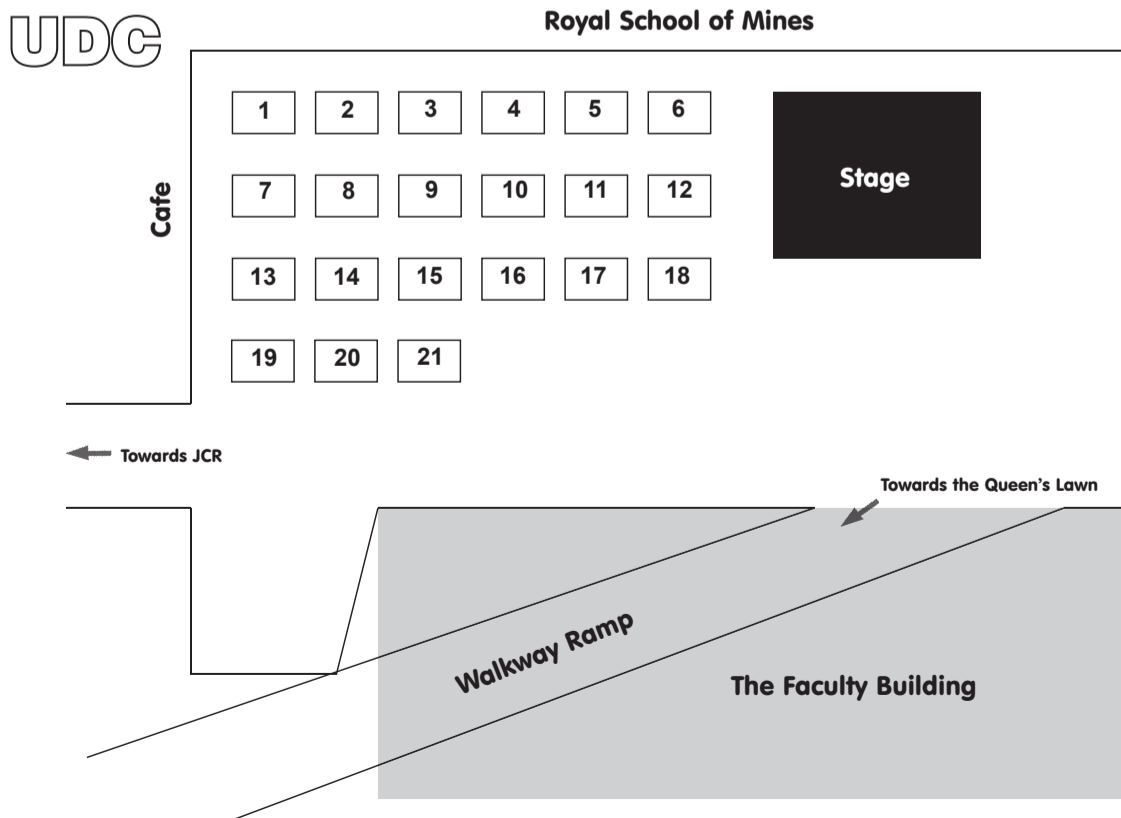
BQ



Sherfield Building: Second Floor (Walkway Level)

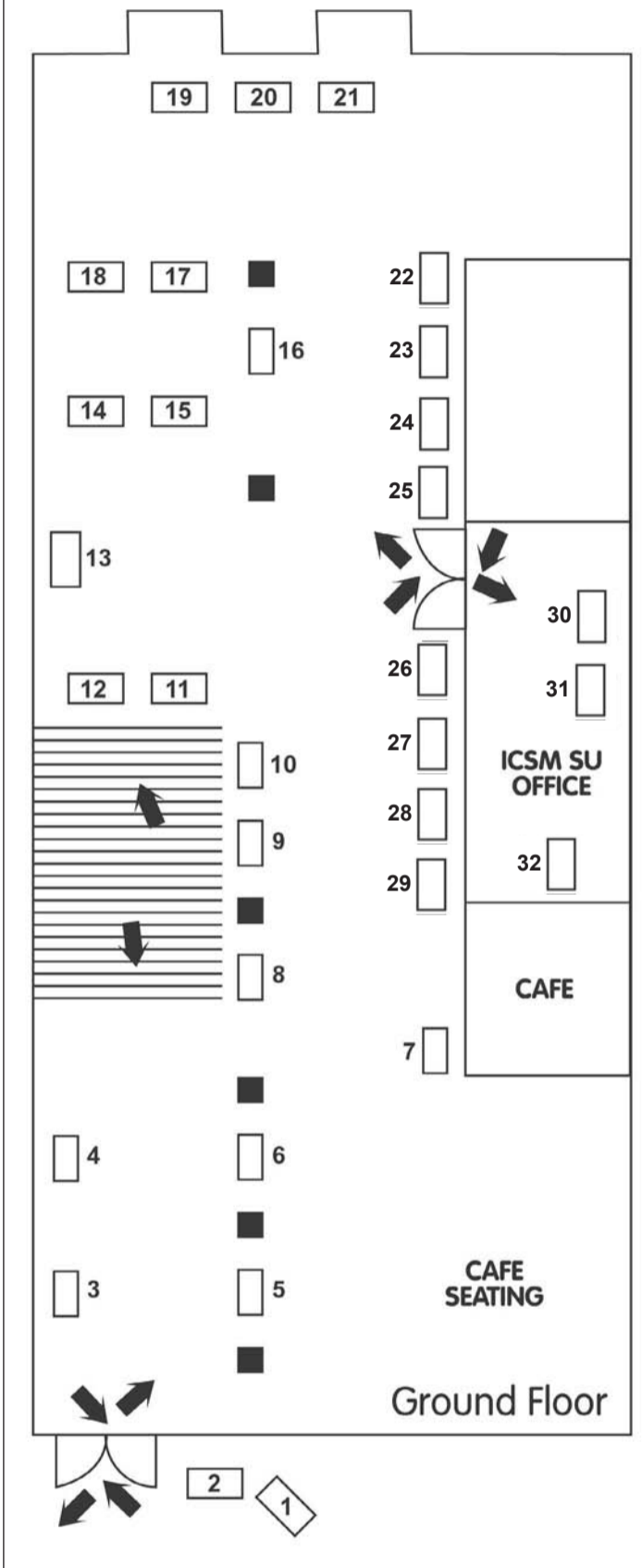


Upper Dalby Court



Sir Alexander Fleming Building

BMS

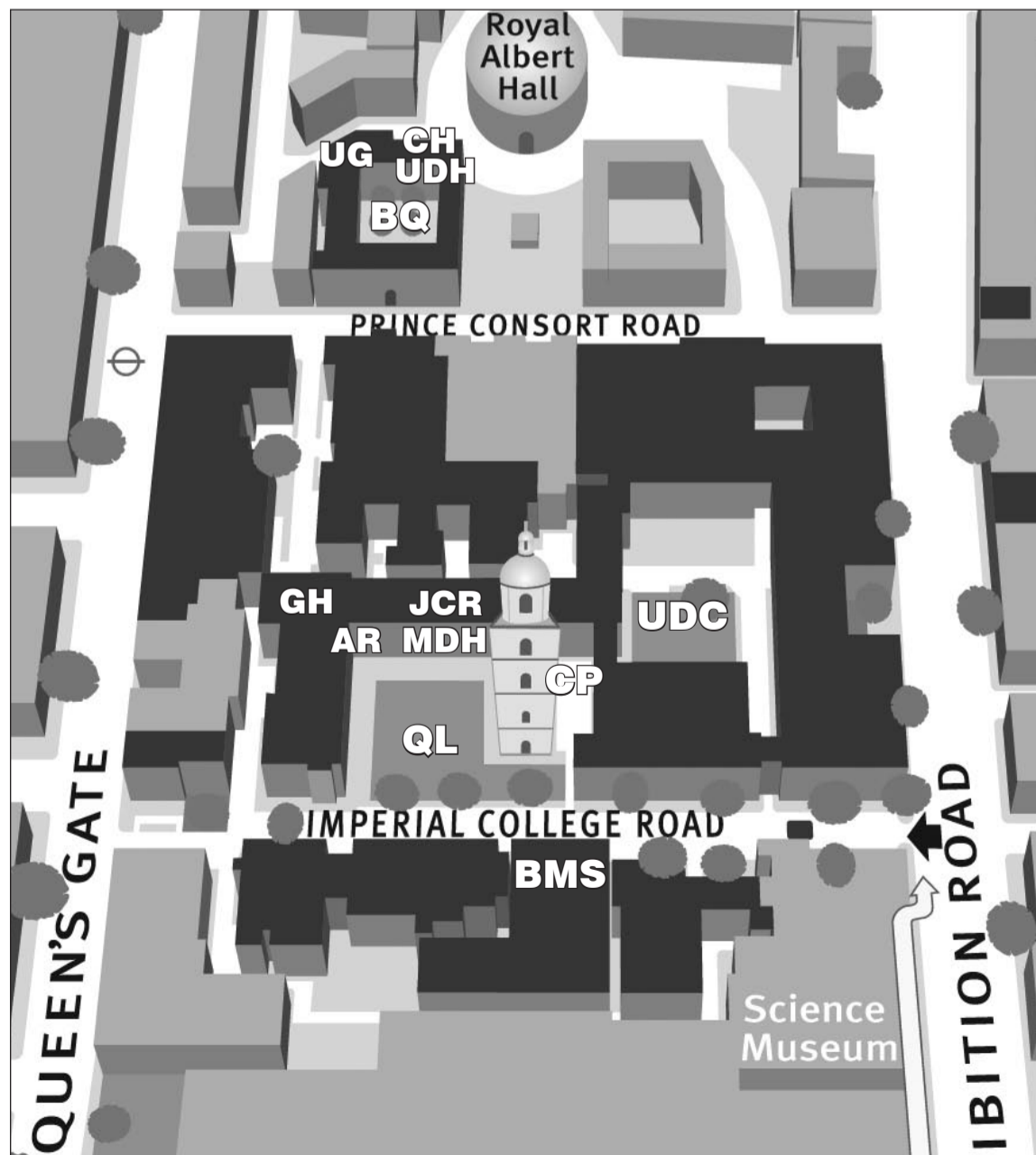


Freshers Fair Pullout Guide

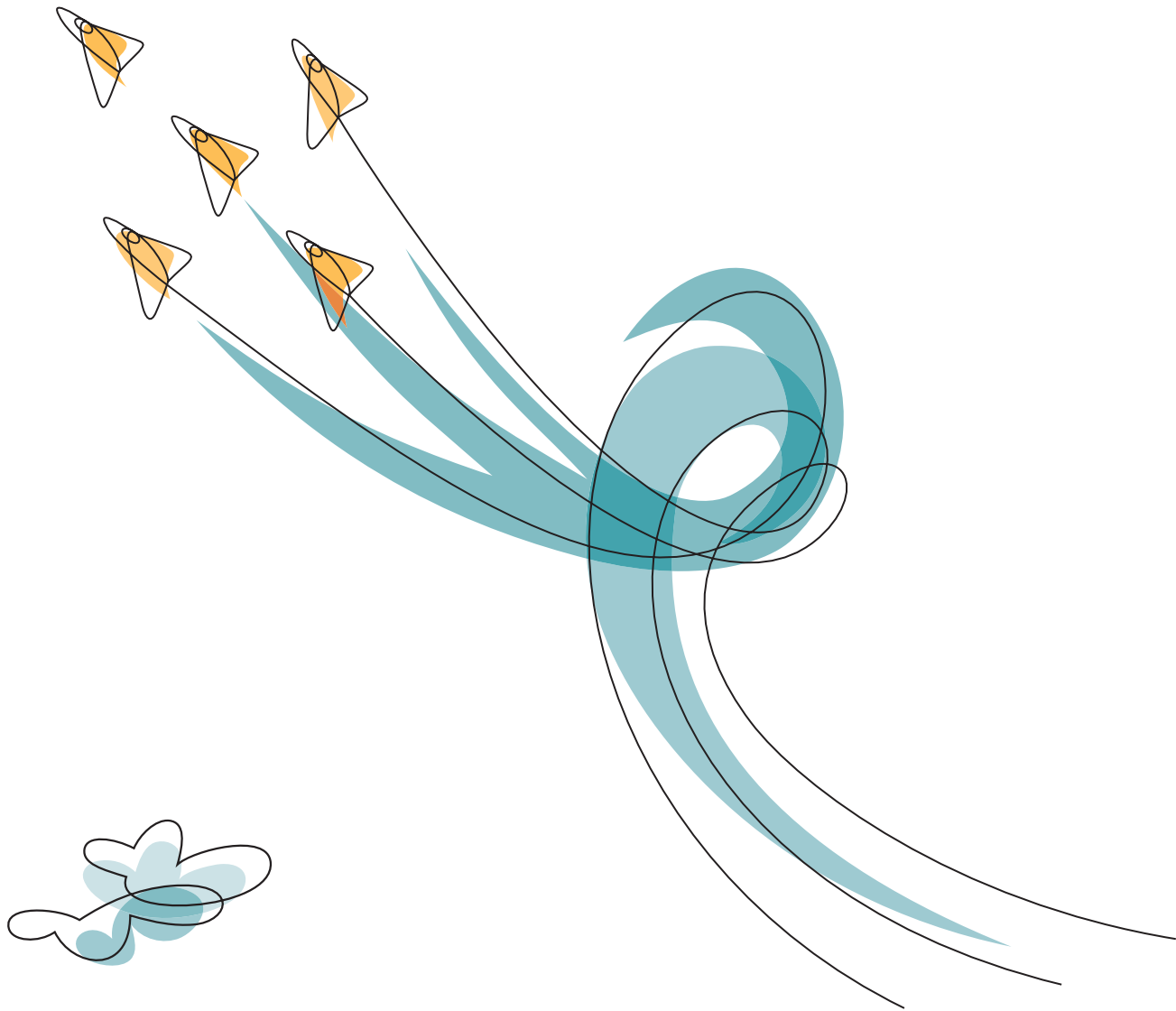
Stall Directory

3 Mobile	MDH2	Chinese Wu Shu Promotion	QL2	Fencing	MDH19	International Tamil	JCR10	Postgraduate	UG3
ABACUS	GH27	Choir	CH2	Finance	JCR7	Internet & E-Commerce	UDC6	Press Dept	MDH34
Active	UDC2	Christian Student Action	JCR2	Fitness Club	MDH32	Internship	UDC4	Pugwash	UG4
Afro-Caribbean	GH1	Christian Union	JCR3	Fitness First	MDH 14	Iranian	GH14	Racing	CP3
Aikido	QL3	City & Guilds Exec	UDC1	Football - Mens	QL39	Iraqi	GH15	Radio	QL26
Airsoft	UDH1	Classical Guitar	CH3	Football - Mens (ICSMSU)	BMS9	Islamic	JCR11	Rag	BQ12
Alternative Music	UG11	Club Kensington	MDH8	Football - Mens (RSM)	QL43	Islamic (ICSMSU)	BMS12	RAG (ICSMSU)	BMS29
Amnesty International	JCR12	Clubbing	UG2	Football - Wmns	QL40	Italian	GH16	Riding	MDH21
AMSA	JCR15	Conservative	JCR14	French	GH9	IVC & Pimlico	SF1	Rifle & Pistol	MDH22
Anime	UG13	Contemporary Music	CH4	German Society	GH10	Jajuta UK Ltd	MDH1	Riley's	Union Foyer
Arabic	GH2	Cotswold Outdoor	AR1	Gliding	QL27	Japanese	GH17	Rock Music	UG5
Archery	QL38	CREST	UDC18	Gliding	QL41	Jazz & Rock	BQ14	RSM Exec	UDC11
Arts	UG1	Cricket	MDH16	Golf	QL11	Jazz Big Band	CH6	Rugby - Mens	QL28
Arts & Photo (ICSMSU)	BMS2	Cricket (ICSMSU)	BMS6	Hellenic	GH8	J-Dorama	UG9	Rugby - Mens (C&G)	QL30
Astronomy	UDC14	Croatian	GH5	Hindu Student Forum	JCR9	Jewish	JCR1	Rugby - Mens (ICSMSU)	BMS22
Athletics (ICSMSU)	BMS1	Croquet	QL37	His People	JCR22	Juggling	UDC13	Rugby - Mens (RCS)	QL29
Badminton	MDH33	Cross Country	MDH17	His People Christian Ministr	JCR6	Juggling	UDC6	Rugby - Mens (RSM)	QL31
Badminton (ICSMSU)	BMS3	CS Industries Ltd	AR3	HMV	AR42	Ju-Jitsu	QL13	Rugby - Wmns	QL32
Bangladeshi	GH3	CSSA	GH6	Hockey	QL34	Ju-Jitsu (ICSMSU)	BMS9	Sailing	CP6
Basketball	MDH15	Curry	UDH6	Hockey (RSM)	QL10	Karate do Shotokai	QL10	Sailing (ICSMSU)	BMS23
Basketball (ICSMSU)	BMS4	Cycling	MDH18	Hockey Mens (ICSMSU)	BMS11	Karate Shidokan	QL11	Scandinavian	GH25
Billiards & Snooker	UDH2	Cypriot	GH7	Hockey Wmns (ICSMSU)	BMS13	Karting	CP1	Science Fiction	UG8
Biochemistry	QL18	Dance	UDC15	Humanities	MDH12	Kenyan	GH18	Shaolin Kung-Fu	QL13
Boat	QL35	Dance (ICSMSU)	BMS7	Imperial Queers	UG31	Kickboxing	QL7	Sikh	JCR19
Boat (ICSMSU)	BMS5	De La Beche	UDC10	Ice-Hockey	MDH4	Kung Fu	QL8	Sinfonietta	CH11
Bridge	UDH3	Debating	JCR5	ICT service desk	AR5	Labour	JCR13	Singapore	GH26
Buddhist	JCR16	Drama	CH5	ICT services	AR46	Lacrosse (ICSMSU)	BMS14	SIS	UG7
CAG	BQ11	Drama (ICSMSU)	BMS8	iCU Cinema	CH16	Latin-American	GH19	Skate Society	BQ9
Canoe	BQ1	Duke of Edinburgh's Award	BQ3	ICU Dance Company	UDC5	Lawn Tennis	QL45	Ski	MDH23
Capoeira	QL1	Entrepreneurship Centre	AR11	IMASE	UDC17	Lawn Tennis (ICSMSU)	BMS15	Spanish	GH34
Catholic	JCR17	Environmental	JCR6	Imperial against Imperialism	UDC4	Leonardo	CH7	Specsavers Opticians	AR13
Caving	BQ2	Erasmus	GH8	Imperial Chaplaincy	JCR28	Library	MDH11	Sport and Leisure	BMS9
Ceilidh	UDH4	Eskrima	QL4	Imperial Union Shop	MDH28	Life Sciences SU Exec	QL22	Sport and Leisure	MDH10
Chabas student programme	AR7	ETHOS	UDC3	Imperial Union Shop	SF10	Links	CP7	Sports Motorcycle	BQ24
Chamber Music	CH1	EWB	UDC8	Imperial Union Shop	GH3	Links (St.Johns Ambulance)	CP7	Squash	MDH24
Chasing Dragon	QL44	Exploration	BQ4	Imperial Union Shop	GH3	Linux Users Group	UDH9	Squash (ICSMSU)	BMS33
Chess	UDH5	Fairtrade	JCR23	Imperial Security	SF	LMS	UDC24	Sri-Lankan	GH9
Chinese	GH4	Felix	UDH16	Imperial Volunteer Centre	SF2	London Nightline	JCR8	St. Mary's Bryanston Sq.	AR6
Chinese Church in London	GH29	Fellwanderers	BQ5	Indian	GH12	London Philharmonic Orchestra	AR8	STA Travel	MDH13
				Indonesian	GH13			STOIC	BQ12
								Student Barclaycard	AR25
								Subaqua (ICSMSU)	BMS25
								Swimming/waterpolo	MDH18
								Socialist Worker	JCR13
								Table Football	UDH36
								Table Tennis	QL15
								Tae Kwon Do	QL32
								Taiwan	GH26
								Ten Pin Bowling	MDH30
								Thai	GH2
								The Kolberg Partnership	AR27
								Triathlon	MDH27
								Turkish	GH31
								Ultimate Frisbee	QL46
								Underwater	CP9
								Union Entertainments	BQ15
								Union Governance	UDH17
								University of London Air Squadron	MDH5
								University of London Officers Training Corps	MDH7
								University of London Royal Naval Unit	AR10
								Urban Music	UG8
								UROF	MDH12
								Veteran Vehicles (C&G)	CP4
								Volleyball	MDH28
								War Games	UG14
								Waterpolo (ICSMSU)	BMS26
								WaterSki	CP10
								Weights	MDH29
								Westminster Chapel	JCR21
								Weights and Fitness (ICSMSU)	
									BMS27
								Windband	CH12
								Windsurfing	MDH30
								Wine	UDH15
								Wing Chun	QL16
								Yacht	QP5
								Yoga	UDH14
								Yoga (ICSMSU)	BMS28

South Kensington campus map



Key	
AR	Ante Room
BMS	Sir Alexander Fleming Building
CH	Concert Hall
CP	Car Park
GH	Great Hall
JCR	Junior Common Room
MDH	Main Dining Hall
QL	Queen's Lawn
SF	Sherfield Foyer
UDC	Upper Dalby Court
UDH	Union Dining Hall
UG	Union Gym



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ANTE ROOM, SHERFIELD BUILDING
6.30PM**

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Music

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Sleazy guitars, eighties synths and bad hair cuts make a comeback with Kasabian's debut

ALBUM REVIEW

Kasabian
Kasabian
Arista Records
★★★★☆

Touring partners Chikinki did it a few months ago, and now almost a year after the release of their first demo, fresh from scoring a top ten entry in the singles chart, Leicester quartet Kasabian finally release their self-titled debut album.

Armed with a host of filthy, beat-heavy tunes, Kasabian are making music to simultaneously rock and dance to. They do it with stacks of attitude and an underlying sinister tone that will send a shiver down your spine and back again. As other British guitar bands tediously jump on the electronic bandwagon, there's just something about Kasabian that makes you sit up and take note.

The album is kick-started with a menacing riff from distorted guitars and a roaring delivery from vocalist Tom Meighan, making *Club Foot* one of the more aggressive tracks. It leads on to what has to be Kasabian's defining moment on the album – the outrageously bouncy *Processed Beats* with baggy beats reminiscent of the Stone Roses' *Fools Gold*. Think Ian Brown on a pogo stick and you're not far off the mark.

ID is a favourite opener at Kasabian shows and it's not difficult to see why, as it opens with chilling, pulsating electronics before building up to an anthemic climax. Like a dark reincarnation of the Happy Mondays, *Cutt Off* and recent single *Lost Souls Forever* with their Shaun Ryder-esque vocals are funky and eerie at the same time, whilst *Running Battle* and *Butcher Blues* provide something soulful for the more chilled Kasabian fan. The boys clearly love their synthesizers as much as they love their guitars, and nowhere is this more evident than on *Ovary Stripe* which combines sampled dialogue with a melody that will leave you unsettled for days.

The stunning *U Boat* brings the album to a poignant close with haunting vocals, this time provided by guitarist and keyboardist Sergio Pizzorno. It's a perfect conclusion to what is undeniably a gem of an album, leaving Kasabian set to kick the filth back into rock and roll after the Keanes and Coldplays of the music world well and truly cleaned it out.

Heba Abu-Own

Much more than a tiny spark

Cult singer-songwriter Brendan Benson returns to the UK for a series of low-key gigs, but what about the new stuff?

LIVE REVIEW

Brendan Benson
The Borderline
★★★★★

I knew tonight was going to be special; what I didn't know was how special it was going to be.

Brendan Benson is a singer-songwriter from Louisiana whose second album, *Lapalco*, which he recorded and produced himself, got the mainstream music press salivating. Since then, he's disappeared off the commercial radar, becoming somewhat of a cult artist among fans of Ben Kweller and Ben Folds.

Thankfully, after two years, Benson has finally pieced together enough songs to release another record and has embarked on a low-key, acoustic tour. He strides onstage, every bit the lanky American teen (despite approaching his thirties). Smiling shyly, he picks the first few chords to one of *Lapalco*'s most Beatlesque tunes, *Good To Me*. Within 30 seconds, the *Borderline* is ringing to the sound of 200 voices singing.

Brendan looks incredibly surprised by the strength of the response, and grins nervously. "This one's a new one, I know you guys want to hear old stuff, but you know," he says,



Brendan Benson: normally he smiles more than this

before launching into a track that's easily the equal of anything from his last two records. Surprisingly, few arms are crossed, and I look across to see a gaggle of thirty-somethings dancing like my dad.

The great thing about the *Borderline* is that the capacity is so small that only dedicated fans can get in, creating an enviable environment for artists to try out their 'new stuff'. Most of Benson's set is superlative, despite most of it being

new – about halfway through the set is a spectral, impossibly pretty song that shows just how talented a songwriter he has become. His voice now has a colossal range, and his clear singing allows you to laugh at his wittily wry lyrics.

Fluffed lines, slightly wonky guitar parts and false starts endear Brendan to the crowd. It's good to see an artist not taking himself too seriously – after forgetting the lyrics to a song, he laughs and drawls,

"Well, I wrote it 15 years ago!"

Finishing up the set with a half-speed version of *Lapalco*'s strongest track, *Tiny Spark*, Brendan looks shocked that the crowd bellow every single word. I'd even say there was a little tear in the corner of his eye.

Brendan Benson is a songwriter at the height of his talents, and from the sound of tonight, his next record could be enough to make him the star he deserves to be.

Andrew Sykes

Editorial ramblings



ANDREW SYKES
MUSIC EDITOR

Hello my dear friends, 'tis your erstwhile music editor-type person welcoming you to this wonderful first issue of *Felix*.

First off, let me welcome all you freshers that are probably attempting to soothe your hangover and trying to remember what the hell happened to the last 12 hours. We've all been there. For the rest of you, welcome back to another year of borderline insanity and overwork.

Felix now has a new editor and a new look. The newspaper format now gives all of us section editors masses of room to play with, so look forward to lots more features, including regular competitions and a more diverse selection of reviews.

Anyhoo, all this extra space means we need reviewers. Lots of 'em. We have plenty of contacts with pro-

motion companies, and these lovely folks provide us with loads of free CDs, normally before they are released in the UK. You come along to a meeting in the bar, sit and chat with your fellow music-loving reviewers, take a few CDs, listen to them and send me a review. There's no experience required; I'd never written in my life when I joined up in the first year.

As if getting free albums and singles wasn't enough, we also get free tickets and guestlist places to a huge number of gigs in London. We've had tickets to see The Thrills at Abbey Road Studios, Coldplay at Earl's Court, and those are just the big ones. All you need to do is provide me with your email address, and I mail out a list weekly or twice weekly with listings. You choose what you want to go to, I give you tickets, you review it.

Sounds great, right? We try to be as diverse as possible, so if the things I've mentioned seem a bit too mainstream for you, you should still come along – we have great contacts with a lot of independent labels and promotion companies.

If you're interested, I'll be on the *Felix* stand in the Union Dining Hall at the Freshers Fair so you can join up. Alternatively, you can email me at music.felix@ic.ac.uk, or come to the first meeting of term on Thursday 7 October in dBs.

Free stuff



In accordance with the directions of the mighty El Editore, we have for you a little competition. As you may or may not know, the *Felix* office has basically been a huge mess for as long as I can remember. Well, it's now been thoroughly cleared out and as a result we have a fair number of CDs and DVDs hanging around collecting dust.

What CDs, I hear you cry. Well, we have the *Lord Of The Rings*, *Shallow Hal* and *Chopper* film soundtracks; the new Charlatans album, *Up At The Lake*; the excellent Seachange album *Lay Of The Land*; a new record from Swedish band The Legends, *Up Against The Legends*; and finally, Sugarcult's *Palm Trees And Powerlines*.

That's not all, no sirree. There are a few singles as well: The Ordinary Boys' rowdy singalong *Week In Week Out*, complete with special edition packaging; Amplifier's *Neon* single; and Razorlight's ubiquitous *Golden Touch*.

Last, but not least, we have two promotional DVDs to give away. The first is *Far East Man*, a live DVD of a Ronnie Wood gig in London, featuring classic Stones tracks as well as a few famous covers. The other is a Katy Rose DVD, a young and upcoming songwriter.

To win all this, you need to email music.felix@ic.ac.uk with the answer to this question: What's the name of the new Thrills album? Don't forget to tell us your name!

Clubs

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

Clubbing on Clapham Common

This August, Clapham Common was host to South West Four, an all day, three stage dance festival featuring Eric Morillo and Sasha

FESTIVAL REVIEW

South West Four
Clapham Common
★★★★★

Summer for any music lover means festival season. Whatever style's your bag, there is sure to be plenty on offer, and whilst the majority of the big festivals take place outside of London (Reading, Glastonbury etc), there's almost always something going on in the city.

Dance festivals are slightly different to the usual setup of a weekend's camping with music each night – these things are generally one night stands, all about the headline DJs and the variety of music offered across various stages, tents or arenas.

This August I was treated to South West Four on Clapham Common courtesy of hard house promoters Heat UK. This particular dance fest was an all day affair, starting at mid-day and continuing into the night, but was over at 10pm so the crowd could head off to one of the official afterparties or to any one of London's smorgasbord of evening entertainment venues.

The festival had a lot going for it – 10,000 people, three areas of different music, and a big name line-up including the likes of Eric Morillo, Xpress-2, as well as Tall Paul, BK, Rob Tissera and Nick Sentence, and progressive house don Sasha.

The event had been touted as Sasha's only UK outdoor perform-

ance this year, and his sundown set was part of his tour promoting the recent *Involver* mix CD. Considering that the event was going to be huge given its urban location, plus the fact that seeing Sasha in this country is somewhat of a rarity (even more so seeing him play outdoors as the sun goes down, and here he would be appearing about as close to my house as possible), it really would have been rude not to go.

Having already been out the night before for some bouncy silly fun at Knowhere at Brixton's famous Fridge, I was a little jaded to say the least, but our crew managed to make it to Clapham Common by 1pm, by which time the party was already going in full force. Most of the 10,000 were already there, and the arena – made up of the outdoor Main Stage, plus the much smaller Heat UK tent with hard house, and the Bora Bora tent with some blissful balearic house vibes – was already looking quite full.

We headed straight for the main stage, where Eric Morillo was spinning sunny, funky house music to the crowd who were already moving and bouncing to the bumping, bubbly beats. With warm sun shining into the shaded eyes of the beautiful people, observing the spectacle that is thousands of happy people in the park, all dancing to the same beat and having the time of their lives, it would have been hard not to enjoy myself. And this was only the beginning.

As the day progressed, we explored the site a little. The Bora



Sasha wows the crowds from the main stage at South West Four

Bora tent was a heaving mass of bodies, dancing to amazing music, but with absolutely no space inside, we had to enjoy this one outside from the grass.

The Heat UK arena was slightly bigger and slightly less full, but faster and with a more heads-down vibe than the rest of the festival. An hour or two later, after a tactical chill-out in the sun, we headed back to the huge main stage – taking up a good two thirds of the entire arena – and got down to the sound of heavyweight house trio Xpress-2, who were spinning across no less than six turntables. The music and the crowd continued to flow into the early evening, with progressive stalwart Lee Burridge making a surprise, if brief, appearance. There's

no doubt that part of the atmosphere was the anticipation of what lay ahead: sunset to the sound of one of the world's top DJs, Sasha.

Sasha truly is one of the best. He's been a firm favourite for years, with a honed instinct for playing to a crowd, some of the most uplifting and driving dance music around coupled with the hottest new tunes, and an almost unique mixing style. Greeted by rapturous applause, he arrived onstage to join Lee Burridge and commence his set. Sasha's technical ability is pretty much unparalleled – his technique means he has the power to build up a crowd, lay a vast breakdown on them and then build it all up again, only to drop a driving, hammering track that quite literally makes everyone go wild.

His mixes are closer to remixes, and his sets are seamless. This man is not "just playing other peoples records", he is using them as tools to fashion a unique musical experience. How exactly he does this is hard to say, but mixing 'in key' is a skill that he uses to its full, creating a musical transition between each record that fits the progression in sound. As well as this, effects, loops and pitch shift can all be thrown into the cooking pot as part of the recipe for a big slice of tasty progressive cake.

Laying down his first track, the crowd were instantly captivated and the pace was set for the night ahead. As the sun arced down to the horizon, we were wowed by an awesome blend of pounding beats, enveloping monster bass sounds and bleeping echoing melodies, with music by the likes of Way Out West and antipodean artist Luke Chable.

After moving and shaking us through three hours of top notch musical entertainment, Sasha's set finished and the crowd roared. This had been a fantastic day, but the best news was that it wasn't over yet. With official afterparties at Brixton's George IV and the stylish Pacha in Victoria, the crowd dispersed quickly. We decided to head uptown to The End, to see Chicago's Derrick Carter (see review below), but had to go home for a brief pit stop – ten hours of South West Four had turned us into gibbering wrecks, but I can't think of a better way to spend a sunny summer's day.

Simon Clark

Keep on dancing to The End

CLUB REVIEW

'As One' presents Classic
The End, West Central Street
£12 students
★★★★☆

The End is one of London's best clubs. Situated in a prime location just off Shaftesbury Avenue, it attracts a certain breed of clubber.

Opened ten years ago by Mr C, formerly of The Shamen, and Layo Paskin, one half of progressive tech house duo Layo & Bushwacka, the concept behind this place is simple – a club designed with clubbers in mind.

What this means is that all the niggles that could potentially spoil a night out are sorted. The door policy is intelligent – there's no dress code (except for glam electro night Trash, on Mondays), so if you're going with the sole intention of dancing, feel free to wear trainers and a T-shirt. Queue jumping outside is actively policed by the courteous yet stalwart door staff. The sound system is



Derrick Carter

awesome – different frequencies are amplified individually and played on separate speaker cones, meaning the music is very loud, yet amazingly crisp and clear, even if you're standing right in front of the speakers.

Usually in clubs, revellers are forced to refill water bottles from sinks in the toilets. The toilets in The End are far too nice for this, and instead they provide a water fountain – something very simple

yet almost unique. The DJ booth in the main room isn't raised out of sight of the clubbers – instead it's at the perfect level to see exactly how (and with what records) your favourite jock is making that amazing sound. To top it all off, you get a wristband when you enter, and this will also allow entry to the adjoining AKA Bar.

The club has a capacity of around 1000, and different nights may use the entire space of the club as one room, or split the lounge bar off separate from the main dancefloor.

The crowd is one of the things that draw me to The End – this is where the bright young things come out to play. Some people may feel young or more likely underdressed in comparison to everyone else there, but don't be put off by this. The End is full of like-minded people, all there to enjoy the same music. People still make the effort to look good, given that they don't have to, which reflects the atmosphere and style of the place.

The music policy is as impressive as everything else here. There

is variety in the different nights, from the electro of Trash to drum and bass with regular Ram Records and Progression Sessions nights. At the same time, The End is most definitely a house club. The type of house most found here, and which works best, is tech house – minimal but to the point, stylish and sexy. It also sounds amazing over a five way PA system.

One of the regular house nights held at The End is 'As One' presents Classic, fronted by Chicago DJ Derrick Carter (Classic records is his own label).

Tonight, having spent the day in the park enjoying South West Four (see review above), my friends and I decided to end the night at The End. On arrival I was pleasantly surprised, as I always am when I come here. As you enter the club you arrive in the area bang in between the lounge and the main dancefloor. Classic records nights make use of the lounge and the main floor separately, and by the time we arrived, the man himself, Derrick Carter, was playing the main room with his

deep, techy sound. In the lounge, the music was more funky, happy, soulful house.

After the day's fun, we were all pretty knackered, but that was no problem. We moved straight down to the best spot in the house – in front of the DJ booth, where you can see exactly what he's up to and hear it all in the most astounding detail.

Carter's music is sublime – tough yet smooth, pounding and insistent yet warm. His sense of timing and the finesse and precision of his mixing make for well crafted and well rounded sets. Listening to him play and dancing to his beats feels like no effort at all. It feels like this is how your body was made to move.

After a lot of bouncing, twisting and grooving, once again the not-so-small hours rolled around, and it was 7am and sadly time to go home. This had been the perfect end to the perfect day, and as we left, the persistence of one stubborn clubber said it all, as he insisted to Carter that he must "do a rewind or play another record".

Simon Clark



Felix



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Felix has teamed up with Stray, New Zealand's leading backpacker bus network, and the award winning accommodation group, Beyond Backpackers, to give one lucky reader an unforgettable experience, down under

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Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

The next Harry Potter?

Susanna Clarke's book *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* is currently number four in the *New York Times* hardback charts and is hailed as a rival to Harry Potter. **Robert Holbach** issues the first coveted five star rating of the year and interviews the author for *Felix*



There's something afoot in the publishing industry. Book collectors are all excited about a forthcoming novel. This novel has been compared to the works of Tolkien. It has been compared to Harry Potter. It has been compared to anything and everything successful in the fantasy market. And, of course, most of

these comparisons are quite wrong: this book is rather unique.

Let's begin by describing the premise: in the book, Britain is an island with a very strong magical and mystical history. But at the start of the nineteenth century, magic is in decline. It is strictly a theoretical science, with no practical application – like advanced maths with a twist. Two magicians aim to reverse all of that, to revive English practical magic. These two magicians are Mr Norrell, a paranoid eccentric, and Jonathan Strange, a foolhardy youth. Mr Norrell brings his abilities to public attention and proposes to help out in the war against France. And so their adventures begin.

It is perhaps the notion of magicians that causes a lot of the comparisons. Magicians have become part of pop culture. Any newcomer has Harry Potter, Dumbledore and

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell

by Susanna Clarke
(Bloomsbury)

★★★★★

Gandalf to measure up against. Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell are quite different men. They don't grow long white beards. They don't wave around any wands or staffs. Neither of them could be described as being particularly wise. In short, they aren't the archetypes we are used to. Mr Norrell is studious, but paranoid. Strange is adventurous, but easily distracted. These literary magicians are amply supplied with the things that many of their counterparts in other stories lack: flaws, depth and individuality.

But to focus on just the two magi-

cians is to do this story a great injustice. There are fascinating and enchanting characters aplenty. We meet ministers and prophets, wives and servants, fairies and generals. Indeed, it is often easier to identify with the struggles of the servants, or the wives, than either of the two magicians.

Reading this novel is quite a delightful experience. It starts out playful and witty. A few hundred pages later, it is a tale of magical adventures in the war against Napoleon. And yet another few hundred pages later, the story becomes much darker, almost heartbreaking. I found it impossible not to connect and identify with the characters, and I can only commend Mrs Clarke for achieving this feat.

Looking at the book in a shop, you will notice its length. The novel starts out at a leisurely pace. It's the

written equivalent of a comfortable stroll in a beautiful, enchanted landscape, where every pond and every hill is a wonderful thing to behold. In fact, it is not merely a single story, it's a revelation of a world of stories. If you have read *The Neverending Story* (by Michael Ende), you may recall all the places where the author seems to get distracted by a snippet of story, only to announce "but that is another story, and shall be told another time". Well, Susanna Clarke clearly does not agree with this way of writing. Her book is full of little background fables and myths. And each of those tales is a marvel of its own.

This is a very enchanting novel indeed, full of beautiful, witty prose and delights for any reader. No, it isn't like Tolkien or Rowling or Feist. It's a different beast, and I am glad it has been discovered.

Books interview: Susanna Clarke

You started this book ten years ago. When you set out, what did you expect it to become?

I think my expectations were pretty low. I'd never completed a novel before. I'd started several. One of them was supposed to be a literary novel, one was a detective novel, one was a fantasy novel. So I didn't really know whether I could complete it, but I thought it was a very good idea, and I had its shape in my head. But it grew, it grew in complexity as I went on. I didn't know when I set out that I was going to pin it so much to real facts and have so much real history in it, but as I progressed this seemed a natural thing to do.

The real history is all about the Napoleonic Wars...

And also the social background. And in some cases, placings. I've tried to be as accurate as I can about, for example, London and Venice, and the sort of social background position of women and the servants and so forth. I tried to make that as accurate as I can, a sort of blend to ground the magic. I find that magic becomes more believable when you put it next to something which is quite mundane and quite ordinary.

The majority of the characters appear to be male. Were you ever tempted to give big magical powers to a female character?

I wasn't, in this novel, although the first short story I published is about three woman magicians. So, I did it there, but in the main book I wanted to concentrate on Strange and Norrell. And it is a male book, because it's... it's this thing about

being accurate about the time in which people lived. Women were not powerless in the regency period – I think later in the Victorian period their opinions were less valued – but the world of action belonged very much to men, and women's sphere was the domestic sphere. And I wanted to be realistic about that. Which is why I think it's become a book that is largely about men. The next one, maybe not so much.

What about the next one? Do you already have a plan for it?

A plan is possibly putting it a bit strongly. I have something of a plan, and I have started, and I know roughly what's gonna happen. But

"I'd never completed a novel before. I'd started several..."

I'm not a great planner, unfortunately. It's just not the way I work. But it is set in the same world, and it will start shortly after *Strange & Norrell* finishes.

One of the characters I couldn't help but feel you were a big fan of was the Duke of Wellington. He's always seen in a heroic light...

Yes. I mean, he surprised me in the sense that when I researched him, I just got more and more entranced by him. And in a very curious way, he's a self-made man as well. He really was. I mean, he was born into a privileged class, the son of an Earl, which doesn't sound particularly underprivileged. But he didn't have

a title at the beginning of his life, his family expected absolutely nothing of him, they didn't even think he would be a very good soldier. And he just continually formed himself into the person he wanted to be. When he arrived in the peninsula, nobody really expected him to succeed, and nobody really knew how it was possible to succeed. But he worked out what you would have to do to get rid of the French, what sort of army was needed to get rid of the French, and what sort of general was needed to command that army. And then he turned the army into the army that could do it, and himself into the general that could command that army. And that is impressive. Plus, he was very witty, and always wore cool clothes. Great!

A brilliant hero. You could almost imagine him being played by one of Hollywood's biggest stars...

Yes, except for the nose. They gotta have the nose. He was called Nosey by his men, so you've got to have this long nose.

There goes the heartache hero of the story... a big nose. Have you thought about movie adaptations very much?

There's a lot of interest at the moment. Partly from the fact that, obviously, fantasy books are very hot, as far as Hollywood is concerned. Apart from feeling rather grateful that I don't have to do it, and won't be asked to do it, it baffles me entirely how you would technically turn this into a film.

Would you trust the film-makers to turn it into a good film?



Susanna Clarke: an author whose first novel is tipped for great things

You have to. I think, what you'd do, is to hopefully choose the right filmmaker, if you get the chance. I'm not the right person to do this. So, if it's gonna be done it would have to be done by someone else.

So are you all excited about the book coming out soon?

I've been excited for a very long time, actually. It's great! There's a lot planned for the tour in America, and then I'll be doing more stuff over here. So, it's a very exciting time. It's not a very writerly time. I'll have to wait until this is out of the way. I must admit, I thought becoming a professional writer would involve more actual writing than it appears

to, but that's the way it turned out, and I'm very grateful.

Are you ready to face up to large queues of fans?

I'm not at all sure about the large queues of fans. I mean it is wonderful that Bloomsbury are telling so many people about it, but it is a first novel... I think we'll wait and see.

Well, proof copies sell for £100 on eBay, and more...

Book collectors seem to see me as a safe bet, so that's a good sign.

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell is released in the UK today



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Film

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I need a Hero

Yimou's epic is visually awesome, but slightly let down by the plot

Hero

Director: Zhang Yimou

Starring: Jet Li, Tony Leung, Maggie Cheung, Donnie Yen, Daoming Chen, Zhang Ziyi

Length: 96 minutes

Certificate: 12

★★★★☆

Just over 2000 years ago, seven kingdoms struggled for access to the human capital and natural resources of what is now modern-day China. Between 230 and 221 BC, the Kingdom of Qin, ruled by Qin Shihuangdi, waged war and conquered the other six kingdoms, unifying the country into what would become the first dynasty of China. Qin had the idea of unifying 'all under heaven'.

Hero tells the story of an assassin called Nameless (Jet Li), who visits the highly unpopular and aspiring Emperor Qin (Chen) to enlighten the Emperor of how he has vanquished three of the most infamous assassins and enemies of Qin: Broken Sword (Tony Leung), Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung), and Sky (Donnie Yen). For such heroic

service, Nameless is granted an audience within ten paces of the Emperor and asked to recount the details of his victories. However, as Nameless begins to tell his story about how he used a love triangle involving the three assassins to divide and conquer, Qin begins to see holes in the account and senses that all is not what it seems.

While the comparisons with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*

"Hero is one of the most visually stunning films to have been released in recent times"

are inevitable, the style of *Hero* is quite different. While *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* was made more accessible to Western audiences through scripting and a love story, the dialogue in *Hero* is typically what you would expect in a traditional Chinese martial arts epic, with plenty of terse speech.



He's got to be strong: one man will change an empire

Hero is one of the most visually stunning films to have been released in recent times, surpassing the viewer's imagination (which is not easy) with some truly inspired scenes. The amalgamation of colour and movement is simply amazing. The action scenes are choreo-

graphed to perfection. The martial arts sequences put those of *The Matrix* and *Kill Bill* to shame. *Hero* was actually completed in 2002 – before *Kill Bill* – but was its release delayed, to avoid *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The plot is not as strong as one

would have hoped, but the underlying message is as bleak as it is thought provoking – the unifying force of totalitarianism is valued above democracy and individual freedom, and the path to peace is often through conflict.

The cast is littered with star names from Hong Kong. Maggie Cheung is striking and elegant, fitting the bill as the love interest. Tony Leung plays the calligraphy master with equal parts sensitive beauty and rough toughness. However Zhang Ziyi, as Moon, suffers in a peripheral role as Broken Sword's understudy, given very little to do other than a few fight scenes. Yen only appears briefly at the beginning of the film, though he manages to make quite an impression in his limited screen time. Finally Jet Li is impressive as a distant and stone cold killer.

Hero is not about the star cast, the rather weak plot, or the poignant ending. It is quite simply a glorious visual treat. Watching it is like watching a dream that is awash in vivid colour and splashed in liquid imagination.

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Want to review films, get free tickets and go to previews? Write for Felix Film! Email Alan on film.felix@ic.ac.uk

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Coffee Break

with Fishface



Hello friends, and welcome (or welcome back) to the fish tank.

This week, we present a pub quiz style picture board for your amusement and intellectual stimulation, together with a crossword from our brand new setter, Snufkin. If you can solve either, we'd like to hear from you, and we might just give you a mention next week.

Sadly this week's Coffee Break is all too brief, as Powersheep has finally moved on to pastures new (get it?) and we have no-one to replace him. If you fancy setting some interesting challenges (well, any sort of strange little games would do) to entertain the masses during lectures (or even during their coffee breaks), then let us know at coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk. We'd be pleased to have you on board.

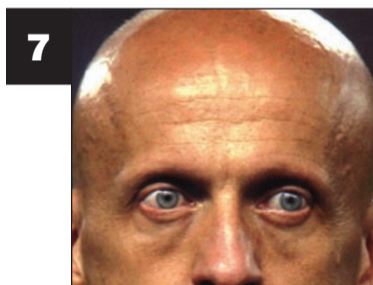
FUCCA winners

Followers of last year's *Felix* crosswords might be interested to discover the recipients of the 2003-4 Felix Unforgettable Cryptic Crossword Awards. For each correct solution we received throughout the year, the solver was given one entry in our prize draw. The more crosswords you completed, the more chance you had of winning. Why not take a look at Snufkin's puzzle below and enter this year's Awards? Last year's winners were:

Karen Osmond (Digital Radio)
Jim Hawkins (MP3 player)
Alex Crosse (USB storage device)

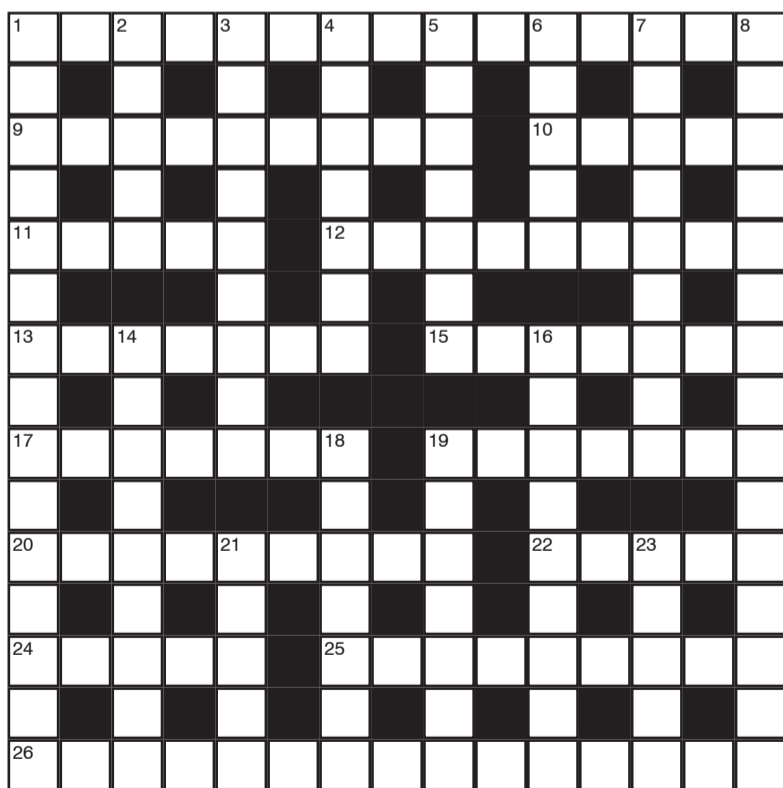
Picture board

Name these nine lovely people



Felix Crossword 1299

by Snufkin



Across

- Recklessly elope with girl (Alice) and head for Morocco – leaving this place? (8,7)
- Eccentric Archer struggling with cat (9)
- Fly Russian fighter plane over Germany and Spain (5)
- Simple song – silly one for duck (5)
- Hormone urging one to jump into bed (9)
- New agreement is said to be in its early stages (7)
- Using fingers but not hands? (7)
- Law for iodine swirling in this, perhaps (7)
- Not as thick as turps, for instance (7)
- Might horny girl find a use for this U-tube? (9)
- Dour boy-man, only half there?! (5)
- Headlong* novelist (5)
- Working in theatre (9)
- Free love? Everyone's in on it! (6,9)

Down

- Playing Manics' cult indie soundtrack (10,5)
- Install heavy equipment (5)
- Cooking early, made microwave dinner (5,4)
- Met up with model in appropriate surroundings for fling (7)
- Ran rings round drunken cleric at start of dinner (7)
- Cap is included in 'Slim Items' (5)
- Star physicist I'd get confused with new don (9)
- Somehow entreat lean girl to make up threesome (7,8)
- Silver-white metal camouflaged rust in MOT (9)
- In speech, gloss over homicidal AI left in Corporation building (9)
- Where ships can unload – sailor pissed here? (3,4)
- Destroy electric ray (7)
- Underground press? (5)
- This way one can't see window-screen (5)

Hello! You won't have seen me before, unless you've been reading imported copies of Oxford University's *Cherwell*. If you like the *Times* crossword you should get along fine with my puzzles, and consequently if you're more into *The Guardian* you might think the clue structures a bit conservative. *Telegraph* solvers may find them a bit more challenging. If you do *The Independent*, it must be because you read the paper for reasons unrelated to the crossword.

I hope that puts me in perspective. My grids tend to be slightly playful and are sometimes thematic; this week's is neither, as I have a wretched dissertation to write. Any comments will be gratefully received.

Snufkin

Send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring this page down to the *Felix* office in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Each week, we'll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year (if you don't know what I'm talking about, have a look at the "FUCCA Winners" box, above)

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Henley ghosts laid to rest

ROWING

By Ed Johnson

The Imperial College Union Boat Club finished an exceptionally strong season with success at the Henley Royal Regatta, the National Championships and the World Student Games this summer.

Although the club has been highly successful over the past few years, winning at a wide variety of different events in the UK and abroad, it had not won at Henley since 1998. The event is the most prestigious domestic regatta in the world, and the club had come very close to victory there on a number of recent occasions. This year, they entered a team into a new event, the men's student coxed four. The club also had two eights entered in the Temple Challenge Cup (for student eights) and a B crew in the coxed four event,

which unfortunately failed to qualify.

On the Wednesday of this five day regatta, the first Imperial crew to race was our B eight, who had drawn Manchester University's first eight. The crew, mainly made up of this year's nov-

"Isis made a desperate push to get level but Imperial came back strongly to win by half a length"

ices, put up a strong fight but eventually succumbed to the Manchester crew, who had been finalists at the BUSA regatta.

The coxed four had a fairly comfortable race against

the University of London B crew, who put all they had into the first half of the race, their challenge fading rapidly from that point on. The Temple A crew then raced Glasgow University, coached by Imperial College graduate Nigel 'Killer' Atkins. Unfortunately, the Scots, aided by Nigel's inside knowledge, put up too strong a fight for Imperial to match, although the race was very close.

Thursday dawned with only one Imperial crew – the four – left in the regatta. They were up against Cambridge University, who, though small and rather scrawny, seemed to think that they would be able to repeat their feat of last year, when they had won the event. However, the Imperial crew of Ed Johnson, Hugh Mackenzie, George Whittaker and Simon Hislop, coxed by Seb Pearce, blew Cambridge away, with the race over well before the halfway stage.



The victorious Imperial crew at Henley: (left to right) Simon Hislop, George Whittaker, Hugh Mackenzie, Ed Johnson and cox Seb Pearce

Friday was a rest day, so the semi-final was not until Saturday. This was against Trinity College Dublin. This crew had already been beaten at the Gent regatta in Belgium, but were looking for revenge. However, once again, Imperial gradually drew away, and a comfortable lead going down the en-

clures meant that a sprint was not needed and the crew were in the final.

Sunday at Henley is now entirely given over to finals, with the student coxed four being the last one. This meant that the crew had the whole day to get nervous, before going down to the course in the afternoon. The strong

headwinds that had been a feature of this regatta for the whole week were again present, meaning that times would be slow, and the opponents for the final, Isis (from Oxford University) had the favoured inside station. As both crews made their way up to the start, the tension was obvious, with a very large

Imperial College Union Boat Club

Join Imperial College's most successful club and make use of the brand new £2.3million boat house located in Putney. The club runs Elite, Novice/Beginner and Recreational Rowing squads so you can train when you have the time.

Try Rowing

Come to the Boat Club in Putney (organised Freshers trip leaving Queens Tower, 2pm Wednesday 6th October), or any Wednesday afternoon with shorts, a t-shirt and trainers.

To Get to the club

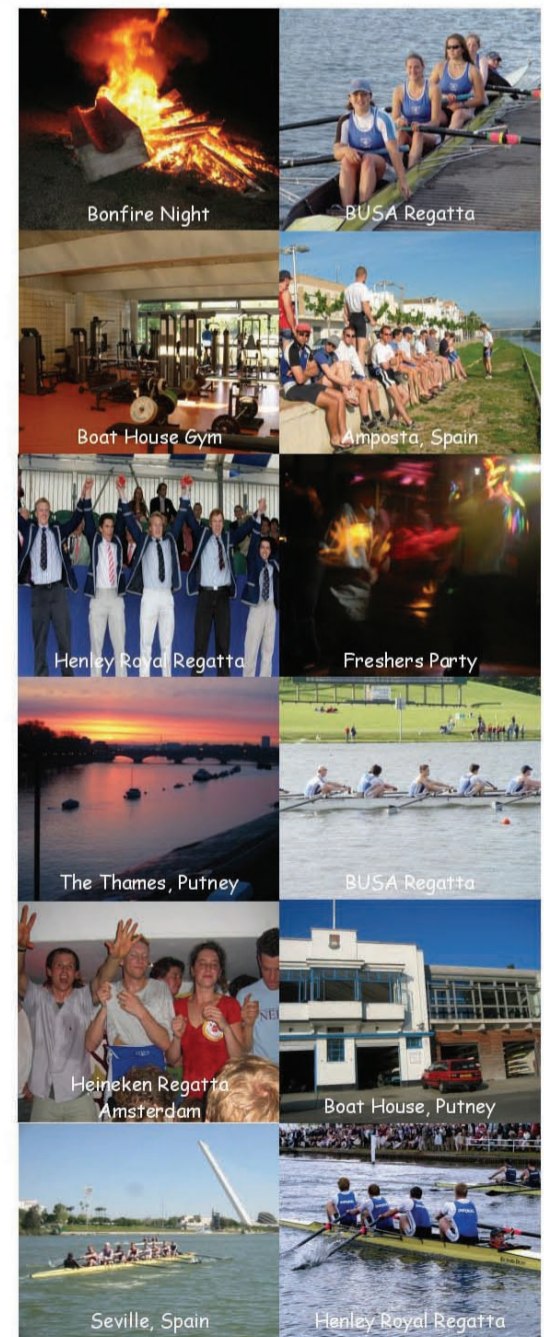
Take the District line, 74 or 15 to Putney Bridge. Go over the Bridge and turn right. Follow the tow path with the river on your right to the last boat house on the Embankment.

Freshers Party – Friday 15th October

Thames Rowing Club, Putney (Next to Imperial's Boat House)

www.imperialboatclub.co.uk

ELITE, BEGINNER or RECREATIONAL



SPORT

as Imperial triumph

contingent of former and current Imperial oarsmen out to support.

For the first time at the regatta, Imperial College were slightly down after the first ten strokes, but from this point out to the barrier, which marks about a quarter of the distance, they steadily moved out to a half length lead. From here to halfway, Imperial were again faster than Isis, but were not able to get clear water. As the race moved into the final stages down the enclosures, Isis made a desperate push to get back level but Imperial came back strongly to win by half a length.

Three of the crew (Ed Johnson, Hugh Mackenzie and Seb Pearce) then moved on to the National Championships, where they combined with Molesey Boat Club in order to start preparing for the World Student Games. This involved rowing in a coxed four and eight, in

both cases the main rivals being the old enemy, Oxford Brookes. The heats of each event passed uneventfully, with the crew qualifying comfortably for the finals. First up was the coxed four, where Imperial/Molesey were racing the selected Great Britain U23 coxed four as well as the other half of the eight. Unfortunately, an inexplicably bad start left Imperial/Molesey in sixth and last after 250m, and although they were able to row through the field and past Brookes into second place, the other Molesey four just managed to stay ahead and claim the gold.

This boded extremely well for the eight, and these predictions proved to be justified as Imperial/Molesey powered through to beat Oxford Brookes into silver medal position and claim the blue riband event of the regatta.

Most of the rowing population would now be enjoying a holiday, but Ed Johnson and



On the podium: the Great Britain four (right) at the World Student Games

Hugh Mackenzie then combined with Gavin Weeks and Henry Adams (both former University of London) to form a coxless four for the World Student Games, which were held at the beginning of September. After a long month and a half spent training in this combination, the crew flew out to Brive, France

with high hopes.

Eight crews had entered the event, and Great Britain were in a heat of five with Chinese Taipei, New Zealand, South Africa and Poland. After an excellent start, they had a half-length lead over the field, but the strong Polish crew (fresh from the Olympic Games where they finished

sixth) then came through to take the heat, with Great Britain second, just ahead of South Africa. In the other heat, the Irish won, with Germany second and France third. This put the British crew into a repechage with Germany, France, South Africa, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei, with four crews making the final. A good lane draw and confidence were also at stake. Great Britain had an excellent race, and although down to France and Germany off the start, they did not panic and used superior pace through the middle 500m to move through the field and take the lead, before holding off a late charge from South Africa.

The final was again in the heat of the day, and a slight mix-up with the timing meant that the warm up had to be slightly abbreviated. As the race went off, Germany got entangled with the lane buoys, effectively ending their race

before it had really started. The Poles got off to a flyer and lead the field, with Great Britain and Ireland about level behind them. This situation continued down the track, with the Poles moving gradually away from the field. At the halfway mark, it was clear that Poland were going to win and that the race for the other medals was purely between Great Britain and Ireland. Through the third 500m of the race, Great Britain pushed hard to come back level with the Irish, but were unable to sprint as hard and had to settle for bronze, which still an excellent result.

This capped an exceptionally strong season for the Boat Club, which they will be looking to repeat next year. If you would like to try rowing then look for the Boat Club stand on the Queens Lawn at Freshers Fair or get in touch with the returning captain, Seb Pearce, by email at dsp01@ic.ac.uk.

Spirits high and voices out of tune for Medicals in Canada

Continued from page 24
the previous day or the manner in which the second team had played, the firsts left the Irish literally shell-shocked, scoring several tries. Mention must be made of Underwood and Thomas, who both collected deserved hat-tricks. The final score was 63-7 to the medicals.

This brought the squad's visit to Calgary to an end, and they set off on the journey through the Rockies, bound for Vancouver. White water rafting afforded them the opportunity to experience some fantastic scenery, as well as typical Canadian water temperatures. During the drive they stayed over at Banff and Kamloops, and enjoyed the hospitality these towns had to offer.

Vancouver is a city that made a very good impression on all the tourists, and most of the party expressed interest in medical posts there. After a short break from rugby, the Medicals were very keen to get back into the playing fold. There was also a feeling that they now had a reputation to defend, following the free-scoring games in Calgary.

The small town of Langley were the next opposition, a fixture arranged for the first XV only. The game was again played in burning heat on a hard pitch, and the Medicals found themselves down by a couple of tries early on. However, the sensible, collected attitude displayed so many times last season shone through, and the team went on to score four tries and control the game. The hard, thankless work put in by the big forwards was the basis



Ready for action: the Imperial Medicals second team

of the reversal, and despite the early upsets, heads were held high at the end, as the match finished 24-14 to the touring side.

The next step was to travel to Vancouver Island, a short ferry trip. The island itself is larger than England, and the towns were well Anglicised, with a pleasant climate. Again, emigration plans were already being made by members of the group.

A double-header was arranged against Cowichan Rugby Club, a team pre-sensitised to hospitals rugby, having played against a United Hospitals Team in the recent past. Indeed, one member of the party was remembered by the hosts (though the reasons for this were not discussed).

The second XV kicked off after some rather hurried

pre-match preparation, and for the first half hour struggled to resemble the team that had played the previous week. Consequently, the medicals were deservedly four tries behind at the break. Although the standards rose in the second half, the team could not prevent a poor 33-14 defeat.

This left the first XV with the task of restoring some pride, and as if on cue, the goods were delivered. The tries were again produced *en masse*, with the impressive Underwood picking up another hat-trick. The performance was earmarked by many as one of the best that the Imperial Medicals have ever produced, and it was hard to disagree, as the final score was 56-0 in their favour. The fresh crab and hospitality that followed were also first

rate, and the squad headed to celebrate in Victoria with spirits high and voices out of tune.

When back in Vancouver, the Medicals had to take stock of the player situation.

“The firsts left Calgary Irish literally shell-shocked, scoring several tries”

Unfortunately, they had been left thin in certain positions due to injury and departure, so the final game against local champions Abbotsford was going to require a few impromptu performances out of position.

The second XV were hardest hit, and lined up against a strong looking opposition with a mish-mash of a back line. However, strong character again shone through and the medicals found themselves ahead at half time. Sadly, lack of incision at critical points in the second half saw them fail to capitalise on opportunities, and Abbotsford struck in the dying minutes to win the match 17-10.

The first XV were less disorganised, but facing tough opposition at the end of a tiring tour proved to be a difficult task. Although an early score put them in front, they relied on the metronomic boot of Morris to keep them ahead, and a hard fought 16-15 victory was attained.

Thus, an amazing tour came to a close. The good rugby

and good jokes were matched only by the hospitality of the locals and the quality of the location. All of the tour party felt privileged to be involved, so heartfelt thanks must go to those who made this possible: Tina Phelan for all her hard work, despite not being able to attend; Dave and Shirley Rollitt for their coaching (and all-round parenting) on the trip; Greg Hamilton-Eadie for his efforts pre-tour (we also wish Mary all the best for the coming weeks); Dr Simon Rogers, who was a first rate replacement coach; and very importantly, our benevolent sponsors, without whom the trip would not have been able to proceed. We are indebted to Siemens Medical Solutions, Norwich Union Healthcare, The St Mary's Association and the Hammersmith Fund.

Sport

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Imperial Medicals enjoy successful tour of Canada

RUGBY

Imperial Medicals RFC Tour of Canada 2004

By Piers Thomas

Success on the pitch was matched by the players' enjoyment of their surroundings as a 42-strong Imperial Medicals party toured Canada over the summer.

The tour had been a source of excitement for several months, and the party arrived in Calgary, Alberta on 15 July. Confidence was high following a successful season, and there was a good number of doctors, bringing experience to supplement the enthusiasm of the younger players.

The squad billeted at the University of Calgary, where the first couple of days were spent training and acclimatising. There was universal acclaim for the impressive sports facilities that the North American colleges offer their students, including an Olympic speed-skating circuit. It's a shame that our own Charing Cross campus doesn't have the potential for such development.

The Medicals were fortunate to be visiting Calgary during the annual 'Stampede', where the locals enjoy getting back to their cowboy roots with rodeos and such like.

On the day of the first game, the squad arrived at the host club to the bad news that the scheduled first XV opposition



Under the posts: the Imperial Medicals first team on tour

were unable to field a side. This was attributed to hard games over the previous few days and, one may suggest, even harder drinking at the stampede. This cancellation meant that the second XV were cast onto centre stage in the opening game, against a useful side from an upstate

town, Red Deer.

Red Deer had been described as an American football team who occasionally played rugby, so there was understandably a little trepidation in the warm-up, mainly centred around who would get their ribs broken first. Pleasingly, this proved

not to be the case, as the Medicals ran riot for large periods of the game.

With the forwards hitting well above their weight all afternoon, the backs were able to cut the opposition open with some talented running. The final score was 42-12 in the medicals' favour.

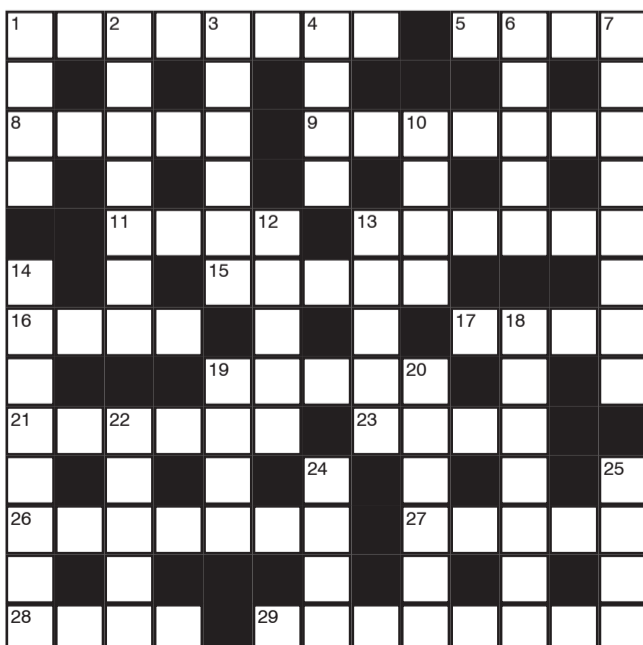
It is also worth noting that Calgary stands around 1000m above sea level and was in the middle of a record heat wave at the time, so the game was particularly demanding, as demonstrated by the number of players post-match who spurned an offer of beer in favour of cold water.

The following evening saw the first XV open their account against Calgary Irish, a vaunted team containing a number of high level players, including the current Canadian international full-back. Whether spurred on by the disappointing cancellation

Continued on page 23

Quick Crossword

by Cactus



Across

1. Of internal or home affairs (8)
5. Clarified butter (4)
8. Of the ear (5)
9. Sweet red pepper (7)
11. An article (4)
13. Thick, strong, brown paper (6)
15. A noble gas (5)
16. Not in use (4)
17. Soya bean curd (4)
19. Biblical city (5)
21. Hot spring (6)
23. Smallest animal in a litter (4)
26. Not yet paid (7)
27. Alcohol + organic acid = water + ? (5)
28. Current against the main stream (4)
29. Sudden dash (8)

Down

1. Halve (4)
2. Warlike (7)
3. Vendor (6)
4. Children's game (1,3)
6. Capital of Vietnam (5)
7. Roman name for York (8)
10. Complain (4)
12. Important (5)
13. Engine (5)
14. Identify (fault) (8)
18. Group of eight (7)
19. Pip (4)
20. Building for exhibits (6)
22. Surrender (5)
24. Arrears (4)
25. French cheese (4)



For our mutual satisfaction and the possibility of your name being mentioned next week, email your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk