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Felix



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The DeIvants

City and Guilds on Show

By John Collins and Henri Ozarovsky

Students from the City and Guilds College Union took part in London's annual Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday, designing and building a float and then accompanying it in the traditional procession.

The Lord Mayor's Show is one of London's great spectacles. Historically, it marks the day when the Guilds of London celebrate their prosperity and the Lord Mayor parades in a flamboyant gold carriage through the heart of London's City district. Nowadays it is just as colourful and frenetic, and includes bands, floats, processions, military parades, a fair in Paternoster Square and fireworks on the River Thames.

The procession dates back almost 800 years and has marched through the Black Death (1347) and the Blitz (1945). The Lord Mayor travels from his offices at Mansion House to the Queen's Bench to pledge his allegiance to the Crown, just as Dick Whittington did for the first time in 1397.

The City and Guilds College Union (CGCU), the Faculty Union representing Imperial College's 4000 engineers, has participated in the show over several decades. The pressure is always on each new generation of Guildsmen to live up to past expectations.

This year's Lord Mayor's Show experience was a bumpy ride from start to finish for CGCU, with confusion over paperwork, float design and sponsorship nearly resulting in their withdrawal from the show. However, thanks to generous support from Smith & Nephew and Fullers, and diplomatic background negotiations, preparations were allowed to resume.

The statistics for this year's show are staggering: 6000 participants marched along three and a half miles of the historic route through the



Past and present students from the City and Guilds College Union accompany their float through the City of London as part of this year's Lord Mayor's Show

streets of London. Over 70 weird and wonderful floats, 250 vehicles and 235 horses saluted the Lord Mayor, the great and the good of the City, tens of thousands of spectators, and close to three million television viewers.

Chris McIver, CGCU Lord Mayor's Show Coordinator, told *Felix*: "It was a wonderful day with a great atmosphere... the turnout was a huge improvement on previous years, and in a change to CGCU tradition the float was

more or less finished with a whole hour to spare."

The design and assembly of the float was, according to Mr McIver, "a bit of a challenge". As a great deal of sponsorship came from a bioengineering company and the

"The Lord Mayor's show is one of London's great spectacles..."

bioengineering department, it was decided at an early stage that the design should draw on influences from advances made in the bioengineering research industry. A giant MRI scanner, three large paper maché bones and an oversized wooden heart were crafted and displayed to the world, along with 'Boanerges', CGCU's prize veteran vehicle mascot.

Steam tractors, tanks, an enormous turkey, belly dancers, Bananaman and

Guildsmen all added to the plethora of colour, heritage and vibrancy that made this show so special. City and Guilds traditions were carried out throughout the day, notably by Chris Jackson who bravely carried Spanner, the 64lb CGCU mascot, on his shoulder for the entire length of the procession.

It was pleasing to see so many students, past and present, participate in the procession, and to see new faces involved as well.

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Felix

Issue 1306

Editor

Dave Edwards

Business Editor

Numaan Chaudhry

Science Editor

Darius Nikbin

Music Editor

Andrew Sykes

Nightlife Editor

Simon Clark

Arts Editor

Paola Smith

Books Editor

Martin Smith

Film Editor

Alan Ng

Careers Editors

**Cassandra Aldrich
Gabriella Silvestri**

Felix

Beit Quad

Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BB

Telephone: 020 7594 8072

Email: felix@ic.ac.uk

Web: www.felixonline.co.uk

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NEWS

Hepatitis C at epidemic levels among young drug users

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Researchers at Imperial College have found that levels of hepatitis C among young injecting drug users across London are dangerously high.

The sample consisted of 428 injecting drug users aged 30 or younger. 42% of those who tested negative at the beginning of the study became infected with hepatitis C within the first year, while 3.4% became infected with HIV.

Dr Ali Judd, who is based at Charing Cross Hospital and is one of the authors of the study, said: "Hepatitis C is now spreading at epidemic levels across London and HIV incidence is worryingly high... There is an urgent need for new and comprehensive programmes to tackle this growing problem."

The hepatitis C virus can cause serious liver damage, and is mainly spread by sharing needles and syringes.

Factors that may have influenced the rise in hepatitis and HIV infection include a rise in the number of injectors, riskier injecting behaviour, no increase in the numbers of syringes distributed, and a lack of targeted health campaigns, according to the researchers.

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

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Internship Fair

Your Career ...

Date : Wed 24th November

Time : 11am – 4pm

Place : Tanaka & Mech Eng

... Your Future



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College Union

The
Internship
Centre

Justice, Johnson and gypsies

Reading the newspapers so you don't have to: **Emily Gwyer** looks at some of the week's biggest national news stories

There really hasn't been one overriding story this week, like the American election last time, so the newspapers have been free to jump on their old hobby horses and report the subjects that they care about most.

That is: immigration and gypsies' camping sites for *The Daily Mail*, the incursion into Falluja for *The Guardian*, *The Independent* and *The Times*, Becks' possible retirement for the tabloids, and Boris Johnson for nearly everyone. So what were they all saying?

The battle of Falluja was obviously one of the most important news stories of recent times in Iraq. The city, which has been a centre for insurgents, was attacked by the American and Black Watch troops before a house-to-house search was per-

formed. Almost all the town's inhabitants had fled to refugee camps and the city was nearly destroyed.

While American troops began cleaning up and rebuilding – desperate that the people didn't return to see bodies in the road and their houses torn down – their behaviour was under scrutiny. The Red Crescent, an Iraqi aid agency, complained that they had been stopped from bringing supplies into the city by the troops, who wish to run the aid themselves. Even more seriously, television footage of a marine shooting, at close range, an unarmed and apparently helpless Iraqi fighter was aired. The soldier was immediately removed from duty while an investigation was carried out.

Some of the best articles

about Falluja come from *The Times*, which has an extremely good reporter 'embedded' with the marines. While he reported tactics and the mood among the troops, the anti-war *Guardian* focused on the news that the Iraqi elections may not take place in January as planned, due to the insurgency.

This would be seriously bad news for Tony Blair, especially if it dragged on into his campaigning time for our general election in May, suggesting as it does that there is no order in Iraq and the coalition have not really 'won' anything yet. It is bad news too for President Bush – the later the elections are, the longer he has to pay for everything.

Nearly all the newspapers were engrossed in the news that Boris Johnson was sacked



Sacked: Boris Johnson

as Tory arts spokesman for having an affair with a journalist on *The Spectator* (which he edits) and then allegedly lying to his leader Michael Howard about it. Surprisingly, most of the papers argued that there was really no need for him to go, especially as Mr Howard was himself cited in divorce proceedings after 'winning' his wife away from her then husband.

The Guardian pointed out

that politics is the last profession in which it is possible to be sacked for adultery, suggesting it is bizarre to think that we the public suggest high moral standards of MPs when we believe they are always lying and cheating anyway. *The Mail* disagreed, saying that cabinet or shadow cabinet ministers should set an example of honesty and integrity. They may have a point in that the Tories are desperate to cut out the sleaze allegations that dogged them throughout the nineties, although this seems to be going a bit far.

Johnson has denied lying about the affair, and is predicted by all to have a quick return to politics. Some pundits suggested that the reason for his departure was that senior Tories are jealous of

his media success; others that Boris is in fact being cunning and getting out now so that after the general election he can appear as a 'new broom' not associated with Mr Howard's time as leader, ready to start his own leadership challenge.

Meanwhile, *The Mail* was not, for once, talking about asylum seekers. It had moved its radar to focus on the new 'threat' to our way of life, gypsies. It greeted with horror the news that the Government is suggesting that local councils increase the number of sites available for parking for travellers. None of the other newspapers really picked up on this story so I suspect this may well turn into another Campaign where only *The Mail* can save us. Watch this space!

Business

business.felix@ic.ac.uk

Latest from the Square Mile

Consumer confidence soars as lawbreakers are fined and competition increases.

Numaan Chaudhry explains

With the excitement and uncertainty of the US elections out of the way, life in the financial world returns to normal, with more investigations and complaints and yet more competition for clients in the Asian markets.

The next scandal

Pessimism about the state of the oil industry continues to grow after Shell's misvaluation of its oil reserves earlier this year.

Jeroen van der Veer, the new chief executive of Royal Dutch/Shell, is especially concerned about other large oil drilling and distribution firms that have not yet undergone the sort of tough regulation that forced Shell to reduce its oil reserve estimates by 40% to 20%. BP claims 80% proved assets but if the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) were to investigate this, van der Veer is smugly confident that the figure would need to be re-adjusted. In fact, if all the major oil companies agree to an external audit, rather than trying to dodge the inevitable forced investigation, an industry-wide scandal could be avoided.

Spitzer strikes (again!)

Share prices of three major insurers fell by an average of 4% as Eliot Spitzer, the New York attorney general, broadened his investigation into MetLife, UnumProvident and Prudential Financial.

As investigations continue into Marsh's practices, fresh accusations of insurers pay-

ing illegal commissions to brokers in exchange for corporate business arise. Arguably the largest insurer in the UK, Lloyds TSB has urged insurers that use Lloyds to ensure that procedures are in place to prevent anti-competitive practices.

Furthermore, as a sign of the far-reaching effects of Spitzer's probe into this industry, Zurich Financial suspended many of its staff as it carried out internal audits on affairs related to Marsh & McLenna.

HSBC v Citigroup

HSBC officials in Korea are hoping to increase their market share in Asia by acquiring a 50% stake of Korea First Bank, thus putting HSBC in direct competition with Citigroup, the majority stakeholder of KorAm bank.

If successful, both banks will be competing for retail banking and credit services to small- and mid-cap firms. The 50% stake that HSBC hopes to acquire by 2005 is currently held by Newbridge Capital, the US investment fund, who intend to release it for \$3bn.

The current negotiations are remarkably similar to those in 1999, when HSBC Holdings Ltd sought to purchase Korea First as whole, but was unwilling to transfer the amount the Korean government demanded. Now, though, HSBC has resumed its interest and it seems the explosive growth of the Asian markets is the driving force behind such an acquisition. Korean First Bank announced third-quarter net profits of \$30bn, a jump of 76% from 2003.

Credit card ruling

A high court ruled last week that purchases made abroad on credit cards would not be protected under the Consumer Credit Card Act of 1974.

The act, which allows consumers to claim compensation for transactions under £30,000 if their contract is not honoured, item is wrongly described or does not arrive, will no longer be applicable outside the UK. The beauty of this act, and the credit card suppliers' detestation of it, is that the cardholder can claim compensation directly from the card issuer rather than the firm itself. This led UK credit card providers to report spiralling liability costs overseas and resulted in last

week's victory against the Office of Fair Trading, who will now appeal against the ruling.

The case, brought to the court by Tesco Finance, Amex and Lloyds TSB, however, had the purpose of removing final resting liability with card issuers in order to prevent mounting losses, especially with regards to online transactions, which also form a part of this case. At the moment, the main dilemma for firms is to protect customers from high risk, high value products bought from un reputable sources overseas while also trying to lower costs and hence customer charges.

Last week's judgement means that consumer protection is at the discretion of the firm and depends on its goodwill towards consumers, both of which will be left unchanged by the ruling by at least two banks, HSBC and the Bank of Scotland.

Evolution goes extremist on short selling

Evolution Securities, formerly Evolution Beeson Gregory, was last week fined £500,000 for extrapolating its strategy of short-selling, a method used by brokers to issue shares in advance of owning them.

Although this is perfectly legal, one broker at Evolution took it to such an extreme that she sold two and a half times the total share issue capital. The FSA came down on Evolution after several investors' complaints of not receiving shares and for the first time in the UK fined a firm for 'market distortion', a form of market abuse.

The most significant consequence of this regulatory advance by the FSA is that individual investors are now more protected in this sector, thus balancing the depreciation in protection from overseas purchases!

Irate Irish

The Consumer's Association (CA) has announced a 'super complaint' after realising that, year after year, the Irish banks are consistently overcharging their customers in comparison to their UK counterparts.

Although consumer education, including knowing where to look and to shop around, is partly to blame for the superfluous charges, the primary reason is simply that the top four Northern Ireland



Credit card caution: purchases made abroad will no longer be protected under the Consumer Credit Card Act 1974



Korean First Bank in Asia: HSBC hopes to acquire a majority shareholding to up its stake in the Asian retail and medium size enterprise business

(NI) banks are placing their charges within three pence of each other. The banks, who own amongst them 80% of the total market share, have no extra costs or significant overheads that force them to

have such charges and are abusing their position in NI. For instance, a two week overdraft for £500 would cost £29 in the UK and £189 in NI, and cashing a cheque is free in the UK and at least 42p

in NI. This has frustrated the CA who can now expect a decision by the Office of Fair Trading within two weeks due to the enhanced 'super complaint' nature of the reporting.

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Ethnic drugs: sensible treatment or racist ideology?

As scientists in the US plan to market a new 'ethnic drug' for African-Americans, **Rosie Taylor** considers whether science is in danger of reinforcing social barriers.

A new drug, BiDil, is expected to be launched onto US markets next year, when it will be prescribable for African-Americans only.

Results from clinical trials of the drug to treat heart failure in African-Americans have shown that survival rates increased by 43% when the new drug was used in addition to the conventional treatment. The 18 month multi-centred RCT, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* last week, which enrolled 1050 African-American patients with heart failure, was stopped early because the results were so compelling. Previous trials of the drug using a mixed population sample showed disappointing results.

The research has sparked controversy, not because of the impressive efficacy of the treatment, but due to concerns that the researchers have oversimplified the concept of 'race' without a real understanding of the genetic basis for the medicine. There is a consensus among leading scientists that 'race' is a weak substitute for the various genetic and non-genetic factors that influence health status.

It has been accepted for some time that certain eth-

nic groups are more prone to some diseases than others. Heart failure, or end-stage cardiovascular disease, affects around five million Americans, but African-Americans suffer disproportionately; they are affected by heart failure at a greater rate than that of the non-African-American population, and they present with and die from the disease at an earlier age.

"The research has sparked controversy... due to concerns that the researchers have oversimplified the concept of 'race'"

The increased efficacy of BiDil in African-Americans is thought to result from genetic differences in the processing of nitric oxide in the body, low blood levels of which contribute to heart disease. However, geneticists argue that the manufacturers of BiDil have neither carried out pharmacogenetic evaluation, needed to determine if genetic factors explain the drug's enhanced effectiveness in African-Americans, nor have they properly excluded the influence of subtle environ-



Are ethno-centric drugs the wave of the future or just an example of bad science?

mental factors.

Instead, BiDil is being marketed as a drug to suit an entire 'race.' However, African-Americans do not share a common ancestry and are genetically far more nuanced and variable than is reflected in just skin colouration. Genetic variation among different populations is a continuum, rather than discrete, nonoverlapping entities and there is therefore "likely to be huge variation in how African Americans will respond to the

drug" says leading geneticist Professor David Goldstein from University College London.

BiDil may be a little premature but the Human Genome Project, once completed, could define a concept of race that is scientifically credible and useful. With more data, a better understanding of individual genetic variation could be achieved and the resulting knowledge could be important in helping to illuminate the race issue. Geneticists

feel that information from the human genome project could eventually be used to assist doctors in streamlining the search for the right diagnosis for a set of symptoms, and then allow the use of drugs tailored to a particular patient group.

However, concerns have been voiced regarding the possibility of research into genetic variation impacting negatively on society. There are worries that data showing genetic variation between

groups could be oversimplified and used by racists as 'evidence' for the superiority of a particular group of people.

Others have voiced concerns that poorer populations could be neglected in drug development, whereby companies developing drugs for specific ethnic groups create "orphan genotypes" – genetic groups not large or profitable enough to conduct work on. Advances in understanding the genetics of richer populations could then lead to an exacerbation of disparities in the quality of health care among different racial or ethnic groups.

A potential solution has been employed in the USA, where regulation ensures that minority groups, that have been traditionally under-represented in clinical and biomedical studies, are oversampled in any government funded genetic research, so that significant results can be recorded. However, such regulations do not exist in Europe.

It is likely that advances in genomic medicine will exacerbate health disparities unless explicit efforts are made to ensure that future research and treatments are inclusive.

Angry seagulls, Proposition 71, Columbo



DARIUS NIKBIN
SCIENCE EDITOR

The news this week: man sacked because he was too fat to get through the security turnstiles at work. Student injured as seagull tries to steal her sandwich. And finally, German woman caused £15,000 of damage when she tried to eat a bowl of muesli while driving her car.

Bush's election victory was a few weeks ago now, but it was just as absurd as any of the stories mentioned above. Its effects are already becoming apparent, especially within the scientific community.

Scientists wanted Kerry to win. Not only was the

Democratic candidate in favour of all-out stem cell research, but he was also more in tune with scientists when it came to other issues such as environmental policy and science funding. Kerry was the candidate for science (see *Felix* 1300).

So what are scientists planning to do in the aftermath of such a disastrous turn of events?

Californians have just passed Proposition 71, a \$3 billion funding measure that will put the state at the forefront of stem cell research. It won 59% of the vote and was shown to be popular across all ages, races and incomes, according to an exit poll conducted for the Associated Press.

This vote could possibly mean a 'gold rush' of scientists from across America and the world to the Golden State. To stem this flow, other enlightened states such as New Jersey, Massachusetts and New York should be quick to raise money for state-led research.

So not only has Bush polar-



Vicious: a troop of seagulls attacking a one-armed man

ised his country and the world with his medieval foreign policy, he has now polarised science within the United States. This polarisation is perhaps a symptom of the cultural undercurrent, the struggle between the forces of enlightenment and dogmatic religion.

This week in Science, we have a feature article on the benefits and increasing popularity of alternative medicines. Anushri Patel looks at natural therapy and describes how her brother success-

fully treated a verruca with banana peel. We also have a story about 'ethnic drugs', another controversial story to emerge from the USA, where scientists are targeting drugs at ethnic groups. Rosie Taylor, who happens to be our resident dietician, will be placing this issue under the spotlight.

Also did you know that Lt Columbo's character was based on that of Porfiry Petrovich in Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*? What a quality piece of trivia.

YOUR SCIENCE VIEWS tell Felix what you think

In the title to the article on MRSA (last week)... it said that hospitals are 'deathtraps for the sick'. This is a massive injustice to the thousands of people that work in Britain's hospitals... and is typical of the media's coverage.

Matt, Civ Eng 3

I appreciate your concerns about the comment made last week. The use of exaggeration was necessary to highlight a situation that should be at the forefront of everyone's attention. By and large, hospitals are doing a great job, but MRSA is an issue we cannot afford to completely ignore.

Darius Nikbin, Science Editor

Any opinions about science?

Email science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Citigroup Day on Campus.

Want to find out what Investment Banking is all about?

Citigroup invites **penultimate year** students from all disciplines to participate in the Imperial Day on Campus on **30th November 2004** in the **Rembrandt Hotel**.

Citigroup Day on Campus is designed to give you the opportunity to learn more about our 2005 Summer Internships and the daily activities across our business areas, within our Corporate and Investment Banking Group.

Detailed below is the timetable of the day: (please note you can come along for one or all of the sessions. However some will be running simultaneously)

Time: Event:

10.30 – 12:00	Skills session. <i>CV/Online application workshop & Interviewing and Assessment centres.</i>
13:00 – 15:00	Global Transaction Services Case Study OR Capital Markets Case Study.
15:30 – 17:30	Trading Game OR Investment Banking M&A Case Study.
18.00 – 20.30	Networking Event and Drinks Reception.

To sign up for the Citigroup Day on Campus, please e-mail campus.queries@citigroup.com stating Imperial Day on Campus in the subject box, clearly indicating which session (s) you would like to attend. The spaces are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

The deadline for sign up is 23rd November 2004.

We look forward to meeting you!
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SCIENCE

Natural therapy making a comeback

With growing public anger both here and in the US at the practices of pharmaceutical companies, **Anushri Patel** explains the benefits of alternative complementary therapy

After months of being afflicted with a painful verruca on his foot, my brother had completely given up all hope of ever getting rid of it. He'd tried everything the pharmacist could come up with – bazooka that verruca my foot (pardon the pun), but alas, it just was not meant to go.

So I idly started to search the internet for possible remedies, when I came across quite a strange idea. The cure was to tape a piece of banana skin to the verruca and leave it overnight.

It sounded totally insane, so we had to try it out of sheer curiosity. I cut out some pieces of banana skin, stuck them to his foot with plasters, and amazingly, the verruca disappeared overnight.

We were in awe of the fact that a banana peel had done what all these highly researched and patented drugs failed to do.

It is because of these so-called reliable drugs failing, that more and more people are turning to natural therapies. There's also the upside that they don't play too many games with your poor liver (which probably has enough problems dealing with alcohol anyway).

GlaxoSmithKline's shares have plummeted 12% this year. This has been partly caused by a lawsuit against the pharmaceutical giant claiming they had concealed information that would have alerted physicians that the antidepressant Paxil (Seroxat in the UK) could be harmful to children or adolescents. Now, this is not the first time

a major pharmaceutical company has had a lawsuit filed against them, and in view of that fact a recent survey found that around 70-80% of US consumers have an inherent mistrust in the industry. A more local survey suggested that around one in five people in the UK have tried at least one form of complementary therapy.

Patients are evidently becoming increasingly aware of the side effects and limitations of conventional medicines, and consequently, more and more are turning to complementary therapies.

Complementary medicine often focuses on the entire individual, rather than specifically targeting their afflictions. Diet, environment and lifestyle are also taken into account along with the

"GlaxoSmithKline's shares have plummeted 12% this year following a lawsuit... claiming they had concealed information"

mental, emotional and spiritual health of the patient. The treatment aims to not only cure the disease, but to promote an overall sense of well-being, hence preventing the patient from a relapse. Patients are often actively involved in their treatments. Rather than being prescribed a generic drug, the treatments are very much personalised to fit the patient's lifestyle.

Most complementary ther-



Ancient medicine focuses on keeping the body at one with its environment to promote an overall sense of wellbeing

apies are based on the idea that the body has a natural ability to treat any disease, but just needs a kick start, so treatments often aim to stimulate this natural healing ability in the body.

There are five main complementary therapies - acupuncture, osteopathy, chiropractic, homeopathy and herbalism. Other popular therapies include naturopathy (natural remedies like sunlight, diet and massage), aromatherapy and massage. There are also more unusual therapies involving things like magnets and crystals. Other cultures have whole disciplines of complementary therapies, ayurvedic medicine from

India, for example.

In acupuncture, fine, sterile needles are gently inserted into selected points on the skin, known as acupoints. This is said to balance the flow of vital energy (Qi, pronounced 'chee') in the body and regulate organ function. Research has shown that acupuncture actually triggers

"Most complementary therapies are based on the idea that the body has a natural ability to treat any disease... so treatments often aim to stimulate this natural healing ability"

the release of endorphins in the brain, so even though it sounds painful, it is actually reducing pain! Thousands of acupuncture studies have been carried out all over the world, showing it to be effective for a wide range of ailments including asthma, headaches, menstrual problems, digestive problems and high blood pressure. It is also increasingly being used in obstetrics and has been found to reduce morning sickness and ease labour. The World Health Organisation recognises over a hundred conditions that can be helped by acupuncture.

According to osteopathic theory, the musculoskeletal structure of the body and its function are closely connected, and so spinal imbalance can lead to discomfort and disease. Correcting the imbalance and improving the range of movement can therefore both ease pain and improve organ function. It was Dr. Andrew Taylor Still who devised a system of manipulation techniques

known as osteopathy to rebalance the framework of the body, improve joint mobility and allow proper function of the internal organs. Daniel David Palmer, a gifted amateur practitioner, believed that disease was a result of the nervous system functioning abnormally. He developed techniques for relaxing the spinal muscles and freeing the body's natural healing energy, and this system of therapy became known as chiropractic. Osteopathy and chiropractic are collectively known as manipulation techniques.

These techniques have been shown to be beneficial for joint and back problems, especially lower back pain, neck stiffness and knee problems. It can also help relieve headaches and ear, nose and throat problems. Some osteopaths and chiropractors also treat general health problems such as digestive disorders, menstrual imbalance and urinary disturbance.

Homeopathy is essentially fighting fire with fire. It was first discovered by Dr. Hahnemann, who was distressed by the barbaric medical methods of his time (bleeding, purging, and leeches). He observed that the cinchona bark, which was then being used to treat malaria, had toxicological effects if given to a healthy person. The bark often produced attacks of fever, very similar to the malaria fever. But when small doses of the bark were administered to malaria patients, the malaria fevers were reduced. Hahnemann deduced that infinitesimal doses of substances which would cause symptoms in a healthy person were capable of curing similar symptoms in a sick person.

Tiny doses of plant, animal or mineral extracts are soaked in alcohol, diluted and shaken vigorously. The patient is then advised on dosage. The more a substance is diluted, the stronger its therapeutic effect and potency is thought to be. No one knows exactly how homeopathy works, but some studies have shown that extremely diluted amounts of poisons like arsenic and lead can help remove the actual poison from the cells and reduce its harmful effects.

In a famous, but controversial study, the French professor Jacques Beneviste claimed to show that even when a substance is so diluted that it can no longer be detected, it can still somehow influence living cells. In a later study he found that this effect only occurs if the substance has been vigorously shaken and not if it has been frozen or overheated. Other recent studies suggest that

water may be able to carry a 'memory' of the original substance. Homeopathy has been shown to be effective in the treatment of hay fever, asthma, skin disease, colds and flu, high blood pressure, whooping cough, insomnia, irritable bowel and depression.

Every ancient civilisation has used plants for healing purposes, and herbal medicine is probably the most ancient form of medicine in the world. Around three quarters of the world's population, especially those in develop-

"As well as other benefits, it's just also far easier to purchase a box of echinacea tea than try to haggle some antibiotics from the pharmacist"

ing countries, rely on herbal medicine - and almost a quarter of all modern prescription drugs, are derived from plant sources, aspirin from willow bark, for example. Recently, it was found that green tea is particularly potent in fighting cancer, and work is being done to extract the particular chemical agent responsible.

The stems, leaves, flowers, roots, bark, berries, fruits and seeds of plants can be used to make a medicine. The medicinal part of the plant is harvested or extracted and then either dried for use in teas or made into ointments, powders, pills, capsules, lozenges or liquid tinctures. Different herbs have been shown to be useful for a wide variety of conditions, for example, echinacea and goldenseal are known to boost the immune system and garlic is used by many individuals as a protection against atherosclerosis, coronary thrombosis, stroke and even some types of cancer.

With more and more people taking an interest in their own health, complementary therapies will continue to become increasingly popular. As well as other benefits, it's also just far easier to purchase a box of echinacea tea than try and haggle some antibiotics from the pharmacist (not that I've tried).

Even trained medics are slowly taking an interest. Psychiatrists are using hypnotherapy, anaesthesiologists are getting help from acupuncture and physiotherapists are using acupressure and reflexology. There are so many aspects of our nature that modern medicine ignores (particularly non physiological effects), that it seems inevitable that the tide will turn towards holistic health.



Acupuncture needles are replacing syringes in the treatment of a wide range of diseases

Watching your every move on the internet

Recent reports show that 80-90% of computers are infected with spyware. Here's the lowdown for your questions and the downloads you need

By Amadeus Stevenson
Physics department

Last we looked at software vulnerabilities and why you should keep your computer updated. The Internet Storm Centre (ISC) reported recently that 20 minutes was all that a new un-updated copy of Windows XP needs until it is taken over with worms, viruses and spyware. Chances are that as you are reading this your computer will have software surreptitiously using up your computer's resources without your knowledge and transmitting personal information to a third party.

What is adware?

Adware is advertising supported software, such as the free version of the Opera web browser. These rely on showing the user advertisements while the program is running, so that the programmers can generate revenue to reduce the cost of the product, and make sure development is constant. Some adware contains code which will collect personal information about you and send it to a third party without your knowledge - this is spyware.

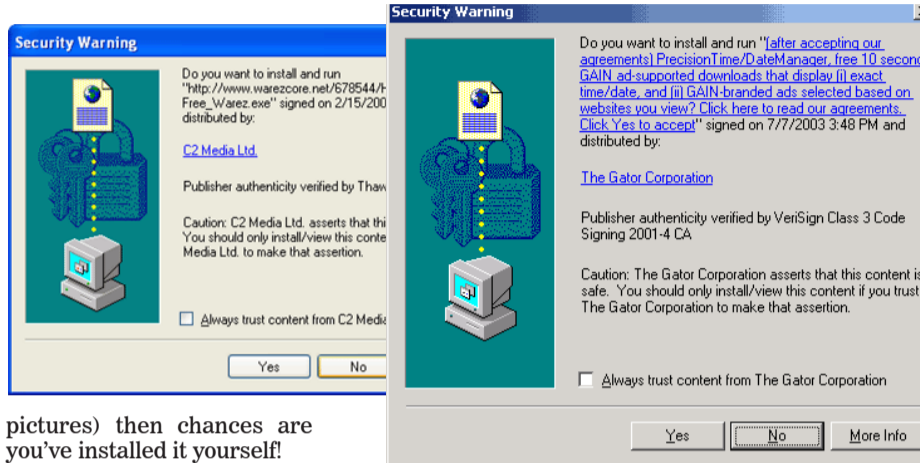
There are varying types

of spyware, from tracking browser 'cookies' that record which websites you visit and pass this information on to third parties, which are easy to remove, to Browser Helper Objects (BHOs). BHOs can be very useful (such as the Google toolbar), but the spyware variants can jeopardise your privacy and computer stability, and are often very difficult to remove. Many instances of spyware can exist on a computer, which very often will slow it down to a crawl.

How did it get on my computer?

A lot of spyware comes bundled with other programs, or is 'needed' to view certain websites - you agree to installing it on your computer by not reading the small print (License Agreement)!

Some examples include Kazaa, Grokster, Weatherbug (which installs itself with AOL Instant Messenger) and many dubious (pornographic or illegal software) websites which will ask you to proceed with the installation of 'required' software to view their site. If you've ever clicked 'Yes' without bothering to read what you're being fed (see article



pictures) then chances are you've installed it yourself!

Other spyware can install itself without your help thanks to the many vulnerabilities in Microsoft's Internet Explorer. If you use IE and don't update it frequently, you are at risk. Many of these install attempts branch from popups on sites, which is why a popup blocker such as the one in Google's toolbar, or with the Windows XP Service Pack 2, is good idea. Also recommended is trying a different browser such as Mozilla's Firefox, which has a built-in popup blocker and far fewer security holes.

How can I get rid of it?

Luckily there exist some

excellent programs to clean up your computer if you are infected, or suspect you are. With many things like this (viruses), the best way to get rid of them is to prevent them happening in the first place.

What will it do?

Spyware, when present in multiple instances, will use up your system resources (CPU, memory and network bandwidth) and can slow your computer significantly down. The worst kind of spyware is similar to a Trojan horse, in that it will capture information as you type it, such as credit card details and pass-

words, and send this on to someone else who will use this information.

Is spyware illegal?

In October 2004 the US House of Representatives (joint Senate and Congress) ratified the 'Spy Act' and 'Internet Spyware Prevention Act' which impose heavy fines and jail terms of up to five years for individuals using spyware to gather information for criminal purposes.

Unfortunately implementing these laws will take time, and as we have seen from the recent 'CAN-SPAM Act', passed to reduce the amount of spam, or junk email, we receive, it may not have a big impact on the day to day problems we have with spyware.

As we saw with vulnerabilities two weeks ago, Microsoft Windows systems seem to be much more affected by spyware than Mac/Linux/BSD equivalents. Try a different browser to Internet Explorer, add this to the measures on the left and you should be fine for using the internet without too many worries.

Symptoms of spyware

- Getting unrelated popups when browsing or even when not browsing
- Computer slowing to a crawl? Spyware takes up CPU cycles
- Web searches redirected to another engine
- Start page won't budge! Can't change your start page from something you don't want?

How to get rid of spyware

- Ad-aware personal, popular and thorough free spyware scanner and remover: <http://www.lavasoftusa.com/support/download/>
- SpyBot Search and Destroy: <http://spybot.safer-networking.de/en/download/index.html>
- Hijack This! Removes BHOs which the above programs may not. Use with caution: <http://www.spywareinfo.com/~merijn/downloads.html>

A DAY IN THE DIET OF... Dave Edwards

Rosie Taylor, Felix Science dietician, evaluates the Felix Editor's diet

9am Breakfast is a bowl of Shreddies, with milk. Also a glass of orange juice.

1pm Lunch from the JCR (a sandwich or the famous cooked breakfast) or maybe a chicken curry with rice if they're serving it at the Union. Throughout the day in my office, I'll be topping up from the water cooler - perhaps three cups in total.

7pm For dinner I'll probably cook something from frozen, maybe chicken or turkey with chips. This will be accompanied by canned veg (sweet corn, baked beans etc) or a bag of pre-prepared veg from the fridge. I'll have a couple of glasses of cranberry juice, an apple and a Fruit Corner yogurt. A couple of times a week, I'll probably eat out and/or share a bottle of wine with someone.

10pm I'll usually have an evening snack too, perhaps a chocolate mini roll. Actually my current favourite is Cadbury's white chocolate fingers.

Rosie Taylor, Felix Science dietician, says...

Dave starts the day well with a high fibre breakfast cereal. This is filling, and low in calories, not to mention full of nutrients. By including a glass of orange juice, he tots up a portion of fruit and vegetables, of which we should all be aiming for five every day. Dave's lunch varies from a sandwich, to a cooked breakfast. The sandwich is likely to be the healthier option. But as he only occasionally has the cooked breakfast, it's not too much of a concern.

The evening meal is well balanced. Three tablespoons of tinned, frozen or fresh vegetables, including beans, count as a portion towards the five a day. The cranberry juice cannot count towards his fruit and vegetable intake since fruit juice can only count once a day, although of course he is still benefiting from the vitamins in the juice. The very healthy pudding of yoghurt and a piece of fruit completes his meal.

Dave says that he sometimes shares a bottle of wine. Current government recommendations advise that we have at least one or two alcohol-free days each week to rest the liver, and Dave does well to adhere to this. The evening snack of chocolate, in the context of what is a very well-balanced diet, is perfectly acceptable. Overall, Dave's diet is really very good. He would do well to include some vegetables with his lunch, and an extra piece of fruit as a snack, but otherwise, he's got the balance just right!



Overall score: 8/10

Fruit and Veg: 4/5

News in brief

UN faces showdown on pact to ban stem cell study

Talks at the United Nations appear to have failed to avert a new UN confrontation over a US-led drive to ban all cloning of human embryos, including for stem cell research. As a result, a General Assembly panel is headed for a close vote next week on a plan for an anti-cloning treaty put forward by the United States and Costa Rica.

Talks on nuke fusion plants end without decision

Talks on where to build the world's first nuclear fusion reactor ended indecisively, while the EU toned down threats to site the plant in France. Both France and Japan remained equal candidates to host the \$12 billion reactor project. Nuclear fusion has been touted as a long-term solution to the world's energy problems, as it would be low in pollution and use limitless sea water as fuel.

Arctic thaw could open vast new oil and gas region

An accelerating thaw of the Arctic may open vast regions for oil and gas exploration, but that brings worries of spills in the fragile environment. Scientists behind an eight-nation report, saying that the Arctic sea ice could almost vanish in summer by 2100, said offshore oil and gas operations would be easier but melting permafrost could destabilize installations on land. However, oil companies remain unconvinced.

New UK airport scanner undresses passengers

A new X-ray machine at London's Heathrow airport, which sees through passengers' clothes, has been attacked by civil liberties campaigners. The machine uses low-level radiation to see through clothing, producing an anatomically detailed black and white image of the body underneath. Capable of detecting solid objects concealed under clothing, it started a four month trial in October.

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Where does the money go?

Imperial College Union is a £6m turnover organization. You might like to know where this money comes from and how it is spent. So, I thought I'd spend this column going through it all. The key thing to realise is that whenever you spend money in the Union it gets reinvested in student services and activities to benefit you.

Subvention

The College gives the Union a subvention each year of around £1m. This is intended to support the core activities of the Union: representing students, supporting your educational needs, looking after your welfare and promoting legitimate student activities.

The money we receive from College effectively comes from the Government, so there are restrictions on what we can spend it on. We can only spend the money directly on Imperial students, and in accordance with the terms laid down by the College. We cannot, for example, use it to buy free beer for everyone.

Trading income

The bulk of the Union's income

comes from our commercial services. This includes the bars and catering in Beit Quad, Charing Cross and Wye campus, as well as the shop and newsagent on the South Kensington campus' main walkway.

Because the Union is part of the College, which is a public body, we are again limited in what we can spend this money on – we have to spend it, directly, in benefiting Imperial students. However, provided we meet that criterion, we can spend this money on pretty much anything. There are no detailed conditions, unlike with the grant from College.

Of course, the trading operations have costs too. Yet these are lower than the income from these outlets. The point is that the profits are used to subsidise the various other activities of the Union. Whenever you spend money in the Union, you are effectively spending money on yourself since the proceeds will be reinvested in student activities and services.

Clubs and societies

The second biggest source of the Union's funding comes from the clubs and societies. The Union, of

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

course, gives money to clubs and societies, but they also raise a fair amount themselves. All clubs have a minimum membership fee which is calculated to be 25% of whatever grant they have been given. On top of this, grants for some activities are only part-subsidised (for example, travel is subsidised by the Union at 50% with the balance being paid by the club or society's members). Many clubs are also successful at generating income through ticketed

events and sponsorship.

The Union supplements the money the clubs raise themselves by giving each club a grant. These grants are calculated during the annual budgeting round, held during the spring term.

Administration, welfare and representation

Just under 10% of the Union's money is spent on office 'admin' costs. However, very little of this really is admin. Much of it is representation (provision of sabbatical officers and appropriate supporting functions). The Union also provides a number of welfare services from the full-time Union Adviser to the programme of 'soft skills' personal development courses.

Keeping the buildings going

Some money is also spent each year on the upkeep of the Union's buildings. We do not pay rent to the College but we are responsible for maintaining our own areas. In addition we also set aside a small amount each year to save up for small to medium size refurbishment projects. The last major project was

the establishment, in 2001, of the Union's Media Centre and Student Activities Centre in the West and East wing basements of Beit respectively.

Summary – Union profits are reinvested in you

The Union is run for students, by students. The grant from the College is the smallest chunk of the pie. Most of our money actually comes from students' own pockets (the trading income and the self-generated income of the clubs and societies). And all of the Union's money is spent, in one way or another, on students, as directed by democratically elected student officers.

It's therefore important to remember that when you spend money in the Union you are not only supporting the Union but essentially spending money on yourself. So next time you are concerned about your club or society not having enough money, or not enough being spent on services that you use, please bear this in mind: if you decide to spend money in the Union that you would otherwise have spent elsewhere then you are increasing the pot of money that the Union can spend on you.

The joy of... having your say

People often ask me, "What's so great about the Union anyway? Why should I get involved?"

There are lots of reasons that spring to mind: a superb range of clubs and societies; affordable places to buy food, drink, stationery or regalia; an evening of entertainment at one of our 'Ents' nights... the list seems endless. However, the one thing that makes me passionate about making a difference for Imperial College students is representation. Indeed, one of the Union's primary aims (and the only thing that no other body is going to do) is to represent its students to the College and other bodies.

How do we do this? Well, in order

to accurately convey the views of our students, we need to know what your views are! The usual mechanism for this is our network of elected representatives, and it is right that we should place emphasis on this, since the Union is a democratically run organisation. However, there are times when we need student feedback in a more direct way. One of those times is now. We need direct student input on two big projects which are taking place at the moment. The first of these is the Union's Strategic Review, which is described in more detail on the opposite page. The other project is the QAA Audit.

This year, the College will undergo

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

what's known as Institutional Audit by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), an independent body set up to safeguard the public interest in sound academic standards. This is done by carrying out reviews of standards and quality in higher education institutions.

The QAA considers student involvement in the audit process to be very important and there are a number of ways in which students will be involved. During the auditors' visit, groups of students will be invited to meet with the auditors to discuss various aspects of their experience of the College.

In addition to this, Imperial College Union is also invited to sub-

mit a written statement to the QAA on behalf of the student body. The Union considers this a worthwhile opportunity to contribute to improving standards within Imperial College and is now undertaking a research project that will form the basis of our submission to the QAA.

The Union will soon be launching a questionnaire whose aims are twofold: it will allow us to better represent your views when it comes to writing the submission, as well as forming the heart of the feedback necessary for the success of the strategic review. Check out the Union website's homepage (www.union.ic.ac.uk) for the latest news on these exciting projects.

Depression... you're not alone

At this time of year, many people go to College early in the morning and then come back at night.

Of course, this means that in some circumstances people don't even see daylight. This in some instances can make people feel low and down about things. Also, this time leading up to Christmas in the academic year is a notoriously busy time for students with lots of deadlines to keep up with and a very high workload.

Everyone at some time in their lives feels down, sad or low; this is of course a normal part of life. People often describe themselves as depressed when really what they

mean is that they are feeling a bit down. However, when these feelings are not just for a couple of days at a time but in fact are for weeks or even months, this could mean that you are suffering from clinical depression.

This can affect everything you do and sometimes you can feel like there is just no way out.

It is important to know how you feel when you become depressed, and it is also important for your friends, family and housemates to know what to look for in you if they feel you are suddenly not your normal self.

Here are some things to look out

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

for in yourself and other people who you may feel are depressed:

- A feeling of overwhelming sadness and a loss of interest and pleasure in things you would normally enjoy
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness or hopelessness
- Difficulty in sleeping and particularly that you are waking up a lot earlier in the morning
- Feelings of anxiety, tension
- Becoming irrationally worried and irritable
- Feelings of tiredness, no energy or appetite, and loss of weight
- Difficulty in concentrating, making decisions or remembering things

● Having recurrent thoughts of death or suicide

If you are suffering with depression, you may feel that there is no-one out there who can help you. But at Imperial, there are plenty of people who can help. The Health Centre on campus can help people suffering from depression, and so can the College Counselling service. The Union Advice Service can also help if it is affecting your work. Just remember, you are not alone.

If you have an interest in this article or would like further information, please contact the Union Advice Service on 020 7594 8067 or advice@ic.ac.uk.

Union Strategic Review

With over 250 clubs and societies, wide-ranging commercial facilities and entertainments, combined with advice and support services as well as responsibility for student development and academic representation, your Union is not only at the core of College life, but also is a major business, with a turnover of almost £6 million.

With such a diverse range of activities and with significant resources under direct student control, we now need to look towards the future.

What students want and need from their Union is changing and so the Union has to manage its resources and optimise their effectiveness so that we serve you – our student members – better. The Union must adopt a far more strategic approach to its operations and move forward to ensure we provide the best for our students.

We need to have a strategy in place for the coming years that helps us to capitalise to maximum effect on the talents and enthusiasm of students, staff, and other stakeholders.

It's also clear that there needs to be a radical review of the way the Union uses its space, ensuring that we make those assets under Union management work for Imperial students in the most effective way possible.

That is why we have now embarked on our Strategic Review.

What is the Strategic Review?

The Strategic Review is a comprehensive overview of all that we do at the Union. It is the largest and most wide-ranging appraisal ever undertaken of the Union's activities. It is fully inclusive, and seeks to draw on the views of the entire student body.

It will work by drawing on our core mission, values and beliefs, examining our strengths and weaknesses and consulting widely amongst the Union's stakeholder communities.

Once the review is finished the Union will formulate its Strategic Plan.

What is the Strategic Plan?

The Strategic Plan will be the starting point of the 2005-06 and subsequent annual planning processes and will lay down clear performance indicators for different aspects of the Union's activities. Work on preparing the 2005-06 Annual Plan and Budget will start in January 2005, for inclusion in the College Planning Round, bidding for more funds from College. It will have a direct influence on how the Union spends its money and how staff and student volunteers spend their time over the next four years.

Accompanying the Strategic Plan will be a masterplan for the Union Building in Beit Quadrangle, looking at how it can be improved to offer the best services to students.

PHOTO: IAN GILLETT



Who will be overseeing the Review and the Plan?

Ultimately, ownership of the Strategic Review and Plan is in the hands of the Union Council as governing body. Council has already approved the project concept, and will review the first draft and approve the final version of the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee, meeting more regularly, is overseeing the process and the draft Strategy as it evolves.

Supporting the process and representing Union Stakeholders is an Advisory Group, meeting regularly during the consultation exercise. Their job is to contribute to and comment on papers and the process, to give feedback and to represent the strategic planning process throughout the Union and stakeholder bodies.

Most importantly, the Strategic Plan can only be developed after the widest possible consultation of the student body. No view counts more than that of the users themselves.

So, how can I get my views heard?

The best way for everyone to be involved is to fill in the on-line survey at www.union.imperial.ac.uk from Friday 19 November. But hurry, because the deadline for getting your views in is Friday 26 November.

It is really important that you take this opportunity in shaping the future of YOUR students' union and comment on various aspects of the Union and its services and activities.

As an added incentive to completing this survey, we will put every person who fully completes the survey into a prize draw to win a whole host of prizes, including a Sony Playstation, a Holiday Voucher and some beer!

What other consultation is being done?

We are consulting the clubs and societies through a separate questionnaire, which looks in detail at their work and how the Union can better support student activities.

Additionally, from later this month, focus groups of representative samples of the College community (externally facilitated and selected randomly to give a fair representation) will meet. They will discuss their ideas for the strategic review and respond to the results of the surveys.

In addition, individual students and groups are invited to contribute their own ideas and suggestions, in writing, to union.strategy@imperial.ac.uk.

What happens then?

After your input the Union will put together its final Strategic Plan for 2005-2008 and submit it to the Council for approval in January.

Once approved, we will start to implement the plan, making the Union closer to how you want it to be, guaranteeing it for the future and building on our past success.

Elections

elections@ic.ac.uk

Vote... again!

Due to the recent success of 'Re-Open Nominations' (RON), there are new elections to various positions within Imperial College Union.

These four pages tell you what those positions are, and who is standing. In printing their manifestos, we've given

each candidate the chance to explain why you should vote for them.

You can vote online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections from tomorrow (Friday 19) until Friday 26 November. Use your vote and help to ensure that Imperial College Union

represents you in the best way possible.

All the elections are run using the Single Transferable Vote system. This means that you rank the candidates in order of preference. Firstly, votes are counted according to first preferences, and the

candidate with the smallest number of votes is eliminated. Votes for this candidate are then reallocated according to second preferences. If your first choice candidate is knocked out, your vote transfers to your second choice, and so on.

In each election, 'Re-Open Nominations' (RON) is treated as a candidate. If RON wins then nominations will be re-opened and there will be a new election. There is also a new 'abstain' option.

Each voter will be given the opportunity to donate 25p of

Union funds to a club or society of their choice.

● Quiz the candidates at Hustings in the JCR today (Thursday 18) at noon.

● Manifestos may be edited for length, but not for spelling or grammar.

The manifestos

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF SERVICES COMMITTEE

- The Services Committee is responsible for monitoring the performance of the Union's services and communication, including the office services, transport and welfare advice service
- There are **3** positions available, and there are **3** candidates plus the option to re-open nominations

DENICE CHAN



Hi everyone my name is Denice and I'm a Biochemistry student from Hong Kong. I was captain of my debating team, school prefect and vice-chairman of class association at my old school so I am good at handling responsibility and teamwork. I am a good listener and I will value everyone's opinions and make sure they gets reflected to tailor the needs of Imperial students. Please vote for me so that I get a chance to stand for you.

MING HON BRIAN CHEUNG



My name is Ming Hon Brian Cheung from the Aeronautics (1st year). I'd like to take this opportunity to be a part of the Services Committee as an ordinary member. I've always wanted to take part in something that is worth while as well as having the chance to serve the others. Also to learn valuable skill and to gain experience that is not provided from my academic course.

Although I'm a fresher, I've had experience in organising activities, meetings in my church as a group leader.

I will, most certainly to pay 110% effort to serve the Services Committee.

DAN LEHMANN



Why vote for me? I have lots of knowledge as to how the union works. I have been a member of House Committee before and importantly, am not a member of DramSoc, so I do have other users of union facilities at mind.

I have also sat on Services Committee for just over 2 years, and know a great deal about the minibuses, as well as how this committee works.

Last year I observed on Trading Committee, in which I put together a paper on loyalty cards with another member. Vote for me, because I know what to do.

ORDINARY MEMBER OF TRADING & RETAIL COMMITTEE

- The Trading & Retail Committee monitors the performance of the Union's bar, catering, entertainment provision and gaming and vending machines
- There is **1** position available, and there are **2** candidates plus the option to re-open nominations

PHILLIP GILLILAND



I believe that I would make a positive contribution to the Trade and Retail Committees should I be elected. I am very approachable and friendly and would ensure that your views are heard. I believe that the College should strive to integrate FairTrade into its policies as this would enhance its reputation as a free and equitable institution, and will therefore campaign for the incorporation of FairTrade policies when the catering contract is reviewed at the end of the year.

DAN LEHMANN



Why vote for me? I have lots of knowledge as to how the union works. I have been a member of House Committee before and importantly, am not a member of DramSoc, so I do have other users of union facilities at mind.

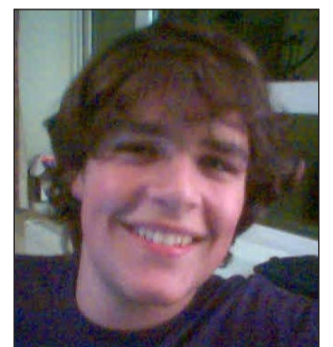
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Last year I observed on Trading Committee, in which I put together a paper on loyalty cards with another member. Vote for me, because I know what to do.

ULU DELEGATE

- Representing Imperial at ULU (the University of London Union)
- There is **1** candidate plus the option to re-open nominations

DANIEL MORAIS



I am not here today to waste your time with promises which are made to elude you! I have no promises but YOU DO! Your ideas will be my promises, your opinions will be my aims! I can surely guarantee that YOUR VOICE will be HEARD and FELT! Your concerns and suggestions will be understood and put across. I DO NOT stand here as myself, Daniel Morais! But I stand here FOR YOU, for your voice and ideas! I don't promise you the world, the impossible! I promise you MORE than that, a VOICE! Vote for Daniel Morais! You have never spoken so LOUD! Thanks

ELECTIONS

elections@ic.ac.uk

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF UNION COUNCIL

- Union Council is the sovereign body of the Union, capable of overruling any other committee. It meets roughly once a month during term time and generally confines itself to considering high level policy
- There are **11** positions available, and there are **13** candidates plus the option to re-open nominations

KEVIN BEZ



I am a German-American citizen and a first year undergraduate in Information Systems Engineering in the EE Department, and currently live in Holbein & Willis Jackson. I have gathered much international experience when living in Germany as an American and visiting an International School. Being here for a month I haven't got much to offer you in terms of achievements or positions at the college. However if you VOTE FOR ME, I will promote the inclusion and expansion of multicultural and international events and expanding the internationalist flair of the college. If you enjoy internationality and multiculturality, choose me for Council.

DANIEL CARRIVICK



Throughout six years at Imperial I've been heavily involved with various committees and other union activities both at club member, club committee and CSC levels. This has given me a comprehensive understanding and broad knowledge of union processes, only achieved through many years of hard work. It would be a shame to waste all this experience and I feel after having gained so much, I would like to give something back to benefit the students.

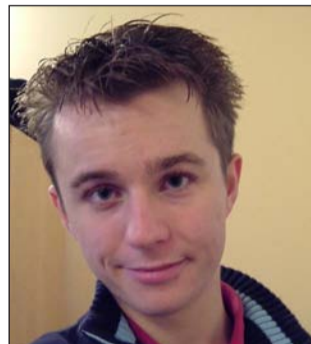
SAMAH ELSAYED



Why vote? This summer I spent some time volunteering in a poor and isolated village in Sudan inhabited by many refugees from minority groups and saw first hand the effects of having no representation or voice. We here are fortunate enough to have a system where we can get our views heard and needs met but the only way to do this is by going out (or in this case online) and voting.

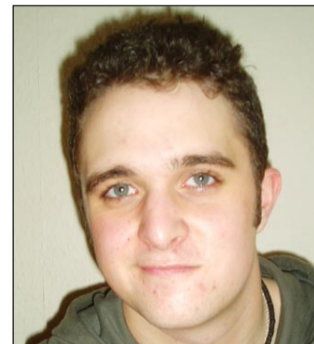
Why vote for me? I haven't got any grand promises of single-handedly revolutionising the running of the union but what I can say with all honesty is that I will do my best to fairly represent your voice on all issues. I am not afraid to speak out when needed and am always approachable so get your views across and vote!

EDMUND HUNT



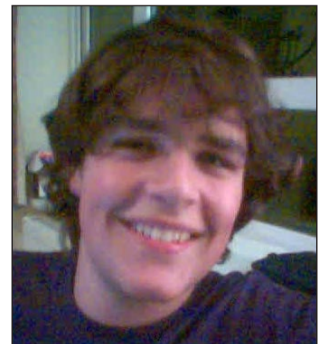
The Union Council needs members that are serious about achieving the best outcomes for Imperial students. I believe I have the dedication and judgement needed to facilitate this as a Council Member. Effective student representation is necessary if Council is to function properly; as a first year student, I want to make sure this important constituency has a clear voice at the table. As someone who is not part of the Union clique, I believe I can supply some fresh, innovative thinking. Let's keep the Union focused on the job: improving services for us all while spending our money wisely.

SEBASTIAN JUNEMANN



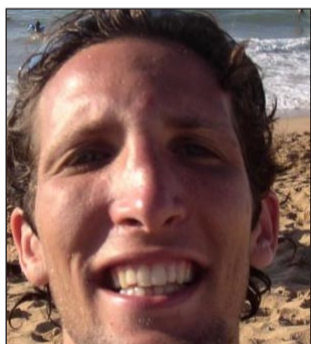
Having been a student here for over two years now I've got a good idea of the workings of the Union and how it affects the students. Being on the committee of Imperial's MTSoc has given me the experience of dealing with the sort of politics which the Union is famous for and immersed me in the running of this organisation. Making the insane choice of running for Union Council and House Committee is really down to one thing. I want to see the Union run the way we want it. Vote for me and I'll represent you. RON won't.

DANIEL MORAIS



I am not here today to waste your time with promises which are made to elude you! I have no promises but YOU DO! Your ideas will be my promises, your opinions will be my aims! I can surely guarantee that YOUR VOICE will be HEARD and FELT! Your concerns and suggestions will be understood and put across. As running member of the Union Council and Representative of the Life Sciences, you WILL BE HEARD! I DO NOT stand here as myself, Daniel Morais! But I stand here FOR YOU, for your voice and ideas! I don't promise you the world, the impossible! I promise you MORE than that, a VOICE! Vote for Daniel Morais for Union Council! You have never spoken so LOUD! Thanks

HENRI OZAROVSKY



My aim is to spread enthusiasm and make a difference even if it's only a small one within the Union and more importantly: Get Things Done. I know that there are issues to be dealt with but I'm not too convinced that complaining helps. I'm not saying we need to overlook the problems, I just think that we have to promote and grow from the parts of the structure that work well.

In my view, you need two types of people on the Union Committee Board: some who are reserved and others who are enthusiastic. I categorize myself as the second but I think that you need both mindsets to reach a good balance. Being discerning is important but acting is even better.

ADIL RAZA PARVEZ



Hi everyone, for those of you that have not gotten to me yet, my name is Adil. I am sure that there will be aspects of the department or system that you may not like, or which you would think would be good to add. I am open to any opinions, suggestions, or complaints you would like me to voice and you will always be able to reach me around the clock even if it means waking up at 4 in the morning to answer a phone call!

But more importantly, this role would give me the best chance to get to know all of you much better. So vote for me, I'll get you what you want.

ANDREW TOWERS



From participating in the RAG Fashion Show to captaining the Imperial College Rugby Club to fronting the most Glamorous Club at Imperial College, I have been heavily involved in Union life over the last three years. Now in my final year, I want to use my experience with the union and the different councils and committees within it, but more importantly my contact with a huge number of students to help bring the real student voice to the Union Council. Given the opportunity, I am confident that I can fairly represent students and act in the best interest of students.

MALVIKA GULATI, KIAN SING LOW, ASHKAN SALAMAT (left to right) and KAREEM OSMAN (not pictured)



VOTE WELFARE NOT WARFARE!!!

We stand for a union that...

- Is run by the students, not the hacks
- Takes a stance on issues students care about and truly represents our voice
- Puts people before profit – our university is NOT a business
- Opposes war and tuition fees
- Campaigns for genuine equal opportunities for all students
- Fights for our rights...and wins

VOTE: kian sing LOW, kareem OSMAN, malvika GULATI, ashkan SALAMAT

- These are four individual candidates standing with a joint manifesto

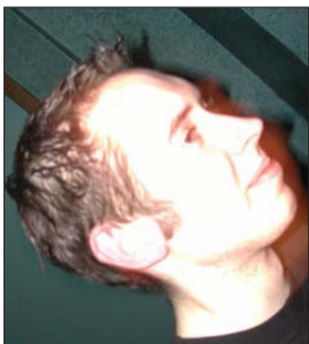
ELECTIONS

elections@ic.ac.uk

ORDINARY MEMBERS OF HOUSE COMMITTEE

- The House Committee considers the management, maintenance and usage of the Union Building and other areas in the College
- There are **4** positions available, and there are **8** candidates plus the option to re-open nominations

ANTHONY BROWN



I'm a 3rd year, Mech Eng. Yes I'm in DramSoc so we can skip that question. I'm also involved in IC football aswell, with have friends in all kinds of other societies who use various parts of the union buildings. So my experience of the buildings and clubs needs do expand beyond the Concert hall and a few store cupboards.

DANIEL CARRIVICK



Throughout six years at Imperial I've been heavily involved with various committees and other union activities both at club member, club committee and CSC levels. This has given me a comprehensive understanding and broad knowledge of union processes, only achieved through many years of hard work. It would be a shame to waste all this experience and I feel after having gained so much, I would like to give something back to benefit the students.

On the House Committee I'll represent RCC clubs by fighting for essential maintenance and improvements to the store rooms in Beit Quad west basements and the Laundry.

MARTIN CHONG



So why do I want to be elected to House Committee? Well firstly I won't hide the fact that I have been or are involved in societies that make a great use of the Union premises. For example I am the DramSoc president. However this has meant I have spent an unhealthy quantity of time in the Union and have seen the problems and heard the complaints, particularly about storage space. In addition I will be in a very good position to understand the pros and cons of any proposals and not just let money get spent for spending's sake. So vote for me!

RICHARD JORDAN



I am standing for house committee because I am heavily involved in two organizations (Ents and Dramsoc) that depend on the union building and fully appreciate how important all of the union's premises are to every active member of ICU. I also have a good working knowledge of the union buildings.

As a committee member, I will ensure that the premises can perform all duties expected from them, be it clubs and societies or hire to external organizations which generates revenue for the union and therefore its student members.

City & Guilds College Union: HONORARY SECRETARY

- There is **1** position available, and there are **2** candidates plus the option to re-open nominations

JASON CLARKE



If I become Honorary Secretary I would like to make all the members of C&G aware of this membership as not enough people are aware of what C&G does at the moment. Apart from my traditional responsibilities to those in the office I would like to extend the functionality of the C&G office to those visitors who come seeking information, creating a more friendly environment with more information available to those who need it. I intend to make and carry out plans for a successful summer ball to follow on the success of this terms' fresher's ball.

HELEN DAWSON



I have been Year Rep, Chairman of Fencing, a member of CGCU Active and MechSoc, and currently the Dept. Rep for Mechanical Engineering. This wealth of experience makes me the perfect candidate for Honorary Secretary because I have already built up trust with students across college and proved I am organised and capable of handling responsibility as well as day-to-day duties such as meeting minutes. I have a good relationship with the Exec already, understand the commitment involved, I will inculcate enthusiasm and help make the CGCU a pro-active and supportive part of the lives of all engineering students.

SEBASTIAN JUNEMANN



Having been a student here for over two years now I've got a good idea of the workings of the Union and how it affects the students. Being on the committee of Imperial's MTSoc has given me the experience of dealing with the sort of politics which the Union is famous for and immersed me in the running of this organisation. Making the insane choice of running for Union Council and House Committee is really down to one thing. I want to see the Union run the way we want it. Vote for me and I'll represent you. RON won't.

DAN LEHMANN



Why vote for me? I have lots of knowledge as to how the union works. I have been a member of House Committee before and importantly, am not a member of DramSoc, so I do have other users of union facilities at mind.

I have also sat on Services Committee for just over 2 years, and know a great deal about the minibuses, as well as how this committee works.

Last year I observed on Trading Committee, in which I put together a paper on loyalty cards with another member. Vote for me, because I know what to do.

ANTON PIATEK



I am standing for House Committee because I believe that the rooms and facilities available from the union are the most important thing to many clubs. Imperial has a huge number of clubs and societies and as a committee member of three clubs, I know what clubs have to go through. I intend to make sure the students get what is best out of the facilities available.

DUNCAN RICHMOND



Yes I'm in DramSoc. There I've admitted it. BUT.

As a member of DramSoc, I spend a rather large proportion of my time working in and around the Union's facilities. Hence I believe I am well qualified to stand as a member of house committee. Of particular concern to me, is the issue of storage space for society equipment within the union itself. This issue is not merely confined to DramSoc but is particularly important to many of the sports teams in the Union and I am keen to bring this matter for discussion. The state of the union bars and entertainment venues is also I believe a key issue.

Faculty of Physical Sciences PUBLICITY OFFICER

- There is **1** position available, and there is **1** candidate plus the option to re-open nominations

DEREK WAN



Most students do not need to know about the internal operations of the Student Union, but quite often they are not as involved as they could be. Part of this problem can be solved by having a Publicity Officer serve as the first contact for students. The officer must listen to the thoughts of the students, answer their questions, pass on their queries as well as to deliver updates on the ongoing events of the Union. In addition, the Officer should actively seek feedback from the students to find and tackle issues which can be worked on. I believe that I have the necessary skills and experience, as well as the commitment to serve as a successful Publicity Officer.

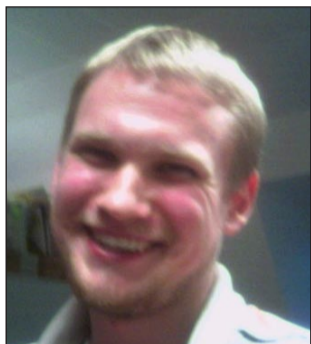
ELECTIONS

elections@ic.ac.uk

Faculty of Life Sciences: RESEARCH STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE

● There is **1** position available, and there is **1** candidate plus the option to re-open nominations

WILL DAWSON



I've been a student rep in DES(T) for two years; I know things could still be better. Here's what I promise you:

- Communication: a webpage stacked with events, training, surveys, discussion boards for your ideas for improvements, socials, pictures, etc.
- To inform you about the Faculty's restructuring
- A more sustainable Faculty and College. Firstly, by widening the recycling scheme that we've pioneered
- A personalised training programme: if you want computer modelling or project management courses, then I'll lobby for them
- To unify the Faculty: I'll push for social events funding, and organise them
- You will know more people (I can't promise you'll like them)

Faculty of Physical Sciences EVENTS OFFICER

● There is **1** position available, and there is **1** candidate plus the option to re-open nominations

OLIVER EARLEY



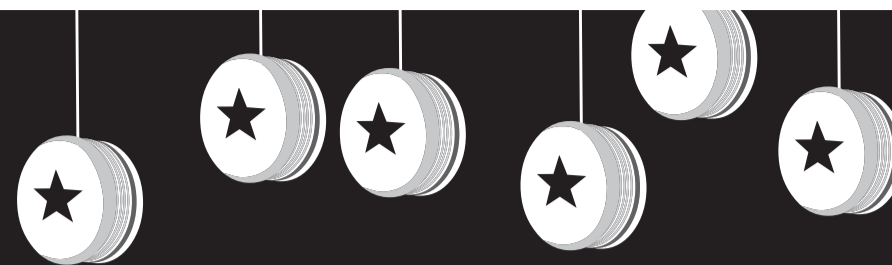
Are you a physical scientist? And want to have an exciting, exhilarating, and generally fantastic time whilst you're at University?

Then you know what to do!

With already loads of experience at organising events at my sixth form college, I would like to bring my enthusiasm to the physical sciences union so everyone can have a great time. From paintballing, to party nights, evening entertainment of various varieties, I intend to conquer the lot!

Remember the idea of the union is that everyone has a say - It's up to you what we do, but someone has to finally organise it!

Remember:
Vote online at
**www.union.ic.ac.uk/
elections**
19-26 November



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classics

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London, SW7 2BB



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The Union encourages
you to drink responsibly

Imperial College
London

Fancy doing some volunteering?

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

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

Imperial Volunteer Centre



Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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



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Summer Internship deadline – January 30, 2005

We firmly believe that JPMorgan is about the most challenging and rewarding career choice a talented graduate could make. We call it the 360° career precisely because it gives you everything: intellectual challenges, tangible impact on the business and substantial rewards. A word of warning though. The deadline for applications this year is Sunday November 28, 2004 for graduate positions and Sunday January 30, 2005 for summer internship positions. So if you don't visit 360career.com and apply in the very near future, you might never experience it. Of course, you can't really miss something you've never had. Can you?

360career.com



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Careers

felix@ic.ac.uk

Meet the recruiters

By **Gabriella Silvestri**
Careers Editor

Finding recruiters offering graduate schemes is relatively easy, especially at Imperial, surely one of the universities most loved by employers.

Following the time-honoured principle that you should 'try before you buy', recruitment fairs and employer presentations are a great chance to get an opinion before you leap into employment with a company. Their presentations are also a great opportunity to talk to young graduates who were probably struggling to make the same job choices as you. By the end of a presentation, you should know whether you want to work for the firm and will have collected enough information to commit yourself and make it through the first step.

As promised, here is an in-depth overview on Procter & Gamble, developed by attending their corporate presentation here at Imperial. To be honest with you, I had no intention to get such accurate knowledge of the company, and my interest in P&G was solely to inform you about the event. Well, I have to say you never know what is in store, and although the company was not in my top 10 originally, it became so at the end of the evening.

I found the company very challenging and this aspect captured me straight away, being myself an ambitious

person. The presentation was followed by an informal gathering, which is the most helpful part of the event. It was during this informal chat that I got my name down on their list of 'strong' candidates and this is the way my involvement with P&G started.

I will not go into many details about the company, as you will get bored if P&G does not stimulate your curiosity; instead, I am going to highlight aspects that can be useful to you whichever company you choose to go for.

For a start, what do they look out for throughout their selection process? They talk about Success Actions for Winning (SAWs), such as Leadership, Innovation, Risk Taking and Mastery to name a few. The P&G community consists of nearly 98,000 people working in almost 80 countries worldwide, providing branded products as Pampers, Pringles, Bounty, Olay and Pantene. Their philosophy is that people are the foundation of their success:

"If you took away all our factories, all our money, but left our people, we would rebuild the entire organization within 10 years. If you left all of our possessions and took away only our people, we would be completely destroyed".

There are plenty of possibilities for careers: you can choose from marketing, finance, information technology and sales to human resources, product supply and research and develop-

ment.

Following my research about the company and their purposes, principles and values, I was invited to a 'Get in Touch' recruitment event at a bar in London. This kind of event aims to give you the opportunity for some one-to-one contact with P&G employees and to establish a single point of contact for the future application process. It was quite a good experience, and awkward at the same time, seeing your potential employers in a different environment.

During the evening, I made sure I was clear on the application process and its deadline, and I also gained a better feeling of the people and the atmosphere within the company.

As part of their recruitment process, I was then invited to a one day Business Skills course as well at their Headquarters in Weybridge near the P&G building. The day was very challenging and productive as I learnt a lot about the company through their presentations on leadership and objective setting, advertising and advance communication skills.

I had an insight into the company vision and strategy that made it easier for me to fill in the application form afterwards, knowing exactly what people they are looking for. We were then taken for a tour in the P&G main building where you could even smell and taste the Pringles!



Like Pringles? P&G could be for you

The application form asked for clear examples of times when you have worked in a team or made a difficult decision. After submitting a first part, they send you a multiple choice questionnaire back, focused more on your personality as an individual. An important tip is to apply first for an internship (if an undergraduate) or for one of their courses (if doing a PhD) because 90% of the people they recruit for jobs are from these programmes.

They want a well-rounded candidate who can clearly show evidence of the skills developed from extra-curricular activities, beyond the academic records. They want

to hear about your achievements in clubs and societies, voluntary and community work and paid work. They want to see a person capable of making a significant difference. Working for them will take you almost anywhere in the world and joining their Go, Give and Grow (GGG) scheme you will take part in a humanitarian project. Most likely, you will be based in a developing country for one year with a salary, working as part of a project team addressing global health issues.

I hope my experience will have stimulated your curiosity and given you just a glimpse of what it could be like working at P&G.

Careers events

● **Imperial Careers Talk: Assessment centres**
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building
Tuesday 23 November
1.00-1.50pm

● **Work in the US**
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building
Thursday 25 November
1.00-1.50pm

● **Securing an Internship**
Clare Lecture Theatre, Huxley Building
Tuesday 30 November
1.00-1.50pm

● **Kraft Foods**
Chemical Engineering Lecture Theatre 2
Thursday 18 November
6.30pm

● **Ernst & Young**
Sir Alexander Fleming Building Lecture Theatre 2
Thursday 18 November
6.30pm

● **ChevronTexaco**
RSM
Monday 22 November

● **Peter Brett Associates**
Civil Engineering Lecture Theatre 201
Monday 22 November 6.30pm

● **LogicaCMG**
180 Oxford Street
Tuesday 23 November, 6.30pm

Fancy a job in TV?

By **Cassandra Aldrich**
Careers Editor

One sector that probably surpasses all others in terms of competitiveness is the media. Its ever-increasing influence and technology-driven expansion means there are a number of diverse jobs within the industry, which appeal to a great many people.

To find out how best to break into this media world, I got hold of an insider, who primarily works as a television editor but also makes his own documentaries. Rather than working directly for a company, he is employed by directors or producers to work on different projects.

Despite finding success (no small feat in television), making good money and working on some interesting assignments, he spent the first part of the conversation trying hard to put me off. I then managed to gain some good advice for anyone who wants

to get into television.

Prior experience before applying for a position is a necessity, not only as evidence of commitment, but also because you can't expect to be trained from scratch on the job - there are too many people who want the job, most of whom will have the expertise. So how do you go about climbing the first rung and getting the experience? If you're extremely lucky you may be able to secure an internship with a company like the BBC or Granada, but even for this you will need to have done something as evidence of keen interest.

A good way is to take a three-step approach - the first step being to get involved with the university media groups. University societies are open to all, so this is a sure way of gaining some basic experience, requiring only that you devote some time. The next step would be to do some voluntary work for a small, inde-

pendent film-making group. A couple of websites contain information about groups making low-budget documentaries or shortfilms (check out www.shootingpeople.org and www.dfglondon.com).

Ring up and offering your services may get you involved, but don't expect to be paid or have an exciting role initially. You may also need a substantial amount of free time, so it's probably best to line something up for the summer holidays. Finally, after building up your skills base and CV, you will be better equipped to go after the particular placement or job you want, perhaps with a company or large media corporation.

Television is a pretty small world in terms of the people who control and run it, which is another reason for not going into a big company when inexperienced - it will get around if you've done a bad job, which would be

career suicide before you've even started. The same applies to radio and news publications - be prepared to start small and then work your way up.

A course in media or journalism is not a prerequisite to work in the industry - many in the business have such a degree, but many also don't. As experience will quickly bring non-media graduates up to speed on how it all works, the main advantage of the good courses is that they'll assist students to secure work placements.

Motivation, of course, is essential - ringing up company switchboards, asking to speak to the production managers of particular programmes, and then unashamedly selling yourself is often the best way to get your foot in the door. It's more a case of actively seeking work rather than just applying for job postings. Hold off phoning the production manager

of your favourite programme until you have something to offer them.

Another tip I was given is to learn a technical skill, such as editing, vision or sound-mixing, even if you dream of directing your own films. Technical skills are more in demand, and people with such skills often get paid better than the directors themselves. Once through the door, you may then move into another area, but you'll still be more employable with an additional skill.

If you're still determined to work in the media then prepare yourself for making cups of tea, being broke for the first few years, having to sometimes work on projects you hate, continual knock backs, and sadly, at the end of it all, no assurances of success. After all the gloom I should mention the flip-side, but it speaks for itself - who isn't somewhat allured by the idea of television and film?

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

A fleeting visit to Cherbourg

YACHT CLUB

By Peronel Craddock
and Lucy Smith

Early watch, groan... 4am and a rude awakening from the alarm. Like zombies, the lucky chosen few crawled up into the cockpit, happily noted the lack of wind and optimistically suggested that we leave at 5.30am instead. Mate Dave was straight back in his sleeping bag, but the Vantage crew were having none of it and we set off into the night.

On 30 October 2004, the Imperial College Union Yacht Club left on our annual cross-channel mission. Two boats, Vantage and Fandango, were chartered and 21 of us set off for Cherbourg in France (and yes, more than one passport was forgotten!) Store cupboards groaning with Morrison's finest junk food and plenty of beer, it seemed like a great idea at the time to eat a Twix for breakfast. Those of us who spent much of the weekend lying flat on the deck decorating the sides of the boat a less than pretty colour soon regretted it.

With both boats well on their way, or so we thought, skipper Mike received a desperate call from skipper James P on Fandango; they were still in the marina with less than two hours' worth of fuel, which in the light winds would not see them to France. A quick scavenge yielded enough diesel to set off, but an hour behind Vantage meant that against all odds the tortoise had a head start on the hare!

We crossed the shipping lanes without mishap and finally got the chance to do some sailing. This was just as well because Fandango's problems weren't over yet; the engine spluttered to its death before they were even past the Isle of Wight, just when the skipper and his mate thought they deserved a quick kip below. Mate Dave has never leapt out of his sleeping bag so fast! Unfortunately this left Fandango reliant on some decent wind to get to Cherbourg and a goodwill tow into the marina from its arch rival Vantage. But after the previous weekend's gales, the autumn sunshine and keen wind was an extremely welcome change and both boats enjoyed a glorious cruise interspersed with some enthusiastic renditions of Bohemian Rhapsody and the odd jig from our resident entertainer Jack.



Crossing the channel to Cherbourg: Yacht Club chairman James spots the French coast

Just after 5pm, Cherbourg appeared on the horizon and the Vantage crew were looking forward to a hearty French meal. But where was Fandango? Two hours and a beautiful sunset later, Fandango limped into sight heading for the leeward shore. We had all hands on deck to get out the tow lines and fenders (and one unpopular camera). Following various fraught instructions, some excellent skippering and under Jenny's navigation, we finally made it into the marina at 8.30pm local

time. Beers were the order of the day.

But there was no rest for the wicked. Supplies, diesel, broken engine, showers and dinner called. The girls embarked on a supermarket sweep ten-minute challenge (not aided by their pigeon French); members of the Fandango crew went on a desperate mission for diesel; the technically minded got down to the dirty business of fixing Fandango's engine; which left two champion French chefs slaving over dinner for 21 in the galley.

Dinner was a merry affair with everyone squeezed into Vantage's main cabin for spaghetti bolognese and cheap French plonk, apart from James Y who preferred his £6.99 bottle of white spirit (oops, sorry, vodka) that came back to haunt him.

A slightly later start on Sunday courtesy of the clock change saw us heading into what looked like a storm. Most of us slunk off back below deck for a good Sunday lie-in and were woken up at lunchtime to beautiful sunshine and just in time to

see the dolphins swimming around Vantage. Meanwhile on Fandango, broken heads (toilets) saw Dave, only just out of his sleeping bag, caught out by an unexpected tack (thanks, Stefanos) taking a piss over the back over the boat.

The race was really on as both boats took advantage of the good wind and steamed back towards the Isle of Wight. Back in broadcast range of Ocean FM we enjoyed a good singsong, basking in the sunshine and appreciating the cruising life.

With the sun going down fast, and temperatures rapidly dropping, spirits started to fail; we still had three hours of sailing against the tide to reach Gosport. Multiple layers of clothing and a dinner of Pringles and Haribo restored cheer, just in time for a hair-raising return to Gosport playing dodgems with ferries and tankers. Fireworks in the distance didn't aid navigation but after a fantastic, albeit eventful, weekend, we made it back safely to the relief of two exhausted skippers and their crews.

YOUR CLUB HERE!

Do you want thousands of readers to know all about your club or society? Then send an article to felix@ic.ac.uk, together with a good quality photograph if possible

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

Up the Fraser without a...

CANOE CLUB

By Mark Flower

Ten paddlers, three hire cars, the large expanse that is British Columbia, and a collection of rivers that just cannot be found in Europe: a recipe for a good summer.

Thanks to the generous support of the Imperial College Expedition Board, we were off to Canada. Early one morning in August, we found ourselves at Gatwick airport, attempting to check in an inordinate amount of kit including nine kayaks and full open canoe. After an eleven hour monster flight, we found ourselves in sunny Vancouver in the middle of a heat wave.

The next morning found us in MEC (Mountain Equipment Co-op, a fine establishment that we visited on many occasions) buying even more stuff. When we finally managed to drag ourselves out of this shopping paradise several hours later, we climbed into our hire cars and headed north towards Squamish and Whistler in search of white water.

We settled first on the Elaho, a really big volume river with large wave trains. The river proved to be a bit too much of a challenging start for some of us, who very sensibly decided to walk off. At that point we realised just how much BC had to offer. This expedition was going to be truly awesome.

Over the next few days, we ran a variety of rivers in the area. Some were mellow pretty paddles, and some were blocked by logjams large enough to make a beaver blush. One of the most successful runs was the middle Cheakamus, a class medium volume run, with one harder drop. As the river is dam released, some of the boys spent a while discussing how to destroy it allowing more

water to be released. Since Imperial College is not an international terrorist organisation, nothing was done and we set off down the river with its really warm water (going back to Wales in winter is going to be a bit of a shock to the system).

One classic run that was more challenging was the upper Cheakamus. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who ran it. Another, Callaghan Creek, offered great clean waterfalls, which made up for the long and arduous put in. Thankfully an easier route to the river was eventually found, but unfortunately this was only after the river had actually been run. The Cal-cheak section of the Cheakamus was a fun run which the entire group enjoyed.

A few days later saw us heading off the world-famous Schookumchuck play wave (one of the top ten play spots in the world apparently).

Naturally we passed through Vancouver, and equally naturally that included a stop in MEC. We found a beautiful camp site on a secluded, quiet and peaceful lake, which was perfect for messing about both in and out of our boats. The next few days were spent on the wave. To get to the wave you have to walk 3-4km carrying all your kit. Those of us not paddling looked very smug. The local diner served up the biggest burgers any of us had ever seen, which refuelled us tired paddlers.

Leaving our campsite early on the Wednesday, we stopped briefly in Vancouver, dropped in to MEC, and out along the US-Canadian border, just managing to squeeze a section of the river Chilliwack in before dark. That evening was marked by an amazing meteor shower – unlike anything the south east of the UK gets. With total darkness and not a cloud in the sky it

was an evening to remember. The next day we hooked up with a local open boater and ran more of the Chilliwack, including a very scenic gorge section.

While some ventured up to the upper reaches of the Nahatlach, the rest of us went off to the Thompson. The Thompson is a big river – 600 tonnes of water flowed down it every second while we were there. I'll describe it as having huge whirlpools, eddy lines and wave trains. You can imagine the rest. It was enormous fun, although only after I got over the fear of it.

Monday was Clearwater day. Vancouver Canoe Club had recommended it to us. Although the water was warm (although not as warm as the 18°C Nahatlach), the river was reasonably flat, with only two rapids of any note. We also had spent a long time at the top of the river, while Rob fixed the hire car he had just broken. The Clearwater was good, but I felt as though there was something missing by the time we had hit the bottom. Rob, Alice and James made up for it by having an impromptu bath. We towed their boats to the side for them.

Leaving the Clearwater the next day, we drove up a stupid (4x4 only) dirt track to our next river, the Chilco. Six in the morning is no time to be out of bed, unless you have a very good reason. We did – the Chilco. We were camped at the take out, and even though we left at 6am it was 12.30 before most of us got on the water. The roads were that bad.

The river itself was (and I'm running out of superlatives here) brilliant. The entry rapid to the river was huge. Three of us swam down it – Claire, Harry and myself. Harry went left (after being told to go right) while Claire and I were munched by the



Canoeist Jon has a refill

huge waves. Claire had it bad – after spending the first half of the rapid upside down trying to roll (further than me by all accounts) she swam, and then spent the second half of the rapid swimming to the surface.

Eventually we were all reunited with our kit (Harry having dropped his paddle). The second half of the river was unique. I have never paddled anything like it. With large waves and large piles of water (so large some of us got completely airborne as we went over them), it was awesome. Coupled with the five or six brown bears we spotted on the bank (some within half a mile of the campsite), it was a bunch of happy paddlers who crawled into the camp site that evening.

Thursday dawned. After floating down the Chilco to the main road (in an effort to make the cars lighter) we saddled up, and drove off to the Quesnel. With some great waves and a memorable (though short) gorge section, the river was great and we arrived back at the campsite, again, complete with smiles.

On the Friday we ran the Caribou. It was like the Quesnel, except for one feature, a five metre V-shaped fall. Rob was doing alright until he reached the flat bit at the bottom. Then he got scared and pulled his deck (at least that's what it looked like from the bank...) He maintains that the river popped his deck. We just laughed and kept filming. All this took place while the salmon were trying to leap up the water fall. None made it.

After driving through the night, we arrived next to the Holmes river. This river was cold, much like Scotland can be over new year. Fed by melting glaciers, the water had little time to warm up, and we spent much of our time doing everything in our power to keep our hands out

of the water – this included paddling with hands next to each other in the centre of the paddle.

Theo also managed to poach us a couple of salmon from the river. We had to cook them surreptitiously on the fire, since we had some fishermen camped next to us who explained that fishing Chinook salmon was illegal.

We were a long way north now, and although it was still August the weather was starting to turn against us. It was getting cold at night. With less than a week left in Canada we pressed on, doing the river Dore. Again, this was split into two sections with the upper prosecuted by the remaining lads. When I arrived at the road up to the Dore, we found that the road bridge had been ripped up and was in the process of being replaced. Deciding not to drive across it we started walking, meeting the others higher up. The middle was a lot of fun, although much like the Holmes it was really cold.

We met a dude from Quebec that night, who escorted us to the upper Fraser. While the Fraser is truly huge at Vancouver, further up it is a good deal smaller (but still not insignificant in size). Overlander falls are on this section. The entire river drops about 15m into a pool below. Tim had a picture of this fall on his bedroom wall at home, and he stared long and hard at it. There is a line down it, but if you screw it up slightly, it's bad news. You can't be rescued from the bank, it's just too big. Tim was practically sick by the time he decided to do the sensible thing and walk around the fall.

After this we drove for a bit to the river Canoe (great name eh?) This is continuous grade three water which is, again, glacier melt (read cold). This river did not stop once. For the entire 6-7km

that we were on the river, you had to plot every single line. This river had it all – further down, it got less continuous and had a few harder drops contained within it.

On the Wednesday we drove to the Lillooet, back towards Vancouver. Although we arrived too late to do the section we drove over a silly looking river called Pebble Creek. Obviously it needed running. The lads then ran it, although there was only the one place to stop in 800m. Tim described it as 'being trashed while still upright'.

The Thursday was a special day. Usually in Wales we manage two rivers a day. Previously on the expedition we had been managing one most days. On Thursday some people ran four. The pebble was the first. This time they walked up it a bit before putting on. Next we all ran the Lillooet. After this we drove to the Green, a nice grade three paddle. It was fun, aside from the put in, which required us to paddle across a dirty great lake first. Finally a few of the lads ran the Soo.

The final river we ran (on the ensuing Friday) was the Calcheack. This was a repeat run from when we had run it previously. I got to do it this time. Much as it said on the tin, it was a great run, with a fantastic play wave halfway down.

Our time was over. We were done. Returning to Vancouver (and naturally enough to MEC again) we stayed overnight in the youth hostel before scattering to the four winds. Most people flew back on the Sunday.

We would like to thank the Imperial College Expedition Board (www.imperial.ac.uk/expeditions) who supported the trip. If you would like to try kayaking yourself (starting with the easy stuff), see www.union.ic.ac.uk/canoe, or email canoe@ic.ac.uk.



A 15m drop near the Overlander Falls: "if you screw it up slightly, it's bad news..."

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

IMMC freshers brave the mountain hut

MEDICS
MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

By Simon Humphrey

The Imperial Medics Mountaineering Club (IMMC) has followed on from the successes of last year with an awesome Freshers Meet at the College hut in Snowdonia.

With bags and buses packed, 31 brave soles eventually set off for 'the hut' at about 7.30 on the evening of Friday 29 October. The traditional Friday night curry in Shrewsbury was postponed to the early hours of Saturday morning due to the poor placement of Birmingham. Nevertheless, when we got



Medics, mountaineers and a minibus

there, we filled ourselves to bursting point and managed to make it to the hut in time

for a couple of hours' sleep before rising to the sound of birds cheeping in the

Snowdonian wilderness.

The cooked breakfast only took a few hours, and we were soon on the road to find rocks and mountains to climb.

One group headed off to Tremadog for some top-roped and multi-pitch climbing whilst the rest of us set off for Snowdon. Half of the Snowdoneers went up Crib Goch and the others went up the far scarier PYG track. Thankfully, the Welsh weather gods were kind to us and we all got to the summit safely and dry. The descent was slightly colder and wetter due to the presence of a cold, wet lake. The prize for the wettest T-shirt goes to...

Anyway, everyone made it down safely and proceeded to the pub where we met up

with the triumphant climbers. Despite doubling their annual turnover in one evening, the local publicans were as hostile as ever. Thanks must go to club Welshman John who tried his best to teach us the Welsh national anthem. Apologies must also go to club Welshman John who we left at the pub by mistake. Sorry!

Once back at the hut, we had a wholesome dinner and tucked into a few more drinks. Some of us had a few more. The more responsible amongst us had a few more. Those less responsible took over from the more responsible and thanks must go to them. Thanks.

Sunday morning was a bit of a blur but we still managed to

have a fantastic day climbing at the Pinnacles. New routes were scaled, bouldering problems solved and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves despite their woolly heads. We eventually set off for home and all 31 of us made it back safely, if rather late, on Sunday night.

Thanks to everyone who went, especially the 17 freshers who really got stuck in and made the weekend a success. Hopefully you had a good time and it'd be great to see you again.

If you would like more information about IMMC and our plans for the year, visit our page on the www.icmsu.com website. Alternatively, email any queries to simon.humphrey@ic.ac.uk.

Spanish agenda

SPANISH SOCIETY

By Nacho Quinones

Many of you have probably gone on holiday to Spain. Why not? Great country, great food and brilliant people! But what happens when the Spanish come to London? There's so much to take in: the rain, fish and chips, sunset at half four in the evening, beans on toast, cockney rhyming slang and so on. These are just a few of the factors that contribute to the tremendous culture shock that we poor Spaniards get when we first arrive.

To be fair, it takes some

getting used to, and a feeling of homesickness is somewhat unavoidable when one stops and thinks of beautiful, sunny Spain. Fortunately, London is a great place and there's so much to do that this is not a great problem, however every now and then I have found myself in the mood for some good Sangria, dancing a little Pachanga or eating decent paella. Not necessarily all at the same time, but you know what I mean!

Anyhow, these and any other Spain-cravings that you might have are what the Spanish Soc is here for! We want to bring a bit of the Spanish way of life to London,

so that us Españoles will get a bit of home away from home, and everyone else can get a taste of what being Spanish is all about.

So far this year, we've had a couple of really cool parties and meetings where everyone's had an excellent time and even learnt a bit of Spanish (seriously, you drink a bit and you're suddenly bilingual!)

The Day of the Dead party, organised with our mates from the LatAm soc, for instance, was great! We hired a club out and near enough took over the place to organise a Hallowe'en party, Latin style! That is with some san-

grias here, some señoritas there, and a good time all around! I for one was out of my tree and I wasn't the only one - someone must have woken up wearing a random sombrero!

We then organised another party last weekend. This time, it was planned as a typical Spanish party, without the stereotypes, and it turned out to be a pretty random one! We had a small bouncy castle that proved to be a success amongst the smokers, and a mysterious smoke machine that actually popped out of nowhere for a short time and then left us, never to be seen again... spooky! Overall,

the result was a completely crazy night, a whole bunch of newly acquainted couples and a good time in general. But just in case that's not enough fiesta for you people, we'll be organising a couple of new events soon.

Look out for our upcoming boat party! This is a recurring event, organised by a bunch of the mediterranean societies as well as the Latin people (we can't get enough of 'em). We've hosted this event for a couple of years now and it's always turned out to be a big success and a good laugh. If you want to know more, email ignacio.quinones@ic.ac.uk and I'll put you on the

mailing list.

Of course, we have good parties but we do organise other stuff! We've been to a couple of pubs and met up with a few people who wanted to improve their language skills. So we've made some new friends in these little language sessions, but we're not always that friendly! We're looking forward to meeting our rivals in the upcoming five-a-side world cup and we won't be easy on you! Speaking of football, coming up this Sunday is THE match: Real Madrid vs Barcelona, the clash of the titans! We'll see you in the pub for it; look out for the loud group!

Competitions

Win broadband from BT for the rest of the university year

Sick of squabbling with your housemates over whose turn it is on the internet? It can be a nightmare with a house-full trying to get online at the same time. Broadband for Students from BT is a brand new package which could be just the answer - offering students a nine-month broadband contract* if they sign up before November 30th.

The new package is designed specially around your student year and is available with the BT Wireless Network**. This home networking kit allows you and your housemates to connect wirelessly from anywhere in the house - simultaneously - making your house a wire and argument free zone in one fell swoop. You can also connect up your games consoles to your broadband connection to have a bit of fun after all the hard work's done!

To celebrate the launch of Broadband for Students from BT, Felix is offering one reader a Broadband from BT connection for the rest of the student year, together with a BT Wireless Network 1250.

For the chance to win, just answer the following question:

The Electric Telegraph Company, an ancestor of BT, was established in which year?

(a) 1646

(b) 1746

(c) 1846

Email your answer to felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday 25 November. The first person to be randomly selected after the closing date will win the prize.



The BT Wireless Network 1250

Footnotes:

*Subject to availability and survey. BT line or similar required. Minimum computer specification applies. Monthly line rental for BT Broadband is £24.99 (with Direct Debit, otherwise add £1), and £26.99 for BT Yahoo! Broadband (with Direct Debit, otherwise add £1). Minimum 9 month term. Terms & Conditions apply, see www.bt.com/broadbandforstudents for full details.

**BT Wireless Network 1250 (£99.99 if you are a BT Broadband or BT Yahoo! Broadband customer) connects up to 10 computers wirelessly and extra computers via existing telephone lines. Range up to 50m indoors and 250m outdoors (in ideal conditions). Laptop or desktop adapter card needed to wirelessly connect each laptop or desktop PC unless product is already compatible with wireless networking. BT Voyager 1060 laptop adapter card (£39.99) and BT Voyager 1040 desktop adapter card (£39.99) available from BT. See www.bt.com/homenetworking for further details. Minimum computer specification required. Not compatible with cable broadband and your service provider must permit networking. This service is not available with BT Broadband Basic, all other Broadband from BT packages are compatible. Terms and Conditions apply, see www.bt.com/homenetworking for full details.

BT Terms and Conditions:

1. The Winner must have a residential BT line or similar.

2. The free prize draw is open to UK residents aged 18 or over, other than employees of BT, its agencies or their families. Only one entry per person.

3. Offer closes on 25 November 2004. No purchase necessary.

4. The Winner will be the first entry drawn at random by Felix on 26 November 2004, and will be notified by telephone within 28 days of the closing date.

5. The Winner will receive the prizes as set out in the copy above. If the Winner does not live in a broadband enabled area they may nominate a family member or friend to receive the 9 months subscription to BT Broadband provided they inform BT by 30th February 2005.

6. The Promoter's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

7. The Promoter reserves the right to alter, amend or foreclose the offer without prior notice in the event that unforeseen circumstances make this unavoidable.

8. No cash alternative will be available for the prizes. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute a prize of equivalent or greater value if this is necessary for reasons beyond its control.

9. A list of winners may be obtained by sending a SAE to the Promoter marked 'BT Student / Felix Competition', within 28 days of the closing date.

10. The Promoter is British Telecommunications plc, 81 Newgate Street, London, EC1A 7AJ.



What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER

**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**
6pm
Main Dining Hall, Sherfield Building
It's a stage to showcase your talent – your chance to sign up 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

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER

**UNION EVENTS
ROCK CITY**
8pm–2am
Beit Quad
£3
Live music from Cherryfalls and Kapowski, plus DJ K. Smirnoff vodka and draft mixer for £1 while stocks last.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

**CLUBBING
FABRICLIVE**
Fabric
Plump DJs in the main room, and Desi beats deluxe in room 3 with Nitin Sawhney and Radio 1's Bobby Friction and Nihal.

**CLUBBING
THE GALLERY**
Turnmills
Judge Jules makes an appearance at this popular Friday nighter.

SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER

**UNION EVENTS
INTERYEAR RUGBY
MATCH**
Kick off 12.30pm
Teddington
The annual Imperial College School of Medicine 1st year versus 2nd year match, complete with half time food fight and teapot. Coaches leave Beit Quad at 11am and Hammersmith Appolo at 11.30am. Return cost £5. Return coaches leave Teddington at 6.30pm and go to the Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital, for the after-match party. All are welcome to spectate.
Contact: garth.walker@ic.ac.uk

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER

**UNION EVENTS
FRESHERS PLAYS**
7.30pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£4
An evening to showcase new acting talent. Three plays, lots of wine, cheese and chocolate, all for £4 on the door.
Contact: andrew.al-rais@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: shumonta.quaderi@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER

**FILMS
THE TERMINAL**
6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
An eastern immigrant finds himself stranded at John F Kennedy airport and must take up temporary residence there.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

**UNION EVENTS
PARAMOUNT COMEDY
ON TAP**
7.30pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
£4
The hugely popular Paramount Comedy night continues, featuring Andre Vincent, Daniel Packard and Rob Rouse. Come early to avoid disappointment.
Contact: lucy.pickard@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

**FILMS
THE CHRONICLES
OF RIDDICK**
8.45pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
The wanted criminal Riddick arrives in Helion Prime and finds himself against the invading Necromongers, an army that plans to convert or kill all humans.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER

**UNION EVENTS
INTERNSHIP FAIR**
11am–4pm
Tanaka Building and Mechanical Engineering Dept
Find out more about getting internships.
Contact: president@cgcu.net

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

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER

**VERY IMPORTANT
FELIX PUBLISHED**
10am onwards
Pick up the next issue of your student newspaper from your department or the Union building.
Contact: felix@ic.ac.uk

**WORKSHOP
CRIME PREVENTION**
6–7pm
Willis Jackson Hall Common Room
A talk held by a Met Police Crime Prevention Officer. Topics will include personal safety, mobile phone security, new students in London and safety when out clubbing. Free Crime Prevention CD ROMs will be available, and the police will be issuing personal alarms. Don't let yourself become a victim of crime!
Contact: l.bryant@ic.ac.uk

**CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
THAI FOOD FESTIVAL**
6pm onwards
Main Dining Hall, Sherfield Building
£8 ThaiSoc members;
£10 non-members

Running an event? Tell us about it!

Felix will print your listings free of charge. Just email felix@ic.ac.uk and tell us:

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

Experience Thai food with great varieties in a relaxing environment. Knowing that the weekend is so near, why not come along to try six dishes with friends?
Contact: pb302@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
THE CHRONICLES
OF RIDDICK**
6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
The wanted criminal Riddick arrives in Helion Prime and finds himself against an army that plans to convert or kill all humans.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
THE TERMINAL**
8.45pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
An eastern immigrant finds himself stranded at John F Kennedy airport and must take up temporary residence there.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

**FILMS: VUE CINEMA,
FULHAM BROADWAY
AFTER THE SUNSET
(12A)**
Fri to Thurs: 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.40pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.50am.
TAXI (12A)
Fri to Thurs: 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.20pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.40am.

BEING JULIA (12A)
Fri to Thurs: 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.15pm.

**THE MANCHURIAN
CANDIDATE (15)**
Fri and Sat only: 11pm.

**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: 6.10pm

**FINDING NEVERLAND
(PG)**
Fri to Thurs: 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.50pm. Fri and Mon to Thurs: 8.10pm. Sat and Sun only: 6.40pm, 9.10pm. Sun only: 10.50am.

THE GRUDGE (15)
Fri to Thurs: 1pm, 8.30pm. Fri and Mon to Thurs: 3.40pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.10pm.

BAD SANTA (15)
Fri to Thurs: 2.20pm. Fri and Mon to Thurs: 7.10pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.10am.

BIRTH (15)
Fri and Sat only: 11.40pm.

ALFIE (15)
Fri to Thurs: 4.45pm. Fri and Mon to Thurs: 9.30pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.50pm.

**THE PRINCESS DIARIES
2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT
(U)**
Sat and Sun only: 11.20am.

SHARK TALE (12A)
Sat and Sun only: 1.20pm, 3.30pm.

Competition winners

Books giveaway

We asked you: what is the name of Michael Moore's recent blockbuster movie? The answer was, of course, **Fahrenheit 9/11**. The winners are:

Jason Tram (Computing III) who wins *The Truth About Markets* by John Kay

Thomas Cafferkey (Earth Science and Engineering III) who wins *Dude Where's My Country* by Michael Moore

Mary Tung (Computing II) who wins *The Prison House* by John King

Malibu giveaway

We asked you: what item can you download from the Malibu website to get you in a seriously easy going mood?

The answer was **a Shaggy mask**. The winners, who each receive a bottle of Malibu, a carton of cranberry and a branded jug, are

Jessica Wright (Biology I), **Romain Kidd** (Mechanical Engineering II) and **Claire Wilkinson** (Electrical Engineering II)



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Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Motherloving, metal and tedium

The goth-punk Eighties Matchbox return with their new album, *Mendeed* impress despite the cover, and Feist almost kills *Felix* with boredom

ALBUM REVIEWS

Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster
The Royal Society
MCA
★★★★☆

For the unlucky few who haven't heard about the antics of the Brighton-based Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster, here's a quick recap. Lead singer Guy McKnight cries, dribbles and runs head first into the speakers when performing live, and they got mainstream attention with their debut single, *Celebrate Your Mother*, about the joys of fornicating with your parents ("It's a dirty job but someone's got to do it well!" he crooned), which was followed up by the short spiky album *Horse Of The Dog*.

The Royal Society, their follow-up, aims to send their goth-metal to a new dimension, helped by Queens Of The Stone Age producer Chris Goss. Opening with the intense *Rise Of The Eagles*, it's a prime example of The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster at their finest: menacing bass lines, quick riffs and surreal lyrics which are not too distant from a Leonard Cohen album. We have Guy's awesome voice pelting out "I wanna fly like an eagle / I wanna sing like Sinatra / I've got a date with destruction / I wanna love like a mother!" in his trademark baritone, then switching to a high pitched squeak for the chorus line, "All dressed up and ready to go!"

Surrealism and gloom is the order of the day here, with lyrics such as "Here's you your skin, so pale and thin / Give me your skin for dancing in" in the creepy *I Could Be An Angle*, and the downright weird "What do we do with puppy dog's tails? / What do we do with a bucket of snails? / What do we do with a boy like you? / We put them in a pot

and throw them on a fire!" on the gothic *Puppy Dog Snails*, which had me laughing like a loon when I first heard it.

The new production sheen can also be felt, with *Drunk On The Blood* being an impressive Queens Of The Stone Age influenced mini-epic with two distinct parts, and the bass-driven *Mister Mental*, which most people would know from *Shaun Of The Dead*. One of the highlights of this process is the gloomy *Temple Music*, a surprisingly personal song of lost love, with the haunting chorus "And now I've ripped out your heart dear / I've got to throw it away" which is dripping with atmosphere.

Despite the band's strengths, the album in general suffers from a lack in diversity in other tracks. Some of the guitar sections start to sound repetitive and boring, recycling the same riffs from before. Also, these songs drag on too long, repeating choruses too many times and undermining the epic sound of the other songs.

So here's the crux: at 45 minutes, it's just too long. Which is a great shame, because The Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster show some great talent here for an atmospheric tune, but haven't managed to create a cohesive album, having too much filler in between the strong tracks. If they can learn to keep it leaner for next time, we could be looking at one of the finest bands around today.

Matthew Hartfield

Mendeed
From *Shadows Came Darkness*
Rising
★★★★☆

Appearances can be truly misleading. I picked up *From Shadows Came Darkness* with half-hearted pessimism, expecting, from the



Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster: their dragster of the same name, now sadly departed

monochrome cover and minimalist presentation, some sort of depressing but competent indie melancholia. I didn't expect an interesting, varied and utterly surprising blend of classic rock and contemporary metal, but that is exactly what I got.

The album kicks off with a simplistic and sweet classical piano track that wouldn't sound out of place in either a HIM song or a Classic FM easy listening compilation, but it soon turns into something completely different. From the second track, *Act of Sorrow*, onwards, *Mendeed* show off the metal credentials that have had them touring with the likes of Anthrax and My Ruin. Marrying ambitious soaring guitars with speed drumming and desperate, hoarse screams and growls usually associated with the far more extreme end of the musical spectrum, they create a blend of the traditional and the outré that is just that bit more exciting than most of the generally available metal-lite out there. Not easy listening by any stretch of the imagination, it's still compelling and intriguing; like ice

cream laced with razor blades, you can feel the danger but you just can't help yourself.

If it were indeed ice cream, razor-blade-laced or otherwise, the one thing you can be sure of is that it wouldn't be vanilla, even that really nice vanilla with the clotted cream. Not content with a highly skilled winning formula, *Mendeed* scatter the album with unexpected interludes – a spot of almost flamenco-esque acoustic guitar with floaty female vocals here, what sounds like children chanting in an unspecified African language there, a hidden track that returns to the classical theme of the intro, but with a much more intense, brooding atmosphere – that make you prick up your ears with curiosity. To switch metaphors, it's rather like eating Revels: you're never quite sure what you're going to get, but you know it'll be good. Except that *Mendeed* don't really have an equivalent for the one flavour you always try to palm off onto someone else; it's all pretty damn fine.

In the interests of unbiased reporting, it's probably best that I point out that some sections of the album do tend to drag; in between the random bits of oddness, the music itself is a little one-sided. Really, though, that's splitting hairs when it's so brilliantly executed: tight, coherent and relentlessly driven. Metal purists could demand some more integrity to the genre while those unacquainted with it could ask for a bit less obscurity, but all in all this is a fantastic crossover album that, at a mere 36 minutes, will leave you hungry for more. Like those teeny tiny individual pots of Ben and Jerry's, but with a lot more punch.

Anna Novitzky

Feist
Let It Die
Polydor
☆☆☆☆☆

Picture the scene. Four 30-some-

things gather around their Ikea coffee table after putting their 2.5 children to bed. After discussing the next people carrier they wish to buy, and celebrating the fact that one of them has been promoted to "executive-vice-sub-divisional-marketing-strategist", the subject turns to music. They suspiciously eye the Dido CD lying on their aforementioned generic 'stylish' furniture, recently, and hurriedly, removed from their in-car hi-fi. They read in the latest *Child Motivation Monthly* that exposing your child to violent TV actively suppresses their ruthless-overachieving gland, and that dude from Buffy was in a Dido song or something. So, they ask, who do they turn to next to provide their children with soothing drive-time music?

It could well be Feist. Oh my God, where to start. It's bland, it's annoyingly hushed, it's jazz for a generation devoid of soul and it's pretentious (there are songs in French!) Possibly worst of all, it thinks it's quirky. Compared to artists of a similar age producing gloriously eccentric solo semi-folk (see the brilliant Devendra Banhart, Regina Spektor, Iron and Wine) it's about as quirky and interesting as a wall upon which paint dried 50 years ago.

And the instrumentation! Just as I thought I would bite off my own ears if they didn't use drumsticks instead of brushes, I found I was begging for their return as the percussion was replaced with finger-clicks. And that is pretty much the most interesting thing I can say about it. You may wonder why there are no track names stated here; you may wonder if I have only listened to it once. Oh no, I sat through it three times. *Felix* owes me a beer (I've heard it, and I agree – Ed).

Want a more quantifiable representation of its awfulness? Feist are supporting Keane. That means in theory they are not even as good as Keane. Go and buy this for someone you don't like.

James Millen



Mendeed: not your typical seaside band

MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Brilliance from The Open, torture from Busted

SINGLE REVIEWS

The Open
Never Enough
Polydor
★★★★☆

Why The Open never released the more rocking tracks from their debut album *The Silent Hours* has always confused me. Granted, *Close My Eyes* and *Just Want To Live* were amazing slices of emotive indie, but *Elevation* was just pap. So at last they have released a song that sounds like all the best bits from their album condensed into two minutes 48 seconds.

Never Enough is actually a re-issue of a much earlier song, and is by far their best single to date. The guitars are spiky, and they make good use of the ever-effective rhythm slash. The chorus could be used as a definition for the word 'anthemic' in some bizarre audio dictionary. They make so much noise combined with so much melody, it really is astounding.

They just can't do wrong, these northern lads. Even the nine minute long B-side *Begin* is brilliant, with 1001 things going on at once, and a space-rock stylee build up in the middle. I wait with anticipation to see where they will go next.

James Millen

Busted
She Wants To Be Me
MCA
☆☆☆☆☆

This is the most awful aural torture I have ever subjected myself to.

What's probably a positive about *She Wants To Be Me* is the fact that it is unmemorable. The song just occurs and luckily avoids any of those painful catchy hooks that this "band" produce. If she wants to be him then she has pathetic aspirations in life.

The B-side is a live version of this song that is as equally pointless as it is superfluous. Maybe the label realised how much of a non-entity the song is that it had to repeat it just to remind you, yes, that was a song that just happened. There's even a line "Somebody notice, somebody notice me!" Is this about the girl or the song?

Putting down Busted is a popular pastime, so if you need more ammunition to fire at said bushy eyebrowed band then put this in your stereo. From the first predictable drum roll opening to the 'Yeah, we're heavy! (in a Darkness kind of way)' ending, I can't begin to express my distaste at these three boychildren taking turns to flog the dead horse that is pop-punk. But they do have pretty smiles.

Matthew Hoban

Fields and Caves

Felix checks out up-and-coming band The Healing Fields, and catches Nick Cave's legendary live show

UNSIGNED

The Healing Fields
WestOneFour, Fulham
★★★★☆

There's no messing about, The Healing Fields set their agenda as soon as they launch into opener *Cold Crystal Heart*. Upbeat and uplifting, it's described to me by the band as "a pop classic".

It's certainly catchy, but the use of the word 'pop' is a brave one. The justification for this is probably Beric's voice, which is smooth and powerful. There's nothing unfashionable about this; take away The Music's Robert Harvey's northern accent, take away his band of gurning baggies, and essentially he is a pop singer. Most singers in most indie bands are pop singers, only more introverted.

So why are they not a 'pop band'? Well, they write interesting songs, they are all very proficient musicians, and... oh yeah, they're not a Pop Band because of Simon Herd's guitar. This is proper rock guitar, and the distorted sound is the glue that stops the melodies being too sugary. Not only does it fill the gaps, but when he plays guitar solos in indie songs it gives the band their



The Healing Fields

identity. In set closer and EP lead track *Sunrise* there is an amazing riff that's played throughout the song, and the almost excessive choppiness of the endings are both aurally and visually effective.

They know when to turn it down as well, such as on the sublime *Clutching At Straws*, where Dom (acoustic guitar/keyboards) picks out a gorgeous acoustic guitar part below Beric's floating vocals and Leanna's light drums. What makes

the band work is how the parts come together, such as in *Know Your Peace* where Simon's guitar part could be northern rock upstarts *The Open*, Damian's bass and Dom's piano are bouncy, and Beric's vocals are rich and mellow. And then it all comes together to sound like, well, The Healing Fields.

To sum them up, essentially they are an indie band with a pop singer and a rock guitarist. And it works, which is an amazing thing, and

who are they?

The Healing Fields are a five-piece from London, and their melody-driven, rich indie has been getting them noticed. They recently won best unsigned band in London at a competition at Sound in Leicester Square, and they topped an unsigned band chart for six weeks. They take their name from the Glastonbury field, and say they wanted a name that encapsulated the festival spirit. The band formed in January 2003, mainly playing in London, but they have also played the Castle Rock festival in Cornwall and Pride on Tyde in Newcastle. They are prolific writers of material, and have just headed into the same studio as white noise merchants My Vitriol to record their debut EP. And Paul Gambaccini's a fan!

Check out www.thehealingfields.com to hear some tracks, and see them support Countermine on 24 November at the Clapham Grand.

deserving of accolade in itself. Add to that the fact they write songs with personality and individuality, and it can only be a matter of time before they're walking all over every boring garage band in London.

James Millen

LIVE REVIEWS

Nick Cave
Carling Academy Brixton
★★★★☆

There is something wonderful about Nick Cave: his svelte, ageless figure with that jet black mop and those angst-ridden lyrics penetrating into the deepest recesses of the soul. If there is one word to sum up his performance last Friday, the last of the three London shows, it is this: thrilling.

Following the opening by the ethereal sounding Mercury Rev, the dark prince and his twelve-strong Seeds (including a choir of four) took the stage for a night to remember.

The first set of songs were all from the newly released double album *Abattoir Blues / The Lyre of Orpheus* (at least this is my assumption as I

am ashamed to say that I did not know any). With my mental notebook working overtime, particularly noteworthy were *Abattoir Blues* (to open), *There It Goes*, *My Beautiful World*, and *Easy Money* with Nick at home on piano. The songs sounded well rehearsed and carefully placed, all building up into amazing crashing crescendos. Also here was *The Lyre Of Orpheus*, spoken as only Nick Cave can, with dark and deep choruses of "oh mama" emanating from the choir. I may not have known the new album before the gig but I do now: Nick Cave sold it to me hands down. Incidentally, I am also now the proud owner of one *Lyre Of Orpheus* tea towel with all the lyrics.

On stage Nick certainly had presence, and he knew how to use it. Dressed in a beautifully cut suit with a fitted white shirt, he did indeed look rather dashing as he



Nick Cave live: it's almost like you're there, slipping on plastic pint pots

moved about the stage with angular, electric style. As a fellow admirer in the audience kept shouting: "Nice ass, Nick".

I'd offer praise too for his ability to sing and chain-smoke simultaneously (he must have gone through a small packet of fags while on stage): the consummate professional.

In the second set, things got a little more raw as he left the newer material to give us the old favourites we craved, and it was nice (I secretly admit) to recognise some of the songs. The powerful *Red Right Hand*, *Deanna*, with violinist Warren Ellis working overtime, and *The Weeping Song* were featured here. There is nothing quite like hearing your favourite lyrics live and Nick did it so perfectly, so effortlessly. The tongue-in-cheek parody *God Is In The House* sounded very fine as my favourite lines rang out: "We've bred all our kittens white so you can see them in the night".

Nick, at one point, was in a whisper and the audience craned to take it in.

While my companion, Julie, and I wished he had played more of the songs we knew, for someone with so many albums (19, no less) there was a lot to choose from. Nick Cave strikes me as someone who likes to experiment, who might get bored just belting out hits to an adoring audience, so it wasn't a surprise that a good part of the concert concentrated on his new stuff.

There was one more encore before it was time for us all to pick our way through the mass of discarded plastic pint glasses and out into the cold night. Lastly, with a "Goodbye London, see you in another couple of years", *The Mercy Seat* got an airing. It sounded just as it was meant to, soul food for the depraved, and the audience was transfixed. I'll be there next time, Nick: you rock.

Zoë Corbyn



Nick Cave: he really, really likes to smoke

MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Two slices of America, please

The rather excellent Goldrush make their return to these shores, and The Thrills unleash their latest chunk of West Coast melodic pop

LIVE REVIEW

Goldrush
The Borderline
★★★★☆

The London Borderline has a love of all things Americana; from the bands they put on to the décor. It's therefore fitting that Goldrush play there following their return from an American tour.

The first support band Tanaou fill the stage with their six members. They make a strange sound, coming on like Alfie trying to write the score for a teen romantic comedy. It's good, as awful as that sounds, though their singer could do with some lessons on tuning.

Goldrush launch straight into new material from their *Ozona EP*, named after the yokel nowhere-ville they broke down in on tour. Introduced as a song about "trying things I shouldn't in the Joshua Tree desert", *Things I've Lost* displays a fair chunk of their musical arsenal; honey-coated vocals, sharp and jangly guitars, and beautifully harmonious melodies. Lead track from the EP, *Wait For The Wheels*, has a stomping rhythm and catchy chorus. It's uplifting

and rousing, putting a harder edge on their normally indie-than-thou sound.

Next up are a couple of old songs. To my extreme relief, they play the crowd-pleasing and glorious anthem that is *Let You Down*, a song that starts so tender it turns your legs to jelly, and finishes with powerful layers of sound that hit you right in the gut. Secondly they play their "smash hit" *Wide Open Sky*, an unashamedly poppy song that is summer condensed into three and a half minutes.

Getting back to the new songs they play the offbeat, and undoubtedly brilliant, *Jupiter* and the oddly dark *There's A World*. Upon urging the crowd to come to the front (which sees everyone shuffle shyly forwards a couple of inches) they launch into the rocky *52nd State*, a track that makes little sense on record, but comes together live. I never thought I'd live to see Goldrush go rock!

They finish on an as yet unrecorded track, which has a picked acoustic melody overlaid by odd spacey electric guitar noises. In the customary encore, front man Robin is joined by co-vocalist and keyboardist Rob to play a pretty acoustic track, before the band finish with live favourite *Counting Song*, leaving a jubilant



The Thrills: "We're gonna give you such a kicking"

crowd drenched in feedback.

Though not exactly a new band, Goldrush have obviously benefited from a heavy touring schedule, and

look set to bring their own brand of uplifting indie to an ever-increasing audience.

James Millen

SINGLE REVIEW

The Thrills
Not For All The Love In The World
Virgin
★★★★☆

Back with the latest excerpt from *Let's Bottle Bohemia* (Bohemia being quite a large part of the Czech Republic, in case you're interested), The Thrills have gone for a nice piano ballad. And isn't it lovely. It's the sort of record you'll play to a kid to charm them to sleep.

When it started I thought someone had wound up a musical box (actually, the whole record could easily be mistaken for one). As soon as the vocals come in, you realise the single sounds remarkably like the Flaming Lips, which can't be a bad thing. The moving string arrangements (composed by the same man who worked with the Beach Boys, strangely) are a nice accompaniment to the rolling piano.

Not For All The Love In The World is in an unoriginal style, but The Thrills have taken it on well. People should like it, especially the Sleeping & Dreaming society, who could use it to fall asleep.

Alex Gittins



Return to Speed

Fabio and LTJ Bukem are two of the godfathers of drum and bass. *Felix* went along to Progression Sessions, where the pair were having a bit of a reunion...

CLUB REVIEW

Progression Sessions
The End
£10-12
★★★★★

Few club nights can claim to have reached a seminal status. However, Speed is one of those nights.

Running between 1995 and 1996, Speed helped to change many people's perceptions about drum and bass, establishing it as a serious, emotive music form. Since its demise, its co-founders LTJ Bukem and Fabio have moved on, now both hosting their own individual residencies at The End – the monthly Progression Sessions and weekly Swerve respectively. However, for November's session, LTJ had something special in mind: a re-union, a chance to celebrate tunes of a certain vintage, and relive hazy memo-

ries. It was time to return to Speed.

It was also our return to The End, after a long year's absence. Having braved the arctic November winds to rendezvous in Mornington Crescent, anticipation levels were steadily fuelled by a few hours drinking. We touched down at the venue at around 11.30pm to be greeted by the sight of a phat queue. However, the efficient door staff moved things on with a minimal amount of fuss, and before long we were inside the ride. Descending down into that most legendary of London basements, we were greeted by lights, smoke, drums and bass – it was good to be back.

After a quick excursion to the bar, it was directly into the main room where things were obviously already in full effect. DJ Ink was at the helm, mixing tidily through a neat selection of atmospheric rollers. There has already been much said in these pages about the merits of The End

as a venue, but a special mention must be made of the atmosphere on this night. The stark but stylish interior of the club complemented the brand of futuristic music to a T and the hundreds of people, shrouded in smoke, occasionally lit by a laser display, were in full appreciation.

At this point it was time for a brief funk interlude in the second room, courtesy of a certain Jazzy B ("back to life, back to reality...") representing the soul2soul sound system. The vibe was nice, and bodies were being shaken left, right and centre. However, one was always conscious of the events that were to take place in the main room – namely the main attraction, LTJ Bukem alongside the ever faithful MC Conrad.

LTJ is renowned for his musical, string-fuelled take on drum and bass, and what can be said except that his performance lived up to all expectations – and then some. The Speed era was one of

the most creative periods the D&B genre has witnessed, and in this set we were treated to some of its finest moments. Key tunes included Bukem's own *Horizons* and PFM's *One and Only*, not to mention the tumbling sounds of J Majik's *Repertoire*. These were, of course, complemented by the melodic tones and conscious raps of Conrad, one of the great MC's who is not afraid to let the music do the talking.

As Bukem's finale wound down, the crowd's response reflected the quality of the music. Who could possibly hope follow such a performance? Does such an entity exist? There was only one man it could have been...

Fabio, the liquid master, stepped up in his own inimitable style at around 3am and to be honest he could have left after his first tune. Digging deep to intro with that classic of classics, *Atlantis (I Need You)*, the tone was set. What followed was

nothing less than an exquisite concoction of strings, warm bass and serious rhythms from circa 1996. Highlights included Alex Reese's *Pulp Fiction*, whose pulsating bassline sounded gargantuan on the thunderidge rig, and Digital's *Spacefunk* – you just had to look into the DJ booth to see what this tune meant to the Speed originators: the amen dropped, Fabio bounced like a man possessed, LTJ almost snapped his neck from excessive nodding and MC Conrad sincerely suggested that it be rewound back to the T-O-P.

Come 4am, with metabolic rates excited by the frequencies and rhythms, we made our exit. At this time in the morning, having experienced such a venue and musical goodness, there is very little one can do but buy some crab flavoured noodles from the local all-night shop, and recount the previous hours beat by beat.

Anthony Roberts

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A high-handed and troublesome priest

Emily Lines reviews one Frenchman's take on one of the most famous friendships in English history

Becket

Theatre Royal Haymarket, SW1
Starring: Dougray Scott,
Jasper Britton
Tickets: £11-£40

To those who haven't studied England in the 12th century or have seen the classic 1964 film with Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole, the story of King Henry II and Thomas à Becket maybe rather unfamiliar. It is one of the greatest stories of friendship of English history, combining love, obsession, greed and a mammoth power struggle between two men.

The play *Becket* was written in 1958 by the French playwright Jean Anouilh, who took several liberties with historical accuracy. He tells the story of Thomas à Becket as a Saxon noble confused in Henry's Norman court, uncomfortable with Henry's deep trust in him and in conflict between his loyalty to his king, the church and his own roots. This new production takes a traditional stance on the play, and stars Dougray Scott as Becket, and Jasper Britton as Henry II.

At the start of the play, Henry has singled out Becket from his group of nobles as his particular companion, and together they pass their time

hunting and womanising. Henry confides in Becket and, against the wishes of his other advisors, he makes the young Becket chancellor.

The death of the Archbishop of Canterbury gives Henry the opportunity to make reforms in the church, and he decides to appoint Becket as the new Archbishop. Becket tries to refuse, telling Henry, "I can't serve God and you at the same time," but the King is adamant, and Becket is consecrated as the new Archbishop.

Absorbed by his new role, Becket resigns as chancellor and turns away from his old life of excess to that of an ascetic priest. He protects the Church's interests and refuses to allow Henry to make the changes he wants. Henry is furious, and soon their conflict reaches crisis point, forcing Becket to flee to the continent.

The Pope insists that Becket and Henry make peace, and Becket returns to England, but soon after excommunicates the Archbishop of York. Henry flies into a rage when he hears the news, which prompts four of his nobles to storm Canterbury Cathedral. Upon his refusal to pardon those he has excommunicated, they stab him to death, leaving his corpse on the altar.

Anouilh's take on the story has

a lot to do with his experiences in Nazi-occupied France. Dougray Scott, as Becket, expertly portrays Becket's more duty-filled actions, but his high-handed treatment of the King before his consecration is somewhat unconvincing. Although the King relies on him heavily, looks up to him and is constantly reliant on his opinion, Scott's portrayal seems too detached, making the conflict he experiences more about his duty to the King and God, rather than his personal conflict of friendship versus duty.

Britton's Henry is a much more engaging character. His alternating

"Will no-one rid me of this troublesome priest?"

HENRY II (as legend would have it)

weakness and strength, his ever-changing power over Becket as a King against Becket's power over him as a mentor makes the play both absorbing and unsettling. His obsession with Becket is convincing, and his struggle to uphold his own wishes in the face of Becket's tyrannical attitude, coupled with his deep personal love for Becket is seamlessly depicted. His grow-



Becket fleeing England. Anyone who cares to translate the latin can have an honourable mention next week

ing self-hatred is sympathetically played, and by the end his final decision is both believable and a natural climax.

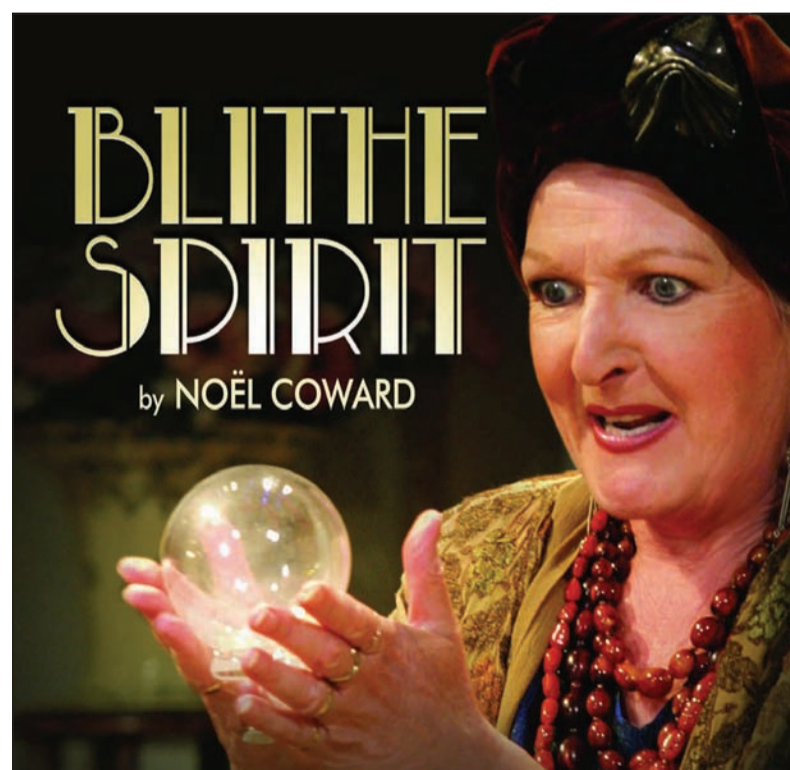
Don't be put off this play by its complex historical context. The language and style are contemporary and approachable, and the repeating motifs of oppression and racism are strikingly relevant to today's society. But the lasting impression is of the destructive friendship between the

two leads, and the timeless conflict of love with duty.

● **Becket runs at the Theatre Royal Haymarket until 12 February 2005 and is directed by John Caird. Music has been specially composed for this production by John Cameron. Call the box office on 0870 901 3356 or email boxoffice@trh.co.uk**

One wife too many

Noel Coward's classic comedy is back on stage at the Savoy



"I will ever be grateful for the almost psychic gift that enabled me to write *Blithe Spirit* in five days during one of the darkest years of the war."

Blithe Spirit has had the longest run of all Noel Coward's works. It's popularity is quite deserved, as it is

a hilarious play.

It is a comedy perfectly illustrating the old saying that 'two's company, three's a crowd'. Charles, an author and socialite, on the passing of his wife, remarries. As part of his research for his next piece of

writing, a mock seance is held. The medium, Madame Arcati, performs the honours.

The seance has some rather unexpected results. Usually, the somewhat eccentric medium manages to only amuse her clients, however, on this occasion she manages to summon the ghost of Charles' first wife.

Much to the first wife's amusement, the only person who can see her is Charles. This coincidence, fits her plans perfectly: she is determined that wife number two, Ruth, has to go. She will not be parted from her husband even by death.

Much amusing confusion ensues as Elvira, wife number one, does her best to try to chase Ruth out of Charles' life. Ruth is not ready to be ousted, so Madame Arcati is called upon to remove the ghost. Unfortunately for Ruth, Madame Arcati's powers are not entirely reliable.

The Savoy is currently running a production of *Blithe Spirit*, starring Penelope Keith as the infamous Madame Arcati along with Aden Gillett, Joanna Riding and Amanda Drew as Charles and his beloved wives.

For anyone who enjoys the wit of Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward is highly recommended.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

Competition

I'm sure you were all wondering when the Arts section would be giving you the opportunity to win something! Here's your chance to get some culture free of charge – or failing that, at half price.

We have five pairs of tickets to give away for *Blithe Spirit* at the Savoy, and they can be yours if you can give me the titles of four other plays by Noel Coward. Four titles is by no means a tall order – the man wrote many! Send your answers to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday 25 November.

For those of you who are cursed never to win anything in competitions as I am, there is something of a consolation prize. Readers of *Felix* are being offered two top price tickets for the price of one. To claim this offer, just call the Savoy Box Office and quote 'Regional Press Offer' when booking. You can do this until 28 January.

"A stellar cast... Penelope Keith is astonishing"
Daily Mail

"A blast... a superb cast... a crackingly enjoyable revival"
Independent

"Noel Coward comes highly recommended"
Felix

**Savoy Box Office: 0870 164 8787
or in person on the Strand WC2**

Tickets: £15 - £40

Ends: 28 May 2005

Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

Impossible? We'll see

It puzzled the Greeks, Einstein couldn't do it, but maybe **William Gates** stands a chance

Beyond Reason

A K Dewdney
(Wiley)
£19.99, 240pp
★★★★★

Contrary to the seemingly popular and – lets face it – egotistical belief that science has no boundaries, no frontiers which the human race can never cross, it appears that there are inevitable gaps in our knowledge. From perpetual motion to unprovable theories such as why we cannot travel at the speed of light and our inability to categorically predict the weather. AK Dewdney investigates these insurmountable barriers in his most recent book, *Beyond Reason*, mathematically and physically arguing their impossibility.

"Maybe we can climb the Everest of Science..."

Over the course of scientific history, there have been certain problems that have been encountered by scientists of all backgrounds and from all nations, and they have been defeated. The Ancient Greeks, for example, tried to create a cube from a circle drawn on a sheet of paper, the cube having exactly the same surface area as the circle, whilst limiting themselves to compasses and a ruler. This issue has been studied by thousands of scientists who tackled the problem, believing it a means by which they can win universal acclaim, and yet each of them failed. Inevitably, Dewdney argues, because of transcendental numbers.

I must admit to having absolutely no idea as to what transcendental numbers are. Dewdney does his best to explain, but the gap in my knowledge is still resolute. A strength of Dewdney's, however, is his ability to very deliberately display the method of his working, and explain the mathematical ideas upon which his argument rests. Simply put, the area of a circle can never be exactly determined as it depends on π , an irrational and non-constructable number. Therefore the desired cube is impossible to create. Go on – give it a go. Instant scientific acclaim awaits if you succeed.

The construction of the cube from the circle is one of the eight "great problems that reveal the limits of science" investigated by Dewdney. They are split into two categories: "Math in the Cosmos" and "Math in the Holos" (where "cosmos" means the physical universe in which we live and "holos" means the entire universe of mathematics). The one inductive, the other deductive science, these problems are examples of why we, the human race, will never be able to elevate ourselves

beyond the realm of impossibility. Apparently not quite everything is possible.

The "cosmos" problems were the more interesting, accessible and engaging. I found this to be the case as I am not an expert in the deeply complicated and sophisticated mathematical theorems which are more common in the "holos" problems. Nevertheless the very notions which are brought to light are fascinating.

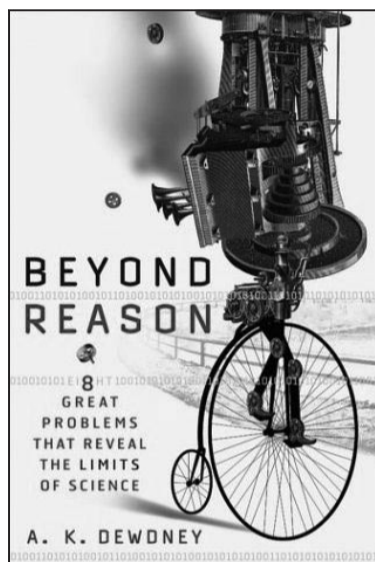
Take perpetual motion, for example. This is probably the simplest of the problems to understand. Perpetual motion directly contradicts Newton's law that energy can neither be created nor destroyed. For a perpetual motion machine to exist, it would have to create energy to enable its chosen type of motion, whether it be a rotating wheel or the movement of electrons in a superconducting ring, to continue undiminished throughout eternity.

This is, of course, impossible for the simple reason that resistances to motion (such as friction) exist, and that energy cannot be created nor destroyed. Therefore the perpetual motion machine will eventually grind to a halt having exhausted its supply of energy and been overcome at last by friction.

What I found most interesting about perpetual motion, however, was the various attempts by scientists over the years to create a machine that succeeded in perpetual motion. Dewdney gives a detailed account of many of the machines which were built, painstakingly, by scientists-come-fraudsters. Yet the

variety of the machines concocted is so impressive that it shows the ingenuity of our species. The irony is that the ingenious designs were merely hoaxes.

The holos problems were the more mathematically dependent.



Simplicity had to be sacrificed at the altar of word-limit; no doubt it would have taken Dewdney hundreds of pages to build up many of the arguments he makes from scratch. The most interesting holos problem was why the long term behaviour of systems such as the weather and planetary motion can never be predicted by any mathematical law. The reason for the enjoyment of this section was the introduction of Chaos Theory, something which I have met before in *Jurassic Park* (the book, not the

film) through the teachings of Dr. Malcolm. "A butterfly beating its wings somewhere in the Amazon rainforest today will make all the difference in Holland in a week's time between a heavy windstorm and a nice day." Sound familiar?

The holos questions should, perhaps, be reserved for those who actually know about such things as strange attractors and non-deterministic algorithms (computing students, that's one for you). There is, however, an element of this book that nags at the subconscious, posing questions which anyone can examine and fret over, losing sleep and sanity.

The idea that poses many problems for me is: if there is an exception to every rule, then is there an exception to that rule? In other words, if there is an exception to every rule, and that itself is a rule, then there must be one rule to which there are no exceptions. But that immediately contradicts the first rule!

One could go around and around in circles such as this forever and still come no closer to the answer. These brainteasers are ones which only leave a bitter taste in the mouth, rather than make any significant difference to science. Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

In spite of these questions to which there seem to be no answer, a more important idea of this book is one that it only poses accidentally. (in that it is not a motive of the book itself). That idea is: what significance do these impossibilities present to science? I have already

made the point that the pursuit of the perpetual motion machine gave rise to a wealth of design activity, the creation of machines which were ingenious but not for the correct reason. Will science as a whole go the same way?

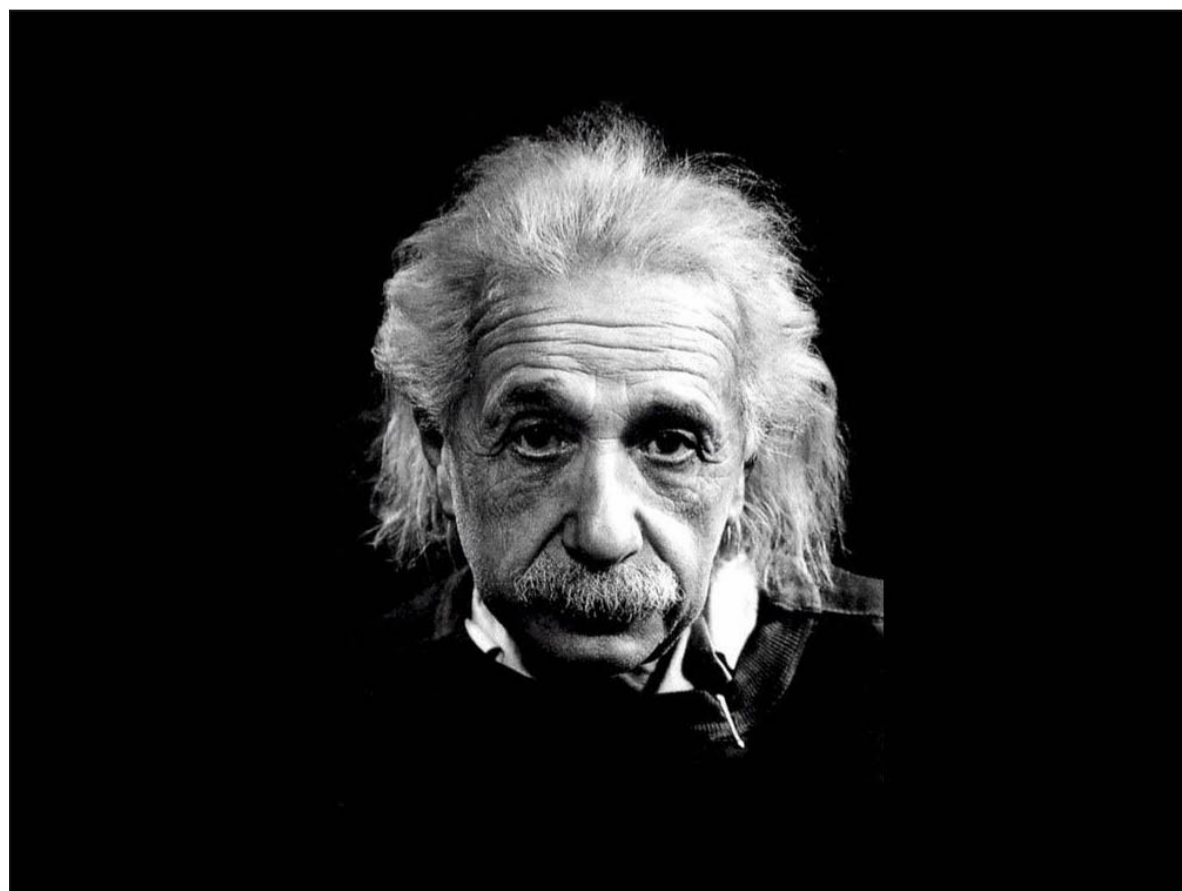
The point may be made that we, as scientists, have not yet discovered all the theorems and mathematical principles which are relevant. It could be that in four hundred years time someone will be the next Newton, or the next Einstein, and present a branch of mathematics, hitherto undiscovered, which changes the complexion of the universe and our understanding of it. A branch of mathematics that forces back the frontiers and undermines the foundations of the impossible barriers. Why not? Such a concept may be idealistic and essentially

"This is, of course, impossible..."

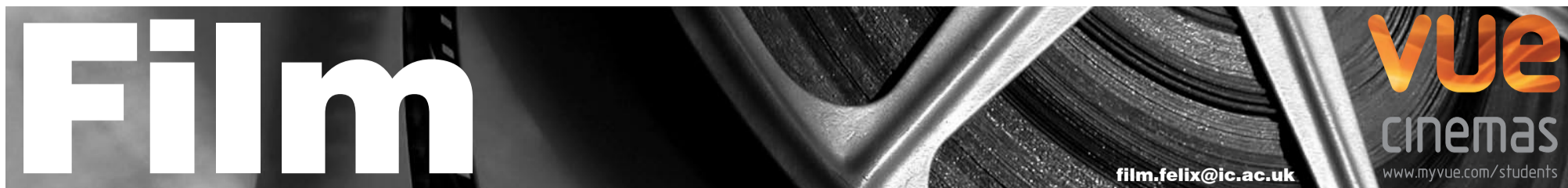
ludicrous to us in the twenty-first century, but why should we be so arrogant as to assume that everything that can be discovered has been?

In many ways we are still those Ancient Greek mathematicians who believed every number was rational. This was their belief, a belief that brought them closer to the divine ideal of perfection, which gave them the means by which they could elevate themselves to the status of deities. Men being Gods. Maybe in the future we develop some means of achieving this. Hey, if we can't scale these impossible barriers, then why not go around them?

Ultimately these barriers may, on the one hand, be detrimental to science. We may as a civilisation see the top of Everest and believe we can go no higher. Our voyage of scientific discovery is over, and our weaknesses exposed. A bitter end to the dreams that nothing is beyond our grasp. On the other hand these barriers may be motivating, driving us to overcome these obstacles by one way or another and, in doing so, achieve harmony of science, where all concepts, beliefs and ideals fall into the arms of a single idea that unites all aspects of our existence, and provide the answer to all the questions we are asking. The achievement of the Olympian ideal, the elevation from man to God. But then, since this voyage of discovery has been the motivation for thousands of people over the years, reaching the end would present the problem of 'where do we go from here?' A shift of focus to new frontiers and horizons. Maybe there will be no end to our labour. Maybe Dewdney is wrong. Maybe we can climb the Everest of science, and leap from the summit like Icarus, soaring towards the sun.



Albert Einstein: baffled



Film listings: see
What's On, page 19

Taxi, going places

Courtesy of Vue Cinemas, Felix Film had an exclusive screening of *Taxi* last Friday. Here's what our reviewer made of it

Taxi
Director: Tim Story
Starring: Queen Latifah, Jimmy Fallon,
Jennifer Esposito, Gisele Bündchen
Length: 97 minutes
Certificate: 12A
Released: Friday 19 November
★★★★☆

First of all, the trailer to this film is rather misleading and pretty atrocious, but the actual movie itself is a bundle of laughter.

Confusingly, the trailer gives the impression that the movie is an action flick, but it turns out that *Taxi* falls into the comedy genre, and is a pretty good example at that. One would think that the distributors, 20th Century Fox, would give the trailer more thought considering that it plays an integral part in the decision-making process of the viewer: should they see the movie or not?

Regardless of the trailer though, the movie is pretty hilarious; not

due to the crazy jokes and brilliant witty comments, but because of the plain lunacy of the plot, characters and overall feel.

This isn't a movie that is going to inspire you to greatness or increase your IQ level. Just like Belle Williams (Queen Latifah) says to Andy Washburn (Jimmy Fallon), "don't think!"

That is the key here. Watch it if you are up for a good laugh and after a couple of pints in the pub.

Now for the secret plot of the movie! What plot? There really isn't one. However there is a story,

"Regardless of the trailer, the movie is pretty hilarious"

directed by Tim Story (yes, that is actually his name!)

Belle is a high speed taxi driver who fires through New York streets way over the speed limits, with gadgets in her cab that put James Bond and Batman to utter shame. Her normal life is put on hold when she meets wannabe top-cop Washburn whose undercover and driving skills are on the lower side of the scale. They end up in a high pursuit of four bank robbers, led by the cold and calculating Vanessa



Women drivers...

(Gisele Bündchen).

This ultimately leads to Belle losing her taxi to the FBI and making her boyfriend lock her out of the apartment. Belle joins forces with badgeless Washburn to get her taxi back, and the only way to do this is to figure out the thieves' plot and catch them. This is easier said than done.

Obviously the highly accurate bank robbing plan is carried out by four Brazilian supermodels, led by Vanessa. Her acting is totally hor-

rible, but this doesn't matter as her scenes are based around her impossibly long legs.

There is also a little girl-to-girl action that comes in between. So is this a guy flick? Yes. But needless to say, the action scenes, high-speed car driving, humorous cliffhanger moments and silly mayhem provide fun for all. It's comedy and something you could see with your friends and have loads of fun.

Vidula Vinayagamoorthy



Enough reason for 70% of Imperial to go watch this movie

Star Wars goes online

Right, lets get one thing straight ladies. Your boyfriends will not have been best pleased if you decided to drag them along to watch *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. Those of us with the Y chromosome have been dreading this film. No 'buts'.

I had the misfortune of being dragged kicking and screaming to watch it at the weekend. I knew that *The Edge of Reason* was a chick flick. I am not judging this movie on that basis; *The Edge of Reason* is an adequate chick flick. Fundamentally though, there are some humungous problems with this movie.

Darcy and Cleaver are utterly unrealistic - no male in the real world is anything like them! I found Cleaver to be downright sickening, and a complete misrepresentation of boyfriends around the world. Another problem with this movie was the part where Bridget goes to jail - a complete time-filler and totally peripheral to the actual 'plot' of the movie. There really is no plot now is there? Was there any character development? Did anything really change between the start and the finish? No.

The soundtrack was terrible, one



ALAN NG
FILM EDITOR

pop song after another, with absolutely no imagination or originality at all. The script was terrible, so bad in fact that I actually burst out laughing at the most inappropriate moment.

I could go on for ours about why I hated *The Edge of Reason*, but there's not enough room. As a final word on it, do yourselves a favour ladies and leave your boyfriends at home on *Championship Manager* when you go and watch this. It's probably less destructive to your relationship (but only marginally).

On to more positive things, I saw

The Grudge and *Bad Santa* last week, which were absolutely fantastic. *The Grudge* is good example of horror movies at their best and *Bad Santa* is so funny and politically incorrect it seemed wrong. They come highly recommended. Also, although I didn't have time to do a review, *Shaolin Soccer* is well worth watching. I saw it a couple of years ago, and wet myself. All of you out there with a childish, silly sense of humour should go see it.

For all you stereotypical Imperial males out there, the new *Star Wars* trailer is now online at www.starwars.com. Unfortunately though, the film won't reach us until 19 May 2005.

Other trailers that are worth a look are *House Of Flying Daggers*, the next big movie coming out of China, which stars Zhang Ziyi and Andy Lau. Then there is *Elektra*, a spin-off from *Daredevil*. There's also a sequel to *The Ring*, unoriginally entitled *The Ring Two*. Those of you with a nervous disposition and a VCR should avoid this. Those of you who like to torment yourselves, like me... enjoy!

Happy cinema going!

Competitions

The wonderful people at 20th Century Fox are providing us with some wicked prizes this week. There are eight key rings, eight T-shirts and a *Taxi* poster to be won. All you have to do is be one of the first to answer this easy question:

Who wrote the script for the original French movie, Taxi (1998)?

- Luc Besson
- Jean Reno
- Gerard Depardieu

Also this week, the generous management at Vue Fulham Broadway is giving away VIP treatment. One lucky pair of people will win tickets to any film at any time, a sharer combo (popcorn and two drinks), chocolate and three scoops of ice-cream.

Just tell me in 15 words or less why you deserve to win!

The winning statement will be printed next week. Email all answers to film.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Closing date for both competitions is 22 November. Usual *Felix* competition rules apply.

vue cinemas
www.myvue.com/students

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

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Coffee Break returns. Like a bad case of crabs, you're stuck with us for good. This week we've got a few puzzles for you, which are not too taxing, especially for you brainy Imperial types. Entries to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk** as usual. Enjoy, good luck etc...

Foot in mouth

It must be a hard life for celebrities, all that stick that they get from the press. Journalists want those intimate details and sometimes celebrities are just too stupid. They think they are defending themselves, but no, they don't realise that they are giving away all of their secrets. In "Foot in mouth" you just have to decide which celebrity said what. We've made it even easier for you by adding some pictures of them so you can decipher which one is which; just match the star to the title of the quote.

THEY LIE ABOUT ME

"There was a lot of tabloid journalism about my supposed sex addiction. Bullshit. It's all bullshit. I mean come on, I never pretended to be a saint."

THEY'RE UNFAIR TO ME

"If I make a, like, raise my eyebrows, some critics say I'm doing Jack Nicholson. What am I supposed to do, cut off my eyebrows?"

THEY'RE MEAN TO ME

"Just because I have my standards they think I'm a bitch."

IT'S NOT EASY TO BE AS GREAT AS I AM

"There are, I think, three countries left in the world where I can go and I'm not well-known as I am here. I'm a pretty big star folks, I don't have to tell you. Superstar, I guess they could say."

MY LOVE LIFE STINKS

"The last time I was in a woman I was visiting the statue of liberty."

IT'S NOT EASY BEING A WOMAN

"It costs a lot of money to look this cheap."

I'VE A HARD JOB

"Just standing around looking beautiful is boring, really boring, so boring."



Shag Tag

At: dBs Union £3.00
Fri Nov 26 Ents Card £2.50
8pm > 2am Guests £3.50

VODKA TWISTEE SHOTS
Vodka Twistees two for £2.50
The Union encourages you to drink responsibly

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

imperial college union

Ugly XI

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
M

COFFEE BREAK

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Ugly XI

It's England v Spain on Wednesday night, sorry, yesterday night, and so a football themed quiz is in order. Have a look at our team of mingers (below left) and just tell us who's who.

The ugly XI comprises five British players, two Brazilians, an Argentinian, a German, an American and a Stinky Frog. No offence to our Gallic cousins.

And an ugly team needs an ugly manager, so if you could name him too, that'd be great.

Hopefully you should be able to work out who these guys are. When you have, send us your answers to the usual address.

FUCWIT UPDATE

The Felix Unforgettable Coffee-Break Weekly Issued Tournament is hotting up. Well, a little. The Management Slackers team are storming into a bit of a lead this week, having proved their extensive knowledge of ladies' bits, and George W Bush quotes.

This week's quizzes are nice and simple. There's two points for each correct answer, giving a huge total of 38 points to get.

So, the answers for issue 1304: **Whose breasts are these?** These were dead easy - we're

surprised you guys didn't do better. Homework next week: Buy Zoo, Nuts and FHM and memorise what you see - The Breasts may return. Anyway, the answers were: Carmen Electra, Justin Timberlake, Louise Redknapp, Peter Andre, Rachel Stevens, Christina Aguilera, Holly Valance, Britney Spears.

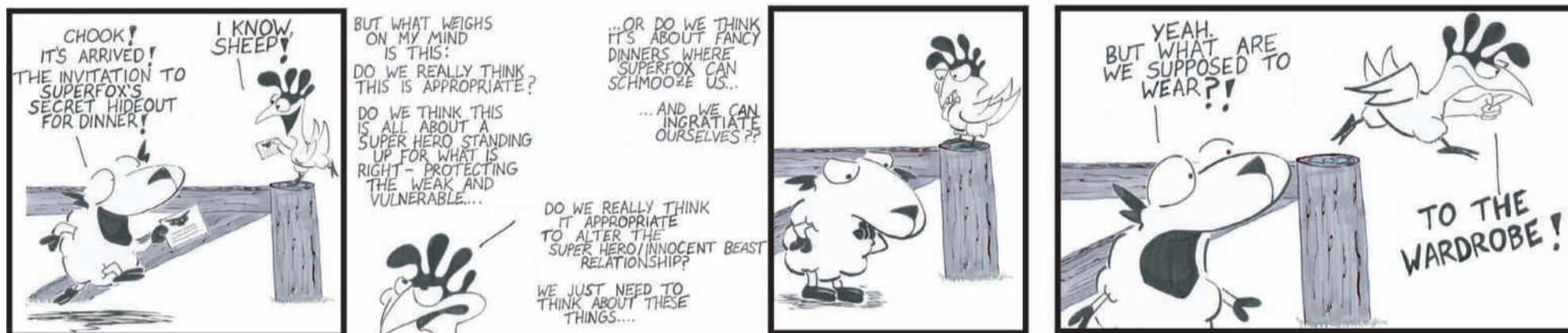
George W Bush is Dumb He also won the election, much to the disappointment of Channel Four and The Guardian. It's almost worth it, just to see the smug grin wiped off their faces. Only almost though - four more years to come, God help us. It was pretty easy: all the quotes we gave you were true, he really is that dumb.

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

Management Slackers	45 points
The B Team	22 points
See you next time	16 points
Natasha Kundi	10 points
Team Win	8 points

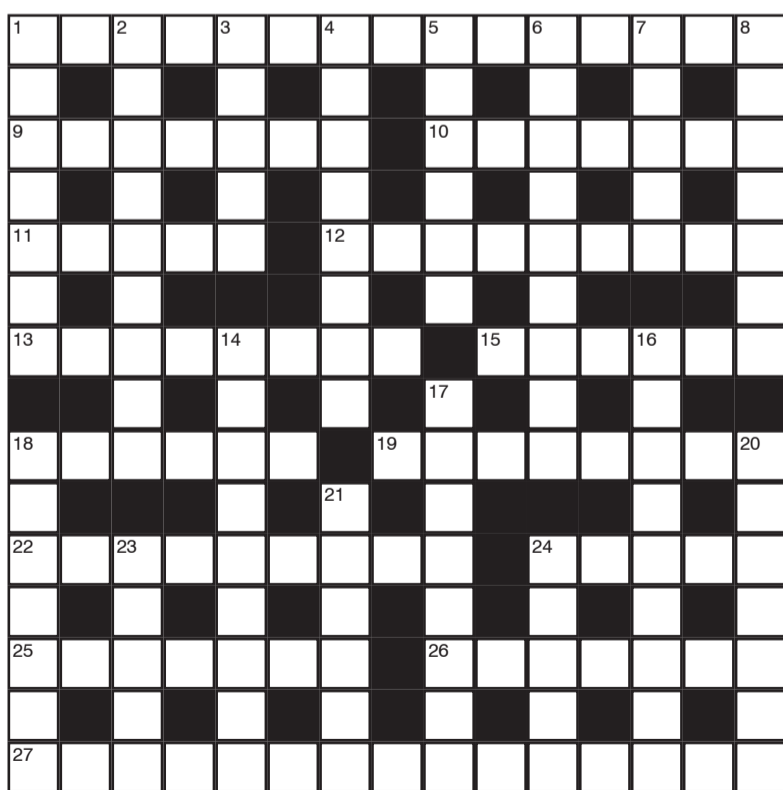
Enter now!

Send your answers and team names to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk. Prizes will be awarded to the highest placed teams at the end of the year.



Felix Crossword 1306

by Snufkin



Across

- An inventor displaced water with this and cried "Eureka!" (10,5)
- It's make-or-break in last-ditch effort (2-2-3)
- Twisting ruined isotron (7)
- Run off with Odysseus' wife, having left prison (5)
- Price of rail travel with food from the buffet car? (5,4)
- Boy eating insect - just a morsel (8)
- Triads rebuilt time machine (6)
- One looking for Quidditch player (6)
- M'sieur thrown on board ship with suspects (8)
- Notice risk for enterprise (9)
- Unadulterated English pulp (5)
- Polish ideal (7)
- Aide ran off with Minos's daughter (7)
- Topless lover met other men at sea - this may show that the meat's hot (4,11)

Down

- Attend to a costume for the audience (7)
- Hypocritical mourner in Dundee (9)
- This music isn't drivel - well, half of it (5)
- Choice from anthology (excluding the first) (8)
- Catch parent drunk (6)
- Behave aggressively towards powerful member (6-3)
- Madurai takeaway includes vegetable dish (5)
- Ponders taking Penny for wife, but is not sure (7)
- Martial arts achievement that can't be built on? Yes and no (5,4)
- Princess's weight is a disgrace (9)
- Cold ruined mural outside botanical garden (8)
- Wash hair using fake turd (7)
- Beer has befuddled large animal (3-4)
- One's related to this TV company (6)
- French novelist winning governess' heart (5)
- Prince? I'm the King of Troy! (5)

Hello, I'm back again. Thanks to everyone who sent in questions about my last puzzle (issue 1303) - they're always welcome. Apologies to anyone confused by the clue for BEAUTY, which relied on an obscure piece of particle physics: 'bottom' quarks are also known as 'beauty' quarks.

Now for a look at a couple more tricks of the trade. Sometimes the answer is built up not by adding some strings to others, but by subtracting some strings from others, as in 11 across this week. Other clues involve the substitution of one string for another, as in 8 down. In both cases, the strings may be individual letters or whole words. Good luck!

Snufkin

Issue 1305 solution



Last week's winner is Mark Frederick. Well done! Send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring this page down to the Felix office in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Each week, we'll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

DeViant hockey continues

HOCKEY

Imperial Men's 4th 0
GKT Men's 2nd 3

By Richard Kirk
and Atul Rana

Once upon a cold November day, 13 intrepid adventures, also known as the almighty deVIants, made their way to the fortress Harlington. Despite starting their season a month late and being thrashed by Imperial Medics Thirds the week before, spirits in the deViant camp were high. After all, we now had a complete team and were supposedly playing 'serious' league hockey. After some dynamic "jumping around like skippy the bush kangaroo on caeffine" stretching, we began our fight against GKT Seconds, who had some suspicious characters from last year's GKT third team.

Sadly, unlike last year's results, this game did not go in our favour. The first half started promisingly but soon deteriorated into fully-fledged madness and fiasco with our amazing 10-0-0 and 0-0-10 formations. Our shameful penalty corner attack also went into the abyss of infinity and dark matter that was our own half!

To top that, Lady Luck was not on our side either, as GKT cunningly got two deflections in and we gave penalties away



Bunch of deVIants: Imperial's fourth men's hockey team

in true deViant fashion. By half time it was 3-0. Having had 'that' loud Jack git yelling at us for a full 35 minutes, we now meant business. We fought back with all our might and started to attack in the second half, pissing off Jack and his pack as much as possible.

Some spectacular saves from our new 'keeper Doug from the eight short corners that we faced, together with fine umpiring from the ladies, kept us in the game and our spirits alive. Special mention also goes to Tight Lips, who

made a guest appearance for his old team. He shall never forget his deViant roots.

Following our match, several players got even more hockey, making cameo appearances for the Thirds. Once again our goalkeeper 'What do you call a man with

a spade on his head' showed the skills he gained in his previous life as goalkeeper and wicketkeeper as the Thirds took a mighty drubbing too.

Only the hardcore few made it to the Union later, and after some deViant dancing our 'keeper showed that not

only is he good at saving but he can score pretty finely too!

All in all, having come back from our last 9-0 drubbing, the latest 3-0 scoreline is a big improvement. We'll be back again to deliver deViant wrath, so watch this space.

History repeats

HOCKEY

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

By Cindy Drinnan

Oh dear. Well what we have here is a little bit of history repeating. Dedicated readers of these match reports will be starting to see a pattern in their content. So, I've said it before, but I'll say it again - what happened? We really were the stronger team and did not deserve this defeat.

The problem appears to lie within the first 20 minutes of the game, our 'waking up time'. For those of you who are not familiar, 'waking up time' is the period during which we have to shake off the morning of journal reading and tutorial sheets and transform ourselves into the highly motivated athletes we truly are. Unfortunately, on more than one occasion this term, the opposition has taken full advantage of our first-half haze and sneaked a couple of goals in. And this was exactly what happened in the Portsmouth game.

In the first half, Portsmouth scored two goals, but enough about them already, so I'll

move swiftly on to the second half.

Imperial dominated the pitch and there was little play outside Portsmouth's half. Tyson, out for blood, pushed forward with force and proved to be a brick wall that the Portsmouth attack failed to penetrate. The defence, including man of the match Yoda, became honorary midfielders as the onslaught in the "D" continued. Around this time, the Portsmouth goalkeeper (or maybe a higher force that felt the need to punish us) disgracefully began to move the goalposts, and continued to do so for the remainder of the match, proven by the fact that all shots on said goal were just a little too wide or a little too high. Imperial were, therefore, left goalless.

We have now played all of the teams in our league, and although only one victory has been claimed, we know each team (maybe with the exception of St Mary's) is beatable.

So the warm-up is over, bring on round two. The ladies are on the warpath, hungry for goal pie, out for revenge. BUSA Hockey South Eastern Conference Women's 1A (bit of a mouthful) beware.

Results

WEDNESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

BASKETBALL

Hertfordshire Men's 1st 90
Imperial Men's 1st 74

FENCING

Sussex Men's 1st 125
Imperial Men's 1st 131

Brunel Women's 1st 83
Imperial Women's 1st 131

FOOTBALL

Imperial Men's 1st 1
Bucks Chilterns Men's 1st 0

Imperial Men's 2nd 0
Hertfordshire Men's 2nd 2

Imperial Men's 3rd 3
London Met Men's 2nd 0

Holloway Men's 4th 1
Imperial Men's 4th 2

Imperial Men's 6th 0
LSE Men's 7th 2

HOCKEY

Reading Men's 1st 7
Imperial Men's 1st 1

Reading Men's 2nd 5
Imperial Men's 2nd 2

Imperial Men's 4th 0
GKT Men's 2nd 3

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

RUGBY

Brighton Men's 2nd 69
Imperial Men's 2nd 12

SQUASH

Holloway Men's 1st 0
Imperial Men's 1st 5

Reading Men's 2nd 1
Imperial Men's 3rd 2

TENNIS

Roehampton Men's 2nd 0
Imperial Men's 2nd 10

SATURDAY 13 NOVEMBER

FENCING

Southampton Women's 1st 135
Imperial Women's 1st 88

FOOTBALL

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

Imperial Men's 3rd 5
Holloway Men's 2nd 0

Imperial Men's 4th 7
Royal Free & Univ Coll Med School Men's 3rd 1

SSEES Men's 1st 1
Imperial Men's 6th 7

Imperial Men's 7th 4
Goldsmiths Men's 3rd 1

INTERHALL FOOTBALL

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER

Beit Walkover1
Union 0

B Sunley & W Jackson 3
Selkirk & Tizard 3

Clayponds 6
Pembroke 2

Fisher 1
Falmouth Keogh 3

Garden & Weeks 1
Linstead 3

Southwell 1
Wilson 3

SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Beit 2
Clayponds 7

Falmouth Keogh 1
Wilson 0

Fisher Walkover1
Union 0

Linstead 2
B Sunley & W Jackson 2

Pembroke 0
Garden & Weeks 3

Selkirk & Tizard 2
Southwell 0

SPORT

Imperial batter Barts

FOOTBALL

Sponsored by

Deutsche Bank



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

By Pat Farr

Fully expecting to win the game, Imperial Firsts were keen to get back on track with a convincing result in light of tougher fixtures ahead.

St Bart's, to their credit, started brightly and offered some early attacking threat, however following this wake-up call Imperial soon found form and began to assert their superiority.

Berks and McMahon were

dominant and progressive in centre midfield, linking well with the Imperial front two to trouble the visitors' defence. Both forged good opportunities, with the best falling to McMahon who skied a header from centimetres out via a sweet Sugito left-wing cross. St Bart's, meanwhile, did nothing to threaten, while relentless Imperial pressure began to present opportunities from corners and open play.

Berks and Wright combined on the half hour to feed Nedved (seriously), who baffled the St Bart's centre back with a neat turn inside the box before being obstructed. With the Mallorcan at an altitude of 80ft, his feet behind his neck and crying "eghhh!", the penalty was swiftly awarded.

After reflecting on a season of uncompensated penalty box assaults, Wright then took the time to place the giant *Art Attack* set square prop (supplied by Imperial defender and actual Neil Buchanan stunt-double, Thomas Gray) against his foot and map the direction of the spot kick straight into the 'keeper's hands. Imperial Firsts still searched for an opener...

The breakthrough came quite deservedly on the half hour mark; a right wing found its way to Sugito who slotted home coolly from the back stick. One-nil Imperial.

A similar situation arose just minutes later, only this time an unmarked Sugito blazed over from McMahon-like proximity to the goal.

Half-time came, and although frustrated at a mere one goal advantage, Imperial had recorded possibly their most impressive half of football all season.

Eager to maintain their excellent work rate, Imperial started freshly with some early spells of possession. Yet they lacked the movement and incision of their first half display and went noticeably 'off the boil' for a quarter-hour spell. St Bart's were dogged in defence but offered little in the way of creativity, while Imperial's sloppy execution showed signs that their first half exuberance was perhaps taking its toll.

The home side rallied half-way through the second half, and a succession of dead ball situations finally paid divi-

dends through Farr's header from a dangerous Elhalhuli corner. With the comfort of a two goal cushion, and the destination of the three points never really in doubt, Wright added a third with a neat finish from Joe's centre after tidy work down the right. Job done for Imperial, and a period of easy possession saw the game out with a clean sheet and convincing result, reward indeed for a dominant performance over weaker opponents.

Highlight of the match belonged to the Northern disco feet of one Joseph McMahon, who pulled out an outrageous 360 degree mega-Cruyff straight from Michael Flatley's locker. "Flatley my dear, I don't Riverdance".

C&G Rugby too hot to handle

RUGBY

City & Guilds 78
ThaiSoc 12

By Andrew Towers

On an unusually warm Hallowe'en weekend, the most glamorous team at Imperial College took to the field for their first match of the season in the aftermath of a "successful" pub golf session a couple of weeks ago.

A ThaiSoc team that had previously overturned the Imperial Thirds team was the opposition, not to be taken lightly. The 22 man C&G squad contained an eclectic mixture of first to fourth team players, all with one thing in common - the ability to bring grotesque amounts of glamour to a rugby pitch.

C&G stamped their authority on the game within minutes of the start, with Stu "the beast" East touching down after some heinous try avoidance from Les Jon Spencer, our flying French fly-half.

The tries kept on coming, with Le Douge Higgins, Les Jon, and Jim "master lungemeister" Pedder all taking advantage of a disorganised ThaiSoc defence. A lapse in concentration and some poor tackling allowed the ThaiSoc inside centre to crash through from short range to open their scoring. Outwardly frustrated by this, C&G responded with another three tries before half time, courtesy of some great team-play and pornstar moves from Les Jon (still drunk) and captain Andy 'Teflon' Towers. Half time score: 47-7.

In the second half, captain Towers called for improved defence, bigger tackles and of course, more glamour. The team responded instantly with substitute centre and revelation Alex Davis kindly showing his opposite number where the floor was. The champagne rugby continued to flow, with tries from Mark "porno" Wills, Pedder and Le Douge for a second time each, fresher and tour veteran Charlie (mini Nathan) Davidson, and Dom Chan.

Other highlights included an overzealous spear tackle by Porno Wills, almost decapitating his unfortunate victim in the quest for the Biggest Hit award. It was ThaiSoc who had the last word though, with a dubious chip and chase try, duly awarded by a somewhat sympathetic referee. Final score: 78-12.

With spectacular performances from all members of the squad, and particularly by the newcomers and freshers, picking a man of the match became the hardest moment of the day. The honour went to fresher and debutant Alex Davis for some silky skills at centre.

Holloway humped

FOOTBALL

Holloway Men's 4th 1
Imperial Men's 4th 2

By Michael Nicholson

Wednesday was the biggest event of the season for the fourths, the infamous Hammy Ten pub crawl. Amazingly, the date coincided with the Holloway away fixture, the biggest and most difficult game of the season.

Top of league, undefeated, only two goals conceded, and with a full time manager, there was no doubting that Holloway would be favourites for this one. Imperial's task was made all the more difficult when top-scorer Shwin was ruled out with a knee

ligament injury, and Paul was still struggling with an ankle knock. Oz was drafted in to play on the left, and Chris Parrot moved up front.

It was Holloway who started the brighter, with their midfield looking particularly strong, and Vanni had to make a stunning tip over the bar to preserve the deadlock. Imperial were having trouble keeping possession with misplaced passes, poorly executed tackles and a lack of communication being very much the order of the day.

An injury to Holloway's left winger prompted Captain Vanni to rally the troops, telling us to play our game and keep things simple. Obviously Chris had been listening intently, and kept things nice

and simple in the corner by performing a perfectly executed rainbow kick. The team however did begin to dig in a little harder, and managed to get some sort of foothold in the game.

Holloway, however, got themselves in front courtesy of a neat finish from their central midfielder, after the Imperial backline had made a complete pig's ear of a routine ball through the middle.

Into the second half, it looked like things would get worse with Holloway's constant attacking pressure akin to Vanni when he's on the pull - relentless and seemingly only a matter of time until they scored. Fortunately, they missed a couple of gilt-edged chances: firstly Vanni made

a point blank save, tipping a goal bound effort onto the bar, and then with Vanni caught out of position their striker tugged his short wide when he should have done better.

Suddenly with 20 minutes to go Imperial found the belief which had been sadly lacking, and managed to create a chance for Jai. Their 'keeper, who was slightly larger than your average bungalow, came off his line with surprising speed and managed to smother the well-struck effort. Still, the chances were coming regularly now and Imperial's defence began to dominate Holloway's now sole striker.

Eventually a corner from left was met firmly by Demetris, leaping like the

pinkest of pink salmon, and the ball looped into the top corner despite the efforts of Holloway's man on the line.

The game was now wide open and it was Imperial who seized the win with an opportunistic strike from Oz after Demetris had once again shown great perseverance and skill on the right. With all hands to the pump, Imperial snuffed out the Holloway threat and easily played out the few remaining minutes for probably the most significant win of the season.

The day was perfected by some magnificent drunken debauchery on the Hammy Ten, the highlight of which was Vanni proving true captain material by vomiting after a whole two pints.

No forwards... no problem

RUGBY

Imperial Women's 1st 35
King's Women's 1st 0

By Scotch

The Virgins have had a difficult start to the season, facing our two hardest opponents in BUSA in the two opening weeks, so we were hoping for better in our first ULU league match.

For the first time ever, we had no forwards and a changing room full of backs - excuse me? Are we still playing women's rugby? Some of us also had no pants, but I suspect that wasn't a first!

So poor Udders had to be forcibly held down and made to put on the number three shirt, and off we went. Except the opposition hadn't shown up yet, so we stood about and drank Red Bull for a bit.

By the time the game kicked off, there was only time for

70 minutes of rugby, but we made the most of it.

Within the first five minutes, Spandex had taken a quick tap penalty and ploughed over the line with three ineffectual King's backs hanging off of her shiny white shorts. This set the tone for the rest of the match, the forwards hogging the ball to great effect and carrying it up the pitch. Our second try was a similar affair, with the forwards mauling the ball over the line and Spandex suddenly popping out the other side of the ruck to set the it down.

We then mauled the ball over the line again but the ref decided it was held up - pesky refs, always spoiling my fun. And then he had the cheek to disallow another try by Filthy. How rude.

Filthy covered herself in glory again two minutes later, when our ball was turned over on our 5m line and King's got the ball to their wing, who had



The Imperial Virgins rugby team

made it to halfway and was clean through until Filthy's fantastic covering tackle.

The second half saw two tries from Joss, who picked up from the base of the scrum to crash over.

We made the most of our superiority in the scrum, where the King's front row were struggling. Scotch took a quick tap penalty and found her way through a dog-leg

to get clear for a fourth score. Danger Mouse had spent the afternoon trying to work blindside moves, which finally paid off and allowed her through to score in the corner, although she almost dropped the ball as she was so busy celebrating!

King's tried to catch us out with a quick restart, but instead kicked the ball straight down the throats of

our forwards and into Felix's waiting arms. We mauled it 10m up the park until Kings collapsed the maul. Scotch picked the ball up amid the confusion, and the next breakdown saw Udders take it on and power home from the 22 for our final score.

Honourable mentions must also go to Bambi, who was fearless on the wing as always, although we didn't like passing the ball right so poor Whiplash only saw the ball twice all game! The backs keep improving as the weeks go by, and Ali had some fantastic crash ball at inside centre.

Our final special mention must go to Alex Ferguson, who dropped the C7G spanner on Dappy's foot, leaving her on crutches and compounding our forwards shortage. But then it was her silly fault anyway for gatecrashing the Engineering Freshers Ball.

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Head of the river

ROWING

By Ben Anstiss

Imperial College Boat Club entered a grand total of ten crews in this year's Fours Head race across seven categories. This included three women's crews, who, along with the men, raced the Head course from Chiswick Bridge to Putney Pier between 10am and midday last Saturday. 550 crews from around the world took part, with a mixture of Olympic, international, club and academic (both school and university level) rowers competing over the four mile time trial.

Imperial's top boat, a Senior 1 quad, had the audacious honour (or outrageous misfortune as some may see it) to set off 13th, but finished third in their category behind



Bringing the boat home: Imperial competitors carrying their equipment after the race

Molesey and London in a time of 19 minutes 26.94 seconds.

The Senior 2 coxless four were beaten into second

place by Henley Rowing Club by a margin of less than 7.5 seconds with an overall time of 19min 46.26sec.

There was a similar story in the Senior 2 coxed four event, where Imperial were once again forced into the second slot, this time by Isis (Oxford University's official boat club) in a time of 20min 18.03sec. The women's Senior 2 quad performed well, finishing 7th in their category behind some very stiff competition in the form of ex-Olympians and international level rowers. The other two women's crews performed admirably in the Senior 3 coxed fours, coming 10th and 11th overall with barely ten seconds between them.

In what is becoming a familiar theme for this race, the curse of the Fours Head struck again, this time in the Senior 3 coxed four category where Imperial came second

behind Oxford Brooks in a time of 20min 40.97sec.

It just goes to prove the old idiom "bad things come in threes". Regardless, all the crews performed well, with a few 10th and 11th places further down the table, all the more impressive when you consider that the categories can contain 60+ crews.

Imperial College School of Medicine Boat Club also entered three boats in the competition, with their first men's boat coming 23rd in the Senior 3 coxed fours event and, coincidentally, the women's crew placing 23rd in the female equivalent.

Saturday 13 November sees the Imperial College Boat Club heading down to Cambridge for our novice squad's first race at the Cambridge Winter Head. Some of the senior squad are also going down to race; a full report will appear in *Felix* next week.



An Imperial boat on the river: one of 550 crews involved in this year's Fours Head races

Firsts take charge in BUSA

FOOTBALL

Sponsored by

Deutsche Bank 

Imperial Men's 1st 1
Buckinghamshire 0
Chilterns Men's 1st 0

By Mattias Von Orfordhausen

With Imperial Firsts lying second in their BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) group, the visit of Bucks' First team gave the boys from South Ken a chance to leapfrog the visitors into first place with a win.

A blustery day wasn't going to provide great footballing conditions, and with the squad reduced by injuries, this was looking like being a tough match.

Imperial played the first half into a stiff breeze, and to be honest didn't really look like scoring. The only move of note was a Badger run and blaze over the bar onto the hockey pitch, but everyone was playing solidly enough. Defensively, Joey Mac slotted comfortably into the Wang's boots, and Pat 'Beef' Farr was solid as ever. Bucks didn't take advantage of the conditions, and the only work for keeper Von Orfordhausen were a couple of free kicks straight at him. Nil-nil at half time.

After a few stern words from captain Badger, Imperial set about trying to dominate the second half and get the win that would propel us to the

top. The wind seemed to die a bit, but we still had the conditions, and started to put together some good moves. A few corners were won and not utilised, and Badger went close with a shot from distance.

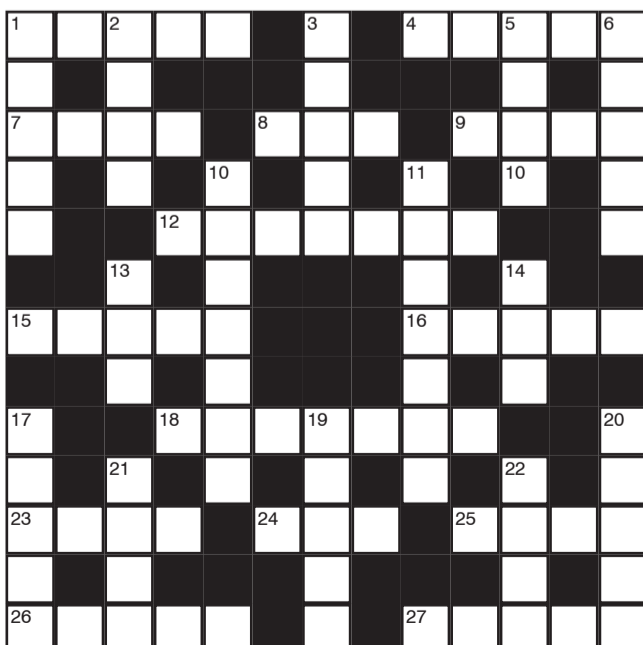
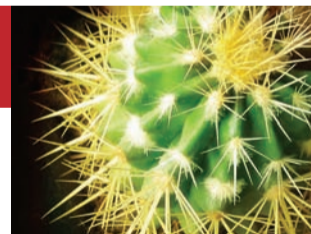
Bucks were still a threat going forward and won more free kicks around the box, but the defence stood firm and didn't wilt. As time wore on, Bucks lost more and more discipline, and holes started to appear in their defence. It was through one of these holes that JR threaded a sublime pass into the path of Leigh, on loan from the Seconds, at the right corner of the box.

Leigh lined up to spank the ball across the keeper, but instead succeeded only in spanking it straight at Badger on the penalty spot. The skipper seemed to catch the ball, put it down, then pass it past the 'keeper who was out of position trying to narrow the angle from Leigh. With the Bucks players livid at the goal being allowed to stand, the Imperial boys celebrated.

DAL came on for Spanish funboi Benji, and Imperial set about defending their lead. Bucks piled on the pressure, with more freekicks around the box, and Von Orfordhausen was nailed in the face by their number 10 as he tried to scoop up the ball following a corner. In the end, that was the closest Bucks came to scoring, and Imperial were 1-0 victors, taking them to the top of their BUSA group.

Quick Crossword

by Cactus



Across

- Measure (5)
- Hammer (5)
- Stolen goods (4)
- Goal (3)
- Building bricks (4)
- Unprofessional (7)
- Apple drink (5)
- Chinese bear (5)
- Limp (7)
- Destroy (4)
- Choose (3)
- Compassion (4)
- Poem (5)
- Centre of attention (5)

Down

- Dance (5)
- Symbol (4)
- Theft (5)
- Swerve (4)
- Exfoliating sponge (5)
- Gem (7)
- Criminal (7)
- Strange (3)
- Liquid dye (3)
- The Pentateuch (5)
- Roman god of love (5)
- Gulf (5)
- New Zealander (4)
- Atomic number 30 (4)

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 1305 solution

