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Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1300 ● Thursday 7 October 2004 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

Funding changes

The Secretary of State has proposed changes to the university funding system in order to preserve science departments that might otherwise close.

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Scientific issues are proving to be some of the most divisive in this year's US presidential elections.

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"Quality is surely more important than quantity. To that end, the dairy cream filled chocolate coated doughnuts at Miss Ellie's in South Kensington station come highly recommended."

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Felix introduces a fortnightly Careers section, providing a range of information and features to help you into the big wide world after Imperial.

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The Rugby Club in New Zealand

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Union card confusion

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Imperial College Union cards are no longer being issued to students, but a large proportion of freshers and returning students were unaware of the change when arriving at College this week.

Swipe cards will now take over all the functions of the old Union cards, with new electronic card readers being installed where necessary.

In the past, the cards were issued so that the Union could collect essential information about its members. They were also seen as a good marketing tool, attracting students to come to the Union and also giving them the chance to obtain certain student discounts.

However, printing several thousand Union cards each year can become an expensive operation, and it is inconvenient for students to have to queue for long periods to obtain one.

Now, with the introduction of a new computer system, the College Registry is able to provide the Union with the data it needs, and the marketing issue was thought to have been dealt with by an agreement to put the Union logo onto College swipe cards.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, told *Felix*: "The idea of a joint College and Union card has been floated for a long time, and I think most people would agree that it is sensible."

However, College Communications have since refused to put the Union logo onto swipe cards, saying that they need more time to consider the implications of such a change. It is thought that other organisations or groups might wish to follow suit, leaving the swipe cards covered with several different logos.

The confusion appears to have been caused by the short timescale in which the decision was taken – it only became clear during the summer that the Registry would have the required information. The decision was taken in the absence of the President, and without the input of the Union's Executive Committee. The change was not mentioned in the Union handbook or publicised at all until a late stage approaching the beginning of term.

Mr Arif continued: "It's beneficial to students if they don't have to have a separate Union card. But if it looks like a last minute rush job that hasn't

"It's beneficial to students if they don't need a separate Union card"

been done in the most rigorous manner, that's probably because it is." He added that he is in the process of setting up a working group within the College to consider the issue of student identification further.

Nightline, the charity providing a confidential listening service for students, has had its logo removed from the back of all new swipe cards. Sam Rorke, Imperial College Union's Deputy President (Education and Welfare), said: "It was handy to have the details on the back of the swipe card, because it provided a quick and easy reference so that those in distress could get help quickly."

Imperial students will not obtain University of London Union (ULU) cards either. Again, the College swipe card will be acceptable instead.

A fine start to Freshers Week



Another Imperial year begins: students move into Linstead hall (top), BBC 1Xtra's Ollie and Jason play at The Mingle on Saturday night (middle), the dBs crowd enjoy some breakdancing (left) and three freshers smile for the camera in Beit Quad (right)

Felix

Issue 1300

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NEWS

Wye students join hunt protest outside Commons

By Dave Edwards
Editor

As the Hunting Bill was being debated in the House of Commons last month, a number of past and present Imperial College students were involved in the protests outside.

The Wye Beagles (formerly the Wye College Beagles) are an amateur and young persons' pack with close links to the Wye campus and the students' union. Six of the current hunt staff and committee are either current Imperial students or graduates of the College.

Kirsty Massey, joint master of the Beagles and about to start a Masters course at Wye, told *Felix* why she took part in the rally in Parliament Square: "We need to show people opposed to hunting that we have not given up and will not take a ban lying down."

Henry Walker, a former student master and huntsman, expressed his fondness for hunting and his frustration at the ban: "The first time I saw the Wye College pack was on a rainy day during Freshers Week. From that point on, I was hooked. Everyone was very friendly and what struck me was that everyone had a genuine love for the countryside." Mr Walker continued: "I have been to every London rally and hunt protest for the last six years. What will we have to do before they listen to us?"

As the Bill was being debated, hunt supporters



House of disorder: there were chaotic scenes both inside and outside the Commons as the Hunting Bill was debated last month

fought with police outside. Some invaded the House of Commons, prompting calls for drastic changes to Parliamentary security measures.

The Bill was passed by 356 votes to 166. It is now almost certain to become law through the Parliament Act, with an official ban set to begin in summer 2006.

Unsurprisingly, the Wye

Beagles are not ready to admit defeat on an issue about which so many of their members feel so strongly.

"What will we have to do before they listen to us?"

However, other students and societies at Imperial are likely to support the hunting ban.

Coincidentally, several senior Imperial College Union officers were inside Portcullis House at the time, and were asked whether or not they supported the Bill. Most replied "no", citing the existence of the Wye Beagles as the main reason why.

Government intervenes in university science funding

By Emily Gwyer

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills, Charles Clarke, this week proposed changes to the current system of university funding in order to preserve the teaching of science in departments that might otherwise close.

The last ten years have seen a dramatic drop in the number of students enrolled on science courses in Britain, particularly the physical sciences, and the market-led approach to university funding has meant that several departments, such as the Kings College chemistry department, have had to close.

Mr Clarke believes that producing science undergraduates is of significant importance to the economy and has therefore proposed new changes to the funding system whereby new subsidies are levied or tuition fees waived.

The news has been welcomed by the scientific community, which has been lobbying Mr Clarke over the matter, but his plans will require the agreement of vice-chancellors, who may see Government intervention as unwelcome. The process, bound to be long and torturous, has only just begun, but we wait with interest to see if Britain's future science students are rewarded with extra money.

Fears of new measles epidemic in London

By Emily Gwyer

Fears were raised this week of a new epidemic of measles in London, as government scientists warned parents about the extremely low take-up of the MMR vaccine.

London has the lowest immunisation rate in the country, with fewer than 62% of babies having had the jab in south London and in other boroughs including Haringey and Tower Hamlets. 95% of the population must be immunised against a disease in order to reduce the chances of two non-immunised people meeting each other to practically zero (this is called 'herd immunity'). Without this immunity, certain groups, particularly primary school children, are at risk of contracting the disease, which can be fatal. Up to 20% of adult sufferers are hospitalised.

The controversy over the MMR vaccine began in 1998, when Dr Andrew Wakefield

of the Royal Free Hospital published an article in *The Lancet* discussing bowel disease and autism. In the press conference for the article, Dr Wakefield went further and suggested a link between the vaccine and the onset of autism. Although the sample group of 12 children was far

"Take-up of the triple vaccine has fallen to the current low of 68%"

smaller than previous studies (which had shown no ill effects), it was explosive.

Natural parental fears over risks to their children were matched with serious mistrust of government scientists, and the newspapers stirred up the panic. Take-up of the triple vaccine has fallen

from 92% before the press conference to the current low of 68%, despite many other studies failing to repeat the findings of Dr Wakefield. This was followed by ten of the paper's co-authors retracting their names from the article and Dr Wakefield's subsequent resignation.

Many parents remain worried, bamboozled by the science and angry about the patronising attitude of government officials. An epidemic is now a serious possibility.

Measles symptoms begin with fever before a rash appears, usually on the head and then spreading to the body. After three to five days, the spots may blend into each other as the illness progresses. Students are not at as high a risk as young children.

● **The Imperial College Health Centre's 24 hour telephone number is 020 7584 6301. Their website address is www.ic.ac.uk/healthcentre**



Needles seem necessary: the number of people being immunised is now dangerously low

Business

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Covering the topics that matter



NUMAAN CHAUDHRY
BUSINESS EDITOR

As the reader may have cleverly noticed from the previous edition of *Felix*, there's a new face in town. Allow me to introduce myself as the new editor of the Business section.

Having successfully conquered the first year, I am about to embark on the treacherous second year of JMC (Joint Maths and Computing). If I'm not writ-

ing for *Felix* in Beit Quad, you'll find me either hitting the keyboard at the Huxley labs or practising Tae Kwon Do at Wilson House. With that short intro out of the way, I can now explain exactly what I'll be filling up these pages with every week.

First and foremost, I urge the reader, whatever your business orientation may be, to contribute to this fountain

of knowledge by offering anything you deem appropriate. If that means submitting a review of a new bond offering, the transcript of an interview with a CEO or even a sales pitch for the latest stock to hit the market, I want to hear from you.

My aim in all future issues will be to give the reader an insight into the previous week's events, what trig-

gered them and how this will affect students at Imperial especially.

Do bear in mind that a whole week's events are being summarised in a fraction of the space taken up by a business newspaper such as the *Telegraph* or the *Financial Times*, so forgive me if certain stories have been sacrificed to make way for others.

I look forward to hearing from you – feel free to e-mail me at the address below about this article, future industry scoops or anything at all that you feel is worth considering. I hope these pages will be as enjoyable for you to read as they are for me to write.

Below are the particulars of just a few of the biggest stories in the business world over the past few weeks.

Latest from the Square Mile

With one very eventful week coming to a close on Sunday, you should anticipate some shocking headlines in the next fortnight

LandSec

A huge property securitisation deal was announced on Monday last in a successful attempt by Land Securities, the UK's largest property company, to ease its debt accumulation and increase borrowing capacity.

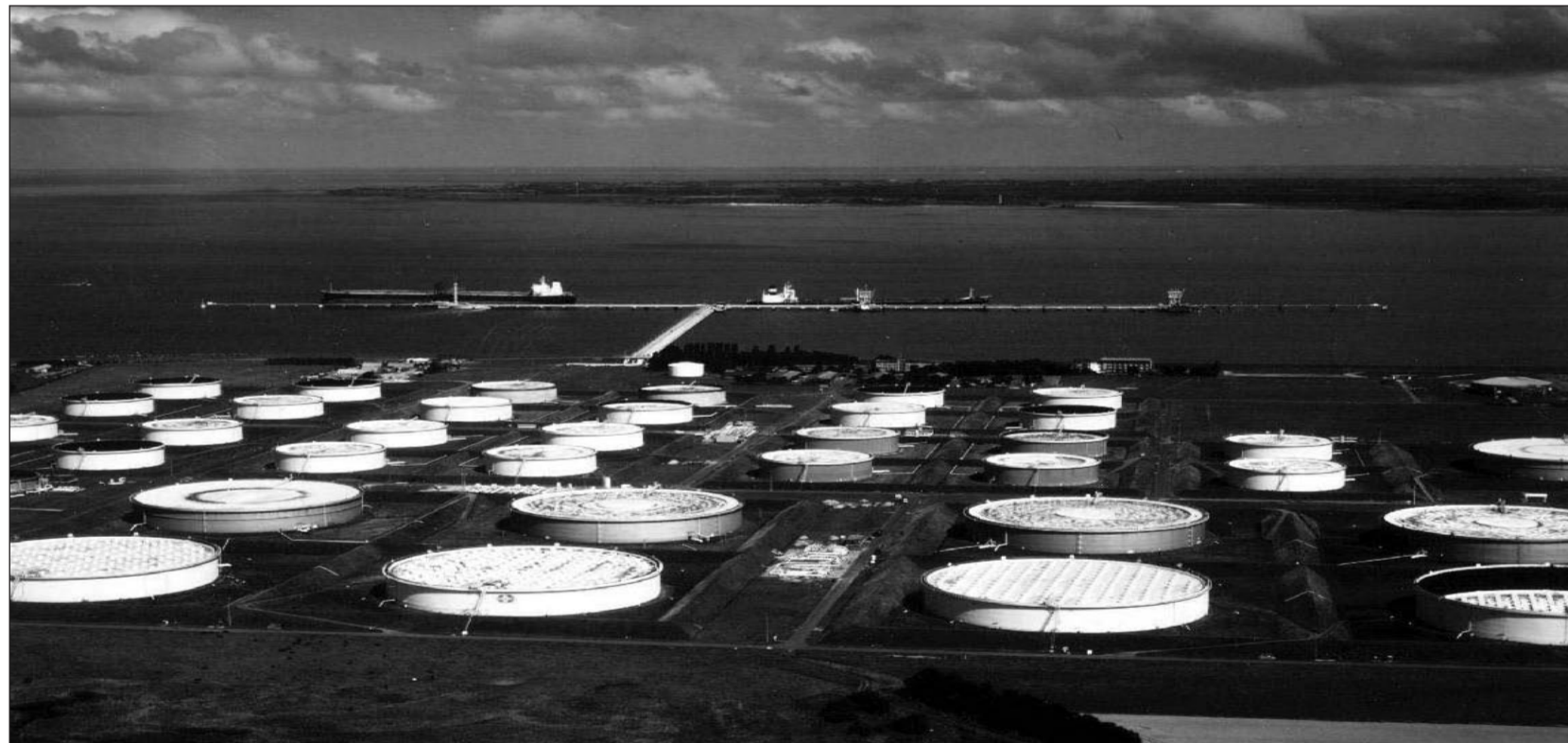
The £2.4bn bond issue is the result of a new (and clever) refinancing agreement with Lloyds Bank and Citigroup, who will jointly underwrite the issue. LandSec has decided to exchange this bond issue in favour to its existing unsecured bonds and mortgage debentures, a form of debt instrument, but without any backing collateral. As a consequence of this, the company will save itself £24m a year from interest charges alone, and since Standard & Poor's debt rating for LandSec has leaped from A- to AA, it has increased its borrowing strength considerably.

However, all is not rosy as the firm will witness a deficit of almost £700m in profits due to an exceptional accounting hit as a result of its refinancing deal.

Lazard

Lazard, the only private partnership in global investment banking and one of the world's most pre-eminent firms, is set to float on the stock market by the end of this week. For all you future Lazard I-Bankers, now's the time to concentrate.

The 156-year-old bank's future lay last week at the hands of Lazard's chairman, Michel David-Weill, and his investing group, Eurazeo. The man behind the IPO push is Bruce Wasserstein, the legendary investment banker at Lazard who has had continuing discussions with the firm's partners and



Price perplexity: the value of crude oil is increasing by the day and these containers in Germany look set to empty

Weill to tempt them into going public. However, given Wasserstein's success in the past with selling Wasserstein, Perella & Co to Dresdner Bank in 2000, it is only expected that Wasserstein can see a sale through the corner of his eye to Deutsche Bank or the Bank of America, both of whom have given indications of their interest in buying Lazard. The firm's success in the past has been attributed to the fact that it has decided to specialise in giving mergers and acquisitions advice to large corporations as well as having a small but successful underwriting and trading practice.

This success, though, cannot continue without Lazard expanding due to the ever-increasing size of its main competitors, Goldman

Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Dresdner KW.

Crude oil price surge

Urgent action is needed to ensure that sky-high oil prices do not derail the stability of the global economy, the International Monetary Foundation reported last week. Crude oil, one of the most rapidly rising commodities of all time, has been rising unexpectedly for over two years now, due to almost a dozen different factors.

Among the most influential of these were the threat by Nigerian rebels to disrupt supplies, a hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico that lowered output, and the fact that China's industry is now guzzling 6.3m barrels a day, second only to the US.

Now that the price of crude oil futures has reached the psychologically important \$50 mark, consumers are starting to feel the pinch more than ever. But it is the less technologically advanced oil drilling and extraction industries who have actually been hit hardest by this landmark price. ChevronTexaco, for instance, drilled the deepest well ever last year (four miles), but the only difference it made to their balance sheet was a \$50m deficit, the cost of the operation.

On the other hand, Pennzoil Company, a much smaller technologically advanced firm, spent much of its resources in pinpointing exactly where in their global fields the hidden sources of oil and gas were. This strategy paid off for Pennzoil, who

made \$6.4bn when it sold its richest fields to Union Pacific Resources Group Incorporated. So what can we, Imperial students, learn from this price rampage that has shocked so many and left thousands of smaller businesses bust? Well, now is definitely not the time to buy a petrol-greedy Ferrari Scaglietti!

The future

The future, the future. Indeed if I could predict the future I would have a dozen Scaglietti's in my assets portfolio by now. Alas it is not so; instead I propose the next best thing, my predictions.

To think that the M&S saga was over is foolish. It may seem that Philip Green's bid for Marks & Spencer four

months ago was his last, but insiders have revealed that Green has approached HSBC for additional funding. Up to \$1bn was being requested to help finance his future takeover. That's right, you heard it here first: Green is planning another takeover of M&S to satisfy his fetish for retailers and to add to his present collection of Burton, BHS and Arcadia.

"Lazard prepares to defend a hostile takeover from Deutsche Bank" has a fair chance of making the headlines next week. Given Deutsche Bank's recent fall in mergers and acquisitions revenues, this would be an understandable move, as Lazard is renowned worldwide for its strength in mergers and acquisitions advisory services.

Science

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Who is the candidate for science?

With four weeks to go, scientific issues such as global warming and stem cell research are proving to be some of the most divisive in this year's US presidential elections

By **Darius Nikbin**
Science Editor

In less than a month, America goes to the polls to choose between John Kerry and George W Bush. So far, most of what we have heard from the candidates seems to revolve around the situation in Iraq and the 'war on terror'. Domestic issues seem less important than the candidates' Vietnam war records. We have not, however, heard much from the candidates in the run-up to these elections on the really divisive issues. Science policy is one of these.

In February this year, 60 of America's leading scientists, including Nobel laureates, medical experts, former federal agency directors and university chairs, voiced their concern at the misuse of science by the Bush administration. In the months since this report, presented by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), 5000 scientists have signed in support of the document, which was entitled *Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policy Making*.

The scientists accuse the Bush administration of fiddling findings to suit their political agenda. According to the UCS, the administration

had misrepresented the findings of the National Academy of Sciences and other experts on climate change to suit themselves.

Furthermore, in April's issue of *Scientific American*, the editorial compared the Bush administration's attitude towards science with that of 1930s Stalinist Russia – where Lysenkoism promoted unsuccessful and damaging scientific theories that fell in line with ideology, rather than successful theories that were supported by experiment.

This sort of antiscientific attitude is not surprising considering that George W Bush was once famously quoted as saying "the jury's still out" on

"The scientists accuse the Bush administration of fiddling findings to suit their political agenda"

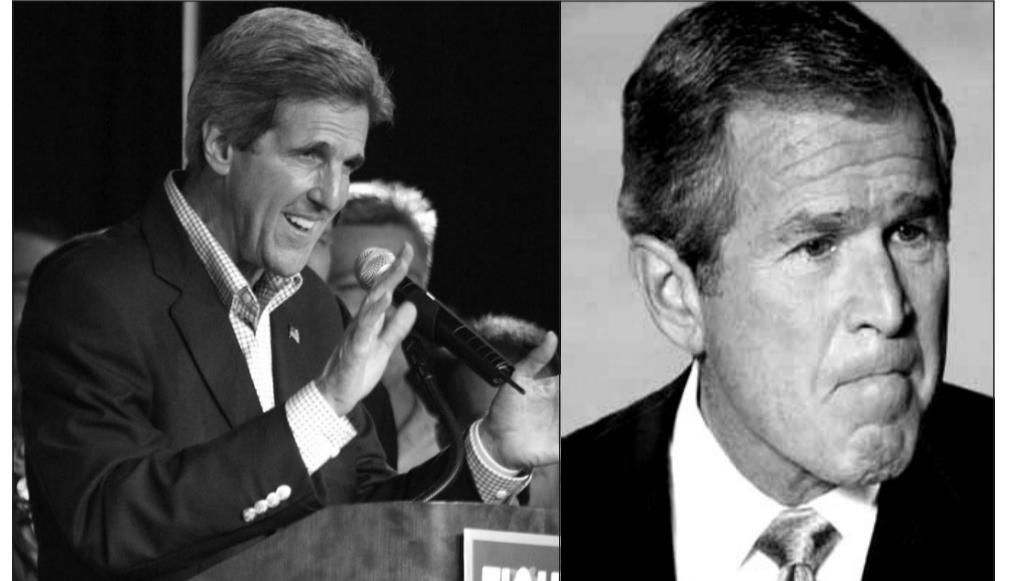
whether man had descended from the apes. Bush is not a man who is affected by overwhelming and inconceivable scientific evidence.

The real scientific battlegrounds this year are on the

issues of climate change and stem cell research, where the candidates take opposing stances. On climate change, the Bush administration has been heavily criticised for dismissing cuts in greenhouse gas emissions recommended by the Kyoto Protocol. They claim to favour the development of cleaner fuel-burning technologies and voluntary industry-led reductions. Kerry has also dismissed the Kyoto Protocol in its current format, but is keen to resume international climate change negotiations. Unsurprisingly, Kerry is widely held to be the greener candidate.

Bush's position on climate change can be attributed to his party's extensive ties with the oil industry, who bankrolled his 2000 election success. For example, Dick Cheney, the vice-president, was the former chief executive of oil giants Halliburton, a company who have swept up billions of dollars worth of Iraqi oil contracts.

When it came to human embryonic stem cell research, Bush based his decision to go against the advice of scientists on his concerns for "violating ethical principles" and his insistence on "maintaining respect for all human



Amerika is wunderbar: Kerry (left) and Bush are divided on controversial science

life". His all-out ban on the federal funding of research on stem cell lines created after August 2001 (which does still allow limited research on older samples) would, however, be lifted by an incoming Kerry administration. Kerry cites that "more than 100 million Americans suffer from illnesses that one day could be wiped away with stem cell therapy, including cancer, Parkinson's, diabetes, and other debilitating diseases".

When compared his stance on climate change, Bush's position on stem cell research is of a different, more fundamental, even religious nature. It is an issue to which Bush claims to have given a great deal of "thought, prayer and considerable reflection". He is even said to have consulted the Vatican before making the decision to ban any further production of stem cell lines for research. But this is of absolutely no consolation to

the scientific community or those who could be cured as a result of such research.

As the gap between the candidates narrows after the Presidential debates, these could be the issues that could decide who will win. My answer to the headline? Kerry, of course.

● For further information about the Union of Concerned Scientists, visit www.ucsusa.org

Inventor of the combover wins legendary Ig Nobel prize

By **Darius Nikbin**

This year's Ig Nobel award ceremony celebrated some of the world's most unique and imaginative pieces of research.

The prizes were awarded at Harvard University's Sanders Theatre to individuals who had really pushed the boundaries of comprehension. The genuine, but somewhat amusing, studies included an experiment involving a man in a gorilla suit, Coca Cola's remarketing of tap water (Dasani), the man who patented the combover, and fish who communicate by breaking wind.

And the winners of these prestigious awards were...

Medicine

Steven Stack of Wayne State University, Detroit, USA.

Reference: "The Effect of Country Music on Suicide." *Social Forces*, vol 71, no 1, September 1992, pp 211-8.

Physics

Ramesh Balasubramaniam of the University of Ottawa, and Michael Turvey of the University of Connecticut, for exploring and explaining the dynamics of hula-hooping. Reference: "Coordination Modes in the Multisegmental Dynamics of Hula Hooping." *Biological Cybernetics*, vol 90, no 3, March 2004, pp 176-90

Public health

Jillian Clarke of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, and then Howard University, for investigating the scientific validity of the Five Second Rule about whether it's safe to eat food

that's been dropped on the floor.

Chemistry

The Coca-Cola Company of Great Britain, for using advanced technology to convert liquid from the River Thames into Dasani, a transparent form of water, which for precautionary reasons has been made unavailable to consumers.

Engineering

Donald J Smith and his father, the late Frank J Smith, of Orlando, Florida, USA, for patenting the combover (US Patent number 4,022,227).

Psychology

Daniel Simons of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Christopher Chabris of Harvard University, for dem-

onstrating that when people pay close attention to something, it's all too easy to overlook anything else – even a man in a gorilla suit.

Reference: "Gorillas in Our Midst", vol 28, *Perception*, 1999, pp 1059-74.

Demonstration: <http://viscog.beckman.uiuc.edu/media/ig.html> (definitely worth a visit).

Economics

The Vatican, for outsourcing prayers to India.

Peace

Daisuke Inoue of Hyogo, Japan, for inventing karaoke, thereby providing an entirely new way for people to learn to tolerate each other.

Biology

Ben Wilson of the University of British Columbia, Lawrence



Winner: a man in a gorilla suit

Dill of Simon Fraser University, Robert Batty of the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Magnus Wahlberg of the University of Aarhus [Denmark], and Hakan Westerberg of Sweden's National Board of Fisheries, for showing that herrings apparently communicate by farting.

Reference: "Sounds produced by herring (*Clupea harengus*) bubble release" *Magnus Wahlberg and Hakan Westerberg, Aquatic Living Resources*, vol 16, 2003, pp 271-5.

● The Ig Nobel website: www.improb.com/ig/ig-top.html

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.

Plants' role in global warming reevaluated

New research suggests that the planet's ability to adapt to rising carbon dioxide levels with help from plants may have been overestimated

By James Berry
Biochemistry department

In the week that the Kyoto protocol was finally ratified, more worrying research on the planet's ability to adapt to its rising atmospheric carbon levels has been published.

It seems that the international efforts to cap escalating carbon dioxide emissions have come about just in time. Optimistic sceptics of global warming, who believe that plants will proportionally increase their carbon influx in response to our carbon efflux, have just been compromised. Proposals to alleviate climate change by creating forests, where boosted growth is stimulated by an enriched atmosphere, seem less sure.

Researchers from McGill University, Montreal have studied [1] the responses of several growth lines of the alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* grown under ambient and elevated CO₂ concentrations, to high doses of CO₂. The cells' cultures were grown for around 1000 generations in liquid

culture in concentrations that reflect current and forecasted CO₂ levels. The cells were then tested for photosynthetic capacity and limiting density as indicators of growth. But instead of observing an amplified growth rate and increased biomass, no discernable difference was determined between the cell lines.

"Oceanic phytoplankton are currently predicted to account for 45% of global net carbon production, nearly three times that of tropical rainforests"

The researchers suggest that this observation can be explained by the intercellular physiology of the alga. If their theory is correct, the net result of rising atmospheric carbon levels for the photosynthetic microorganisms will be very little.

Furthermore, the non-involvement of the ocean's

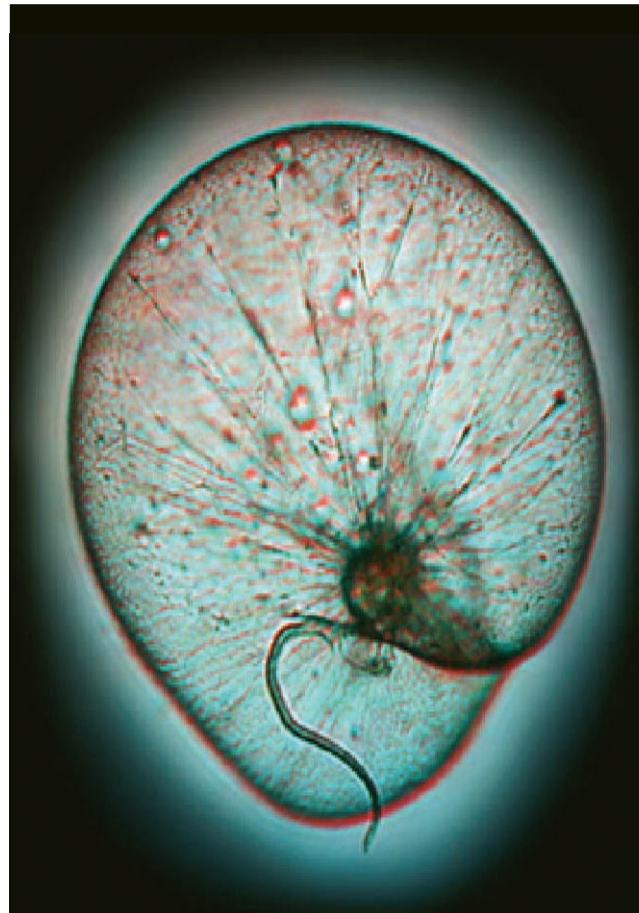
phytoplankton is a serious blow to those hoping that Kingdom Plantae will take up our collective carbon slack. Oceanic phytoplankton are currently predicted to account for 45% of global net primary carbon production, nearly three times that of the tropical rainforests [1]. So it seems unlikely that any government-sponsored forest, specially planted to carbon-sink our way out of trouble, will manage more than a finger-prod against a wall of greenhouse gases, especially when a sink as large as an ocean remains static.

References:

[1] *The paper itself: Collins, S and Bell, G (2004) "Phenotypic consequences of 1000 generations of selection at elevated CO₂ in a green alga." Nature 431, 556-9.*

[2] *Field, C, Behrenfield, M and Falkowski, P (1998) "Primary production of the biosphere: integrating terrestrial and oceanic components." Science 281, 237-240.*

● James Berry is editor of www.plantnews.co.uk



Phytoplankton: microscopic plants abundant in the oceans

50 years of atom smashing

By Darius Nikbin

Last week, the world's most pre-eminent laboratory for the study of particle physics celebrated its 50th birthday. CERN, often dubbed the 'Mecca of physics' has during the last five decades been a shining example of scientific progress through 'big science' and international collaboration.

In 1954, when CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire) was established, the world was still in shock from the awesome power unleashed by the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Understanding the inner workings of the atom became a priority for Europe, and CERN became a symbol of post-war scientific collaboration.

It was not until 1984, when Europe beat the US to the ground breaking discovery of the W and Z particles of the weak interaction, that CERN gradually became recognised as the world's premier particle physics research facility.

Europe is currently building the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. It's opening in 2007 will be another landmark in CERN's history.

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dBs, Beit Quad, 12.00 - 2.00pm Mon-Fri

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Presidential phone-in

Hopefully you have all (almost) survived Freshers Week. You'll therefore be starting to get an appreciation for what Imperial College is like, the unique culture of this institution and it's vibrant student body (demonstrated so magnificently at the Freshers Fair).

I'm on the radio

Starting tonight (Thursday) is the first weekly *Fireside* show at 6pm on IC Radio.

What's IC Radio? It's your award-winning student radio station, at www.icradio.com. Imperial College Union plays host to some of the most dynamic media societies thanks to our state of the art Media Centre.

Anyway, the *Fireside* show will feature the *Felix* editor and myself live on air. We'll start with a Presidential address on the week's big stories (generally the *Felix* front page), and then it'll be your chance to phone in and ask questions. Ask anything you like. The future of fox hunting at Wye, the legality of that obscure

society you find offensive, my views on euthanasia, what underwear I'm wearing... the possibilities are endless!

Elections: STAND

You will have noticed, I hope, that elections are happening and there are plenty of representative positions to stand for, especially for postgraduates. Please do consider standing for election if you think you can represent your peers.

Representation is important. It's ultimately the most important reason for the Union to exist. Students come to College first and foremost to have a good education (in all aspects, such as extra-curricular, not just on their degree course). The job of the Union is to ensure that the College delivers on this commitment and also to ensure that provision is improved for the future when decisions are being made by College authorities.

The College is going through a period of change. Most of the senior academic leadership of the

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

College (Pro Rectors and Faculty Principals) are new, and they will want to leave their mark in a big way. This year, the College is also going through an educational quality audit from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), who are responsible for ensuring that teaching quality is maintained. The QAA will, as part

of their audit, solicit a submission from the Union. Ultimately many changes, if they improve things, can be beneficial to students, and the Union can play a very positive part in the change process.

For students to benefit, however, the Union must be representative – that is to say that the views it voices must genuinely reflect the grass roots views of the students. The only way that can happen is if a sufficiently large proportion of the student body participates in the voting process.

Anyway, enough of my inane ramblings. Go to www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections. Now. Please. Pretty please. With a cherry on top.

Doughnuts

Regular readers will recall that last year I wrote about the best places to purchase doughnuts. Those with better memories will remember that I suggested Tesco as the best value place to go. Following further doughnut investigations, I would like to confirm that I no longer

consider this a sensible option. I no longer feel that guzzling down a pack of 10 doughnuts in one go is sensible.

Quality is surely more important than quantity. To that end, the dairy cream filled chocolate coated doughnuts at Miss Ellie's in South Kensington station come highly recommended. But if you really want to treat yourself, go to the Harrods Food Hall (only for special occasions, but you do get to 'try' one for free if you say that you haven't had one before!) Don't forget the milk shake.

Finally...

The Union is here to serve you. I know I wrote this last week, but it's worth saying again. 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, as are the rest of the team.

The European Social Forum is coming to London

So, the European Social Forum (ESF) is coming to London. But what actually is the ESF, and why should we, as students of Imperial College, care? Well, that is what I am going to try to explain, as well as why I believe it is important for as many students as possible to attend the event, which is being held in Alexandra Palace and Bloomsbury on 15–17 October.

The ESF is described as 'the largest gathering in British history' – tens of thousands of people, from every background imaginable, will be gathering in London under the phrase 'Another World is Possible', to debate and discuss how to get there. It will be focused around six major themes: war and peace; democracy and fundamental rights; social justice and solidarity; corporate globalisation and global justice;

against racism, discrimination and the far right; environmental crisis and a sustainable planet.

The event will see non-governmental organisations, religious groups, socialists, environmentalists, trade unionists, anti-capitalists and many other groups ending with '-ists' coming together for a festival for global justice for all. Speakers include Dr Aleida Guevara (Che's daughter), Muslim writer Tariq Ramadan, third world debt expert Susan George, and many others including John Pilger and Tony Benn. But the ESF isn't just about meetings. The event will also feature film showings, such as those introduced by Ken Loach, and music, with a huge anti-fascist concert one evening. On the final day, there will be a massive international anti-war demonstration, ending in Trafalgar Square with former



COLIN SMITH
WELFARE CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

Algerian president and anti-colonial resistance leader Ahmed Ben Bella introducing the classic film *Battle of Algiers*, with a new score performed by Asian Dub Foundation.

Two years ago, when the ESF was

held in Florence, Italy, the Italian universities were forced to close due to the vast numbers of students attending the event. The scale of the ESF is clearly huge, and we are very privileged to have it right here on our doorstep. No doubt the size of the ESF will soon become apparent, with some of our clubs and societies getting involved in promoting it.

I am a great believer in the idea that Imperial College Union should not isolate itself from the 'real world' out there, and in no area is this more important than in welfare. Every welfare issue we face in College will be rooted or mirrored in the wider world. And the more of us that attend the ESF and take part in debates on welfare issues on a global scale, the more we will be united and prepared to tackle

welfare issues on campus, whether they be the individual and personal problems that any one of us may face, or the ongoing fights against top-up fees and increases in hall rents.

Another world is possible. Let's start to find out how.

To register for the ESF or to find out more, visit www.fse-esf.org.

● Colin Smith is the Welfare Campaigns Officer of Imperial College Union. He works with the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) in researching and organising campaigns and awareness events. If you have any comments or questions, or would like to contact Colin about the ESF or any other welfare-related concerns, he would be happy to hear from you at cs602@ic.ac.uk.

Away from home for the first time?

For many of you, this may be the first time in your life that you have spent a substantial amount of time away from your home, friends and family. If this is the case, you may well be loving the freedom that coming to university gives you, however some of you might be feeling the total opposite.

You may be feeling lonely, finding it hard to settle in the local area and just feeling generally unhappy. If you are feeling like this, you may well be homesick.

There are many causes of homesickness, including:

- the distance away from home

- things not being what you expected, in your course or the local area.

- heavy workload

- a feeling of anticlimax – perhaps coming to university wasn't as good an experience as you thought.

If you are feeling like this, there are ways to get over it and there are people out there who can help you. It might help to talk things through with someone you trust – this could be a personal tutor, a friend, a counsellor, a chaplain, a member of your family or a student adviser.

Another way of combating homesickness is to make a real effort to join societies and activities. This is

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
UNION ADVISER

a great way of meeting new people and may help you to feel less homesick. To find out more about student activities, please contact casa@ic.ac.uk.

Try to establish a routine during your time here – the more time you spend doing things, the less time you spend thinking about home.

Give yourself a bit of time to get through it. Sometimes people make a rash decision to leave university and then regret it afterwards. When I first went to college, I hated it, but I said that I would give it six weeks and ended up having the best years of my life so far.

Be realistic about what to expect from your time at university – there will obviously be good and bad times.

If you still feel down and upset even after trying to resolve these issues then you should seek help from a professional. The College provides a free counselling service and of course there is the Union Advice Service which can also help.

If you would like further information or have any questions about homesickness or any other topic, please contact the Imperial College Union Advice Service on 020 7594 8067 or advice@ic.ac.uk.

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

Letters to the Editor

JCR food

Dear Dave,

Might I suggest that the people who devise menus for the JCR at lunchtime just take the next logical step, and offer a menu with only two items: bits of chicken whose sole evolutionary purpose is to become "chicken nuggets", and "overcooked stuff".

In case you're wondering about the second item on my proposed menu, it's simply a description of today's JCR offering - broccoli with a hint of salmon gills (cunningly advertised as "Salmon Shanty"), a side offering of sweetcorn that somehow

continued to cling to the cob despite being boiled into a mushy pulp, and a slice of lemon that some genius had chucked on top of each "shanty" before putting the whole lot in the oven.

Alternatively, they could just sub-contract everything out to the Sandwich Shoppe on Gloucester Road (or maybe employ people who know how to cook).

Yours,

Etienne Pollard

PS To be fair to the counter staff, they did offer me an apple when I complained.

Send your letters to felix@ic.ac.uk. This is the page where you can make your voice heard on just about any topic. Letters may be edited for length, and are printed at the Editor's discretion.



Where? dBs
When? 8pm > 1am
How Much? Imperial £3.00
Ents Pass £2.50
Guests £3.50

Oct 13

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB

imperial college union

Flirty current chart music and party classics

£1 vodka shot + mixer
While stocks last

The Union encourages you to drink responsibly

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHECKING YOUR LUNGS ?

We are looking for people willing to take part in clinical studies in respiratory medicine

We need healthy volunteers, mild asthmatics and smokers.

You will be compensated for the time spent and travelling expenses.

Patients will be also benefit from a comprehensive review of their lungs.

INTERESTED?

If you are interested or require further information, please contact:

Dr Alfonso Torrego
Mrs Sally Meah / Ms Mun Lim
Asthma lab: 0207-3518051
a.torrego@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College & Royal Brompton Hospital

All studies have received ethical approval

Careers

felix@ic.ac.uk

Let the journey begin



GABRIELLA SILVESTRI & CASSANDRA ALDRICH
CAREERS EDITORS

Your immediate inclination may be to skip the Careers section, especially if you're a fresher or in the middle of your studies – after all, there's plenty of time to worry about your post-university career, right? Wrong.

Now, employers want the lot – a good degree just doesn't cut it. They want to know you

have a multitude of relevant skills, with evidence to prove it. When, in your final year, the panic of being cast out into the real world begins to set in, the Freshers Fair suddenly becomes a must. Joining Dance or Debating at this late stage may help to show you're a more 'well-rounded' person but it probably won't be enough to get you the job you have been dreaming about (that is, if you're lucky enough to know what you want to do).

Developing a repertoire of skills and a glowing CV are your keys to a successful future and it's important to bear this in mind from the outset. Even if you have no idea what career path you want to

take, that's even more reason for getting involved and discovering what's out there.

We're the first to admit to whiling away our undergraduate years in various London watering holes, blissfully unaware of the harsh realities and competitiveness of the world awaiting us. Therefore, perhaps it isn't surprising to hear that we are still students – PhD students, with another three years of shelter under the umbrella that is university (actually, a PhD can be a very difficult undertaking that may postpone 'decision time' but brings numerous other stresses. However, that's another story).

Worryingly, psychologists have identified a new phe-

nomenon occurring in the mid-twenties, termed the 'quarterlife crisis'. It's a general depression that hits graduates who are suddenly faced with the difficulties of building a life for themselves in a world where good jobs are hard to come by and adult life seems rather stressful and mundane with all its tedious responsibilities.

The *Felix* Careers section therefore aims to help and encourage students to make a successful transition from their degree studies, be they undergraduate or postgraduate, to their career paths. By providing advice and information, we hope to allow you to identify some of the necessary skills you will need, ways

to develop them, and see the relevance of these skills in different working environments. How to promote yourself and your abilities and manage your university time effectively will also be discussed, along with links to the best resources and information about work experience and upcoming events.

Perhaps at the start of your degree you had an idea about what you hoped to achieve. During your studies it's useful to revisit those objectives, to assess the progress you're making and also add to them. Even if you are still not clear about what you want to do after you finish, it's never too late to set goals for your professional and personal

development. To ensure you are able to tackle the transition and find a promising job, make the most of your university life, the resources and the people. Imperial has an excellent careers department where you can arrange one-to-one talks with experienced advisors, and provides a vast choice of clubs, societies and student activities.

Please feel free to contact us with your comments on this section, any thoughts or questions, or if you would like a particular topic to be covered. We're happy to include your feedback, so if you want to write about your experiences on work placements or anything else, let us know via felix@ic.ac.uk.

Planning your next move

By Gabriella Silvestri and Cassandra Aldrich

It makes sense to plan ahead, whether you want to take time out, go on to further study, find employment or even if you have no idea what you're going to do. You will find achieving your goals satisfying and more enjoyable and ultimately be more successful. Whichever route you choose to follow, you will need relevant information to help you on your way.

Did you know that 87% of students agree that university is a good investment, and people with a higher education qualification are likely to earn on average 50% more than those without? However, although the graduate job market has grown and become more diverse, recent studies have suggested that graduates struggle to find their ideal roles in today's recruitment market, which is now less predictable.

According to research carried out by the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR), which predominantly represents large blue chip firms and public sector employers, there is intense competition in the employer's market. Employers received an average of 42.1 applications for every graduate vacancy during the past year, up from 37.2 in 2001-02.

The mistake often made is to think that a degree from Imperial is sufficient to get any job. Although your degree is a mark of your intellectual ability and your potential, many employers will place less importance on your subject of study than the personal skills and qualities you possess. Continuous personal learning is becoming increasingly important as employers search for the very best candidates.

The five essential skills for employment (as given in the Imperial Careers Advisory



Climbing the steps: planning your next move can help your career reach new heights

Service Guide) are:

- teamwork ability
- communication
- interpersonal skills
- problem solving
- planning and organising.

Joining a sports team is often looked upon favourably as evidence of teamwork abilities, while joining a student society may demonstrate interpersonal skills.

Voluntary work, a well-planned gap year and work placements will help to strengthen your CV and complement your academic abilities. If you are planning to take time out from your studies you should organise some useful work experience or alternatively work first to fund subsequent travels. Simply jet-setting around

the world is less impressive. Arranging work abroad, however, will look great.

THE 'MUST' POINTS

- Evaluate your abilities
- Build a portfolio of skills
- Set personal objectives
- Go to your Careers Service
- Think about a career plan

Inside story: recruitment at Citigroup

By Cassandra Aldrich

Over dinner with a good friend of mine who works as a trader at Citigroup (and also happens to be involved in selecting applicants – a pity then that I'm not interested in banking), I took the opportunity to find out precisely what the company looks for when recruiting.

The selection process for both internship and permanent positions in the Trading and Sales Department usually consists of a number of stages. Firstly, a 'filtering

process' is conducted by Human Resources (HR) based on applicants' CVs. If your CV is picked out, you will be invited to a first interview with employees working in the department. If they like you, you'll be asked to spend a few days on the trading floor, taking part in simulated and problem solving exercises alongside other applicants. Get through all this and there's a final interview with more senior members of the department.

HR look for a number of key things in a CV. Firstly a

good academic record is very important – without good grades it tends to be more difficult. True to their literature, Citigroup will potentially recruit from any degree discipline: "I don't look for an economics degree. What's important is that they've done their research and can have a conversation with me about the markets". The other main things HR look for in a CV are previous work experience in finance, which is evidence of a real desire to work in the industry, and linguistic abilities: "You'll go

to the top of the pile if you're fluent in other languages". It is, however, still possible to be recruited without a second language.

If your CV is selected, you'll then be interviewed. "At interview I'm thinking of two things – firstly, do they understand the workings of the market, and secondly, can we work with, and get on with, this person?" The general gist was that you must know your stuff and be friendly and confident. Don't be afraid to sell yourself and don't appear 'flaky'. If you are

then asked to take part in the exercises 'on the floor', you need to demonstrate an ability to handle stress well and work efficiently with other people: "You won't be successful on the trading floor unless you're tough".

If you still think you're suited, then the pluses are numerous – great salary, potential mega bonuses, expense accounts, trips abroad (not just work but also client entertainment), and evenings and weekends free, since obviously the markets close.

Careers events and useful links

TALK
SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEWS
Thursday 7 Oct, 1.00–1.50pm
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building
Speaker: Ana-Viktoria Gale, PricewaterhouseCoopers

TALK
WHAT IS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY?
Tuesday 12 Oct, 1.00–1.50pm
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building
Speaker: Emma Killick, McKinsey and Company

EXHIBITION
NATIONAL GRADUATE RECRUITMENT EXHIBITION
Friday 15 Oct, 11am–5pm
Saturday 16 Oct, 11am–4pm
Hall 3, Wembley, London
More info: www.gradjobs.co.uk

EVENT
LONDON MEDIA CAREERS INFORMATION DAY
Wednesday 20 Oct, 10.30am–4.30pm
ExCeL Centre, Docklands
More info: www.mediacaers-day.co.uk

LINKS

<http://www.ic.ac.uk/careers>

<http://www.shell-livewire.org/thebigtrip>

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

<http://www.newscientistjobs.com/graduate/>

<http://www.doctorjob.com>

● The Careers section will appear in *Felix* every two weeks

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES FELIX MUSIC MEETING

6pm
Da Vinci's bar, Beit Quad
If you signed up at Freshers Fair, or even if you didn't, come along to the first Felix Music meeting of the year. Meet your fellow reviewers and get some free records to write about.
Contact: music.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

GIGS THE PIPETTES

8pm-2am
Rhythm Factory, Whitechapel
£4 students
The white, indie version of the Three Degrees, backed by members of Electric Soft Parade and The Tenderfoot. It's good, honestly.

FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER

UNION EVENTS TOGA PARTY

7pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£3
Strip those bed sheets and join the medics for some Roman nibbles and beverages, and then boogie the night away.
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

GIGS PITCHSHIFTER + SIKTH

7-11pm
Astoria
£13.50
Probably your last chance to see the excellent Pitchshifter. They decided to tour one last time before calling it a day.

ARTS THE PIANO TUNER by NIGEL OSBOURNE: WORLD PREMIERE

7.45pm
Royal Opera House
A new opera co-commissioned by Music Theatre Wales and the Royal Opera House.

UNION EVENTS FASTER PUSSYCAT FRESHER SHOWCASE

8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£8
The biggest event of Freshers Week, with R'n'B, bashment and hip-hop from cutting edge DJs including BBC 1Xtra's Skitz and Rodney P, FabricLive's Joe Ransom, Kiss FM's Firin' Squad and Faster Pussycat resident Matt Carpenter. There's also a casino in the gym, with blackjack and roulette.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

SATURDAY 9 OCTOBER

ARTS THE PIANO TUNER by NIGEL OSBOURNE: WORLD PREMIERE

7.45pm
Royal Opera House
A new opera co-commissioned by Music Theatre Wales and the Royal Opera House.

GIGS DJ HYPE, GROOVERIDER + OTHERS

9.45pm-6am
The Scala
A night of drum 'n' bass with two of the finest DJs around.

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER

UNION EVENTS FAIRGROUND NIGHT

7pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£5
Think candy floss, think popcorn carts, think giant twister and coconut shies. All the fun of the fair, for one night only!
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER

UNION EVENTS STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8-10.30pm
Beit Quad
FREE
The quiz is a bit of a tradition at the Union, with cash and beer prizes on offer.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS PARAMOUNT COMEDY NIGHT

8pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£4
This is a much-loved regular event at the Medics' bar, featuring Paramount Comedy Channel comedians.
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER

GIGS BLOC PARTY

7-11pm
Camden Lock 17
The oft-talked about Bloc Party play one of their largest gigs yet. Make up your own mind about their rigidly rhythmic art-rock.

UNION EVENTS CHEEKY

8pm-1am
Beit Quad
£3
Flirty current chart music in dBs.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS SPORTS NIGHT

8pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£3
The first official sports night of the year. What better way to celebrate victory or drown your sorrows in defeat?
Contact: medic.president@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

10am onwards
Pick up the next issue from your department or the Union building.
Contact: felix@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

FILMS BRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Odeon Kensington
Fri to Thurs: 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.25pm.

FILMS COLLATERAL

Odeon Kensington
Fri to Thurs: 5.40pm, 8.20pm. Mon to Thurs: 12.20pm, 3.00pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.10pm.

FILMS LAYER CAKE

Odeon Kensington
Fri to Thurs: 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm.

FILMS WIMBLEDON

Odeon Kensington
Fri to Thurs: 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.15pm.

FILMS HERO

Odeon Kensington

Fri to Thurs: 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.00pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.25pm.

FILMS MAN ON FIRE

Odeon Kensington
Fri to Thurs: 1.45pm, 5.00pm, 8.10pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.10pm.

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 (see review, page 17); Michael Landy: semi-detached; Art Now: David Thorpe; BP British Art Displays 1500-2004.

ARTS TATE MODERN

Untitled: Mohamed Camara (from 2 October); Time Zones: Recent Film and Video; Tate Modern Collection 2004.

Imperial College
London

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Why not get active in the community whilst you're at Imperial College London? It doesn't matter if you work or study in Imperial – volunteering will have always something to offer you! We have over 250 volunteering opportunities in our database, so there should be a project for you.

The easiest way to get regular updates about volunteering is by signing up to our mailing list. You will receive all the latest opportunities on a weekly basis, directly to your email inbox. Simply send us an email to volunteering@imperial.ac.uk, clearly stating that you want to receive the weekly news bulletin and we will do the rest!

Imperial Volunteer Centre



Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Imperial Volunteer Centre
South Kensington campus
Union Building
Beit Quadrangle East Basement
Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BB

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

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Training, toffs and a tube driver

CROSS COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS

By Jonathan Barron

The Imperial College Union Cross Country and Athletics Club descended on the running hotspot of Lanzarote for its annual summer training week.

The island was selected for its tropical climate and arduous terrain produced by volcanic eruptions during the eighteenth century. Conveniently, the eruptions died down several hundred years ago, to be replaced by a large variety of bars and nightclubs across the island. These proved essential in ensuring that rapid rehydration was possible after all training sessions.

The tone of the week was set when team members set out for the first run at 2.30am, only 15 minutes after arriving at the training base. The focused attitude to training continued throughout the week, with the first run of each day starting at 7.30am, just late enough to allow everyone to return from the previous night's activities. This was followed up by an evening high intensity hills session. To keep a balance, cross training methods were employed, with members engaging in swimming, cycling and circuit training over the course of the week. The distance record for the week was set by club stalwart Dave Mulvee, who completed a century of junk

miles.

The trip was originally set for four team members, but was then invaded upon by outsiders. One of the team was ageing student Gavin, reputed to be the oldest standing member of Imperial College Union. Gavin had also paid for his estranged son Wicksy to come along, in a shallow attempt to make up for the lack of maintenance payments over the years. Gavin justified this by pointing out that as long as he stayed at Imperial he would never have to pay his student loan back to the government, and that there was therefore no reason why the same shouldn't apply to Wicksy and his mother. Gavin's silent motive for bringing Wicksy along was to teach him the ways of the world before he became too old to perform.

The second outsider was club captain turned tube driver Mike "Gobshite" Boucher, fresh from the last strike and ready for action. In fact, he was so keen to stand with his brothers on the picket line that he missed the flight and had to catch us up later. Flights to Lanzarote were only available on Thursdays, so he was forced to fly to Grand Canaria, aiming to swim the rest of the way. When this plan failed, he was forced to strike a deal with some local sailors, the details of which he was unwilling to disclose. All that could be gathered is that the deal incorporated the infamous 'sodom stick'.

As soon as Mike arrived, he



"Yes officer, it was number 91, I'm sure of it." Members of the Cross Country and Athletics Club outside of police custody

was keen to make his mark and insisted that the group visited Lady Muck's stand-up show. The team were shocked to discover that the lady in question was in fact a man whom Mike had previously worked with. Upon arrival, we were escorted to the front row so that we could get the most out of the show. Lady Muck took a particular shine to Gavin and asked for his assistance many times throughout the night. We were all surprised at how untroubled Gavin was by the high level of male bonding involved, but the mystery was cleared up once he reminded us how long he had been an Imperial PhD student.

As always, the team was keen to forge links with other

groups. It was decided that the most mutual benefit could be attained by approaching the young ladies holidaying on the island. The level of success was mixed, although certain team members hit particular stumbling blocks. The first to fall was toff team captain Jon, finding that the socio-economic mix of ladies on the island were somewhat unresponsive to his "allegedly" extreme right wing views.

Jeff didn't experience this problem as he decided to dive straight in with a more physical approach. Several young ladies complained that these approaches were too intrusive, leading to Jeff's removal from a number of clubs. We think the ladies in question should have been grateful that he was not carrying the sodom stick. As a last straw, he approached a middle-aged lady who was walking home with her two teenage children. Despite multiple flattering comments, she still chose to return to her husband. Following a common

trend, Jeff was forced to sleep alone.

The trip put considerable financial strain on several members, especially considering the number and extent of rehydration sessions needed throughout the week. This was exacerbated when the

"The police had to be compensated for releasing Jon and Jeff from their custody"

police had to be compensated for releasing Jon and Jeff from their custody. Although the exact circumstances are unclear, it is thought that they were involved in a fracas with a local kebab owner over the amount of bread that should be included with a kebab. A local witness suggested that their attempt to perform a 'good

cop bad cop' routine on the kebab shop owner had gone horribly wrong. Desperate to raise funds, Mike and Dave headed to the local casino. After only an hour they had lost a three figure sum, but Mike shrugged it off claiming that he could easily get the money back with half a dozen loops of the Circle Line.

In summary, the training should provide an excellent base for the coming cross country season. However, the unbalanced environment provided within Imperial College and the London Underground network left club members completely unprepared for the challenges provided by the women. Perhaps we should all have followed in Gavin's footsteps and found our own Lady Muck.

If you would like to know more about the Cross Country and Athletics Club (and haven't been put off too much by this article), visit us online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/crosscountry or email run@ic.ac.uk.

Keep on trucking

RSM MOTOR CLUB

By Dan Lehmann

Ever been trucking? Enjoy pub crawls? Want to learn to drive a lorry? Well if you do (or even if you don't) then the Royal School of Mines Motor Club could be for you.

The club is responsible for the maintenance and running of a 1926 one tonne Morris truck called Clementine, or Clem for short. Clem has been

at the college since the 1960s and she has the advantage of being fitted out with bench seats in the back, making her ideal for going on pub crawls or trips around London.

If you want to learn some basic mechanical skills, drink cups of tea, but also enjoy yourself socially then make sure you join the RSM Motor Club. Turn up at 1pm any Wednesday at the garage in Prince's Gate Mews (behind Southside).

For more information,

contact Dan Lehmann on clem@ic.ac.uk or visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/clem.



Clem: ideal for pub crawls

YOUR CLUB HERE!

Do you want thousands of readers to know all about your club or society? Want to attract new members? Want to tell the whole College what your society has been doing recently? Want everyone to know just how great your club is?

Then send an article to felix@ic.ac.uk, together with a good quality photograph if possible

alex fine art
exhibition

the blyth gallery
level 5 sherfield building
october 2004



www.shell.com/careers

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

Television made easy

STOIC

By David Balfour
STOIC Station Manager

Ever sat watching TV and thought, "I can do better than that"? If not, turn over to BBC Three.

STOIC (Student Television Of Imperial College) is your chance to get involved in the exciting world of television, albeit on a budget somewhat smaller than that of the BBC. Despite that, we have an impressive studio complex that we are reliably informed would rival some of the small-

er satellite channels, even though we only broadcast to the JCR and www.stoic.tv.com.

Whether your talents lie in front of or behind the cameras, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved with our vast range of programmes. Presenters, producers, directors, editors, camera operators, vision and sound mixers, set designers, general techies and more are all needed to keep the place functioning, which also means we count a great variety of people amongst our members.

In the past few years we've produced news, light enter-

tainment, music and film reviews, live events, fashion shows and sports coverage. We encourage new ideas and perspectives, so feel free to make suggestions for shows. We mainly broadcast to the screens in the JCR but with a revamped service emerging we have our content available on our website and are looking to expand our network during the course of the year.

If you've read this far then you're probably vaguely interested in getting involved. The first step is to attend one of our free workshops at our studios. You'll get to try out a few of the jobs listed above to see where your talents or interests lie. We will teach you everything you need to know. This year, we are running two workshops, on Wednesday 13 October from 1pm and on Sunday 17 October from 1.30pm.

STOIC can be found in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Once you're through the archway, turn left and swipe through the door marked "West Wing". Go down the stairs, turn right through the doors and we are the first on the left.

To find out more about STOIC, you can visit our website at www.stoic.tv.com (where you will currently find a selection of programme highlights), email us at info@stoic.tv.com or drop into our office. There is someone in most lunchtimes. We'd be happy to hear from you.



On screen: inside the STOIC studios

Coming out, going out, making out... whatever! Welcome to Imperial College's LGBT

IMPERIAL QUEERS

By Tom Lewis and Hugo Carr

For those of you who are unaware, Imperial College has an LGBT society aptly named IQ - Imperial Queers!

Whether you're gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or questioning your sexuality, you're welcome to get involved with the LGBT. The aim of our society is to allow LGBT students to come together in a safe environment, where we can have a chat, a drink, a party, a day trip, a pub crawl - whatever our members want really!

In previous years, IQ has organised trips to Brighton, Manchester and Paris. There are university LGBT socials practically every week, plus the annual special events such as World Aids Day and the Christmas dinner. This year, we've got a boat trip planned with UCL and Kings, a salsa workshop and a self-defence course to name just a few of our events. Our aim is to show that there is more to being gay than going to G*A*Y.

Aside from the social aspect of IQ, we also offer

safe space meetings. All our members have had to come to terms with their sexuality and we've all got a tale to tell. We fully understand that, for some prospective members, coming along for a party straight away may not be your cup of tea. If you have any issues with your sexuality, we really are here to lend a helping hand. You can contact IQ through the website (<http://union.ic.ac.uk/iq/>), and a committee member can be assigned to contact you via email, then, on your terms, meet in person.

You may have noticed that in this year's Union handbook we were listed as 'Queers' instead of 'Imperial Queers'. This was caused by the policy of the editor to omit the prefix 'Imperial' from the names of

all clubs and societies. In all fairness, "it does exactly what is says on the tin" - we are queer. However, this error has caused upset to some, as 'queers' can be seen as quite an aggressive, homophobic word. Needless to say, this error will not occur next year and we apologise for the mistake.

Right, serious bit over, now for the fun part! IQ have organised the first LGBT party at Imperial this term. 'Fetch' will be held in dBs on Monday 18 October from 7-11pm, with a trip to Heaven (London's premier gay nightclub) afterwards, where everyone who attends the party will be on the guest list! Everyone is welcome to come along - just bring your dancing shoes and an open attitude.



Imperial Queers
<http://union.ic.ac.uk/iq/>

Rainbow flying high: the gay pride flag outside Big Ben

Oct 15
8pm > 2am

imperial college union

COME COMMANDO
Or come with no pants!
Theme Party

Imperial College Union, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London, SW7 2BB

£1 carlsberg	Imperial Ents Pass	£3.00
While stocks last	Guests	£2.50
The Union encourages you to drink responsibly		£3.50

Wu Shu Kwan
Chinese Boxing

Thinking about Martial Arts?

Well you should! Choosing to study a Martial Art is one of the best decisions you can make, as long as it's the right one for you...

We study the style of Wu Shu Kwan, a form of Chinese Boxing (similar to Western Kickboxing)

By regularly training in our style, you will increase your fitness, strength and reaction speed, while at the same time having fun and making friends.

What do we do?

There's not enough room to detail everything here. Please have a look at our website for more info:
www.ickungfu.co.uk

Briefly, Wu Shu Kwan is geared towards making you a better fighter. This is done through fixed and free sparring in addition to traditional forms.
A typical 2 hour class consists of Stretching, Warm up, Basic Kung Fu movements, Style-specific Kung Fu movements, Forms, Fixed and Free sparring. Bag work is also available.

Training?

We train on Saturdays and Sundays in the Union Gym (2nd floor Union building). The classes run from 4.30 til 6.30, please come along, beginners are always welcome. Just wear loose fitting clothing, and your first session is free!
Although sparring is highly recommended, it is not compulsory, and you're welcome to turn up just to watch, or to ask questions, but you might as well have a go!

Still not convinced?

Why not come and see our free Demo? We'll show you a bit more of what we do, and attempt to break a few bricks and things!

Union Gym 4.00pm Saturday 16th October.

Wear loose fitting clothing and you can join the class afterwards!

Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

The MOBO Awards 2004

Accusations of homophobia, racism, and American stars that didn't show up – Felix reports from beside the red carpet

INTERVIEWS

The MOBO Awards

Royal Albert Hall
30 September

This year's Music Of Black Origin (MOBO) Awards had been rife with problems from the outset. The gay rights group OutRage accused the organisers of supporting homophobic artists Elephant Man and Vybiz Kartel. The two Jamaican reggae stars were later dropped from the nominations, partly due to their lyrics inciting homophobia, but mainly because of their refusal to apologise for them. This, however, upset the Black Music Council, who protested on the night, waving banners in the air reading "Defend Reggae Music" and "Enraged by OutRage!". They also booed celebrities and incessantly chanted to the beat of the bongos. This didn't seem to dampen the spirits of the stars, though.

The other major upset at the awards was the number of American urban artists who dropped out from appearing. Most notably among these was Pharrell Williams, from N*E*R*D and The Neptunes, who had been down to host the awards. Rap artist and actor Mos Def stepped in at the last minute

to take his place. Others who had been scheduled to appear but didn't show up included Beyoncé, Christina Milian, Usher and man of the moment Kanye West, who received a record seven nominations this year.

Somehow on the night I managed to get into the press area, loaded with recording equipment for IC Radio, standing right beside the red carpet awaiting the stars' arrival. Eventually they did turn up to the Awards, despite all of the above set backs. Among those who came were Olympic champion Kelly Holmes, Caroline Chikezie (who plays Sasha in T4's *As If*), Lulu, Myleen Klass, Fearne Cotton and Reggie from *Top of the Pops* and, of course, Tara Palmer-Tompkinson as well as a whole host of minor celebrities who I and many of the other press people failed to recognise. I managed to chat to a few of the nominated artists.

First up was Estelle, London's feisty new queen of hip-hop. She'd already grabbed the urban scene's attention with *1980* in July and was a hotly tipped favourite to win the Best British Newcomer award, which she later scooped that night. I asked her who she was most looking forward to see perform, to which she promptly replied "Mary J Blige",

America's long running queen of RnB. "I saw her doing rehearsals earlier and she was... hot." Estelle also mentioned her new single *Free*, which is out this week and features previous MOBO winner Miss Dynamite in the video.

A relative newcomer to the British-Asian music scene, Raghav was up for Best Collaboration, with 2Play for the chart-topping single *So Confused* against the likes of Brandy featuring Kanye West, Usher featuring Lil John & Ludacris, Twista featuring Kanye West & Jamie Foxx and Marques Houston featuring Joe Budden & Pied Piper. Raghav seemed very enthused about being at the award ceremony but was not confident about winning: "I don't know. All the other guys are much more well-known and easier to say than me." But against all the odds, he did win the award. Raghav also told me that he's currently working hard on promoting his current album *Storyteller*, which came out early last month, and that the next single to be taken from it is a "really lovely track".

Also at the awards, nominated in the Best Jazz category, was pint-sized Jamie Cullum. I asked him if he had considered filling in Pharrell's shoes to host the awards, since he'd covered Pharrell's only solo single *Frontin'*. Jamie jokingly replied: "No man can fill his shoes... not me. He's a size nine." Jamie also let slip that he was "really hungry. I haven't eaten anything, so I'll be looking to eat and drink a lot tonight". On that note I wished him good luck. Later in the evening, he picked up the award for Best Jazz, defeating the likes of Norah Jones and Amy Winehouse.

Flying the flag for the US were Brandy and Janet Jackson. Janet didn't do any interviews but later presented Anita Baker with her lifetime achievement award. Mario Winans also showed up, though he was unaware that *I Don't Wanna Know* had been nominated for Best Ringtone, which he later won. Neither did he know how successful that single was over here. "People should tell me these things," he said.



"Who's this guy?" Pharrell Williams (left) with Jamie Cullum

When asked about all the big names that dropped out, he defended his fellow Americans, stating that these things happen all the time at award ceremonies due to scheduling and busy workloads. This was also the opinion of Lemar, who was up for two awards but sadly didn't receive any. He was keen to mention his new single and album, both of which are coming out in November.

Not all the artists who came along to the MOBO Awards were nominated. I spoke to Rishi Rich, a British producer who has worked with the likes of Britney Spears, Craig David, Mary J Blige and Liberty X as well as being part of the Rishi Rich Project, who brought us *Eyes On You* this summer and features rapper Jay Sean. Rishi talked to me about his upcoming album as well as working on Jay Sean's album, both of which he's looking forward to. In response to many of the American artists not showing up, he said: "Yeah, I think that could help some of our British artists get exposure tonight."

Quite a few British breakthrough artists were hoping for that as well. These included Nina Jayne, who had previously won the MOBO

UnSung award in 2001 under the guise of N'Jay. The UnSung competition tries to find and recognise new urban talent in the UK by touring the country. Nina has now signed to BMG and was very much looking forward to her debut album getting released. Another new artist I spoke to at the awards was Rhian Benson, whose debut single *Say How I Feel* is out this week. Rhian's music is inspired by soul, reggae, early Stevie Wonder and her roots in Ghana. She was extremely excited at being at her first MOBO awards.

The star of the night, though, was Jamelia. As soon as she arrived, Brandy rushed over to her and they started joking with each other. Jamelia won all three of the awards she was nominated for, sharing UK Act of the Year award with Dizzee Rascal. This year has been particularly successful for the 23-year-old, following her comeback to the music industry after putting her career on hold for her daughter Teja, now three. Jamelia's next single to be taken from her multi-platinum selling album *Thank You* is a track called *DJ*, out on 1 November.

Martin Archer



Mary J Blige: the undisputed queen of R'n'B

Metal-loving hamsters on drugs

ALBUM REVIEW

Especially Likely Sloth

But If What He'll What Ant
(Vendulus Records)

★★★★☆

Imagine for a moment, if you will, a hamster on a cocktail of methamphetamine, benzphetamine, phentermine, fenfluramine, mazindol, ketamine, phendimetrazine, crack cocaine, methcathinone and meth-

ylphenidate. Add to the equation a Nintendo, several Casio keyboards and an (un)healthy dose of helium. Take away any sanity that may have prevailed, record the result and then play back at double speed. Got that?

Well, you're still nowhere near Especially Likely Sloth, yet that is the best I can do to describe the group's sound. This is a project of Jason William Walton, otherwise known for his work with folk/extreme metal bands Agalloch and Sculptured. The music, however, is truly deranged

electronica. In my experience *But If What He'll What Ant* has one of two effects on the listener. The first (which I fall victim to) is to sit, grin manically, and start doing everything at twice the speed while trying to squeak along. The friends I played it to, however, threatened to scratch off their ears if I didn't turn it off, calling it disturbing, scary and generally too weird.

As such, this release is very much an acquired taste. The music revolves around insanely

catchy melodies played on game-console sounding keyboards, with an abundance of Simpsons samples and extremely high-pitched vocals. Some more organic-sounding strings fit surprisingly well, as do their disharmonies. Occasional calypso-sounding sections help create an even more mind-expanding listen, and tinny drums complete the experience. Crystal clear production makes every bizarre note and nuance of the music unavoidable (for those still naively attempting to

cling to their sanity by trying not to listen).

But If What He'll What Ant comes highly recommended to fans of truly off-kilter music, but is perhaps one to avoid for less adventurous listeners. Oh, and it's also more addictive – I would imagine – than methamphetamine, benzphetamine, phentermine, fenfluramine, mazindol, ketamine, phendimetrazine, crack cocaine, methcathinone and methylphenidate put together.

Russell Garwood

The worst Reading ever?

A suspiciously similar line-up to last year, excessive amounts of rain not seen since Glastonbury, and several serious bottlings

LIVE REVIEW

Carling Reading Festival

A field, near Reading

★★★★☆

Thirteen hours of solid rain, two boys relieving themselves on my tent and a maniac playing his drum kit in the camp site until four in the morning. And that was before a single band had hit the stage. Cue: 'The Worst Reading Festival Ever.'

Friday

I can think of no better band to coax me out of my mud-induced strop than Jurassic 5. Refreshingly gangster, this bouncy, melodic, old school hip hop act amused the soggy crowd with hand clapping games and solos on toys from the Early Learning Centre. The mental age of the crowd was well anticipated then. In contrast, Hole wannabes The Distillers (like the dull, arduous task of the same name) sounded so unvaried that their set may as well have comprised of one thirty minute track. It's a shame Brody Dahl's complicated soap-style love life is the most interesting thing the band have going for them.

Slightly more engaging were The Hives. In three words: same as ever, but since they consistently provide an energetic onslaught of tunes and good humour, I couldn't complain. Thank you, or should I say you're welcome? Which is more than I will say to Ash's shameless omission of flagship tracks *Goldfinger* and *Oh Yeah*, making for a set devoid of any

truly inspiring moments. However, throwing in a flaming guitar and Har Mar Superstar shaking his sizeable bootie certainly livened things up – as Tim Wheeler so aptly put it, "dance mother**ker, dance!"

As ever, The Offspring proved themselves incapable of disappointing. Their set was clearly tailored to more hardy fans, including a good smattering from *Smash*, a fairly uncommercial selection from later albums and the thankful exclusion of *The Worst Hangover Ever*, a steel drum extravaganza that may well have been penned by a fifteen-year-old fan. Front man Dexter Holland was charismatic as ever, providing the front row with popcorn in case they were hungry, and splashing out on the more confetti than you can shake a stick at.

In the style of a 'Time Life, can't buy this in the shops, best rock dross in the world ever volume 10' effort, The Darkness were awful. Like a showcase for Indulgent-Guitar-Solos-R-Us but sadly lacking in any kind of imaginative spandex on the part of Justin 'I don't act like a dick, I just am a dick' Hawkins, 50% of their hits were over within the first two songs. I'm not sure that one gimmicky album, a sad failure at a Christmas number one and lacklustre fireworks should constitute a headline act.

Saturday

Following an extended and incoherent poetry session, the New York Dolls treated us to an inoffensive if unstimulating set of slightly mellowed punk, including the delicately cov-



Flying home: bottles making their summer migration from the muddy fields of Reading

ered *Take Another Little Piece Of My Heart*. It was an adequate kick-off to 'Festival of Discomfort' Day Two.

The Mercury Prize winning Franz Ferdinand live experience was a smooth and polished affair, to the point where, upon closing my eyes, I almost believed I was back in my bedroom in pyjamas rather than muddy jeans. I was glad to hear the extended version of *Take Me Out*, and with cute explanations as to the meaning of each track, I watched with a smile on my face and a moderate boogie in my hips.

Watching Morrissey is simply magic. This man, his band, and the ten foot letters spelling his name sparkle. As the sun set, Morrissey provided a relaxed, melodic, and charming selection of songs. He talked of his dislike for Radio One and small British towns that issue illicit speeding tickets, but even this was done in a soothing and persuasive manner. Recent single *First Of The Gang To Die* was the festival high point, with the whole crowd singing their lungs out. 55,000 people can't be wrong.

In the past year, The White Stripes haven't released a new album, had a number one single or toured the world. So how did they manage to move up the bill from the penultimate slot they occupied (and pulled out of) last year? Scraping the bottom of the band barrel methinks? I enjoy The White Stripes in a CD capacity. Their sound is unique and they are undoubtedly clever musicians. However the lack of bandmembers, means their live performance will always be limited. In a set a little too concerned with self-important solos, their real gems were drowned out with the exception of *Jolene*, but then they didn't write that anyway.

Sunday

Maybe the bottling of The Rasmus was the crowd's effort to accelerate the coming of the Dropkick Murphys. With the emphasis on good old fashioned DM stomping Irish punk fun, the Boston boys certainly brought their share of diverse instruments, guest vocalists, heartfelt dedications, band members crowd surfing, and honeys from the audience dancing on stage. Energetic, traditional, and certainly well liked.

The Streets are never on quite late

enough at Reading. Consequently, this year MC Mike Skinner was forced to lead a somewhat baffled crowd: "See, we can mix dance and rock if you jump on the spot like this!" he coaxed – and to some effect. With a good mix of the old and the new, and reserving the finger-shaking classic *Don't Mug Yourself* for the end, I think on this occasion they pulled it off.

Placebo may be regarded as festival fodder but it certainly does bring out the best in them. Sporting a new, less glam look, Brian Molko was at once a childlike and alluring front man. The set itself was perfectly conceived and full of forgotten favourites including the understated *Scared Of Girls*. Heartfelt, moody, beautifully performed and crowned with the lately neglected *Nancy Boy*, this was Placebo in their full glory.

If the Reading Festival was a football game, 50 Cent would be man of the match. Hours in advance of his performance, skinny, smug, straggly haired adolescents with toggled combats had been collecting... bottles. Sidekick G Unit had barely hit the stage when the sky was filled like a sea of plastic, yet what's this? 50 Cent hurling bottles straight back, except his are still full! Brilliant! Drama still continuing and the Cent-meister still grinning, the few fans present were treated to a selection of hits before someone threw a chair at the stage. As it turned out, this was the straw that broke the camel's back.

If every American was a fan of punk rock music, Bush would have been overthrown long ago in some sort of spiky, tartan trouser-based coup. Tonight, Green Day were flying the flag for the Anti-Dubya consortium, riding on the back of new album *American Idiot*. It had all the ingredients of a classic Green Day gig: an impromptu band formation with ironic drummer Marc 'the Kid' Orrell (guitarist with the Dropkick Murphys) and some kid called Barney-as-in-the-dino on guitar, a predictably silly costume to accompany *King For A Day*, and an evenly mixed array of songs to represent their back catalogue. A meaningful but not overbearing outing from a band that rightly deserved the accolade of ending the festival. In a weekend of The Darkness, Green Day were truly a beacon of light.

Giulia Clark

Masters of breezy, southern Californian pop return

ALBUM REVIEW

The Thrills

Let's Bottle Bohemia
(Virgin Records)

★★★★☆

It's very easy to review an album that's really good. It's even easier to review an album that's crap, as you can just focus on all the things that are shite. But to write about an album which isn't amazing and isn't crap but somewhere in between is harder. *Let's Bottle Bohemia*, the second album by The Thrills, is just such an album. They've chosen not to change the winning formula of *So Much For The City* and if you didn't like that one, you won't like this either.

I can easily imagine people whinging about it being "samey", because it is, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. It's not the best album of the year, I won't have nightmares about the disc being scratched, but I may well cause dogs to howl in pain by singing along to the lyrics. In a couple of years' time I'll still be playing it and that's what it's all about. It's a good album, with good songs, and strong lyrics. *Whatever Happened to Corey Haim* will happily stick in your mind along with most of the other tracks.

The Beach Boy cheeriness of *So Much For The City* has taken a backseat to some excellent Coldplay-esque melancholy, most notably in *Not For All The Love In The World*. There's even a bit of soul searching about the ups and downs of fame in *You Can't Fool Old Friends With Limousines*. In essence, it sounds just like *The Thrills* always have – if you like them, you'll love this record.

Olle Akesson



Festivals: bringing them all out



Clubbing All Night Long

CLUB REVIEW

'As One' presents All Night Long

The End, West Central Street
The first Saturday of each month
£12-£15

★★★★☆

Layo & Bushwacka (aka Layo Paskin and Matt 'Bushwacka' B) are a formidable duo on the club scene. They've both been involved since the early days, and as a production duo since the mid-nineties. Layo is co-founder of The End with Mr C, and the pair met through him, so this place is like their home.

The monthly residency, All Night Long (also the name of a brilliant double mix CD by the pair), is one of the finest nights out in town and has a firm following. This really isn't surprising when you consider the club's reputation, plus the fact that tonight both the lounge and the main room are as one, filled with the sounds of Layo & Bushwacka for eight hours straight, right through the night. To add to the fun, this was the first time they'd been back

at The End since the summer, their last event being the All Night Long boat party – a club night on the Thames!

Entering via the attached AKA bar, where Sancho Panza were already rocking with a selection of dirty disco house, I descended into the club to find, as you'd expect, the place already heaving with revellers. Describing the people you find here is tricky, as there's always quite a variety, but mostly everyone is clued up, sexy and stylish. Moving straight onto the dancefloor, I found

"It's easy to tell when a DJ is good – just check out the crowd"

the music to be much the same.

Layo & Bushwacka play all sorts of music, under the banner of house. To the point and funky, their style is always tight and crisp. Taking in breakbeat tracks as well as 4x4 stuff, their mixes move through different vibes confidently and proudly.

This is DJing with none of the bullshit – they don't rely on popular, big records to build the crowd, instead showing off their prowess by showcasing the hottest new tunes along with their proven classics.

It's easy to tell when a DJ is good – just check out the crowd. Looking around The End, you realise just how good Layo and Bushwacka are, as people are strutting their stuff all over. Admittedly you might find the dancing here slightly more restrained and conservative than at other places around the city, but everyone here knows how to give it some.

Happy, dancing people means friendly people – there's no attitude here, and you're quite likely to strike up conversations with total strangers just because you bumped into each other on the dancefloor. Spend some time chatting and you'll find all kinds of people from all walks of life.

With the music captivating me, and being egged on by the up-for-it crowd, the dancefloor was where I stayed for most of the night. When you spend a lot of time on dancefloors, one of the things you notice a



Layo & Bushwacka: DJing with none of the bullshit

lot more is decor. The End is up with the best in this respect too. The ceilings are draped with thin webbing to pick up the impressive lightshow, creating a stylish blend of reds and purples, a chic which suits the clientele. One of the high points of the night was an inspired mix of Minnie Riperton's *Loving You*. It may seem

a bit odd, but I can tell you that it worked a treat, bringing the dancefloor to a standstill and prompting everyone to sing along.

Overall, All Night Long was as good as it always is – down to earth, like-minded people, and down to earth, solid, funky music.

Simon Clark

Relive the days of rave. In a tunnel, under London Bridge

RAVE REVIEW

Raindance 15th Birthday

seOne, Weston Street

★★★★☆

The history of dance music in the UK is long, dating back to the mid-eighties when electronic instruments and the new-found desire to dance until dawn combined, resulting in one of the most creative and exciting times in British music.

Raindance has been around almost as long as dance music itself – it was the first fully licensed all night event in the UK, at a time when illegal raves were the place to be, and club culture as we know it didn't exist.

Now, 15 years on, Raindance is still going strong, holding four events per year. These usually take place in London, and recently Raindance has found its home at seOne. Previously known as SE1, and before that The Drome, seOne is situated in the tunnels underneath London Bridge Station. This makes for a fantastic venue with a genuine underground feel. Each room (or 'arch') is made by dividing the brick tunnels, giving the place a sense of closeness and intimacy, whilst making it very easy to get lost and discover a room you haven't been into yet at 4am. seOne is not a small place, however, with a capacity of around 3000 (the same as superclub Fabric). Some people used to complain that The Drome was no more than an "overpriced squat", but the current management have done a lot to improve the place – the walls are painted and the bare concrete floors have been

given a new foot-friendly surface.

Approaching the venue, it was clear that this was going to be a sell-out. Luckily we acquired tickets beforehand – a lot of people were turned away at the door – though we still had to queue for quite a while to pick our tickets up, then again to get in, and once more for the cloakroom. By 1am we were ready to explore and made our way around the arches.

With the history that goes with Raindance, so the music policy covers the past 15 years of dance music. The Jenkins Lane (where the first Raindance was held) Reunion arch plays host to the oldest and slowest music. This is house in its embryonic form – sparse synthesizers and drum machines with sampled drum breaks and stolen vocals. Just because it's old and relatively slow when compared to modern dance music doesn't mean it's not good. This kind of music always has passion and sounds great: chunky basslines, resonating piano melodies and jingling, perpetual percussion.

Moving on, we found that the next (and the biggest) arch was the main Old Skool arch. Here, the music is taken from the next point in dance's evolution. This is faster and harder than before. The beats are more pounding, the sounds and samples crazier, and the breaks more euphoric. The emphasis with this kind of music is on making people dance fast and hard, then scream and reach for the lasers in the breakdowns. No matter how old it is, this kind of hardcore still sounds fresh, original and banging to the objective ear.



Dancing in the rain: graffiti or the Raindance logo?

Next, on to the third arch: Jungle and Drum & Bass. A lot of drum & bass events around London come with a whole lot of attitude included, but just because the music is dark and ominous doesn't mean the crowd have to be. At Raindance, the Jungle and D&B room proved this – happy people, moving like mad and making all the noise they can with their mouths, horns and whistles.

The fourth and final arch was the fastest and most extreme: the Hardcore arch. This is really quite insane music – think of the standard cheesy dance crap you hear on the radio, then speed it up by half as much again. Relentless rhythms at breakneck speed, squeaky vocals, sparkling pianos and twisted basslines all come together to make a wall of sound that is unmatched in

its intensity and energy. Needless to say, the Hardcore Arch was by far the hottest and sweatiest, and the crowd here were moving a lot more than in any of the other arches.

As the night rolled on, I hardly noticed the time passing. Legendary DJ Kevin Energy (part of the Nu-NRG producer collective/record label) absolutely destroyed the Hardcore arch, with his freeform style encompassing happy hardcore, jungle, drum and bass, gabba and anything hard, energetic and fast. When I say destroy, I really mean it – people were hugging speakers, screaming, and moving so fast that the sweat was literally flying.

All the arches at Raindance have MCs. Whether this is a good or bad thing is a question of taste; the main Old Skool arch was advertised as

'75% MC free'. Personally I do enjoy some MCing, but sometimes, and with less vocally dextrous artists, it can become slightly annoying. Not here, though – everyone I heard on the mic had enough skill to rouse the crowd without spoiling the tunes.

With much bouncing in and between the arches, the rest of the night passed with the usual profusion of random exchanges with even more random people (you tend to meet some very interesting ones at events like these), 8am rolled around soon enough, and I was left wanting more. The afterparty, in yet more arches, continued until 1pm.

Simon Clark

● Keep your eyes on the listings section for details of the next Raindance event.

Knowwhere (not here!) CLUB REVIEW

Knowwhere

The Fridge, Town Hall Parade, Brixton
£10-£16
★★★★☆

The Fridge is a venue famed for its nights of dance music on the harder side, and found (as most places offering this kind of music are) away from central London, and south of the river.

The kind of music you can expect to hear is hard house/trance and the like. Music like this has taken off enormously over the past few years, with more and more huge (and messy) events like Hard House Academy – at Brixton's 4000-capacity Carling Academy – appearing.

While the harder forms of music have increased in popularity steadily recently, others have declined. Without going too deeply into genre politics, I think it's fair to say that trance is one of those on the way down, not just in the quality of the music being produced, but also those playing it, and its reception by the public and the media (Fabric's music policy specifically states 'no trance').

I found the smaller house room at Knowwhere quite pleasant – up front, up to date music, and the floor was reasonably full, if not packed out. Sadly I didn't enjoy the main room half as much. Playing mostly trance, the DJs didn't seem to have half the talent of those in the other room.

The difficulty with trance music is that it's dense and layered, and to mix it well requires an ear for music as well as just a beat. Many times tonight, I was left wondering how the DJs were getting away with it, as the mixing tended to slow me down more than gee me up.

Appearing tonight for a special live PA was hard trance producer K90. No stranger to The Fridge, and renowned in hard dance circles, his squealing synth riffs took over the place, and for the first time that evening grabbed me. Now I was loving it – the crowd, the lights, the twisted, penetrating sounds.

All in all I had a pretty good night, though £16 is pretty pricey. You can pay less and get a lot more out of a club on a Friday (that said, they were selling laughing gas in balloons). It's a shame that the Fridge has gone against their usual winning formula with a night like this.

Simon Clark



A fridge: not that we're running out of ideas or anything

Indie by invitation

Buttoned Down Disco is a soon-to-be-legendary invite only indie club. Catch it while you can...

CLUB REVIEW

Buttoned Down Disco

Infinity, Old Burlington Street
£4/free with email flyer
★★★★★

Buttoned Down Disco is a new concept in indie clubs – invitation only. The plan is to keep the general population out, and the music lovers in. Once a month, you're emailed the location and you have to show up with a copy of the email in your hot little hands.

Infinity, the venue for this month's BDD, is a tiny two floor place. Roughly 250 people are crammed into what is a low-ceilinged sweatbox of a club. The first thing you notice on entering the place is how friendly the people are. They make space for you

at the seriously crowded bar, chat while they're waiting for the toilets, and offer you a cigarette if they're about to smoke one. It's so refreshing to be in an indie club where there are no drunken idiots leching at girls, and no fighting at all.

The tracklisting is a little eclectic for most – I'd be surprised if I heard the stuff the mainstream indie clubs are playing: the Strokes, Razorlight etc. It's been overdone by the thousands of clubs that have sprung up around Tottenham Court Road over the last couple of years. Instead, you get tracks that veer wildly from eighties electro classics to nineties dance to noughties punk, and everywhere in between. Examples include Gary Numan's *Cars*, The Velvet Underground's *I'm Waiting For My Man* and Beyonce's *Crazy In Love*.

Upstairs is the main dance floor, where there's not an inch of space that's not covered by bodies. We were just standing by the bar, when the DJ mixed the Chemical Brothers' *Hey Boy, Hey Girl* into whatever electro track had preceded it, and the place went wild. The meaty, bass-heavy soundsystem is pointed right at the dancefloor and is one of the best I've heard.

Downstairs, the atmosphere is much more chilled. I spent an hour down there, and heard mostly downbeat reggae, soul and the occasional bit of house. The volume is lower, so it's easy to talk and wander around random people.

Because the atmosphere is so much friendlier, the door staff are less rough and more accommodating. The heat is fairly intense, and there was no problem with me nip-

ping out to get a bit of fresh air for ten minutes – I walked around the block and came back, and they let me straight back in without any hassle.

I'd only been once before tonight, and that was about six months ago. That was easily one of the best nights I've ever had, and this time it was almost as good. As far as indie clubs go, this one is a league apart. The invitation-only idea keeps the same people coming back, the music is diverse and eclectic, and the atmosphere is incredibly friendly. I almost don't want to spread the word, because it's so great already, but you really need to try this place if you're tired of the Mean Fiddler, the Metro, and all the other copycat venues running the same kind of indie nights.

Andrew Sykes

Join the club

Why you really should give London clubbing a try...



SIMON CLARK
NIGHTLIFE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to the second of this year's Nightlife sections. My aim over the coming year is to equip you with as much knowledge of the London club scene as possible, and hopefully encourage you to go out and experience some of it yourself.

I'm sure you don't need to be told, but London is the best place in the world for a lot of things, and clubbing is certainly one of them. When I talk about clubbing, I have to confess I have a slightly blinkered view. To me, a club is a place where people go to dance. There are a lot of places with dancefloors, big soundsystems and lightshows, and even halfway competent DJs, but if everyone is there just to get pissed on £1-a-shot vodka, I really don't see the point.

For me, clubs exist first and foremost to play pumping music that will make you want to dance all night, and all night in this case means until the next morning (usually around the time the tube opens at weekends). The existence of these places is a real breath of fresh air, especially when all you're used to is 'clubs' full of underage kids getting as drunk as they can as cheaply as possible, and men trying to pull drunk girls. I'm not saying I don't like cheap beer – god forbid, but what I am saying is that there are different nights out to be had depending on what you expect. Go clubbing and you might just be refreshed at the amount of intelligent conversation to be had, and the lack of hassle

from members of the opposite sex. Either way, choose an event that suits your taste, and you will not be disappointed by the music.

Also refreshing is the general lack of dress codes at clubs across the city. Some places insist on silly rules like forcing you to wear shoes (not great for dancing in) or not allowing jeans, but in London you'll very rarely find this a problem.

In terms of the different styles of music on offer, you can more or less take your pick. The secret is knowing where to look. The club scene really covers everything, with indie clubs as well as the usual offerings of hip-hop, R&B and soul, right through house (in all its forms), garage, breakbeat, trance, drum and bass, jungle, and right up to happy hardcore for the nutters amongst you, plus anything I forgot in between.

There are hundreds of establishments all over London willing to take your hard-borrowed cash, and some are nowhere near the standard of others. Prices start from nothing and go up to £20 at some of the more classy venues like Pacha, or even higher for special big events. Don't go to places just because of the price tag though, as there are many hidden gems around that you won't even have to pay for (see our review of Buttoned Down Disco, above). It can be advisable to acquire tickets for a given night in advance. Most of the big clubs now offer some form of credit card booking system, and it's a lot nicer to pick up your tickets and walk straight through the doors than queue for hours and still not get in.

London attracts a lot of big name DJs, and whilst the really huge names (Sasha, Digweed, Oakenfold) spend most of their time out of this country, they all stop back regularly to pack out the clubs. A lot of the DJs here are mostly known for the nights they play at, with real cult followings. There is also a lot of up and coming talent to be seen if you keep your eyes and ears open.

The best way to find out what's

on is to start going out. When you leave a club, you'll be accosted by people handing out flyers, usually in big bundles, for upcoming events in town, with the type of club you're leaving directly related to the flyers you receive. As well as that, you can keep up to date with the features, reviews and listings found in *Felix*. The web is also a fantastic source of information – all the big clubs have their own sites.

The key to finding clubs you like is experimentation. You have to give things a try, and with the world's best night out possibly ahead of you, who can resist?

One of my favourite things about clubbing is the afterparties. Dancing through until six, seven or eight in the morning might seem mad enough, but consider that there are also special events laid on to start

"The people you find are another joy of the club scene"

as these nights are finishing. While I doubt that very many people get up extra early on a Saturday to go and get in amongst the sweaty ravers, if you're already out then your sleep patterns are already screwed, so why the hell not? Afterparties generally cost less than the nights preceding them, and can carry on well into the next evening. The crowds are often more fun, and tend to be in a bit of a state since they haven't been home yet. Once you start going to events like these, you'll realise there is a real sub-culture associated with clubbing.

The people you find are another joy of the club scene. While at certain places you may visit there will be many overtly drunk people, often with drunken senses of humour and taste, you'll find most people you meet in clubs to be friendly and kind. People share water, gum, cigarettes and lots and lots of big grins. If you

bump into someone, or they bump into you, they'll turn and apologise. It's very easy to start conversations, and once you've started it can be all too easy to tell absolute strangers your whole life story.

Clubbing gives you an opportunity to make friends like no other. My closest friends have generally been my clubbing friends, and this is partly because you spend so much time together. Six to eight hours inside a club, plus a couple before and after, is probably more than you spend with your mates on a normal night out. You also develop great trust – when you're looking after one another on mad little missions round the city, it comes pretty quickly.

So there you go – all the reasons anyone could ever need to go clubbing, or at least to give it a try.

If you've made it this far and are still interested, or if I've been preaching to the converted, then you're in luck. Our Nightlife section doesn't write itself, and you may have noticed that all of last week's edition, and most of this week's, were written by little old me. If you think you could write a review of a club, or have any comments or experiences (good or bad) to do with London clubbing then we want to hear from you!

Felix needs reviewers to keep its various sections up to date, and this could be you. You don't need any experience at all, and the best part is you get to go free! Promoters like to give us free CDs, gig tickets and guestlist places, so that we can then review them.

I love this – I get to go to all my favourite late night hangouts, it's free, I get to skip the queue and look all cool saying "my name's on the list", and all I have to do is write a little bit about the night I had in return. Simple, right?

If you'd like to write for us and go clubbing for free (and this can save you a lot when you consider you get your entry plus a friend's for) then email me at clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk, or drop into the *Felix* office any time.

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Arts

British bohemians

Art from the Impressionist period in by a brother and sister living their own rather eccentric lives. Important personages, nuns and gypsies all included

Gwen John and Augustus John

Tate Britain
Works by brother and sister in remarkably different styles
Tickets: £5 students

The poor Tate Britain. Ever since the opening of the Tate Modern, it has been somewhat overshadowed.

The Tate Modern opened in such a blaze of publicity, of all descriptions, and was blessed with the added attraction of the first new bridge in London since the nineteenth century. When we say "Tate" these days, the mind immediately goes all the way across town to Southwark. However, the eyes, and opinions, of the nation do manage to focus on the original Tate, the Tate Britain, once a year: you can't avoid the Turner Prize.

It's not Turner time yet, though the exhibition does open later this month. However, the Tate Britain has just launched the first major exhibition of the work of sibling artists Gwen and Augustus John, covering the period up to the death of Gwen in 1939. It is a surprisingly engaging exhibition of the very different works, and a collection that the curators are at pains to point out was not envisaged as a 'compare and contrast' exercise.

The Johns were both born in Wales in the late 1870s and later studied at the Slade School in London during the 1890s. Augustus found fame early on. For Gwen, fame came more slowly but has been much

more enduring. Both lived somewhat unconventionally by the standards of the time; Augustus' lifestyle would still not be considered as normal. A man of apparently magnetic personality, he lived for a time with both his wife and his mistress, and all their children, in a gypsy caravan. Gwen, despite the rather subdued and somewhat dour image that comes from her paintings, was a stupendously independent woman. She settled, living alone in Paris, and modelled for some of the artists of the day, most famously Rodin with whom she ended up having a flaming affair – not really what one would expect from the woman in the

"She is a sort of modern Vermeer"

M CHAMOT on Gwen John

pictures! Despite this, Gwen John remained a very private individual and after the death of Rodin, the focus of her life became religion. By contrast, Augustus John remained a singularly exuberant and extroverted personality with voracious sexual appetites to the end of his life. The significant differences in their personalities translate themselves into equally different artistic styles.

The exhibition has been ordered chronologically so as to show best the development of the artists' styles, beginning with drawings and paintings they produced of each other and their friends while still

at the Slade, and concluding with works completed just before 1940. It is immediately obvious, even from the pictures from the early period, that Gwen and Augustus had very different outlooks on life. Augustus, throughout his career, used bold colour and painted his subjects in such a manner that their personalities, usually equally expansive as the painter's own, are captured. At least, it was their personalities as Augustus saw them. One subject, W B Yeats, was somewhat less than pleased with his portrait, saying that he looked 'a sheer tinker, drunken, unpleasant and disreputable'. On the other hand, Gwen chose to focus more on painting itself. She was constantly experimenting with light and was deeply troubled by the question: 'When is a painting complete?', treating her subjects, mostly women, as just another part of a still life composition. In Gwen's later works, this preoccupation with 'the painting' becomes most clear, though the quick sketches she produced while travelling or just sitting in church do focus more on the 'life' they are capturing.

The early difference in style is particularly evident in the Johns' portrayals of one Dorelia McNeill, a muse to both and the mistress of Augustus. Gwen depicts a quiet girl with fine features; Augustus built her up into his dream of the wild, free gypsy woman. In my opinion, what he mostly achieves is to make Dorelia (a name he created for her) look like a cheap hussy.



The Tate Britain: overshadowed by its Modern counterpart

I found Gwen John's work to be somewhat more interesting and engaging, despite Augustus' good use of colour (vibrant colour usually being a sure winner in my book), and despite the rather mundane subject matter of Gwen's paintings. You have to admire the woman behind them and her patience to create such still, yet captivating, images. Her style is quite unique – layers of careful brush strokes, a very muted use of colour; the three quarter length figures – while her chosen subjects are unremarkable, everyday scenes.

For those of you with an interest in art, I would not hesitate to recommend this exhibition, primarily as

an exercise in viewing the developing styles of two siblings. The appalling inability of Augustus to achieve a satisfying composition for murals would also be a sobering experience for any amateur artists among you.

However, I would direct those just starting out in 'art appreciation' to the National Gallery and the Renaissance rooms instead – there is good use of colour, composition and some more engaging subject matter. Also, the 'peep box' in one of the rooms containing Dutch paintings from the era of Vermeer is quite entertaining.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

New entrance at the National

Arts stories appear to be making it into the main sections of the newspapers with a vastly increasing frequency these days. What is most amazing about this current trend is that it has absolutely nothing to do with any idiocy that has been spouted by the Arts Minister.

Unfortunately, all of this coverage hasn't exactly been positive of late. An exception to the general gloom of stolen money and quitting directors (the Design Museum's director has recently resigned) is the new entrance to the National Gallery and the associated 'new' space.

The Getty entrance is a somewhat less tourist-infested way to get into the gallery; to the east of the main entrance it's also easy to find. There is a new café, a vast improvement on the existing one, serving a good variety of dishes. However, it is a little on the pricey side of things. A new shop has also been added, along with a new range of quite cleverly themed merchandise.

In the midst of all the renovations, they have unfortunately been unable to make the school groups disappear.



Visions by Alex Holland

Imperial and the arts

Photography Exhibition
Alex Holland and Ian Gillett
Blyth Gallery, Sheffield Building
Admission FREE

For those of you who are in search of the arts but have a singular aversion to travel, the Blyth Gallery on the fifth floor of our very own Sheffield Building is a treat. The building itself is another matter altogether.

Take the lift up to the fifth floor (or if you're feeling the need, go up the more strenuous way, feel free), and you will be greeted by an array of photographs by Alex Holland and Ian Gillett. Holland has titled his side of the exhibition *Light, Direction, Reflection*, while Gillett has left such things up to the imagination of the viewer.

The subjects and feel of the works by the two photographers are as different as their approaches to exhibition titling. One is colourful and lively, while the other is somewhat more contemplative and reflective.

The photographs submitted by Gillett are primarily what I would call fashion photos. There are images of well known models glid-

ing down the catwalk in the latest designs, as well as some of lesser known models and designers. The vibrant atmosphere of the fashion show is well captured, and throughout his models look like they are actually enjoying themselves.

The twelve photographs that make up Holland's exhibition have been selected to illustrate the three themes in his title – three themes he believes are central to the decision-making process in photography.

The photographs are a selection of landscapes and cityscapes. Quite amazingly, Holland has managed the impossible and actually made an assortment of locations around Imperial College look interesting. Overall, one walks away from looking at his images in a much more serene mood, but also in a state of desperation regarding one's own inability to see London with the same vision.

The exhibition runs throughout October and is completely free, so make the effort and go.

Paola Smith

● Alex Holland writes about his exhibition *Light, Direction, Reflection* in *Felix* next week

Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

Back and to the left

The playwright Christopher Marlowe was stabbed to death at a house in Deptford in 1593, apparently in a drunken brawl. Louise Welsh's second novel, while a work of fiction, follows the more recent speculation that his killing has more to do with political intrigue. **Martin Cansdale** explains why *Tamburlaine Must Die*

Tamburlaine Must Die

by Louise Welsh
(Cannongate)
£9.99, 149 pages
★★★★☆

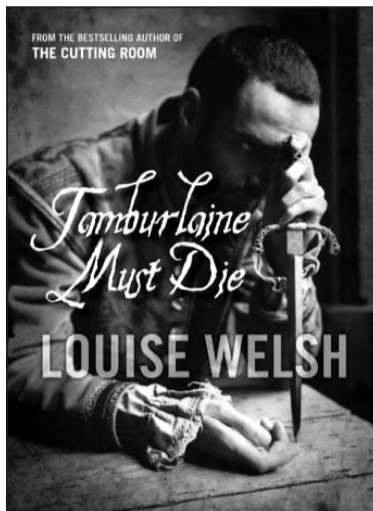
This book, the author's second novel, is a fictional account of the last days of Christopher Marlowe.

Tamburlaine is the eponymous character of a Marlowe play which tells of the fourteenth century Mongol warlord's bloody rise to power. In Welsh's story, bills are being pasted up all over London, threatening a massacre of immigrants in the city. As they refer to Marlowe's plays and are signed 'Tamburlaine', the authorities are quick to accuse the unfortunate writer. All that saves Marlowe from immediate punishment is the intervention of Lord Cecil, the Queen's spymaster, for whom Marlowe has worked. In an effort to save his own life, he must hunt for the real culprit

in a plague-stricken London.

Despite a fair sprinkling of poetry, and having a playwright for its hero and narrator, this book doesn't get bogged down in literary pretensions. Any references to Marlowe's works are explained, and the fast-moving story is based around his life as a spy rather than a writer.

The narrative style of this book reminded me of Alistair MacLean. This may seem strange. What can a tale set in the sixteenth century have in common with the work of a great writer of twentieth century adventure thrillers? Quite a lot, as the period setting for Welsh's novel sits rather oddly with the tone of the writing. Some passages could come straight from the pages of *Where Eagles Dare*, such as: "I thought I felt the prickle of surveillance on my shoulders. And though I knew it was most likely the effect of my own blood running faster in my veins, I made my way from the crush of people, trying to keep note of who



was around me, checking to see if any faces lingered in the thinning crowd."

Tamburlaine Must Die does break one of MacLean's rules, though. He included very little sex in his

stories, for fear of hindering the action, whereas this book has two main sexual interludes. Both mix startlingly direct and blunt descriptions with embarrassingly vague euphemisms. The first liaison, with Marlowe's patron, is presumably intended to show something about the relationship between the two men. Coming just a dozen pages in and being dealt with in a seemingly embarrassed rush, it does little more than puzzle.

Indeed, the brevity of the book as a whole is a weakness. At around 25,000 words, this is more novella than novel. There is no room for more of the scene setting, plot twisting, and character development that the author seems to do so well. Subplots are introduced and promise interest but then come to nothing.

For all this criticism, the book is still very enjoyable to read. Welsh builds an exciting picture of the noisy capital in a series of busy, crowded, descriptive passages, all

benefiting from the voice and views of Marlowe as narrator.

Perhaps as a consequence of its shortness, the narrative is exhilaratingly fast-paced. The plot, although relatively simple and not following some temptingly suggested twists, is exciting enough. Although Marlowe is the only character that is really

"...the fast-moving story is based around his life as a spy..."

developed, this is done well, and interest in his struggle is the main strength of the book.

If *Tamburlaine Must Die* was twice the length, with all the interesting detours that it continually promises, it would be a very good book. That aside, it's still well written, gripping, and at 149 pages won't get in the way of work for very long.

Film

in association with
Odeon Kensington
see What's On, page 9

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

Teaching an Oldboy new tricks...

15 years forced to live in a cell, five days to seek revenge

Oldboy

Director: Park Chan Wook
Starring: Choi Min Sik, Yu Ji Tae,
Kang Hye Jeong
Length: 120 minutes
Certificate: 18
Released: 15 October
★★★★☆

If you thought *Sympathy For Mr Vengeance* was dark, you haven't seen anything yet. While Park Chan Wook's previous movie arguably had some uplifting moments in the otherwise unremitting darkness, *Oldboy* takes everything down a step.

The movie follows the story of Dae Su (Choi Min Sik), a completely unremarkable city worker who goes about his daily business, spending time with his wife and daughter and doing nothing out of the ordinary. That is until one day, he is arrested and charged with being drunk and disorderly. Later that evening he is released and fights his way home through the sheet-like rain, stopping only to telephone (and presumably, grovel to) his wife. This is when things start getting strange, as Dae-Su is kidnapped and taken to a cell.

The run-down hotel-style prison is his home for an ever-increasing length of time, his only companion a television, and his captor completely anonymous. He is fed only fried dumplings, and is gassed into unconsciousness every few months for his room maintenance and haircuts. With nothing else to do to pass the time, the unlucky inmate practices fighting (against a figure drawn on his wall), formulates an escape, and seethes hatred towards his incarcerator.

In the masterfully condensed subsequent years, Dae Su's wife is murdered and he is named the chief suspect. Following some unsettling hallucinatory scenes (leaving us in no doubt that the captive is slowly but surely losing his sanity), he is gassed and wakes up on a rooftop, a free man. In his new suit, he finds a telephone, and on the other end is Woo Jin (Yu Ji Tae), the rich businessman behind fifteen years of hellish, reasonless imprisonment. Dae Su is given five days to work out why. Falling for sushi bar girl Mi Do (Kang Hye Jeong), Dae Su starts to track down the captor, and a twisted, perverse story unfolds.

Oldboy is gritty, unflinching and brutal. Scenes of torture (think teeth and a claw hammer) sit right alongside the pitch black humour that crops up from time to time. The scene of Dae Su eating a live squid has – perhaps thankfully, depending upon your point of view – been cut from the UK theatrical release (no special effects are used: the squid really is alive, and Choi Min Sik really is eating it). Yet this should give you an idea of the kind of thing we are dealing with here.

The macabre content is so well shot that it only serves to accentuate the movie's morose beauty. A perfect example of this is the single-shot, five minute fight scene, moving up and down a corridor as Dae Su fights off swathes of prison guards with just his hammer. Subtle CGI transitions and more apparent sections are well placed, and choppy editing mirrors the main character's disorientation.

The often colour-washed shots and gloomy settings provide an oppressive atmosphere, making for a truly emotionally effective and draining film. This is aided by convincing performances all around, which also



"Damn that miniature door" – Dae Su trapped in his cell

help make some of the plot's less realistic turns more believable. A score that could initially seem completely inappropriate soon becomes compelling in the extreme, and is one of the film's strongest points. Themes include the driving savagery of revenge and a bleak look at ill-fated love.

There are flaws, such as the finale. Following a climactic few minutes of dramatic twists, building tension and a superb ending, the film segues into a rather unnecessary final coda, losing the visceral impact of the pre-

ceding section.

However, minus the last ten minutes, *Oldboy* is an absolute classic. Unforgiving yet human, brutal yet beautiful, detached yet emotional, it exemplifies all of the best aspects of extreme cinema. In an age when Hollywood is buying up every Asian ghost movie on the market through sheer lack of ideas, here is piece that proves how creative some filmmakers can still be.

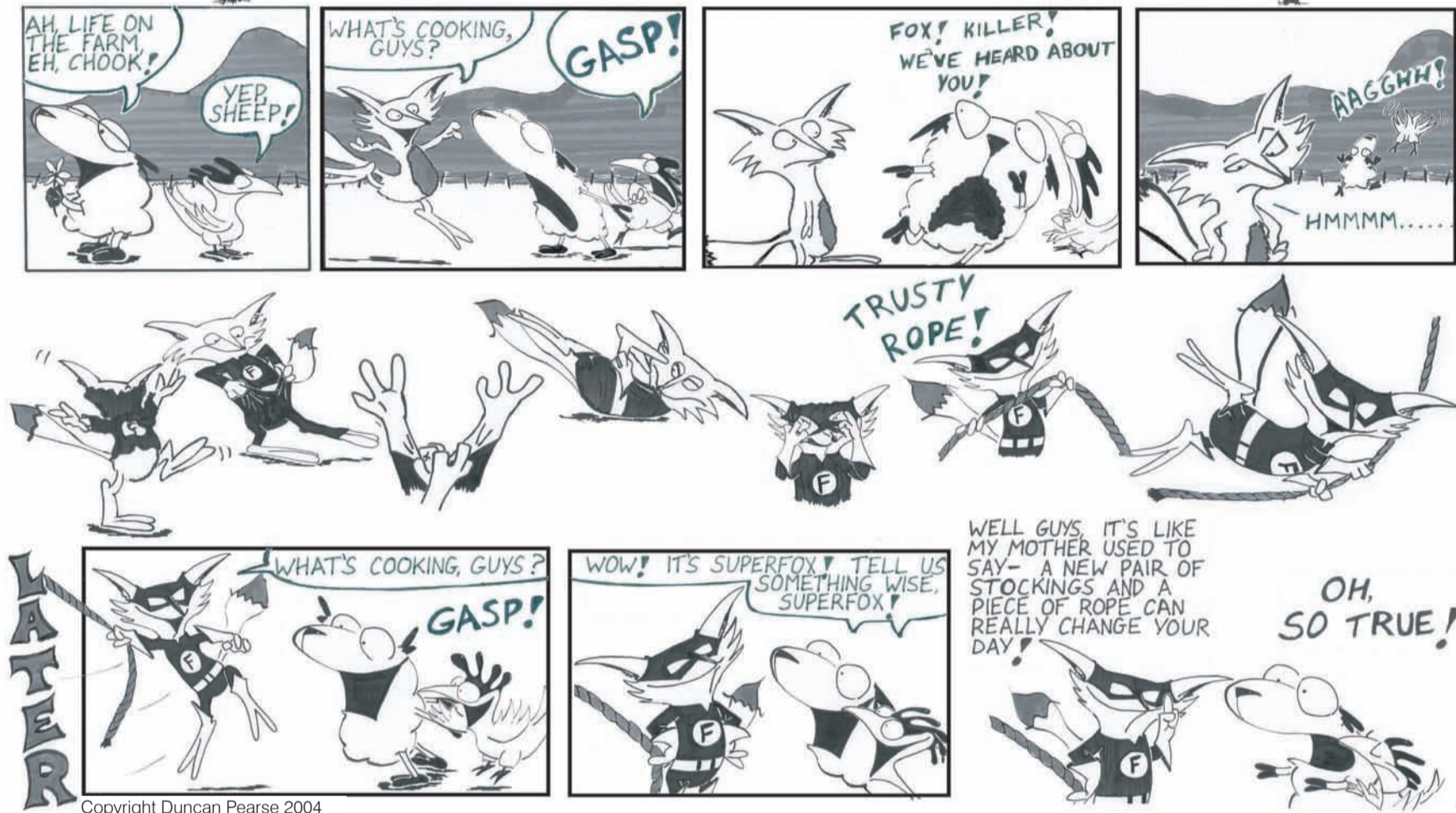
A must-see for extreme and world cinema fans.

Russell Garwood

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

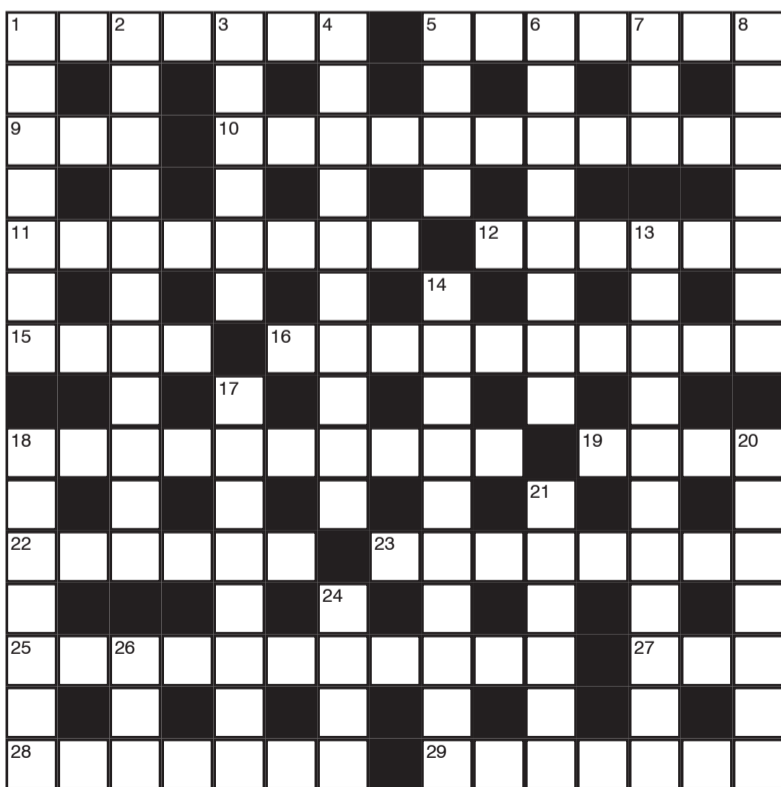
A SMALL PLOT



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Felix Crossword 1300

by Snufkin



Across

- Imaginary number, perhaps? (7)
- Molko fooling around with Catholic, one of Wells' worst people (7)
- Synthesis* director starts to rehearse next act (1,1,1)
- Public love group is not working (3,2,6)
- Size up and eat value meal (8)
- Bum wipe (6)
- Thank you, thank you, and goodbye! (2-2)
- How the hare and the tortoise got on? Yes and no! (10)
- Office worker, Irishman - he has a black-and-white cat (7,3)
- Probe drain (4)
- Where *Central Station* is bracketed by Depardieu stonkers (6)
- Inclined to put oneself down (8)
- Like diarrhoea, for instance, might this be irregular? (11)
- Bar man (3)
- Characters playing thereat? (7)
- Hanging cloth cut short with final alteration (7)

Down

- Tense model (7)
- Immersing themselves later, these people spat at basin originally (11)
- Leaving book (6)
- Stretches out dated pieces of music (10)
- Poor player needs something to keep hands warm (4)
- Gollum's "nice and cool" items found in natural aquarium (4,4)
- University unit makes agreement for French (3)
- Lib Dem leader is victim of assassination (7)
- Insomnia* theme tune? (6,5)
- Scuba amateur initially quit, flailing underwater (10)
- I'm spanking but unable to come (8)
- Current grant (7)
- Knight errant quietly beheaded Crusaders' chief opponent (7)
- Climber, we hear, is sizeable but directionless (6)
- A fair lot, reportedly (4)
- Prompt's line heard (3)

Hello again! Hope you enjoyed the last puzzle. This week's has a couple of playful aspects, as promised, but they're not well hidden.

I should warn you that 4 down is an old poetic word, not currently in use. It can sometimes be impossible to avoid obscure words without scrapping half the grid, and I'm afraid in this case I've chickened out. For fairness, I should add that the answer looks fairly normal, and that a related form can be found in Spenser's poem *Virgil's Gnat*.

If you're new to cryptic crosswords, fear not - in future columns I'll explain some of the basic types of clue. For now, start with 18 across and 8 down.

Snufkin

Issue 1299 solution

I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L	C	O	L	L	E	G	E
N	L	E	T	I	I	D	T							
C	H	A	R	A	C	T	E	R	M	I	D	G	E	
I	N	D	E	C	I	I	R							
D	I	T	T	Y	M	E	L	A	T	O	N	I	N	
E	M	P	E	G	A									
N	A	S	C	E	N	T	D	I	G	I	T	A	L	
T	T	A												
A	I	R	F	L	O	W		T	H	I	N	N	E	R
L	O													
M	A	N	O	M	E	T	E	R	D	U	B	Y	A	
U	T	E	D	P	H	L	N							
S	W	I	F	T	O	P	E	R	A	T	I	N	G	
I	U	R	C	D	L	N	L							
C	O	M	M	O	N	K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E

Last week's winner is postgraduate Matthew Smith. Well done! 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

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Three victories for Rugby Club on tour of New Zealand

RUGBY

Imperial College Union Rugby Club Tour of New Zealand 2004

By Richard Bishop, Jon Freedman and Hamish Pearse-Danker

Following the success of tours to places such as Barbados, East Canada, South Africa and Australia, the Imperial College Union Rugby Football Club (ICURFC) headed out to New Zealand this summer.

The majority of the team flew in to Auckland on 2 July and headed up to Paihia for the first match against Keri Keri, a local club side.

Keri Keri 28 ICURFC 30

After a hard introduction to New Zealand rugby, Rob Robinson saved the match for Imperial with a last minute try.

The touring party then headed down to Hamilton to play a Waikaito University Varsity team.

Waikaito University 18 ICURFC 32

Imperial fielded their best side but unfortunately the only specialist full back, Andy



Towers, dislocated his shoulder late in the second half, ruling him out for the rest of the tour. However, two late tries and a cheeky drop goal ensured a second win for the touring side.

Despite staying in one of the worst backpackers known to man, the squad partied hard and left the next morning for Rotarua, a town built on huge thermal activity with its own Polynesian Spa – very good to relax and stretch out sore muscles.

The third match was against another club side, Kahakura. Imperial trained the day before the match and got to watch the opposition play before hitting the town with them and shocking them by the match squad not drinking. Subsequently, the visitors

were confident of extending their winning start to the tour the next morning. How wrong they were!

Kahakura 35 ICURFC 10

The score says it all. ICURFC decided that hitting the bar might be appropriate.

After shaking off some very bad hangovers, the squad piled back onto the bus for a short drive to Taupo for two days of rest and relaxation, though many decided this wasn't a good use of time. Instead, they tried their hands at jumping out of a perfectly good aeroplane – skydiving from 15,000 feet! From Taupo, the team drove down to Wellington for a match against Old Boys University.

Wellington Old Boys 44 ICURFC 12

Imperial started the match after a true show of commitment from Dave Evans, who ran a mile in order to fetch boiling water to mould former captain Tim Prail's gumshield. This was the best performance of the day.

Arrival in the South Island was a bit of a hangover blur, with lots of time spent sleeping on the floor on the boat and then a short drive to Nelson. Game number five was against Nelson College.

Nelson College 12 ICURFC 7

In a match full of foul play and conflict, Imperial didn't do themselves justice, losing out in a close contest. Playing on what was basically a bog,

the white tour kit didn't stay that way for long. The silky skills of ICURFC didn't get chance to shine, and the team vowed not to finish the tour as losers.

Next, the tour bus moved on to Kaikora. After two days of light training and drinking, Imperial were ready for their final game, against Canterbury University. Unfortunately, disaster struck as the bus wouldn't start, so the team arrived with only 20 minutes to warm up and train, but everyone was pumped up for the game.

Canterbury University 20 ICURFC 21

What a great way to finish a tour! In their final game for Imperial, Tim Prail, Dom Wilson, Rich Roberts and Duncan Rutherford played like men possessed, a fitting tribute to their contributions over the years.

Imperial scored early on and had the majority of the possession in the first half. Canterbury came back strong in the second half and the lead swapped a couple of times, only for Imperial to reclaim it before the final whistle and win by the narrowest of margins.

The squad left early the

next morning to head to Queenstown for a couple of days' holiday. Hungover players were very scared as the bus slid down a hill on icy roads towards a bridge and oncoming traffic, but legendary driver Bruce saved the team.

The last night in Queenstown saw the Kangaroo Court, where tour 'indiscretions' are punished. There was some quality fancy dress including

“Playing on what was basically a bog, the white tour kit didn't stay that way for long”

a fluorescent orange dress, a baby's outfit and a suit made out of bin liners. A lot of lager later, the players stumbled into town for their final night out amid some very cold weather.

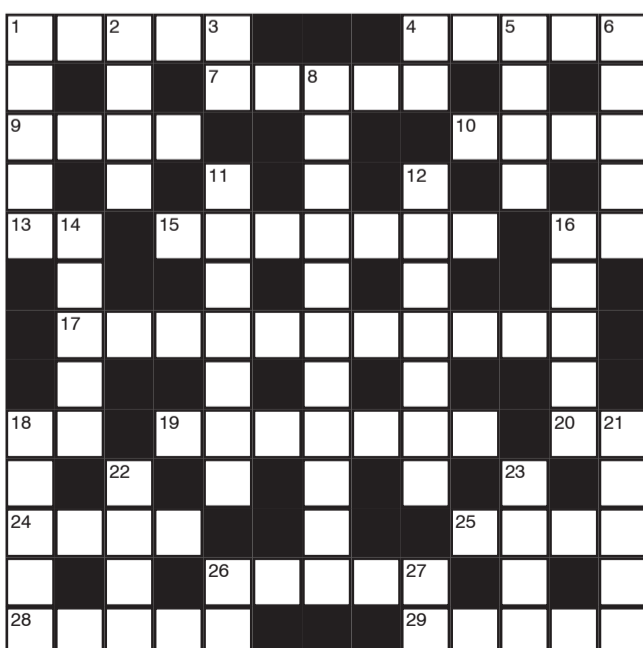
The tour would not have been such a huge success without the contributions of tour manager Neil Davies and sponsors Singapore Airlines and Geoservices.

SEND US YOUR SPORTS REPORTS!

If you've played a match, been on tour or entered a competition, why not write about it for *Felix*? Send your reports to sport.felix@ic.ac.uk, with a good quality photograph if possible

Quick Crossword

by Cactus



Across

1. Uneasiness (5)
4. Style of column (5)
7. Precise (5)
9. Highest point (of achievement) (4)
10. Opposite of prose (4)
13. In the event that (2)
15. Rope or similar for executing (7)
16. To function properly (2)
17. Capital of Burkina Faso (11)
18. Operating room (2)
19. Pistol holder (7)
20. Alien film star (1,1)
24. Woodwind instrument (4)
25. Male deer (4)
26. Cut of pork (5)
28. Male duck (5)
29. Drug (5)

Down

1. Seemingly, but not so (5)
2. Armed forces (4)
3. Chronic fatigue (1,1)
4. Psnamead (2)
5. Middy (4)
6. Celebrity feature role (5)
8. Substance stimulating sexual desire (11)
11. Pale zircon (7)
12. Fruit and pastry roll (7)
14. Ground wheat (5)
16. Width of film (5)
18. Egg-shaped (5)
21. Native American symbol or badge (5)
22. State of unconsciousness (4)
23. The three wise men (4)
26. To exist (2)
27. Negative response (2)



Send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring this page to the *Felix* office in the West Wing of Beit Quad

Issue 1299 solution

