



The big red ball

The Juggling Club show us how it's done, page 8



Bungee running in Wye

A new way to raise money for the tsunami appeal, page 11



Marky magic

Felix reaches The End with DJ Marky and friends, page 18



A fiery film

Our reviewer turns up the heat with *Ladder 49*, page 22



Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1313 ● Thursday 27 January 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

Immigration issues

The Conservative Party's recent proposal to introduce a quota system on asylum seekers has sparked a heated debate. *Felix* looks at the national newspapers' views on this contentious issue.

►NEWS page 2

State of the Union

The President's views on hall rents, freedom of speech, sabbatical elections and (of course) doughnuts.

►COMMENT page 6

Sexist science?

The President of Harvard University recently claimed that men have more "innate ability" at science and maths than women. Is he right?

►SCIENCE page 5

Books is back

In *Collapse*, Jared Diamond explains how we can learn from the mistakes of past civilisations.

►BOOKS page 21

This week in sport

Varsity Day tickets go on sale. Plus match reports from rugby and lacrosse.

►SPORT page 27



The women's lacrosse team

THIS WEEK

News	page 2
Business	page 3
Science	page 4
Comment	page 6
Clubs & Societies	page 8
Around Campus	page 11
What's On	page 13
Music	page 16
Nightlife	page 18
Arts	page 20
Books	page 21
Film	page 22
Coffee Break	page 24
Sport	page 27

Student staff reclaim weekly pay

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Following a highly unpopular change to monthly pay in December, students who work part time for Imperial College will be paid on a weekly basis again from 1 March.

A considerable proportion of Imperial students work for the College part time, in areas ranging from Conferences to the students' union.

The original change to

monthly pay was made in order to cut costs and make it easier for the College to co-ordinate payments. Student staff complained about a range of issues, including a lack of communication, insufficient compensation payments, short notice, incorrect tax deductions and the fact that some non-student staff were still being paid weekly. Some workers even quit their jobs as a result.

However, the College's

Operations Committee reversed the decision. One student, who has worked for the College for two years, cautiously welcomed the news: "We're all incredibly pleased, but as far as I'm concerned they should never have moved us off weekly pay in the first place. Perhaps in future these decisions should be made at higher levels and after the students have been consulted."

Mustafa Arif, President of

Imperial College Union, told *Felix*: "The situation with part time student staff has been unfortunate, and I hope those who have been inconvenienced will be compensated appropriately."

"It's great that the College has finally realised that part time staff should be paid weekly, and I hope all the problems can be sorted out very soon."

Malcolm Aldridge, the College's Financial Controller,

said: "It was acknowledged that paying students on a monthly cycle was leading to recruitment problems in our organisation."

Meanwhile, the introduction of new computer software has caused yet more payroll difficulties, with some systems unavailable for eight days in early February. This has inconvenienced line managers, who have had to process payroll details earlier than expected.

Student struck by taxi as politicians consider 'naked roads'

By Dave Edwards

An Imperial College student was hit by a taxi on a pedestrian crossing close to Exhibition Road, which may soon be stripped of all its traffic lights, signs and crossings under new proposals.

The student, Dan Houcke, who is in the fourth year of a mechanical engineering degree, was crossing Prince Consort Road on Tuesday lunchtime when he was hit by the car. He was unhurt. The driver of the taxi blamed Mr Houcke for the collision and attempted to place him under a citizen's arrest. Police were called to the scene, where they questioned the two men but took no further action.

Mr Houcke told *Felix*: "I was walking across the pedestrian crossing. He was probably doing well over 30mph."

A short distance away, Exhibition Road is set to be the site of a pilot 'traffic calming' scheme, in which all markings would be removed and no-one would have automatic right of way. Pedestrians would be able to cross the road anywhere, and a 20mph speed limit could be introduced. The scheme

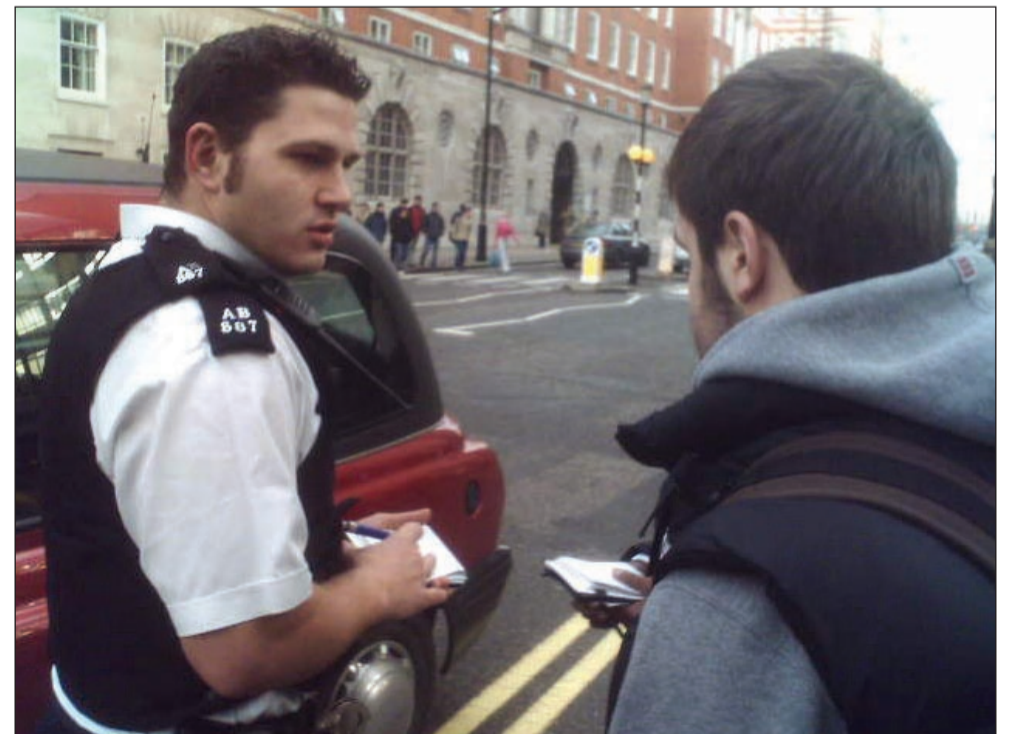
would be part of a £25m redevelopment of the area.

The idea has been used successfully in Holland and is also being trialled in Seend, Wiltshire. Its supporters claim that it encourages drivers to slow down and take more notice of pedestrians. Wiltshire County Council says that accidents in Seend have fallen by a third and the average driving speed has dropped by 5% since roads' central white lines were removed.

However, the scheme has received widespread criticism. Edmund King, executive director of the RAC, said: "Although this might make drivers more careful, it could also encourage the aggressive motorist to behave more recklessly. We would certainly question whether this type of experiment should be implemented on a wider scale."

Mr Houcke, following his encounter with the taxi, said of the 'naked road' scheme: "I wouldn't have thought it would work, considering people cross the road so frequently and drivers go so fast."

Sam Rorke, Deputy President (Education and Welfare) of Imperial College



Mechanical engineering student Dan Houcke answers questions from police after being hit by a taxi on Prince Consort Road on Tuesday. Proposals to remove all traffic lights, kerbs, crossings and signs from nearby Exhibition Road are being considered by Kensington and Chelsea Council, with a decision expected in the next few months

Union, told *Felix*: "We [the Union] are excited to see if it works, but concerned about possible safety implications

for students, given the large number needing to cross Exhibition Road. Personally I've seen a lot of dangerous

drivers in the area".
A decision on the future of Exhibition Road will be made in the next few months.

Felix

Issue 1313

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

Sub Editors

Sarah Pozniak

Zaina Nobeebux

Stephen Spain

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

Experts demand action against South Kensington 'pollution hotspot'

By **Darius Nikbin**
Science Editor

A study last week published by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) has identified 25 areas in the UK, including London's South Kensington, as being major pollution hotspots.

Respiratory physiotherapists have urged immediate action after the study revealed that the level of

nitrogen dioxide air pollution in certain areas of London was as much as three times the government target.

A measuring station next to the Natural History Museum found that the level of nitrogen dioxide on Cromwell Road was 80 micrograms per cubic metre, twice the 40 microgram target set by the government for 2005.

Around 80% of the nitrogen dioxide present in cities is

attributable to vehicle emissions.

An Imperial College student living on Cromwell Road told *Felix*: "Pollution is a fact of everyday life for me here. This area is particularly bad because of the traffic, so I avoid walking or cycling along the major roads. So I'm not surprised by the results."

Using information from 110 automatic monitoring points spread throughout the UK,

experts determined that South Kensington had the second highest level of nitrogen dioxide out of the areas tested. London's Marylebone Road was highest with 108 micrograms per cubic metre. The average from all UK stations was 32 micrograms.

Nitrogen dioxide reacts instantaneously with water to form nitric acid. This means it is toxic to various animals as well as to humans, causing

irritation in the eyes, throat, and on the skin.

In the long term, nitrogen dioxide exposure may also increase an individual's susceptibility to respiratory infection and cause alterations in the lungs. High levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide exacerbate the symptoms of those suffering from lung diseases such as asthma, chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Students make vocal protest against occupation of Iraq

By **Dave Edwards**
Editor

A group of protesters from Imperial Against Imperialism caught the attention of diners in the Union building and the JCR last Thursday lunchtime, as they demonstrated against the continued occupation of Iraq by British and American troops.

With two students dressed as soldiers and one as an Iraqi prisoner, the group handed out flyers and spoke through megaphones in an attempt to highlight the abuse of detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison.

A motion entitled 'End the occupation of Iraq' was on the agenda of the last meeting of Imperial College Union Council but was not considered as the meeting ran out of time.



Imperial Against Imperialism members demonstrate against the occupation of Iraq

Immigration debate reopens

By **Emily Gwyer**

The parliamentary system and first-past-the-post voting methods we have in Britain mean it is vital that we have two strong parties, so that the Government does not run amok with no-one to censure it but itself. It is just a shame that the second party is right wing, allowing Tony Blair to push further and further to the right and steal the Tories' thunder.

If the Liberal Democrats manage to do what they think is possible and become the second party at this year's election, they may manage to shame Blair into actually behaving like the leader of a Labour party. But while the Tories are in opposition, they must do everything they can to win back seats, and in their wisdom they are swinging even further to the right. Whether this will appeal to many voters is questionable, but they are doing their best.

This week, they caused an enormous storm by pulling into debate the issue their supporters feel so strongly about: immigration.

Michael Howard, Tory leader and the son of immigrants, put a full page ad in *The Sunday Telegraph* which promised that, if elected, the Tories would impose a quota on asylum seekers and introduce a points system for economic migrants. Cue much wailing and gnashing of teeth by the left wing papers.

The Mirror accuses the Conservatives of desperation and reminds us that "the Tories have a history of playing the 'race card'." Howard's predecessor, William Hague, took a similar lurch to the right shortly before the Tories were thrashed at the polls four years ago.

The Guardian reports Trevor Phillips, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, accused the Conservatives of planning their campaign around "ill-informed propaganda of some of the more demented anti-immigration groups."

But *The Mail*, one of the country's most powerful papers, is in support of the move: "Our hospitality has been abused. Many asylum applicants are economic migrants in disguise, playing the system to stay as long as possible. Others just enter and work here illegally. Michael Howard, himself the proud son of Jewish immigrants, deserves much credit for courageously refusing to accept the orthodoxy of our smug liberal elite who want to suppress real debate on this issue."

The paper recommends repealing the Human Rights Act, which, it said, has caused damage by giving "a green light to asylum seekers".

The Independent has one of the most thoughtful articles on the topic, asking: "Why not use this excellent model on our stretched public services too? Put a limit on how many injured people will be admitted into hospitals."

Under Tory plans, *The Independent* points out, Kelly Holmes would never have competed for Britain in the Olympics since her father came to Britain in the 1960s without the crucial job skills required for admission. "There are those who prefer to see the positive contribution played by new arrivals. Britain, they argue, would be a much poorer place both culturally and economically should Mr Howard's vision have prevailed over the last three generations. The losses would be felt in the transport and health services, the arts, sport and, crucially, commerce."

The paper points out that – unlike the stereotype of immigrants working in unskilled jobs – three quarters have managerial or skilled professions and are sought out by the Government.

This debate is not going to go away. No matter how distasteful some of us may find it, it is important to many voters and needs to be discussed. But let's hope that it does not become a mud-slinging free for all.

Stop the War Student Teach-In

END



Student Teach-In: workshops, seminars and video-showings

SPEAKERS:

- Mrs Ahmad (Babar Ahmad's wife)
- Jeremy Corbyn (Labour MP)
- George Galloway (Respect MP)
- Kate Hudson (chair of CND)
- Dr Saloum Ismael (Iraqi Medic from Fallujah)
- Lindsey German (Convenor, Stop the War Coalition)
- Anas Al-Tikriti (MAB)
- +MANY, MANY MORE...

THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ
Wednesday 2nd
February 1-7pm

London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, London. Holborn 
Organised by Student Stop the War Coalition, Student CND and FOSIS

TICKETS (£3) & INFO: ksl202@ic.ac.uk

Business

business.felix@ic.ac.uk

Latest from the Square Mile

After the 20% surge in online spending by Britons during the Christmas period, **Numaan Chaudhry** analyses the future of some of the biggest online corporations

EBay

EBay, the online auctioneer, said fourth-quarter net income rose over 40% but narrowly missed Wall Street expectations.

The rare stumble, and a lukewarm financial forecast for this year, sent its shares down 12% in after-hours trading. The San Jose, California, company reported net income of \$205.4 million, up from \$142.5 million, in the comparable period last year. The result matched the company's forecast. Excluding the amortization of intangibles and some stock option expenses, however, eBay said it would have reported income of 33 cents per share; just shy of the 34 cents per share expected by Wall Street analysts.

Revenue climbed 44% to \$935.8 million from \$648.4 million, surpassing the company's prediction of \$915 million.

For the year 2005, eBay said it expects revenue of \$4.25 to \$4.35 billion and earnings per share excluding certain expenses of \$1.48 to \$1.52. Analysts had been expecting annual revenue of \$4.37 billion and earnings of \$1.61, according to Thomson First Call.

"This was a surprisingly soft report for eBay during a strong quarter", said Mark Mahaney, an analyst at American Technology Research. Adjusting for the impact of foreign exchange, the company's revenue grew 39%, significantly slower than the 48% growth rate in the third quarter, Mahaney said. The company's international-business growth rate also appeared to lag most expectations.

EBay shares plunged 12%, to \$90.92 in after-hours trading, after falling \$3.32 in 4 pm Nasdaq composite trading. However, EBay shares soared 80% last year, briefly giving the ten-year-old company a market value of more than \$75 billion.

Despite the concerns about slowing growth, eBay has been benefitting from the growing popularity of internet shopping. Consumers spent \$15.8 billion on the web during the November and December holiday season, up 29% from the previous year, according to comScore Networks Inc., a market-research firm. EBay, which began promoting itself a few years ago through holiday television and print

advertising, has become an increasingly important web destination for consumers shopping for holiday gifts.

"Online is becoming a key component of holiday shopping," said Rajiv Dutta, eBay's CFO. The company has been adding and promoting features to help holiday shoppers, such as its "Buy it now" feature that allows users to buy an item for a set price, without waiting for the close of an auction.

EBay executives remain confident enough to increase investment plans for this year to more than \$300 million from an original \$200 million. Dutta said much of the additional money would be directed at eBay's PayPal payment-processing unit and its relatively new China operation. Dutta also said eBay will accelerate its expansion of PayPal internationally by introducing the service in more countries, and invest \$100 million in China, the world's fastest growing economy. "We see even greater opportunity in China today than we did six months ago," said Chief Executive Officer Meg Whitman.

EBay also declared a 2-for-1 stock split to shareholders of record on 31 January.

Revenue from eBay's US auctions business, its biggest unit, rose 24% to \$362.7 million. Revenue from the international auctions business rose 64% to \$344.3 million. Revenue from PayPal rose 53% to \$200.2 million.

For 2004, eBay reported net income of \$778.2 million, or \$1.14 a share, compared with net income of \$441.8 million, or 67 cents, a year earlier. Revenue climbed 51% to \$3.27 billion, from \$2.17 billion; slightly higher than the company's previous forecast of \$3.25 billion.

Motorola

Motorola Inc., the US telecom-equipment maker, said its share of the global market for mobile phones surged in the fourth quarter because of a large rollout of handsets loaded with new features.

The company said its net income soared 34% to \$654 million from \$489 million a year earlier.

Chairman and CEO Ed Zander, who took over the top position at Motorola a year ago, said the new models helped increase the company's global handset market share to 16.6%, compared

with 13.7% a year earlier and 13.4% in the third quarter.

Nokia, of Finnish origins, has the largest share with 31.4% as of the third quarter, according to IDC, a technology research firm. Nokia will report its fourth-quarter earnings later this month which should go some way in revealing how well the introduction of its 7260 and 6670 have gone.

Motorola apparently has regained the number two ranking after conceding that spot earlier in 2004 to South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co. Samsung has stumbled recently, with reportings from last week indicating that its net profit in the fourth quarter fell 2% as margins tightened.

Motorola reported revenue of \$8.84 billion in the quarter, a 27% increase from a year earlier. The company's overall performance, which exceeded market expectations, was driven by strong sales in the handset division, which accounts for about 40% of its total revenue. Motorola shipped 31.8 million handsets in the quarter, a 42% increase from the fourth quarter a year earlier.

The fourth quarter is critical because holiday sales can make or break the whole year and can determine momentum going into the new year. A year ago, Motorola stumbled badly in the quarter, when several key handsets didn't reach the market.

Yahoo

Yahoo, the Californian internet company, reported a fourth-quarter profit nearly quintupled from a year earlier as it continued to benefit from a surge in online advertising.

The firm claimed net income rising to \$373 million (25 cents per share) from \$75 million (5 cents per share) a year earlier. Revenues rose 62% to an astounding \$1.1 billion from \$664 million. Not including profits from the sale of shares in Google Inc by Yahoo during the quarter, Yahoo's profit would have been \$187 million (13 cents per share). That exceeded the earnings of 11 cents per share expected by many senior analysts. Also, excluding commissions paid to marketing partners, Yahoo reported revenues of \$75 million above the company's projection of \$710 million. Yahoo's Chairman and CEO, Terry Semel, called 2004 "the year in which we witnessed the



Nokia 7260: stiff competition for Motorola Inc

beginning of a tipping point in advertising," with more mainstream advertisers increasing their marketing online.

Advertising-related revenue rose 67% from a year earlier and accounted for 85% of Yahoo's revenue, the same as the previous quarter when compared with like-for-like sales. Semel also said both of Yahoo's major ad categories – search-related advertising and brand advertising such as banner ads – grew strongly.

Yahoo has profited from a broader rebirth in online advertising driven partly by search-related ads. US online advertising revenue, for both Yahoo and its rivals, totalled more than \$6.8 billion in the

first three quarters of 2004; nearly equalling the \$7.3 billion spent in all of 2003, according to trade group the Interactive Advertising Bureau. Online ad revenue last year could exceed the \$8 billion in 2000, the biggest year before the recent slump. Yahoo's gains in search-related advertising are "volume-driven"; revenue per search was flat from the previous quarter, but the number of search queries conducted on Yahoo and its affiliate sites increased in the "double digits" from a year earlier. Yahoo attributed the per-search pricing trends to a seasonal surge in retail-related advertising, which generally requires lower rates.

Non-advertising revenue at Yahoo rose 40%, although it still remained a small share of the total. Yahoo's fees for its premium offerings, such as broadband services bundled with high-speed internet access, climbed 52% to \$129 million. Yahoo claims a client base of 8.4 million fee-paying customers at the end of the quarter, compared with 7.6 million in the third quarter. Revenue from listings, such as help-wanted ads, also rose 15% to \$38 million. Yahoo's international revenue, outside of its US home, surged to \$303 million. At 28% of sales, that revenue represented the same portion of sales as in the third quarter.

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Am I my brother's designer sibling?

Is it right for parents to have an embryo selected as a donor for their terminally ill living child? **Ignacio Quinones** looks at a question that has enormous consequences for who we are

How far would you go to save your brother's life? If he was sitting in the room next to yours, quietly enduring one of many painful blood transfusions, waiting for a donation, would you not open the door to help him? Now imagine that you owed your existence to him. That somebody else had you born so that a part of you would provide a cure for your brother's illness. Imagine that you could actually have been a different person altogether, but instead you were 'planned' to be a certain way. Could this be a step too far?

There's an ongoing heated debate about the use of controversial genetic screening techniques by couples wanting to save the life of a terminally ill child by creating a 'designer' sibling to act as a stem cell donor. You may have heard about the Hashmi family from Leeds, whose five-year-old son Zain has had over 100 blood transfusions due to a potentially fatal blood disorder, Beta Thalassaemia. This condition could be treated by a stem cell transplant, but the failure to find a suitable donor with a compatible blood group forced the family to consider alternatives. The

possibility of conceiving a new baby, who could then act as a donor for their ill son, arose.

The new infant would be conceived by In-Vitro fertilisation (IVF) followed by Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) to ensure compatibility with Zain's blood type. PGD evaluates the genetic characteristics of three-day-old embryos before they are implanted in the mother's womb. In this case,

"There is an ongoing heated debate about the use of controversial genetic screening techniques"

the embryos would only be selected should they prove to be a match for their future brother. Any other embryos would be discarded.

PGD is not a new technique; it has been used since the 1980s in over 2500 different situations worldwide. It is used by families that risk the conception of a child with a serious genetic condition, such as Cystic Fibrosis or Beta Thalassaemia. The technique was deemed to be controversial as it led to the discarding of embryos,



Child of our time: is it right for an embryo to be selected on the basis of its usefulness in saving the life of a sibling?

an act considered as murder by groups that believe that a human life is formed upon conception. These opposing voices were quietened down, however, by the conclusion that the born child would benefit directly from the use of such a technique, which has been in use in the UK since the early 1990s.

However, in the case of the Hashmi family, it is not the unborn child that benefits from this application of PGD. When embryos are selected, those being discarded might

be healthy embryos that unfortunately do not match the blood type of their sibling and are therefore denied the chance to live. This was the price to pay in exchange for saving little Zain's life. The debate rages on, as there is controversy regarding whether this is too high a price to pay.

The court's decision to have the operation funded by the NHS has forced this highly topical issue into the public eye. This type of operation can be required by as much

as two dozen couples each year, at a cost of £20,000 for the four rounds of procedures that are often required. From a purely economical point of view, the NHS might profit from such procedures if we were to compare them with the price of lifetime treatment for a patient suffering from Thalassaemia, which nears the £1m mark. But money is not the main issue here.

Ethically speaking, the welfare of the unborn child is the main issue that causes concern. If the child was born but unexpectedly failed to produce a suitable cure for its brother, how would that be regarded by the parents? Would the child be conceived simply as a means to save a life, or would it be fully accepted as part of the family? It can be argued that the reason for having a child by all couples is not always perfectly selfless, and indeed some couples' motivation to have a child naturally may be deemed as unethical (having a child to save a marriage, for example). But then again, not all couples ask for public funds for such causes.

Another source of concern is the fear that this could be the beginning of a 'slippery slope', the road that leads to eugen-

ics. The genetic improvement of humans and the generation of super-human "designer babies" is still very far from being technically feasible, but for certain sectors of the public, genetic screening of embryos is the thin edge of a very large wedge. Regulatory bodies such as the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority serve to prevent such events by monitoring PGD on a case by case basis, but there has certainly been a relaxation in the laws.

When considering all these factors we must take into account what is achieved by the technique. In this case, unless a suitable donor is found, the only alternative is for Zain to lead a life of hospital and endless blood transfusions. A 'saviour sibling' could be born instead, to provide him with healthy stem cells and give him a chance at 'real' life. We cannot know if the family will welcome the child in its own right or whether he will be treated as a convenience. In the same way, only time will tell whether this is the road to eugenics and "designer babies". At the moment, a little boy needs aid and it is within our capacity to help him.

Perfect antidotes: placebos and nocebos

By Giovanna Larice
Biochemistry department

Several studies have shown that placebos, Latin for "I shall please", may actually do more than that and improve health.

The placebo effect, an observable or felt improvement of health not ascribable to an active drug, has been known for some time now. Long term medical research has suggested that some sick people feel better after taking a 'dummy pill' simply because they think it is real medicine.

Until now, the placebo effect has been assumed to be psychological, with patients simply believing that they are feeling better, yet recent studies have unveiled a direct biochemical basis to the phenomenon. A real chemical response may actually be occurring in patients. Experimental results released this year on Parkinson's disease showed that the neurons of patients receiving a simple salt solution at the University of Turin in Italy responded in the same way as when they

had received an active drug that had earlier eased their symptoms.

Evidence for a biochemical basis of the placebo effect has also been observed in patients suffering from depression. Doctors have known for years that many depressed patients report improvements in their mood after being given placebos (such as sugar pills) but only of late have placebos been associated with a change in brain function. This suggests that placebos may represent an active treatment condition. Research conducted by the psychiatrist Andrew F. Leuchter and published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* in January 2002 was the first to show that patients with severe depression show alterations in brain functioning improvement irrespective of whether the drug is placebo or active.

According to Mr Leuchter, the hope associated with the potential for a treatment's effectiveness and the conviction of taking a real drug, along with positive interactions with the health providers, may all contribute to the placebo

effect by having a significant biochemical effect. Sensory experience and thoughts are known to affect neurochemistry, which in turn is able to affect other biochemical systems such as the immune system. It follows that a person's mood may psychosomatically

"Do patients who benefit from taking antidepressants do so thanks to the pill itself or simply the act of taking a pill?"

affect their wellbeing or ability to recover from illness.

A tantalizing question is then raised: do patients who benefit from taking antidepressants do so thanks to the pill itself or simply to the act of taking a pill?

All the same, many medical ethicists, such as Howard Brody of Michigan State University, believe that administering a placebo to a patient in the old-fashioned way is deceptive, unethical, and in most cases should not be done. Mr Brody takes it one



Placebo: awful band, but recent research trials have shown their biochemical effectiveness in medicine

step further and claims that the placebo effect need not depend on making use of a placebo at all and can instead simply be achieved by positive feelings created in the health care environment.

Other researchers suggest that the mysterious placebo effect can be used in conjunction with other medicines and harnessed to improve drug efficacy - for example, by presenting drugs to patients in an optimistic and encouraging light. Ethical problems may arise however; if doctors fail to elucidate all possible side effects in an attempt to manipulate a patient's view on the drug.

The placebo's wicked double is the altogether less notorious nocebo, Latin for "I will harm". This is a harmless treatment that induces harmful effects in a patient due to negative expectations or the psychological condition of the patient. The term nocebo became popular in the 1990s, when scientists wanted to understand the factors that lead to negative effects in treatments, such as non-specific medication side effects. Unlike its virtuous twin, a nocebo isn't generally a medication, but an influence (such as a belief, certain cultural factors, or a mindset). Furthermore, nocebos are far less well-docu-

mented in scientific literature, as ethical concerns prevent them from being regularly used in research and in medical practice.

Nonetheless, some studies have been carried out to support the nocebo theory. In the Framingham study for the 20-year incidence of myocardial infarction and coronary death, data showed that, independently of commonly recognised factors that may lead to coronary death, women who believed they were more likely to experience a heart attack were actually 3.7 times more likely to do so than women that had no such belief.

Are common expressions such as 'scared to death' and 'worried sick' that have long been part of our vocabulary just mere exaggerations, or do they represent an underlying realisation of the significance of mind over matter?

Modern scientists should be less ignorant of the fascinating power our psyches can have over our health and wellbeing, and should learn to merge the body and mind in order to harness these amazing phenomena to our advantage.

Is science really sexist?

The Harvard President suggested that women have less “innate ability” at science and maths. **Kathryn Loughheed** asks whether there is sexism in science

Hands up anyone who believes that women are physiologically different from men. Do you believe that women are dependent while men are more independent; women think with their hearts rather than their heads? What about the role of a woman? Is it natural for a woman to want to marry and have children, to want the protection of a partner, while men yearn to make their mark on the outside world? And of course, do men gain a higher status in life due to their work being more important than that done by a woman? What do these supposed differences mean for women in science?

I should point out that I personally do not believe that you can so easily divide men and women based solely upon their sex and would fervently argue with anyone who would suggest that women are less suited to science careers than men. My intention is to make you think about whether you believe differences between the sexes are playing a role in the fate of women in science.

As a woman, I believe I am equally capable as my male co-workers and I must confess that I have never been aware of any form of sexism holding me back from following my chosen career. But

you need only look around the offices of the academic staff at Imperial College to realise the difference in the numbers of men and women in top science positions.

Recent comments by the President of Harvard University, Lawrence Summers, have opened up a huge debate on the differences between men and women in science, and his subsequent apologies have done little to quell the anger. According to Mr. Summers,

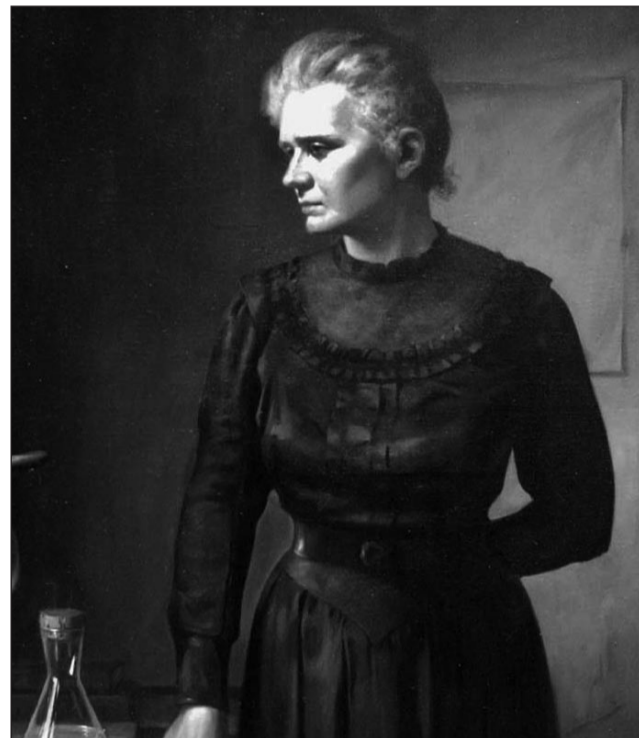
“...you only need to look around the offices of Imperial College to realise the difference in numbers of men and women in top science positions”

women have less “innate ability” at science and maths than men, and he believes this is supported by research. Among my co-workers, these remarks caused much anger, from both men and women, and had it been our Rector who had expressed this opinion, it is possible that a lynch mob would have been dispatched rapidly from my building.

Mr. Summers later admit-

ted he “was wrong to have spoken in a way that has resulted in an unintended signal of discouragement to talented girls and women.” Whether or not he meant to imply that men are better than women at science, and even if his comments were misinterpreted, a man in his position should know better than to make any suggestion concerning differences in ability between the sexes.

Mr. Summers made another point that has not been pounced upon with such passion. He suggested that lack of senior female academics is partly due to child-minding duties and the difficulty for many women to work the 80 hour weeks required for advancement. While this comment may not be popular among many who believe they do not fit this stereotype, it is hard to deny that there is not a bias towards women being the ones who give up their jobs to have children. While there are always exceptions, I am sure that there are still many people out there who believe that working mums are somehow letting their children down and these women will often feel a huge amount of guilt at not being there for their kids. The key years for pro-



Marie Curie: an exception to Lawrence Summers' rule?

fessional advancement tend to be between 25 and 40, and a large chunk of this period can be missed if women have to put their careers on hold for the sake of their families.

So is there sexism in science? I cannot believe that the difference in numbers of

men and women in top jobs can be attributed in any way to genetic differences between the sexes. But perhaps there are still old-fashioned attitudes towards women and environmental influences that impact their advancement in science careers. You decide.

News in brief

US plans 'robot troops' for Iraq

The US military is planning to deploy robots armed with machine guns to wage war against insurgents in Iraq this spring. The 1m high robots, based on a robot already used by the military to disable bombs, is equipped with cameras and operated by remote control. Officials say the robot warrior is fast, accurate, and unlike its human counterparts, does not require food, clothing, training, motivation or a pension.

UK sends data-collecting ship to Aceh epicentre

A British research ship will survey the sea floor near the epicentre of the earthquake that triggered the Indian Ocean tsunami to gather data for an early warning system, the British embassy in Indonesia said. The vessel, which is fitted with a multi-beam sonar suite enabling the mapping of the ocean floor, can retrieve information from waters up to 5000m deep, making it the first ship capable of such an assessment to reach the region off the west coast of Indonesia's Aceh province.

Amazing hominid haul in Ethiopia

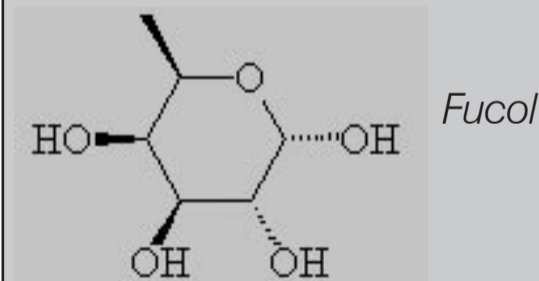
Fossil hunters working in Ethiopia have unearthed the remains of at least nine primitive hominids that are between 4.5 million and 4.3 million years old. The fossils, uncovered in As Duma, are mostly teeth and jaw fragments, but also include parts of hands and feet. All finds belong to the *Ardipithecus ramidus* species, which was first described about a decade ago.

Ultra-orthodox J-walking

A new study in Israel has shown that Orthodox Jews are three times more likely than their secular neighbours to be risk-taking pedestrians. Rosenbloom and her colleagues watched more than 1000 pedestrians at two busy junctions. An explanation given is that the Orthodox are more fanatical and therefore less afraid of death.

Obscene molecules: no. 237

This week, a molecule that doesn't get up to too much at all. *Fucol* to be precise. The L-form (only D form pictured) is obtained from the eggs of sea urchins.



Next, week we look at the properties of *Fucitol*. Not just any molecule, but a molecule with some serious attitude.

● Do you think the Science section is dumbing down? Email science.felix@ic.ac.uk with your comments and comedy

Albert who?

I, science

A science magazine for Imperial

We are looking for news and feature articles about research at Imperial and elsewhere

To get involved, contact us now at science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Mixed messages

Apologies for missing last week's column. The observant amongst you will have noticed that Union Council was a little lacking in its clarity of messages over the annual rent review. That meeting finished at 11.30pm the night before the rent review meeting (and *Felix's* print deadline). Sam Rorke, my Deputy President (Education & Welfare), and I spent much of the small hours and late morning preparing for the rent review meeting that afternoon and I just didn't get a chance to get my column done.

Rent review

Firstly I think with hindsight Sam and I could have tried to put the issues to Council in a less confusing way. We found ourselves having to piece together what the consensus of their opinion was. Confusingly Council had, as reported by *Felix*, voted for option B (rents should vary according to ability to pay)

but then voted against the overall option. We thought this was partly due to a misunderstanding of the similarity of options A and C (and the correspondingly split vote).

We therefore decided that there wasn't enough strong support from Council for us to ask College to vary rents according to ability to pay. We felt that a small majority of Council wanted all students to pay the going rate for their room and be empowered to make their own choice about what type of room they want and hence how much they are prepared to pay. Accordingly, support for students who can't afford higher cost rooms should continue to come out of hardship and related funds, which should be better promoted.

Where we felt there was a strong steer from Council was on addressing the unfairness that, at present, identical rooms in halls that have been refurbished to a similar standard are sometimes charged at differ-

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

ent rates. We were able to address this at the Rector's Committee on Student Residences and it was agreed that there should be some price harmonisation. Accordingly a single, refurbished en suite single

room will cost the same in Beit as it will do in Willis Jackson.

Freedom of speech

As sabbatical elections approach, the issue of independence of the student media will rear its head again. It's perhaps worth reiterating that *Felix* is editorially independent.

Similarly, it's worth re-iterating that the Union has a duty, under the 1986 Education Act, to "promote freedom of speech within the law". Of course, there are limits to free speech and there are laws against, for example, incitement to racial hatred.

Sabbatical elections

Do you look at things around College and wonder why they aren't done better? Can you challenge commonly held views and assumptions? Do you have the drive to work long hours, with very little personal gain,

to try to improve life for your peers? Does working upwards of 100 hours a week at what amounts to less than £2.60 an hour turn you on?

If so, why don't you think about standing for election as a Sabbatical Officer of Imperial College Union? Very few people will ever thank you. Everything you do will always be wrong for someone. But it's character building and a real chance to make a difference for your fellow students (whether recognised or not). Nominations close on Tuesday. For details of how to stand, visit the elections website: www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

Krispy Kreme

I did promise I'd stop talking about doughnuts. However, the Medical School RAG are selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts all week - proceeds to charity. Which is fantastic because they really are the best doughnuts in the world.

Summer ball 2005

Summer ball

Everyone wants a great College-wide summer ball. We need to make it appealing yet completely financially viable and accessible to as many students as possible in terms of location, ticketing issues, and of course date.

Unfortunately, departmental exam timings vary so greatly, from the beginning of term right until the end, so we're aiming for a date as close to the end of the summer term as possible to avoid exams for as

many students as we can.

We are looking at various options, such as holding the ball in College as we did two years ago, going for an external venue like last year, or maybe combining it with the Union's end of term carnival. Or maybe something completely new...

So if you're interested in the challenge and fancy getting involved in making this year's summer ball a success, or you just have some bright ideas and suggestions, get in touch at dpfs@ic.ac.uk.



SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(FINANCE & SERVICES)

Club and society events at the Union

We're looking into new initiatives for clubs and societies. This initiative is a collaboration between the Union and its members that allows you to get involved in organizing events nights.

Contact your club officers if you have an idea for a collaborative event and then get in touch with me at dpfs@ic.ac.uk. We're making plans for the summer term now.

Online survey prize winners

From all those of you who fully completed the online survey last term, here are the winners:

Playstation: Altaf Daya.
STA Travel Voucher: Sapna Nundloll.
Meal for two at Moti Mahal: Nicholas Oswald.
Crate of beer (or soft drinks if desired): Manish Hassani, Gareth Clews and Tamara Elliot.
Winners will be notified of how to collect their prizes.

An Irishman, a Scotsman and a Jamaican...

I am glad to say that in this country the vast majority of people are happy to live in a multi-ethnic community. However, as always, there is a minority of people who believe that this is wrong somehow and we should all be the same. In some extreme cases, people believe we should all look the same, talk the same and think the same.

In the last couple of years there has been a significant rise in support for far right political groups such as the BNP and the National Front. This is clearly very concerning for the future of our country and the survival of our multi-cultural communities.

These groups, in some instances, can target students in all sorts of ways. For example, they may decide to come on to campus and try to recruit members or just to stir up racial hatred.

Aside from this, you as a student may experience racial abuse either at College, outside College or at work, and it is important to know what you can do if this happens. It is also good for you to know the types

of racial abuse that can affect you in all walks of life.

Racial discrimination

In the UK, the main law dealing with racial discrimination is the Race Relations Act 1976, which was recently amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. European Union law (which the UK has also agreed to) includes a Race Directive which makes discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin unlawful in: employment, training, education, access to social security and health care, social advantages, access to goods and services, and housing.

What is racism?

It's not about white against black, or black against white. It's about origins, roots, religion, and not being accepted for who you are.

A racist is someone who picks on someone or treats them badly because they view them as different and unequal. Often, racists focus on

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

people who are visibly different, for example, black or Asian people.

Racism can also include prejudice against ethnic, cultural and national differences. Irish travellers, Romanian asylum seekers, gypsies and eastern Europeans all experience serious discrimination and racism. They are white but may dress in a distinct way, speak a different language or act differently in a racist's eyes.

Sometimes, people who don't consider themselves prejudiced will make fun of someone's accent or birthplace. Although it is easy to go along with a joke at someone else's expense, this can make them feel hurt and isolated. If you have to make someone feel small to get a laugh, maybe you just aren't that funny...

At College or at work

If you feel that you may be being racially abused or unfairly prejudiced against at College or at work, there are a couple of options you can take.

Firstly, you can take it up with someone in your department, and then, if you feel that you are not being listened to, it may be an idea to seek further advice from the Information & Advice Centre, who can advocate for you in such disputes. We are independent of the College so would be able to deal with the situation in a more impartial way. You can also use the Centre if you feel the same thing is happening to you at work.

Extreme prejudice

Racist attacks and violence are serious criminal offences and must be reported to the police. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 created new 'racially aggravated offences', such as harassment, assault, grievous bodily harm, and criminal damages, which carry significantly higher penalties.

It is also a criminal offence under the Public Order Act 1986 to use threatening, abusive or insulting language or behaviour in order to stir up racial hatred. This includes distributing racist leaflets. All suspected criminal offences and any racist incidents should be reported to the police. The Information and Advice Centre can also help you in this situation and give you advice for reporting extreme case of prejudice to the police.

Don't let your concern turn into crisis. Make the Information and Advice Centre your one stop shop for all your welfare issues.

Telephone: 020 7594 8067. Email: advice@ic.ac.uk.

Make a difference in two hours

Sajini Wijetilleka encourages you to give blood and help save lives

The silly season has come and gone. Come February, only the bull-headedly determined few can adhere to their ridiculously ambitious New Year's resolutions. The mere mortals among us should take it upon ourselves to commit one act of altruism this year; and what better than an act which some of us, as future doctors, are intrinsically linked to – the donation of blood?

The number of people needing blood and its components is rising at an ever-increasing rate. One in five surgical procedures requires five units of blood to be transfused. With older people requiring more surgery, and the short shelf-life (five weeks) of blood components making it difficult to stockpile, more donations are required.

Blood is an essential commodity,

used to treat those with blood component defects, immune deficiencies and cancers of the blood on a regular basis, along with road traffic accident and shock victims. Thus, somebody you know, perhaps yourself, may unexpectedly be needing whole or partial blood donations.

We all expect blood to be there for us, but barely a fraction of those who can give actually do. Five per cent of

the UK population are regular blood donors, donating the three million units currently used on an annual basis. However, current demographics, with an ageing population, indicate the number of people available to donate, aged 17-70, is decreasing by 17% each year.

Conclusively, it is up to healthy people, preferably from the younger age groups, to take just two hours

out of their schedules this year, to donate the vital pint that could save another's life. The West End Donor Centre, located on Margaret St, London W1 (nearest tube Oxford Circus), is open from 8am to 7.30pm on weekdays. Call 08457 711 711 now to pre-book your next appointment.

Make a difference this year. Visit www.blood.co.uk for further details.

Letters to the Editor

Security and first aid

I was disturbed, and disappointed, to read the letter in Felix on the 20th January regarding the response of the Security team to a medical incident in the SAF building. I do not wish to enter into a tit for tat correspondence, but I feel it is only right to correct the false impression given by the letter.

I understand that the facts of the case are these:

Two people (members of the public) separately rang for an ambulance before Sherfield Control were contacted.

Sherfield Control was informed at 16.15 and immediately responded.

The individual concerned had been having an epileptic fit. By the time the officers arrived, the fit was over and the student was back on his feet. (None of our officers were present when the fit was taking place).

The correct treatment in these cases (endorsed by the Ambulance Service) is for any obstructions to be cleared around the patient and for no intervention to be made until the fit is over.

Two ambulances, called by members of the public, arrived at 16.20 and 16.25 and the student was taken to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital for a check up.

The Security Guards who respond in the event of an emergency call are all fully trained in First Aid. 29 of them have also been trained in the use of a Defibrillator.

It is totally incorrect and irresponsible of the letter writer to imply otherwise. I cannot, obviously, comment on the capability of the medical students around.

As I say, I do not want to create a mountain out of a mole hill here,

but I do think it is important that Security have the support and confidence of the Students Union.

Regards
Diana Pinn
Assistant Director of Estates
(Services & Administration)

'Atheism' posters

Dear Editor,

I would like to voice my total support for whoever it was that responded to the atheism posters last week.

The 'Life' group at Imperial, a Christian club, had put up posters saying "Atheism: the fashionable world view that can't deliver".

In due time, posters in the same style but saying "Freethinking: the sensible world view that delivers" appeared. (Apologies if the words aren't exactly right.)

This simple lampoon is the first act I've seen which bucks a trend that's passed unnoticed for a while now.

The clubs – especially the numerous Christian ones – blanket poster the campus advertising their events, hoping that they can make some of the students pray/prey.

Last term, I saw one student at Imperial preaching outside Boots on Kensington High Street. Unbelievable.

Imperial is a science university, and such open displaying of religious activities gives us a farcical appearance. For posters at Imperial

to suggest atheism is a bad idea is absolutely crazy.

Yours,
Name and department supplied

Exam anguish and term dates

Dear Sir,

In response to Tim Weinert-Aplin's letter I feel I must express my support for the action of Sam Rorke, as my Deputy President (Education & Welfare).

The Union does not have a "bumbling inability to see into the future". Sam was correct to point out that term dates are set (provisionally) ten years in advance and confirmed two years in advance. Last year, after a particularly late start of session (which caused problems with the autumn term starting at the same time as the ULU/BUSA sports season and ending too close to Christmas) I checked the term dates for the next nine years and made sure that they were all reasonable – a couple of changes were made and these went through Senate without anyone noticing. I couldn't do anything about this year's term dates as they had already been confirmed.

I should point out, however, that sometimes the calendar just causes problems. The main issue is Easter which is the only Christian holiday, that is based on a lunar date calculation. I can't remember the exact formula off-hand but it's basically the Sunday following the Paschal Full

Moon (put "Easter date calculation" in Google if you are interested). This means that the date of Easter moves around, with a maximum variance of 33 days! Sometimes Easter is "early" and sometimes it is "late" in our, solar based, calendar. This means that the Academic Registrar has a very difficult task trying to balance the length of the Christmas holiday with that of the Easter one. Sometimes one or both is going to have to be curtailed. The next major upset will be 2008/2009.

As to exams around Christmas, that's really left to departments (and so the student view should be a on a per department basis). My old department always took the view (endorsed by the staff student committee) that it was much better to have exams before Christmas so as not to ruin the holiday. Other departments (again with the students' agreement) have decided that it's better to give the students a longer chance to revise. There is no right or wrong answer as to how much revision time is needed and the views of students on a particular course can change from year to year. Sam should not be imposing one view or another on departments. That is why departmental and course student reps are so important.

"The Union" is not just the sabbaticals. Dep Reps are union officers too and it is primarily their responsibility to sort problems in individual departments. Ultimately Sam's (and my) responsibility is to help them represent their students not to assume we know what students on

each course want. Dep Reps should actively look at timetables and get problems sorted (I always did when I was ISE Dep Rep). We don't get details of departmental timetabling any earlier than they do – and we cannot understand the consequences for the students as well as they can themselves.

I'm sorry Tim didn't get a personal reply from Sam but all the sabbaticals do get a lot of email and Sam's inbox was very full of disaffected Aero students – it is not too surprising that one or two didn't get a reply. The important thing is that Sam was able to help the departmental reps when it was clear that the students, in that department, were not happy with that department's exam dates.

Kind regards,
Mustafa Arif
President
Imperial College Union

The dodgy dollar

Dear Sir,

Numaan Chaudhry missed out one important reason why the dollar will not collapse as it should. Petroleum is traded in dollars and that accounts for 40% of the world's trade so therefore there will always be a demand for the dollar regardless of the US's own balance of payments deficit. Only one country has ever tried to trade oil in another currency (the Euro), Iraq, and look what happened there.

Yours faithfully,
Nicholas Royall
Materials Dept staff member

Send your letters to felix@ic.ac.uk by 10pm Monday. 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

New look website launched today

www.felixonline.co.uk

The online student newspaper for Imperial College

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Ten things I can do that you can't

EPISODE ONE: The big red ball

JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

I'd like to take a quick moment to set out what these articles are about. This is not a good place to find choice political comment, complaints about why men at Imperial are so unwilling to approach women, or even much-ignored match reports from some of Imperial's finest obscure sporting societies. Instead, on this page for the next few weeks, you can find tricks, skills and forms of lunacy that not only look good, but are surprisingly easy too. Think of it as "Coffee Break 2: Extreme".

With that in mind, I invite you to attempt our first feat: the big red ball!

It's big, red, and you stand on it. No, really. Take off both shoes (and socks), then jump (yes, jump) onto the ball. Now, try and stay on. Keep your feet moving, your eyes fixed on a reference point on the wall, and a very strong belief in whichever God you believe in.

This can be mastered relatively quickly, hence the need to make life more difficult. A running mount (where you take a run up, leap and pray), a static jump (where you bend your knees, jump and pray) and handstands (don't ever stop praying) are all possible.

As mentioned before, this is actually much easier than it looks.

Here are our step-by-step instructions:

Firstly, take your shoes off. Place your shoes near the window where they are unlikely to offend people.

Placing them out of the window is necessary in a small number of cases.

Place your left foot on the top of the ball, and step onto it [see picture 1, right]. As you step, the ball will rotate slightly – put your other foot on it to stop it rotating too far. At this stage, it helps to have a friend who stands behind you ready to break your fall [see picture 2]. They should stand behind rather than in front, as you can catch yourself when you fall forwards.

Keep your feet moving! This makes it easier to stay on balance – do tiny little steps each time [see picture 3]. If you feel yourself going off balance, jump off – you're going down anyway, so you might as well avoid landing on your arse. Keep your eyes fixed on a spot on the wall as it will help you keep your balance.

Of course, anything you can do on terra firma can be done on a ball (although some things may require hasty adaptation and a super-human sense of balance). We suggest juggling three balls to start showing off properly [see picture 4]. Once you can do that, try keeping your feet still. Then try jumping. Then try only one leg. When you're out of Casualty, tell us how wonderful you are by emailing juggling@ic.ac.uk. We meet every Tuesday evening and have all sorts of weird and wonderful toys to play with, not just the usual balls, clubs and the like. Please come along – email us for details.

● Next week:
**EPISODE TWO:
NUNCHUCKS**



1. Put your foot on the ball, and step onto it, 2. Position a friend behind you, to prevent accidents such as this, 3. Take little steps and keep your balance, 4. Show off!

Chess club rises to new levels

CHESS CLUB

By Anup Sinha

In the last two weeks, we have had more convincing wins for the two Imperial Chess teams: 6½–1½ against West London and 8–0 against Willesden & Brent in the Middlesex League, and 5½–½ against SOAS and City in the ULU League. Having lost only one match this season, both the Imperial teams remain hot favourites to win their respective leagues.

We pitted our wits against Dr Jonathan Mestel, of the maths department, in the annual grandmaster chal-

lenge on Monday.

On Wednesday 2 February, we will arrange a blitz tournament where each player has 10 minutes on the clock. The tournament is free to enter for club members, with a prize of £10 to be won. Email chess@ic.ac.uk if you are interested.

Against SOAS and City, Felix Balthasar, Robin Nandi, Yiannis Phinikettos and Beinan Liu performed well to win both the matches they played.

In the Middlesex League, West London had fielded strong players in their team. But Richard Thursby, Slava Burenkov, Moritz Reuter, Peter Levermore and Kanwal

Bhatia proved to be too strong for their opponents. Anup Sinha beat his opponent in an interesting and tense finish. Willesden & Brent could not provide any resistance against the Imperial team.

A few of the Chess Committee's responsibilities include:

1. Organising all matches – we are now firm favourites for the first ever season to win both the leagues simultaneously.

2. The Grandmaster Challenge, as mentioned above.

3. A tournament against Oxford and Cambridge is in the process of being organised. Cambridge have agreed

to play us in a few weeks' time.

4. Organising the chess trip to Greece in the summer.

5. Other mini tournaments. The latest addition will be the game where you play exchange chess. Do you know what I'm talking about? This is a fun game of chess, which requires deep and quick thinking plus team work... you play in pairs! If you want to find out more, why not take part in the tournament for free and win prizes? Just email chess@ic.ac.uk.

6. Many more events: just become a member of the club and find out about them. Visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/chess for more information.



The Imperial Chess Club are favourites to win both their leagues this season

Rowing for charity

MEDICS BOAT CLUB

By Joanne Hardwick

The Imperial Medics Boat Club held a sponsored 'Ergothon' at Paddington Station on 12 January. All donations from this event were given to the British Red Cross and the Disasters Emergency Committee in aid of the Tsunami Appeal.

Over 60 medical student rowers took part in the event, and rowed the distance from London to Penzance over the course of a day. Even the coxes took part! £1500 was raised at this event, to join a further £500 donated via the website www.justgiving/icsm.

We are extremely grateful to Rebecca Caroe at RowPerfect (who lent us the ergometers), Dan at the Red Cross (who provided our collecting buckets) and Lorna Enright at Paddington Station.



Rowers Andy, Gavin (above), Frank and Damo (left) helped to raise over £2000 for the Tsunami Appeal

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

I am a trained research chemist. I know what experiments are. And I never confused my country with a bacterial culture.



Take a break from your course and stand in the Union's Sabbatical Elections.

Vacancies for Felix Editor, President, Deputy President (Finance & Services), Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Education & Welfare)
See <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections> for more information. Nominations close Feb 1, 12 noon.

Holbein & Willis Jackson Halls of Residence

Applications are invited for

Re-app Positions

If you would like to be a re-app at Holbein & Willis Jackson for the 2005/2006 academic year, then e-mail the address below to obtain an application form. Application forms are also available from the Accommodation Office.

Email: hwj@imperial.ac.uk

Deadline for applications is

5pm

Friday 11th February



Imperial College
London

Wilson House HALLS OF RESIDENCE



RE-APP APPLICATIONS

If you would like to be a re-app at Wilson House for the next academic year, apply online at

www.union.ic.ac.uk/halls/wilson/jobs.php
by **Monday 28th of February 2004**

Around Campus

felix@ic.ac.uk

News and events at Wye

By Nichola Hawkins
Wye correspondent

January. Cold weather, dark evenings and coursework deadlines. Consequently I'm going to leave the serious journalism for now and write about some forthcoming parties.

Recent events

After a slightly slow start to the term for the Union, due to a rather busy start to the term in the library as coursework deadlines approached, things picked up again with events including a bungee run night in aid of the Tsunami appeal, the customary rugby girls' beach party and a trip to Canterbury.

This Friday looks set to be another busy one, with a visiting rugby team coming down for the weekend, and next Tuesday will be a foam party.

Chinese New Year

On 7 February, the Chinese society will hold their biggest event of the year, with Chinese food, music, dancing and games in the dining hall from 7pm until 11pm, with the show starting at 8.15pm.

The other big cultural event of the year is the International Night, when students from any country will have the chance to perform to the Wye community.

Hunt ball

On Friday 18 February, the Wye Beagles will hold their annual ball. The Beagles are not a College or Union club, and this is not a Union event, although many students usually attend.

The Union is not pro-hunting, or anti-hunting for that matter. Whichever view the Union took on issues such as hunting, some of our members would disagree, and it wouldn't be fair to make some students feel that they



Wye students raised money for the tsunami appeal with a bungee run

couldn't support union events or use the services and representation that their union offers because they disagreed with its political views. So we stay out of politics unless it's something student-related like tuition fees.

Choir visit

That weekend, 19-20 February, Imperial College

Choir will be visiting Wye for their annual 'weekend away', a chance to escape from London and concentrate on rehearsing, with some time for socialising on Saturday night.

Any London-based students who would like to come should contact Choir social secretary Katherine Sloyan; any Wye-based student who wishes to join the choir

for their rehearsals that weekend, let me know (any Silwoodians, contact one of us and we'll see what we can do...). Any Wye-based students who want to meet some real live South Kensington students on Saturday night, look out for more details.

Old boys

The weekend of 11 March

will provide a chance for continuing students to see some old friends again, and a chance for new students to meet some former students and hear some amazing (and sometimes not-quite-believable) stories about "the old days". It's Wye's famous 'old boys weekend'.

As a result, the Easter Dinner and Ball have been moved forward a week, to

Friday 4 March 2005. This has the added advantage of the Swanley Hall at Withersdane being available for the ball, so hopefully our guest DJ can finally use his whole light show.

So, it may be cold and dark right now, but this term has plenty to look forward to. Just as soon as you've finished that essay.

Silwood: international metropolis

By Andy Brown
Silwood Park correspondent

There cannot be one person in this country who has not been made aware of the force of nature since the international events over our Christmas period, and there can be none who can say they were not touched by the images and stories that have been emerging in its aftermath. So it was with a sense of purpose that

the community of Silwood mobilised itself to contribute to the global relief operation.

A combination of second hand book sale and international food night raised a combined total in excess of £380 which has been given to the UNICEF tsunami appeal, a fantastic achievement to those organising it bearing in mind there are only around 80 students permanently living on site.

For the international food night, the global community was well represented with over eighteen nations contributing to the feast, from the well known and always appreciated Chinese, Indian and Italian to the less commonly found Iranian, Caribbean and Luxemburgish (*Petit Beurre*, if you were wondering). It was a firm demonstration that the community at Silwood and the Imperial world as a

whole is a global metropolis. The home countries were well represented too - there were contributions from all four parts of the UK, with traditional Scottish Bonnie Prince Charlie Chicken and Clapshot and Welsh Rarebit (fancy cheese on toast to the English).

All was consumed in the social room, conveniently next to the bar where the food was washed down and spices

cooled by drinks from our new first time father Dave the barman (congratulations Dave and Michelle). Huge congratulations have to be given to all the chefs, in particular Bish, Saskia, Roshan, Niki and Rob. There are also plans to release a book to accompany the series, in true Channel Four style, with money raised from these sales also going to the relief fund.

A once in seven hundred

years natural disaster such as this one demands a monumental effort by all. It is impossible to place blame or fault for the devastation caused by such a rare event, which should instead be seen as a chance for humanity to join in a common cause, recognising the fact that the countries hit did not choose this outcome and that international politics should surely be put aside in order to help them recover.

Around the world in 86 days

James Devine visits construction projects around the globe



On site at Jacksons Landing, a housing development in Sydney, Australia

In the summer of 2004, I spent my holidays travelling around the world visiting construction projects on four continents.

The aim of this journey was to gather an insight into some of the best practices in the field of sustainability and sustainable construction. The project was funded through an Engineering Leadership Award from the Royal Academy of Engineering and supported by Bovis Lend Lease. However, I wasn't looking especially at flagship 'green' projects, but rather the mainstream of construction activity.

This article is intended as a brief overview of some of my experiences and findings. I'm currently working on a more formal write up of my travels and discoveries. If you would like a copy, just email me at james.devine@ic.ac.uk.

Dubai was the first stop on my tour. The construction industry in Dubai has been in a state of continuous boom since the 1980s. I'd never seen so many tower cranes at the same time before; it was as if the entire city was being constructed right in front of your eyes! There wasn't much evidence of sustainability in any of the projects I had the opportunity to look at. Although it won a mention, along with energy efficiency, there was little evidence that it was actually a real priority.

Next stop was a flying visit to Hong Kong. I arrived on a Friday afternoon in the middle of a Signal 8, which

is apparently a fairly severe monsoon. By the time I got to my hotel, everyone had been sent home from work and it was raining bucket-loads. Undaunted, I jumped into a taxi and headed over to the other side of Hong Kong island. The taxi driver insisted I pay a danger money premium, because his insurance didn't extend to driving in a Signal 8. I paid up and within 25 minutes we had arrived at Repulse Bay. Fortunately the construction project, a housing estate, had achieved practical completion a couple of weeks before, so I had somewhere dry to weather the rest of the storm.

The estate had been refitted and refurbished as part of a project to turn it into an exclusive housing complex. Some innovative techniques and practices had been used in the project, including some very tight logistics to minimise inconvenience to sitting tenants. Although it hadn't been one of the specific aims of the project, refurbishment rather than demolition is often cited as being better on ecological and sustainable grounds.

It was a wet 48 hours in Hong Kong, which included me accidentally setting my watch two hours two fast on Sunday morning, then madly rushing to the airport, when I could have had some more sleep! I caught a flight to Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. I picked it up somewhere that Taiwan receives 20,000 visitors from the UK each year, with an average stay lasting

only two days! I managed to negotiate my way to the hotel, which was surprisingly nice given how little I had paid for it.

The choice of visiting Taiwan was something of a wildcard, but I found a surprising body of work being undertaken by Bovis Lend Lease. I took an afternoon out of the Taipei office to go for a walk down the road and see Taipei 101, the world's tallest building. Although not directly involved in building the skyscraper, Bovis Lend Lease had done planning and management work on the shopping mall at the base of the tower. I took a side trip to visit Tainan, in the south of Taiwan, where a \$300m glass factory was being constructed for the American glass manufacturer Corning. It was the largest single construction project I've ever seen, with hundreds steel beams, many over 1.5m deep, all working 24 hours a day to meet the client's ambitious requirements. Cement lorries were rolling in continuously throughout my two day stay. As for sustainability, I didn't find it to be a particularly important issue. Prime focus was instead placed on worker safety and meeting the program deadlines.

After visiting Taiwan, I flew on to Japan and spent some time working in the office there. As luck would have it, they were engaged in the process of modelling leakage from underground petrol tanks for a client, so I was able to put my maths skills to

use and help out! I took some time out from the project to visit a few 'typical' Japanese construction projects, which were a real culture shock compared with a typical UK site. Of 'standard' construction work here, only a hard hat was needed – no steel toe-cap boots or high-vis jacket as would be mandatory in the UK. All the site workers wore their company overalls.

I found the Japanese reputation for quality, diligence and efficiency to be well founded. A large number of efficiencies were to be found in the construction processes

I observed, and although they were implemented for economic or legislative reasons, most carried an environmental benefit which was not necessarily measured.

Sydney, Australia, was my next stop, and also the headquarters of Bovis Lend Lease worldwide. Before spending some time in the 'big house' as they called it, I took a side trip to Brisbane, Queensland. Initially, the trip had just been a way of filling time and visiting more construction projects before head office could find me a temporary space. However, Queensland had many of the most 'sustainable' projects I encountered and a substantially different regional approach to the subject. The most striking element of this difference was a personal commitment, on behalf of the engineers, managers and construction workers, to maximise things like recycling and minimising material waste on site.

Returning to Sydney, I had the chance to study several showcase environmental projects. These are projects in which sustainability is key to the design philosophy, a decision usually made at the expense of minimising project costs, despite the fact that this does not always have to be the case.

One particular project I studied was St. Patrick's, a housing estate conceived as being constructed in harmony with the sensitive local environment and local community. Another project was the head office building itself. '30 The Bond', to use its official title, has achieved class-leading scores using the Australian 'Green Star' ratings tool. The holistic approach applies not only to the engineering choices which have been made in construction, but also to

the creation of a bio-diverse planted roof and the adoption of an engagement plan with the local community. There are also some outlandish and interesting features, mostly revolving around the use of materials for fit-out. These are so called 'low embodied energy materials' or 'rapidly renewable', and included office interior cork walls and goat's hair carpets!

The final stop on my tour was Los Angeles. In LA, I spent some time with the 'Fire Bond Program', which aims to build new fire stations for the city of Los Angeles, all of which will be environmentally certified through the US LEAD program. It was an interesting office to work in, with a number of uniform 'Fire Chiefs' from the LA Fire Department.

On site visits, I was really struck by the extensive use of timber as a building material. Unfortunately it wasn't sourced from rapidly renewable or managed forests, but as such represents a substantial opportunity for improvement. There were also clear signs that suppliers and sub-contractors were being challenged by the inclusion of an environmental metric in their performance assessment. With the correct incentives, contractors were finding innovative ways to raise the recycled content of the finished building, such as raising the proportion of fly ash in concrete, whilst balancing the effect this would have on its structural properties.

To give an exceedingly brief summary of the whole trip: In sustainable construction, a huge difference can be made through strong personal commitment to sustainability and a willingness to challenge and ask questions of others involved in the process.



The Hoover Dam, on the border between Arizona and Nevada, USA

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY

UNION EVENTS BIKE AUCTION

1pm
Beit Quad
Second hand and nearly new bikes for sale.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS RED HOT SALSA & SALSA LESSON PARTY

8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£3
Tapas and a house white/red costing £2.60. Shot of malibu and draft mixer for £1 in dBs bar.

Advance ticket profit goes to IC Dance, Latin American, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Cypriot societies.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY

UNION EVENTS ROCKSOC presents PANDEMONIUM

7-11pm
dBs
£2-£4
Rocksoc brings you a night of live music from 40 Acres, Helgrind and Kody.
Contact: laura.nixon@ic.ac.uk

MONDAY 31 JANUARY

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS PLACEMENT LAUNCH

Room 342, Mechanical engineering department
6-8pm
This summer, Engineers

Without Borders UK will be running 36 placements in a wide variety of development-related work. Locations include Brazil, Ecuador, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Malaysia. They are open to students of any discipline. If you wish to find out more about the placements as well information about how to apply for them, come to this event. There will also be the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. For more information, check out the placements section of our web page (www.ewb-uk.org/placements/2005/index.php).
Contact: alexandra.mccredie@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 1 FEBRUARY

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES CREATE POP ART WITH LEOSOC

Room 407, Electrical engineering building
Join us with our tutor to investigate and create some pop art of our own. Please email for details.
Contact: keith.brown@ic.ac.uk

FILM I HEART HUCKABEES

6pm
Union Concert Hall
£3
A husband-and-wife team play detective, but not in the traditional sense. Instead, the happy duo help others solve their existential issues, the kind that keep you up at night, wondering what it all means.

Showing at the Union's own cinema.
Contact: cinema@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

FILM ENDURING LOVE

8.30pm
Union Concert Hall
£3
Two strangers become dangerously close after witnessing a deadly accident.
Showing at the Union's own cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

UNION EVENTS SPORTS NIGHT

8pm-12midnight
Beit Quad
£1
Carlsberg and Tetley £1 a pint all night in all bars.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

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

FILM ENDURING LOVE

6pm
Union Concert Hall
£3
Two strangers become dangerously close after witnessing a deadly accident.
Showing at the Union's own cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

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

Please put 'LISTINGS' in the subject field of your email

FILM I HEART HUCKABEES

8.15pm
Union Concert Hall
£3
A husband-and-wife team play detective, but not in the traditional sense. Instead, the happy duo help others solve their existential issues, the kind that keep you up at night, wondering what it all means.
Showing at the Union's own cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

FILMS: VUE CINEMA,
FULHAM BROADWAY
Student discount ALL WEEK
MEET THE FOCKERS
(12A)

Daily: 1pm, 2.30pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.30pm. Sat and Sun only: 10.30am, 11.30am.

ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 (15)
Daily: 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.45pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.15am.

RAY (15)
Daily: 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm.

ELEKTRA (12A)
Daily: 2.45pm, 7.20pm. Sat and Sun only: 12.30pm.

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (15)
Daily: 5.20pm, 8.10pm. Sat to Thurs: 1.50pm.

CLOSER (15)
Daily: 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.30pm.

Sat and Sun only: 11am.
TEAM AMERICA -

WORLD POLICE (15)
Daily: 5pm, 9.40pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.55pm.

MILLION DOLLAR BABY (12A)

Daily: 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm. Fri and Sat only: 10.50pm.

THE AVIATOR (12A)
Daily: 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm.

WHITE NOISE (15)
Fri and Sat only: 12midnight.

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS (PG)
Sat and Sun only: 11.30am.

THE INCREDIBLES (U)
Sat and Sun only: 10.10am.

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS (12A)
Fri and Sat only: 11.45pm.

GARDEN STATE (15)
Fri and Sat only: 11.20pm. Sat and Sun only: 11.30am.

ELLA ENCHANTED (PG)
Sat and Sun only: 11.45am.

Poster Rules and Information

Poster Design

- Carry the Union logo and the words "Imperial College Union".
- Display the time, date and location of the club event.
- Name the club or society as a club or society of Imperial College Union.
- Be no bigger than A2 in size.
- Be in English only or have an English translation of anything said in a foreign language, the translation being equal or greater in prominence.
- Not contain any offensive language, including implied offensive language.
- Not contain material that may bring the Union into disrepute or is of a libellous nature.
- Not contravene the Equal Opportunities Policy.
- The poster should either advertise a specific event with the date of the event mentioned or advertise the activity generally and include a reasonable expiry date on the poster.

When posters are put up they must:

- Be put up using blu-tack or an equivalent.
- Not be put up with Sellotape or glue.

- Not be put up closer together than 5 metres apart where there is insufficient space for other clubs or societies' posters.
- Not be put up on glass doors
- Not be put up over other in-date posters
- Not indicate that an event is open to the general public unless previously agreed by the Union President.
- Be removed within 5 College days of the event being advertised having taken place.

Locations

- Posters should only be put up in the following locations:
- The Union Building with the exception of the Union Bar, da Vinci's, dBs, the Union Dining Hall, or above the first floor
 - The Junior Common Room pillars in the Sherfield Building
 - Southside Lounge, but not on the windows. Posters may be placed in Southside Bar at the discretion of the Southside Bar Manager.
 - On the communal noticeboards along the walkway.
 - Basement of Mary's i.e. Gladys's, Bar, corridors, at top of stairs.
 - Stairway noticeboards at Mary's, on each floor.

- Glass notice boards at BMS and in UMO student post room.
- Reynolds first floor walls and basement walls.
- Academic departments and halls of residence with permission (see web for more details).

Restricted areas

- The noticeboard outside dBs on the ground floor foyer is restricted to central Union publicity only. Posters may only be put up there with the permission of the President, his or her nominee, or the Permanent Secretary or Marketing Manager.
- The noticeboard outside the Union Dining Hall on the right, on the first floor landing, is restricted to central Union notices, such as minutes, elections and meeting publicity. Posters may only be put up there with the permission of the President.
- The Careers Bullentin Board by the right of the Union Reception is to be restricted to employment opportunities.

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/resource/>

2005 SPRING WALL PLANNER

Whatever the issue don't let your concern turn into a crisis.

Make the Information and Advice Centre your one stop shop for information and advice.

Drop in to the service anytime. Advice also available via e-mail on advice@imperial.ac.uk.

Appointments: 020 7594 8066.



INFORMATION & ADVICE SERVICE
OPEN 10am - 6pm MONDAY TO FRIDAY

NEW THIS TERM

CLUB AND SOCIETY NIGHTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNION ENTS

If you want your club or society to get involved in Ents please contact DPFS@imperial.ac.uk.

USEFUL NUMBERS

- Union**
- Felix x4 8072
 - IC Radio x4 8100
 - ICU Cinema x4 8098
 - ICU Shop & Newsagent x4 8470
 - STOIC x4 8104
 - Student Activities Centre x4 8066
 - Information & Advice Centre x4 8066
 - Clubs & Society Finance x4 1514
 - Union Reception x4 8060
 - Volunteer Centre (IVC) x4 8133
- Other**
- Beit Security x5 8902
 - Careers Office x4 8025
 - Chaplaincy x4 9600
 - Health Centre x4 9375
 - Nightline 0207 631 0101
 - Registry x4 8054
 - Sherfield Security x5 8920

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday Supported by Time Out London

Thursday

Friday

Weekend

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

	4 Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	5 Twelfth Night of Christmas SPORTS NIGHT	6 ICSM Art and Photography Society Exhibition: The Hart on King's Rd 5/1-5/2	7 SCHOOлдаZE	8
10	11 JAM NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	12 SPORTS NIGHT	13	14 Pimp\$ & Prostitute\$	15
17 Union Council	18 Sabbatical Elections: Nominations Open Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	19 DramSoc: Jack and the Beanstalk 19/2-23/22 SPORTS NIGHT	20 Pinks Social Club Girls Night In Women Only	21 Eid al-Adha DY WayWay & DJ K ROCK CITY	22 Closing Date for Hyde Park Relay
24	25 Burns Night GIG NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	26 SPORTS NIGHT	27 Holocaust Memorial Day Shisha	28 Union Bike Auction red hot salsa icudancing	29 CAG Conference: Homelessness
31	1 Sabbatical Elections: 12 noon, Nominations Close Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	2 SPORTS NIGHT	3	4 Sabbatical Elections: Voting Opens Polish Society: Carnival Mask Party International Night COMEDY & physSc Current Chart Music	5 Id al Adha 21
7 RAG Week: 7/2-12/2	8 Shrove Tuesday: Pancake Day JAM NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	9 RAG Raid Chinese Lunar New Year SPORTS NIGHT	10 icudancing red hot salsa PIZZA & PASTA City & Guilds Bar Night Hijra	11 Sabbatical Elections: Voting Opens: 0:01am Valentines Night Party WESTWOOD Joe Ransom	12 Super Bowl in DaVinci's RAG Monopoly Pub Crawl 2005 Hyde Park Relay
14 St Valentine's Day Contraceptive Awareness Week	15 Sabbatical Elections: Voting Closes: 23:59pm Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	16 Varsity 2005 SPORTS NIGHT	17 Union Council	18 ICRadio subred Bryan Gee MOVEMENT	19 ICSF: Picocon RCC Night Hike
21 Arts Fest '05: 21/2-25/2 heavy elements	22 Arts Fest '05 MTSoc present Chess 22/2-26/2 GIG NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	23 Arts Fest '05 SPORTS NIGHT	24 Arts Fest '05 Jazz Big Band	25 Arts Fest '05 FABRICLIVE. R'n'B & Hip-Hop Arts Fest Finale	26 RSM Bottle Match
28	1 St David's Day Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	2 ACC Bar Night SPORTS NIGHT	3 red hot salsa icudancing	4 bling-bling PANJABI HIT SQUAD R'n'B & Hip-Hop	5 Mother's Day
7	8 United Nations' Day for Women's Rights and International Peace IC Sinfionietta Concert JAM NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	9 No Smoking Day SPORTS NIGHT	10 ACC Annual Dinner Brahm's Requiem: IC Choir	11 Live Bands: Eschelon Si Connelly, Stroke Machine ROCK CITY Imperial goes to Fabric	12
14 DramSoc: Noises Off 14/2-17/2	15 Union Council GIG NIGHT Quiz Night Sponsored by STA TRAVEL	16 SPORTS NIGHT	17 St Patrick's Day Jazz Big Band	18 End of Term Showcase [Acts to be confirmed] FABRICLIVE. Joe Ransom	13 All sporting events shown on the big screen in Da Vinci's - Cafe bar - unless otherwise booked out. (Ask at the Bar for details)

Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Doves' new single gets a thorough going over; Ambulance Ltd get trashed

SINGLE REVIEWS

Doves

Black And White Town
(Heavenly)

★★★★☆

Those expecting another *Pounding* so to speak, be disappointed. Doves have obviously realised that dance music is dead and now want to do their part in reminding people why it died.

The early nineties semi-Italian house piano is a nice touch but only serves to irritate after a while. Luckily they try to over-shadow such an obvious mistake by putting in fuzz-laden guitars all over the place alongside an up-tempo rock beat. Of course, lead singer Jimi tries his hardest to cover it up with his trademark Manc mope and at times the track feels compelling and even worthy of dancing to. But as you begin to forgive the elements of mediocrity and lack of any significant idea to latch onto, a wimpy guitar solo makes an appearance. And when I mean wimpy, I mean taken from the *You Can Play Blues Guitar Too 3* handbook wimpy. Must try harder!

Matty Hoban

Ambulance Ltd

Stay Where You Are
(Tvt)

☆☆☆☆☆

Yeah but why? Just why? There's no need. Ambulance Ltd are indie made boring to the extreme. These pale-faced bedwetters are afraid to make their song *Stay Where You Are* do anything. I can't believe that someone would fund the release of this. I mean, it's not offensive, it's not really unpleasant, but it's not something that should have been released as a single. It consists of one long verse.

Ambulance Ltd will probably next be seen supporting Embrace in your local pub when the world realises what a mistake their latest comeback was. *Stay Where You Are* is like one of those instrumental filler tracks on albums by genius post-metal bands like Oceansize, or recent Radiohead albums, that you cherish because the previous song made your brain leak out of your ear. The previous song I listened to was the *Fierce Girl* single. And I still think this track is awful. Go figure.

James Millen

Blunt in Brick Lane

He's supported Elton John as his first full band gig, fought in Kosovo, and dedicated songs about sex and drugs to his gran

LIVE REVIEW

James Blunt

93 Feet East

★★★★☆

My brother said: "You'll know you're there when someone approaches you offering curry". It's almost a package deal: curry and live music on Brick Lane. But it wasn't the curry that did it for me – singer-songwriter James Blunt is an awesome new talent and a really nice guy too.

We were there to interview James and to confirm he is every bit as good live as his debut album *Back To Bedlam*. On his sell-out band residency at 93 Feet East (running on three consecutive Wednesdays), James modestly told us he has a 'big family', but it's not true. The venue was packed, both with the public school types he grew up with at Harrow School, and the usual die-hard fans who scorn anyone who dare utter a word during the set

(including me passing comment at James's incredible voice!)

Despite his enthusiasm for the support act, Luane Parle was little more than a Shania Twain tribute band; just not my cup of tea. But it wasn't long until James, with his drummer going mental in the background, let rip with new song *Dancing Days* before introducing himself and offering his services for Bar Mitvahs and threesomes. The set then started properly with brilliant album opener and current single *High*.

Sadly the dodgy acoustics combined with much chat at the back (no, it wasn't me this time) let James down during *No Bravery*, a song written during and about his time serving in Kosovo. (We asked to see the bullet-ridden guitar but it suffered an unfortunate motorbike accident in front of the EMI bosses.) However, there was no stopping the crowd joining in with *So Long Jimmy* and I got all excited with second new song *I Really Want You* – I can barely wait for his new album. Saving



James Blunt: heartmeltingly good-looking. Damn him

the best until last, James finished up with *You're Beautiful*, a truly pretty song about an ex-girlfriend, followed by *Wisemen*, my personal favourite. Then, all too soon, it was home time.

He's been compared to Damien Rice, Van Morrison, and Counting Crows; that's some list, but James Blunt deserves the association. His rather unconventional route into the music industry is reflected in

some top-class lyrics which, combined with acoustic brilliance and an amazing voice, leave me begging for more. Watch out for *Wisemen* to be released on 7 March, but if, like me, you can't wait, go out and get the album – it won't leave your stereo in a hurry.

To hear the interview, download the 17 January *NSUAOSATOC* show from www.icradio.com.

Lucy Smith

Ch-ch-check it out

Mixmaster Mike found fame as The Beastie Boys' resident DJ; on this, his solo outing, he heads back to old school hip-hop

ALBUM REVIEW

Mix Master Mike

Bangzilla
(Immortal)

★★★★☆

Most of you have probably heard Mixmaster Mike's work before, even if you have no idea who he is. As the long term collaborator with the Beastie Boys, his DJing provided the addictive beats for widespread

hits such as *Intergalactic*, and the recent screeching rhythm for the Beastie's latest album *To The Five Boroughs*. Also a stand-alone DJ, here he presents his latest solo work, *Bangzilla*.

The whole album is a nostalgic throwback in two respects. First it takes the eighties approach to hip-hop (think earlier acts like M.A.R.R.S.), throwing together quickfire samples to create a jumpy beat. And secondly, the album is centred on a sci-fi theme, sampling

old movies and news stories to create his unique warped audio comic strip. Elements of B-movies, *Star Trek* and various tales of spacemen are all present, though unfortunately there's no *Dr. Who*.

Beginning with *Trigger Man*, a chorus of violins and dodgy trumpets straight out of any fifties sci-fi movie breaks down into a moody beat complete with 'red alert' alarms, a rumbling bass line and Mike's traditional manic scratching. From then on, the samples come thick and fast. The

main mixes give a blend of trippy beats and attention-grabbing bursts of quick screeching; they pierce the airwaves and demand your attention, similar to the beat Mike used in the recent Beastie Boys hit, *Ch-Check It Out*. You're always kept on your toes due to the changing rhythms and samples, such as the sudden breakout into foreign pop on *Marvel*, or the conclusion to *MJ-12 Strike*, when swirling violins provide a backdrop to a shootout.

The strengths of the album, however, also provide its weaknesses. As it is essentially a quick fire sample album, there are several dulling moments where the continuing scratching and sample-changing start to grate. In some places the album needs a bit more substance, perhaps requiring a leaf out of DJ Shadow's book with an attempt at using the samples to create a melody; or inviting in his old pals to provide some lyrics to go along with the mix. It's a weakness that rarely occurs though, and you're left with a mostly solid hip-hop album, demanding constant attention until the very last beat with its addictive pace and unique sound structure.

Finally, it's refreshing to see that in the age of sixth form poetry and a polarised music industry, we can still get an album that doesn't take itself too seriously. I mean – why else would you call it *Bangzilla*?

Matthew Hartfield



The Beastie Boys: I know it's not Mike, but they look so damn cool

MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

I love rock 'n' roll

General Khaki, featuring Tommy Mack of our very own (sadly departed) The Shakes, bring us their new demo

DEMO REVIEW

General Khaki
Good Guys And Bad Guys

With the Brits only weeks away, the musical silly season is thankfully coming to an end. Say goodbye to last year's tedium (more commonly known as Roosta, Kasabian and Keane) and say hello to London's hottest live act, the brilliant General Khaki.

Formed from the ashes of General Tommy Mack's previous outfit, The Shakes, General Khaki are a force to be reckoned with, offering the most original and compelling take on garage rock since the White Stripes. With influences ranging from the Clash to Captain Beefheart and the Beach Boys, General Khaki deliver their most captivating introductory message with immense wit at breakneck speed.

Their live demo, comprising seven minutes of pure sonic assault, starts with the General's self-

promoting opening shot *Give Us The Bullets And We'll Shoot The Guns*, a garage-punk frenzy delivered with seriousness and army-march style drums timed to precision by Daniel Mack. Endearing to the end, the ironic yet ska-tinged *Animal* displays the Khakis' more flippant slower side, with kooky lyrics to put a smile on both the listener and Lance Bombardier Kat Stevens' face.

Good Guys And Bad Guys is the band on top form: catchy, danceable and taking a well-deserved pot-shot at Dubya and his futile war on Islam: "You can tell a bad guy with a beard and a moustache, he likes to ride a camel and he likes to smoke hash." The EP is rounded off with the fantastic Stone Roses inspired *Swagger*, the track to epitomise what rock and roll should be - irreverent, sexy, brooding and commanding, whilst letting the listener have an excellent time.

"Show us your swagger" and General Khaki will show you the way. Take the draft at www.generalkhaki.com. **Sajini Wijetilleka**

SINGLE REVIEWS

Agent Blue
Children's Children
MCA
★★★★☆

At the end of the day, truly great music can either be put down to its context or its timelessness. Music that may not stand the test of time may be great purely because it saved everyone's life from Travis and inspired a generation to back away from the acoustic guitar. Right now, we're truly in the middle of an amplified music scene with everyone picking up guitars and shouting the immortal lines of Art Brut: "Look at us! We formed a band!"

But wonderful bands such as the Futureheads also follow the tiresome likes of The Others. So which category do Stoke-on-Trent's Agent Blue fall under? If this single is anything to go by then they could soon be up there with the best of them.

Singer Nick Andrews does a nice Joe Strummer via Sam Herlihy

(Hope Of The States) impression when he spits condemnation upon our generation: "What will you tell your children's children when they ask where have their homes gone? / Will you tell them you lit the fires?"

The music never feels stagnant and resembles Bloc Party in its driving and climactic guitar dualism. It may feel predictable at turns but that's only because you're hearing what you want to hear: inspired music by individuals with a message. **Matty Hoban**

Fierce Girl
What Makes A Girl Fierce?
Red Flag
☆☆☆☆☆

I picked up this record because it said "Horny Pony" on the front. I'm yet to work out why; I think it may be their PR company. With a name like Fierce Girl, I was expecting shonky Camden indie whores with too much eye makeup and little or no knowledge of how a guitar works, except that when you do this it makes a

really loud noise. In short, I was expecting it to be awesome.

But oh dear no. It's actually two chavs singing about other chavs, and being general obnoxious chav bastards over crap chavvy dance beats. I bravely put on my investigative journalist hat and Googled them. When asked in an interview as to what was currently floating their boat, they listed "Tanya Turner, The Cock, Marlboro Lights, Peaches, Lucy Liu, Burberry, Bad Girls, Vin Diesel, Horsemeat Disco, any kind of beer, White Van Men, Aaliyah, but most of all... Kat Slater." They are even worse than suggested by the NME, who (thinking that this was a compliment) described them as a mix between Fischeerspooner and The Streets. Unholy.

I looked at the video and it was the two skinheads who make up Fierce Girl waving their hands aggressively at the screen for three minutes and 33 seconds. This is the soundtrack to you getting knifed. And I'm guessing that that is not a pleasant occurrence, but then again neither is this record. **James Millen**



red hot salsa
& SALSA LESSON PARTY
icudancing

8 pm - 2 am Fri 28th Jan
ADVANCE TICKET PROFIT GOES TO
I C DANCE, LATIN AMERICAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN,
PORTUGUESE, AND CYPRIOT SOCIETIES.

£3.00 Union
£3.50 Guest
£2.50 Ents card

TAPAS AND A HOUSE WHITE/RED COSTING £2.60
£1 SHOT OF MALIBU AND
DRAUGHT MIXER IN DBS BAR



imperial college union ROAR Student ID required
The Union advises you to drink sensibly




Expecting a good degree in Physics?
Looking for a PhD Studentship?
Have you thought of Lancaster University 5* Department of Physics?

PhD opportunities at the forefront in:

- Condensed Matter Theory, Cosmology
- Experimental Particle Physics (Tevatron, LHC)
- Gravitation, Mathematical Physics
- Medical Physics, Microkelvin Physics
- Nanoscience, Nonlinear Dynamics
- Particle Physics Theory, Phonons
- Quantum Fluids
- Semiconductor Optoelectronics

An internationally acclaimed department, medium-sized, friendly and well-situated.

Look us up!

 <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/physics/physics.htm>

Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

DJ Mariky and friends



DJ Mariky (centre) and friends Dynamite MC (left) and Giles Peterson (right)

CLUB REVIEW

DJ Mariky and friends

The End

★★★★☆

Another Friday night, another SICK line up at the End. Tonight, the menu had a Brazilian twist – namely an exclusive DJ Mariky four hour set. Mariky's epic sets have taken on legendary status in his home city of Sao Paolo, but this was to be the UK's first taste of an extended session with the Brazilian deck-wizard.

Set times have become a bone of contention in the drum & bass scene of late, with Andy C and the rest of the D'n'B premier league requesting longer slots to showcase their music. However, club promoters remain reluctant, preferring to opt for safety in numbers, ie packing all the big names on one line-

up to attract the maximum number of paying customers. This evening, Mariky and friends had taken matters into their own hands.

Our touchdown was slightly later than anticipated, and it was immediately evident that it was going to be a busy night. The guestlist queue was bursting at its seams, whilst the regular line had wrapped itself around the full length of West Central St. Once inside, drinks were purchased and a quick scan towards the DJ booth revealed a familiar figure at the controls – the Mariky showcase was already in effect.

As we hit the floor, we were greeted by the sublime sounds of MC Conrad's *Golden Girl*, a tune that is deservedly causing a storm on the scene at present. Soulful and heavy in equal measure, this was to epitomize Mariky's four hour onslaught. Dynamite MC was in full swing, running the show in his inimitable style.

Fresh from his recently released solo album, the Reprazent front man had raps to burn. Unfortunately we had missed out on Giles Peterson's performance, but the reports were healthy. Meanwhile, Mariky was coming seriously correct with his tune selection. The longer set made for a deep and diverse assortment – early highlights included a slice of Calibre's beautiful *Hypnotize*, a dollop of Die's funkied out *Jitta Bug* and a very rare outing for Roni's 1998 anthem *Breakbeat Tera*.

Even though his set was long finished, Giles P could evidently not bear to tear himself away. Hanging around to share jokes with Dynamite and Mariky whilst getting down with the sounds, it was clear that the night's title 'DJ Mariky and friends' was not just a cynical marketing ploy. The nice atmosphere was not restricted to the DJ booth, and the tight laser displays illuminated

smiles and good feeling all around.

Away from the main room, Bugz in the Attic were hosting the lounge and their broken beats provided a fitting respite from the high tempos elsewhere. Recently crowned 'Worldwide Winners of 2004' on Giles Peterson's Radio 1 show, one might have expected this room to have packed out. In truth, however, it seemed the majority of the masses had come for the man from Brazil.

When Mariky first burst onto the DJ circuit in this country, it was his wild scratching and cutting techniques that really caught people's attention. Back in the main room, we were given an excellent reminder of what the fuss was about. Playing a record composed of nothing but a continuous tone, the Brazilian wonder proceeded to chop it to shreds on the cross-fader, using the pitch control to match it to the tune playing in the background. Dynamite

could do nothing but look on in awe as the entire crowd erupted.

As the set rolled on, things were getting progressively nasty tune-wise. Needless to say, the heinous sub-section of Logistics' *Together* bust up the place and left the audience pleading for the rewind. Mariky seemed to be relishing the extra time, allowing him to build up a structured performance through the night.

Perhaps the success of this event will sway promoters towards longer set times on a regular basis. If not, it might be time to start saving for that plane ticket to Sao Paolo.

File under:

Jazzy drum & bass, Liquid funk

If you like this, try:

Movement @ Bar Rumba, Swerve @ The End

Anthony Roberts & Joseph Bull



The wild crowd, DJ Mariky and Dynamite MC show their appreciation for one another

NIGHTLIFE

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

House for your Hed, Kandi for your eyes

CLUB REVIEW

Hed Kandi

Pacha, Terminus Place, Victoria
£20

★★★★★

For those of you who don't know, Hed Kandi it is one of the fastest growing house labels. If you go to any Hed Kandi event, you can see why - it's special. There are other words I could use, but most couldn't be printed, so let's just say it was good.

It's not just about the music, it's the whole atmosphere of every event, be it at El Divinos in Ibiza or Bed in Sheffield. You are provided with a live act, dancers, entertainers, an amazing environment... and this is before the crowd comes in and it really goes off.

Each time is an extremely pleasurable experience leaving you fulfilled in every way. It's on a par with the first time you discover masturbation. Come on girls, don't act like you don't do it as well.

This was the first time for me to go to Pacha, and having been a regular at most Hed Kandi events here and abroad, I had high expectations and I wasn't disappointed.

The dance floor was rammed by 10.30 and although it was meant to have been a quiet night for clubbing after the expense of Christmas, it didn't show. People were queuing around the side of the building at 9pm, an hour before the event even started.

For such a popular event, the door staff were surprisingly welcoming and unstressed. One guy told me this was a piece of piss compared to the launch of their new album before Christmas.

"Everyone should go before they die or become too unattractive"

Once inside, the club looked like the sexiest person on earth had just exploded, covering the place in pure and utter gorgeous fabulousness. One thing to understand about any Hed Kandi event is that it's like being at a fashion show. It is essential to look good and when you get inside you can see why everyone is so damn sexy.

I can understand this may be a bit daunting, as some Imperial students

"Pure and utter gorgeous fabulousness"

are unfamiliar with the world outside their bedroom, calculator and recent issue of *Star Trek Weekly*.

If you own a Hed Kandi album, you will have an idea of the type of

music you will be letting yourself in for at an event like this. Pacha is spread over two rooms - the main room was all about deep disco house, and upstairs was dark, sexy and dirty. OK, Hed Kandi lacks a little in terms of perfect mixing and timing, but the crowd doesn't care. They sing along at any opportunity they can and as soon as Pav, the percussionist, and Laura on sax come

on, you forget all about some of the not-great mixing.

This is another thing with Hed Kandi - you don't just get a DJ, you get a bit of live action as well. I've never seen people get so excited over the sight of a slightly bearded fat man thrashing about and a girl and her horn. It was so good that at one point the DJ stopped and the crowd leapt and cheered to the sounds of a sax and a set of bongos. I think the phrase I heard most throughout the evening was "this is fucking fantastic".

I won't spoil it too much for those intending on going to the next Hed Kandi event, but I can say you had better dust off your disco rags as it's about going to a sexy venue, being sexy and dancing to the best sexy music. I loved it and can highly recommend it. In fact, I don't just recommend, I insist that everyone should go before they die or become too unattractive. Just have a look at some of the pictures to see what I mean.

File under:

Deep house, funky house
If you like this, try:
Saturday Sessions @ Ministry of Sound, City Loud @ Turnmills

Aaron Mason



An attractive young lady and a man in a dress. Need I say more?

BICYCLE AUCTION
Second-Hand & Nearly New

Friday, Jan 28th
TO BE HELD IN BEIT QUAD

Payment accepted by cheque with a guarantee card or as cash

AT 1PM

Viewing from 10 am

imperial college union

Camp America
campamerica.co.uk

London Recruitment Fair
Saturday 5th February 11am - 4pm
Sunday 6th February 11am - 4pm
Olympia Conference Centre - Hammersmith Road, London W14 8UX
Nearest Tube: Hammersmith Nearest Overland Station: Kensington Olympia

Get a job on the spot from one of the hundreds of American Camp Directors coming to our U.K. Recruitment Fairs to hire thousands of people to work at children's summer camps.

Other Fairs are in:
Edinburgh : Wednesday 2nd February 12pm - 4pm
Edinburgh Assembly Rooms - 54 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2LR
Manchester : Wednesday 9th February 1pm - 5pm
Manchester Town Hall - Albert Square, Manchester M60 2JR
Belfast : Wednesday 9th February 12pm - 4pm
The Hilton Belfast - 4 Lanyon Place, Belfast BT1 3LP

Call 020 7581 7373 or see our website for more information
campamerica.co.uk

FECDS

Arts

arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

Ice princesses and plot failures

Turandot is back on stage at Covent Garden. Puccini's classic continues to deliver

G. Puccini, *Turandot*

Royal Opera
February 1, 5, 7
Royal Opera House, WC2

After the excitement of my last trip to the opera (that would be the time when we went to hear Bryn Terfel's Wotan and ended up seeing him mime to Donald MacIntyre's rendition of the role from the orchestra pit), this was somewhat more sedate.

As always, we went to the Royal Opera House, (I know, I should probably try to get some variety, but I can't help it, I am a creature of habit and the routine we have for our evenings at the opera works so well), this time to enjoy some Puccini. The royal opera is currently in the middle of a run of performances of the composer's legendary work, *Turandot*.

For those of you less familiar with the works of Puccini, here's a brief synopsis of the action; for those of you who are more aware of Puccini's plots I'm sure you'll recognise his general disregard for watertight storylines.

"Whatever the failings of Puccini's plots, they never fail to move you"

Turandot is the cruel daughter of the Chinese Emperor who has decreed that she will only marry the man who can solve her three riddles. Any man who takes up the challenge and fails is to be beheaded. The story begins in a crowd before the execution of one unfortunate failure; among the crowd are Calaf, Timur and Liu. Timur, the blind and very fragile deposed king of an undisclosed kingdom, has been travelling in search of a new life guided by Liu, a faithful former slave of the royal household who secretly loves Calaf, the king's son whom they had presumed dead.

In what is possibly one of the most stupendous coincidences in all opera, Calaf and Timur are reunited within the first ten minutes of the score. Following the touching reunion, *Turandot* makes her first appearance to confirm that the execution is to take place, Calaf is reviled by her lack of mercy and compassion, but then he sees her from afar and instantly falls in love with her. Calaf now must have *Turandot*, and so takes up the challenge of the riddles with a complete disregard for what impact his possible failure could have on his already very ill father. Liu's pleadings, which take the form of a spectacularly touching aria, fall on deaf ears.

As can be expected, the riddles are no match for our hero's superior intellect. Preceding the unveiling of the riddles, *Turandot* has her turn to sing her heart out as she explains why she is so cruel. Following her



A poster for the opera *Turandot*, from the 1920s. Note the lack of Asian facial features

riddle's defeat by Calaf, she tries to beg her father to let her renege on her promise to marry the man that solves the riddles, but the emperor tells her to stop whining. Calaf, in his eternal stupidity, offers *Turandot* a deal: he will gladly be executed if she can find out his name by dawn. *Turandot* uses her power to force her subjects to search high and low for the stranger's name; Calaf sits gloating that at dawn he will win the woman of his dreams in the infamous *Nessun Dorma* aria. The reverie is broken up as townspeople and imperial guards try everything to force him to give up his name, including threatening Timur and Liu. This is where Calaf really proves his worthlessness; Liu sings another beautiful aria explaining to

Turandot how she is prepared to die for her love if it will give him happiness, she then kills herself. Timur is distraught; Calaf only gives her sacrifice a few moments of his time before he continues his wooing of the woman of no redeeming qualities, *Turandot*. Evidently there will be another crisis before following on to a relatively happy ending where love has conquered even *Turandot*'s impressive ego issues.

Unlike the Ring cycle, this is a much more traditional production, where the scenery and the costumes as well as the action have been designed to fit with the period in which the opera is supposed to take place. The production is already 20 years old, having being premiered at the Los Angeles opera in 1984. Unlike the production of Saint-Saens' *Samson et Dalila* from approximately the same period that graced the stage at Covent Garden last year, this production has aged really rather well. While *Samson et Dalila* looked dated, *Turandot* still looked creative and visually striking.

Overall, the opera was enjoyable – the music is wonderfully melodic and there are so many wonderful arias in the score that you would really have to try hard to massacre it. There are essentially two casts – for the principal roles of Calaf, Liu and *Turandot* there are two singers each. I had the pleasure of seeing Vladimir Galouzzine, Andrea Gruber and Hei-Kyung Hong as Calaf, *Turandot* and Liu. As an ensemble they were good, however, the real star of the show was Hei-Kyung Hong. She was spectacular, both technically and theatrically. Galouzzine unfortunately had



Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu. Gheorghiu will return to Covent Garden in the role of Mimi in Puccini's *La Boheme*, which she will share with the equally fabulous Chinese soprano Liping Zhang



The composer Giacomo Puccini, pictured here in 1923, a year before his death. *Turandot*, his last opera, was left unfinished

no dynamic range, his only dynamic being forte, and Gruber managed to avoid conveying any of *Turandot*'s potentially redeeming qualities; her voice was harsh, and during her aria where she explains why she has enforced the 'solve them or die' policy with respect to the riddles, she failed utterly to convince that her character had any humanity or that indeed her reasons for her decision had any grounds at all.

My only complaint about the production itself is about the stage directions given to *Turandot*. Whenever she was to make an important point, she was made to raise her arms and spread them and then to stick her head forward; the effect was rather comical. Instead of looking authoritative she just looked like a vulture, and the constant repetition did not help make any point whatsoever.

I realise that some of my comments have tended towards the negative, but let me reassure you that an evening spent at Covent Garden at a performance of *Turandot* will not be a wasted one. Despite his uni-dynamical style, Galouzzine does do a good job with *Nessun Dorma*, and Hong is stupendous. One can only hope that Celia Rose does a comparable job in the role of Liu as she takes over for the last three performances.

One final remark: whatever the

failings of Puccini's plots, they never fail to move you. Liu's tragically unappreciated sacrifice is heart rendering, Cio-Cio-San's broken heart in *Madama Butterfly* will shatter yours in a thousand pieces and Mimi's final moments are dripping in pathos. Of Puccini's seven full-length opera's, here I'm defining that as being more than one Act in duration, only one ends happily, *La Fanciulla Del West*, and the rest will have you in tears. In a rather Puccini-laden season at the Royal Opera, there are many opportunities to go and get thoroughly depressed. Up-coming works include *Madama Butterfly* and *La Boheme*. *La Boheme* should be spectacular, with the role of Mimi being shared by Angela Gheorghiu and Liping Zhang, two sopranos with very different styles but with equally stunning voices and stage presences.

For details of all upcoming Puccini operas at the Royal Opera House, as well as works by many other composers, go to their website www.roh.org.uk. Here you will also find information about the ballet and booking details. For those of you preferring opera in English, the English National Opera would be the place to go. Their website is www.eno.org.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

A manual for saving the world

Andy Primanda finds out how can we use the demise of historical civilisations to prevent our doom

Collapse: How societies choose to fail or survive

by Jared Diamond
(Allen Lane, Hardcover)

★★★★☆

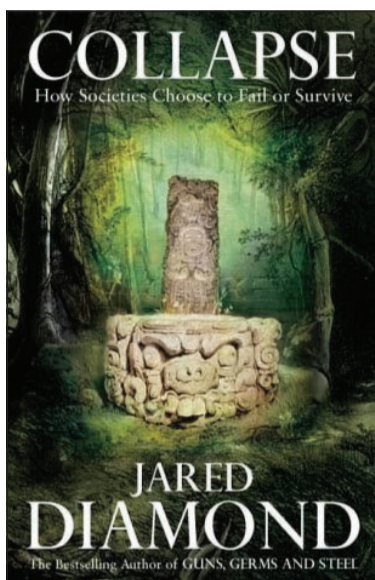
Here is a book foretelling doom. It warns us of a possible impending disaster, in which society would break down, governments would fall, and people would be pushed to the limit and start killing and even eating each other. In fact, all those events had been the fate of some societies before ours, and we might be on our way there.

Written in the analytical history style of his earlier work *Guns, Germs and Steel*, Jared Diamond gives an account of the successes and failures of several societies in facing environmental crises that threatened their means of surviving in *Collapse*. Easter Islanders, the Mayan civilization, the Anasazi and the Greenland Norse colony succumbed to those crises, while the people of Tikopia, New Guinea highlanders, and Tokugawa-era Japan managed to make the right decisions and survived. Also highlighted are the Malthusian tragedy that materialized in Rwanda in 1994, where tensions caused by overpopulation exploded into genocide; the contrast between deforested Haiti and green Dominican Republic, neighbours on

the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with differing governmental attitudes towards the environment; and the environmental problems of China and Australia.

Human societies, past and present, always have a major impact on their environment. Some parts of the world are more environmentally fragile than the others, and if the pressure caused by human activities on any such region is too large, its life-sustaining ability would break down, as would the society that depends on it. Diamond's examples show that some societies failed to anticipate environmental crises and continued with whatever they had been doing for years, oblivious to the destruction they would bring until the consequences turned up. Sometimes the insulation of elites from problems encountered by commoners can end up in bad decisions; like Easter Island chiefs that kept on erecting statues and Mayan kings bent on attacking each other, oblivious that their subjects were suffering from environmental breakdown. Today we have much more impact on nature than those past societies, because of our larger numbers and more intensive use of land and resources. Should we start asking ourselves whether we might be following their footsteps to destruction?

However, the book is not all about



failures. Several societies, like the Tikopians and New Guinea highlanders, adopted a bottom-up approach, with individuals actively doing things to ensure that they could sustain the quality of their environment. Tokugawa, Japan and the Dominican Republic used a different approach: top-down management where a centralized authority dictates effective environmental protection measurements.

Some might think that the collapsed societies just had the misfortune of being at the wrong place;

their environments just unsuitable to support civilization. The case of societies that lived on Greenland would dispel this argument. The Greenland Norse chose to live as farmers inkeeping with their European identity, and perished because their choice was unsuitable in Greenland; while the Inuit mastered the appropriate survival techniques and survived until today. The environment might put pressure on the society, but the people can decide what to do about it.

Environmental activists sometimes point their fingers at big businesses as the main perpetrators of environmental destruction. Diamond offers his own experience of involvement with several big extractive companies, and while some are outright destructive, there are also big businesses that adopted rigorous conservation practices. The companies realise that investing and practising conservation is profitable in the long-term interest of their business: they would avoid the potential costs of cleaning up after accidents and have a more respectable corporate image. The public can influence businesses to be more environmentally friendly by knowing where to exert their pressure – campaigning against buying the products of companies known to harm the environment, for example.

Collapse reminds us to take the environmental and population problems seriously if we want to be survivors. Some reappraisal of core values would also be necessary, because some societies made environmentally destructive decisions for the sake of those values. Also, with a globalized world, countries are becoming increasingly interdependent, and a collapse anywhere in the world would affect everyone. Diamond summarized twelve main environmental problems that we must tackle if we want to survive: destruction of natural habitats; overfishing; biodiversity loss; soil erosion; depletion of fossil fuels; depletion of freshwater; exhaustion of global photosynthetic capacity; toxic chemicals; alien species; global warming; population growth; and overconsumption (Imperial students from various disciplines might want to pick one most familiar to them and start doing something).

It is a Herculean task indeed, but Jared Diamond describes his own stance as that of a 'cautious optimist', where he maintains hope that we could pull ourselves through. The reasons for his hope are that these problems are not insoluble, and we can learn from the success and failure stories of earlier civilizations. There is still hope to save the world, and this book could be considered a manual of how to do so.

SUPPORTED BY TimeOut London

SPORTS NIGHTS

8-12
FREE BEFORE 9 / ENTS CARD £.50
UNION AND GUESTS £1.00
FREE CLOAKROOM FOR SPORTS BAGS
EVERY WEDNESDAY
CARLSBERG + TETLEY
£1 PINT / ALL NIGHT / ALL BARS

imperial college union

Carlsberg + TETLEY'S BITTER

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION ENCOURAGES YOU TO DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

vue
cinemas
www.myvue.com/students

Listings: page 13

Jamie Foxx could win an Oscar

A man who thought harder and went further than anyone thought possible impresses on a global scale

Ray

Director: Taylor Hackford
Starring: Jamie Foxx,
Kerry Washington, Regina King,
Sharon Warren
Length: 152 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★★

Patching together key events in the life of legendary musician Ray Charles and peppered with standout songs, this is a tear-jerking, toe-tapping biopic that serves as testament to the man's passion and resilience.

Seven-year-old Ray (Foxx) loses his sight two years after watching his little brother drown, but his mother Aretha refuses to coddle him. Through a somewhat 'tough love' approach to parenting, she forces her son to learn to stand on his own two feet and becomes the embodiment of strength throughout his life.

The film carries on to tell us about Ray's rise to fame and how other things in his life almost destroyed what he loved the most – his music. As an adult he is exploited by nearly everybody he meets, but nearly everybody recognizes that he has real talent. In spite of his blindness, he seems to be able to function almost as if he can see. He cleverly gets around many problems of the blind by using his hearing and his memory. He insists that he be paid only in one dollar bills to avoid the danger of being short-changed. But he gets along and eventually has contracts; first with Atlantic Records and then with ABC-Paramount.

Evidently his major handicap is not his blindness, but a taste for women and heroin.

Demons sprout from guilt about his brother's death, or at least that's the way Hackford draws it. Unsubtle scenes include Ray knocking desperately on a bathroom door where others are getting high, and suddenly he's wading ankle-deep in water. Later, when going cold turkey, the memory becomes a horrific hallucination with water turning to blood. It may be slightly clumsy but it's done so well. Stylistically this film is amazing – there's something very old school about it, and some of the scenes are beautifully shot. But the major selling point here is Jamie Foxx.

"You constantly forget you are watching Foxx; it is like they actually managed to turn back the clock"

Ray Charles has some pretty distinct mannerisms. Foxx takes Charles' manner, his personality, his flaws, his shrewdness, he takes it all. You constantly forget you are watching him; it is like they actually managed to turn back the clock to Charles' youth. Foxx really is magnetic. The insanely rich and detailed production design doesn't hurt, either.

This film pulls no punches of vanity or reverence for the blues-gospel



The extraordinary life story of Ray Charles

king. It is gratifying to know that Mr Charles himself screened the film and enjoyed it greatly. He's a man whose god was music and who filtered God's music through his morally ambiguous life and made it something special, to which generations have connected. Music is what Ray Charles is all about, and the music that he made, the impact that he made, despite all the obstacles (self-imposed or not), stand the test of time. Any pain he might have

felt or caused was what made that music, and we have to take the good with the bad to get anything so special.

It's a fantastic performance, and the music selections they choose to follow his rises and falls is a great spread of his work. I don't mean to detract from any of the other performances in the film – the women who play his mother (Sharon Warren) and his wife (Kerry Washington) and his major mistress

(Regina King) are all singularly talented and deserve recognition.

It's hard to go wrong with a film that shows Southern discrimination, sex and drugs, and glues it together with the soulful music of Ray Charles. The film is at its best showing the roots of the character. But the music is fine and is what will please audiences. This is an amazing and touching film – one in which you can actually say the actor truly made it great. **Haj Alttahir**

A hot piece of action?

Ladder 49

Director: Jay Russell
Starring: Joaquin Phoenix,
John Travolta, Robert Patrick,
Jacinda Barrett
Length: 98 minutes
Certificate: 12A
★★★★☆

Ladder 49 is the film industry's latest attempt to encapsulate the bravery and heroism of American firefighters post 9/11. The story follows the career of Baltimore firefighter Jack Morrison (Phoenix) seen through reflections of his life as he lies trapped in a blazing twenty-storey building.

The film deserves credit for many good points – Disney have certainly made an excellent job of keeping it focused on the human side of what being in a firefighting team entails rather than allowing themselves to get carried away with clichéd, over-the-top displays of heroics against burning backdrops. Both Phoenix and Travolta deliver powerful and

moving performances and the casting of Phoenix – not your stereotypically rugged 'hero' – adds depth and realism to the role. Travolta gives a flawless performance as the firefighting team's captain, and the acting of the supporting cast cannot be faulted either.

The movie progresses nicely as we see Phoenix start off as a fresh-faced young rookie. Both the plot and the characters are given plenty of time to develop, as you gradually

"You would not be missing anything if you were to wait for the DVD release"

acquaint yourself with the members of *Ladder 49*.

Another plus is the interesting mix of emotions and genres experienced whilst watching the movie. Some scenes detailing the sense of camaraderie amongst the *Ladder*

49 team will have you laughing out loud in your seat, whilst other scenes will have the more sensitive members of the audience reaching for tissues.

There was something about this film, however, that failed to leave the mark of a true classic. Perhaps it was the fact that, although some scenes were charged with raw emotion, they sometimes bordered on becoming clichéd. More than that, however, is the undeniable fact that firefighting heroics are best suited to the small screen and are really not the material of Hollywood blockbusters. The scenario of a fire can only lead to one logical conclusion from a firefighter's point of view – saving the people inside the building and getting themselves out: a simple premise that doesn't leave the audience guessing. The team either make it or they don't.

Given the difficulty of finding an interesting plot set amongst accidental fires, Disney has done a surprisingly good job of coming up with a storyline that is suitably plausible



Shit. That was a good curry

and engaging. Not surprisingly, this film grossed some \$73m in the US where it whetted the public's appetite for fire fighting heroics.

Overall, it is difficult to find too much to fault in this movie. Some

scenes are memorable and some soundbites will stay with you after it has ended, but it also needs to be said that you would not be missing anything if you were to wait for the DVD release. **Marya Ziauddin**

FILM

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

Elektra-fyingly good?

From the creators of *X-Men* and *Spiderman* comes the newest comic book adaptation. How does it fare?

Elektra

Director: Rob Bowman
Starring: Jennifer Garner, Goran Visnjic, Kristen Prout, Terence Stamp
Length: 97 minutes
Certificate: 12A
★★★★☆

Since the success of *Spiderman* in 2002, comic book characters have been waiting in line for the chance to leave their pages to seek out finer things on the big screen, but finally it's a chick's turn to kick ass! Elektra is back, and this time she's going solo.

We last saw Elektra at the end of *Daredevil* (2003) where she dies in the arms of blind lawyer Matt Murdock. Having lived a tragic life, Elektra (Jennifer Garner) is resurrected by a martial arts master who leads the side of good against the evil forces of 'The Hand'.

Haunted by her past and enraged by the brutal murder of her mother, not even her sensei's strict training and discipline can quench Elektra's raging thirst for vengeance. Given the ability to see shadows of the future, she is more powerful than ever. She becomes an assassin for she has no reason to live, only to kill.

Her latest targets are in the form of a 13 year old girl, Abby (Kirsten Prout) and her father Mark (Goran Visnjic). However, what she sees in Abby reminds her of herself and the two form a bond. Having not done the job she was sent to do, Elektra dedicates herself to protecting her

new friends from other trained killers, some of which possess evil supernatural powers.

Garner does a brilliant job as the beautiful yet deadly killer. She looks the part and is a dedicated actress who carries the film. Let's face it, there have been countless films where children have grown up to avenge the death of a loved one, but for some reason (possibly the outfit) *Elektra* stands out for me.

Strangely, I grew quite fond of 'The Hand' and their deadly array of assassins, one of whom spread disease and death through touch whilst one of the others bore tattoos which came to life. Novel ideas indeed. They worked well in the film. Unfortunately, they were not utilised enough in terms of screen time, much to my disappointment.

"It's a rare treat for the ladies to see a female kick ass, and the lads will love it"

Elektra is pleasing to the eye in more ways than just one – not just Garner, but the film as a whole. The lush forest green settings in the majority of the film are a refreshing change from the cold rooftops of New York City.

The action scenes are relatively short and fewer in number than expected. However, those that are included are satisfying to watch and well choreographed.



One lass you don't wanna mess with

Although *Elektra* possesses these positive things, I feel the movie lacked flow since her shadowed past kept disrupting the rest of the film in the form of annoying flashbacks. Necessary as they are, I see no justification to include that many. Another contributing factor to letting the film down was the brief yet confusing love story between Elektra and Mark. I never really caught on to the point or relevance.

I left the cinema in a sense of bewilderment, as I am sure you will too if you watch this.

However, don't think for a second I'm discouraging you from going to see it. On the contrary, go, and check it out for yourself.

It's a rare treat for the ladies to see a female kick ass, and the lads will love it since Garner looks amazing. Just don't expect non-stop action. I recommend you don't all go running

to the cinema in excitement. Just walk.
Stephen P Smith

Last week's winners of the *Elektra* competition were: Timothy Barber and Matt Ayer won the goodie bags; Andrew Voak and Jessica Wright won the t-shirts.
Alan Ng
Film Editor

A very long French film

A Very Long Engagement

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Starring: Audrey Tautou, Gaspard Ulliel, Jean-Pierre Becker
Length: 134 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★☆

Manech (Gaspard Ulliel) is not dead. Manech is not dead, for if he was, Mathilde (Audrey Tautou) would know.

Based on the novel by Sebastien Japrisot, director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *A Very Long Engagement* brings out a realistic portrait of warfare set at the close of World War I. The movie starts off with five French soldiers who are sentenced to death due to self-mutilation and are condemned to march out into no man's land.

It's 1920 and the war has ended. For three years, Mathilde's beloved fiancé Manech has been missing. She refuses to accept the fact that Manech died in early 1917 and still clings on to a thread of hope, with the instinct that he is still alive. So she begins an investigation, through letters, tracking down official documents and putting ads in newspapers. This starts her on a journey, trying to find an answer to the mystery of her lost love by digging up pieces of information that may lead to nothing more than a heartbreak.

The viewers are put through the viciousness of the war, heroism of ordinary men, enduring passion, intuition and persistence of the human heart. The first hour of the movie leaves you with a little confusion because of the many names of those involved. Gradually though, a picture begins to emerge.

Audrey Tautou continues to amaze the viewers throughout the movie with her sincerity and natural screen presence. Her sadness is sometimes heartbreaking. However, this movie is not only romantic but violent. You find yourself being drawn into the war scenes with each bomb blast, due to the vibrations of the sound.

There are some very graphic scenes which include the image of a man covered with guts of a comrade and spitting some of them out of his mouth. Jeunet also adds, with perfect comic timing, the minor arguments between the postman and Mathilde's uncle Sylvain.

Production designer Aline Bonetto, cinematographer Bruno Delbonnel and costume designer Madeline Fontaine effortlessly make everything feel fully formed and completely realized, especially the two major landscapes, the trench (wasteland full of blood and mud) and the peaceful country farm (full of warmth and comfort of home). The colours of the images in the movie are manipu-



Mathilde's relentless search for her fiancé

lated and are sometimes given an earthy look. What Jeunet really succeeds in is his amazing visionary of the bittersweet but picture perfect realistic finale that couldn't have ended any better, with the voice-over narration relating the onscreen action flawlessly.

As beautiful, grand and entertaining as *A Very Long Engagement* was, it was unnecessarily long. The movie could have been cut down with some tales, which hardly had anything to do with the mystery, left unsaid.

Vidula Vinayagamorthy

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 28 January at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- Meet The Fockers
- Assault on Precinct 13

Visit www.myvue.com/student for more details.

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win posters for these new releases. Just answer this question:

- Who wrote and directed the original *Assault on Precinct 13*?
- a) John Carpenter
 - b) Kevin Williamson
 - c) Wes Craven

Email your answers and which merchandise you would like to win to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. Usual *Felix* competition rules apply.

Now booking at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- Oceans Twelve
- Released on Friday 4 February

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

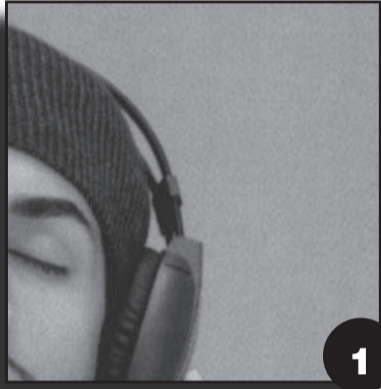
Hey there Coffee fans! Apologies for the cheesiness of the intro, but this is by far the hardest part of the page to write. Anyway, two things for you to do this week again, and they're not especially time-consuming for us, or for you. We hope you like them. Answers to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**

Close-ups

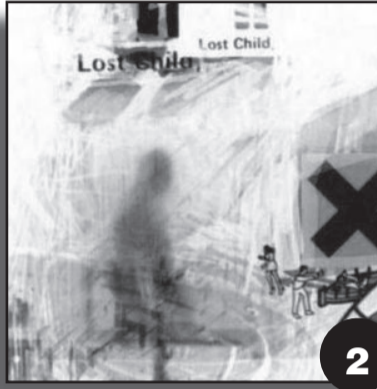
Hopefully this picture quiz is pretty much Google-proof.

We've taken some close-ups of iconic album covers, and all you have to do is tell us the artist and the title. There's a point for each. To give you a clue, there's one each from the 60s, 70s, 80s and the 00s, and four from the 90s.

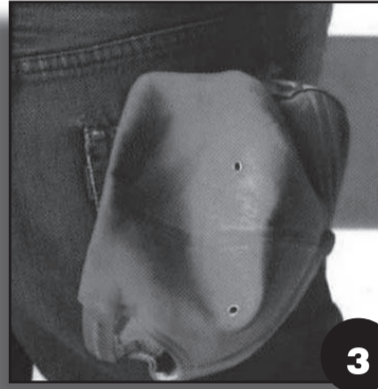
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8



1



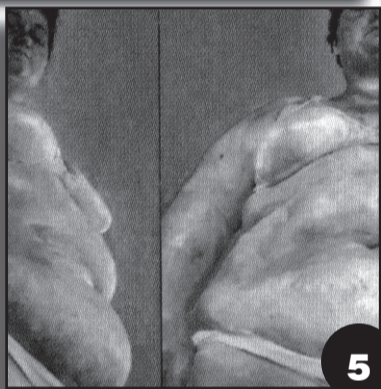
2



3



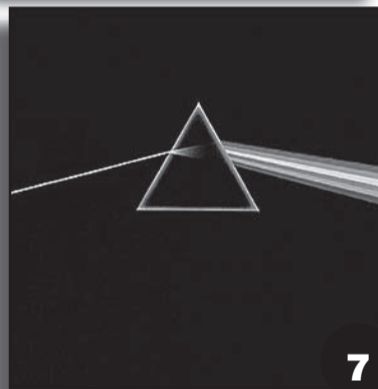
4



5



6



7



8

Small stories

Everybody entering Coffee Break seems to know their films. Or at the least, they know how to work *imdb.com* properly. We're going to test you on your knowledge of films by giving you a very brief description of the plot from some famous movies. There's a point for each film title you get right.

1. Gang of kids (Plus a weird monster) go looking for treasure.
2. Timid girl goes to a holiday camp, learns to dance.
3. Loveable old man fills an island with dinosaurs.
4. Irresponsible fat man takes care of his sister's kids. Hilarity ensues.
5. Grouchy weather man gets trapped living the same day, over and over.
6. A witch, some kids and a magic bed go on adventures, play football with a lion, and save the world from Nazis.
7. A soldier goes on a journey through Cambodia to kill a freaky nutter.
8. Guy gets locked up for a crime he didn't commit, makes some friends in prison, then escapes.
9. Two cops, one young, one a grizzled veteran, attempt to solve seven murders.
10. Some guys try to rob a bank in order to pay for a sex-change operation. It doesn't go well.
11. A film star and a tasty blonde end up as good pals through their mutual loathing of the city they're stuck in.
12. Some guys try to escape from

a Prisoner of War camp. Some of them do.

13. A couple go through a process to remove each other from their memories.

14. A daddy fish tries to find his son fish.

15. Disaffected males search for the meaning of life by fighting each other.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15

Answers and stuff

For those of you who entered, and those of you who are interested, here are the answers from issue 1311

Double Vision

This was the quiz where we mixed up some famous faces. You couldn't really Google this one, which is probably why nobody got all the answers right!

1. **George W Bush** (leader of the free world, he owns your ass) and **Oliver Stone** (American film director, probably hates George)
2. **Rachel Weisz** (The bird from *The Mummy*, not Cher!) and **Kelly Brook** (Super boobs)
3. **Marlon Brando** (legendary actor) and **Robert de Niro** (legendary actor)
4. **Sir Richard Sykes** (the Rector) and **Thom Yorke** (miserable singer)
5. **Jackie Chan** (kung-fu king) and **Sir Paul McCartney** (from The Beatles)
6. **James Dean** (iconic actor) and **Johnny Cash** (American music legend)
7. **Cameron Diaz** (Princess Fiona in *Shrek*) and **Angelina Jolie** (Lara Croft in *Tomb Raider*)
8. **Tom Selleck** (moustache king) and **George Clooney** (used to be in *ER* or something)

Movie Quote Quiz

Unsurprisingly, most of you got all the answers right. Personally, I think you cheated... Special mention must go to *The Schist Ones*, who definitely didn't. Never mind guys!

1. Oliver Twist
2. American Beauty
3. Dirty Dancing
4. 2001
5. Top Gun
6. ET
7. South Park
8. Dr Strangelove
9. Tom Hanks
10. Ewan McGregor (in *Trainspotting*)
11. Simon Pegg (in *Shaun of the Dead*)
12. Micheal Caine (in *The Italian Job*)
13. Bruce Lee (in *Enter the Dragon*)
14. Uma Thurman (in *Pulp Fiction*)
15. Mark Wahlberg (in *Boogie Nights*)
16. Eugene Levy (in *American Pie*)

Thanks to everybody who entered, and there's still time to enter last week's quiz too. Just email us at **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**. We don't just want answers though, oh no. Suggestions and comments are always welcome too. And so are pictures of your pets...



Thanks go to Adrian Knight, a building services engineer working around the college, for that quality slice of randomness. His cat is called Felix, you see. Cheers dude.

We'll see you all next week.

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

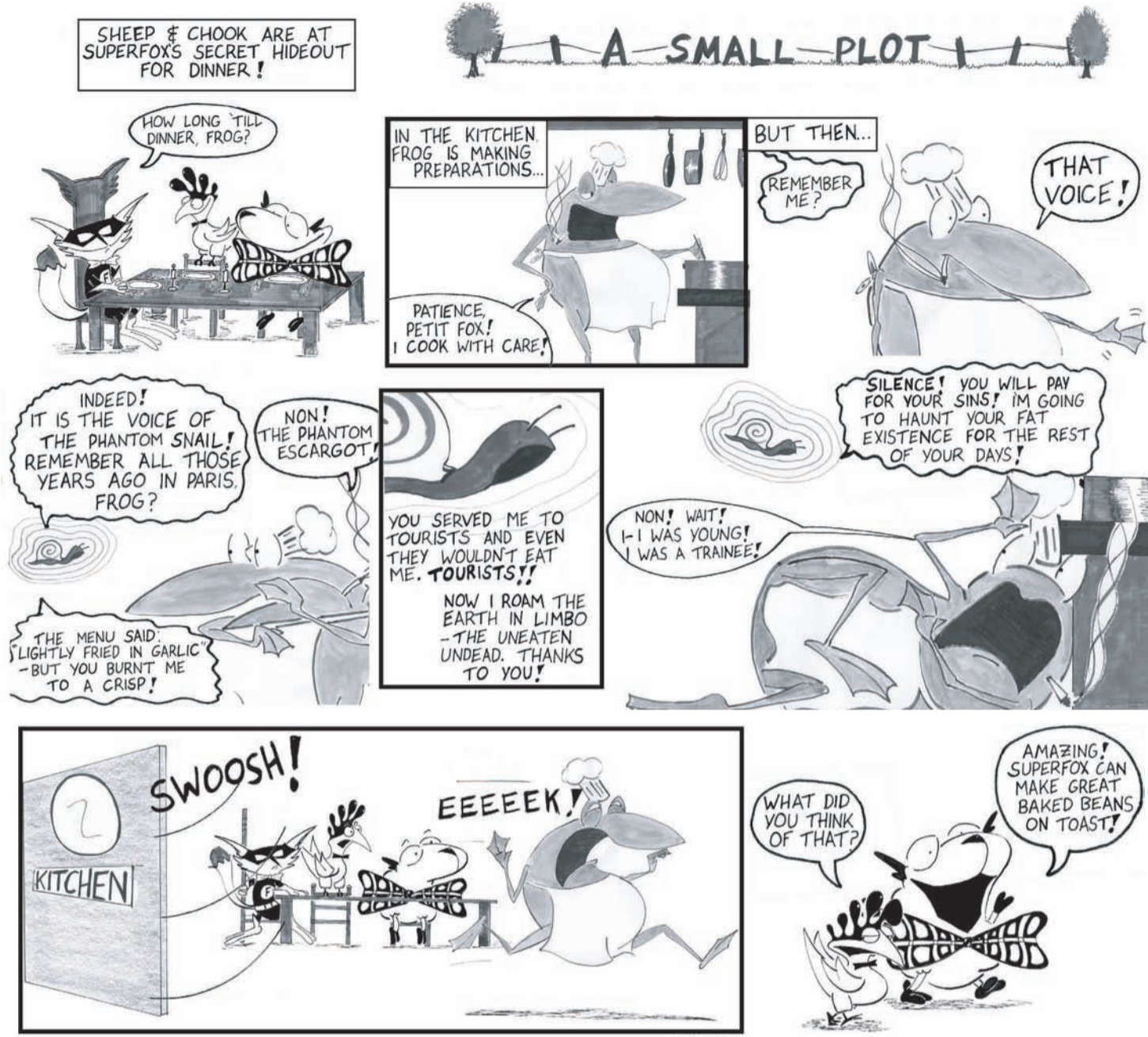
Smith & Wesson	170 points
Management Slackers	127 points
Araldite Sniffers	112 points
Team Willy J	93 points
Schoolboy Error	80 points
The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	69 points
Team Robin	52 points
Team Bulwer	42 points
The Schist Ones	38 points
Oliver Carson	29 points
KPN ²	11 points
Natasha Kundi	10 points

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

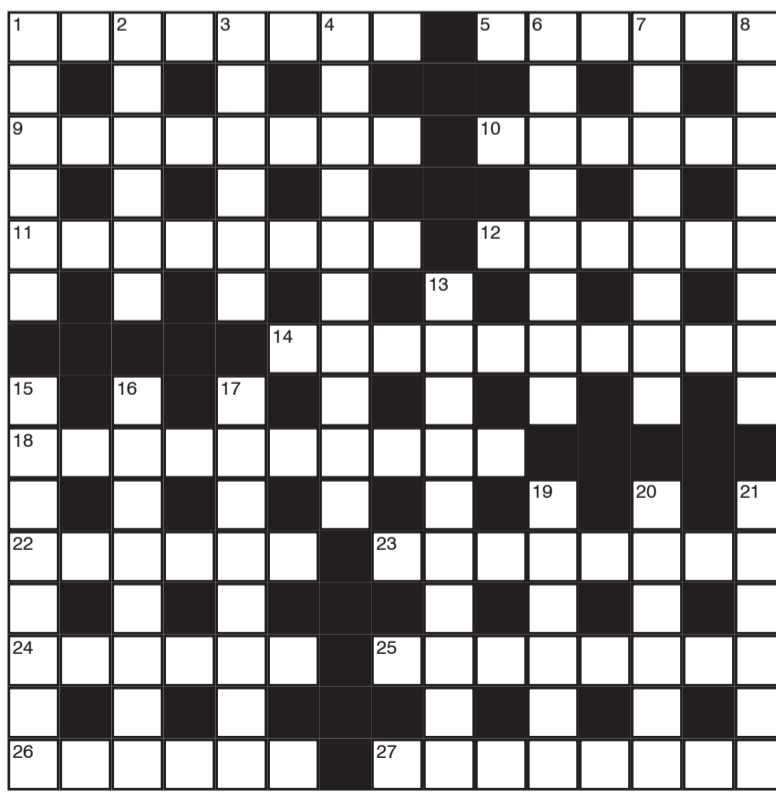
There are prizes for the top teams at the end of the year!

COFFEE BREAK

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk



Felix Crossword 1313 by Jabberwock 



- Across**
- * The way a traitor can love (8)
 - * Charge with possession of heavy Burmese knife (6)
 - A nation lacking direction afflicted by unknown (again!) malady (8)
 - Caveat! No point to argue about point that's inane (6)
 - Logical quantities, for one, work partially in natural deduction system at first (8)
 - One wearing masquerade dress is friar I cannot love (6)
 - * Audibly slow down and duck (10)
 - * Olga rewrote letter hastily (10)
 - * Unusual tabu? Or... (6)
 - ...a kind of limit: BA, for instance, is based at Heathrow (8)
 - Convent heads observe two bishops in covered colonnade when returning (6)
 - A student departs from conspiratorial group's base where 4 may be found (3-5)
 - Critically edits and corrects over the internet? (6)
 - Lazily lose one toy while playing (8)
- Down**
- Cut grass without... without feeling deserted out in field (6)
 - Remotely controlled aircraft, starting to descend, emitted humming sound (6)
 - To reboot Windows may be an unhappy ordeal (6)
 - He can provide a lift for duty I last paid on the Thames, e.g. (4-6)
 - Freemason did produce precious gemstones (8)
 - Danger! It could be an incline (8)
 - Greek church found unopened, north of the boatyard, we're told (8)
 - Roman poet's book of epigrams, perhaps, was a mode of self-defence (7,3)
 - It is to love what a coach is to the horse (8)
 - Sociable but suitable for a beating? (8)
 - Nervous about silver I'd deposited outside of gallery (8)
 - * In favour of accepting electric shock treatment (6)
 - * Long live the Church! (6)
 - Daughter's delay may be fatal (6)

Greetings, cruciverbovoracists!

I picked this week's grid remembering a certain *Financial Times* crossword that I'd found quite difficult in my early 'crossword years'. The grid is quite restrictive in that the only possible word lengths are six, eight and ten letters. I suppose the difficulty really arises from the fact that most first letters are left unchecked.

Also note that the asterisked clues contain no definition but are all of a type. Good luck! **Jabberwock**

Issue 1312 solution

1	E	2	D	3	U	4	C	5	A	6	T	7	I	8	9	A																																																																							
10	D	11	E	12	A	13	L	14	B	15	U	16	N	17	M	18	A	19	A	20	Z	21	E	22	L																																																														
23	I	24	R	25	Q	26	U	27	E	28	N	29	T	30	I	31	N	32	33	34	35	Z	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Last week's winner is Rachel Farlie. Well done!

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

I am a trained research chemist. I know what experiments are. And I never confused my country with a bacterial culture.



Take a break from your course and stand in the Union's Sabbatical Elections.

Vacancies for *Felix* Editor, President, Deputy President (*Finance & Services*), Deputy President (*Clubs & Societies*) and Deputy President (*Education & Welfare*)

See <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections> for more information. Nominations close Feb 1, 12 noon.

Varsity Day tickets on sale

PHOTO: IAN GILLET

By Morten Olesen

Tickets have finally gone on sale across the South Kensington and Charing Cross campuses for the upcoming Varsity Day. Students as well as staff are strongly encouraged to get their tickets as soon as possible, as interest will reach record heights this year.

The event will take place on Wednesday 16 February at the Imperial College sports ground at Harlington with the main evening rugby game being played at the Richmond Athletic Association Ground.

Named the JPR Williams Cup after former Wales full back and St Mary's old boy John Peter Rhys Williams, the main evening rugby game, or Varsity Match, has become a great success since it started two years ago. The last two years have seen closely contested matches, with the Imperial Medicals beating the IC side. The match between the two sides this year may well become the tightest match in the short history of the Cup.

As reported in *Felix* last term, the event has been expanded this year to include three men's rugby matches, two men's football matches, two men's hockey matches, a women's seven-a-side rugby match and a women's hockey

match, making it an all-day event. All matches apart from the first XV rugby will take place at Imperial's sports ground at Harlington, near Heathrow, from lunchtime onwards.

The timetable for kick-off/push-back is as follows:
Rugby 2nds and 3rds: 2.15pm
Football 1sts and 2nds: 2pm
Hockey Game 1: 1pm
Hockey Game 2: 2.30pm
Hockey Game 3: 4pm
Rugby Women's 7s: 3pm

The results of the Varsity Day competitions will be announced at a presentation at Harlington by the Imperial College Union President and the Imperial Medicals Union President before the crowd are taken to Richmond for the JPR Williams Varsity Cup Match.

Three types of ticket are available:

A £10 advance ticket gives access to ALL games at Harlington as well as the game in Richmond. Included is coach transport from Beit Quad to Harlington, from there to Richmond, and then back from Richmond to South Kensington to finish the night off at the Union in South Kensington.

A £6 advance ticket for the JPR Williams Cup Match in Richmond. This ticket includes ONLY gate entry. Holders of this ticket will



Action at a lineout during last year's JPR Williams Cup Varsity Match

have to make their own way to Richmond Athletic Ground. A £7.50 ticket available on the night, at the gate of the

Richmond Athletic Ground, giving access to the JPR Williams Cup Match. Note this ticket includes no trans-

port either.

(Note that the only ticket giving access to the games at Harlington and covering

travel is the £10 ticket.)

For more information about the Varsity Day, email morten.olesen@ic.ac.uk.

Another victory for outstanding Wye

RUGBY

Wye Women's 1st 39
Kings Women's 1st 20

By Annie Latham and Hetty Stearn

Again Wye displayed sheer strength, speed and agility, proving that size definitely isn't everything!

Despite an early start, the captain eventually woke up and realised that, while most of the team was en route to Kingston, winger Kipling had

been left in the car park in Wye. Well done for noticing Scummy! The team arrived a massive two hours early for the 11.30 kick-off.

Things seemed to go from bad to worse when we realised our worst fears had come true; it was the return of the Tank! Luckily small things like unconsciousness, and not so small things, like Tank, were not going to stand in the way of Wye making a crashing start to the game.

Wye hit Kings with a mul-

titude of tries in the first 15 minutes, with notable running (like a pony) from fly half Gobby and outside centre Bendy leaving the opposition trailing in their wake.

We gave them a chance after half time when a few tries slipped through the defence, but then Wye powered forward again after we took to heart some apt advice from the opposition's scrum half: "Forward, run forward!"

In the latter part of the second half, Wye again showed

superlative skill with some good backs moves orchestrated by Gobby and more great running from the wingers.

Special mentions go to freshers Kayleigh and Becky for awesome effort in their debut game. These two will be forces to be reckoned with in the future.

Flanker Pikey was moved to outside centre following some injuries in the backs. She did an excellent job, though it took a few minutes before she realised that the back line

doesn't play in the scrum!

The scrum deserves a huge mention for massive effort and spectacular power in the face of what was not an inconsiderable weight difference. Good work for achieving what appeared to be impossible and turning over several scrums!

The forwards, especially jumper Spaz, also deserve praise for their ever-impressive lineouts. Proper job!

Players of the match went to Bendy for her massive hits and great ball handling, and

to Death for her "deadly and sinister tackling".

The last special mention goes to fresher Alice, who did a truly terrible job as photographer and forgot she had the camera. (This can only be blamed on the enthralling quality of the game!) She is officially fired from this capacity and next match will be on the pitch. No excuses about injury will be accepted.

Next week we take on GKT in the cup, and Wye will be out to marmalize!

Rugby Fourths make their debut

RUGBY

LSE Men's 3rd 48
Imperial Men's 4th 25

By David Kaye

Imperial's newest sports team ran out to face their first university opposition last Wednesday on the back of two heavy losses against 'adult' teams.

Confidence was fairly high as Imperial Thirds had won against the same team by a comfortable 40 points earlier in the season. The team was

weakened by two key forwards being pulled up to the Thirds and one more pulling out to injury.

Despite being strengthened by four brand new players turning up on the day, the Filthy Fourths still only had 13 players and were forced to play uncontested scrums as they had only one front row player.

LSE were immediately on the back foot as new boy and later man of the match, Jonathan Woodrow, carved his way through the defence for his first of two tries.

The opposition immediately responded with a period of pressure, scoring three quick tries using their pacey backs.

Imperial countered with another try, this time from Terry Scarrott, turning on the engine to motor past their helpless defence. A classic piece of wing play from a lad who, prior to the game, had never even held a rugby ball!

Despite the efforts of the Imperial side and another weaving run and try from Jon Woodrow, LSE, a well-organised team who have played together much longer, scored

a further two and converted one.

After the interval, Imperial endeavoured to re-address the balance with several periods of sustained pressure. Imperial had a play on the LSE five metre line turned over and kicked away, denying a much needed opportunity. LSE used this rapid gain in possession by winning the lineout and, after some hard forward work, forcing another try.

Set pieces were quite poor for the whole game, with Imperial only winning one

line-out; however, one smart set play led to Imperial's fourth try.

At an Imperial scrum on the LSE 22 metre line, a sudden change of tactics led Chav Dave to swiftly pick up the ball at number eight and pop round the blind side to make use of the vast space that the unaware LSE had left. The ball was then given to number nine, Neil Harris, who made a powerful run to finish on his debut.

The final Imperial try was scored by the other debutant-David Hunter, who fought

through two tacklers with sheer determination to touch-down and complete the clean sweep of tries for the fourth team new boys.

Despite the loss, the game strengthened the team unit and the tries made by the four new players provided inspiration for Imperial students interested in taking up the sport. Anybody interested should contact the club or meet at the Union on Monday at 6pm for training. Who knows, maybe you could contribute to the fourth team's first win?

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

King's overthrown

LACROSSE

Imperial Women's 1st 17
King's Women's 1st 4

By Michelle Maloney

First, a little background to the situation: we were meant to play King's last term at the lacrosse team's debut at Harlington, but King's turned up an hour and a quarter late. They did not like the decision that we would take the walkover and spurned our offer of a friendly match. Complaints to BUSA and cock-ups with fax machines resulted in us having to rematch at the neutral ground of UCL. In order to patch up the King's-IC relation, a men's friendly was organised for the same time.

Things did not get off to the best of starts when we turned up at Shenley and none of the groundsmen knew that we were coming. Luckily they had one pitch already set up and so the girls could play their BUSA match. Unfortunately, the boys had to make do with a football pitch.

The King's mixed team had thrashed us last term and we had no idea of the standard of their ladies' team, so no excuses were accepted for absence. The umpire seemed slightly confused by our decision to play boundaries but no restraining lines, but it suited all the oldies in our team just fine. Imperial won the toss (or hide the whistle as it seems to have become...) and we opted to shoot uphill for the first half. I have to say that personally I have never, ever been more nervous at the start of a Lacrosse match – we are in with a

strong chance of winning the league and everybody wanted revenge for King's previous whinging and general skulduggery.

Jeanette won the first draw and the ball was swiftly taken down to King's end (for some bizarre reason their goalie wasn't yet on the pitch) but some good defending from them sent it back up the other way. Imperial were solid with Annie at Point and Sabrina at Cover, yet swift with Hannah C and Mary defending on the wing (like a battering ram on greased weasel shit).

It was initially a bit sticky around midfield, but Caroline went on one of her trademark mad dashes and shot a peach of a goal. That seemed to spur the rest of Imperial's goalscoring machine into action and two more goals quickly followed. After some substitutions (eating my own weight in mince pies over Christmas may not have been the best idea) the goals kept coming.

The boys, by this point, had gone off to have a men's training session and mini match. It was quite amusing watching the fear in their eyes as the King's men 'kitted up' in helmets and pads... but back to the ladies' game.

A momentary lack in concentration from the defence allowed King's to sneak one in, which was a bit of a shame; their side of the umpire's card was so lovely and clear.

Half time came and it was 8-1 to Imperial. Doing our best not to get too excited and with only minimal squealing, we regrouped to discuss tactics. Wise words were spoken ("if we can get



Young, cold and in with a chance of winning the league: Imperial's women's lacrosse team

eight goals in one half so can they", "play as if it is 0-0", "we've really pissed them off now") but couldn't dispel the glee that we were all feeling. Consequently, when we got back on the pitch we were not together and Kings quickly scored. This was not part of the plan. Nor was them scoring another goal, quite controversially – even some King's players thought it didn't go in, a couple of

minutes later.

It brought us back to earth with a bump and our play picked up again. Caroline, Mary, Jeanette our goalscorers were numerous... and Ms Hannah Readman was on fire with a couple of really sneaky underarm shots. Being in defence for Imperial was slightly boring in the second part of this half – all of the play was at the other end. Watching one of the King's

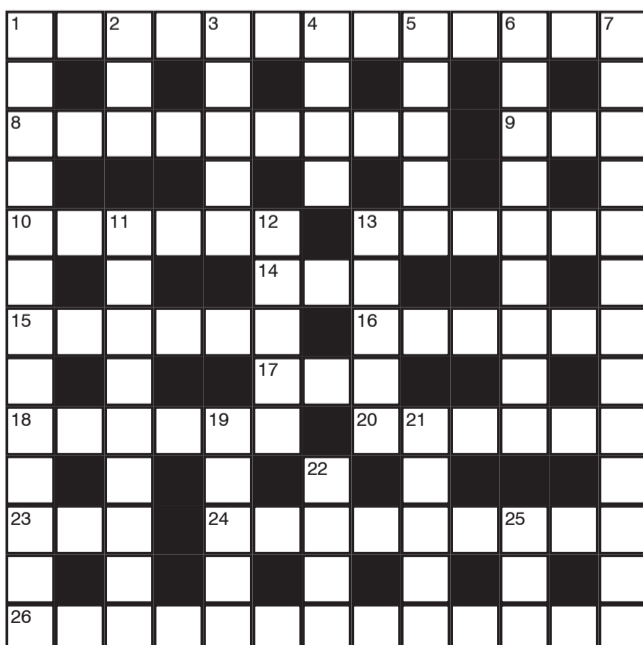
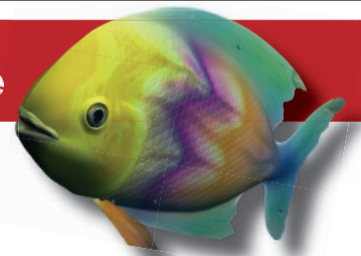
players making a run and shooting at her own goal was quite amusing though.

King's last goal of the match was again controversial: one of their players steamed down the pitch 'through' Hannah C to score. The umpire allowed the goal to stand even though the scorer had smacked Hannah in the face as she shot, causing Hannah to bite through her lip. Thank goodness for gumshields.

The match ended 17-4 to us – they should have settled for a walkover after all. We were just finishing the usual jolly hockey sticks hurrahing and hand shaking when Tim came over and told us that one of the King's boys had broken his collar bone, so would Annie mind (as most senior medic) coming and taking a look at him. Whoops. Still, I think that generally a fine day was had by all.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

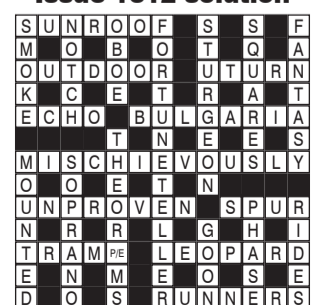
- Beginning of famous quote from *Hamlet* (2,2,2,3,2,2)
- Period added at the end, in the event of a tie (5,4)
- Allow (3)
- Difficult experience (6)
- See 7 down
- Alien spacecraft (1,1,1)
- Young cat (6)
- Male escort (6)
- Baba and the Forty Thieves* (3)
- Distant but within sight (6)
- Undergarment (6)
- Item for sale at auction (3)
- Reminiscence (9)
- A _____ is worth two in the bush (proverb) (4,2,3,4)

Down

- Regulator of horse racing in Great Britain (3,6,4)
- Cricketer's implement (3)
- City in Japan (5)
- Claw or talon (4)
- Subject (5)
- Lacking awareness (9)
- 7 and 13 across. Book about punctuation; best-selling non-fiction of 2004 (4,6,3,6)
- Explosive device (9)
- Involving the moon (5)
- System of reasoning (5)
- Boredom (5)
- Shaped like an egg (5)
- Abbreviation for 'assistant' (4)
- State of southwestern India (3)

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

Issue 1312 solution



Thanks and apologies to Alex Khalifa, who pointed out the mistake in last week's Quick Crossword. The answers were meant to be 'Theorems' and 'Tramp', but they didn't intersect properly. Sorry!