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# Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1305 ● Thursday 11 November 2004 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

#### Four more years

Reaction to George W Bush's election victory.

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"The next four years of Bush's presidency will effectively determine the state of the world's economy, but whether that is a good thing or not is anybody's guess."

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#### Superbug scare

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## Imperial ranked world's 14th best university

By Dave Edwards  
Editor

Imperial College appears in 14th place in a new list of the best universities in the world.

Harvard University, in Massachusetts, took first place by a considerable margin. Seven of the top ten institutions in the list are American.

In the global rankings, compiled by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and published last week, universities were placed in a table with points given for these key factors: findings from a survey of 1300 academics in 88 countries, the amount of cited research produced by faculty members, the ratio of staff to students, and a university's success in attracting foreign students and internationally renowned academics.

Imperial is ranked fourth among UK universities, behind Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics. The only other European university in the top 20 is ETH Zurich, Switzerland, in tenth place.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, stressed the importance of the College's presence in the world's top 15 and commented: "It's a good thing for Imperial students, when they



The South Kensington campus from above: part of the 14th best university in the world, according to a global survey undertaken by *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

graduate, to have the value of their degrees recognised by employers across the world".

"However, there is a lot of work to be done to catch up with the American insti-

tutions, particularly given the resources they put into teaching."

## College to develop vaccines against biological weapons

Scientists at Imperial College are to help develop new vaccines in case of attacks by terrorists using biological weapons.

A team from Imperial College and Hammersmith Hospital has been awarded \$4.5m by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the US National Institute of Health, to work on the vaccines against possible attacks and new infectious diseases. They will use state of the art technologies to develop new diagnostics and treatments for anthrax.

Dr Danny Altmann, lead researcher, said: "Despite many of the current possible bio-weapons having existed for many years, we only have a limited defence against them. With the increased threat of terrorism and bioterrorism, it is vital that we develop a much greater understanding of these biological agents including anthrax. This programme will allow us to develop more effective measures to protect the population in the event of an attack.

"At the same time, the research will also be of huge benefit in understanding new and emerging infectious diseases, whilst we carry out fundamental research into immunology. This fundamental research will also help to develop much more effective diagnostics and treatment which can be used for a variety of diseases."

## £3.4m for nanotechnology at Imperial

By Dave Edwards

Imperial College's Institute of Biomedical Engineering has been given £3.4m by Advance Nanotech, an American nanotechnology company, to help develop the next generation of medical technology.

Nanotechnology is defined as 'any fabrication technology

in which objects are designed and built by the specification and placement of individual atoms or molecules or where at least one dimension is on a scale of nanometres (10<sup>-9</sup>m)'.

Professor Chris Toumazou, Director of the Institute, said: "Given Imperial's excellence in medicine and technology,

we are ideally positioned to push forward the barriers of this new field of science. This collaboration will enable us to focus on combining nanotechnology with other powerful technologies such as tissue engineering to make breakthroughs of great social and commercial significance.

"The application of nanotechnology to medicine... opens up new possibilities for diagnosing, preventing and treating disease and traumatic injury."

The Institute of Biomedical Engineering focuses on interdisciplinary research in emerging technologies for human health and wellbeing.



# Felix

Issue 1305

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Registered newspaper  
ISSN 1040-0711

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Printed by Sharman and  
Company, Peterborough

www.bamuk.com



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## NEWS

# Four more years

Reading the newspapers so you don't have to: **Emily Gwyer** looks at how the national press responded to George W Bush's victory

An entirely black page, with two words in small type in the centre: 'Oh, God'.

Thus *The Guardian* greeted the biggest news story of the past year, yet alone the past week. "Once is an aberration. Now it is an era... he will be no footnote to history; instead he is making it" said the paper, who admitted that they "don't like it one bit", and in that they were not on their own.

The *Daily Mirror* devoted the entire front page to one headline asking, "How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB?" and *The Independent* had the same sentiment, if a bit more tactfully put, in their montage of photos from Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq.

Many commentators were surprised and shocked by the emergence of 'moral values' as the most important issue in the election; it seemed that voters ignored their misgivings about Iraq and the economy to vote for the candidate who felt the same way that they did about guns, gays and God. Nearly all the papers also ran some sort of article on the 'Divided States of America' - the electoral map showing Democrat coast lines and solidly Republican inland states, where it seems that "apart from the fact that they speak English and have two legs apiece, it is hard to think of anything American conservatives have in common with European liberals" according to the *Guardian*, which claimed that the election was a moment for Tony Blair to step away from

America and towards Europe, with whom we have far more in common than an electorate who believe their country has been 'chosen by God'.

Some papers were pleased with the result, however. *The Telegraph* thought that the result would "strike fear into all enemies of America and the West" now it is clear that Mr Bush has support from the American public to continue his task in the war on terror. The paper urges Europeans

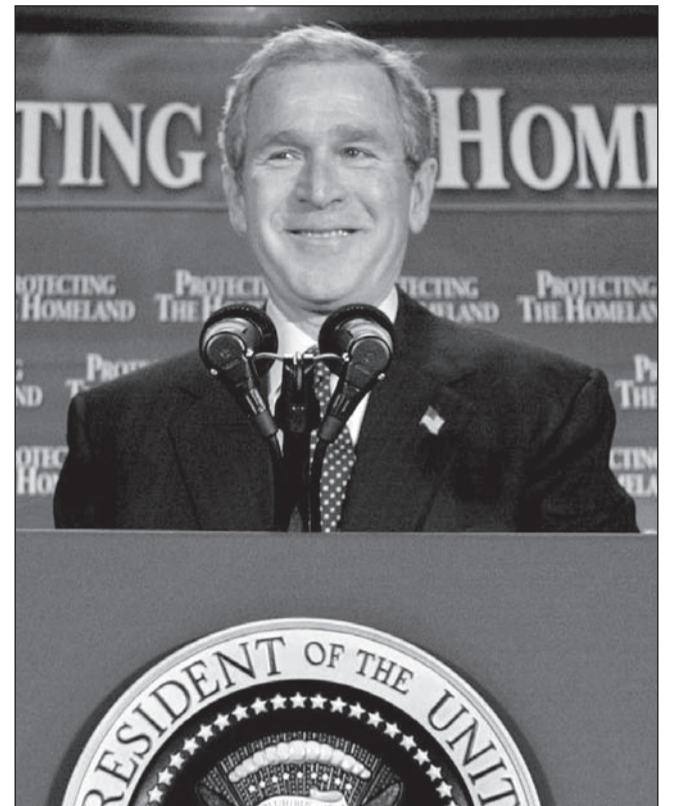
**"How can  
59,054,087 people  
be so DUMB?"**

to attempt to understand the American people and therefore the President, and not to become complacent: "The country he leads is diverging from Europe: it is younger, more self-confident, more prosperous, more devout, more diligent, more democratic and, in short, more conservative. Europe must come to terms not only with Mr Bush, but with the nation that has elected him. This is a president who really can speak for America".

*The Sun* took a similar line, put in the inimitable words of Richard Littlejohn, who ranted: "Michael Moore, Osama bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Jacques Chirac, Gerhard Schroeder, Kofi Annan, Yasser Arafat, the BBC, Guardianistas, Channel 4 News, Robin Cook, Clare Short, most of the parliamentary Labour party, half the Tory party, Charlie Kennedy, your boy took one

hell of a beating".

*The Times* took a more grown-up line on the election than most of the other newspapers, with the leader urging Mr Bush to use his triumph to push for peace in the Middle East, which most pundits agree is the most urgent issue currently facing the President. Tony Blair joined in that chorus, stating in his first speech after the election result that peace in Palestine was "the single most pressing political challenge in our world; we must be relentless in our war against terrorism and in resolving the conditions and causes on which the terrorists prey". George Bush, however, did not mention the Middle East in his acceptance speech. *The Independent* picked up on this, suggesting that Mr Blair must be praying that the President does not decide to attack Iran, a situation that would be nearly impossible for Mr Blair to respond to without outraging either the Americans or his own parliamentary party.



Triumphant: George W Bush, who will serve another four years as President of the United States



Against the war: protesters in London, including a contingent of Imperial College students, voice their feelings against one of Mr Bush's most controversial decisions

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# Business

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## Delight and dismay at US voters

Has Bush bitten off more than he can chew for the second time in a row?

**Numaan Chaudhry** reports

68m US voters chose to support George W Bush, the winner of the US presidential election last week with 51% of the vote. The next four years of Bush's presidency will effectively determine the state of the world's economy, but whether that is a good thing or not is anybody's guess.

### The delighted

US citizens wait in anticipation for the first of Bush's new initiatives in his second term. His much-publicised plan to overhaul the Social Security system started on Monday, starting with the drawing of new proposals brought about by conclusions from the bipartisan commission. Also, Bush has suggested that he will stay personally involved to ensure completion of this legislative package. Under his payroll-to-stock

plan, a certain percentage of payroll tax, currently 12.4%, will be devoted to private accounts, from which employees can invest in stocks and bonds.

Investors in major indices worldwide grew a smirk as the S&P 500, an overall measure of the stock market, gained over 1% after Bush's victory, along with increases of the Dow Jones to 10,314 and the FTSE 100 to a two year high of 4,718. Also, the metal industry rose across the board despite China's recent increase in interest rates, in an attempt to curb inflation rates, of which metal exports were a major contributor.

John Kerry's concession definitely helped the market move decisively, and the equity markets were no exception. A Kerry victory would be deemed negative because of his desire to reverse tax

cuts and introduce policies that are viewed as unfavourable for pharmaceutical and environmentally sensitive sectors.

George W Bush must be absolutely chuffed. He endured, very remarkably, the 11 September attacks, major accounting scandals and a global recession. His administration actually did really well to keep the US economy afloat. In addition it has to be admitted that, relative to the attacks of 11 September, no significant terrorist activities have taken place; rather it is Bush's attacks that have come under scrutiny.

The pharmaceutical industry breathed a sigh of relief as they lay beyond the reach of Kerry, the failed presidential candidate seen as more hostile towards this industry because of his intention to cut medicine prices.

### The dismayed

Families of dead soldiers in Iraq have expressed their disgust at Bush's re-election, calling it "unworthy" and "stunning". From the time Bush's 'war on terror' began after the attacks of September 11 and before the official handover in June this year, almost 9000 troops have died or been fatally wounded (from both enemy and coalition fire).

The series of blunders at the beginning of the war, including the shooting down of a coalition apache helicopter and ground troops, clearly justifies Bush's re-election as truly stunning.

The financial cost, however, is mind boggling. Despite the US's \$10 trillion economy, the \$150bn spent is beyond comprehension and another factor that seems to have passed beyond the American people in their voting strategy last Friday, although it's comforting to hear that Bush was spending conservatively when he said, "What's the use of sending a \$2 million missile into a \$10 tent to hit a camel in the butt?"

Although the equity markets and world indices rejoiced at Bush's victory, the dollar made a record fall against the euro despite the US economy showing healthy signs: among them, a 37,000 increase in employment in October and an alleviated US deficit accumulation. Bush persisted in conveying his plans to truncate the US trade and industry deficit of \$410bn by instigating budget cuts and relying heavily on economy growth. He claimed that tax reform or any other consumer-affecting means would not be undertaken, to a significant amount at least, to bring the nation out from



**Astonishing:** Bush followers show their support despite the turmoil of the past four years

the red. Also, the increase in employment is only a temporary hike that Bush no doubt created to add to his positive contribution to the US economy. The fact is that over 821,000 jobs have been lost since Bush took the reins four years ago.

When nine Nobel prize winners in economics concur that the Bush administration went "on a reckless and extreme course that endangers the long-term economic health of our nation", some serious thinking needs to be done on the outcome of this election. The nine campaigners for Kerry cited "poorly designed" tax cuts that instead of creating jobs had transformed the budget surpluses left by Bill Clinton into enormous deficits, adding that this "fiscal irresponsibility threatens the long-term economic security and prosperity of our nation".

Among those involved in this statement were Kenneth Arrow and William Sharpe of Stanford University, Paul Samuelson of MIT and Daniel Kahneman of Princeton.

### And the furious

I'm confident that millions will join me as I show my disgust at the outcome of the elections. How could the majority of US citizens vote for someone who clearly can't make his own decisions, stumbles at everything unexpected, be it rocks on the ground or questions from the press, and is absolutely out of touch with the world economy. As Bush heads for the presidential retreat this weekend at Camp David, I might just make my own retreat into the US Yahoo groups to delve into the typical American mind. Findings next time...

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## Latest from the Square Mile

### Debenhams

Debenhams, the thriving department store and recent acquirer of CVC Capital Partners, reported net profits of £300m attributed to a 5% increase in sales. Now there are plans to increase its high street exposure by opening another 20 new stores across the UK.

### Marks and Spencer

The struggling retailer final-

ised the sale of M&A money to HSBC, although under the contract of the deal, M&S will retain 50% of profits until 2014. The sale is expected to free up cash as Stuart Rose, the new Chief Executive appointed in August, struggles to bring M&S back up on its feet.

### Vodafone unveils 3G

In preparation for entering the 3G market, along with Orange and T-Mobile,

Vodafone announced earlier this week it's new 3G service following a £20bn investment in digital licences and technology for its new handsets.

Vodafone hopes to become a formidable rival to 3, currently the UK's largest distributor of 3G-enabled handsets. The new service aims to provide users with the ability to utilise video capability and download music. Legally, of course.

# Science

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## The truth about the MRSA epidemic

Today's hospitals are not so much places of healing as deathtraps for the sick. **William Gates** looks at the extent of the problem and argues that much more must be done

"They had a principle where MRSA patients were put on special wards, but they were all full. After she was readmitted, she deteriorated over the next three days, and died of septicemia."

The lamentation of a man who lost his wife to the hospital superbug. Bereavements such as these have become unfortunately commonplace in the modern hospital environment. As the NHS is faced with a crisis over this apparent epidemic, are hospitals and the government doing enough to help prevent the spread of the pathogen?

This week, about 15 people will die as a direct result of infection by MRSA, a deadly bacterium that has developed substantial resistance to many of the different antibiotics used on hospital wards. In total, 800 people a year die of MRSA, and this only forms a fraction of the total number of deaths related to bacterial infections contracted in hospitals. The title MRSA stands for "Mythically Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus", and is a term used to describe a variety of bacteria of the Staphylococcus Aureus family that have developed this form of resistance.

The bacteria are found in as much as 30% of the population, usually within the nasal passage or on the skin of carriers. They are usually harmless when carried in this way; infection occurs usually when the bacteria penetrate beneath the skin, for example via a wound. That explains why many of those who develop the symptoms of the infection are those who have had some form of surgery. Once inside the body, the bacteria can reproduce at a staggering rate, rapidly releasing toxins which can lead to devastating conditions such as blood poisoning and pneumonia.

In the past, the bacteria

have evolved their resistance to many of the antibiotics used in hospitals due to the high mutation rate of their genes and the misuse of said antibiotics. Suppose that there are 1000 Staphylococcus Aureus in a tissue. The antibiotic methicillin may be used and it would kill 999 of them. Yet if the course of antibiotics was abandoned early – as is often the case due to the laziness of the patient who fails to take his prescription – the one that survives may have developed resistance to the drug. This development would be due to the mutation of one or more of its genes, which would, as if by accident, convey the necessary resistance. Bacteria have evolved, however, to have genes with high mutation frequencies in order to give them a competitive advantage against immune systems and, more recently, antibiotics. The one that is left would reproduce rapidly, leading to a population of the bacteria that would carry resistance to the antibiotic.

Therefore, and perhaps

**"The 'maximum safe level' of the bacteria is 0.5 colonies per square centimetre... The results [at some hospitals] were alarming... 20 colonies per square centimetre"**

ironically, it is due to the development of our own extra defence mechanisms against these bacteria that we have selectively cultured a family of pathogenic organisms which we are almost powerless to inhibit. Furthermore, it is in our hospitals that these organisms are at their most rampant. In an environment where there is a multitude of already weak and ill host organisms, ie patients, the



**Germ's eye view: a lack of cleanliness in UK hospitals has led to the MRSA superbug epidemic**

bacteria can easily reproduce with relative ease.

In addition to this, it appears that many of our hospitals are making it even easier for this organism to exist, through simple incompetence and the failure to recognize the fullness of the threat posed by these superbugs.

In a recent survey of five of London's most prominent hospitals, undertaken by an independent scientist called Dr Malyszewicz, appallingly unhygienic conditions have allowed the MRSA bacteria to propagate to dangerously high levels.

The levels of the bacteria were measured using culture techniques. Samples were taken from various different areas of the hospital, for example work surfaces and handrails. These samples were then incubated, allowing any bacteria present to grow into colonies. The density of these colonies was then measured. The 'maximum safe level' of the bacteria is 0.5 colonies per square centimetre. This level is considered as being the threshold between safe

and dangerously high levels of the bacteria.

The results were alarming. In North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, and St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, the level of the colonies was, at worst, 20 colonies per square centimetre, 40 times higher than the maximum safe level. Dr Malyszewicz was scathing of all the hospitals he surveyed, complaining about basic hygiene and work surfaces that had not been properly washed in over 48 hours and, if they had been washed, they had been washed with detergents that had no effect on the bacteria.

All this after the Government has poured £1bn into the NHS specifically to combat the spread of these killer bugs through our hospitals. Some say that the Government is not doing enough, and, although I am inclined to agree with them, I would also say that the Government cannot necessarily account for the failure of its staff to wash their hands properly. That is a problem which, I believe, must be addressed at ward

level. Better and safer policies must be introduced to make sure that simple measures are undertaken with greater enthusiasm.

There can be no complaint with the levels of funding; it is up to hospital and ward managers to implement these funds to better effect. The hiring of more cleaners is one approach which I feel is fairly obvious. Furthermore I would argue that campaigns to staff that promote the idea that extreme care must be taken with respect to hygiene should be introduced. The simple things – washing hands and worktops diligently and repeatedly every day – could constitute a major weapon against these organisms.

Many experts believe that MRSA and related bacteria cannot be wiped out. There will always be a residual population in a hospital ward. Indeed, how can bacteria that reside in the nasal passage of 30% of the population be completely overcome? Yet this level can be a level

**"This refusal to acknowledge the true magnitude of the problem may be clouding the issue and averting the public's attention from the full extent of the problem"**

whereby the risk of infection is minimised. At the moment, it would appear that not enough is being done to limit the levels of these bacteria in hospitals.

Are we placing patients at further risk unnecessarily? I wonder if the families of the 800 people killed each year by MRSA believe their bereavement was avoidable.

Nevertheless, it is still the ultimate responsibility of the

Government to initiate the measures that will reduce the incidence of MRSA related deaths. The rise in the number of deaths from 51 in 1993 to 800 in 2002 indicates that, still, not enough is being done. This number could even be substantially greater than admitted, as it is not a demand of doctors to fill in MRSA as a cause of death on death certificates.

The development of a vaccine is already well underway, and it is rapidly becoming a tangible prospect. Although in the UK the vaccine is still quite embryonic in its progress, and involves killing the bacteria when they are still on the skin of the carrier, in the US a vaccine that attacks the bacteria when they have penetrated the body is being created.

This is a more conventional vaccine and would ultimately provide the best hope for defence against the disease. Yet a potentially farcical situation may occur whereby the manufacture of a successful vaccine would have to be privately funded, rather than funded by the Government. In this case, I for one would be critical of current Government policy and would hope for its alteration.

This refusal to acknowledge the true magnitude of the problem may be clouding the issue and averting the public's attention from the full extent of the truth.

The truth is that too many people are dying of avoidable infections for us to continue to turn a blind eye. Measures must be taken immediately to halt the advance of these bacteria, or else we run the risk of developing a bug which could be immune to all antibiotics we currently have. In the eternal war against disease, this would constitute a major, and potentially ruinous, defeat.

## Obesity costs airlines £200 million a year and other stories

**By Darius Nikbin**  
Science Editor

I was surprised by some of the news stories this week. Not only did doctors in India have to treat a man for accidentally swallowing a toothbrush, but also an F16 fighter jet opened fire on a school in New Jersey, a 38 year-old Japanese woman choked to death during a 'bread eating' competition, and a ticket

inspector in York stamped a man's ticket without realising the passenger was dead.

Another story which borders on the farcical shows how the obesity epidemic, afflicting much of the developed world, is having some unlikely consequences.

A study in the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* showed that the extra weight due to 'larger-than-life' people caused air-

lines to spend \$280 million to burn 1.3 billion more litres of fuel in 2000, just to carry the additional weight of fat Americans.

This means that a significant proportion of the cost of your Ryanair ticket to Ibiza, or wherever else Imperial students take their holidays, is probably being spent to subsidise 'larger-than-life' people. Bear that in mind next time you fly.

Of course, it would be an exaggeration to say that this increases the cost of flying by a massive margin. In fact, it probably doesn't affect the cost of flying around Europe by much, at all. Which begs the question, what am I talking about?

In truth, these stories are completely trivial compared to the coalition's (what a misnomer that is) attack on Fallujah, or, for instance, the

ongoing MRSA epidemic.

Reading Will Gates' article this week will leave you with a sense of complete disbelief. It is amazing how often the Government has not done anything until it is faced with crisis. This same thing happened with the BSE and foot-and-mouth crises. The reason for this is that scientific advice is simply not being heeded. Governmental policy is being moulded by

the fleeting force of public perception, so that the underlying problems are allowed to develop until it is too late.

This week you can also read about a student who spent the summer studying abroad. As an Alumnus of the ERASMUS scheme I would recommend studying abroad to anyone. Ben King's article will give you a good idea of what it's like.

SCIENCE

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# A summer spent studying in America

## The UROP scheme can give you the opportunity to study in the USA

By Ben King  
Physics department

"I spent most of my summer working in Delaware this year..." "...Dela-where?" is how many a conversation has proceeded recently.

Yes, I was one of the chosen ones, selected by UROP (the College's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme) to participate in the exchange with the University of Delaware in the USA. My reward for getting through the application and interview (it helped that I had done UROP the previous summer) was a nine week placement in the Sharp physics laboratory, which gave me the opportunity to experience the black art of theoretical atomic physics.

Giddy with the feeling of post-exam exhilaration, and excited at the prospect of doing some real world science, I arrived with four other

Imperial students (Darwin, Huda, Pan and Chris) in Newark, Delaware with some sense of expectation. We were not to be disappointed.

Delaware is a greenish state with many highways between small cities, but with the friendliest people – and this was epitomised by the staff of Delaware's Undergraduate Research Program. An example of this endemic friendliness is that if we were ever in need, they would fix it for us, so when I mentioned off-hand that there was no kettle, what did I find the very next morning outside my door, but a brand new kettle! The campus had a similarly nice feeling to it – there were long green lawns, without signs saying that you can't walk on them, a bell tower that played parochial melodies, and all the campus buildings were built in the same grand style.

For the first seven weeks we lived in dorms – each

with an American roommate – alongside other like-minded souls trying to embellish their CVs. It was easy to make friends and we had a lot of fun together in various bars and restaurants. We also enjoyed the activities organised by the UROP representative in our hall. Due to Delaware's

**"...my reward for getting through the application and interview was a nine week placement in the Sharp physics laboratory"**

location, day trips followed to New York, Washington, Philadelphia and also the beach at Rehoboth (my personal favourite).

We were also there for the Independence Day celebrations and the mourning of Ronald Reagan, so we got a nice big dollop of American

culture. Speaking of dollops, the Americans enjoy their food – especially their fast food! However, I have to pay tribute to the great Philly cheesesteak, which is now possibly my favourite pick-me-up. Americans also like to keep fit (honestly), so take note of the free gym and indoor/outdoor pools on campus.

I also managed to accomplish a lot of work! My supervisor understood my relatively novice position so with the tasks assigned to me within my limits, I found myself in a very stress-free position. I learnt practical skills on the programming side and how to research topics, and a lot about a researcher's life in the US. I also made a lot of mates out there who I keep in contact with, bringing me to possibly the most exciting part of the exchange program – the home stay.

For the final two weeks, I stayed with Susan (a sweet

middle-aged woman who did her utmost to keep me entertained) and her family in Newark who had been kind enough to open their arms to me. Initially petrified by the prospect, this part of the exchange really gave me an opportunity to learn more about American culture, and I suppose that is the thing that I miss most – the friendliness of everyone wanting to show me their part of the country.

I would thoroughly recommend it to everyone! If you want to find out more, UROP will stage a presentation about the Delaware Exchange at 1.10pm on Thursday 18 November in Room 342 of the Mechanical Engineering Building on the South Kensington Campus. Beware, the deadline for applications will be 25 November. Watch out for details on the website.

● Visit the new UROP website, [www.imperial.ac.uk/UROP](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/UROP)

# News in brief

By Alex Antonov  
Mathematics department

## US develops new Anthrax vaccine

The Californian company VaxGen will make an improved version of the anthrax vaccine for use in case of biological attack under an \$877m contract, the first to be funded by the "Project Bioshield" law enacted in July. The new vaccine uses a specific protein from the bacteria, called protective antigen, and will be available in 2007.

## China aims for five days in orbit

China's second manned space mission, scheduled for next year, will carry two astronauts and is expected to orbit the Earth for five days. Mission scientists said they had been working to optimise the performance, safety and reliability of the spacecraft, Shenzhou VI. China's first manned mission, Shenzhou V, launched into space in October 2003.

## Source of cosmic rays confirmed

Using an array of four telescopes in Africa, scientists have produced the first image showing that the source of cosmic rays could be the remnant of a supernova, a powerful explosion of a star at the end of its life. It had long been thought that supernova explosions were indeed the source, but there was no evidence to support this theory.

## Mars rover gets power boost

Opportunity, one of the two robotic rovers exploring the surface of Mars, has mysteriously produced about 5% extra power in its solar panels. It is thought that this is due to a storm blowing dust off the panels. Both robotic explorers have discovered geological evidence of past water activity and are continuing to send back data.

## Pot of Roman cosmetic unearthed

A sealed pot of ointment was found at an archaeological dig in Southwark. Analysis revealed it to be made from animal fat, starch and tin oxide. It is speculated that the cream was used as a cosmetic to achieve a pale look. It leaves a smooth texture when rubbed into the skin. Marks left by the last fingers to use the pot were still visible on the lid.

# The latest science events in London

By Elena Lengthorn  
Science Communication

## THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER

2.30pm Darwin Centre  
*In the Headlines*

A regular platform for visitors to examine, question and discuss the hottest science issues directly with the scientists who are creating the news.

7pm Dana Centre  
*Talk Science; Weighing the Soul (Free)*  
Does feeding Prozac to clams

help scientific knowledge? Join IgNobel Prize-winning author Dr Len Fisher for tales of strange and ridiculous-sounding experiments.

## FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER

7pm Royal Institution  
What is beauty? Who has it? And how can we get more of it? For centuries philosophers and scientists have debated beauty's nature, distribution and meaning. In the last ten years a new science of beauty has developed.

6.30pm Dana Centre  
*CyberMusic* is a leading event for anyone interested in the theory and practice of how new technologies are shaping and changing the way musicians, DJs, VJs, animators and software developers make and present their work.

## TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER

6.30pm Royal Institution  
Dr Daniel Glaser and Dr Lauren Stewar explain how scientists can learn from people in other disciplines.

7.30pm Dana Centre  
*Punk Science: Energy*  
All energy in the universe is thought to have come into being in the Big Bang. Now, Punk Science seeks to harness all that energy for 45 minutes of unadulterated, visceral pleasure. Punk science: science comedy with live experiments.

## WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

7pm Royal Institution  
The evolution of female promiscuity. Olivia Judson, who featured in a Felix Science

interview last year, explains how in nature females are far more promiscuous than previously thought.

## WEBSITES

**Dana Centre**  
[www.danacentre.org.uk](http://www.danacentre.org.uk)

**Royal Institution**  
[www.rigb.org](http://www.rigb.org)

**Darwin Centre**  
<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/darwincentre>

# A DAY IN THE DIET OF A STUDENT

## Our resident dietician evaluates your lifestyles

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

### Darius Nikbin, Science Editor, describes his diet and lifestyle

**8am** Grab a piece of white toast with jam and a coffee. Cycle to Hammersmith for ten minutes, then take the bus

**12pm** Go to the Union and have the legendary 'chilli beef with rice'. Inevitable pain in stomach, but worth it

**3pm** Over-priced snack at the SCR and have another coffee

**5pm** Back home after college (10 minute cycle). Have some biscuits with tea. Listen to some music, read notes

**7pm** Have dinner, usually a plate of rice with a couple of fried chicken drumsticks and a salad

**9pm** Go down the pub and have a couple of pints with some friends. Come back and watch an episode of *Columbo* from the newly released DVD

### Rosie Taylor, Felix Science dietician says...

Student total calorific intake: 2500 calories Recommended (male) calorific intake: 2500 calories

Darius eats on the run, grabbing fast food as a means of filling a gap. He does well to eat regular meals and snacks, not missing meals or eating huge amounts in one go. This means that he is getting a regular supply of energy throughout the day.

One slice of white toast and jam for breakfast isn't enough. He would be better off having some low glycaemic index carbohydrates such as porridge or granary bread. His lunch is lacking in vegetables. As we should all be consuming five portions of fruit and vegetables each day, lunch is a good time to incorporate a portion. He does better with his evening meal, including a salad.

His diet is also lacking in fruit. Fruit would provide an ideal mid-afternoon and 5pm snack. Fruit would provide him with essential nutrients and fibre. I am a little concerned about Darius' fluid intake. He seems to get through the whole day on just two cups of coffee, a can of coke and a few pints of beer. We should drink 6-8 glasses (or 1½ litres) of fluid each day, not including alcohol. He falls short of this amount, which could lead to under-hydration.



# Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Radio to the power of Four

Whilst writing this column I happen to be listening to the *Today* programme in my office. What is *Today*, some of you might ask? *Today* is BBC Radio 4's flagship news programme. It is the most widely heard breakfast news radio show in the UK. There's a good reason for that.

Many of you might stare aghast at the mention of Radio 4 in a student's newspaper. Many seem to consider it the radio station for old fuddy-duddies. The fact is, however, that Radio 4 represents the crown jewels of the BBC's license fee funded provision.

Firstly, *Test Match Special* is the only practical way to keep up with the cricket (it's far too tedious a

game to actually watch most of the time). More importantly, we are the generation least likely to watch television. How are we to keep up to date with current affairs without television news?

Several people have suggested newspapers to me – and they certainly have their place. But in today's internet age, newspapers are no longer really about breaking news. The strength of a good newspaper (such as *Felix*) is actually providing comment on the major matters of the day. The hallmark of a bad newspaper (such as *London Student*) is to simply recycle what more up to date forms of media published hours, days (or in *LS*'s case

### STATE OF THE UNION



**MUSTAFA ARIF**  
UNION PRESIDENT

months) ago.

Some people point to the internet and say that's the way to keep up to date. But that's really too much effort. One can't spend all day reading BBC News Online. Personally I find the internet more convenient for reading newspaper articles that I'm interested in (again comment, not news). The only news I get off the web is internet/technology related news. But then Slashdot.org isn't really for everyone.

No, in this day and age, radio has a serious purpose. It's so much easier to listen to radio and absorb it whilst eating/sleeping/working, etc. That's why Radio 4 is so important. For the post-TV generation, a pervasive

intelligent speech radio station is essential for an information society to work.

Why am I talking about this? Several reasons. Firstly, it's my job to keep abreast of issues that affect students, and listening to *Today* is basically how I keep abreast of political matters (whether they be tuition fees or something more obscure like immigration rules that could affect overseas students). Secondly, I like Radio 4 and wanted to tell everyone. Thirdly, I wanted to plug intelligent speech on your radio station. Tune into IC Radio ([www.icradio.com](http://www.icradio.com)) and listen to *Fireside* for my (almost weekly) phone-in with the *Felix* editor on Thursdays at 6pm.

## The joy of... STV

Innumerable people have stopped me in the streets of South Kensington recently to ask, "Sam, what's all this about Single Transferable Voting? What's wrong with just putting an 'X' next to the candidate I prefer?" A very good question indeed, and one that I shall attempt to answer here.

The Single Transferable Vote (STV) is a system that has been developed to give the voter more power than in the traditional 'first past the post' system favoured in UK General Elections. STV is a form of preferential voting, which means that instead of casting a single vote for a single candidate, a voter can express a list of preferences. Votes are cast by putting a '1' next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favourite candidate and so on, until they no longer wish to express a preference.

When it comes to counting the votes, a quota is calculated which sets the number of votes a candidate must attain to be elected. This

is simply the total number of votes cast, divided by one more than the number of candidates to be elected, plus one vote. By following this formula, no more than the required number of candidates can reach the quota. Votes are counted according to the first preferences, and any candidates who have achieved the quota are elected.

To decide which of the remaining candidates are elected, the votes are transferred from candidates who have more than the necessary number to achieve the quota and from the candidate with the least number of votes. This means that where the first preference of a voter was not able to be used to elect a candidate (or not necessary, in the case of a candidate who has reached quota), their subsequent preferences come into play. This process of transferring votes continues until the required number of candidates have attained enough votes to be elected.

### UNCLE SAM



**SAM RORKE**  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT  
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

"It sounds like an awful lot of effort! So, what's the point of STV?" they may retort. Well, it's not that arduous to think about who your second or third choice candidates are, and remember, you can stop when you have no further prefer-

ence. The main benefit of STV is that it avoids wasting votes in so-called 'safe seats', where one candidate might be streets ahead of the others – in this case, the second choice candidates will make a real difference. Or, similarly, you may want to back a candidate who ends up getting eliminated – your vote would not be wasted, as your next preference will be reallocated to a candidate who's still in the race. All in all, it empowers the voter.

The second question I've been asked is "who's RON?" Re-Open Nominations, or 'New Election' is a way of expressing your displeasure with the remaining candidates, and requesting that nominations are reopened for a new election. The reason we are holding these by-elections is because RON did well last time, knocking out many "human" candidates.

It's important to remember that voting for New Election is not the same as abstaining. Various people

have said to us that they didn't know any of the candidates, but wanted to ensure that the 25p donation went to their club, so just voted RON. In response to feedback from various quarters, we have decided to modify the voting system to introduce the 'Abstain' option this time. The analogy for a paper ballot election is going into the voting booth and writing "Mickey Mouse" on your paper, or spoiling the ballot slip in some other way. If you do this, your vote will not count towards the election, but you will be able to make your donation.

What am I trying to say? Voting matters (more than doughnuts do), and you should get involved in the running of your Union. Nominations close at noon tomorrow (Friday), so it's not too late to stand. Hustings are being held in the JCR at noon next Thursday, 18 November, so come along and quiz the candidates! For more information, please see [www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections).

## TV is rubbish these days

As a student, your finances are probably tight. You have to budget for everything, so you would probably be forgiven for missing out on certain things. One thing that nearly always gets left by the wayside is your TV Licence (and I don't blame you, given the rubbish they put on telly these days).

However, as I'm sure you're aware, you could be fined up to £1000 if caught without a licence. Just to make things easier, you might face a court appearance as well!

There are some myths that float around about TV licences. I am not writing this to tell you to get one, but this article is intended to tell you the facts and your rights if the men or women in the detector vans come knocking at your door.

If you look at the TV Licensing Agency (TVLA) website, you might think they are trying to explain

things to six-year-old kids, not grown adults. Anyway, here are some facts that may help you:

### When do you have to buy a TV licence?

- If you use a TV that is currently receiving programmes, you will have to get a licence. You'll also need one if you are using anything else to receive programmes, such as PCs or video recorders.
- If you are living in halls and have a TV in your own room then you need your own separate TV licence.
- If you live in a house which has a joint tenancy then only one licence is required for the whole house. However, if there is a separate tenancy for each room then each room that has a TV will need a separate licence.

### ADVICE SERVICE



**NIGEL COOKE**  
STUDENT ADVISER

There is some good news though. As a student, you are entitled to some money back for the summer months if you can prove that you are no longer residing in the house that the licence was bought for.

Those nice people at TV Licensing also target heavy student-populated areas, which is nice of them considering that some students can't even afford to put food on their plate let alone pay a £1000 fine.

### What are your rights?

- You are under no obligation to allow a TV Licensing enquiry officer to enter your home unless he/she can show a search warrant.
- If you open a door and the enquiry officer does not have a warrant and starts questioning you, you do not have to answer. Basically just say nothing and shut the door.
- If an enquiry officer tries to enter your home without a warrant, this is unlawful.
- The TVLA have to apply to the magistrates' court to get a warrant to search your property. This can

take a bit of time, although it will certainly be given.

- If it gets to the point where they want to search your home, you have the right to see the warrant and ask for a copy. They are allowed to search your property without a police officer present, however in most cases the search is conducted in the presence of a police officer. You are allowed to ask for a copy of the police officer's search warrant as well.
- If you do get fined, there are payment plans available to you. Contact the Union Advice Service for advice and more information.

If you have any further questions, or you are just interested in the issue of students and TV licensing, please contact the Union Advice Service on 020 7594 8067 or [advice@ic.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ic.ac.uk).

# Around Campus

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Wye Charity Week raises £1000

By Nichola Hawkins  
Wye Correspondent

Last week saw Wye's annual Charity Week, a week of madness all in the name of Charity, in a similar spirit to Imperial's RAG Week but with our own distinctive traditions.

Sunday night was the Halloween Launch Party, and also saw the release of the RAG Mag, featuring silly quotes, pathetic chat-up lines and such coveted awards as 'Most Alcoholic Fresher'. The drinking clubs' costumes for the week were revealed too, with Robin Hood Beaus, Cheerleader Garters and Thunderbirds JSF.

Monday night was an International Culture Night, hosted by the Overseas Students Organisation, and saw the Union packed out with home and overseas students alike.

However, Tuesday morning saw a most definite return to Wye's traditional RAG calendar, with the Champagne Breakfast. This year, when students gathered in full black tie dress, it turned out that the coaches were taking them to Planet Laser in Canterbury, where they found out the hard way what two laser games, interspersed with two bottles of fizzy wine each, and fry-up sandwiches thrown in, can do to the digestion. However, this did not deter them from supporting at least two of the village pubs in between their return and the opening of the Union bar that evening for DJ Benjy's 'Shake Down' urban music night.

Wednesday was scheduled as the Druids' Disco, but a problem with their intended venue meant this had to be cancelled at less than a day's notice. However, their rival clubs were keen to step in, and by 7.30 that evening the JSF had organised a Scavenger Hunt, which somehow (miraculously) seems to



Who's behind the mask? A Wye student enjoying the Charity Week Ball

have stayed on the right side of the law, with such categories as 'a barmaid's phone number', 'a receipt for Baileys and Lime', 'something green and gold' and 'another team's underwear'.

Embarrassingly, the JSF team themselves came joint last with the Garters (amidst many accusations of score-fixing), and even more embarrassingly (but also more predictably) lost the tie-breaker yard-downing race. However,

their careful planning did result in many items being 'borrowed' ready for the next day's auction.

Thursday night was the customary Slave Auction. In fact, the slaves only constituted the last four lots (four pairs of freshers, two male and two female); the rest of the lots were items of students' property 'borrowed' at various points, including favourite clothing, computer disks, car keys, number plates... in

short, anything that had not been nailed down that week, and a few things that had been.

Friday was the Charity Week Ball, with a James Bond theme. The Union bar and dancefloor were draped in black and white and decorated with a multitude of sparkly things; the Agents wore their tuxes, the Bond Girls wore their cocktail dresses, the Old Boys were back in force and the drinks were flowing.

This would usually mark the end of the week. However, due to the way the dates worked out this year, the Bonfire Party that usually opens the week on the first Saturday was held on the final Saturday instead. The traditional torchlight procession up to the crown was as large as any recent year, with torches, food and glow sticks all selling out more rapidly than anyone could have predicted.

Following an impressive

fireworks display, the students (old and new) returned to the Union bar for one last chance to drink in the name of Charity, and to count up their takings for the week.

The final count has yet to be completed, but the figure so far stands at just over £1050 and so, considering our student body numbers just a few hundred, the gauntlet has most definitely been thrown down for the rest of Imperial's RAG efforts.

## Burn baby burn, Silwood inferno

By Andy Brown  
Silwood Park correspondent

One of the advantages of living in the middle of nowhere is the ability to have parties like this with (relative to the other city campuses) few health and safety concerns.

The carefully chosen site for the bonfire, Silwood bottom, has very little to set fire to, with the exception of our humungous bonfire and of course the traditional guy.

An annual event out here, there is nothing quite like it

(except maybe Lewes). No fireworks unfortunately, but with open grounds in true student style we are able to watch the big explosions around us. The groundsmen here collect fuel for the fire all week, and traditionally first year PhD students spend Friday building it.

Then, with a pint in hand, males are drawn from all over the site to the prospect of fire like wasps to beer. Like the primitive Neanderthal man, they then stand around grunting, wondering how to get

this extravaganza underway. Unwilling to siphon petrol off a nearby unclaimed car, they resort to toilet roll and blowing. It is rather amusing to watch a group of eight male Homo habilis trying to start a twelve foot high bonfire by blowing on it.

Due to the wet summer and recent weather experienced, it didn't go up as quickly as expected, prolonging the enjoyment that is watching fire, an unexplainable phenomenon. Maybe it's the element of danger or the respect

we have for it. Like the primate cave people, it means a huge advancement in civilisation - no more raw Silwood deer, we can spit roast them now!

Three hours after starting, the feast began with roasting chestnuts. It was made clear that they were collected locally and the Union held no responsibility for illness incurred or bugs found within. Groups of hunter gatherer Homo erectus spread out in search of some way of cooking them on the now burning

inferno, returning later with a borrowed shovel (resource reallocation is a transferable skill that my PhD has taught me well). A little hard to start with, they got better as the night proceeded... or was it the increase in blood alcohol level? Kindly provided black peas (a northern delicacy, apparently) with salt and vinegar as well as treacle toffee concluded the balanced diet of the night.

Frustrated at not having our own fireworks, a cunning idea was forged to throw piles

of leaves on the fire sending red hot ashes high into the cloudless country sky. Who needs roman candles when you have these for free?

The evolution of man was completed with a survivors' breakfast and the promise of bacon and eggs. Arguably one of Homo sapiens' greatest advancements is agriculture, the concentrated growing and breeding of food. This was put to good use with the breakfast, and with it, the evolution of mankind was completed in one night.

# WANT A PART-TIME JOB THAT WILL TAKE YOU PLACES? THEN WHY NOT BE A RED BULL STUDENT MARKETEER?



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- You should be able to work at least 3 days a week during term time and full time during the summer.



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- 1: 500 words which tell us a little bit about you and why you would be great in this role.
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- 3: Photograph of yourself.

Applications should be sent via email to:  
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Further info @ [www.redbull.co.uk](http://www.redbull.co.uk)



# What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

## THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER

### UNION EVENTS LOST IN A DREAM (ICSM DRAMA PRODUCTION)

7.15pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
Tickets from £4.50  
The perfect blend of comedy and drama, *Lost In A Dream* tells the story of a hapless schizophrenic.  
Contact:  
farouk.olubajo@ic.ac.uk

## FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER

### UNION EVENTS LOST IN A DREAM (ICSM DRAMA PRODUCTION)

7.15pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
Tickets from £4.50  
The perfect blend of comedy and drama, *Lost In A Dream* tells the story of a hapless schizophrenic.  
Contact:  
farouk.olubajo@ic.ac.uk

### UNION EVENTS SUBRED

8pm  
Beit Quad  
£3  
Drum and bass from Ray Keith, Macpherson, Surreal, DJ Spindle and DJ Chug. Vodka and draft mixer for £1 in dBs while stocks last.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

### CLUBBING PROGRESSION SESSIONS

The End  
The more graceful side to drum and bass, with LTJ Bukem and a guest appearance from Fabio.

### CLUBBING SWAMP BRING ORGAN DONORS TO THE 414

The 414  
Organ Donors with a special dex 'n' FX set at the home of London hard dance.

## SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

### UNION EVENTS MEDICS CHOIR: MOZART REQUIEM

7.30pm  
St Augustine's Church,  
Queen's Gate  
Tickets £3 students  
Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Insanae et Vanae Curae* and Bainton's *I Saw a New Heaven*. Wine and soft drinks will be served during the interval.  
Contact:  
rachel.guest@ic.ac.uk

### CLUBBING TYRANT 7TH BIRTHDAY

Fabric  
Craig Richards, Lee Burridge and Terry Francis celebrate seven years of dirty house.

## MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES INDIAN SOCIETY: EAST MEETS WEST 2005 AUDITIONS

6pm  
Main Dining Hall, Sherfield Building  
It's a stage to showcase your talent – your chance to signup to be in the largest show produced by an Imperial College Union society. If you want to perform in an Eastern or Western dancing act, make sure you come along.  
Contact:  
vinay.kaura@ic.ac.uk

### UNION EVENTS COCKTAILS AND PALAIS

Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital  
New look Monday nights! Come down to Reynolds in Hammersmith every Monday night for cocktails and then get your wristbands to dance the night away at the Palais – £3 from the Reynolds, £4 on door. Yes, the Palais, it's back! Monday nights are now bigger and better than ever before.  
Contact:  
lucy.pickard@ic.ac.uk

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES MEDICAL ETHICS: "END OF LIFE DECISIONS - PARENTS' OR DOCTORS' CHOICE?"

6pm  
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital  
Medical Ethics Society's first meeting of the year. If you have anything you particularly want to discuss, such as something you've come across during a rotation, please email and we can bring it up at the meeting (anonymously if you prefer). The society does not charge a membership fee and meetings take the form of an informal discussion. Everyone is welcome.  
Contact: kje99@ic.ac.uk

## TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES LEOSOC: LIFE DRAWING

7pm  
Room 407, Elec Eng Building  
£3.50 for non-members  
Description:  
LeoSoc's second tutored life drawing session this term. All abilities are welcome. Many media can be used. Since it is life drawing, we must warn

that there is very likely to be a nude model. So please turn up promptly and don't attend if it will offend.  
Contact:  
alison.twelvetreets@ic.ac.uk

### 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. Get a team together and see how much you really know.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

## WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER

### UNION EVENTS CHEEKY

8pm–1am  
Beit Quad  
£2  
Flirty current chart music and party classics.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

## THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER

### VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

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

### UNION ELECTIONS HUSTINGS

12noon  
JCR, Sherfield Building  
Come along and quiz the candidates.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES INDIAN SOCIETY: EAST MEETS WEST 2005 AUDITIONS

## 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

6pm  
Main Dining Hall, Sherfield Building

It's a stage to showcase your talent – your chance to signup to be in the largest show produced by an Imperial College Union society. If you want to perform in an Eastern or Western dancing act, make sure you come along.  
Contact:  
vinay.kaura@ic.ac.uk

### THE GRUDGE (15)

Fri to Thurs: 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm. Fri and Sat only: 12midnight. Sat and Sun only: 10am.

### BAD SANTA (15)

Fri to Thurs: 6.10pm, 8.20pm. Fri and Mon to Thurs: 1.20pm, 3.40pm. Sat only: 10.50pm.

### BIRTH (15)

Fri to Thurs: 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 9pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm.

### ALFIE (15)

2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.50pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.45am.

### ALIEN vs PREDATOR (15)

Fri and Sat only: 11.10pm.  
**THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT (U)**  
Sat and Sun only: 10.40am, 1.10pm, 3.40pm.

### SHARK TALE (12A)

Fri to Thurs: 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm. Sat and Sun only: 10am, 12.10pm.

### LAYER CAKE (15)

Fri to Thurs: 8.50pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm.

### FIVE CHILDREN AND IT (U)

Sat and Sun only: 11.20am.

### SAW (18)

Fri and Sat only: 11pm.

## ALL WEEK

### FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY BRIDGET JONES: EDGE OF REASON (15)

Fri to Thurs: 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.15pm, 4.15pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.30pm. Sat and Sun only: 10am, 11am.

### LADIES IN LAVENDER (12A)

Fri to Thurs: 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.40am.

### FINDING NEVERLAND (PG)

Fri to Thurs: 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.5pm, 8.10pm. Sat only: 10.50am.

## Competitions

# Malibu giveaway

Dedicated to making the term Seriously Easy Going® and stress free, Malibu® is offering you the chance to get your hands on a seriously easy £1000. All you have to do is visit [www.malibueasymoney.com](http://www.malibueasymoney.com), register online and complete the questionnaire. How easy is that? You don't even have to leave your room!

Felix is also giving you the chance to win one of three sets of one bottle of Malibu®, one carton of cranberry and your very own branded jug. Simply log on to [www.malibueasymoney.com](http://www.malibueasymoney.com) to find the answer the following question:

### What item can you download from the website to get you in a seriously easy going mood?

Email your answer to felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 16 November. Tell us your year and your department. The first three people to be randomly selected after the closing date will win the prizes. Felix competition rules apply.



# Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Japanese karate master at Imperial

### SHOTOKAN KARATE

By Simon Reynolds

On Saturday 30 October, the Imperial College Union Shotokan Karate Club (ICUSKC) was honoured to have a masterclass taught by one of the greatest living martial artists, Sensei Keigo Abe. He is a world famous karate expert and the Chief Instructor of our affiliated Japanese organisation. As our special guest, he taught for three hours, and everyone from beginners to black belts learned a lot from his wisdom and authority and also had a great time.

Sensei Abe started learning karate in Japan when he was 15 years old. He studied under the most respected instructors and went on to win many of the biggest national and international competition titles. By the 1990s, he had been appointed the Technical Director of the Japan Karate Association (JKA), the original and most important Shotokan karate organisation.

He is now 66 years old and holds 8th dan, one of the highest possible ranks in Shotokan karate. This visit to England was planned around teaching just two classes, one of those at our club. We were therefore obviously keen to make the best impression we could.

While everyone was waiting to start, we were all very anxious to see what the class would be like. The club's new beginners in particular didn't know what to expect and maybe started wondering what they had let themselves in for!

Sensei Abe started the lesson after he was welcomed and introduced to us by our instructor Sensei Jim Lewis. He ran the lesson in a traditional Japanese style, even teaching solely in Japanese, with one of our black belts providing translation. Huge thanks to Sanae for doing a brilliant job!

At the start, some of the club's beginners seemed to be hiding at the back of the class, but they bravely moved to the front once they were spotted. Some people may have been slightly scared, but they needn't have worried. Sensei Abe is a great teacher for all levels and helped each of the beginners individually, and gradually revealed that his English is much better than he first let on.

The lesson focused on just the basic techniques of karate, yet Sensei Abe's very clear explanations gave a new insight into how the various blocks, strikes and kicks work, and why.

Some new members had only been to a couple of lessons before, but they kept up with the rest of the club brilliantly. Some even learnt up



Sensei Lewis 7th dan and Sensei Abe 8th dan (front row, from left) with a few Imperial College Union Shotokan Karate Club members

to five completely new techniques all in one session!

Throughout the lesson, we were all in awe of Sensei Abe's technique. His style was not as flashy as some demonstrations, but you could see the skill in his speed and strength, and his technique appeared perfect. He inspired everyone in the room to try their hardest throughout the whole lesson.

After the main lesson was an extra hour-long advanced class for brown and black belts. Sensei Abe focused on advanced techniques and some interesting new applications of the basics. We prac-

tised delivering each move in the fastest, most natural and practical ways possible. This training has to be my personal highlight of the course.

This extra session also included studying two high level kata: set sequences of blocks, strikes and turns that are the traditional method of learning karate. A lot of the brown belts had never had the chance to even try these kata before, so it was difficult to keep up with the black belts. Even so, it was a lot of fun to try the more spectacular moves!

Also at the course was Sensei Sidoli 7th dan, the President

of our British organisation. When the advanced lesson started, he volunteered to stay and teach the beginners the first kata in what became a much more informal session. Sensei Sidoli was very encouraging and the beginners loved the opportunity to ask all their questions without feeling self-conscious.

Over the whole course, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and learned even more about karate, thanks to excellent teaching that shone through the translation. Sensei Abe's unique style and gentle nature won him a round of applause and a lot of praise

at the end of the lesson. He passed on some of his karate secrets to our club members, and we benefited from a truly enlightening experience.

Of course, after three hours of training, we then took some badly needed refreshments in the bar!

If you might be interested in karate, it's certainly not too late to try. Beginners are always welcome, and we still have new members starting each lesson. If you'd like to know more, check out [www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/shotokankarate](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/shotokankarate).

All lessons at our club are taught by Sensei Lewis 7th dan, one of the highest ranked karate instructors in the country, with a highly distinguished karate career and a lot of experience. We are very lucky to have such a high ranked instructor, not just because of his teaching, but also because his reputation brings the best in the world to visit our club. Later this year there will be the chance to train with another Japanese master, Sensei Mikio Yahara 8th dan.

ICUSKC has three training sessions each week in the Union gym: Monday 6-8pm, Thursday 8.30-10pm and Saturday 10am-12noon.

To get started, simply come along to one of our sessions and start learning the art of Shotokan karate. If you have any questions, you can email Simon at [shotokan@ic.ac.uk](mailto:shotokan@ic.ac.uk).

## Big hills and vegetarian curry

### FELLWANDERERS

By Chris Mark

Boots, rucksacks, manic expressions and Sainsbury's wine cartons – yes, it must be the Fellwanderers again.

It was Friday 29 October and our 12 heroes crammed themselves into a gleaming yellow minibus for a seven hour journey to the Lake District (that's the sticky-out bit just south of Scotland, before anyone asks). After a brief detour across what felt like half of Lancashire, we finally arrived at two in the morning, unloaded a mountain of kit into a barn, mastered the gas-powered space heater w-sname and crawled into our sleeping bags... just in time to be up again to climb Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England at 987m (which might not sound like much, but when you're standing at the bottom looking up it's an awful long way to the top!)

Anyway, up we went, to

be rewarded with fabulous views of the surrounding national park and not-quite-so-fabulous views of Sellafield nuclear power station as a malevolent white blob on the horizon (remind me again why they had to build it in one of the most beautiful parts of Britain? Still, that explains why the local sheep glow in the dark I guess).

After a quick chocolate stop on the summit and a quick lesson from El Presidente (Sarah) on the etiquette of dislodging rocks onto people's heads (it's quite alright as long as you shout something, apparently), we were off again, scrambling onto a ridge to the north and bagging several smaller peaks before looping back to Wastwater where the minibus had been strategically positioned by Andy next to the pub. Surprising how drinking real ale against a backdrop of a flawless sunset can remind you that London isn't the be-all and end-all!

Then it was back to the

barn for the aforementioned vegetarian curry, featuring the intriguing combination of cashew nuts and cheese. After the washing up had been subdued, it was time to break out the vino and play a few rounds of Werewolf, a bizarre and challenging game which (eventually) involved Cupid, a wooden spoon, an evil village mayor, and... er...werewolves. Enough said, I think.

Sunday morning was a bit murkier than the previous, so we decided to catch the Ravenglass-Eskdale steam railway into the hills and then walk back to the coast and the minibus along Muncaster Fell, a gentle unchallenging walk which allowed some good navigation practice along with a brief debate on whether sheep should be marked on maps or not.

Then finally there was the ten hour return journey, skillfully planned to allow the overseas Wanderers a good view of spaghetti junction. All in all, a fantastic weekend – roll on the next one!



The Fellwanderers in the Lake District: "987m might not sound like much, but it's an awful long way to the top!"

# Canoeists enjoy wet Welsh weekend

## CANOE CLUB

### Freshers trip 2004

By Jim Pullen

The Canoe Club's freshers trip to Wales found a set of well-organised newbies packed and ready to go by 6.45am – a new club record perhaps? Two minibuses positively overflowing with slightly worried looking freshers set off from the Union in a formula one style starting formation.

The journey up went with little incident and we were soon past Birmingham and heading into the land of sheep. Rain was pouring down at this point and the prospects of a great paddling weekend were high. Loads of cars laden with boats were spotted, including an irritating little one containing four blondes driving at 30mph and causing a four-mile tailback.

The hut was reached a little after midnight and drinking ensued. Theo's job as chief fire-starter was usurped by Lars and his scouting skills. In no time, we had a roaring fire, which Lars blocked up with drying wood (oh well). Most of the John Smiths was consumed and then we headed to bed at around 3am.

Saturday started with the fry-up sandwich at the ridiculously early time of 7am. We left at 8.30 and arrived at the lake above the Glaslyn. Some interesting warm-up procedures ensued, instigated by Alice and Paula, much to the amusement of the passing road-sweeper. We got on the lake and got people used to paddling on open water. Apparently Nina had somehow missed the opportunity of a capsizing drill in the pool, but she soon made up for it



Riding the river: two members of the Canoe Club manage to stay afloat

by quickly jumping out of her boat and testing the water temperature.

After a small amount of faffing around, we split into four groups and proceeded off down the river. Water levels were very high, with the possibility of paddling in fields if one chose to take it. Normal grade 1-2 became 2-3 and carnage soon ensued with multiple swims from a few of the paddling newbies. The rapid next to Beddgelert seemed to cause the most swims.

Eventually we got the swimmers out of the water and the boats were rescued further downstream, much to the amusement of the watching grannies on the bridge.

Further swim-tastic fun was had with much multi-coloured plastic floating through Beddgelert. Once the first three groups were down, we

got the minibus round and started sorting things out. Nick's missing paddle was located (he'd kindly lent it out and was paddling with a leftie), but there was no sign of Rob's group. After about an hour, three fifths of them paddled up, the other two having walked out. Some discussion was had as to what to do next (it still being only 1.00) and we eventually left for the Llugwy with much minibus manoeuvring.

Both Plas-Y-Brenin and the get-out were rammed with paddlers, but we squeezed the minibuses in somehow. Unfortunately, Lars decided to stand on the roof and help unload the boats, apparently not caring that the rear of his club wetsuit had now failed completely and exposed himself to passing traffic – the mental scars are still healing.

We got on the water in similar groups and did a short paddle down a 1km stretch, practising ferry-gliding and breaking-in/out on the way down. The section's best rapid occurred at the end, where a friendly Aussie helped to fish Caroline out.

After a little wait, the more experienced paddlers went on down to Cobden's falls. Rob set up safety with Ralph and Theo bombing through it to fish people out at the bottom. I followed Mark and Lars (this guy has no fear).

Lars swam on the chute above the falls and I was forced to take evasive action, leaving Mark to fish him out. I ran the falls OK, much to my relief after my only other attempt had gone so badly wrong. I then got out to watch the swim-madness occurring. Lars and Mark had some-

how got themselves out on a rock above the falls and were getting back on (Lars after his second swim, Mark after scrambling out of his boat to try and help). At this point Claire's inazone appeared upside-down and found a nice line down, with no sign of Claire (who had swam to the side further upstream).

A couple of drinks in the pub were very much needed at this point and some interesting debates were had by all. We got back to the hut and ate large quantities of chilli thanks to the dedication of the chefs forsaking the pub. The ancient tradition of climbing the hut ladder was performed, with yours truly being nominated to demonstrate by the dreadlocked wussy one. All the freshers completed the challenge successfully, with some interesting (and somewhat dodgy-looking) new techniques invented by Rob. At this point I must confess to not being fully aware of what was going on, but for some reason most of the girls removed their bras (I seem to remember Rob putting one on, but no surprise there).

Sunday morning started with a few hardcore members getting up to watch Theo and Rob run the gorge. The rest of us arose somewhat later and got breakfast and the hut sorted out. We left at 11 with some confusion as to what river had been decided on, how the name was spelt and where it was. Eventually, we gave up and went to the lower Mawwdach. We divided into similar groups to the day before – without Peter (dodgy shoulder), Nina (dodgy knee) and Kai (dodgy cold) – and got on the water.

The first rapid was a little difficult for the newbies and several swims resulted.

Whilst rescuing a boat and swimmer, Ralph managed to lose his rather expensive paddles, resulting in a very grumpy tree-hugging hippy. He went back to the bus, got some lefties and caught us up. Several nice grade three rapids were discovered (to the complete surprise of Lars in at least one case) and a few more swims occurred. Fortunately for Ralph, I spotted his watersticks sitting in an eddy about halfway down the run. People were definitely improving at this point as they figured out that leaning upstream = cold + wet.

Some confusion was had as to where the get-out was, with myself and Ralph going for a quick jog to find the minibus. Eventually, all four groups ended up at the get-out together. It was a seriously steep mud and leaf bank, and some interesting rope techniques were used which involved Rob and Chad running headlong down the bank (securely harnessed to throw-lines obviously), whilst a boat went bumping up it. Finally the teamwork resulted in all the kit finding its way successfully back in/on the buses.

Getting changed by the road proved amusing with a lot of drivers taking a keen interest in Claire (or possibly Lars, we weren't really sure which was being hooted at). We stopped for a quick fish and chip break in Welshpool, and some lead-footed action from the drivers meant that both buses made it back for the last tube.

If you're interested in trying canoeing, join us at St Mary's Pool on Tuesday nights from 7pm. Alternatively visit the website at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/canoe](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/canoe) or email [slappers@ic.ac.uk](mailto:slappers@ic.ac.uk).

# RAG rundown (and some numbers)

## RAG

By Chris Jackson  
RAG Chair

Many people have been asking me what RAG is up to this year. So to save myself from insanity by constantly saying the same thing, here is a rundown of the events that we are currently planning:

### Children in Need

The annual BBC appeal is on 19 November and RAG is joining in!

On the day we aim to launch over 500 balloons from the Queen's Lawn. Buying one of these balloons will cost you a comparatively cheap £1. The balloon that is found furthest away and returned to us will win a fantastic prize, with further prizes for those in second and third places,

and a prize for the location with the strangest name (at my discretion).

### RAG raid

Saturday 27 November sees an invasion of London from several other university RAGs. Not wanting to miss out, we will be there and we hope you will be too.

For all of you who want to bring chaos to Central London, this is your chance! Boating in fountains, forming a giant conga in Trafalgar Square, tiddlywinking down Oxford Street, streaking through the Bank of England, blagging free items whilst doing market research in a sex shop or anything else that comes to mind – this is the day to do it!

### RAG Week 2005

RAG Week has been con-

firmed as 7-13 February next year. All the usual fun and games is planned: a raid midweek, the Monopoly pub crawl to end the week, plus many more events yet to be decided! If you have an event in mind, then join us and make it happen – just email [rag@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rag@ic.ac.uk).

### Number time

Things have only just got started, but we have some cash coming in!

Freshers Week made £98.42, and tins in the Union shop have made a nice £54.45 from all your two pence coins. The tins have been replaced with empty ones, so keep giving us your coppers – it all adds up! The cloakroom at Commemoration Day made £300 through the hard work of a few volunteers, so many thanks to all of them. Finally, I would like to thank every-



Just one of the ways you can help RAG bring chaos to central London (and raise money at the same time): a volunteer conducts some 'market research'

one who contributed to RAG via my tankard last week in the Union Bar, even if I was

trying to drink from it at the time. £3.13 does not improve the taste of Abbot Ale but

might just improve the life of someone with cancer or AIDS.

# Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Turnmills for a tenner

### CLUB REVIEW

#### The Gallery

Turnmills  
£10

★★★★☆

The first time I went to Turnmills, I wasn't that impressed. The people seemed rude, it felt overcrowded, the main dance floor felt too much like a corridor and the cloakroom was more expensive than the only other big club I'd been to at the time, Heaven. Since that fateful night however, the 'Mills has grown on me, and I now count it as one of my favourite venues, easily amongst the best in London.

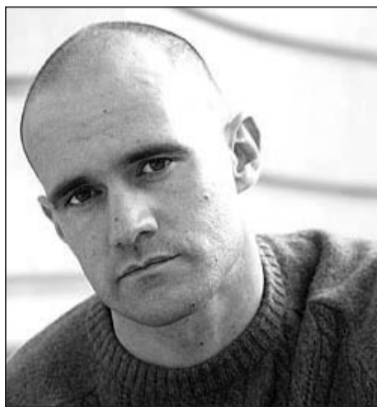
It's a joy to wander around, with a seemingly endless supply of nooks and crannies to squeeze yourself into, absolutely loads of space to sit down, chat and people-watch, millions of bars, great décor and at least three separate rooms to check out. And that's before you even get to the awesome main room.

At the peak of the night, when all the drinkers have gone home to leave more space for the dancing hardcore, it is a joy to behold and be part of. Lowish ceilings, excellent sound filling the intimate space and surrounding you, dark with the faint smell of the smoke machine hanging in the air and the mythical Turnmills light show (I have never thought it to be overly impressive in terms of content, but it's always has an outstanding effect) including London's first ever multicolour laser (sadly, not in use tonight) in full swing, you can't help but dance, and neither can the 999 people next to you. Throw in a shedload of quality music played by the world's most respected DJs and you have the perfect recipe for the perfect night.

Which is why, in days when a promotion is lucky if it gets to its first birthday, the Gallery has been entertaining London's sophisticated clubbers on a weekly basis for ten years. This fact alone should give you some indication of the quality on offer. That night, I was going to be introducing one of my new classmates to the joys of London clubbing and so I couldn't think of anywhere more appropriate or reliable than the Gallery in which he should take his first steps into a whole new world.

We arrived early and paid the exceptionally student-friendly price of £10, and we didn't even have to ask. The bouncers asked if we were students, we flashed our swipe cards and got tickets with 33% off the usual entrance fee. No fuss and friendly bouncers – brownie points for Turnmills already.

Walking down the steps and into the bar we realised we were pretty much the first people there, apart from the DJ and his guests, and so took the opportunity to have a proper nosy around. Everywhere was empty and the rooms looked tiny with no-one in them. Still, this was a good chance to get served quickly at the bar and then sit down for lots of chatting to randoms and people-watching. Did I mention that the people at Turnmills are



John '00' Fleming

exceptionally friendly?

The only gripe I have ever had with the place is that they insist on never displaying set lists, so you have no idea who is playing or when to expect them. It seems like a minor point, but in an age of faceless DJs it's hard to know who you are listening to and so who to look out for in the future. If you are reading this Mr Stix, can you do something about it? Just a sheet on the door to the DJ booth would be fine. Thanks!

So, I don't know who was playing for the first couple of hours I was there, but they were good. Chunky, techy house with a sprinkling of (deep breath) prog, it was great for winding up to, and they played Sabotage by the Beastie Boys – more brownie points to Turnmills.

After that, I think Corvin Dalek played, followed by Tall Paul and John '00' Fleming, and then I assume Gavyn Mitchell, mainly because the last few times I've been to the Gallery, Gavyn has played the final set of the night. Corvin and Paul may have been the other way around, I don't know for sure. Whatever happened though, it was all good.

There were quite a few hours of uplifting house music to start with. I don't really know my tunes or sub-genres so I can't expand further, but I did hear a wicked remix of Delerium's *Silence*, and Cohen vs Deluxe's *Just Kick!* The rest was fun, but a complete mystery to me.

At around 4am, John Fleming came on. I'm pretty sure it was him because all of sudden things were trancey – I do know trance, and John plays trance. It wasn't your usual uplifting "Crasher Trance"™ though, it had a much darker, underground, tribal feel to it. I would use the word progressive if I wasn't so scared of it and its connotations. Despite this, his set went down extremely well, as in fact did all the others, and since by now there was much more space on the dance floor, everybody spent a good two hours jumping around with their arms in the air.

I should also mention at this point that while all this was going on in the main room, things got utterly funky up in the second room. Tonight, Sarah Main (Pacha's star in Ibiza) was the big cheese in charge of the floor, and the back room of the Gallery is now just as big a pull as the main room acts themselves. Nic Fanciulli has seen his popularity skyrocket in recent times thanks to his back room residency with Fandango

and, in fact, the incredible sound system in the back room is there thanks to him. There is also the room at the far end of the club which serves as a chillout area with live acts, DJ's, ambient techno and plenty of randoms to talk to.

And so to the final set of the night, which in my experience is usually one of the best. Much, much room to dance thanks to the lightweights going home, and a nice big chunk of driving hard trance to give you that final rush of energy, before you have to stumble onto the tube. Unfortunately, and to my eternal shame, I didn't make it past 6.30am this time (I'm out of practise), but the first half hour of the last guy's set was promising. Heavy and beat driven, large techno undercurrents with sprinklings of euphoria, quiet bits, loud bits, fast bits, slow bits (mostly fast bits) and plenty of opportunities to enliven those dancing shoes that you thought would be leaden by now.

All in all, another fantastic night out at Turnmills – friendly faces, great music, hilarious chats. Totally reliable without being predictable, and all for a bargain £10 before 11.30pm.

Dom Farrell

## Clubbing in a cold climate

Don't let the onset of winter put you off enjoying nocturnal London

The clocks have changed, the nights are drawing in, and it's dark most days before you get home. Depressing, isn't it? Well before you all run off to the Health Centre with suspected Seasonal Affective Disorder, hear me out and I'll show you that it is in fact the season to be jolly, especially where nightlife is concerned.

OK, I concede that London gets bloody cold this time of year, and the thought of trekking around the city in the silly hours might not sound like much fun. Forget that. As the days get shorter, the nights get longer. It's now possible to go out in the dark, stay up partying all night, and crawl home next morning, without ever seeing the sun. Fantastic for the more photosensitive of us – when you finally get chucked out with eyes like saucers after a night of staggering around in the dark, it's a lot less harsh if the sun's not up yet. And it's pretty hard to pull off

wearing shades in November.

Another thing to be thinking about at this time of year is Christmas. With no College to get in the way of your hedonism, why not try out some clubs that you otherwise couldn't? Afterparties and weeknights are the best places to meet interesting people, so get on out there!

Don't forget though, that one of the biggest (or at least most hyped) nights of the clubbing calendar is drawing steadily closer – New Year's Eve. If you're planning to be in town for NYE, there'll be no shortage of choice. Clubs charge multiples of their normal entrance tariff and in return promise you the best way to watch the number at the end of the date go up by one. It may seem a while away, but the best events sell out quickly, so look out for a roundup of the NYE offerings across the capital in *Felix* soon.

Simon Clark  
Nightlife Editor

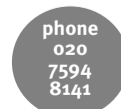
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# Arts

## The bluffer's guide: Shakespeare

Can Hamlet truly be done backwards? **William Gates** has seen it

### Reduced Shakespeare Company

Criterion Theatre, W1  
Lots of Shakespeare really fast  
Tickets: £10-£32

Being confronted in a theatre by three eccentric Americans may not be your very British cup of tea, especially when they will presume to cram all 37 of William Shakespeare's works into a mere 97 minutes. For these three eccentric Americans, I suggest you make an exception.

*The Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Abridged* may sound daunting, even if you have read, studied or seen a fair proportion of his works. One of the major achievements of the performance is to present Shakespeare in an accessible manner. Provided, of course, you can keep up.

To manage to fit all 37 of Shakespeare's plays into such a short production would appear difficult, yet the performers are able to do it with some extensive editing, as well as expansive imaginations. Fitting all 16 of the comedies into

one two minute sketch is a remarkable feat indeed. The idea promoted is that Shakespeare basically only had four storylines - all of which he plagiarised - allows this to be achieved.

The aim is, as ever, to make Shakespeare understandable for a modern audience. The decision to rap *Othello*, in spite of the fact that the actors were, by their own admission, "racially challenged", is one attempt at this. Furthermore, the opening sketch, *Romeo and Juliet*,

**"Cut the crap Hamlet: my biological clock is ticking and I want babies now!"**

is one of the highlights of the production. A very masculine Juliet and very camp Romeo frolic in a way that would have made Shakespeare himself turn in his grave. Similarly, the *Macbeth* sketch is worth the ticket price alone. 30 seconds (and that's it) of appalling Scottish accents and

even worse costumes will have you crying with laughter.

Yet, within the mirth and the laughter, undertones emanate whereby the true genius of Shakespeare is portrayed. The last 45 of the 97 minutes are devoted entirely to Hamlet, described as probably "the greatest play ever written in the English language"; performed four times, once at some length, twice quicker and quicker and once backwards. The audience becomes involved in a way that is simultaneously educational and amusing. To demonstrate the inner conflict being felt by Ophelia, the audience is split into three, each part representing one of the id, the ego and the alter-ego that make up her psyche. Beware not to sit in the imaginatively titled Group C. I found myself shouting "Cut the crap Hamlet: my biological clock is ticking and I want babies now!" when instructed to do so.

The most incredible part of the performance, though (with the possible exception of the Macbeth scene), came when one of the three recited one of the famous lamentation speeches of Hamlet. Beginning



The Criterion Theatre on Piccadilly - it's next to Lillywhites

quickly, the speaker gradually slowed down and dropped the volume of his voice as the power of the words he was speaking began to become apparent, both to him and the audience. When the recitation was over, there was a silent awe. I cannot even remember how that silence was broken.

It was unsurprising that US election opinions were incorporated into the play, and these may well have detracted slightly from the overall momentum of the performance, oth-

erwise it may be said that the fact that there were only two references made them ease better into the Shakespearean context. However, the initial aim of the production, to perform all Shakespeare's plays in 97 minutes, was achieved with such hilarity and subtle mysticism that little else that is derogatory can be said about it. A production that has intelligence beneath the mirth, *The Reduced Shakespeare Company* is one that really should be enjoyed by all.

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# Film

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Film listings: see  
What's On, page 9

## Go Bridget go!

Same Bridget, new diary

### Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

Director: Beeban Kidron  
Starring: Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant  
Length: 108 minutes  
Certificate: 15  
Released: Friday 12 November  
★★★★☆

You thought the last movie was happily ever after? You thought wrong!

As with the first film, *The Edge of Reason* is based on the novel by Helen Fielding organised as a diary by Bridget, a London-based 'singleton' and (high-flying) journalist with an often disastrous social life and an unfortunate capacity for alcohol, cigarettes and calories.

The story picks up four weeks after the first film ended, and we find Bridget (Renée Zellweger) where we left her, blissful and besotted in the arms of her gorgeous lawyer Mark Darcy (Colin Firth).

However, after six weeks the cracks are starting to show and she finds his habit of folding underpants simply too hard to bear. Are his upper-class background and schooling at Eton, which she describes as "a fascist institution where they stick a poker up your arse and you're not allowed to remove it for the rest of your life" going to drive them apart?

Bridget's petty jealousies are also starting to get the better of her, and their relationship. Among these is her suspicion about Mark's long-

legged intern, who, on top of being super-slim, has a knack for doing everything right. Cue Bridget's former boss, womanizing heart-throb Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant), undergoing sex therapy, but has he really changed?

So Bridget is back to that same question: Mark Darcy or Daniel Cleaver? And what could be better than having those two fighting over you?

We also see the return of chain-smoking, ever caring, crazy singleton friends who are always on hand

**"Those of you with the Y chromosome may have been dreading the release of this film but..."**

to offer relationship advice, but should she listen to them?

This is a story that travels from the streets of London to the slopes of the Alps and the shores of Thailand – and finds Bridget skydiving (or falling), skiing (sort of) and finding herself in a few unfortunate circumstances. Ms Jones flies from embarrassing situation to romantic misunderstanding, still managing to muddle through in this continuation of the trials and tribulations of the single working woman.

If you liked *Bridget Jones' Diary*, three years was well worth the wait to see this next installment



The blind leading the blind

of Bridget's disaster-strewn adventures. Unlike many sequels, this ultimate chick flick managed to exceed our expectations and keep us captivated throughout.

Despite using some of the same gags as the first film, we see Bridget and company extend the boundaries of their London base to explore places further afield, with new delights of Thai girls, boys and magic mushrooms. The soundtrack is impressive and if Hugh Grant and Colin Firth are not enough, we also see an appearance of the lovely Paul Nicholls!

Again, we see the cast work well together. Zellweger, having inflicted her body with an alarming weight gain for a second time, remasters both a British accent and the skilful physical comedy that sees her negotiate the Annual Law Dinner in

a skintight gold dress – not her most flattering moment!

Those of you with the Y chromosome may have been dreading the release of this film, but if you are dragged along, you will be pleasantly surprised and we guarantee it will put a smile on your face! For us fairer sex, this is the ultimate feel-good film and perfect for a great girls' night out. It is a comfort to all women, single and attached, that even dating Mark Darcy has its downfalls.

The light-hearted storyline had us in stitches from the opening scene of Bridget's sky-dive into pig excrement to the second round of Darcy vs Cleaver, which takes place in our very own Hyde Park (if only we'd been there).

**Sarah Mayles and Rakhi Sehmi**



Daniel Cleaver and Mark Darcy 'battling' it out for Bridget's affection

## Bad Santa, good movie

### Bad Santa

Director: Terry Zwigoff  
Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Stark, Brent Kelly, Lauren Graham, Bernie Mac  
Length: 92 minutes  
Certificate: 15  
★★★★☆

Willie (Billy Bob Thornton) has to be the worst Santa Claus ever. He vomits on alley walls, swears at the children, pisses himself and comes into work drunk.

The odd thing about this Santa Claus is his lack of Christmas spirit, and the fact that he's also a con-man, robbing each department store on each Christmas Eve, with a small dwarf (Tony Stark) as an accomplice. This strategy becomes complicated, however, when Willie meets a bizarre eight-year-old child (Brett Kelly) who he exploits when he needs a place to stay. As the days go by, Willie seems to care more and more for The Kid, and The Kid

teaches Willie the real meaning of Christmas.

Every character in this blackest of black comedies was funny, quirky and strange: three words that also describe the film. *Bad Santa* does its own thing and is one of a kind. Each performer took hold of their role naturally and comfortably, with exception of The Kid, whose awkwardness was purposeful.

Willie exudes bad behaviour and foul language. He's a sad pathetic loser, and Billy Bob Thornton is

**"The film is full of swearing, a small amount of nudity, lots of suggestive sexual acts and violence..."**

excellent in this role. He looks malnourished – the smallest, dirtiest Santa Claus ever seen. His hound dog looks emanate how unhappy

he is with life. Thornton shows yet another example of his versatility in this film, along with his previous roles as Jacob Mitchell in *A Simple Plan* or Hank Grotowski in *Monster's Ball*.

The Kid is an oddball. Willie and The Kid make the mildest connection at first, which grows slightly throughout the film. It is unlike any other predictable "bad man turns good" film in this way, because even though Willie learns to care for The Kid, he is still a rude, crude drunk and a bad man.

Not one character in this film is an average Joe or normal in any way, including the Jewish barmaid with a Santa fetish. This film has the most unusual and out of the ordinary plot, which gives it originality and is one reason above all to like the movie.

The Kid's incongruity is the key to producing comic value here. That is why this movie will offend. Most of the jokes are targeted at the strange, overly large child. In a way, it just doesn't seem right to laugh at it, or at Willie's pathetic existence.

Tony Cox steals the show though as the devilish vulgar midget, with comical white elf ears.

The film is full of swearing, a small amount of nudity, lots of suggestive sexual acts and violence. Beating up

a young boy is one of Willie's wildest moments.

That said, I couldn't help but laugh. This film was harsh but hilarious, the script was comedy. I would watch it again.



Does Willie like children?

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

FILM

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Can you hold a Grudge against this?

It never forgives. It never forgets

## The Grudge

Director: Takashi Shimizu  
Starring: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Jason Behr, Bill Pullman  
Length: 92 minutes  
Certificate: 15  
★★★★☆

Spine-chilling horror, teeth-grinding suspense and a dash of gore. This and plenty more is what you'll get from watching *The Grudge*, the new thriller brought to you by Sam Raimi, which had me cowering in my seat for the whole of its duration.

Just so that you get an idea, this film is very much in line with the other displays of modern Japanese horror, as seen in *Dark Water* or

*Ringu* and the series of American remakes of foreign cult classics such as *The Ring* or *Vanilla Sky*. It seems like Hollywood has seen potential in the foreign film markets and is interested in getting a good slice of the benefits by remaking films that have proved popular in their country of origin. The basic formula seems to be to select a good film, throw some money at it, cast a hot Hollywood lead (in this case read Sarah Michelle Gellar) and shove it right back on the market. The result is usually a good film and significant revenue.

*The Grudge* tells the story of Karen Davis (Sarah Michelle Gellar), an American student working at a care centre in Tokyo. She seems happy,

has a job in a care centre, a nice boyfriend and speaks great Japanese. Of course this isn't going to scare anyone, so the writer decides to spice things up and sends her off to care for a mysterious old lady that spends all day in a daze. Unluckily for Karen, the lady's house turns out to harbour a terrible curse.

You see, legend has it that when someone dies in the grip of a powerful rage, a curse is born that gathers in the place of death and those who encounter it will be consumed by its fury. Bad news for Karen, but good

**"Legend has it that when someone dies in the grip of rage, a curse is born..."**

news for horror movie buffs and anyone who fancies a fright.

Seriously, mark my words, this film is scary. I consider myself to be a pretty brave kinda guy, but this movie actually made people scream in the theatre on several occasions. May I also add: never has the sound of a burp been so terrifying.

This won't be winning any awards in a hurry, though. Even though the original idea is solid, the story development is a bit poor. The main problem is the lack of character development. The story unfolds as a mixture of scenes and flashbacks corresponding to different points within the timeline, resulting in a series of characters that get intro-



"Tastes like chicken..."

duced and killed off within minutes. This, added to some unconvincing acting, renders it quite difficult for the audience to establish a solid bond with any of the characters.

*The Grudge* is also slightly repetitive and you'll find yourself guessing what is coming next. However, this is probably what makes the atmosphere so terrifying throughout the film: the fear of what's coming. The movie is all about psychological horror and you'll find yourself completely absorbed each time someone goes up the winding staircase or walks down the claustrophobic hallway. The director has elevated the art of 'scaring the hell out of you' to a whole new level.

Then again, he has made the film enough times to get the balance right. *The Grudge* is not just an

American remake of a Japanese hit film. Shimizu had previously written and directed *Ju-on: The Grudge* in Japan as a remake of a couple of straight-to-video releases based on the same concept. The videos were, in turn, inspired by a short original film, released back in 1998. A total of five films all based on the same original idea have granted the director complete control over your bowels. Each noise, each camera angle, each sudden volume rise is perfectly timed and will have you looking over your shoulder on the lonely walk home.

So if you're looking for a scary movie that will get your new girlfriend to cling on to you for protection, beware: you may find you're not that brave either.

Ignacio Quinones



"Right. Who farted?!"

# Books

## The ultimate sacrifice

To coincide with Armistice Day 2004, **Oliver Finn** tells us about the war novel that you *must* read

### All Quiet on the Western Front

Erich Maria Remarque  
★★★★★

Thursday 11 November is Armistice Day 2004. On this day in 1918, the 'war to end all wars' finally came to an end; the guns which for over four years had pounded the soldiers of both sides finally fell silent. Associated with this date is the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal, inspired by the vast fields of poppies that grow on the battlefields of Europe. Armistice Day is not just about giving to charity; it is a memorial to those who have lost their lives in service of their country.

War is a terrible thing. Today's media goes to great length to display the dozens or hundreds of casualties occurring in current conflicts around the world. In the First World War, the casualties were not

dozens, hundreds or even thousands, but millions of men, some only boys, of various nationalities lying across the battle lines through France, Belgium and the Netherlands. The sheer scale of slaughter occurring at battles such as Paschendale, The Somme and Ypres is hard to comprehend. What those few living veterans parading past the Cenotaph in London this weekend went through just cannot be fully understood by someone who was not there.

In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, the author endeavours to give readers some idea of what these men went through. It is not a book of action, adventure and heroics. It is not a Hollywood tale of drama and flag waving. The book tells the story of a group of friends who leave their school after a patriotic speech by their teacher to sign on in the German army. It follows one of the boys from his initial training through to his experiences in the

THE GREATEST WAR NOVEL OF ALL TIME  
ERICH MARIA REMARQUE

## All Quiet on the Western Front



On the threshold of life, they faced an abyss of death....

trenches; and in disturbing detail describes the carnage and the

death of the front lines in World War One. The book is quite simply the most moving that I have ever read – at several points it brought tears to my eyes.

In one scene, the soldier is pinned down in a shell crater in no man's land with an enemy soldier whom he has just bayoneted. Unable to move on, the main character can only watch the man in front of him die slowly.

The power of the story lies in the way you can easily see why the character feels how he does. Because of the way the story is told, it makes you put yourself in the place of the unknown soldier and causes you to think how you would react and feel in the same situation.

*All Quiet on the Western Front* was first published in 1929 and seen as one of the most compelling anti-war arguments ever written. Shortly after its publication, the book was made into a film. After reading it, you can see some

small measure of what happened on those bloody fields so long ago. The haunting notes of the last post played at memorials around the world will for me, and probably any reader of this book, never be the same again.

Everyone *should* read this book.

**"... like Saving Private Ryan, but with ten times the realism"**

It promotes respect for those who have fallen, understanding for other servicemen and women, and provides a wakeup call to those of us who still think that war is 'fun' and whose perceptions come from glorified Hollywood propaganda. The book is like *Saving Private Ryan*, but with ten times the realism.

# Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Coffee Break is back, yet again. Send your answers and team names in to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**. There's a big prize at the end of it for the team who gives us lots of right answers. So you may as well enter, got it? Good, let's get cracking...

## Cryptic corner

### No. 2: RSA Magna

The Cryptic Cat invites you to try something a little easier and more entertaining this week. You'll be performing the RSA Magna on these phrases below, in particular the singular, a *ragman*, rearrangement. All the answers should be of a kind.

I'm Tory plan B

I'm an evil Tory Bigot

A Charm tart, get her!

He grew bogus



## Goonies never say die!

I don't think we're being too controversial here by saying *The Goonies* rocked in a way that only mid-eighties films can. It was an essential part of growing up for people of a certain age, and if you haven't watched it, trust us here, you're really really missing out. For no particular reason, we're doing a little Goonies quote quiz this week. All you have to do is work out who said the following.

Mouth: Is this supposed to be water?

?: It's wet, ain't it? Drink it!

?: Lookit! I got an idea. Why don't we just put chocolate all over the floor and let Chunk eat his way through?

?: I'm gonna hit you so hard that when you wake up your clothes will be out of style!

Chunk: Listen, okay? You guys'll never believe me. There was two cop cars, okay? And they were chasing this four-wheel deal, this real neat ORV, and there were bullets flying all over the place. It was the most amazing thing I ever saw!

?: More amazing than the time Michael Jackson came over to your house to use the bathroom?

Francis Fratelli: Tell us everything! Everything!

?: Everything. OK! I'll talk! In third grade, I cheated on my history exam. In fourth grade, I stole my uncle Max's toupee and I glued it on my face when I was Moses in my

Hebrew School play. In fifth grade, I knocked my sister Edie down the stairs and I blamed it on the dog... When my mom sent me to the summer camp for fat kids and then they served lunch I got nuts and I pigged out and they kicked me out... But the worst thing I ever done... I mixed a pot of fake puke at home and then I went to this movie theater, hid the puke in my jacket, climbed up to the balcony and then, t-t-then, I made a noise like this: hua-hua-hua-huaaaaaaa, and then I dumped it over the side, all over the people in the audience. And then, this was horrible, all the people started getting sick and throwing up all over each other. I never felt so bad in my entire life!

?: Holy S-H-I-T!



Brandon

Data

Mikey

Sloth

Mouth

Mama Fratelli

Chunk

## The Blair Film Project

After last weeks attack of George 'Dubya' Bush, we here at Coffee Break agreed that the only way forward was to humiliate his 'closest ally', Tony Blair.

Once again, we have used our skills and world renowned contacts to uncover Tony's secret career as a Z-list celebrity (I can see a pattern emerging here!), before he embarked on his life in politics.

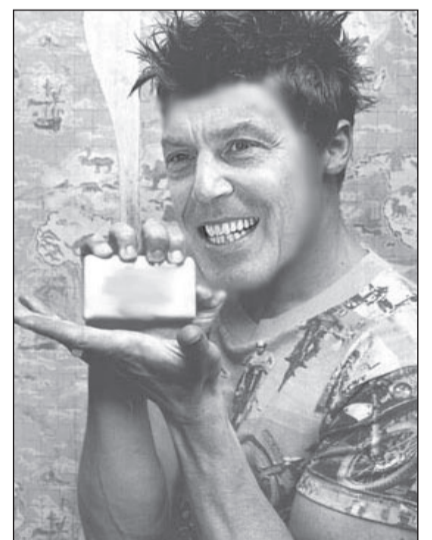
I think you'll agree that his portfolio is impressive, but we need you to tell us who eventually starred in these roles and in which films?



1



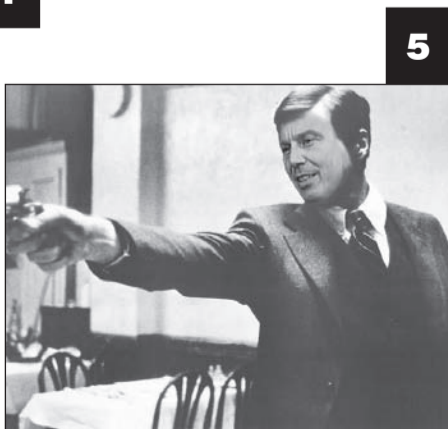
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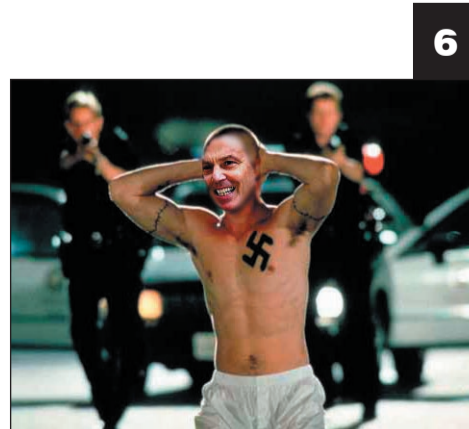
3



4



5



6



7



COFFEE BREAK

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Dead or alive?

In today's celebrity-obsessed world, the life span of a Z-lister is just a matter of months. Of course, there was a time when celebrities would hang around for ages, getting fat and old and eventually passing on to the great sitcom in the sky. However, some of them choose to hang around, just getting fat and old and older. All you have to do is work out which of these 'stars' are still around today.



The hilarious Graham Chapman was a major part of Monty Python's Flying Circus. But where is he now?



George Wendt played Norm in Cheers, and his character still graces our screens today. He doesn't look too healthy in this picture, so is he dead or alive?



The lovely looking Anne Haddy, better known as Helen Daniels from Neighbours. Is she enjoying retirement in Oz or has she popped her clogs for good?



What a legend. Slacker, smoker, drinker, Greengrass was the dog's bollocks in Heartbeat. Is he still smiling today? Dead or alive?



Ahh do you all remember Lassie? Well she was a fit and healthy dog back then, but how is she doing now? Is she dead or alive?



Uncle Albert was old in Only Fools and Horses. He died in the show, but how about real life? Was that just for retirement or did something else happen? Dead or alive?



No need for me to give this man any introduction, you all know who he is. So tell us if this Bond has died from his crazy lifestyle of too many women and too many Martinis.



Julie Kemp, or Julie Goodyear MBE as she should be known, is looking very alive in this picture, but make-up is always a good disguise. Dead or alive?

FUCWITS

Look, we'd better be honest with you, we're not getting enough entries to make an even halfway respectable looking FUCWIT League. You guys should enter! It's not like it's difficult is it? Our very bare looking league is somebody's for the taking. Just think, your name could be printed here and you could win our prizes, just for the hassle of emailing some answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Okay enough begging, we're starting to sound desperate. This week we have four things for you to do:

**Cryptic Corner:** There's three points for each clue deciphered, but if you get one, you should be able to get the rest

**Goonies Never Say Die:** There's two points for each correctly identified quote

**The Blair Film Project:** There's two points for each picture – one for the film, and one for the character that Blair is replacing.

**Dead or Alive:** Tell us if the celebrity in the picture is dead or alive, and you'll get two points for each correct answer.

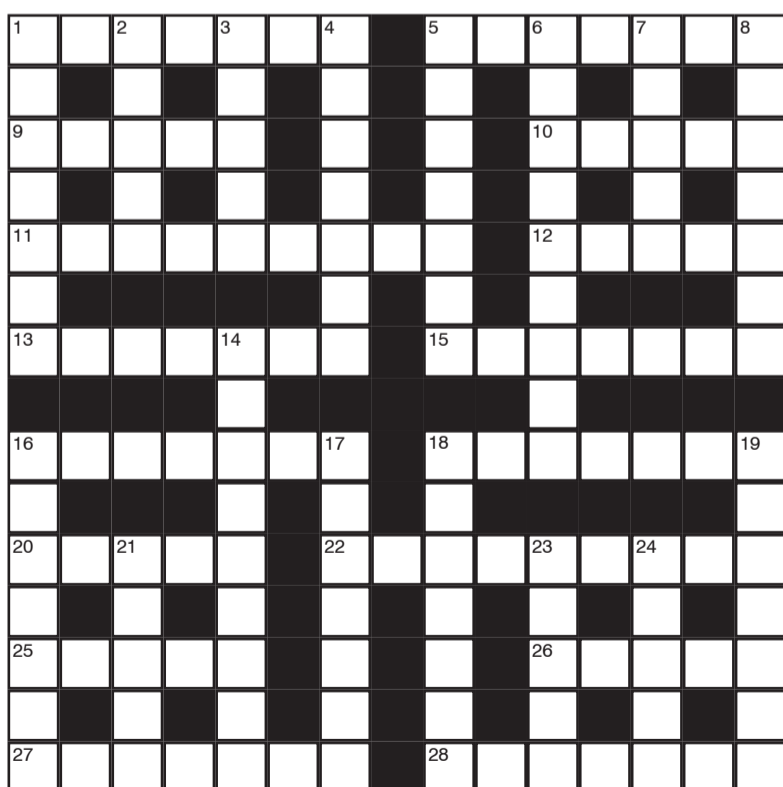
FUCWIT LEAGUE  
2004-5

Management Slackers	21 points
The B Team	11 points
See you next time	11 points
Team Win	8 points

Send in your entries to  
coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Felix Crossword 1305

by Fishface

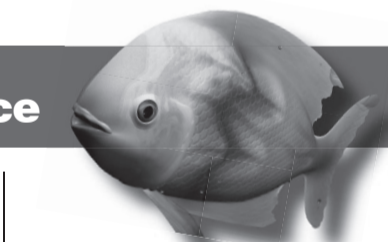


Across

- In sermons, terrible beast (7)
- Non-permanent worker queens frames of mind (7)
- South Easterners drink fluid (5)
- For locating objects in tundra darkness (5)
- East African citizen hit English piano curiously (9)
- Enlist two points and turn without fifty (5)
- Beautiful German and one American in tirade (7)
- Dear Sir mutilated the attackers (7)
- Stir wet stormy tornado (7)
- Grind, ie. grain, an African state (7)
- One gram toilet house (5)
- Butchered 17 without rivers precedes track back specialist (9)
- Greek letter publication in reverse, endless publication (5)
- Lift up and destroy completely, we're told (5)
- Apparatus to produce energy about thespian (7)
- Breathe about steeple (7)

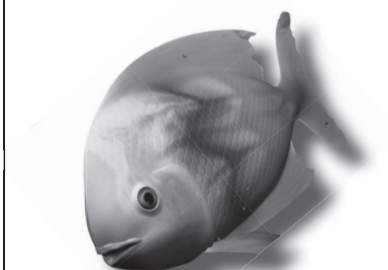
Down

- Church service in front of incomplete European muscle manipulator (7)
- Prickly thorn gives direction (5)
- Speed within totem pole (5)
- Cloud of anger in cluttered mistake (3,4)
- Rough terrain shoe (7)
- Killing eccentrically erring mud (9)
- Ancient tree (5)
- Unused Knight, we hear, add! (7)
- Spaceman is roast blasted before zero, we hear (9)
- Pooh's bouncy friend gets royal catch (7)
- Cock list holding ball (7)
- Crazier hard fruit layer (7)
- Cross the late sportsman (7)
- Cook 1000 meal making a mathematical statement (5)
- Man-eating giants king goes awkwardly (5)
- Genial ibis contains crime cover story (5)

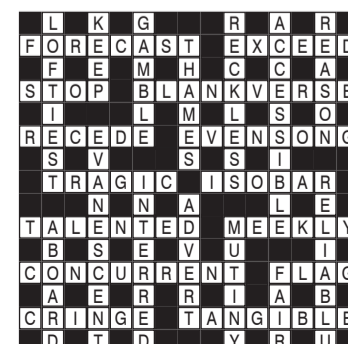


Apologies for the lack of anything interesting and witty here. It's 2am, and this fish has far too much to do...

Fishface



Issue 1304 solution



For a THIRD successive week, our crossword winner is Karen Osmond, Computing IV. Come on, the rest of you...! 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

# Imperial firsts too strong for Kent

## FOOTBALL

Sponsored by

**Deutsche Bank** 
**Imperial Men's 1st 2**  
**Kent Men's 1st 1**

By Tom Gray

The flagship team of Imperial Football Club sent a tough Kent side packing at Harlington on Wednesday afternoon.

Joe McMahon's first goal of the season put the boys in blue and black ahead, but Kent's number ten equalised after some lacklustre marking in the Imperial penalty area. The firsts saw this as a wake-up call, and Oli Wright

slotted home the winner to take three points and second spot in the table.

The first half was a physical affair, with Wright and Benji Marcos-Walker having to work hard against some strong Kent defenders. At the other end, Kent were finding it difficult to penetrate the back line of Woodcock, Farr, Mills and Gray, and when they did, 'keeper Vasquez was on top form in between the sticks. Imperial battled well and earned the right to play with McMahon and Berks looking tenacious in the centre of midfield.

Midway through the half, Kent's 'keeper pushed a low shot from Marcos-Walker around the post. Woodcock delivered the resulting corner and McMahon rose high-

est in a crowded box to head the firsts in front.

Minutes later, Marcos-Walker found Wright with a superb pass, but the captain fired wide. The pressure was building and Kent were glad to hear the half time whistle blow.

Imperial started the second half brightly; a couple of attacks nearly conjured up goals straight after the restart. They were playing entertaining football and got the ball out wide much more than in previous weeks. Gray and Ward were combining down the right with Sugito and Woodcock looking dangerous on the left.

It could have been 2-0 when a far post cross from the left was headed back across goal by McMahon, but Kent's

'keeper managed to get to it first.

Although Imperial came close, it was Kent who found the back of the net. After a rare spell of Kent possession, a cross came in from the left and the striker got to it first to head home the equaliser.

Kent noticeably grew in confidence after equalising, but Imperial worked hard to get back on top. Vasquez was playing brilliantly in the Imperial goal, fighting bravely to claim a dangerous looking Kent corner from the left. Imperial thought their chance to regain the lead had come when Wright was scythed down in the box, but appeals for a penalty were denied for the third time this season.

Wright, perhaps looking to

justify his massive fantasy football price tag, took advantage of a poor Kent throw-in deep in their half. He dispossessed the defender and slotted the ball past the 'keeper from a tight angle. An exuberant celebration followed, but the game was not yet won.

Substitutes Greedy and Torossian were then brought in and worked hard during the final moments of the game, but neither side could create a clear cut chance. The final whistle blew and Imperial took all three points, lifting them to second in the table.

This solid, convincing performance showed that Imperial are real title contenders in the tough BUSA league.

## Rugby boys' first loss

## RUGBY

Sponsored by


**Imperial Men's 1st 10**  
**Buckinghamshire 10**  
**Chilterns Men's 1st 18**

By Mike Hicks

Having not lost so far this season, the ICURFC First XV were confident of another victory. Sadly, Bucks Chilterns were in the same position!

The game started with some strong pressure from the Bucks pack in our 22, and we knew we were in for a hard fought forwards battle. To add to this, whenever we cleared the ball up field, a good opposition back three sent it straight back!

This led to Bucks spending most of the first half inside our half, but the strong Imperial defence conceded just six points via penalties.

At half time we knew we had to raise our game and play to our strengths, not theirs. Some good pressure lead to Bucks conceding a penalty on their 22, making it 6-3. Unfortunately, as we started to gain momentum, a clearance kick on our 5m line was charged down and Bucks scored under the posts, giving them a 13-3 lead.

The Bucks captain was sent for ten minutes off the field for interfering with the ball in the ruck, which had been happening all game. Unfortunately, we couldn't capitalise on this advantage. The frustration began to boil over in the Imperial ranks, culminating in Higgins being shown a straight red for stamping and facing a lengthy ban.

Down to 14 men, we battled on with the game still within our grasp. Good pressure lead to Bucks conceding a penalty, and a good kick put us on the opposition 5m line. From the lineout, a classic drive on the second jumper lead to captain Hicks going over for a try. This was converted by Spencer, and suddenly at 13-10 we were right back in it.

However, some miscommunication at a maul near our line lead to several opposition forwards breaking off. While the entire Imperial pack defended against the players without the ball, the ones with it ran over for a try, making it 18-10.

With the game now all but over, another yellow card was shown and Aung was sent to the sin bin for some unnecessary footwork in a ruck.

Next week we face Reading, knowing that victory is a must to stay in contention for promotion.

# A 'Herty' victory

## FOOTBALL

**Imperial Men's 3rd 3**  
**Hertfordshire Men's 3rd 2**

By John Scott

Many years ago, in a land far away, a wise man said: "a win is a win, a draw is a draw, just don't lose". This man subsequently died - people got pissed off with him stating the obvious and killed him.

It was with this tragic death imprinted on our young minds that we rode the 'Venga Bus' out to Hatfield, to do battle with the evil Hertfordshire Thirds. Our fellowship was slightly weakened by the loss of key players, such as Dom 'The Idiotic', a hardy dwarf from the land of the North, Jan 'The Fullback' and Adam 'The Facial Hair'.

However, our intrepid leader Shatters filled the gaping chasm by calling up Ben from the fifths and tinkering with the formation.

The match began with a minute's half-silence for the aforementioned murdered man.

The game started in a blustering fashion. Each side



The Imperial Thirds, before being replaced by scarecrows at the end of the match

traded insults until suddenly Imperial Thirds took a dramatic lead. Matty Orford unleashed a trademark 'big kick' from the back. Leon, who all game was at his twinkling best, allowed the ball to drop over his head and then nonchalantly volleyed it in to 'the Scott' who turned on a sixpence and released

Leon down the right. Leon hit the byline and cut back the cheekiest of cheeky cut-backs, which was dummied by the effervescent Perry before being dispatched into the far corner by a jubilant Scott.

The lead was short-lived - our normally rock solid rear was unceremoniously

breached by an insertion against the run of play. In short, the little lad who liked to ping it from the edge of the box caught one well and it eluded Matty and went in.

The defence were riled - unused to being scored against, they proceeded to play the games of their young lives. Shat-Ruso in the centre solidly repelled wave after wave of attack. Displaying a symbiosis that would make commensal bacteria blush with envy, Timmy and Tom at fullback were like angry beasts, letting nothing past and providing a good platform for forays forward.

Perry, ever the architect of mayhem, led his marker a merry dance on a looping dummy run. The ball broke kindly to Scott on the edge of the box, who turned like a roundabout and sent an unstoppable pea-roller past the floundering keeper. Two-one, game on.

After the restart, service resumed as normal, and John and Has picked up where they had left off, harrying and playing peachy killer balls. Another 'big kick' by Matty was charged on by Has, una-

fraid of competing with the keeper and the two lumbering centre halves. Scott hung back slightly, then stuck a toe into the mêlée, connected with the ball and crisply finished it.

At three-one up against the leaders of our BUSA group, I don't think that we could be reproached for becoming a little complacent. So much so, in fact, that Shatters decided to ring the changes. He thought that we should all go to the bar and leave rudimentary scarecrows in our places to see whether they could hold on to the lead. We said that this was madness, so he decided to swap Ben with Perry and leave him with ten scarecrow teammates.

The plan was a bold one and it nearly worked perfectly. Hertfordshire couldn't work out how to get past Ben and the scarecrows. They scored once in the dying minutes, a goal which I'm told Matty scarecrow could have done better with, however Ben did a good job. So it ended a very respectable three-two to the Imperial. Well done chaps, let's keep it going.

# Fourths held by Goldsmiths

## FOOTBALL

**Imperial Men's 4th 2**  
**Goldsmiths Men's 1st 2**

By Michael Nicholson

Theoretically this was the toughest game of the season so far for the Fourths. Goldsmiths are always a strong unit, and approached this game with added confidence after triumphing in the Cup last season.

It was, however, Imperial who started the match with greater vigour, with excellent

passing, movement and overall effort. Opportunities were being carved out from all areas of the pitch, but special credit goes to Demetris and Tony who caused all sorts of problems down the right. An Imperial goal seemed imminent, but Goldsmiths' experienced 'keeper had an excellent game, controlling his box well and making saves when needed.

Goldsmiths began to take hold of the midfield, and clawed themselves back into the match. A sustained period of pressure saw them

win a corner on the right, and despite clearing the initial cross, some neat passing from Goldsmiths saw their striker break clear and tuck a neat finish past Vanni. Imperial refused to buckle and pressed on, but the Goldsmiths' 'keeper's ominous good form kept the half time score one-nil.

The second half was still young when Imperial forced a corner on the right. Demetris produced a perfect cross, which was headed home like a bullet by Shwin continuing his excellent goal-scoring

form. It got worse for shell-shocked Goldsmiths when Dave 'the Hippy' looped a 'flower powered' shot from 25 yards out. The 'keeper was fooled, thinking it would go well over the bar, but it looped neatly over his head into the net, giving 'the Hippy' his first ever strike in an Imperial jersey and giving the Fourths the lead.

However, the game ended in a typical Fourth team fashion, with the opposition being gifted a scrappy goal. A cross from the right wasn't dealt with properly and their

speedy midfielder, somehow free in the middle of the box, kneeed the ball past Vanni.

Unlike previous games, Imperial were spurred on and really should have taken all three points. But Jai and Shwin both spurned decent chances and the Goldsmiths 'keeper made two absolutely blinding saves from Chris Parrot, excelling yet again on the left.

The final whistle denied the Fourths the win they deserved. It was, however, a performance they could be proud of.

**SPORT**

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Mojo recovered

**HOCKEY**

**Holloway Women's 1st 0  
Imperial Women's 1st 2**

By Cindy Drinnan

Another year, another grudge match against Royal Holloway. To be honest, it was about time we beat the jaibirds after letting them leave with three points on too many occasions in the past. And beat them we did, in convincing fashion.

We hit them hard from the push back and were camped in their 25 for the whole first half of the game. The score in fact could have been 10-0, but we thought it best to spare Royal Holloway any embarrassment and just pop in a cheeky two.

The first goal came from Chardonnay, as she followed up a great cross from DJ Flush. This was Chardonnay's debut goal for the firsts, and the whole team could not help but join in her elation. There was a definite few minutes of very girly jumping up and down and screaming before we decided to resume play.

Not long after, Moonie (man of the match) scored a second goal for Imperial. The pass came from Anticlimax, who used some nifty stick skills

to flick the ball past the opposition. These skills clearly wowed the keeper who then calculated that the only way to stop the impending goal would be to run into Moonie at full speed... but it didn't work, she still scored!

Although it is not reflected in the scoreline, Imperial continued to dominate in the second half. In fact, so much time was spent in the opposition's half of the pitch that Tyson had to work hard to keep our goalkeeper Spanner awake. Royal Holloway tried their best to taste a slice of the goal pie, but their efforts were to little avail. One player even attempted to take her frustration out on poor Womble. Fortunately, she's a hard nut and can take it.

As the final whistle declared we had achieved our first win of the season, the excitement could not be contained. People were crying and hugging each other all over the place... well, not quite, but we were very pleased!

Big thanks go to Spellcheck for taking on the big yellow fun bus and especially for stopping at McDonalds on the way home. Also to whoever brought the lovely strawberry cocktails... there was no better way to celebrate our glorious victory.

# Results

## WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER

**BADMINTON**

LSE Men's 2nd 1  
Imperial Men's 2nd 7

LSE Women's 1st 5  
Imperial Women's 1st 4

**BASKETBALL**

Imperial Men's 1st 71  
South Bank Men's 1st 64

**FENCING**

King's Men's 1st 74  
Imperial Men's 1st 135

**FOOTBALL**

Imperial Men's 1st 2  
Kent Men's 1st 1

Luton Men's 3rd 0  
Imperial Men's 2nd 2

Hertfordshire Men's 3rd 2  
Imperial Men's 3rd 3

GKT Men's 2nd 2  
Imperial Men's 4th 1

Imperial Men's 5th 4  
Royal School of Mines Men's 1st 0

**HOCKEY**

Canterbury CC Men's 1st 5  
Imperial Men's 1st 4

Brighton Men's 2nd 7  
Imperial Men's 2nd 1

Reading Men's 2nd 13  
Imperial Men's 3rd 0

Imperial Medicals Men's 3rd 9  
Imperial Men's 4th 0

Holloway Women's 1st 0  
Imperial Women's 1st 2

**NETBALL**

Imperial Women's 1st 40  
Westminster Women's 1st 33

St Mary's Women's 3rd 32  
Imperial Women's 2nd 15

**RUGBY**

Bucks Chilterns Men's 1st 18  
Imperial Men's 1st 10

Imperial Men's 2nd 17  
Brunel Men's 3rd 12

Canterbury CC Men's 2nd 17  
Imperial Men's 3rd 12

**SQUASH**

Imperial Men's 1st 1  
King's Men's 1st 4

Queen Mary Men's 1st 3  
Imperial Men's 2nd 0

UCL Women's 1st 2  
Imperial Women's 1st 3

**TENNIS**

Imperial Men's 1st 0  
UCL Men's 2nd 10

King's Women's 1st 0  
Imperial Women's 1st 10

**VOLLEYBALL**

Brunel Women's 1st 1  
Imperial Women's 1st 3

## SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER

**FOOTBALL**

Imperial Men's 1st 3  
St Bart's Men's 1st 0

UCL Men's 1st 4  
Imperial Men's 2nd 2

St George's Hosp Men's 1st 2  
Imperial Men's 3rd 1

Imperial Men's 4th 2  
Goldsmiths Men's 1st 2

Imperial Men's 5th 2  
King's Men's 4th 1

Queen Mary Men's 4th 1  
Imperial Men's 6th 1

Imperial Men's 7th 1  
Holloway Men's 6th 8

## SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

**SQUASH**

Imperial Men's 3rd 5  
Imperial Medicals Men's 1st 0

## MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER

**NETBALL**

Royal Free & Univ Coll Medical School Women's 2nd 15  
Imperial Women's 2nd 8

**SQUASH**

Imperial Men's 3rd 2  
UCL Men's 2nd 3



### Web Cast Assistant (Part-time evening position)

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# Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Imperial shoot at Cambridge

### SHOOTING

Cambridge Univ 957  
Imperial College 927

By Sam Dash

Last Saturday, Imperial College Rifle and Pistol Club set off with seven fine shooters for match against Cambridge University Rifle Club. It was a smallbore rifle match, shot indoors, at 25 yards with teams of five shooting two cards totalling 100 points each.

We met and set off from Kings Cross, and all managed to get on the right train despite someone not meeting us at the station! After about 45 minutes of misty countryside and much talking, we arrived in Cambridge.

The Cambridge range is in a really weird place, under a bridge, so weird that even the taxi driver didn't know it was there! When we arrived, we were treated to a small tour of their really large range. They have a huge club room with a pool table,

a large 11 point rifle range, and a separate air weapons range capable of holding around 15 people. It is no wonder with these facilities that this is the Rifle Club that not only won the BUSA Rifle Championship but also produced the last Queens Prize winner. To win the Queens Prize is considered to be the highest achievement in the rifle shooting world.

Admittedly we were the underdogs in this competition. Some of our best team

members could not make it (Tim decided that Clay Pigeon shooting was more appealing) and that meant that we had to use someone who had not shot a rifle in six months.

We also had two beginners with us. One of them, Fan, had shot only once before, but was willing to give it a try and did really well. We were also not using our own rifles, due to difficulties with transporting weapons. This meant that no-one was used to the rifles they shot with.

This gave the Cambridge shooters a great advantage, but they were all impressed by how well we did. Despite our disadvantages, we had a great shoot, and everyone really enjoyed it.

It is worth pointing out that the highest scorer from Cambridge achieved 195 and the rest of their team got scores above 189. The Imperial College team would usually get above this on a normal day, if not more. You will be pleased to know that we are intending to arrange

a return match, for them to come and shoot in London, and then we will be able to beat them on our home ground.

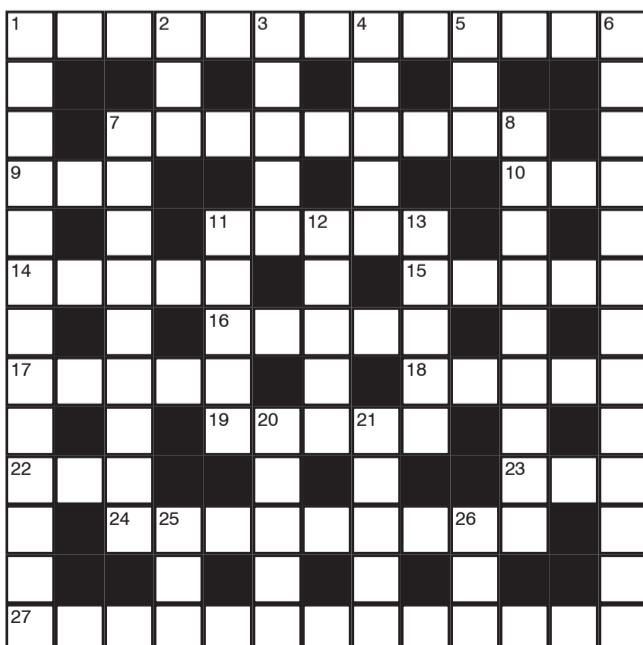
After the match Isao, Gary and Shan went back to London, while the rest of us enjoyed a formal dinner at Emmanuel College with the Cambridge team. After lots of wine, a few table football matches at the college bar and a random Greek party at Darwin College, we headed to bed. A fine day and evening was had by all.



Not a weapon in sight: shooters from Imperial College and Cambridge University together on matchday

## Quick Crossword

by Cactus



### Across

1. Helpful (13)
7. Metal bird (9)
9. Mischievous or evil spirit (3)
10. National Olympic Committee (1,1,1)
11. Golf course on the sea (5)
14. Thin pancake (5)
15. Smell (5)
16. Bleeper (5)
17. Innocent (5)
18. Replay of a programme (5)
19. Irritable (*colloq.*) (5)
22. Brink (of an event) (3)
23. Zero (3)
24. Animal to bet on (9)
27. Treatment for a stammer (6,7)

### Down

1. Obstetric test (13)
2. Single (3)
3. Native New Zealander (5)
4. Exterminator robot (5)
5. Base of the decimal system (3)
6. The study of the Earth's history with geology (13)
7. Hors d'oeuvre (9)
8. Relating to hormones (9)
11. Outcast (5)
12. Not day (5)
13. Apology (5)
20. First letter of Phoenician alphabet (5)
21. Faith; fidelity (5)
25. Primate (3)
26. Knight (3)



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 1304 solution

