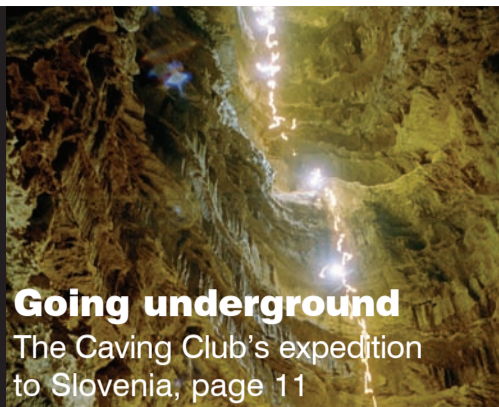


The year of physics
Celebrating science in 2005,
page 7



Going underground
The Caving Club's expedition
to Slovenia, page 11



New year nightlife
Ringing in 2005 with some
psy-trance, page 14



Flying daggers
Felix Film takes in a
beautiful movie, page 16



Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1310 ● Thursday 6 January 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

The tsunami

On Boxing Day, countries surrounding the Indian Ocean were struck by one of the worst natural disasters in history.

There are six articles on the tragedy, including details of Imperial College's response and how an early warning system could have saved thousands of lives.

► **NEWS** page 2
► **SCIENCE** page 7

Library loss?

The popular mechanical engineering department library and reading room may close in the near future. The area is seen as "a potential solution to a series of conflicting demands for space".

► **NEWS** page 4

Accountability

The Imperial College Union President and other officers have been criticised for a perceived lack of accountability and communication. Students raised serious concerns about the way in which the Union has been run so far this year.

► **NEWS** page 3

Dangerous Devils

One ice hockey match, three fights.

► **SPORT** page 20



The IC Devils

THIS WEEK

News	page 2
Science	page 6
Comment	page 8
Letters	page 10
What's On	page 12
Nightlife	page 14
Arts	page 15
Film	page 16
Coffee Break	page 18
Sport	page 19

Union will campaign to free former student imprisoned under terror laws

By **Dave Edwards**
Editor

Imperial College Union has resolved to actively support the 'Free Babar Ahmad' campaign.

Mr Ahmad, a former student and staff member at Imperial College, was arrested in December 2003 under the Terrorism Act [see *Felix* issue 1279] and subsequently released without charge. He was rearrested in August this year on allegations of involvement in acts of terrorism and is currently awaiting extradition to the United States. His case is due to be reviewed in the near future.

Mr Ahmad's supporters believe that he was abused by police while in custody, his human rights may be under threat if he is extradited, and he should be given a fair trial in the UK.

At a Union Council meeting at the end of last term, when the decision was made, Colin Smith, the Union's Welfare Campaigns Officer and one of the motion's many seconders, was ejected after shouting obscenities when it appeared that the proposal supporting Mr Ahmad was about to fall. In a moment of high drama, Mr Smith called the Council "a f***ing disgrace" and was asked to leave by Danny Sharpe, chair of the meeting. Mr Smith initially refused to leave the room, and at one stage a total of eight College security officers were present as various people attempted to defuse the situation.

The meeting was adjourned, Mr Smith finally left, and the Council then voted on a proposal to not consider the Babar Ahmad paper due to its "inherently political nature".

John Collins, President of the City and Guilds College Union, said: "My members say that the Union should not take a political stance."



Clockwise from top left: Kareem Osman makes his case for why Imperial College Union should campaign to free former student Babar Ahmad; the Council considers the proposal; security guards surround Colin Smith (third from left) after he is asked to leave the meeting; some of Mr Ahmad's many supporters gather to discuss the issue

Simon Rawson, Chair of the Arts and Entertainments Board, added: "I don't disagree with this policy, but I feel deeply uncomfortable about the Union politicising itself in this way."

Mr Smith, before his departure, had referred to the large number of people attending the meeting in support of Mr Ahmad: "By the strength of feeling in this room, we owe it to everyone who has turned up here to vote on this motion".

Eventually, the motion was considered and passed, though most Council mem-

bers abstained from voting, probably due to a reluctance to engage in a campaign they viewed as political and not directly affecting current Imperial College students. The paper's supporters,



Babar Ahmad in custody

however, argued that the Union's backing was necessary and appropriate because Mr Ahmad had studied and worked at Imperial, and because any current student could potentially suffer similar problems in the future.

Mr Smith later called the decision to campaign for Mr Ahmad's release "a victory for democracy".

The Union also resolved to "ensure that any form of discrimination experienced by Imperial College students, both on and off campus, is dealt with thoroughly", "to campaign for a full investiga-

tion into the alleged assault on Babar [Ahmad] by the police officers who arrested him", "to campaign for his human rights to be respected in court proceedings" and for Mr Ahmad to be given a fair trial in the UK.

Several Union clubs and societies have already begun to campaign on Mr Ahmad's behalf, and a week of events has been scheduled for February.

● **Editorial, page 9**
● **Colin Smith, page 9**
● **Letters to the Editor, page 10**

Felix

Issue 1310

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

Games Editor
Alex McKittrick

Felix
Beit Quad
Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BB

Telephone: 020 7594 8072
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk
Web: www.felixonline.co.uk

Registered newspaper
ISSN 1040-0711

Copyright © Felix 2005

Printed by Sharman and
Company, Peterborough

www.bamuk.com



Student Media Buyers
0845 1300 667

NEWS: TSUNAMI

Indian Ocean struck by one of world's worst natural disasters

By Emily Gwyer and Dave Edwards

At 1am on Boxing Day, an earthquake in the Indian Ocean sparked off the most dangerous tsunami for decades.

As the wave rolled on towards the shores of

Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, it became clear that this was a serious disaster. In the hours and days that followed, we realised it was possibly the worst ever, the wave so powerful that it even hit the shores of Africa.

As *Felix* goes to press, the death toll has officially

reached 140,000 and the number of people left homeless has grown to five million. The aid that has been so generously donated is only just reaching the survivors, as the infrastructure for delivery has been washed away. The lack of clean water and sanitation mean that cholera and typhoid are serious risks, which could further increase the number of dead.

Dramatic scenes have been witnessed on television screens throughout the world, as people in the affected regions struggle for survival and scramble for food supplies.

After teasing ourselves with disaster movies for years, we were finally faced with the real thing and realised the full horror. No-one could outrun this wave or save their sweetheart, there was no dramatic music, and the leaders of the world did not all rally round immediately. Science did not win the day, and there was no early warning system to limit the number of victims. The wave just quietly rolled on and on, sweeping up everything in its path.

Jack Straw, the Foreign Secretary, said that 199 Britons are "highly likely" to have died in the disaster. Mr Straw added that "many of the bodies of the dead may never be found". Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary General, said that affected areas could take up to ten years to recover.

Imperial College students and their families may well have been affected by the

tsunami, as the College has significant numbers of students from several of the affected countries, including Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. However, with tens of thousands of people still missing and the spring term only just begun, it is impossible to judge the disaster's impact on the Imperial population at this stage.

The tsunami was caused by the biggest earthquake for 40 years, which occurred between the Australian and

Eurasian plates of the Earth's crust. A series of huge waves then spread across a large portion of the Indian Ocean. The worst affected countries were Indonesia – with over 94,000 confirmed dead – and Sri Lanka.

● **Donate online to the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal at dec.org.uk**

● **Forces of nature: how tsunamis form, page 7**
● **Science, religion and history repeated, page 7**



Two of the many scenes of devastation caused by the recent Indian Ocean tsunami

Early warning system could have saved lives

By Tom Simonite
Science writer

The human cost of the submarine earthquake on Boxing Day is still being counted. No-one was expecting the quake or the subsequent wall of water, but thousands of lives could have been saved if an early warning system had been in place.

While earthquakes are impossible to predict, it is possible to implement systems that provide immediate information on their severity and an advance warning of tsunamis.

There are two key components to such systems: instruments to monitor quakes and tsunamis, along with a framework able to communicate the necessary warnings to the local governments of those at risk. The Indian Ocean lacks both.

Richer nations around the Pacific Basin do have such a system – 26 member states belong to the Tsunami Warning System (TWS). Seismological and tidal stations throughout the Pacific provide data on quakes with the potential to cause tsunamis, and any that are produced. The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) near Honolulu, Hawaii, provides tsunami warnings to national authorities in the Pacific Basin.

Criteria of location and magnitude of an earthquake are used to predict whether a tsunami is likely. A warning is issued in the form of predicted arrival times of the wave at selected coastal communities within the geographic area defined by the maximum distance the tsunami could travel in a

few hours. Less specific warnings and timings are issued for an area defined by the distance the tsunami could travel in a subsequent time period. If equipment monitoring sea levels actually detects a tsunami wave then a wider warning is issued to the entire Pacific Basin.

Issuing the necessary information to national authorities is only the beginning of a successful warning. Governments need to be able to coordinate the evacuation of people at risk quickly. Members of the TWS, particularly richer nations, have managed to do this. Pacific states of the US have tsunami sirens in place to warn the public. Japan has been able to rapidly and effectively evacuate populations at risk in response to warnings issued by the PTWC.

The non-existence of similar systems in the Indian Ocean has not been a secret. UN-approved plans to place new monitoring equipment in the Indian Ocean have faltered due to a delay in the necessary funding, and the poverty of the nations in the region. A lack of political harmony between these countries has also been cited as hampering the inception of a warning system that could have saved many lives.

Now, in the wake of the still-unfolding tragedy, leaders of the affected countries and from the wider international community are committing to ensuring that an early warning system is created for the Indian Ocean. Sadly, it will be too late for the tens of thousands of victims of the Boxing Day disaster.

What can we do now? Imperial's response

By Emily Gwyer

In the aftermath of the worst humanitarian disaster in recent times, what can be done to help those affected and prevent similar occurrences in the future?

Well, many of us have already done it – donate money at www.dec.org.uk or at a collection box. We can send clothes and household things to Oxfam, who will deliver them to people who have lost everything.

We can rail against George Bush and Tony Blair, who do not see the worst disaster for centuries to be reason enough to interrupt their holidays. Indeed, this has already begun in America, where there was outcry over the original offering, which was half the amount the Republicans plan to spend on Bush's inauguration. The amount donated by the British public shamed our government after Tony Blair's pathetic original offering of £1m was donated every

hour by the public.

We can demand that the money promised by the world actually gets there – aid agencies warned this week that western governments have an unfortunate habit of promising millions and then forgetting to deliver them.

We can push for early warning systems to be put in place all around the world. If such a system had been in place in Indonesia, the vast majority of lives lost would have been saved – the wave took an hour and a half to reach land. And although 80% of tsunamis occur in the Pacific Ocean, we should not be complacent – we need to set up a system too. Just in case. Being over-cautious doesn't seem so bad now, does it?

We can carry on visiting the affected countries, which will need our money more than ever in the next few years.

We can pray for the survivors and the families of the dead, and hope that nothing like this ever happens again.

By Chris Jackson
RAG Chair

In response to the worldwide appeal, many clubs and societies as well as individuals at Imperial have mobilised to raise funds and offer assistance to the victims of the tsunami.

RAG and City and Guilds have combined resources to co-ordinate activities across the campus, so that clubs and societies can concentrate on collecting money. RAG will provide collecting tins and count the cash as it comes in.

Clubs and societies and individuals interested in helping are invited to contact rag@ic.ac.uk or go to the City and Guilds office (room 340, mechanical engineering). Anyone wanting to collect should also head to the office,

where collecting tins will be issued.

RAG aims to help people to organise their own events, using our experience to remove the paperwork burden and offer advice.

The RAG website (see address below) has been updated to provide up-to-the-minute news regarding the collection and to list events that are being carried out. Anyone planning an event is welcome to use this space to publicise, by emailing a summary to rag@ic.ac.uk. You can also follow the link from the main Union web page.

Please help the appeal by giving your time or your money to the collectors you will see around College. You can also make donations by visiting the City and Guilds office.

Visit the RAG website for details of news and events:
<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/presidents/rag/tsunamiappeal.php>

President attacked over accountability as 'Beit Masterplan' is discovered

By Dave Edwards
Editor

With an overwhelming majority, Imperial College Union Council has passed a paper aiming to improve accountability of Union officers and communication throughout the Union as a whole.

The President, Mustafa Arif, received particular criticism in the paper, and must now reveal "his exact timesheet and whereabouts... and the purpose of those activities for the benefit of the Union" from 1 September to the present. He has also been mandated to apologise to the Council for irregularities surrounding recent elections.

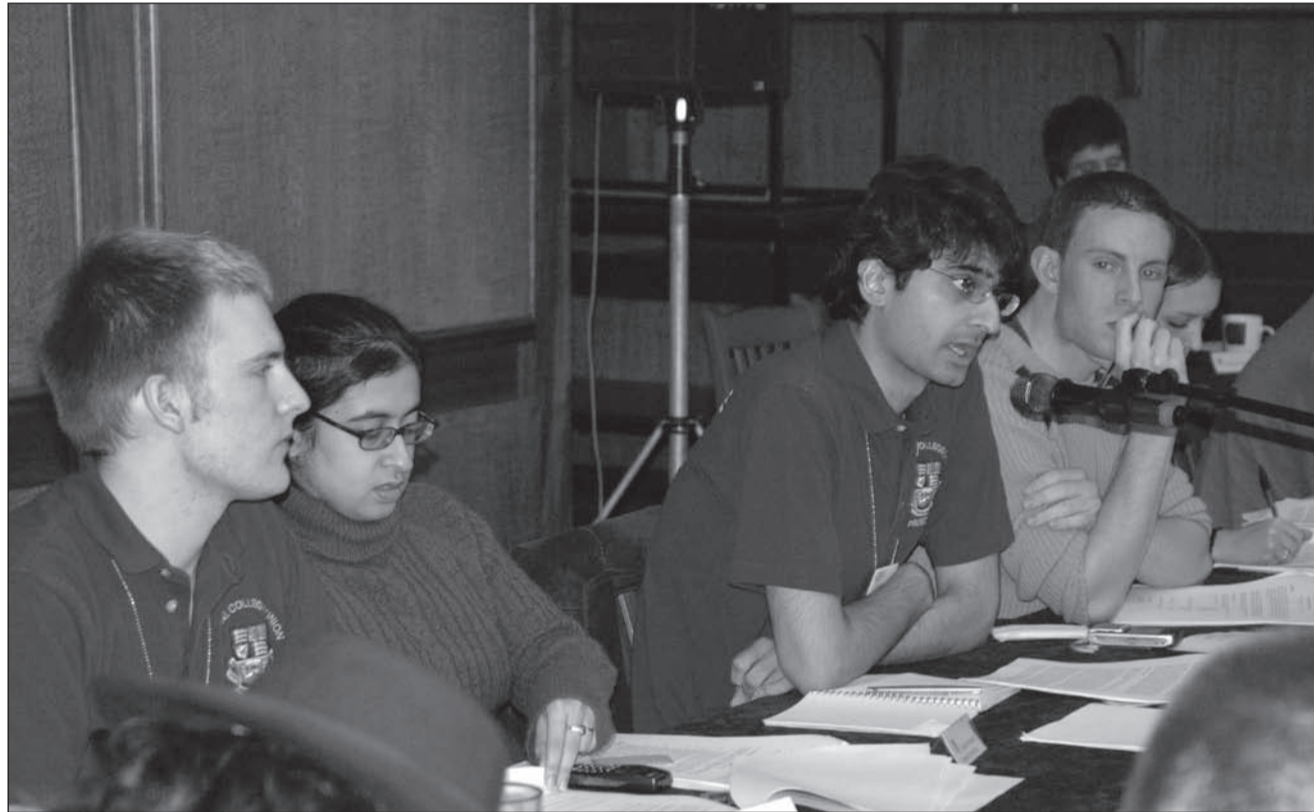
The paper raises several serious concerns about the way in which Imperial College Union has been run so far this year, highlighting the following issues: the disappearance of the constitution from the internet; bad management at elections; an under-represented Executive Committee; alleged inappropriate involvement of permanent staff members in Union activity; a less accountable style of taking minutes leading directly to a less accountable decision-making process; and unauthorised increases in staff costs.

The paper argues that "the President appears to be in a position... where he cannot fulfil his duties effectively" and that recent management restructuring "goes explicitly contrary to the spirit of democracy in the Union".

It goes on to make the controversial claim that the Union is in breach of the Education Act 1994, with reference to its financial situation.

One key issue raised by the paper was the 'Redevelopment Masterplan of the Beit Quadrangle'. A draft document, prepared by Imperial College Estates in November, says that the Union has already agreed to make various large-scale changes to the Quadrangle before receiving any responses from its recent Strategic Review questionnaire.

The document states: "The Student Union wish to incor-



Mustafa Arif (centre), President of Imperial College Union, gives an initial response to allegations of impropriety

porate into the redevelopment an enhanced catering and dining facility on the first floor", move the offices to the third floor, create a "non-alcoholic drink area", build a "local authority type council room" on the third floor in place of one of the snooker rooms, and "strip out the existing gym".

Mr Arif insisted that the document was "only a draft, asking Estates to come up with some proposals, so that after the Strategic Review we can choose an architect and move forward". He stressed that the document was mere-

ly a "starting point for discussion", no decisions had been made, and no money had been paid to any architects.

Dan Lehmann, a member of the Union's Services Committee, said: "Most people believe the Masterplan and the Strategic Review have already been written", implying that senior Union officers and staff had already made their own decisions about the future of the Quadrangle, and that students' views would not be taken into account.

Sameena Misbahuddin, the Deputy President (Finance and Services) and chair of the

Strategic Review Advisory Group, told *Felix*: "We wouldn't have spent all our time and effort talking to students, putting up posters and writing articles if the Review had already been written. I want the students to get what they want. When the actual Masterplan is drawn up, it will not be the same as the document from Estates."

In a separate motion, the Council subsequently resolved that the gym would "remain in its present location and not be converted for any other use unless specifically authorised by Council"

and that "the snooker room should not be converted into a Council chamber".

The President is now mandated to "explain how a document outlining the desired plans for the Union building dated November was passed to three architectural firms, whilst the consultation period amongst students did not end until December".

He must also "update Council on the progress made with regards to finding the estimated £37,000 shortfall on the management restructuring process".

The Council Chair, Danny

Sharpe, was mandated to "ensure a reliable up-to-date copy of the Constitution" is posted on the Union website "within one week of passing this motion". He must also "re-open the investigation into the financial irregularities... and ascertain whether there is a case to answer that the President may have acted irresponsibly to the point of gross misconduct".

Finally, an amendment was made forcing the minutes from the high-level Management and Planning Group to be made public.

"I accept we could have handled this a lot better..."

MUSTAFA ARIF

Tom Tibbits, who proposed the paper, told *Felix*: "The main thing I wanted to achieve was that the accountability of the Union is restored to where it should have been. The students will now be consulted about the future of their Union."

"I was absolutely gutted about the lack of transparency that the Union has achieved so far this year. I've got to say that Mustafa Arif in particular has been grossly negligent in his capacity as President to represent the students and not himself."

Responding to the sweeping condemnation of his actions, Mr Arif said: "I accept we could have handled this a lot better... [but] I did not lie to anyone in any aspect."

"I can understand why people think that the Union is suffering from a lack of accountability and democracy, but that view is misguided. The Union suffers from over-governance, and... sometimes you need to realise that democratic processes can actually hold up democracy."

"I look forward to the opportunity to put together a response and to disprove the allegations of impropriety in the paper."

● **State of the Union, page 8**

'REDEVELOPMENT MASTERPLAN OF THE BEIT QUADRANGLE'

According to a draft document dated November, Imperial College Union wishes to:

- Build new offices on the third floor
- Create a local authority-type council room on the third floor in place of one of the snooker rooms
- Strip out the existing gym
- Change Da Vinci's into a non-alcoholic drinks area, a "Starbucks type café"
- Incorporate into the redevelopment an enhanced catering and dining facility on the first floor

The Union's Strategic Review process, in which students were consulted on these issues via a questionnaire, did not finish until December - long after the draft document was produced

"The draft document is merely a starting point for discussion. Nothing has been decided yet"
- Mustafa Arif, Union President

"Most people believe the Masterplan and the Strategic Review have already been written"
- Dan Lehmann

New Kensington hotel to offer accommodation from just £35 per week

By Dave Edwards

A hotel in Kensington could provide the solution to Imperial College students' accommodation problems, offering beds from just £5 per night.

The hotel, in Lexham Gardens, was founded by Stelios, the serial entrepreneur and owner of easyJet, easyCar and other related companies. It will be known

as an easyHotel, providing no-frills, low-cost accommodation. Customers can book rooms on a website with a credit card, on a 'book early, pay less' basis. Prices will rise in periods of high demand.

With Imperial students' hall fees and rent costs ever-increasing, the development of the hotel has raised the possibility that students could book rooms for months at a time. They would be able to

stay in hotel accommodation and, potentially, save large amounts of money.

Hall fees currently range from £54 to £127 per person per week (approximately), and renting in the private sector can cost a student well over £100 per week. Compare this with £5 per night, and therefore £35 per week, during the cheapest periods at the easyHotel, and you can see the attraction.

Sam Rorke, Imperial College Union's Deputy President (Education and Welfare) told *Felix*: "I'd like to see what's on offer for £5 a day." Comparing the cost of staying at the easyHotel to that of living in a hall of residence, Mr Rorke added: "There's more to living in halls than just a bed. There's a community, there's security, and there are social activities."

A spokesman for easyGroup said: "You will be interested to hear that even without advertising or marketing, the power of the brand is resulting in reservation requests arriving regularly."

The hotel in Kensington is due to open in the summer, with around 30 rooms. In due course, the company expects to expand easyHotel into more cities, countries and continents.



Can Imperial students save on accommodation costs by booking rooms at the new easyHotel?

Mechanical Engineering library and reading room may close

By Dave Edwards
Editor

The mechanical engineering department's library and reading room may close in the near future, in order to create space for other departments or administrative staff.

The library holds books, projects, exam papers and solutions in a convenient location, and the adjacent reading room is a large open-plan space with natural light. Both are popular with students and are usually full to capacity during exam periods. *Felix* understands that high-level discussions on the matter began last term and are set to continue over the coming weeks.

A petition against the closure, signed by over 400 mechanical engineering students, has been given to the head of department, Professor Roderick Smith.

When asked whether or not the library and reading room would close, Prof Smith told *Felix*: "I don't know... we are at a very early stage of discussion".

He continued: "It may be moved, because other people want to use the space. There is a huge shortage of space on campus".

One option is to move the collections to the central library, but this is almost guaranteed to be unpopular with students.

In a letter accompanying the petition, Helen Dawson, the mechanical engineering department representative, outlined the reasons why the library and reading room are so valuable to students. The letter claims that it is par-

ticularly important to have all projects, exam papers and solutions available, and that this access would be lost in the central library as staff would not be able to give specific advice. Also, students are able to borrow journals from the department library, but this is not permitted in the central library.

Miss Dawson told *Felix*: "The library is an invaluable source to students at all stages of their education at Imperial. Undergraduate and PhD students alike rely on the personal service from Nasim Jensen, which will be lost if everything is moved to the central library."

"It's not only mechanical engineering students who use the library and the reading room - bioengineering and earth science engineering students are regular users of the space."

Prof Smith said that students had been "pre-mature" in their response and had acted only on the basis of rumours. However, he emphasised that their views would be "noted and taken into account".

In an email to *Felix*, Richard Martin, the Faculty of Engineering's Deputy Operating Officer, said of the reading room: "It is one area, among many across the South Kensington campus, that is being looked at as a potential solution to a series of conflicting demands for space."

Mr Martin confirmed that no decision had yet been taken, and that if the area was converted for a different use, alternative working space would be provided.



In a controversial move opposed by the signatures of over 400 students, the mechanical engineering department library (top) and reading room (above) may close to free up valuable space on the South Kensington campus

Ideas Challenge prizes awarded

By Beccy Knights
Entrepreneurs Challenge
Manager

The Ideas Challenge prize giving event took place at the end of last term. Ten runners-up and ten winners' prizes were awarded to the most innovative entries.

The Ideas Challenge is the first stage of the Entrepreneurs' Challenge, Imperial College's student business plan competition, where students are asked to submit a 2-3 page summary of a business idea. This year we had an exceptional 161 entries from 374 of Imperial's brightest and most entrepreneurial Imperial students, both undergraduate and post-

graduate, from a variety of disciplines.

Simon Barnes, Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre, hosted the evening and David Begg, Principal of the Tanaka Business School, awarded the ten runners-up prizes of £250 and ten winners of £1,000.

Each of the ten winning teams bravely delivered their one minute elevator pitch to the audience to try to convince them of their idea - an extremely nerve-wracking task, but they all did a fantastic job!

The next event in the Entrepreneurs' Challenge calendar is the launch of the New Business Challenge at 6pm on Monday 10 January

in Mechanical Engineering room 220. The New Business Challenge is the second stage of the competition and offers students the opportunity to present a full business plan and win a first prize of £25,000 in cash and services, one of two runners-up prizes of £5,000 in cash and services, or a finalist cash prize of £1,000.

Come along and find out how you can get involved. Last year's winners, Jargon, will be presenting their business idea and sharing their experience of entering the Challenge. Ex-Imperial student and 'Technology Entrepreneur of the Year 2004', Charlie Muirhead, will provide the inspiration.

THE WINNERS AND THEIR IDEAS

Kathie Wong, Ee Ling Heng (Medicine)	Home testing kit for STDs
Ryan Kerstein, Christian Fellowes (Medicine)	Disposable tourniquets
Robert Stanley, Richard Matthews, Alex Stewart, Suzie Imber, Jeremy Brackpool, Artur Tsohanjan (Physics)	Energy saving one touch activation for household appliances
Katie Goodwin, Adam Sutcliffe, Robin Chilton (IDE)	System to combat spread of hospital acquired infections
Peter Brewin, William Crawford (IDE)	Concrete canvas
John Latham, Thomas Ehrman (Mech Eng)	Appliance for commercial kitchens for soft boiling eggs
Pauline Brocard, Leon Brocard (PhD)	Ski wheels
Ningyu Ran (Elec Eng)	Audio and video interactive online broadcasting
Kok Hin Henry Goh (Mech Eng)	Weighing machine for travellers
Etienne Von Lavante, Emily Michie, Jonathan Woo, Sam Law, Gavy Lau, Kenny Cheung (ISE, Materials, ME, Comp Sci)	FUSE (Fast Ultrasonic Software Environment)

If you would like to learn more about the Entrepreneurs' Challenge, visit www.ic.ac.uk/business/challenge or email the Challenge team at challenge@ic.ac.uk

An internship with UBS leads to a winning partnership. You and us.



Do you thrive on challenges? We seek highly talented individuals who can bring something different to our organization. At UBS, not only is one in every five of our employees a technologist, but we also directly target Computer Science and Engineering students for roles in Information Technology, Equities and Fixed Income, Rates & Currencies (FIRC).

Information Technology has revolutionized financial services, and UBS is at the cutting-edge of applying it globally. For us, IT means more than just writing innovative software. We are consultants, communicators, integrators, analysts and project managers.

UBS has a market-leading equity business, not just in terms of market share, but with respect to client rankings and profitability as well. Our trading activities provide our clients with liquidity and efficient execution of large orders in all major markets.

The FIRC business provides a broad spectrum of products and innovative solutions to corporate, institutional and retail clients in all major markets. With over 2,200 professionals employed around the world, we offer our clients a seamless global service.

Our intention is to extend and enhance our position in these demanding fields, which translates into exciting career opportunities.

To apply for an internship with us, the closing date is:
21 January 2005

To apply for a position, please visit our website:
www.ubs.com/graduates.

Wealth Management | Global Asset Management | Investment Bank



Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

When to resort to shock tactics

As a treatment for depression, electroshock therapy has a bad image.

Basil Safwat explains it may yet be the most effective treatment around

After Prozac stopped working, Anna tried everything to cure her suicidal depression. Eleven types of antidepressants. Two courses of talk therapy. 'Life enhancers' such as frequent exercise and a good diet.

When the constant cycle of failing antidepressants and ineffective therapy became too much to bear, she had one option left to her. She was put under general anaesthetic at Charing Cross hospital and given a muscle relaxant. Two electrodes were fixed to her head, and a small electric current was passed through her brain, inducing a massive grand mal seizure. She returned the next week, and after only three courses of treatment, she emailed her support group to explain how she felt:

"Truth is, I feel amazing. Not 100%, that would be too much, too soon, but I feel better than I've felt in ages. definitely better than I've felt in a long long time. Yesterday, I was driving home from the stables with my mum, and I found myself thinking that 'if this change of mind is going to be permanent, I may have to rethink my position on whether I want to be a parent'. My position up until now has been that I can't make the commitment to try to stay alive, so I can't commit to being a parent. So this is quite a turnaround."

The treatment she underwent was electroconvulsive therapy, or ECT. It is used by doctors to treat a variety of mental diseases, primarily severe depression, and is widely accepted as being an effective and safe treatment by the medical community. Indeed, for the short-term treatment of depression, ECT has been, in trials, observed to be more effective than drug therapy. Despite these findings, there are no waiting lists for ECT. A patient diagnosed with severe depression is unlikely to be offered ECT until it is an absolute last resort, after drugs have failed and failed again. And the numbers of patients prescribed ECT treatment is dropping.

Why should this be so? The problem, like so much these days, lies in marketing. The popular view of ECT is that of a barbaric treatment, with vague connotations of torture, connotations not helped by media portrayals such as Jack Nicholson's treatment in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, in which ECT leaves his

character as little more than a vegetable, or *Requiem For A Dream*, where a character does not receive muscle relaxants prior to treatment and experiences a set of spectacularly disturbing convulsions.

These images of ECT may have stemmed from its rather sinister history, which seems to have pervaded all subsequent consideration of the treatment. Italian neuroscientist Ugo Cerletti first documented it in the 1930s, after observing pigs being given

"For the short term treatment of depression, ECT has been, in trials, observed to be more effective than drug therapy"

electric shocks before slaughter; following the shocks, the pigs would become manageable and quiet. He began testing this finding on human subjects, and discovered that they were rendered calm in the same way as the pigs. Unfortunately, he performed his experiments without anaesthetic or muscle relaxants, causing violent, uncontrolled spasms, during which patients would often snap bones or break teeth. It became something to dread, and was sometimes used as a method of punishment in psychiatric wards for this reason. Some reports suggest that ECT was even adopted by the Nazis for human experiments.

Pig murder, broken bones, Nazis; already a wonderful advertisement for any treatment. The major obstacle to ECT acceptance, however, turns out to be far simpler than any of these reasons. It is a simple lack of knowledge – that is, no one knows how it works. Shock a depressed person, and 60-80% of the time, they will become happier, instantaneously. Ask a psychiatrist why, and he may mention something about electrical current stimulating the production of certain neurotransmitters; but in truth this is mostly conjecture. If they could prove this link then they could say that ECT "works like Prozac" and leap some of the hurdles to acceptance. Without this certainty, however, the treatment retains a sense of mystery that is unsettling for both patient and doctor.

This is not to say that there are no documented



Depression: electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) has proven to be an effective treatment, but scientists still do not understand how it works

side effects associated with ECT. Early use of ECT saw application of the electrodes across the whole brain ('bilaterally'), which often seemed to result in some short-to-mid term memory loss. For this reason, current ECT is usually performed unilaterally, with the electrodes placed on the right hemisphere of the head. Studies show that there is no associated memory loss with unilateral treatment. Such scientific studies are rebutted by mental health charities such as Mind who have published surveys with very different findings. In a 2001 survey, they reported that 40.5% of their respondents complained that they had experienced 'permanent memory loss as a result of ECT'. This illustrates the huge differences between science's view and that of the general public.

While a scientist would probably point out that people cannot remember what they cannot remember and so a survey is a largely redundant method of testing memory, one could reply that if people perceive a treatment as having harmed them, then this is little different from it actually having harmed them. Despite the efforts in this area, then, the gap between scientists and the public is once again exposed. And as fewer people agree to ECT, fewer doctors are able to see its effects first-

hand, and so fewer are likely to prescribe it.

Despite all the controversy, however, the reply from those psychiatrists still advocating its use is as simple as it is true: ECT works faster than drugs, has fewer side effects, and doesn't hurt. While they may have little clue as to why it works, the brewing storm over anti-depressant side effects may force both doctors and patients to re-examine their opinions on ECT and

its effects.

It's a very odd feeling – like something is missing. then when I ask myself what's missing, the only thing is that dark and awful sense of helplessness and hopelessness which has become my constant ally. Today I spent a whole day where this feeling was remarkable by its absence.

For some patients, like Anna, the effects can be life altering.



Jack Nicholson's depiction of a patient receiving electroshock has contributed to the treatment's negative image

News in brief

Californian biotech firm sells first cloned kitten

A California firm that earlier this year launched the world's first cat cloning service has announced its first sale: a cloned male kitten named 'Little Nicky'. Genetic Savings & Clone – based in Sausalito, California, and financed by billionaire John Sperling – announced that it had sold the kitten to a Texas woman for \$50,000.

'Atom school' in first Israeli reactor video

Israel has released the first video footage of its Dimona nuclear plant in an apparent attempt to promote a positive image of what experts believe to be an atomic bomb factory. Channel 10 television said its tape of the plant showed technicians in various non-military activities – mingling on the lawn, inspecting lab equipment and lecturing at an 'atomic school' for disadvantaged youths.

Russia to stop free space trips for US astronauts

Russia's cash-strapped space agency said it would stop giving US astronauts free rides into orbit in the future. Russia has single-handedly serviced the International Space Station, a \$95 billion orbiting laboratory, for almost two years since the United States grounded its Shuttles after the fatal Columbia accident.

Quake may have made the Earth wobble

The deadly Asian earthquake may have permanently accelerated the Earth's rotation, shortening days by a fraction of a second. Richard Gross, a geophysicist with NASA, theorized that a shift of mass toward the Earth's centre during the quake caused the planet to spin three microseconds faster and to tilt about an inch on its axis.

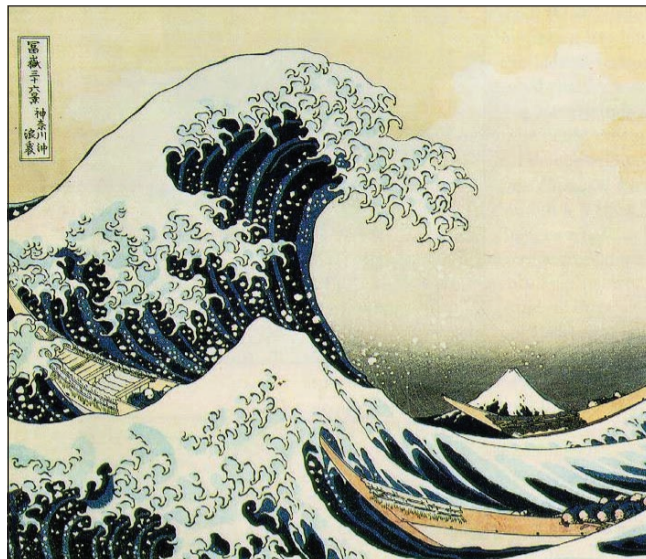
Forces of nature: how tsunamis form

By Tom Simonite
Science communication

Although most commonly depicted and imagined as towering waves with a foamy crest, tsunamis are actually more like a rapidly rising tide able to quickly and forcefully flood coastal areas. They do not have a developed wave face like the typical ocean breaker. The reason is the very different ways these two kinds of ocean wave are created.

In the same way that blowing on a cup of tea causes ripples to form, a normal wave is created by the action of wind on water. Wind travelling over the ocean creates ripples on the surface. These give a better 'grip' on the water so the wind can have a still greater effect. The stronger the wind, and the greater the distance it blows the waves across the surface, the larger the waves become. The distance a wave has travelled is called fetch – the larger the fetch, the bigger the wave. British surfers flock to the north Cornish coast, where the waves have travelled across the expanse of the Atlantic. The English Channel is markedly less popular.

When an underwater earthquake occurs, a very different wave is generated. The movement of the sea bed displaces a large amount of water. In the case of the Boxing Day quake, hundreds of cubic kilometres were rapidly shifted as the seabed jumped several metres upwards. Despite the scale of the disturbance, the



Unlike Hokusai's depiction of the 'Great Wave Off Kanagawa', tsunamis are more like rapidly rising tides

tsunami would have initially been undetectable from air or sea. While tsunamis travel at around 450 miles per hour, they have a wavelength of hundreds of miles and an

"While tsunamis travel at around 450 miles per hour, they have a wavelength of hundreds of miles and an amplitude of just a few feet"

amplitude of just a few feet. Although it is the peaks of the wave that cause destruction on reaching shallow waters, the troughs often get there first. In many places hit by the Boxing Day tsunami, the first sign was a rapid

and dramatic receding of the water to expose hundreds of metres of sea bed. A large number of people who ran to get a closer look at this unusual phenomenon, or to gather fish stranded by the retreating sea, were early victims of the subsequent wave.

When tsunamis move into shallower water, their amplitude increases as the leading edge of the wave is slowed by friction with the sea floor and the rest of the wave piles up behind it. The decrease in speed is more marked, although, as amateur videos dramatically testify, the waves still move much faster than a person can run. The increase in size is not a large one – the largest wave to hit shore on Boxing Day was 30 feet high, with most much smaller.

Science, religion and a case of history repeated

By Darius Nikbin
Science Editor

Mistaken philosophers who cry "All is well", Approach, look upon these frightful ruins, A hundred thousand wretches swallowed by the earth, Bleeding, torn, with hearts still beating, Buried beneath their roofs, In racking torment end their stricken lives...

In 1755, an earthquake struck Lisbon, causing the deaths of over 100,000 people. The city centre was ripped apart by giant fissures and an enormous tsunami devastated the harbour. In the ensuing days, religious priests roamed the streets hanging people, accusing them of heresy and blaming them for the earthquake. At the same time, the Marquis decided to commission a scientific study of the disaster. This decision led to the birth of the science of seismology, as well as a giant leap forward for the European enlightenment period, as writers like Voltaire demanded a more humanist response to the tragedy.

History repeats itself, but humans never learn. This time, the earthquake occurred in south-east Asia. Scientists knew it was going to happen and that when it did, it would be devastating. According to scientist Brian Atwater of the US Geological Survey, "Sumatra has an ample history of earthquakes... every-

one knew that Sumatra was a loaded gun." But nobody took their advice on board until it was too late.

Apart from being one of the most densely populated regions of the world, the afflicted areas were also amongst the most religious. Without doubt, the disaster will have shaken the foundations of their faith. Since religion cannot begin to explain why or how over 140,000 innocent lives were lost, people will inevitably, as they did in Lisbon over two hundred years ago, demand a more satisfactory explanation and scientific measures to prevent losses from such disasters in the future.

The leaders of the affected countries have now called for the installation of an early warning system. This is too little, too late. It has emerged that, for decades, they had ignored scientific advice. So the most shocking thing about this event is not that it happened, but that many deaths could have been prevented from happening. The chances are that if the same tsunami had approached the coast of Japan, most people would have been evacuated.

So who provides the answers in the face of such cataclysmic events? In centuries past, people used to explain natural events by saying that it was caused by God's wrath or perhaps some other supernatural power. An Anglican priest was quoted as saying after the tsunami that "disasters were part of God's warning that judgment was

imminent". A Muslim cleric has said: "The disaster is God's way of testing humankind." Little consolation, little solace for the victims.

In the Abrahamic religious texts, there are numerous natural disasters such as floods and plagues of locusts that were caused by the wrath of a supernatural bogeyman (as that prophet of science Richard Dawkins so often puts it). Today, however, we have a better understanding of how such events occur. We know exactly how tsunamis occur and we also know why they occur. We also have the technology to predict when they will occur, and we could have saved thousands of lives. We also know why there are global economic imbalances and why so many people live in poverty and do not have access to the information that should have saved their lives.

So the answer is that there is absolutely no excuse. The tsunami disaster was a global catastrophe and this time we, not God, are all responsible.

Are you going to say in the face of the semi-formed cries Of their expiring voices, in the face of the spectacle Of their smoldering remains: "It is the effect of necessary laws That require this choice of a God that is free and good?"

Excerpts from *Poem on the Lisbon disaster*, Voltaire (1694-1778)

2005: a year dedicated to physics

By Anushri Patel
Physics department

When asked to name a prominent scientific equation, $E=mc^2$ comes to mind. A hundred years down the line, this equation still echoes the scientific brilliance that was Einstein.

As a schoolboy, he was never regarded as a 'genius', but at the age of just 26, Albert Einstein had published three papers in a renowned German physics journal that made him one of the most legendary scientists of all time. The papers focused on Brownian motion, the photoelectric effect (for which he won the 1921 Nobel Prize in physics) and special relativity. These papers were published in 1905 and, in that memory, 2005 has been named the World Year of Physics.

More than 40 physical societies around the world will be taking part in the celebrations. In Europe alone, the UK and Ireland, Austria,

Croatia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland will be just some of the countries involved. Amongst the participating countries outside of Europe are South Africa, Australia, Korea, India, Malaysia, Pakistan and the USA. This is very much an international affair!

As the UK and Ireland's contribution to the world celebrations, 2005 will be known as Einstein Year. This is being co-ordinated by the

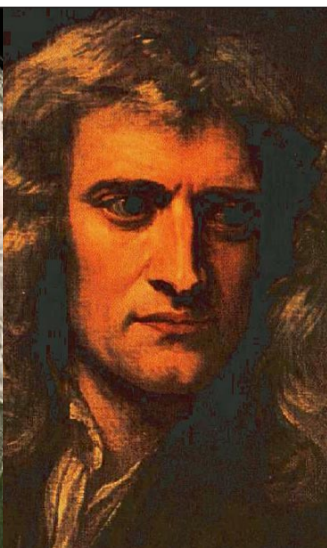
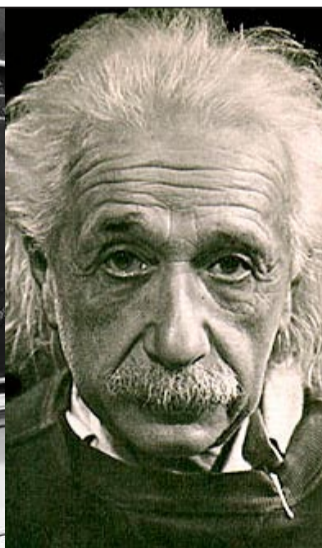
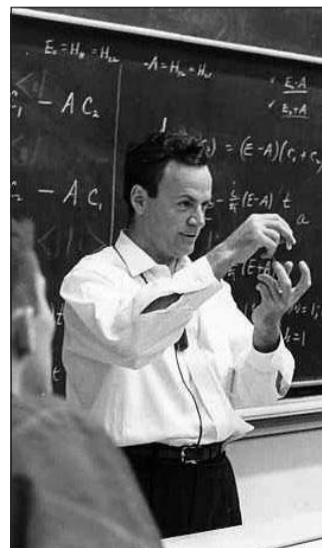
"...motivating young people, dispelling common myths and highlighting the contribution of modern-day physics to society"

Institute of Physics, and hundreds of events and activities throughout Einstein Year will promote physics to the general public.

Einstein Year will be focusing on motivating young peo-

ple about physics, dispelling common myths and highlighting the contribution of modern-day physics to society. Activities will encompass a range of contemporary physical concepts, from meteorology to gravitational waves. Events will also be organised locally by schools, universities, museums and community groups to make physicists, and the work that they do, more visible to the public. Einstein Year is also supported by many well-known celebrities, including personalities such as Carol Vorderman and Sir Patrick Moore.

As well as events run by local groups, there will also be some national outreach activities for secondary school pupils. The programme is still under development, but current plans include a poetry competition, a Rambert Dance Company production, a paperclip physics competition, a lab in a lorry and an international poster competition. Science



Feynman, Einstein and Newton's ideas will be celebrated during 2005, the year of physics

Week also takes place during mid-March, and many of the activities during that time will be physics-related, including a celebration of Einstein's birthday on 14 March! Check out www.einsteinyear.org/ for further details and to find out what's going on in

your area. You can also get involved by organising your own events, and if you have any fantastic ideas, email einsteinyear@iop.org with your plans!

Even if you don't have any plans of your own, you can

volunteer for various activities set up by other societies. PhySoc will be running plenty of events throughout Einstein Year, so get in touch and volunteer. You're bound to find something you'll enjoy, and I guarantee it'll be interesting and fun!

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Six months to go...

Happy new year! I don't have any particular message this week, so I'll run through my top ten priorities (as they came out of my head) for my remaining six months in office (and this term in particular).

Postgraduates

The Union lacks a properly grounded postgraduate representation structure. To some extent, the Postgraduate Society provides a social forum but the Union really needs to establish a Postgraduate Association akin to the Faculty Unions. I hope to have this in place before I leave.

QAA Institutional Audit

Thank you so much for participating in the Union's online student survey last term. We achieved a good response. This will be the single most important opportunity to improve the student experience at Imperial for the next five years (see Sam's update below).

Strategic Review and Union plan

Sameena has written an update (below) on the Strategic Review process. It's now really important that we use all the information gained to agree and develop a business for the Union for the next College planning cycle.

Casual payroll

Several hundred students work on a casual basis in various College departments (catering, conferences, ICT, etc) as well as at the Union. They used to be paid weekly, however last term they were moved on to a monthly pay system. Along with implementation problems, this has caused significant hardship for many of the most financially-pressed students at the College. I hope to have this resolved within a month.

Union governance

There are various parts of the Union's governance that are 'broken'. Lack of support of postgraduates is one area. The structure of the Life Sciences Faculty Union is another. However the biggest prob-

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

lem is that the Union is over-governed. There are too many rules that are never enforced (and impossible to do), especially for clubs and societies, and too many layers of decision-making that hinder, not help, the democratic process.

Asian tsunami

Inevitably there will be many

students who have been affected, and many more who will want to help in some way. The RAG Chair has written a piece (see page 2) on some of the fundraising activities that are going on around the Union. I expect much more to happen over the coming weeks – especially when we start getting confirmed information on how many Imperial students have been directly affected.

Beit Masterplan

Contrary to what some Council members thought, there is no 'Masterplan' (yet) and students were always going to be consulted. That will now happen, as per the original timetable (ie after the strategic plan is finalised) and will be an exciting opportunity to look at how we can make best use of the Union building in Beit Quad.

Southside

The College needs help from students (who are registered voters in Westminster) to write in to Westminster Council in support of

the College's planning application to demolish Southside and build new halls of residence. There is a serious chance that the Council may block the application to keep local residents happy. Expect an email from me this week...

Rees Commission – Top-up fees in Wales

The Union will be sending a submission to the Rees Commission which is looking at the possible implementation of top-up fees in Wales. This impacts Imperial students because the situation in England will be reviewed in 2009. If, by that time, the Welsh Assembly Government has developed a successful alternative funding model then that could well be replicated here.

Babar Ahmad

Union Council passed a motion requiring the Union to campaign for the release of Babar Ahmad. I hope we can use this opportunity to look at some broader issues affecting Imperial students that I have hinted at in previous columns.

The joy of... quality assurance

Quality assurance is one of those pieces of jargon that seems to crop up more and more these days.

If you've ever worked in industry, you are almost certain to have heard it used, but you may not necessarily see the point of it. Quality assurance (QA) is a programme for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of a service to ensure that standards of quality are being met.

But why am I boring you with this? Well, Imperial College takes it seriously and goes to great lengths to ensure student involvement in its QA process. That amounts to me spending a considerable amount of my working day fulfilling a quality assurance role.

One example of this is the representation network that I co-ordi-

nate. Year reps speak to their class, ascertain any problems that students are having with a particular course, lecturer or facility, and have a quiet word in the ear of the course director. If the problem cannot be solved there and then, it may be necessary to involve the departmental rep, and possibly raise the issue in a forum such as the staff-student committee. If the problem is of a general nature, possibly affecting students in other departments, it may be brought to my attention either at a meeting, or by email. I spend much of my time sitting on College-level committees whose whole purpose is quality assurance, and I give this feedback to those who can implement change.

Another example of quality

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

assurance is the Student On-Line Evaluation (SOLE), which the

College conducts every term to monitor student satisfaction with undergraduate courses and lecturers. Thanks to the 50% of you who took the time to complete this valuable exercise. Your department or your representatives should let you know the results of the survey shortly. If they don't, chase them up, because it's important!

Quality assurance is particularly pertinent at the moment, because the College is undergoing an 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.

In order to gain student input into

the process, the QAA has asked the Union to submit a "student written statement", representative of the views of the student body, concerning their educational experience. This has been compiled, based on the responses to the recent questionnaire, and students' opinions gleaned from focus groups, in addition to concerns fed through by the representative system. A draft has been written, and is available at www.union.ic.ac.uk/qaa. This is not the finished article, as it will still go through the relevant committees, on which your representatives sit, and eventually to the Union Council. However, if you are keen to comment on the document, or on any other matter, please get in touch with me directly at dpew@ic.ac.uk.

Remember that online survey?

Well thank you to all those who took part. It was the first time we had done such a project on such a scale, and we had a great response – around 3,500 students taking part. We also had a good response to the questionnaire completed by clubs and society officers. Your responses will be central to the way the Union develops over the next few years.

The winners of the Playstation and other prizes have not been drawn yet, but this will happen in the coming week and the results will be published.

After the online surveys were closed, the process of analysing the

data and preparing the statistics began, as did the focus groups, which were the second stage of information gathering – small groups of different cross sections of the student body. These were brainstorming and discussion sessions (on the issues covered in the survey), a method often used in industry. Thank you to those who took part, especially so close to the end of term!

Using the information from the survey and focus groups, a strategic plan for the Union will be submitted to the College's planning round, where we will bid for greater investment in the Union building



SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(FINANCE & SERVICES)

and activities. The strategic plan will also be the starting point for the Union's budget and plans for the next few years.

In addition, the information will be used to form the brief given to architects for a design for the Union building. Next week, a decision as to which of three competing architects will be used is being made by the Union executive committee, based on the firms' ability to design appropriately for a students' union of our nature.

From the surveys we will also be looking at the feedback we have got and what ideas were put for-

ward. We will use this information to improve areas of the Union that were reviewed. We will be looking through all the results of the survey and comments that were made, and we will use these to improve the Union to better serve you. With so many participants, we have a lot of valuable information from students, which we want to use to improve the Union.

Information about the Strategic Review can be found at www.union.ic.ac.uk/strategicreview.

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

Happy new year from all at Felix

Welcome to the first *Felix* of 2005. I hope you managed to make the most of the short Christmas break.

The tsunami

Where to begin? I can only offer my condolences to anyone reading this who has been affected in any way by the tragic aftermath of the earthquake in the Indian Ocean on Boxing Day.

On pages 2 and 7, we have done our best to give suitable coverage to an issue that has, quite rightly, been almost the sole focus of media attention for over a week. It may be several weeks before we learn whether or not any Imperial College students or their families were in the area at the time. We offer our deepest sympathy to any reader with relatives who have died or are still missing.

It is particularly tragic that, had the tsunami struck richer nations with early warning systems instead of poorer countries without such aids, thousands of lives could have

been saved.

It was pleasing, however, to see students starting Imperial's fundraising effort before the term had even begun. We will be filling up a collection tin in the *Felix* office and covering fundraising events around College as they happen. Turn to Chris Jackson's article on page 2 to find out how you can get involved.

Babar Ahmad

In the morning of Tuesday 2 December 2003, I received a tip-off about an incident in the mechanical engineering building. I went over and discovered that a room was being secured and searched by police officers. A member of Imperial College staff had been taken into custody. On the same day, the Metropolitan Police confirmed that four men had been arrested in south west London and detained "on suspicion of involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism".

EDITORIAL



DAVE EDWARDS
EDITOR

We broke the news on the *Felix* website that afternoon. Other news organisations would soon take up the story, which continues to this day. The man arrested was Babar Ahmad, a former student and staff member at Imperial College, whose situation is now the subject of a Union campaign.

This matter has generated a con-

siderable amount of debate, not least at December's meeting of Union Council. Should our students' union come to the aid of a former Imperial student and staff member, who many believe has suffered terribly at the hands of the police and the Government? Or should we steer clear of issues like this and only concentrate on matters directly affecting our current members as students of the College? Convincing arguments can be made by both sides. Conflicting opinions appear on this week's Letters page (page 10), while Colin Smith (below) gives more information about Mr Ahmad and the Union's campaign.

It remains to be seen whether the Council's decision to campaign for Mr Ahmad's release will have any major effect, since several clubs and societies would have done so anyway. Given his links with the College, this could prove to be a rather unique situation. On the other hand, it might set an interesting precedent for the future – will

our students' union be campaigning on other political or civil liberties issues too?

Felix

This term, our plan is to continue to take your student newspaper forward, bringing you more articles, more detail, more interest and more entertainment.

A new version of our website (www.felixonline.co.uk) will launch very soon, allowing us to improve the online side of the newspaper. Full details will be announced shortly.

If you would like to get involved with *Felix*, in any capacity, I would like to hear from you. We have opportunities in all areas, though we especially need reviewers and proof-readers at the moment. If you're interested in joining us, email me at felix@ic.ac.uk.

If you have any comments or suggestions about *Felix*, don't hesitate to get in touch. Finally, best wishes for a happy and successful 2005.

Freeing Babar Ahmad

At the last Union Council meeting of term, as has been reported on the front page, the Council considered a widely supported motion (www.union.ic.ac.uk/meetings/files/paper1-179-1497.pdf) to support the 'Free Babar Ahmad' campaign at Imperial College. After a lengthy discussion and much debate, the motion was passed.

This all took place at the most widely attended Council meeting I can remember, with the large audience of students almost unanimously in support of the campaign. There was some controversy surrounding the motion, mainly around whether or not our Union should take a stance on issues such as this one. I hope that once you have looked into the case, and if you have ever sat through the frequent farcical debates that take place at Council (something I would wish on very few people indeed) then you, like me, will be proud that our Union

is getting involved with an issue as important as the defence of Babar.

The campaign itself was launched several weeks before, at a large meeting hosted by three Imperial College Union societies: Islamic Society, Imperial Against Imperialism and Amnesty International. Over 160 students, from a wide range of backgrounds, packed out a lecture theatre to hear Babar's father, convenor of the Stop the War Coalition Lindsey German, and Yvonne Ridley talk about the 'war on civil liberties' since September 11 2001, in particular with reference to Babar.

The speakers talked about Babar being just one of a huge number of Muslims who have been victimised in the Government's attempt to justify their so-called 'war on terror', the disastrous effects of which are clearly being felt at home as well as in countries like Afghanistan and Iraq. It is for this reason that I would



COLIN SMITH
WELFARE CAMPAIGNS
OFFICER

like to echo the speakers and urge everyone to join the forthcoming demonstration in central London on 19 March, the second anniversary of the start of the war on Iraq.

For those of you who haven't been following his case, Babar Ahmad was a former student and member of staff at Imperial before he was

arrested under a new extradition law (which allows suspects to be extradited to the US without evidence of their alleged crime) for supposedly being involved with terrorist activities. He had been arrested a year earlier for similar reasons, and released without charge due to lack of evidence, but not before being subjected to what his supporters believe was extreme physical and verbal abuse at the hands of police officers. The Union has resolved to support an investigation into this alleged abuse. There is still no evidence against Babar, and he is now facing a further violation of his human rights as he waits to hear whether he will be extradited to the US, the land of the death penalty and Guantanamo Bay, in a move that could set an extremely dangerous precedent. For more information, visit www.freebabarahmad.co.uk.

With Babar's case set to be

reviewed in the near future, and with the recent backlash against the 'anti-terror' legislation following the recent, and in my opinion long-awaited, departure of David Blunkett, there is much to be done. In addition to supporting the regular protests in London, as well as at the prison where Babar is being held, action is being planned on campus. A week of events, hosted by several of our clubs and societies, and possibly a central Union event, have been scheduled for February. Prior to this, there will be an organising meeting for any individuals or society representatives who want to take part in the campaign, to put their heads together and draw up a plan of action. The meeting is likely to be held in the near future, and anyone who wants to be kept informed about this, or to get involved in any other aspect of the campaign, should email me at cs602@ic.ac.uk.

Times are a-changing

The new year has brought some changes for the Imperial College Union Advice Service.

Firstly, the Advice Service has been re-located to the East Wing basement of Beit Quad, which is now the all-new Student Services Centre. We have moved to a new office which is more appropriate for an advice service and should be more comfortable for students to be in.

The new year also brings with it a new name: the Advice Service will now be known as The Information and Advice Centre. We feel that this sums up what we are trying to

achieve quite well – we are here as an information giving service and not just somewhere to come when all else has failed. We aim to be a one stop shop for students' worries or queries, whether this be a major case or you would just like some information on a certain subject.

We will still cover the following advice and information areas:

- Academic advice (appeals and complaints)
- Housing rights advice
- Employment rights advice
- Debt advice
- Consumer rights advice

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

- Personal safety
- International student issues
- Information on sexual health

The Information and Advice Centre also has a comprehensive leaflet library on the above areas and also on other subjects, such as drugs, health issues and student funding.

The Information and Advice Centre produces its own publicity on student issues. We have already produced the International Students' Guide, and in the new term we are producing an all-new Housing Rights Guide, which should be available just in time for

when you are all looking for somewhere else to live and the end of the term.

You may also see the new Information and Advice Centre publicity around campus. We feel that the changes will help us to continue to give you comprehensive advice and information on a range of subjects.

If you have any comments on these changes or if you feel that you need to use the Information and Advice Centre then please feel free to contact us on 020 7594 8066 or email advice@ic.ac.uk.

Hope you had a great holiday!

The Information and Advice Service is part of the new Student Services Centre in the East Wing basement of Beit Quad

COMMENT

Letters to the Editor

Exam anguish

Dear Dave,

I'm a 3rd Year Geology student and quite frankly it's a miracle that I can write to you, our Christmas period is a joke, we do a modular degree so every year we have exams the week after Christmas, it sort of sucks but makes the summer easier so that's okay. This year however with a large Mapping Dissertation project to do on top of other modules some students have half (8 of 16 modules) either to be submitted or examined in the week after Christmas.

Due to modular weighting if you are doing the 3 yr BSc course this could count for a third of your degree, with just two weeks to 'prepare' (See last weeks Felix Front page), whereas over the Easter break you can have only a third of your year to do after a 5 week break. With some modules being split and run twice (once in autumn term and once in spring term) with different students, some students are at an advantage due to timetabling decisions.

The two week break wouldn't be so bad if the department could actually produce an acceptable exam timetable! Initially one exam was due to be sat on Monday 3rd (a Bank Holiday!) – surely someone timetabling the exams would have seen this! It was duly moved but after negotiation with the students involved it couldn't be timetabled in the exam week – students suggested the Monday morning of the next week when all were free, however the department chose to timetable it on the Monday lunchtime (see Felix headline two weeks ago?) which clashed with some students humanities lectures. When this was pointed out, they were given the option of sitting the exam on the Monday afternoon – this of course clashes with department lectures. The option left to students is therefore which lecture to miss to do an exam!

This kind of general incompetence is typical of the fluid nature of exams and coursework and the laissez faire attitude of staff in our department and, as recent articles in Felix have shown, other departments across the university. With the rector saying that students shouldn't be represented on College Council and that British students aren't really very good you really have to wonder if anyone in this college really cares...

Yours,
A Disgruntled Rock Hunter

Dear Editor,

My name is Shumit Das and I am currently finishing my PhD in the aeronautics department. I graduated from the MEng course in Aero in 1997, which is the same course that Mr Stephen Message [see Felix front page, 9 December 2004] is currently in his final year of.

I would like to respond to the article about Exam stress, in the context of Aeronautics as I have personally had to go through the same process, along with many previous year groups. I felt the article to be an unfair representation of the workings of Aeronautics as a whole. The article was written in a way that suggested the exam timetable had

been altered for this current year only, to make their life difficult. This is just not the case.

Mr Message states that "they are not asking for anything that hasn't been given in the past" but that is not true. The 4th year has ALWAYS been given 2 weeks over Christmas to revise for the exams. As Prof Hillier said, it is actually more to do with coordination with subjects shared by 3rd year and exchange students than anything else. Also 4th year projects (which count for around a ninth of the entire course) start almost immediately after the exams. If Mr Message would like less time to do the most critical project of his degree then I'm sure he can have more time for the exams. Unfortunately then, I am sure students would be upset about not having enough time to complete the critical project.

I am certain that many students actually find that the time given for final exams in Aero is just about enough to get the revision done on time, in mind of the fact that the exams only count for 40% of the 4th year – the coursework counts 60%. I know that many students also get their highest marks during the course in their 4th year, so I would suggest that the guys just get on with it and hand in a sterling project report and presentation.

I am proud to have been a CAD and Fortran tutor to many of the current 4th year in Aeronautics and I think that almost all of them know me quite well. I would not tell them to get on with something if I didn't think it were reasonable (they are free to challenge me on that point). I am sorry that the exams revision time is so short but I know that Prof Hillier would NOT allow something that was truly unreasonable. MANY other years have survived and actually gone on to get really good degree marks despite this final exam problem. So I do feel that Stephen Message and his friends should really just get and finish the exams the best they can and really concentrate on the final project which counts for so much more.

Good luck 4th years!
Cheers

Shumit Das
PhD Student
Dept of Aeronautics

Dave Edwards, Editor, replies:

The article on the difficulties suffered by fourth year aeronautics students was a fair representation of the situation, featuring comments from students, staff and the departmental representative.

It was never suggested that the department had aimed to make students' lives difficult; rather, it was made clear that this year's unusual College term dates were a major factor.

In each of the past four years, students have had at least three weeks over the Christmas break to revise for exams. It follows that the present situation is highly unusual and Stephen Message was entirely

correct in saying: "We're not asking for anything that hasn't been given in the past".

Mr Message was by no means the only student to raise a complaint about this issue. Revising for six 20-lecture courses in two weeks would seem to be an extremely difficult task.

Our 'disgruntled rock hunter' also finds him/herself in an unenviable position this week. I would encourage any student with similar problems to make their views known to their departmental representative and/or to the Union's Deputy President (Education and Welfare) at dpew@ic.ac.uk. Some people don't care, but others do, and change really is possible in the future if enough students make their voices heard.

Babar Ahmad

Dear Editor,

The Union also campaigns against top-up fees, which is inherently political. In that case, they use the reasoning that it affects students directly, and campaigning is thus justified. In the case of Babar Ahmed, it also affects a student directly, and is thus similarly justified. As a pessimist, I have my doubts that the campaign will have any impact, but I am proud of the fact that it is being fought, and believe very strongly that it is necessary to fight it.

Federhirm

The difference is that top up fees directly affects students at the college. When Babar Ahmad was arrested he was no longer a student of Imperial College. He was not even a member of staff as he had left by the time he was arrested. The union is not there to support everyone that has been a student in the past.

There are several outside organisations that are campaigning on Mr Ahmad's behalf, and I do not see why it was deemed necessary to drag ICU into the issue when our effect will be minimal and the majority of students are not in favour of it. It is worth noting that the union cannot legally spend any money on the campaign either and seeing as Sabbs are paid as soon as they give any time to it we have spent money on it. All in all, it's a bit of a mess up and I predict not a lot will happen as a result.

Chris J

The US extradition request is no joke. Babar Ahmad has been accused of a long list of terrorist activities including: operating websites inciting and funding terrorism and planning an attack similar to that of US Cole in the gulf. The list goes on.

If it is a question between Babar Ahmad being released or imprisoned without a trial pending extra-

dition, while it may seem unjust he must be kept in prison. While it has become all too trendy to be highly cynical of our government's anti-terror campaign, at the end of the day it boils down to a matter of trust. Do you trust the government? The world is not perfect, and at the end of the day if the only way of keeping us safe is for the government to incarcerate a few terrorism suspects without trials / formal charges, so be it. Surely the human right for someone not be blown up is greater than that of someone not to be locked up.

While all the above to some extent is debatable, the following is not:

The Union has no right to campaign for his release. The union is not elected under political grounds. There is no way of checking whether the council's views are representative of the college in general.

Unlike tuition fees, where the union could presume to have the unanimous support of the college, here they cannot. This is not specifically a student issue. The union would not be acting democratically.

The union represents all of us. All of us do not support this issue. Unless the union could prove through some referendum that a sizable majority backed this issue, or any other political issue for that matter, it cannot champion this cause.

It sounds to me like a weak willed council bowed into intimidation...

TR

Please note that article 30 of the universal declaration of human rights states that no human rights can be used as an excuse to violate others. The idea that the right to life comes before the human rights of a suspect hence stands in direct conflict with the universal declaration of human rights.

The reason why the declaration is correct here, is in my mind, twofold:
- cruelty is never justified from a moral perspective

- going against human rights increases the risk of terrorism, as the hearts and minds of muslim communities here and elsewhere is lost, and terror recruitment increases. We are seeing this at this very moment.

On the contrary, a more honourable and level-headed approach, i.e. charging when there is evidence and using surveillance whilst gathering evidence, would better serve to protect the citizens safety and ideals.

We cannot judge the veracity of the charges against Babar, but the well-tryed rule of law entails a due legal process that can. Babar should be either freed or charged in such a process.

It is reasonable for the union to be involved as Babar and, not unlikely, other Imperial students/staff are affected.

Hence I support this important campaign, both for Babar and for society as a whole.

Oscar Dahlsten

● These comments on Babar Ahmad are taken from www.felixonline.co.uk. Visit the website for more discussion and debate.

CSFB reorganisation

Sir,

Numaan Chaudry journalism regarding the re-organisation of CSFB makes a mockery of Felix's attempt to offer business news. Firstly, to suggest that prospective interns should not consider the firm indicates total lack of research into the matter. CSFB remains a leading player in the industry, indeed only yesterday it was appointed advisor to Telecom Italia Mobiles in the \$27bn dollar buyout of the remaining 44% not held by Telecom Italia. It may interest him to know that Goldman Sachs has been retained solely to offer a "fairness opinion". In terms of layoffs, two to three hundred are set to go, which from an organisation of 16,000+ is hardly a blood letting, furthermore CSFB is still widely hiring and paying in line with the rest of the street, indeed total of 25 new investment banking analysts were hired into the London office for 2004, with the number of new hires for 2005 set to be 35.

I would argue that his lackadaisical approach to journalism has served only to undermine the position of one of the worlds leading securities houses in one of the world leading talent pools, which is disappointing, and hopefully not indicative of the standards of the journalism that Felix hopes to espouse.

Sincerely,

Charles Cassidy

Numaan Chaudhry, Business Editor, replies:

Please tell me where I have undermined CSFB's strength as a global leader, its number one rankings or indeed the strength of the above divisions (equity research, securities origination).

Let me make it clear; I am well aware of CSFB's position and growing prowess in many divisions within investment banking. Now I assume that because of your affiliation with CSFB, whatever that may be, you are a professional and I was expecting you to voice your opinions in a less extremist fashion. Overlooking that, let me now get to the crux of the issue.

The fact of the matter is, and no doubt any linguistics expert will support my view, that when I said 'reconsider your options', the context in which this is said makes it clear that students should reconsider whether they should be applying to these divisions; CSFB's reputation has been left untainted.

I expect this clears up the confusion and hope that you have the courage to apologise for your unjustified use of 'mockery' to Felix volunteers.

Finally, in any future correspondence, could I ask that you address me properly by spelling my surname correctly.

Send your letters to felix@ic.ac.uk. This is the page where you can make your voice heard on just about any topic. Letters may be edited for length but not for spelling or grammar, and are printed at the Editor's discretion

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Going underground in Slovenia

PHOTO: JARVIST FROST

CAVING CLUB

By Jarvist Frost

Nine months after I first went underground with the Imperial College Caving Club (ICCC), I unclipped from the rope at the bottom of Concorde pitch, deep within the mountain Migovec in western Slovenia. The white of the floor was breathtaking, polished smooth by the annual flow of snow melt. I was perhaps the 20th person to stand here and see the colours, the shapes and the sheer scale of this enormous stone cathedral, every last facet of it formed by water and gravity.

Connecting me to the world above, and leading ever deeper, were hundreds of lengths of rope secured by literally hammering into the rockface – years of effort by students from ICCC and the Slovenian JSPDT.

I could just see the faint orange light of my caving buddy 70m above me. I built a cairn of rocks as a substitute for a tripod, and balanced my old Soviet camera at an angle I hoped would cover the whole pitch. Dousing my light and opening the shutter, I shouted “rope free!”

I sat absolutely still (so as not to nudge the camera) in the perfect darkness for

15 minutes and watched the impossibly small orange dot above me float down as gently as a feather, with the lightning blue flash burning an image into my retina every minute or two. I don't think I've ever felt quite so peaceful, quietly biding my time sitting on a shelf of rock surrounded by moonscape.

After packing the camera and eating some chocolate, we readied for the ascent – 400m of rope to climb, nearly five times the height of the Queen's Tower. Over eight hours of solid climbing later, I finally flopped out of the cave and sniffed at the strange ozone smell of the vegetation, gazing up at the star-framed silhouettes of the mountains across the valley.

My buddy, who had been dilligently waiting at the bottom of pitches as I climbed in case I struck difficulty (not once grumbling as he read 120 pages of his paperback sitting in the cold), joined me after a few short minutes. We stumbled back to the Bivvi following the string as it snaked around the many hazards on the plateau. I was so utterly exhausted that I had to be helped out of my caving kit, but was soon warmed by the fire and refreshed with hot chocolate and plates of chilli.

The photo came out and is reproduced here (right) – a

snapshot to illustrate a single day's experiences while on expedition with the caving club. There is no way to squeeze the many activities enjoyed during four weeks in Slovenia into a single article, but I hope that this tiny sliver may kindle your interest.

About the Club

As enormously taxing as the sport is, both physically and psychologically, caving is neither competitive nor macho. The aim is to use people's different skills in cooperation to further common goals of exploration and enjoyment. No prior experience is required and all training is done within the club, drawing on the experience of our mature members. All trips are tailored to the skills and wishes of those taking part, and you will never be asked to do things that you are unhappy with or that we do not feel you are ready for yet.

Imperial College Caving Club runs regular weekend trips to caving destinations around the UK, usually costing £25 to £30 inclusive of all training, equipment, transportation, accomodation, food and leadership. As well as our summer expedition to Slovenia, we have a week-long tour during the Easter break to somewhere warm and long weekends to destinations around Europe in the spring and summer.

We meet weekly on Tuesdays in Southside upper lounge from 7.30pm and practice rope-climbing in the trees in Princes Gardens on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm. Drop by at some point for a chat and we'll do our best to answer any questions that you have.

Browse our large photoarchive, read trip reports and keep up with the latest news at www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/caving or email ic.caving@gmail.com.



The Caving Club in Yorkshire, ready to go underground



Clewin Griffith descending Concorde pitch, Gardener's World, Slovenia

Members sought for revival of Railway Society

RAILWAY SOCIETY

By David Horton

Thursday 24 February 2005 will mark the first meeting of what is hoped will eventually become the revived Imperial College Railway Society (ICRS).

I say 'revived' because it seems that the ICRS never officially died. It is not known exactly why or when the society disbanded, folded or just faded away, but according to the archives (predominant-

ly the surviving club tankard), its last president was 'inscribed' in 1981.

A brief history of the club

The earliest evidence of the society so far discovered dates from 1956. They had their own magazine, *Review*, their own constitution and even their very own steam locomotive named 'Dymphna' which was run on occasional Sundays at a club track in West London (the search continues to find this train, and if anybody knows of its current

whereabouts, please contact the author!)

Far from being a trainspotter's club ('trainspotting' then a socially acceptable hobby like any other, now almost universally viewed as tantamount to mental illness), the society had a truly varied social calendar for those interested in railways. Events included talks by eminent figures in the industry, site visits, volunteer weekends and main line excursions.

Revival

Two members of staff here at

Imperial College – Kim Winter and John Barnes – rediscovered the ICRS through their links to the narrow-gauge Ffestiniog Railway in North Wales and decided to attempt a revival. I met them through almost pure luck, and together we have now got the ball rolling.

Members!

On Thursday 24 February (6.45pm, room 342 Mechanical Engineering), we invite YOU – any interested person, student, staff or alumnus – to come and attend our first

meeting. Our guest speaker will be Adrian Shooter, chairman of Chiltern Railways. Amongst the post-privatisation train operating companies (TOCs), Chiltern Railways is a relatively 'small fish' but has been highly successful, both financially and operationally. There can be few people more qualified to talk about 'running a successful railway company'. More details will emerge nearer the time, but it would be great to get as much support as possible. This is where our appeal hinges.

Any club or society wishing to be officially recognised needs at least 20 people to put their names to paper (and preferably more). You don't have to book a place at the lecture, but if you are interested in attending and becoming a member, I would like to hear from you! Having those all-important 20 signatures also enables us to obtain a small advertising budget specifically to boost the inception of this society. If you are interested, please email me as soon as possible at david.horton@ic.ac.uk.

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 7 JANUARY

UNION EVENTS SCHOOL DAZE

8pm-2am
dBs, Beit Quad
£3

Vodka and mixer £1 in dBs while stocks last. Half price entry in your school uniform!
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 11 JANUARY

UNION EVENTS JAZZ & ROCK JAM NIGHT

7pm
dBs, Beit Quad

A night of live music. Bring an instrument, turn up and play!
Contact:
richard.plackett@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS PARAMOUNT COMEDY ON TAP

8pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
Featuring Howard Read, Ian Moore and Hils Barker. Arrive early to avoid disappointment.
Contact:
medic.president@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS

STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

8-10.30pm
Beit Quad
FREE

The quiz is a bit of a tradition at the Union, with cash and beer prizes on offer. Get a team together and see how much you really know.

Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY

UNION EVENTS TO BE CONFIRMED

8pm
Beit Quad
£1

Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 13 JANUARY

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

ALL WEEK

FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY

Student discount ALL WEEK

THE AVIATOR (12A)

Daily: 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.30pm.
Sat and Sun only: 10.10am.

ALEXANDER (15)

Daily: 12.30pm, 4.15pm, 8pm.

WHITE NOISE (15)

Daily: 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.50pm.

VERA DRAKE (12A)

Daily: 12noon (not Sun), 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm. Fri and Sat only: 11pm.

THE HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (12A)

Daily: 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.20am.

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG)

Daily: 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm. Sat and Sun only: 11am.

THE INCREDIBLES (U)

Daily: 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.10am.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (12A)

Daily (except Thurs): 5.50pm, 9pm.

THE POLAR EXPRESS (U)

Daily (except Thurs): 1pm, 3.30pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.40am.

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

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS (PG)
Fri and Sat only: 12midnight.
Sat and Sun only: 11.30am.
BLADE TRINITY (15)
Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm.
BRIDGET JONES: EDGE

OF REASON (15)
Fri and Sat only: 11.40pm.

We apologise for the short What's On section this week. This issue of *Felix* has been put together dur-

ing the Christmas break, and unfortunately there is no-one around to tell us 'what's on'. The first week of term is also less busy due to exams. Normal service will be resumed next issue.

www.felixonline.co.uk

the online student newspaper of Imperial College
new site coming soon

IAC

EVERYONE HAS WORRIES FROM TIME TO TIME....

**DON'T LET YOUR CONCERN
TURN INTO A CRISIS**

VISIT THE INFORMATION & ADVICE CENTRE

FOR CONFIDENTIAL, IMPARTIAL, INDEPENDENT ADVICE & INFORMATION
ON ACADEMIC, FINANCIAL, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, CONSUMER,
WELFARE AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ISSUES.

GO TO THE STUDENT SERVICES CENTRE, EAST WING BASEMENT,
BEIT QUAD, OR CONTACT US:

T: 020 7594 8066 (internal 48067)

E: advice@imperial.ac.uk

www.union.imperial.ac.uk

**STUDENT
SERVICES
CENTRE**

 imperial
college
union



clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

Psychedelic student union...?

Psy-trance is about as extreme as dance music can get. This New Year's Eve, in search of some psy, I found myself at a rave organised by some of the city's biggest names on the scene, held at the London Metropolitan University's Union

CLUB REVIEW

IMAGINE: New Year's Eve

The Rocket Complex, Holloway Road

★★★★☆

The names Pendragon, Pickle and The Gathering might sound more like characters from some role-playing card game you enjoy with your science fiction buddies, but they are also the names of three of London's biggest rave promoters. With decades of collective experience, these three hold psy-trance-oriented events all over London and beyond. They have a loyal set of fans who are always up for a party, so what better place could there be for a psy-guy like myself to spend New Year's Eve than around like-minded people, getting rocked and twisted by what I find to be one of the most extreme forms of dance music?

In my years at Imperial I have always found that clubbers, especially those with similar tastes to mine, are incredibly thin on the ground. Since my (only) stalwart club buddy had flown east to sunnier climes, I was forced to ship in reinforcements from my renowned and beautiful home county of Essex. Actually, they invited me out, but I'm the one writing the review.

So off we trotted, up to the north side of town and Holloway Road, in search of The Rocket Complex. Having gone the wrong way once, we proceeded to walk right past the place then around the block before eventually arriving. Yes, it had been a very long year. Luckily there was no queue at all. The door staff were friendly (even if the bouncer searching me did insist on announcing everything he could feel in my pockets) and entrance was no hassle.

The Rocket Complex is a students' union building located on London Metropolitan University's north campus. The place consists of several downstairs bars, but for nights like this they also hire out the upstairs, a sports hall. Add drapes, some disco lights, two high-powered lasers and vast stacks of speakers putting out about the same level of sound as a small jet engine, and you have all the ingredients for a great night out. Except, that is, for the most important ingredient – the people.

We arrived just after 10pm, so admittedly the place had only been open for an hour, but even so it did seem to be particularly empty. First we explored the downstairs areas, coming first to the main downstairs bar. Looking around the place it really could have been any union, save for the extra decorations and the day-glo cyber kids wandering around. In this room we found what we'd been waiting for – pulsating, psychedelic sounds.

Psychedelic trance is really quite



Hmm... anyone look Pickled to you?

crazy music. Originating in Goa, India in the late eighties and early nineties, this kind of music was first produced by the people who stayed in Goa after most of the hippies had left, to mess around with music, practise yoga and probably take lots of drugs. The resulting style of music, known as Goa trance, and more recently as psy-trance, is one of my favourite styles of dance. It's generally a bit faster than other styles, and usually includes an arpeggiated chugging bassline, as well as as much aural envelopment as possible – squelchy sounds, distorted acid-tinged riffs and random vocal samples. The resulting wall of sound is a relentless attack on the ears and feet. In clubs with speakers at opposite sides of vast rooms, all the squeaks and beeps sound like they're flying round your head, at your head, in your head, whilst the beats and bass leave you only one option – dance like a mentalist!

This was exactly what they were playing downstairs, and it sounded great. Unrelenting, with few breakdowns, with extra sounds from a keyboard, it had the few people that were dancing early on going wild. Crazy round-your-head sounds and pressing beats mean crazy dance moves. People who like psy trance

are way past the attitude, front, and 'cool' you find in more mainstream clubs with more mainstream music. They dance exactly as you should – like no-one's watching! Close your eyes, let yourself get lost in the music, and your body will follow. Limbs go anywhere and everywhere, people spin around and jump and bounce (facilitated by the relative emptiness of the place at this point). It's a sight to behold.

Exploring further, we found a particularly quiet chill-out area and snack bar, and a second room of music, this time much more sensible and a fair bit slower than before. Funky house is the best way to describe it – mostly vocal led, poppy sounding tunes. It's all good stuff, but tonight the psy was the apple of my eye. Or, ear.

Our next mission was finding the third room. After a few laps of downstairs, and investigation of a few corridors that turned out to be the ladies', we eventually asked someone who pointed us to the upstairs, where the main room had been set up in the aforementioned sports hall. Since it was still early, this vast arena seemed incredibly bare, but the scene was set and 2005 was only hours away. The gigantic PA was booming, the lasers scanned

the air, and gradually we were drawn onto the dancefloor. The music here was more of the psy, though subtly different. There were more breakdowns, more opportunities for laser-reaching, as the sound went up and down into and out of big, euphoric breakdowns. The beats were more varied too, with the odd break here and there. As we danced around, enjoying the freedom of movement you get when you're not jammed in like sardines, the place was filling up. Clearly the hardcore ravers were only just starting to arrive.

By 12 o'clock, the room was pretty full. Still nowhere near capacity, but enough people to carry the atmosphere whilst leaving plenty of room for flailing body parts. At the stroke of midnight, a large net of balloons was released over the crowd. To give you an idea of just how bloody loud it was, whilst standing bang in the middle of the floor, the balloon I was holding was vibrating so much a could use it to tap people on the head. The mood was great and the party was ready to kick off and keep kicking for the next six hours. And kick off it did.

I have to confess that much of what came next is a bit of a blur to me, since I was indulging myself in the age-old tradition of spending

New Year's Eve getting off my face. I do know it was a great night though, and my friends and I stomped all through the night. The place had filled up nicely, still being spacious and airy enough to let loose with the dance moves without fear of smacking a fellow reveller in the face.

There was only one real problem throughout the night, that big-ass sound system I keep going on about. It was just too loud. Don't get me wrong, a big system is essential for a good party, and the sound wasn't distorted, but the volume was just a little too much. At about 3am my friend, guessing that the sound pressure level was pushing 140db (that's the same as a jet plane at 30m) suggested we try to find some earplugs rather than go deaf. To the credit of the organisers, we were able to purchase some at a stall for 50p – nothing compared to a potential lifetime of tinnitus.

All in all I was incredibly impressed by the venue and the night.

Were there any hassles? No. Did I go wild on the dancefloor? Yes. Did the DJs rock the crowd? Yes. Were the crowd exciting, interesting and up for it? Yes. Do I wish they held events like this at our union? Oh my god, yes.

Simon Clark
Nightlife Editor

Arts



arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

Beethoven, Bach and Mozart

Better late than never: ICU Choir's concert just before Christmas

ICU Choir

Friday 10 December 2004
Great Hall
Beethoven, Bach, Mozart

I realise that this review is a little on the late side, but I wouldn't want to deprive people of these, albeit brief, reflections on the Imperial College Union Choir's concert at the end of last term.

The concert was something of a new experience for me, as I was sitting in the audience this time instead of being up on the stage with my fellow ladies of the alto section. The choir is vast, and in all honesty what people say about things sounding completely different away from the source of the sound is true – only in the audience can you fully appreciate the sound of each section and the way they overlap and interact in the interpretation of the music.

The concert began in jubilant fashion with the *Hallelujah* from Beethoven's *Mount of Olives*. A wonderfully fun piece to sing, I remember enjoying it greatly. The choir looked confident and as though they were enjoying themselves, and the mood carried over into the audience. A very successful way to start the concert.

Some Bach followed in the form of the *Magnificat*. Bach is always wonderful; the man was a genius, his music flows with glorious layers of sound from all quarters – the orchestra, the soloists and each section of the choir all have their chance to shine. Again the performance was confident. There were a few moments of restrained panic when the music's deviousness almost requires it, but nothing dire. The tenor section did themselves proud – rather lacking in numbers, they definitely made themselves heard (which can be attributed to their, some would say, overpowering

egos, however I'll leave this to the reader's own opinion).

A word on the acoustics of the Great Hall and the size of the choir are appropriate at the point. At some point in one's career at Imperial, one must spend some time in the Great Hall for one reason or another. I think that we would all agree that the place is large and not the most beautiful of spaces. (At this point I must apologise to my Russian class as they've all been privy to this particular rant.) The Great Hall has absolutely no acoustic – it has the unique ability to crush any sound trying to make its way from one region to the next. This unfortunate effect is most harmful to singers'

"Bach is always wonderful; the man was genius"

efforts. Soloists sing their hearts out only to have at most half of what they are trying to convey reach the audience.

The choir, while it is admirable that so many people want to sing, is now almost too large; the bass section is now set so far back from the audience that, at times, between the distance and the Great Hall effect, you almost miss them, particularly when they are singing lower in their voices, which is a shame. The sopranos, on the other hand, the largest section in the choir, at times completely overpower the rest. Yes, more often than not they have the tune, but there is a lot more going on in the music that one would benefit from hearing.

Following a brief interval, the choir capped off their concert with Mozart's *Requiem*. The *Requiem* was never completed by Mozart himself, and so it has been the task of others over centuries to try to fathom what he meant to do. The



Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, by Frederic Edwin Church

version of the score performed by the choir was the latest 'completion and updating' by Robert Levin, and had some interesting changes from that which we are used to hearing. The various 'updatings' of the score do not change the melodies, but rather, for the most part, make subtle changes to the orchestration.

Again, the performance was confident and at times the choir were clearly enjoying themselves.

However, by this point in the concert the taxing nature of the programme, and perhaps also the overzealous nature of some singers, was definitely beginning to tell in the tenor section which at times sounded hoarse.

Just a quick note on the soloists, before I finish; for the most part they were wonderful, but there was one weak link. The soprano, tenor and bass were all great, in fact the soprano was truly awe-inspiring,

but the alto was altogether another matter, sounding completely out of place when she wasn't drowned out.

The choir gave a good performance of rather varied pieces, showing that they can do the whole range from jubilant forte to solemn piano, not to mention stay together while following the conductor's break-neck speeds in fugues.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

Quite a lot of ramblings this week... it has been a while, humour me



PAOLA SMITH
ARTS EDITOR

A few words on some other arts-related topics before I declare that I've said what I'm going to say this week. I'll start off with opera, and go via a couple of exhibitions to a novel treatment of opera.

The Royal Opera recently did a run of performances of Donizetti's opera buffa, a comedy, *Don Pasquale*,

Donizetti's most famous opera being the somewhat more serious *Lucia di Lammermoor* which was performed last season. This particular outing of a Donizetti opera was given something of a mixed, and confusing, reception, especially by *The Times*.

The Times, for reasons known only to its editors, chooses *Don Pasquale* as one of their arts events not miss one Sunday, then runs a review berating everything about the performance, and then the next week is once again full of praise for the opera.

Fortunately, I had booked tickets to see for myself (it was a tough choice; see some amusing Donizetti or some tragic Puccini with Gheorghiu). I found the performance to be thoroughly enjoyable and very funny. The highly unfavourable review had said that there was absolutely nothing amusing about the Royal

Opera's production, the cast being about as amusing as watching paint dry. All I can say is that the reviewer obviously lacked a sense of humour or had perhaps suffered a similar fate as the eponymous Don. The production was cleverly designed, the action being set in an over-sized dolls' house, and every word could be understood and their meanings clearly conveyed by the cast. Unjust accusations were also levelled at the singers portraying Norina and Ernesto. Making her debut at the House, Tatiana Lisnic was most definitely up to the standards expected by the patrons and, quite frankly, Juan Diego Florez, a Peruvian tenor, has one of the most beautiful voices around – he may not have the power of some of his fellow tenors but his voice carried perfectly well and technically he was very strong.

Two exhibitions are about to close here in town, and should you get

the chance they ought to be seen. Firstly, there is the Raphael show at the National Gallery. This may be your only chance to see so much by the artist in one place – of course, travelling throughout the world to see the individual pieces of the collection at the galleries from whence they came would be highly enjoyable, but in the spirit of practicality why not see it all at once?

Secondly, there is a lovely little exhibition in the Sackler Wing of the Royal Academy of the work of the British artist William Nicholson, a review of which will appear next week. You will probably recognise his print of Queen Victoria and some of those from his series of the alphabet, but his work is not restricted to this medium – a number of paintings are also featured. If you don't fancy seeing something quite as 'mainstream' as the Raphael, the Nicholson is rather interesting.

Now, briefly back to opera. I think it's quite obvious that I love the opera, as was picked up by my family this Christmas. The most curious item of opera paraphernalia that I received was a set of comic book opera adaptations from my brother. While the selection of operas in the collection is a little on the eccentric side, those that have been included have received a very good treatment. So, for anyone thinking about going to the opera for the first time, or, I think more usefully, for someone who is trying to convince someone to go, this particular treatment may have more success in generating interest than a copy of Kobbé's. The colourful pictures are somewhat more enticing than the very detailed but slightly dry information contained in this rather heavy tome, (though I do recommend Kobbé for later use, as almost everything is covered there).

Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

vue
CINEMAS
www.myvue.com/students

Film listings: see
What's On, page 12

Carrey steals the show again

Snicket's excellent fantasy moves seamlessly from page to screen

Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events

Director: Brad Silberling
Starring: Jim Carrey, Meryl Streep, Jude Law, Emily Browning, Liam Aiken
Length: 104 minutes
Certificate: PG
★★★★★

It seems everyone wants to make a film from a kid's book these days, and why not? They are often the best, and *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events* is no exception.

One of Lemony Snicket's famous books has come to life thanks to Jude Law. He plays the author himself, reading the story in the most mystical voice, providing all the enchantment and magic the film needs. The film occasionally cuts out to Lemony Snicket's shadow as he tells the terrible tales.

Snicket sets the scene with: "This is not a happy film. If you wish to watch a film about a happy little elf then you still have time to leave the cinema." I was excited – this wasn't going to be the usual type of movie.

The Baudelaire children are exceptional. Violet Baudelaire (Emily Browning) is an inventor. Klaus Baudelaire (Liam Allen) reads books, millions of books, and remembers the contents of every single one. Sunny Baudelaire, the

youngest of the three, likes to bite things.

The children are now the Baudelaire orphans, after a mysterious fire killing their parents, meaning that Violet will inherit a huge fortune on her eighteenth birthday. The orphans are sent to their uncle, Count Olaf (Jim Carrey), who is only after them for their huge inheritance and will do anything to get it. It is up to the children to stop him.

The director, Brad Silberling, made an excellent adaptation of the book,

"Each scene is full of fantasy and imagination"

producing a film with magnificent scenes and an otherworldly feel. Each setting is beautifully twisted from one of the pages of the book. Each scene is full of fantasy and imagination. All the characters are cast perfectly.

Another example of the great adaptation from book to film is that in the books baby Sunny's quarks and ga-gas are given as translations, but in the films they are subtitled and provide many laughs. This was the first time I had ever laughed at a toddler in a film for their humorous lines, even though the youngster in *Look Who's Talking* did come very close.



Jim Carrey (centre) as Count Olaf in *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*

This brings me on to Jim Carrey. He overshadows everyone else in the film, yet again stealing all the best lines and every good scene. It would not have been the same film without him – no one else was up to the standard to play the intense, overpowering Count Olaf, who is brought to life in a powerful and passionate way.

Violet and Klaus portray the children in the most mature way, really suiting the parts they are playing. Just like all good fantasy films, there are quirky and unusual characters everywhere that will keep you entertained. Uncle Monty (Billy Connolly) and Aunt Josephine (Meryl Streep) are two such characters.

This is not your traditional kids'

story – everything is not always happy and rosy in *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events*, as the title tells you.

There are a lot of unfinished endings, which can leave you slightly agitated. However, this is a family film that will introduce a lot of people to the books. A good fantasy film for all. **Melissa Parkinson**

More flying ninja warriors

Zhang's new release is breathtakingly beautiful but has its flaws

House Of Flying Daggers

Director: Zhang Yimou
Starring: Zhang Ziyi, Takeshi Kaneshiro, Andy Lau
Length: 119 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★★

Zhang Yimou's *House of Flying Daggers* takes place during the decline of the Tang Dynasty in 859AD and follows captains Leo (Andy Lau) and Jin (Takeshi Kaneshiro) on their mission to bring down one of the most prolific rebel groups in China, the House of Flying Daggers, who, like Robin Hood, steal from the rich to give to the poor.

Jin and Mei (Ziyi Zhang), a woman from the House of Flying Daggers, disguise themselves in order to seduce each other in mutually opposed attempts at infiltration, entrapment and ambush. Both plans work, but Jin and Mei also fall in love with each other, which screws everything up. We never find out what the political outcome is; the movie concentrates on the complications between Jin and Mei, as well as Mei's other love interest Leo, also a double agent.

Many movies have combined a love story with martial arts action, but the love story has to be compelling to work well, and this one doesn't really take off until the movie is almost over. Even with all the gravity-defying leaps and the characters' superhuman abilities, the most unbelievable element in Zhang's film is the love story. In spite of that, it's still a movie worth seeing.

The movie places a lot of emphasis on style and it is certainly gorgeous, especially Mei's dance at the begin-

"A marvellous and beautiful film..."

ning. Other highlights are the Echo Game, in which Mei stands within a circle of upright drums which she has to strike with the exceptionally long sleeves of her robe in the same order as they're struck by pebbles. I know it doesn't sound like much, but trust me, it's the film's most memorable moment.

This is only Zhang's second wuxia film. Once again, he uses a minimal cast of characters, but those that found *Hero's* narrative somewhat confusing will appreciate his more

linear approach to storytelling.

Zhang has proven that he is a master at turning celluloid into canvas. Coupled with sparse dialogue and straightforward narratives, his films are comprised of frame after frame of breathtaking beauty. Unfortunately, he succeeds in neglecting a crucial point of character development, one that cannot be compensated for by fast-paced fight scenes or gorgeous swirling snow.

The most notable missing element from the crew of *Hero* is cinematographer Christopher Doyle, who brought so much to the look and feel of *Hero*. Without him, the action scenes are filmed with far less style and flair, and the colour palette seems more muted, sticking to the earthier greens, yellows and browns found in nature. There are plenty of action set-pieces involving flying ninja warriors and, of course, some serious dagger-tossing, but the focus on Jin and Mei makes it feel quite drawn out.

Don't get me wrong, *House* is a gorgeous film, almost as striking as *Hero*. Avoid getting too distracted trying to keep track of the characters' changing agendas, and enjoy the production design, costumes



"There are plenty of action set-pieces involving flying ninja warriors..."

and landscapes. All are sublime.

The fights are amazing ballets, but what was breathtaking in *The Matrix* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* is getting old. If your heroes can literally do anything, it tends to suck the tension out of their confrontations. It also leads to unintentional laughs, as in the bizarre case of a character that won't stay dead, which in my opinion really ruined the film by turning it into a comedy. How many death scenes is one person allowed, anyway?

It's an impressive undertaking, to combine music and dance, sumptuous visual design and violent action – reason enough to see it on the big screen, as it just won't be the same on your television – but the material is kitsch.

On its own, *House* is a marvellous and beautiful film, but following on the heels of *Hero* and even *Crouching Tiger*, something is lost. Instead of being another truly great film from Zhang, it's simply a very good one. **Haj Althair**



FRESH
HAIR SALON

CUT & BLOW DRY
BY OUR TOP STYLISTS
£20 LADIES
£17 MEN
Normal Price £35

ACCESS VISA MASTERCARD CASH CHEQUES

'Still the best student offer!'

15a Harrington Road
South Kensington
London SW7 3ES
(1 Minute walk from
South Kensington Tube)



Telephone 020 7823 8968

SCHOOLDAZE

Friday 7 January, 8am-2am
(Bar closes at 1am)


Vodka Shots plus mixer £1
In dBs while stocks last

£3.00
£2.50
£3.00

**Union
Ents Card
Guest**

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

Wear your uniform and get in half price



imperial college union dB

Something for the ladies...

An evening to raise money for
Breast Cancer Awareness

Ann Summers Party (sorry no boys!)
Lingerie fashion parade
Auction of Imperial's most eligible bachelors
Blind Date

dBs from 7pm on Thursday January 20th

Tickets (include raffle entry):
£3.50 on door
£3 in advance

Contact:
pinks_imperial@yahoo.co.uk
michelle.maloney@ic.ac.uk
aleksandra.corr@ic.ac.uk

ICSMSU St Mary's Sub-Aqua Club presents...



The all-new adventures of **DiveMan**

...only one man can foil his wicked plan

Perhaps I can ask the leader of that conger line...

...actually, now that I think about it, eel never talk. Oh well, onwards...

Oh no! The trail's come to an end! Now what?

Shame the witnesses have all clammed up

Aha! These tracks will lead me to Dr Narc's hideout!

Will our hero find the location of the Doctor's lair? Find out next week...

Think you could do better than DiveMan?
Reckon you could spot a red herring from a mile off?

Why not come along to our free Try Dive?

Monday 24 January, 6:30 pm

Want to know more details?

Just bring your swimming things, a T-shirt and a towel along to the pool at St Mary's Hospital, Norfolk Place.



You can either email Ian at i.joy@imperial.ac.uk or alternatively ring him on 020 7886 1868



Already qualified divers are also welcome

Learn to dive for the summer



Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

We overdid the NYE celebrations a bit last week, so it's just a mini edition this time. Normal service will be resumed next week

Answers

Issue 1308

Man vs. Beast

Everybody seemed to put the Blue Whale as the biggest here, and they were all wrong. It's a big boy, but for its size, it's nothing special.

1. Elephant
2. Horse
3. Hippo
4. Dog
5. Cat
6. Pig
7. Blue Whale
8. Man
9. Chimp

Hollywood's Finest

Much better here, everyone did very well, so congratulations all round.

1. Jennifer Aniston
2. Brad Pitt
3. Catherine Zeta-Jones
4. Eminem
5. Kirsten Dunst
6. Sarah Michelle Gellar
7. Sigourney Weaver
8. Britney Spears

Issue 1309

Good Year / Bad Year

This was nice and easy. **Abi Titmuss** was a nurse last year, **George W** did Coke at **Camp David**, **Micheal Jackson's** monkey is called **Bubbles**, and **Rebecca Loos** wanked off a pig.

SMUXLQ

I thought you'd all struggle with this, but you all seem to know your stuff. Or your cheesy christmas songs at least...

1. Let It Snow
2. I Wish It Could Be Christmas Everyday
3. Last Christmas
4. Frosty The Snowman
5. Silent Night
6. It's Begin To Look A Lot Like Christmas
7. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
8. Merry Christmas Everybody
9. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer

10. Winter Wonderland
11. Lonely This Christmas
12. White Christmas
13. Fairytale Of New York
14. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town
16. Auld Lang Syne
17. Little Drummer Boy
18. Ding Dong Merrily On High
19. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
20. Mistletoe And Wine
21. Wonderful Christmastime
22. Merry Christmas Everyone
23. Santa Baby
24. Deck The Halls
25. Sleigh Ride
26. Jingle Bell Rock
27. Do They Know It's Christmas?
28. Jingle Bells
29. We Wish You A Merry Christmas
30. Mary's Boy Child
31. Happy Christmas (War Is Over)

Coffee Break Top Exam Tips

1. You Booze, you lose.
Tempting as it is to mask out the pain of the coming exams with a bit of the amber nectar, it's not going to make you any smarter. However, your answers will be hilarious, and you might have a chance with that foxy lab assistant with the short skirt.
2. Revise in advance
People who only start revising while catching the bus to College will never pass anything. Instead we recommend you start early, sometime around 1997, if you want to be fully prepared.
3. After the exam
Afterwards it's almost certain that everybody will say the same "It was really hard, I only wrote half a line" stuff, therefore appearing modest and cool. Don't be like them, remember, you're Imperial, you're better! Smug self-satisfaction is the way ahead. Laugh at them, poke them, and remind everyone just how clever you are.

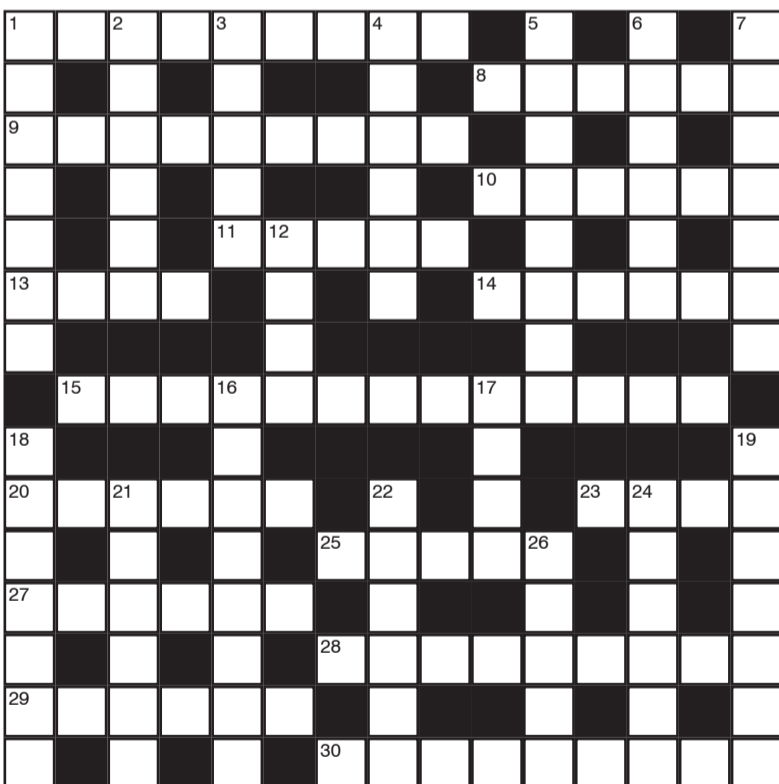
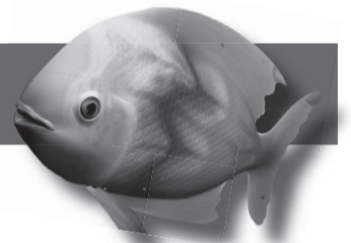
FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

Smith & Wesson	170 points
Management Slackers	127 points
Team Willy J	93 points
Araldite Sniffers	91 points
The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	69 points
Schoolboy Error	59 points
Team Robin	52 points
Team Bulwer	42 points
Oliver Carson	29 points
The Schist ones	21 points
KPN ²	11 points
Natasha Kundi	10 points

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

Felix Crossword 1310

by Fishface



Across

1. Blasphemy converted, cries one leg! (9)
8. Transaction, we hear, or seaman (6)
9. Discover one Victory in Europe, policeman! (9)
10. Thin northern headless marrow (6)
11. Royal Academy offer is fanatical (5)
13. Secure lockable container (4)
14. Sealer modified breeding without example (6)
15. The organization adapted his best lament (13)
20. Times of darkness are chess pieces, I hear (6)
23. Elaborate ruse operator (4)
25. Thrills boots (5)
27. Fat lubricant (6)
28. Weird, 'cos tables are barriers! (9)
29. Fifty innings without two points inside of garment (6)
30. Doctored sud sender took its clothes off! (9)

Down

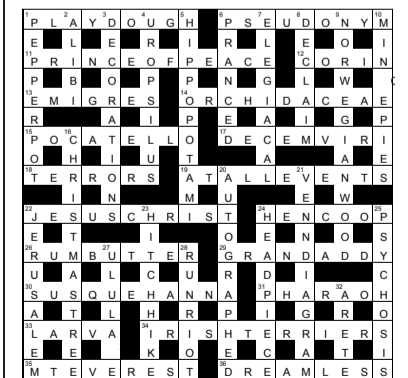
1. Most depressed initially, seven plus 15's opening (7)
2. Separate informal goodbye, posh bloke! (3,3)
3. Bring upon oneself ruin, 100 ruined (5)
4. Submit peculiar one in veg (4,2)
5. Excavate 1000 after beginning of parable model (8)
6. Blazed seventies trouser style (6)
7. Book about western queen, head of Yorkshire drinks factory (7)
12. Middle Eastern citizen, for example, living in Ankara bungalow (4)
16. Skill, one without French craftsmen (8)
17. Thaw kebab containing bird (4)
18. Cuddle broken leg guns (7)
19. Stimulated one soured bitterly (7)
21. Colours sneer gracefully, initially upturned (6)
22. Good French pursues big backward ape (6)
24. 100 seals damaged the weighing instruments (6)
26. Reptile sneaks shrewdly, minus a second (5)

Happy new year! And welcome to the first cryptic crossword of 2005. It's a fairly simple offering compared to our usual puzzles, so I expect lots and lots of you to send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk or bring them to our office.

You see, for each time you give us a correct solution, your name will be placed into our prize draw at the end of the year. Last time around, we gave away such lovely items as digital radios and USB storage devices.

Well done to all those who completed Snufkin's giant crossword in our Christmas issue. **Fishface**

Issue 1309 solution



The Giant Crossword winner is Joe Walding, Physics IV
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

Crossword writers required

Think you can do better than Snufkin, Jabberwock, Fishface or Cactus? We need people to write cryptic and quick crosswords. If you're interested, email coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Wye triumph in Imperial head-to-head

RUGBY

Imperial Women's 1st 10
Wye Women's 1st 20

By Suzanne Horn

This was the match Wye had been waiting for: an Imperial College head-to-head.

With two consecutive wins under their belts, the Wye

girls were not going to be defeated without a fight. Aggression and team spirit were soaring, and they needed to be, facing the big Virgin forwards.

The Wye girls were not afraid by the Virgins' Martin Johnson quotes. Definitely 'all talk and no action', as Wye's tackling was in a different league. Our forwards

were outweighed and out-sized, however the Wye pack still managed to stand their own ground and turn over a few scrums.

The incredible lineouts were not quite up to their usual standard. In spite of this, the pack redeemed themselves with their awesome rucking and mauling. By far the best of the season,

so far!

Hetts played superb rugby throughout the entire match, deservedly scoring a try. The frightening tackling and mauling strength of the flanker, Pike, earned her Wye's player of the match award.

The backs, as a whole, had an amazing game. The sheer speed and athleticism of the

back line was no match for the slower, less powerful Virgins.

Em had a cracking match, side-stepping her way down the pitch to score two great tries. Lil and Death also have to be mentioned for their fearless tackling. Kipling scored a blinding try, set up from a driving maul powered by the whole pack. This try was defi-

nately a brilliant team effort, certainly one to be proud of.

Wye left a lasting impression on the Virgins, literally! This was Wye's first league away win, and with a performance like that, it will ultimately not be the last.

Wye face Kings in the next match in the league. Let's hope they won't take away our crown.

SEND US
YOUR
SPORTS
REPORTS

If you've played a match, been on tour or entered a competition, why not write about it for *Felix*?

Send your reports to sport.felix@ic.ac.uk.

If you can include a good quality photograph, you will get a bigger article and it might even appear on the back page.

Please tell us who has written the article

SPORTS
RESULTS
WILL
RETURN
SOON

Most of the College sports teams have an extended Christmas break. We will continue to bring you results from Imperial College and Imperial Medicals teams as soon as they are back in action. We expect to have a full results service back on these pages in two weeks' time

Imperial College London

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

Imperial Volunteer Centre



Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Devils and Warwick battle on ice

ICE HOCKEY

Warwick 1st 12
Imperial 1st 2

The IC Devils descended upon Lea Valley ice rink for a league game against the Warwick Panthers.

There was a motley crew from Imperial, including four players who had never played a match before. The standard bunch of criminals showed up on behalf of Warwick, including a prepubescent Canadian.

The match started with a bump, and before a goal was scored, the first of three fights broke out. Carlos was cowardly rammed from behind against the wall, and justly retaliated. The Warwick players' strength was in numbers, and two of them joined the fray against the IC Devil. However, the Devils decided that it was (a) a long way to go for a punch up, (b) Carlos didn't need any help, and (c) Carlos didn't deserve any help, so they stood back and watched the ramming develop until the King Sized Ref separated them with a crowbar. Carlos earned himself five golden minutes in the penalty box for his efforts, as did the Warwick player.

The game was scrappy, with the Panthers using every dirty trick in their very dirty book of filthy tricks, and due to some ambiguous offside calls they managed to sneak in two goals on the break (then they got a few more).

This led to the valiant Devils being 5-0 down at the end of the period. The second period saw a great start for the Devils, with a blinding strike



Imperial's ice hockey team: probably the friendliest bunch of Devils you'll ever meet

from Ilya at an unbelievable angle pulling one back for the good guys. However, proving that there is no fairness in this life, the Panthers scored a few more, before the next fight broke out. Yingke had his head smacked into the ice, and despite cries of "don't

retaliate [and kick their heads in]", his honour was tarnished and needed to be regained. The subsequent action saw a few more players involved, and after bashing them off, the referee sent Yingke off for a well-earned rest.

The third period lead to

another goal by the IC Devils team, scored from point by Tom Andrews, but the Panthers did get a few more, leaving the final score at 12-2 in their favour.

Congratulations must go to (wo)man of the match Ruth C, the 'keeper, and also to

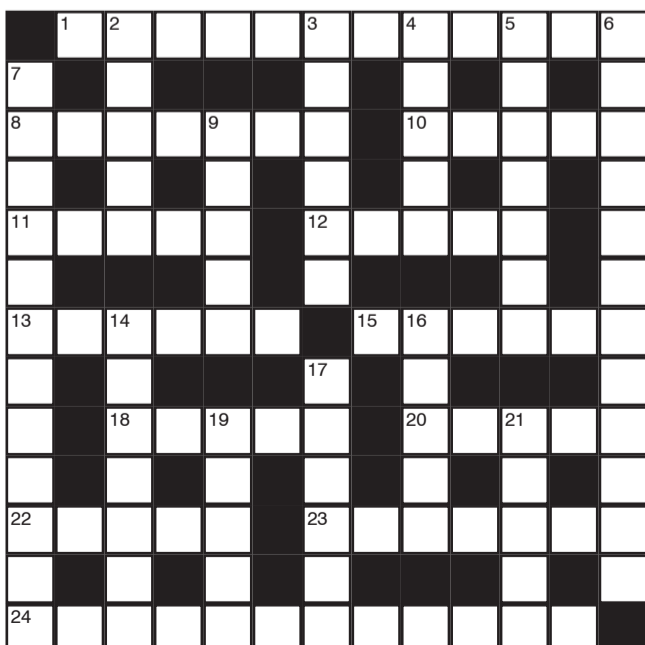
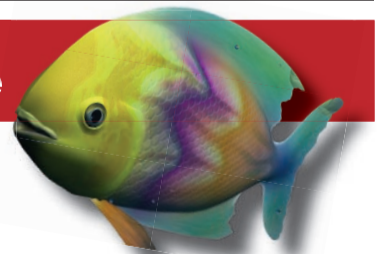
anyone who played for the first time, goalscorers, and especially Carlos for spending more time in the penalty booth than everyone else in the building combined.

If you are interested in joining the ice hockey team, or just want to come and

support us (anyone is welcome) then email us at ice-hockey@ic.ac.uk. We desperately need players. Don't be intimidated by the game – it isn't violent (unless Carlos plays) and you don't even need to be able to skate. You want proof? We can't...

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

- Overweight yellow cartoon character (5,7)
- Country in South America (7)
- Someone doomed (*slang*) (5)
- Final letter of Greek alphabet (5)
- City in India (5)
- Races featuring several competitors on each team (6)
- Inflatable boat (7)
- Knocks (5)
- City in western Australia (5)
- City in northern Italy (5)
- Ideal value (7)
- 1950s musical film starring Doris Day (8,4)

Down

- Small ovum (5)
- Pace (6)
- Very rich or powerful person (5)
- Producing sounds (7)
- Childrens' poem or song (7,5)
- Histrionic (12)
- Daily record (5)
- _____ Democrats, political party (7)
- Enter data (5)
- Accompany (6)
- Half note (*music*) (5)
- Native of Rome (5)

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 1309 solution

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