



Hubble's last hurrah

The legendary telescope is set to be abandoned, page 5



More from the jugglers

Learn your next party trick in five easy steps, page 20



American idiots?

Felix takes in a live performance from Green Day, page 26



Catch it if you can

Spectacular stuff from the Disc Doctors, page 34



Felix



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Against poverty

Nelson Mandela's speech in Trafalgar Square highlighted the issue of global poverty. The Make Poverty History campaign believes that 2005 offers an exceptional opportunity for the UK to take the lead in turning things around.

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Defected disaster

Our reviewer's experience of one of the biggest house nights in London didn't quite live up to his expectations.

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Ready to read?

Why reading an epic 20th century novel is a much better idea than battling with your latest piece of coursework.

► **BOOKS** page 30

Sport

The Royal School of Mines rugby team enjoyed ideal preparation for the famous Bottle Match with victory over Goodenough College.

Plus football, hockey, netball, ultimate frisbee and all the week's results.

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The RSM rugby team

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Marathon hustings fail to separate candidates

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and hear speeches from this year's sabbatical election candidates at South Kensington, Silwood Park and Wye earlier this week. However, despite the South Kensington hustings lasting four hours, there was little to separate the candidates, and a good proportion of their comments had already been covered in their manifestos.

The five students elected will take on high-level full time roles within the Union for the 2005-6 academic year. The attendance in Da Vinci's bar on Monday was, as several speakers pointed out, disappointingly low. Despite an advance publicity campaign centred around former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the vast majority of those in attendance were either former sabbaticals or close friends of the candidates.

The five Presidential candidates spent over an hour in the spotlight at the end of the evening. James Devine, who was cheered loudly by his supporters, discussed his pledges of a smoke-free bar and more

money for clubs and societies. Sameena Misbahuddin told the audience that she had already delivered results as a Deputy President this year. Morten Olesen called the low turnout "a joke" and said he was standing "to fight apathy". Simon Rawson said he would deliver "good value catering and other services in the Union that people want to use". Colin Smith pledged to introduce a 'one student, one vote' method of governance, saying: "This

"The attendance was disappointingly low..."

should be about politics and policies, not about CVs". Sanjeev Sarada, representing Re-Open Nominations (RON), said that a President needed "clarity of vision, strong morals and great leadership skills", and that students should vote RON for a better Union.

Mr Devine, Mr Olesen, Mr Rawson and Mr Smith all announced that they were against 'two-year sabbaticals', claiming that someone taking a second year would

be less accountable and out of touch with the students. Ms Misbahuddin, standing for a second year in office, rejected this, arguing that someone without her experience would take too long to learn the role.

The candidates for *Felix* Editor were asked what they would put on the front page if there was a complete lack of news in a particular week. Martin Smith, the current *Broadsheet* editor, proposed an article asking why students were not going out and making the headlines. Darius Nikbin, this year's *Felix* science editor, conjured up: "*Felix* Editor in binge drink orgy". Rupert Neate, who has very little editorial experience but has had articles published in local newspapers, suggested a front page story about the television soap *Neighbours*. Simon Clark, the current *Felix* nightlife editor, chose the classic headline: "Three Creme Eggs for 90p". Mr Sarada decided on a completely blank front page.

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One candidate tries to recover after being 'pied' by the RAG hit squad, bringing some welcome relief to the long and uninspiring sabbatical election hustings in Da Vinci's bar on Monday evening

Security guards threatened and abused as students leave Union event

By Dave Edwards

Death threats were made to College security guards by a group of aggressive young men, at least one of whom was carrying a weapon, late on Monday evening.

Around ten people, many of whom are thought to be Imperial College students, were creating a disturbance in the entrance to Beit Quad as they left an event organised by the Sikh Society. The security guards attempted to

move them on, but the group refused and began to shout, swear and threaten them.

One person was seen carrying a weapon, which was subsequently described as a "metal bolster" or "large chisel".

Four of the group, all young men, returned 15 minutes later in an Audi A3, shouting death threats at the security guards. Police were called to the scene and remained at the Quad entrance overnight in case the men returned.

The incident casts further doubt upon the College's ability to ensure the safety of students in the Quad, where there is normally only one guard on duty and the security lodge is frequently left unmanned.

Felix

Issue 1315

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NEWS

Confectionery sensation: three Creme Eggs for 90p

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Felix can reveal that the Imperial College Union shop and newsagent are, once again, selling three Cadbury's Creme Eggs for just 90p.

The shop and the newsagent, located on the Sherfield Walkway, expect to be inundated by crazed students desperate for the fondant-filled treats over the coming days. Defying inflation, shop managers have decided not to raise the price after the eggs proved so popular last year.

Will Dugdale, assistant manager of the Union shop and a former editor of this newspaper, said: "Following

last year's debaucherous egg-related behaviour from the students of Imperial College, I'd like to take this opportunity to deny rumours that we'll be hiring Renegade Security staff as a precautionary measure."

Phil Stewart, a former newsagent supervisor, told *Felix*: "I do admit I fear the real possibility of a Great Creme Egg Rush once word has got out."

Creme Eggs were first sold by Cadbury Brothers in 1923, but the eggs as we now know them were not produced until 1971.

Interestingly, the Cadbury Schweppes website claims that "the Cadbury Creme

Egg plant at Bournville can produce more than 1.5 million eggs per day". It is unclear whether the word 'plant' refers to a factory or some sort of magical photosynthetic organism.

Cadbury's Creme Egg is the UK's best selling confectionery item between 1 January and Easter. Over 200 million of the eggs are sold annually – that's three for every UK resident.

The "how do you eat yours?" advertising campaign is now synonymous with the eggs, which have been promoted with great effect in recent years by the likes of George Dawes and the characters from *Spitting Image*.



Lots and lots of Cadbury's Creme Eggs

Imperial students chosen for sport scholarship scheme

Five Imperial students have been selected for the government funded Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS).

The programme awards scholarships and bursaries to talented athletes who are committed to combining sport with their education.

It aims to reduce the drop-out rate of gifted athletes from sport, and supports and develops the talent of today for sporting success in the future.

Rhonda Sturley (judo), Tristan Lane (fencing), Robin Nicholson, Chris Archer and

Simon Hislop (all rowing) will all benefit from the scheme.

For further information on TASS and details on eligibility to apply, please contact Nick Gore, the College's Sports Development Officer, on n.gore@ic.ac.uk or 020 7594 1164.

Iraqi democracy

A triumph for Bush and Blair?

By Emily Gwyer

It is, astonishingly, three years since the invasion of Iraq was first mooted by George Bush in the wake of September 11. In that time there has been a fury of argument, which, at times, threatened to drown out every other discussion in British politics.

Tony Blair has, somehow, managed to cling on throughout the rage, even though a group of lawyers tried to take him to court, European leaders snubbed him and he was ridiculed as a lap dog. And now, well, it looks like things are going to get a lot better for Mr Blair. Love him or loathe him, he's a smooth political operator, and the Government may have just scored one its biggest triumphs: the democratic elections in Iraq.

It appears the largest Shia party has won the majority of the votes, with the current (interim) Prime Minister's party in second place.

And the pro-war lot are crowing. "A beacon is lit in Iraq. But not in your names, Robin (Cook), Douglas (Hurd) and the BBC," shouted *The Times*, taking the argument to this conclusion: if you were against the invasion of Iraq, against removing Saddam Hussein, then you are also against these elections and the freedom now enjoyed in Iraq. The paper takes the success of the elections (with a turnout beating that of Britain, by some accounts) as vindication for supporting the war: "It is only by securing a decisive shift towards democracy across the region that the Middle East's peoples can be relieved, and the threat to the rest of us brought to an end."

The Telegraph compared the violence currently erupt-

ing in Iraq, slightly dubiously but with great effect, to South Africa. "Compare yesterday's reports with those by the same commentators during South Africa's first democratic election. Then, too, there were many technical problems: voters who were not properly registered, voter intimidation, long queues. But these things were set in their proper context as the backdrop against which the moving drama of people casting their first ballots was being played out. No-one suggested that the clashes between IFP and ANC supporters in Zululand undermined the whole process. No-one argued that the backlash by a handful of black homeland chieftains and Boer irreconcilables made South Africa unfit for democracy."

It may be, as David Aaronovitch, the only pro-war writer on *The Guardian* staff, believes, that people have got themselves onto a hook where they are unable to celebrate the return of democracy to Iraq because they are still so furious with Bush and Blair.

Aaronovitch claims that "opposition to the actions of Bush and Blair has become... an utter failure to identify with those extraordinarily brave Iraqis who are fighting for democracy." He encourages British liberals to move on. "Now is all that matters. Not whether you were for or against the war, for or against Blair, for or against Bush. Are you for or against democracy in Iraq? The rest is air."

Since the elections, this has quieted down slightly. News of more car bombs has lessened the hysteria, and Bush's inauguration speech has overshadowed everything else. But beware, woolly liberal readers: you are now more unfashionable than ever.

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Business

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\$hell profits rocket

Kabir Merali investigates Shell's recent record-breaking announcement

On Thursday 3 February, Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, announced record profits of £9.3bn. This was not just a record for the company, but also a record for any British business, ever.

The most significant contributor to Shell's profits was the continued high oil price during the last year. The war in Iraq, problems in Venezuela and Nigeria, trouble at the Russian oil firm Yukos and high demand from China all contributed to the high price of oil. The OPEC group of oil producing nations also reached maximum oil output rates and so could not increase supply to reduce prices. These factors led to an all time record price of over \$55 a barrel.

When oil prices are high, Shell and other oil companies make more money even if they keep their profit margins the same. Indeed, this has been a great year for the energy sector, with Exxon Mobil making a record \$25.3bn profit and Chevron Texaco doubling its fourth quarter profits.

Shell's recent troubles

However, what is surprising about Shell's record profit is

that the company has been through a lot of difficulties recently. Just under a year ago, Cairn Energy announced that it had found major oil reserves in the Rajasthan area of India, and the news of the discovery rocketed Cairn into the FTSE top 100 companies. This was a major embarrassment for Shell, as they had sold the oil field to Cairn for only \$7m. It is now valued at \$500m.

While Cairn was making huge finds in its oil reserves, Shell began announcing to the stock market that it had overestimated the amount of oil it thought it had left under the ground of the fields it owned. It has now re-evaluated its oil reserves five times in just over a year, which has resulted in it losing a third of its projected total.

This scandal has resulted in Shell being fined £82.7m by the US and UK financial regulators. The scandal also resulted in the departure of three top executives and an end to the company's historic dual board system, where it had one board in the UK and one in the Netherlands.

Although it announced record profits, Shell's share price fell 1.7% as investors

Shell's £9.3bn profit

- £9.3bn is a record British profit (at least until Vodafone releases its figures in April)
- It's equivalent to £25m a day or £1m an hour or £295 per second!
- If it was stacked in £50 notes, it would reach twice the height of Everest and weigh more than two blue whales

predicted a tough year ahead for the company. It only has nine years' worth of projected oil reserves left, and only added the equivalent of ten weeks' worth of oil production in 2004. This compares badly with Exxon Mobil, who have 14 years of oil reserves left and found enough new oil last year to make up for what they sold. Essentially, at this rate, Exxon Mobil have the reserves to keep on going, but Shell may not last ten years.

Windfall tax

Shell's record profits have been called "obscene" and have led to new calls for a one off 'windfall tax', which could be used to improve Government spending or to

boost pension funds. This has happened before, in 1997, when the Labour Government taxed privatised utility companies £4.8bn extra to fund the 'welfare to work' scheme.

Although they complained, the utility companies paid up in the end. Shell, however, has threatened to reduce North Sea Oil production, and thus cut UK jobs, if it is taxed further.

Although a tax may look tempting, we need to remember that a company exists to make profits, and to tax them extra may deter them from engaging in business – what's the point of working hard to make money if the Government is just going to take it from you?

Secondly, this profit is just a one-off and is not caused by Shell ripping off its customer, but rather by high oil prices. The Government wouldn't even think of subsidising Shell if it were making a loss because oil prices were low.

If the Government were to tax Shell, it would be on international profits, not just those earned in the UK. This could be challenged in the courts, or may lead to retaliatory action by other nations, which would be bad for British business.



Shell CEO, Jeroen van der Veer, presents record profits to stakeholders

Environmental concerns

Environmental groups want to tax Shell for different reasons to consumer groups and trade unions. Friends of the Earth (FoE) argue that Shell only makes so much money because other people are left to pick up the cost of its pollution. The gas burnt when oil is drilled from Shell's Nigeria plant produces more greenhouse gases than the whole

of sub-Saharan Africa combined. FoE wants Shell taxed to help pay for the environmental damage caused by energy companies.

"If Shell had to pay for the damage being caused by global warming, these figures would not look so good. Shell should seek future profitability in clean and sustainable energy, not the fossil fuels that now endanger our planet," said FoE.



The Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell announced record profits of £9.3bn last week, mainly due to the high price of oil from refineries like this

Science

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Hubble's future in serious trouble

It has produced remarkable images from the depths of the universe for over a decade.

Gaetano Mancino looks at why the Hubble Space telescope is to be abandoned

The Hubble Space Telescope, arguably the greatest scientific instrument in the history of space exploration, may only have three years of life left after plans to mount a rescue mission were recently shelved by the US government.

A combination of safety issues associated with a manned rescue mission and a change in US space policy were cited as the two main reasons why the US will allow Hubble to naturally wind down.

The next servicing mission, scheduled for 2008, was intended to upgrade Hubble's batteries and gyroscopes, allowing it to function for another eight years. Manned repair missions are not new to the telescope, with three successfully completed since its launch in 1990. However, in the wake of the Columbia disaster, NASA grounded all three of its remaining shuttles, putting the shuttle flight to service the telescope on hold. NASA contemplated using robots to carry out the repairs and, until recently, plans were being developed in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency to launch a robotic servicing mission in 2007.

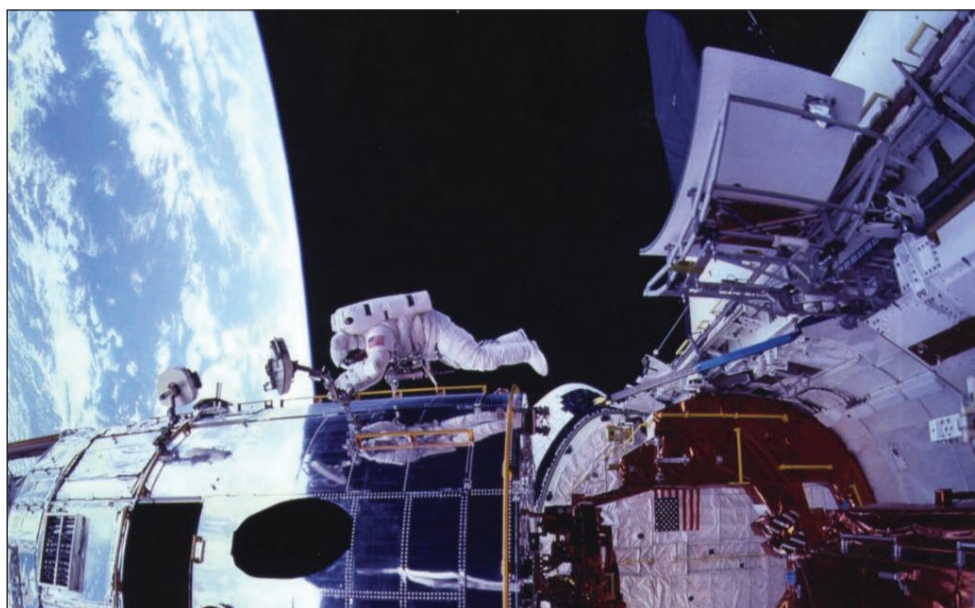
Last month, however, the US government refused to release the \$1 billion needed for the upgrade. As a result, the Hubble space telescope will continue to function normally in the short term, but without the repairs to its batteries and gyroscopes it will eventually wear down in three years.

The decision not to extend Hubble's life beyond 2008 has been seen by many as rash and unnecessary. The information provided by the telescope during its distinguished career has contributed massively to our knowledge and understanding of the Solar System, the Milky Way and other more distant galaxies. The staggering beauty of the images obtained by Hubble, ranging from kaleidoscopic swirls of gas to jaw-dropping pictures of the birth of stars, have become ingrained in the public consciousness. This information has also allowed us to probe deeper and ask more questions than anyone thought was possible when Hubble was first sent out on its journey of exploration.

Even now Hubble continues to amaze, with the recent discovery of 100 new planets in the centre of our Milky Way galaxy, doubling the number of planetary bodies known to

"The decision not to extend Hubble's life-time beyond 2008 has been seen by many as rash and unnecessary"

orbit stars similar to our own Sun. Not wanting to rest on their laurels, NASA was planning to extend Hubble's capabilities by adding several new components during the next, and now cancelled, upgrade. One of these new components is a camera designed to detect a particular type of faint UV



An astronaut carrying out repairs on the Hubble Space telescope. Such missions are set to become a thing of the past after a manned repair trip for 2008 was cancelled

light that acts as a signature for trace gases present when the universe was still young.

It is against the backdrop of this impressive list of achievements that the discussion of Hubble's fate is being conducted.

Naturally, the decision has provoked strong opinions from those passionate about saving Hubble. The pro-Hubble campaign is being championed by a wide range of people and interest groups, including the influential American Astronomical Society (AAS), the National Research Council (NRC) and genuine grassroots Hubble enthusiasts who have set-up websites such as www.savethehubble.com.

This website and numerous ones like it are scoring huge numbers of hits, a testament to the telescope's popularity.

As a result of this pro-Hubble pressure and numerous online petitions, NASA asked the NRC to investigate ways in which the Hubble could be rescued. Late last year the NRC reported back and came down in favour of a manned shuttle mission, asserting that it was the only way to accomplish all the necessary repairs with minimal risk to the crew. According to the NRC, the current state of robotic technology is not up to the job and could be more risky to the Hubble itself. The study concluded that robots

should only be used to de-orbit the telescope at the end of its working life, by which time robotic technology should be advanced enough to carry out the task. In the meantime, the NRC, the AAS and others are concerned that a premier piece of astronomical real estate will be cast off while still in its prime.

Arguably the most important factor influencing the decision not to save Hubble is the current US policy towards space exploration. Lying at heart of this strategy is President Bush's desire to send men and women back to the Moon and, eventually, to Mars. The so-called "moon-to-mars initiative" requires enormous funding and will take several years to implement. President Bush has already asked NASA to re-allocate \$11 billion for start-up costs, with an extra \$1 billion to come from the government.

The International Space Station (ISS) will play a key role in the "moon-to-mars initiative," mainly as a refuelling depot for the longer journey to Mars. The space shuttle programme will also be crucial in this respect, at least until a new generation of spacecraft is developed. NASA already plans to send the first shuttle to the ISS later this year, a decision which is causing confusion among those wanting to keep Hubble operational: If NASA is content to send shuttles to the International Space Station, why are they so reluctant to use them for a tried-and-tested journey to the Hubble?

If the US government sticks to its decision to veto funding for a Hubble repair mission,

the obvious question becomes, what, if anything, will one day replace Hubble?

Currently, no earth-bound telescope is capable of emulating the sheer image quality Hubble routinely produces. Interestingly, plans are underway to build a space-bound successor to Hubble, called the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), which is due for launch in 2011. The JWST's primary goal is to peer back to events that occurred not long after the Big Bang, specifically when early galaxies started to form and evolve.

Another important objective of the JWST is to determine the nature and amount of dark matter in the universe. Dark matter is the mysterious substance that cosmologists believe accounts for the discrepancy between the amount of matter we can detect and the total amount that must exist to create enough gravi-

"...the AAS and others are all concerned that a premier piece of astronomical real estate will be cast off while still in its prime"

tational force to prevent the universe from flying apart. Despite the impressive ambitions NASA has for the JWST, critics still argue that the delay between the expected end of Hubble and the launch of the JWST will be too long.

It is generally accepted that Hubble cannot continue forever, and that more advanced telescopes like the JWST will eventually replace it. But many are convinced that the decision to effectively axe Hubble is premature and unwarranted. In the eyes of astronomers, this decision is being made by faceless bureaucrats sitting behind desks who are unaware of the potentially great science that Hubble could still achieve with just a little fine tuning.

Ultimately, the decision will rest with those in control of the purse-strings, but it is possible that support from grassroots fans, as well as influential astronomical organisations, will make NASA and the US government think twice about axing the telescope. In the meantime, Hubble will continue to enthrall us. How sobering it is to think that those beautiful, ethereal images that we seem to take for granted may, in as little as three years, be a thing of the past.



A spectacular picture taken in January by the Hubble Space Telescope of the barred spiral galaxy NGC 1300

SCIENCE

Murder of a sinister nature

A new clue as to why some people are left-handed? **Alexander Antonov** reports on new research suggesting a link between left-handedness and murder

Although we know that right and left-handed people have co-existed since the Upper Palaeolithic era (15–10,000 BC), little is known about the distribution of left-handedness or why the trait persists. While scientists believe handedness is mostly inherited, it is not so clear what the evolutionary advantages associated with being left-handed are. A new study recently published in *Proceeding of the Royal Society (Biological Sciences)* may offer a piece of the puzzle.

Researchers Charlotte Faurie and Michel Raymond of University Montpellier in France claim that there is a strong, positive correlation between the frequency of left-handers and the rate of murder in traditional societies.

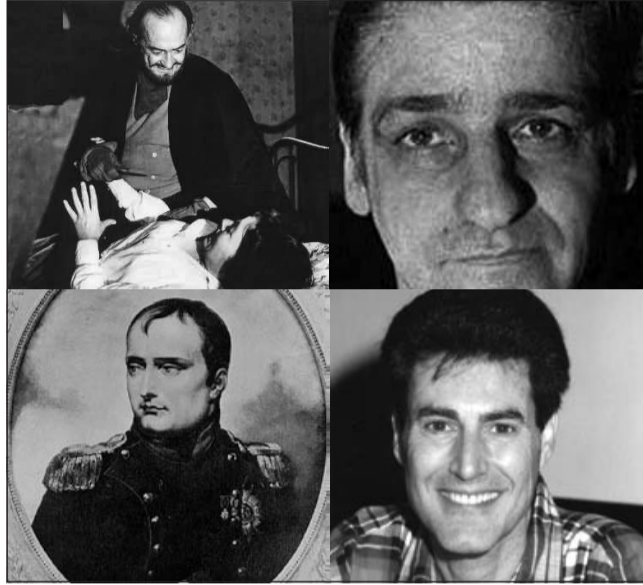
The study draws on previous results from sports studies in Western societies, which show that left-handers have an advantage in confrontational sports, such as tennis, fencing, baseball, but no in non-interactive sports. Further, this advantage is frequency-dependent, meaning that left-handers enjoy a

greater advantage over their opponents when they are in the minority.

Since physical sports can be seen as a modified form of fighting, a wider ethnological interpretation may be made that links handedness to aggressive behaviour. Faurie and Raymond speculate that being left-handed in a violent context would be advantageous, therefore there would be a higher frequency of aggressive left-handers.

The research supporting this hypothesis is comprised of studies of several so-called traditional societies (like Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Gabon). In each case observations were made on the hand preference for activities such as holding a machete or knife and bow-shooting, which were correlated with homicide rate data. Western societies were not considered because the violence in these societies mainly involves the “use of long-range and powerful weapons” which are not thought to offer left-handers an advantage.

While Faurie and Raymond’s results support their hypoth-



Left-handed psychos? Clockwise from top left: Jack the Ripper the Boston Strangler (top right), Uri Geller and Napoleon Bonaparte

esis, it is clear the studies’ scope is not sufficient to draw any definite conclusions.

Besides, as the authors concede, homicide rate is not the best estimator of the prevalence of one-to-one fights. It would also be interesting and more authoritative to

see the research extended to Western societies with larger test samples.

The study does, however, highlight the potential importance of violence in understanding handedness in humans. Since most left-handers are male, it seems

possible that there may be a “fighting advantage” associated with left-handedness, which would confirm that the trait is preserved. Yet this need not be the only advantage in the handedness balance.

During the 20th century there was a popular theory backed by a number of studies that related left-handedness to creativity. Having had the opportunity to verify this theory with a sample of my own in a high school science project, I wonder whether creativity may be one of those other benefits. Although such differences due to handedness are well-known, their causes, thought to be related to the organisation of the brain, are still unclear.

Hopefully, Faurie and Raymond’s study is a step forward in our understanding of left-handedness and its perseverance as a trait. But one should be wary of correlations. The two studies could, for instance, be interpreted together to prove the existence of a positive correlation between creativity and homicide.

News in brief

Air force war game aims to test space technology

The US military launched a five-day war game last week to see how space-based assets like satellite communications and precision bomb guidance systems would fare in a war against terrorism in 2020. Over the past decade, the US military has come to rely heavily on satellites to relay communications, transmit high-resolution imagery, track US forces, spot enemy missiles and guide precision munitions to their targets.

Life flourishes at crushing depth

Tiny single-celled creatures, many previously unknown, have been found at the deepest point in the world’s oceans, almost 11km down. The soft-walled foraminifera, a form of plankton, were recovered by the Japanese remote submersible Kaiko. Yuko Todo and colleagues report that the organisms have become adapted to the crushing pressures (about 110,000 kilopascals) that exist in a location of the Marianas Trench known as Challenger Deep.

Nanotechnology takes aim at transistors

US scientists have made nano-scale devices they claim could one day replace current transistor technology. The tiny devices known as “cross-bar latches” are made up of a combination of crossed-over platinum wires with steric acid molecules set at their junctions. The Hewlett Packard researchers said they could potentially do a better job than current transistors, dramatically improving the performance of computers.

Dyslexic drivers slower to react

Dyslexia slows a driver’s reaction time as much as moderate drinking, a report claims. A Norwegian study on 17 volunteers found dyslexic drivers took 30% longer to react than others. Driving over the UK alcohol limit slows reaction times by 10%, according to *New Scientist*. Charities said the report was alarmist and offensive, and that quick reaction times do not necessarily make good drivers.

Events: Future Face @ Science Museum

By Emma-Lynn Donadieu and Robin Wilkinson
Science communication

The question “Who you lookin’ at?” has taken on a new meaning at the Science Museum’s Future Face exhibition, which considers our perception of identity through the human face.

We are all unknowing experts at deciphering the face. We can identify the visage of a dead person as human and are rarely fooled by digital images or avatars. The exhibits encourage us to consider the significance of the human face and our reaction to it through an intriguing and visually captivating blend of art and science.

There are a variety of works ranging from strange films of individuals shown next to footage of themselves a decade previously to Bjork’s bizarre robotic music video.

There are also some good interactive elements. If you have ever wondered what you will look like in 20 years, or what you would look like if you were a different race then have a go on Dave Perrett’s Interactive Face Transformations and morph your face (although based on our predicted appearances we’d like to dispute the accu-



racy). It was, however, one of the lighter moments in what is a dramatic, thought-provoking and sometimes disturbing exhibition.

If none of the above have piqued your interest, then it’s worth going to see the mug shot of Wacko Jacko. Some of the digital images look more realistic than he does.

● **Future Face is showing at the Science Museum until this Sunday, 13 February**

Now you can do your lab work in the pub

By Darius Nikbin
Science Editor

The news this week: man convicted of assault after brawl with Egg McMuffin, Russian combat jets scrambled to repulse cloud, image of Jesus seen in frying pan, teenager who sent 100 texts a day unable to move thumb, and, finally, nude jogger caught and locked up for one year.

New technology may now mean you can carry out your lab work in the comfort of the Union Bar. Imagine it: while your supervisor’s running around like a headless chicken trying to find where you’ve gone, you will be in the pub, sipping a pint of your favourite ale, playing *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* and monitoring your experiment by mobile phone. Smoothly does it.

This is exactly what chemists in Southampton University have been doing as part of a national e-Science project (except I don’t know whether they were drinking ale). Sensors in the laboratory pick up sudden changes in experimental conditions and relay the information to scientists’ mobile phones. In this way, experimental conditions are con-

stantly monitored so that anomalies in temperature, for example, are duly taken into account.

It might be a long time before experimental conditions can be completely controlled remotely, but the new technology sounds promising. Having once spent three hours a day for several weeks staring at a read-out from a Geiger counter, this reporter would welcome any technology that would relieve the boredom during the long lab hours some experiments require.

“Sensors in the lab pick up sudden changes in experimental conditions and relay the information to scientists’ mobile phones”

More seriously, this week in Felix Science we have a feature by Gaetano Mancino on the Hubble Space telescope. Looking back on some of the images Hubble has produced over the past decade, one cannot fail to be stunned. It is almost impossible to comprehend or appreciate the sheer dimensions of the universe as revealed by Hubble. We are

used to lifetimes of around 70 years, and the most we travel to go anywhere on holiday is a few thousand kilometres. For us, 50 minute lectures can seem like a lifetime, and a short trip through London’s traffic can feel like an endurance test. If Hubble has taught us anything it is that we are nothing in the grand scale of things. So it is a shame that this revolutionary apparatus of science is being abandoned when it is still producing such amazing images.

Another article by Alex Antonov looks at the possible link between aggressiveness and left-handedness. Although his article refuses to accept the findings, you will read some interesting conclusions about the question of whether correlation can prove causation. A few of my friends are left-handed, and I can vouch for them that they are not overly violent, although they are quite creative.

Giovanna Larice looks at the important issue of nipples this week. Why do men have nipples? Good question. Research suggests the answer lies somewhere in between developmental foetal biology and evolutionary biology.

The evolutionary biology of nipples

It is obvious why women have them, but why do men have nipples? **Giovanna Larice** explores the biology of nipples, looking at their place in evolution and foetal development

There has been a lot of debate in science as to whether human anatomical features such as tonsils and appendices are indeed superfluous and simply not required for survival. Wisdom teeth and the male foreskin are also, arguably, unnecessary, redundant, and for many just a cumbersome bother that has to be removed.

What about nipples? Both men and women share these comic looking appendages, yet what functions do they actually carry out in the male of the species?

Unlike appendices, tonsils, and so on, nipples seem to be redundant only in males and are truly required, in terms of reproductive success, only in females. Yet all men proudly and pointlessly own a pair.

Male nipples are far smaller than their female counterparts and are obviously not used for lactation (nor is there any evidence to suggest they have been used for lactation in the prehistoric male). Yet the temptation of classifying them as simple protrusions would not do them justice.

The male nipple is in fact a fully equipped organ possessing all the usual apparatus of blood vessel, muscles, nerves and even oil glands. A thin muscle present under the female nipple which upon stimulation projects the nipple for the baby results, in males, in the flattening of

“Both men and women share these comic looking appendages, yet what function do they actually carry out in the male of the species?”

the puffed male nipple areola (the coloured ring around the human nipple). Furthermore, both men and women can experience pleasure thanks to the nerves that innervate the areola.

The male nipple is not therefore totally useless, yet moderate tactile pleasure hardly justifies its presence.

Humans are mammals (from the Latin mamma that means breast), hence, by defi-



Janet Jackson's famous nipple exhibition of 2004 will be on view at the Science Museum from June

inition, we suckle our young. But men do not suckle.

Human nipples appear in the third or fourth week of embryonic development and both female and male babies are born with nipples and their ducts intact. This is made clear as during embry-

onic development differentiation towards a foetus which will give rise to a girl or a boy takes place at around six to eight weeks after fertilisation (well after the appearance of nipples), when the male and female hormones are activated. Dr Sherfey

writes in a paper published in the Journal of Sexual Marital Theory that at this stage, in foetuses which will give rise to a boy, enough male androgens (the male sex hormones) are produced to offset the maternal estrogens (the female sex hormones) and maleness develops.

In other words the hormone testosterone is activated on the Y chromosome that masculinises the embryo. This alters its physical development towards generating male features and leading to the development of male genitalia; it is however unable to reverse the nipple formation process that has already taken place.

The human embryonic pathway thus involves the early presence of 'precursor nipples' (which appear before the start of sexual differentiation) which may or may not develop into future functional breasts; in essence, males have rudimentary nipples because both sexes are variations of a basic 'nipple-equipped' design.

Many take this as evidence

of the fact that the natural form of all species is, physiologically speaking, female and those keen on dramatizing add (to the displeasure of all male chauvinists) that males are thus merely 'mutant' females.

Steven Jay Gould, in his book *Bully For Brontosaurus - Reflections In Natural History*, explains why evolution has not changed this specific male anatomical nipple feature. Gould argues that nature takes the path of least resistance so that anatomical features are selected against only if they are sufficiently disadvantageous.

As Andrew Simons, journalist for the *Scientific American*, aptly makes clear in his article on *Why Men have Nipples?* the genetic 'default' is for men and women to share characters. Nipples are consequently just accidental leftovers of our evolutionary past that persist simply because of a lack of selection against them rather than selection for them.

Besides, men would look odd without them.

Le Pundit en science



Reginald Pundit, tabloid columnist, neo-avant-garde philosopher, and amateur architect, gives his science views.

Beagle 2 report

When Charles Darwin set off on his trip to the Galapagos islands, he must have made had enough provisions on board his good ship, *The Beagle*.

But when Colin Pill-ock-inger decided to send a bacofail probe to Mars, he must have had his sideburns in a twist.

A new report published by the European Space Agency (ESA) this week has officially said...

Beagle 2 would have had a better chance of success if it was entered in Robot Wars.

Chance

But it's all very well to be cynical when all is done and 'moon-dusted'.

Surely if would have made more sense if they had published the report before the mission took-off.

Then we could have spent the money on the NHS or deporting bogus asylum seekers.

Tsunami stop!

Important new research at the Portsmouth Polytechnic has shown that the tsunami that devastated vast regions of South-East Asia, could have been prevented.

Wall

Engineers have calculated that a 10 metre thick, 100 metre high solid metal 'sea wall' defending coastlines in the area may have harmlessly deflected the wave onto Australia.

Le Pundit says: build the metal sea-wall now and save lives tomorrow.

Einstein Schmeinstein

Not a lot of people know this, but I once met Einstein in the 1950s in a swanky bar called Los Mosquitos in Northampton.

Most people who met Einstein were often said to be overawed by the great man's massive intelligence.

But it turned out to be vice-versa when we met...

As a test, I asked him this simple question:

"If God doesn't play dice then who does?"

Suffice to say he was stumped for an answer.

I had turned the tables in this landmark battle of wits.

The correct answer (which eluded Einstein) is of course: 'gamblers'.

Forget Einstein Year, this is Pundit Year!

● Do you have some science humour in you? Then contact science.felix@ic.ac.uk with your comedy

Obscene molecules: no. 314

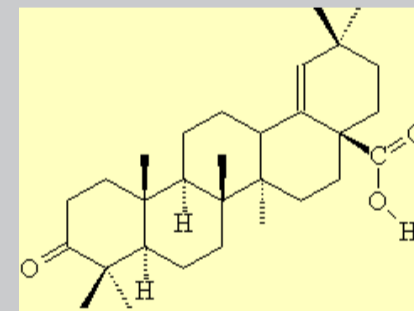
This week we look at a molecule who is isn't exactly the sharpest tool in the box. *Moronic acid* to be precise. Apparently this is a triterpenoid organic acid that is found in Pistacia resin. No-one know why it is called Moronic acid - its chemical properties share little in common with other morons such as Pop Idol's Simon Cowell and crap Superman impersonator Alvin Joel.



Cowell: moron



Joel: moron



Moronic acid

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

Because great minds don't think alike.

I, science

A science magazine for Imperial students

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

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Gideon

Sorry for the somewhat random topic this week but I've been a little busy with the 'e' word that some people are currently getting excited about.

I spent last night at the Silwood Park campus, where they were having a General Committee meeting. The meeting itself was quite valuable for me, though attendance was somewhat thwarted by Chinese New Year. It was also supposed to be an informal opportunity for Silwoodians to meet sabbatical election candidates. Unfortunately, interest was quite low until later on, by which time only a minority of candidates together with Sam Rorke and myself had survived. And that's when the fun started.

We joined some of the Silwood students in one of the (nicer) kitchens in the on-site accommodation. The very nice Silwoodians offered us some lovely pancakes, and Sam and some of the *Felix* Editor candidates seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. I was floating between

various students (both Silwood and South Kensington) answering questions on student finance, the Union, the College, my pilot's licence...

Perhaps somewhat inevitably, the most memorable part of the evening was in the bar, for all the wrong reasons. No, there wasn't a strong rugby crowd getting undressed. There was, however, a chap called Gideon. I didn't catch his surname, but he seemed to be a fan of mine.

Being President, you do get used to surreal experiences as a result of your minor 'celebrity' status. Especially after 18 months. But somehow I still found Gideon a little overwhelming. He kept telling me how great he thought I was (which is a nice sentiment but can be overbearing) and wanting to know who I thought he should vote for. He also explained that he was the oldest PhD student at Silwood and that he would be going back to Tanzania soon, where he was expecting to be appointed Foreign Minister after next year's elections.

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

Apparently he isn't sure who the (Tanzanian) President will be, but he's sure he'll be the next Foreign Minister. He said he would then drive the Tanzanian President to Silwood to show him where he used to study.

I remember all this rather vividly because I ended up with Gideon's arm around me at three separate times during the evening as we repeated the same conversation. He also kept pointing me out to other people and hailing me as a "great man". He explained that he had been worried he'd never meet me. It seems that what he most liked about me was my *Felix* column which he would read, without fail, every week.

Just in case anyone is under any misapprehensions, I did take a liking to Gideon; I'm sure he's a very nice chap and he probably does have a strong political pedigree back home. I think he'd just had a little bit too much to drink. (The very nice barman explained that he is not unknown on the 'scene'.)

Anyway, I'm supposed to be reminding you about elections. Vote. Go to www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote, from midnight tonight until Tuesday 15 February. Vote. Or else I'll start talking about doughnuts again...

Union Council update: Strategic Review

After several months of hard work, the Union Executive has now reached a unanimous agreement on a draft Union Strategy to recommend to Union Council at its next meeting on 17 February. I look forward to the debate, and its adoption as policy. It is vitally important that we establish a consensus as to what the Union's role and priorities should be, so that student officers can focus on getting work done rather than constantly arguing about what they should be doing. The papers for the meeting will be at www.union.ic.ac.uk/meetings.

The next Council meeting will also see by-elections for a vacancy on the Council and for the post of Equal Opportunities Officer. All registered Imperial College students may stand for election and vote. For more information, please visit www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

Bought a tracksuit from a mush in Shepherds Bush

Ever bought something from a shop, got it home and realised that it doesn't work? Ever had trouble with a product that has caused damage to your house? Ever bought something that has turned out to be unsafe?

I am sure that some of these statements will ring a bell with some of you out there. Buying goods of any kind is often enjoyable, but there are times when you buy something and it goes wrong. In this situation, it always good to know what your rights are and what action you can take to get your money back.

The Information and Advice Centre can help in this situation, by making you aware of what you can do. We can also act on your behalf if the people you bought the faulty product from are treating you unfairly.

If you buy anything from a shop, catalogue or even the internet and there's something wrong with it, you've got a right to do something about it. But this doesn't apply to changing your mind when you've decided you really shouldn't have bought a minidisc player when your rent is due any day now.

What does the law say?

One of the most important laws governing your rights as a consumer is the Sale of Goods Act 1979. Like many laws, it has evolved to keep up with changes in society so the Act now includes 'amendments' called the Sale and Supply of Goods Act 1994 and the Sale of Goods (Amendment) Act 1995.

This is a wide-ranging piece of legislation that applies to both new and second-hand goods.

It protects consumers by ensuring that goods are:

- of 'satisfactory quality' – products must last a reasonable time and be free of defects
- 'as described' – a trader or advertisement must honestly describe the product. If, for example, you buy a CD that turns out to be counterfeit then you have a case against the trader that sold it.
- fit for purpose – products must do what the supplier says they do.

If you buy something that doesn't meet any of the conditions stated above, it's your right to demand your money back from the trader (the person/shop who bought it from), not the manufacturer, wholesaler or importer.

Traders also have a duty to supply products that are safe. If they knowingly supply unsafe goods, they are committing an offence. If you buy an unsafe product, contact your local Trading Standards Office, who will investigate the matter and prosecute the trader if necessary.

If the faulty goods cause injury to yourself or damage to your property of more than £275, you may be able to claim against the manufacturer or importer under 'product liability' rules set out in the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Just as importantly, you have no grounds for complaint under these terms if you:

- were told about the fault when buying the product

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

- inspected the product and should have noticed the fault
- damaged the product yourself
- bought the product by mistake
- have changed your mind.

Services, such as those provided by tradesmen and professionals, are covered by the Supply of Goods and Services Act 1982. Service providers have a 'duty of care' to those they work for and work carried out must be 'to a reasonable standard at a reasonable cost.'

If you feel you've been overcharged, you have a right to pay what you think is a 'reasonable price' (what you would expect anybody else to do the job for), although you may be sued for the full cost by the provider.

Buying goods from home

You're protected under consumer legislation wherever you choose to

shop, but there are specific rules that affect products you buy from your home.

It's much easier now to buy things from home, compared to the past. Besides catalogues, mail order firms and buying online, you can be visited by salesmen selling everything from vacuum cleaners to double glazing.

You can't always see what you're buying, so the need for an effective way to sort out problems is probably much greater than when you shop on your local high street.

You have special rights as a home consumer under the Consumer Protection (Distance Selling) Regulations 2000.

- You are entitled to:
- Clear written information on products before placing an order
 - A 'cooling off period,' usually five days, when you can cancel any order
 - A full refund if goods or services aren't provided by an agreed date or within 30 days
 - Protection against credit card fraud

If you've got a problem with something you've bought, then:

- Inform the supplier quickly and let them know why you're complaining
- Keep a written note of any phone calls or emails.

If you feel that you've entered into a contract that, on reflection, seems to be unfair, you have protection under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and the Unfair Terms in Consumer contract Regulations 1994, even if the 'cooling off period' has expired.

If you receive unsolicited goods – items that you haven't ordered – you don't have to return or even pay for them under the Unsolicited Goods and Services Act 1971. If a trader demands payment for such goods, they're committing a criminal offence under this law. The goods in question become your property if you keep them for six months, or one month if you have contacted the supplier. At this point, you're probably hoping that someone sends you an unsolicited laptop computer!

Buying online

When buying online, you're entitled to the same rights covering any other home purchase.

- A website must display:
- Clear information about goods or services before you buy
 - Written confirmation of any order
 - A 'cooling off period' allowing the buyer to cancel the order for any reason.

One exception to these rules are products purchased through an online auction. Auctioneers aren't required to accept responsibility for the quality of goods on sale, so extra care should be taken when buying from them.

If you would like further information on this article or would like to make an appointment, please don't hesitate to contact the Information and Advice Centre on 020 7594 8067 or advice@ic.ac.uk.

Don't let your concern turn into crisis. Make the IAC your one stop shop for all your welfare issues.

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

The joy of... elections

Sabbatical elections

Unless you are walking around with your eyes closed, you will have heard about the sabbatical elections. We have 16 candidates standing this year for the five sabbatical posts, so it promises to be the most hotly contested and exciting set of elections in recent memory. For more information, turn to pages 13-18 of this newspaper or check out www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

The Union is the recognised voice of Imperial College students, and constantly strives to improve their lives and look after their educational, social and welfare needs. The

people you elect will lead the Union next year, so make sure you vote!

QAA student written submission

I have informed you of the role of the Quality Assurance Agency in monitoring higher education, and the College's impending institutional audit, in previous issues, so I shall not bore you again here. The Student Written Statement, which I produced on your behalf, was approved by the Union's governing body (Council), and has now been sent off to the agency. It can be read at www.union.ic.ac.uk/qaa. It has

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

raised a few issues that the Union will be looking to resolve through dialogue with the College.

Get on your bike!

Last Friday's bike auction was a great success, with around 50 people braving the January drizzle, taking about 35 bikes off our hands and raising over £1000. The money will be used for the benefit of cyclists on campus in the future. If anyone is interested in setting up a co-operative to help cyclists maintain their bikes, and represent cycling issues to College, please contact benjamin.jefferys@imperial.ac.uk.

'Entertain'

There will be a massive charity ball on Saturday 26 February, 7pm 'til late. Held in the Great Hall, 'Entertain' will feature live bands (including the Big Band) and some great DJs. Tickets cost £10, and every penny will go towards the redevelopment of those areas affected by the December's tsunami disaster.

Tickets are available from Union Reception and the Reynolds Bar. For more information, please see www.entertain-event.co.uk or email info@entertain-event.co.uk. Please support this worthwhile event.

Day of disobedience

15 February 2005. That is the date to keep in your head if you oppose the ongoing war and occupation in Iraq.

There are many reasons to oppose the occupation. They include the fact that over 100,000 Iraqis have been killed so far, mostly in air strikes. They also include the increasing number of casualties and fatalities amongst British and American troops, a large number of whom are economic conscripts – soldiers who joined for financial reasons, and not explicitly to be sent to kill and destroy in an illegal war. Then there is the increasingly widespread use of torture used by British and American forces on Iraqi prisoners – torture that seems to be part of the very way these armies are working in occupied Iraq.

Another reason is the fact that there simply can be no democracy

under occupation. The recent 'elections' in Iraq have been spun as the birth of democracy, and indeed it was extremely uplifting to see the emotion on the faces of Shias voting in what they believed to be free elections. But it looks increasingly as if all those Shias who voted did so to try to end the occupation. And what about the Sunnis, who boycotted to try to end the occupation? Or the fact that the elections were held under a state of emergency, some parts of Iraq did not even have polling stations, many of the candidates' identities were kept secret, a US-controlled body had ultimate control over who did and did not stand... the list goes on.

Given that the 'coalition of the willing' never, even in their words, went to Iraq explicitly to bring democracy, it is unlikely that they will listen to the wishes of the Iraqis



COLIN SMITH
WELFARE CAMPAIGNS
OFFICER

and get out. And so, with the 16 permanent bases they are building, with large parts of the economy privatised with all profits going to US companies, and with still very little provision of water, electricity and

fuel, resistance to the occupation will continue. This is a resistance whose active members number over 200,000 according to the CIA, well above the number of British and American troops there. Clearly, those who have passive support for the resistance much higher.

But the reason I ask everyone to oppose the occupation is for the sake of Babar Ahmad, as this is an issue that our own students' union has passed policy on. As long as the 'war on terror' continues, the victimisation of minority groups at home, and Muslims in particular, is going to continue. To support Babar's case is also to oppose the brutality of what is taking place in Iraq.

So, I'm asking everyone to take part in the national 'Day of Disobedience' against the occupation on 15 February. It will start at

9am with a three minute silence in remembrance of all those killed in the war and occupation. At 12.30pm, people are meeting on the Queen's Lawn for on-campus protest and demonstration. And then at 3pm, we are meeting in Beit Quad to march down to Parliament Square and join students from across London in a 'die-in'. These events have all been organised in the run up to the major national anti-war demonstration on 19 March.

Finally, the next stage of Babar Ahmad's extradition hearing goes to court on 2 March, and his family and supporters will gather outside the court in London in protest. We hope to send a large delegation from Imperial. Anyone interested in any of these issues should email me at cs602@ic.ac.uk, or look out for posters that will be appearing around the College soon.

Depressing hustings highlight Union's inadequacies

This week's sabbatical election hustings served as an uncomfortable reminder of the failings of Imperial College Union.

The President, Deputy Presidents and *Felix* Editor hold some of the most important roles at this College. Their positions are the most powerful within the Union, and those elected have a huge responsibility to improve and enhance the 'Imperial College experience' for the student body. Yet, out of over 11,000 students, less than 100 were present at Da Vinci's Bar in South Kensington to hear what this year's candidates had to say.

Should hall rents be based on students' ability to pay? Do you think that a sabbatical officer serving a second year would be 'out of touch' with the students? Should the Union campaign to pull British troops out of Iraq? How can we cut out bureaucracy and make clubs and societies more enjoyable? How important is 'fun in *Felix*' as opposed to a candidate's editorial experience?

I'm sure most of you have a view on all these issues. It is the sabbaticals who will make the big decisions and influence Union and College policy, but, for whatever reason, nine out of ten students won't bother to vote between tomorrow and Tuesday.

How can the Union call itself a truly 'representative' organisation when only 10% of students will vote in its biggest elections and only 5% took part in its strategic review?

I won't labour this point any further, as there are still other matters to discuss – the poor turnout was just one of many things that disappointed me as I sat through four miserable hours of hustings on Monday night.

The vast majority of people in attendance were either candidates or their friends, and it was sickening to see them take little or no interest in proceedings when other people were under the spotlight. Some candidates were heckled – loudly, rudely and without any good reason. People asked ridiculous questions

OPINION



FURIOUS GEORGE

about fruit, animals, sex toys and impersonating motor vehicles. What was the point? How was that going to improve our students' union?

One member of the audience, who pointed to the low turnout and asked candidates whether the elections were really relevant, was jeered and heckled. Any candidate with a realistic, serious message was derided as "boring" and shouted down in

favour of catchy slogans, empty promises and pledges about 'fun'. That is not the way to a better Union or a better student experience here at Imperial College.

Some candidates were victimised, as people 'bent the rules' by asking questions that may have seemed 'addressed to all' on the surface but were clearly aimed at certain individuals in particular.

I haven't decided who to vote for yet. But, regardless of the failings of our students' union, I will certainly be voting tomorrow, and you should too. It will take you 15 minutes, at most, to read the candidates' manifestos and interviews [see pages 13-18 of this newspaper] and vote online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections. As improbable as it may sound, the people you elect can change your life for the better.

So if a candidate stands for something you feel strongly about, make your voice heard and hopefully they'll be able to address that issue in a positive way next year. But

don't just look at their promises – what evidence is there that they can deliver? What have they done in the past that will make them capable or incapable of doing the job? Who has the most relevant experience? Who has the best ideas? Who is in touch with what the students really want? Who sets realistic, achievable, sensible goals? On the other hand, who doesn't quite know what they're talking about? And who is just doing it for CV points? It's important that you vote. It's equally important that you vote for the people who can really improve your Union, your College and your life.

The final indignity of Monday night came when the hustings drew to a close and the Presidential candidates were 'asked' to down a pint of their choice. Call it fun, call it tradition, call it what you like, but if you'd rather watch six people drink a pint than find out about how they can improve your life at Imperial, then perhaps you don't deserve a good students' union after all.

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

Making poverty history

By Fen Beynon

Last Thursday saw Nelson Mandela in Trafalgar Square, giving a speech to over 22,000 people. The former South African President, 86, recently announced that he was retiring from public life but said, "as long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest".

Make Poverty History, the UK faction of the Global Campaign for Action Against Poverty, had donned the front of the National Gallery with a huge white sign to set the stage for this event, to which they invited Bob Geldof, Oxfam's Adrian Lovett, South African Kumi Naidoo of the World Alliance for Citizen Participation, band Frititi, singer Jamelia and TV presenter June Sarpong.

Mr Mandela, jailed for 27 years under South Africa's apartheid laws, thanked the people of Britain for their support and help "consigning that evil system forever to history" but followed on to point out that millions of people were still "trapped in the prison of poverty". The ways in which we can help these people, according to Mandela and the worldwide campaign, are to ensure trade justice, end the debt crisis for the poorest countries and deliver more and better aid.

The Millennium Declaration in 2000 had several aims. One of these was "to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day". This year, in September, world leaders will gather to measure the progress they have made on the Declaration. Mandela stated the obvious: "the promise is falling tragically behind. Those leaders must now honour their promises to the world's poorest citizens." Kumi Naidoo pointed out, with a great response from the crowd, that world leaders could find billions of dollars for an unjust war in Iraq but could not honour their commitment to give 0.7% of their nation's wealth in aid.

The Make Poverty History campaign, a UK alliance of over 200



A Make Poverty History banner is draped over one of the lion statues in Trafalgar Square, where Nelson Mandela gave his support to a global anti-poverty campaign

charities, trade unions, campaigning groups and celebrities, believes that 2005 offers an exceptional opportunity for the UK to take a lead in turning things around. This is due to the combination of heading the European Union and the hosting of the G7 finance ministers meeting and the G8 summit.

The Group of Eight (G8) nations began in 1975 when the French President invited the leaders of Japan, the USA, Germany, the UK and Italy to discuss the economic problems of the day, later expanding to include Canada and Russia. It is up to the country holding the Presidency to set the agenda and organise the annual summit which will be held in Gleneagles, Scotland in July this year with the main themes being Africa and climate

change.

Campaigners will surround the site, as 70,000 did at the Birmingham G8 in 1998, demanding an end to the debt crisis. This public show led the UK Government to make a significant advance. All of the debt owed directly to the Government by many of the world's poorest countries was cancelled and funding was given by them to help some other countries cancel some of their debt too.

The day following the Trafalgar Square rally, Mandela met the G7 (G8 without Russia) ministers, the finance ministers of the world's seven richest nations, who have backed UK Chancellor Gordon Brown's plans to cancel "the vast bulk" of money owed by the poorest countries. Mr Brown said that it would be remembered as "the 100%

debt relief summit" and also wants to provide \$10 billion a year for a decade, but needs G7 backing in order to borrow the money up front on the financial markets.

The UK also plans for an International Finance Facility (IFF) to help deal with debt, but the US will not support it because of its "legislative process" according to US Treasury Under-Secretary John Taylor, although they are "completely committed to poverty reduction and providing financing to do that".

This seems to be a hopeful start, but Mandela calls for "action, not words... with courage and vision".

Despite the many promises from rich countries, many of the poorest countries are becoming still poorer. Much of this is due to the fact that they have to spend so much on pay-

ing back the interest on their debt – in many cases, more per year than they spend on health or education.

The Global Campaign for Action Against Poverty calls for these problems to be rectified by trade justice, rather than free trade, and a much greater emphasis on giving more power to the poor countries in making decisions that will affect their future.

Nelson Mandela believes that poverty is not natural, just as apartheid and slavery were not and that overcoming it is not an act of charity, but an act of justice.

For more information on the campaign and forthcoming events, visit www.makepovertyhistory.org. Show your support by wearing a white wristband, available from Oxfam shops.

Letters to the Editor

Freethinking

Dear Editor,

In the midst of the surging religious activism on campus I would like to draw attention to an emerging ICU club called the Freethinking Community.

Over recent weeks the college's overactive religionists have been in full swing, plastering the noticeboards with posters advertising numerous lunchtime debates. In a particularly controversial event, one member of the Christian Union presented a long monologue in which he made a sweeping attack of Atheism. In another event, people were invited to "grill a Christian", and cannibals of the college rejoiced.

In response to such radical outbursts, some fellow non-believers have begun to speak out against the barrage of proselytising; in a previous letter one person even stated that the religious zealots present a "farcical appearance", but in this

letter I would like to express some support for the college's religious groups. Although their diverse supernatural beliefs are unconvincing to me, I am impressed by their community spirit, their positive outlook on life, and their considerable generosity. It is high time that 'non-believers' of the college united in such a way, and I think the Freethinking Community provides this opportunity.

The new club will not simply be antagonistic to religious believers. Instead it has been given a broad remit, allowing it to explore any challenging issues that interest freethinkers of the college. The Community could broach many pressing topics, and perhaps it could help revive the college populace from its near-fatal state of apathy.

All the best,

Marcus Ellington
PhD Computing
<http://www.conversewith.me.uk/>

Traditions

Dear Dave,

Apologies in advance for being a whiney old fart, but does anyone else feel as I do about the current state of the Union Pots?

"Pots" (the beer tankards behind the Union Bar) are an important embodiment of the history of the Union and a valuable historic record. They catalog notable members of Union folklore for the past century.

My complaints:

1) The valuable historic record is not being maintained: I know of several pots which have not been engraved for more than a year (Council Chair being a notable example).

2) In my day, were you not to return a pot to the bar at the end of the night, you would be subject to the most serious sanctions. One Deputy President, who as the only current 2 year DP should remain nameless, has taken to storing the

tankard relating to his Office in his office, in contravention of accepted practice.

I feel it proper to remind this particular sabbatical, that the pot belongs not to him, but to the Union and all other names engraved hence. Should he persist in the rather ungentlemanly practice of guarding the pot thusly, he risks the wrath of countless predecessors, some of which are quite sturdy and formidable.

So let's treat this valuable archive as such; keep it on display in the bar for all to enjoy and maintain and cherish it as it so richly deserves. Or else.

Love and Hugs,

An Old Fart
(Name and department supplied)

To publish or not to publish

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to read Iain Heaton's letter last week in which he attacks your editorial skills and the article that was published on construction projects. Quite frankly I find his letter "not that interesting", and suggest he disappears off to run the election campaign for his friend, instead of wasting much sought after space in your quality newspaper, with his drivel.

Yours sincerely,
Bob the Builder
(Name and department supplied)

Send your letters to felix@ic.ac.uk by 10pm Monday. Letters may be edited for length but not for spelling or grammar, and are printed at the Editor's discretion

Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

One man's rubbish is another man's charity is another man's treasure



by TRISTAN LANE

Charity shops are where it's at. That and the Apple store. You see, as a student, you should be minding the pennies, as apparently most stuff

costs money. Like food, washing products (the stuff your mum gets you for Christmas) and most importantly beer, clothes and tickets.

It's hard being a student, because whilst sleeping is cheap, and very easy to do, interesting stuff usually costs money. Now there's no way around this, especially as shoplifting is usually frowned upon (except in BHS where they're just glad to see the stock out of the door at last). So how do you cobble together the money to afford that latest, must-have pair of shoes? Or that extra pint, or that pizza? By saving money on the rest of your clothes of course!

University is the only time when it's acceptable to wear old, not-quite-retro-cool clothes and look like a bedraggled sheep. You can either buy the aforementioned stuff in a 'trendy' shop for £££s or you can buy it in a charity shop for only £s.

The best thing about living in south west London is that the quality of clothing in the charity shops is much better than average. It's pot luck admittedly, but quite often you can find Ralph Lauren shirts and so on mixed in between the old ladies' bras and massive pants; though this is not a task for the fainthearted. The more you look, the more you'll find treasures such

as an original Elton John LP, or a crushed velvet suit for £15. The idea that you are wearing someone's dead grandfather's kecks only troubles you slightly for approximately the rest of your life. Until you wash them.

The best thing is that it's all for charity – like RAG. In other words, you get to enjoy yourself and get a fantastic bargain, whilst helping out the unfortunate. Of course it would be better just to donate, but altruism really is dead nowadays. Amongst those with no money of course. Bill Gates loves donating, but then he does still get all his clothes from charity shops, so it's

kind of obligatory.

So next time you want clothes, take a gander at the fabulous stuff in a charity shop (NB: Notting Hill Charity has better stuff than Oxfam) and amaze friends by your knowledge of fashion trends when that 1920s tux you've been wearing for a year suddenly comes back into fashion. Another plus point is that you can get absolutely trashed in charity clothes and not give a toss – it's not like you paid £120 for a pair of orange trousers that melt when your mum "accidentally" irons them. Do it, it's for a good cause, and because no-one likes seeing your bum.

The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

Successive rejections can only make 'Her storminess' stronger. That's how I, the recipient of such declarations to the point where they merge into one, have got to a position at which I find said experience comical, to say the least!

The performances put before me, by these substandard village drama society actors in the film reel of university life, are comparable to movie-oke (think karaoke in front of a silenced movie picture) performers break-dancing to a boudoir scene. They compel me to laugh out loud as yet another guy whose intimate company I'd previously enjoyed declares himself "not ready to have a relationship".

The giggling continues in order to make him feel presumptive and used, for assuming that I was so enthused by his company that I couldn't live without it! Believe me guys, 'tis wiser not to flatter yourselves, as not every Asian female, or female full stop for that matter, who takes an interest in you is looking to trap you into eventual matrimony, a harem of children and the obligatory weekend IKEA expeditions. Most of us would rather (sensibly I might add, given the quality of Imperial men) play the field until someone fitter, richer or more stimulating comes along!

This brings us neatly to the subject of this week's column, entitled 'aesthetic admiration of a sexual nature', or 'perving over computer room guy'. Perving is certainly an activity

we all partake in, especially if we fit neatly into the two groups I relate the best to – the single (I haven't had a boyfriend for three years, an almost unachievable feat in a 70% male institution) and looking (having your two best friends fall in love with capable, emotionally supportive men, is definitely envy-inducing in a girl who can't keep a guy interested in her for more than four hours).

Perving takes place on three levels – the scan (to find whether there is anything worth staring at), the purely physical (on the guys you find aesthetically perfect, but lacking in personality) and the holistical (where intellectual and emotional attraction interact with the physical). I'm sure we're all guilty as charged.

The ultimate form of superficial flattery (from the beholder) is a great way to make that essay in the computer labs complete. Incidentally, I have three guys who make my mornings pass quicker (holistically, of course; I don't purely lust over men with nicknames such as 'the body') in said location.

One is cute and funny (I'd overheard him conversing with others on a number of occasions – very fine dry sense of humour there!) with very bad teeth, hence better viewed with mouth closed (if blond surfer guys take your fancy). I've been admiring him from afar for a year or two – especially shocking when you realise he's a medic, and medics are generally conservative to the point of stone dullness.

One day, the very day I acquainted myself with him, I overslept and didn't make it in to a lecture. Rather productively, I decided to go and work on my essay instead. I didn't get any work done, since said guy was surfing rathergood.com and realised I needed to burn my essay onto a CD, since I'd recklessly broken my A-drive whilst getting busy on my desk with the conquest responsible for the best movie-oke performance the previous week. I find younger men tend to be better

looking, more passionate in bed, and far more authentic in their blubbering, so I tend to seek these out for a quick fling or ten. Back to the point of interest, who, incidentally, happens to be a second year student – computer room guy.

Scary, but true: I didn't know how to burn a CD off a university computer at that point. Perfect, convenient timing to pounce on my prey – the only other person in the room.

"Excuse me, I've been trying to burn a CD, but the drive doesn't read. Do you have any idea what I'm doing wrong?"

"Show me what you've done."

I bent over, leaning over him so my breast barely touched his shoulder, and showed him exactly what I'd tried. He tried figuring out what to do, whilst attempting to chat me up. Excellent.

"Were you at the Velvet Revolver gig on Tuesday?" he asked.

"Yes, thought I'd saw you there. Amazing wasn't it?"

"Yeah, brilliant stuff. Didn't think Scott had it in him at this age."

"Who did you go with? My mate said she'd seen you with an older woman."

"Ah, that's my mother. She thought she'd take me out to dinner... and I had a spare ticket. She had a wicked time."

He blew it then and there. This was too wrong to be true – nobody takes their mother out for a night of complete decadence and debauchery. I looked at him, shocked beyond belief, and he smiled, in the mistaken belief that I'd find such a repulsive concept adorable, revealing the dirtiest mouth I'd ever seen on a non-pensioner. I didn't want to hang around to find out whether his breath was similarly odious.

"That's nice."

"I can't figure out how to fix this for

you. How about you go to the technician's room?"

"Sounds like a plan. Thanks."

"I'll see you around sometime, yeah? My mate's band is playing a gig next week – I'd love to catch up with you again."

Oh shit. He fancies me. Excuses, excuses – hurry up and think of something, girl!

"I'm a bit busy with exams, but I'm sure we'll bump into each other sometime soon. I'm in a bit of a rush right now, so take care..."

Stormy Woods has never been an athlete. Not until now, anyway. Linford and his lunchbox would've had trouble keeping up with me as I legged it the hell out of there, running myself cleavage-first into my six foot tall and increasingly handsome crush of three years and counting: biology trouser guy. Masturbation material personified. Stormy has landed.

Looking for something in Felix?

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www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections

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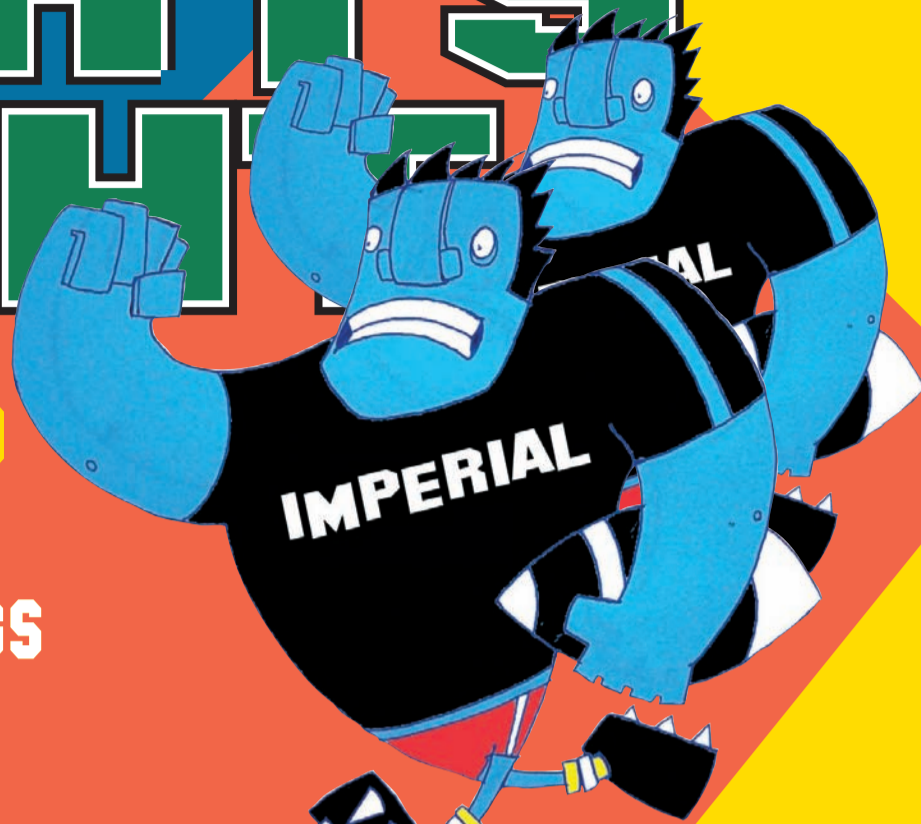
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A Recreational Clubs
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Interested in Freemasonry?

There is a Masonic Lodge which was founded at the college in 1923 and takes its membership from past and present staff and students of the college. It is a leading member of the Association of University Lodges, which unites the fifty or more lodges in English Freemasonry which are associated with universities and their constituent colleges.

English Freemasonry is the UK's largest secular fraternal and charitable organisation with over 330,000 members in nearly 8,000 lodges world-wide.

Freemasonry offers its members an approach to life which seeks to reinforce thoughtfulness for others, kindness in the community, honesty in business, courtesy in society and fairness in all things. It is intellectually stimulating and fun!

Membership is open to men of all faiths who are law-abiding, of good character and who acknowledge a belief in God. It is multi-racial and multi-cultural. There are similar Masonic organisations for women.

Contact us at:
felix-ad@iclodge.org

Elections

elections@ic.ac.uk

Candidate interviews

Felix has interviewed all the candidates for the 2005 Imperial College Union sabbatical elections. The students you elect will take a year out from their degrees to occupy the most senior roles in your students' union. Take a look at the Union's article below for information on how to cast your vote and how the voting system works, then turn over to find out what the candidates had to say

How do I vote?

After reading the interviews on the next few pages, we hope you will be inspired to log on and cast your vote. The elections will be taking place online from 00.01am on Friday 11 February and will close at 11.59pm on Tuesday 15 February.

To vote, just go to www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote during this time and use your Imperial College login to enter the voting site. If you are a registered student but do not have an IC login (for example, because you are studying a joint course between Imperial College and another institution such as the Royal College

of Art), please email elections@ic.ac.uk to arrange to vote by email.

All Union elections are carried out by Single Transferable Vote (STV), a system that has been developed to give the voter more power than in the traditional 'first past the post' system favoured in UK General Elections. STV is a form of preferential voting, which means that instead of casting a single vote for a single candidate, a voter can express a list of preferences. Votes are cast by putting a '1' in the column next to the voter's preferred candidate, a '2' beside their second favourite candi-

date and so on until they no longer wish to express a preference.

When it comes to counting the votes, a quota is calculated which sets the number of votes a candidate must attain to be elected. This is simply the total number of votes cast, divided by one more than the number of candidates to be elected, plus one vote. By following this formula, no more than the required number of candidates can reach the quota. First, votes are counted according to the first preferences, and any candidates who have achieved the quota are elected.

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

elected.

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

For more information, go to www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

Re-Open Nominations

- In each of the five elections, you can vote to Re-Open Nominations (RON)
- If you don't think any of the candidates for a particular post are good enough, vote RON
- If RON wins, there will be a new election for that post



What's RON all about then?

RON is Re-Open Nominations. It's an option on your online ballot slip. By voting RON, you're choosing to re-open nominations. If RON wins, we'll have a new election. Some of the candidates won't stand, we'll remove the wheat from the chaff, and better people will stand. By re-running the election, we have the added bonus of pissing off our esteemed President, Mustafa Arif.

Voting RON sends a message to the candidates that we are no longer happy to accept mediocre sabbaticals; we only want the best.

Is a vote for RON a wasted vote?

It's not a waste at all. Not a single vote in these elections is wasted. By voting RON, you are sending a message to those standing that they're not good enough.

Why would voting RON make the Union better?

The Union is going through a time of great upheaval. We need sabbaticals with a clear, powerful vision, with strength and determination to see things through.

We need Deputy Presidents who are capable of supporting the President in his or her role.

Looking at the Presidential candidates, some of them have a distinct lack of exp in high-profile roles. And just because a co-pilot has seen a pilot fly a plane once, that doesn't mean they're capable of doing their job. People should vote RON because we only want the best.

● Felix spoke to Sanjeev Sarda, RON campaign manager

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ELECTION INTERVIEWS

elections@ic.ac.uk

PRESIDENT

- The President is the figurehead of Imperial College Union, with ultimate responsibility for all its activities
- There are **5** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

COLIN SMITH



Why are you standing for President?

For a lot of reasons really. One of them is that I'm sick and tired of the way the Union's been run over the last couple of years – basically I don't think it's a representative or democratic organisation in any sense of what those words should mean. So part of why I'm standing is because, if elected, I would make a number of changes to make the Union far more representative of the student body, such as moving from the enclosed, bureaucratic Council system to the General Meeting system where it's

one student one vote, and any student can vote on Union policy.

What's the single most important thing a students' union can do for its members?

Represent them, that's the most important thing. I'm sure everyone's got their own idea of how they want their Union to be, but representation is the key issue.

Should Imperial College Union be campaigning to free Babar Ahmad?

The Union should most definitely be campaigning for his release. I believe we should have campaigned for his release even if he had no connection with Imperial, but since he does have that connection it's unquestionable. As a Union we can have a real influence in the campaign as we're his former College, so it's important that we get involved.

What about other political issues, such as 'stop George Bush' or pulling British troops out of Iraq?

Obviously it comes down to what the student body as a whole want, and that's part of opening the Union up to the students. I believe that the majority of people would want to take those steps, partly because they're enormously important issues on a global scale and it would be stupid to ignore them. I think Imperial is far too isolated and we need to address these issues. Also I think it would strengthen the Union if we did campaign on issues that people care about, because it would involve them in the process and give people more confidence and more faith in the Union if it's being seen to fight on different fronts. Look at LSE, they're taking a stance on the war and they regularly have three or four hundred people at general meetings discussing these issues and others.

Can the Union really make a difference on those issues, or would it be better to spend the time and resources on clubs and societies?

I don't think it would detract in any way from clubs and societies – I think our Union can do both. Actually

it would help clubs and societies because we would draw more students into meetings to make decisions on clubs and societies and on other issues.

The current President claimed to work 100 hours a week during the autumn term. How would you manage the workload?

I think Mustafa complains a lot, but I do understand it is an extremely demanding job. I'm very politically active as a person, I spend most days, nights and weekends doing stuff politically as well as doing my course, so I think that would be good preparation. I am involved in a lot of things across the board, and I think President would be a good step up.

What are your views on hall rents? Should they be based on students' ability to pay?

My stance is that rents should be based on students' ability to pay – richer students should pay more for their accommodation, subsidising those who can't afford it. Within that, it should be random which hall

you get. I also think that hall rents shouldn't be increasing every year. I understand that College Residences have to be self-funding by law, so I think we should be campaigning for this to change. We know how much money the College has, so there's enough there to make sure that rents don't have to increase.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

Most people would see the biggest change as a drive to General Meetings, one student one vote, instead of Council meetings. I think most students would see that as a positive change.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

I think there's a similar thrust to what the other four candidates are saying. They want to basically maintain what's happening at the moment and make minor changes, but I think change is what we need, to make ICU a fighting students' union.

SIMON RAWSON



Why are you standing for President?

Well, I've been involved with the students' union for the last four years now, since I've been at Imperial College, and it's something I've thoroughly enjoyed being involved in. I've got a lot out of it, and in the corny sense of the word it's time to put something back into it. I also firmly believe I've got something real to give to the students' union, in terms of my leadership, my ideas, and my passion for the Union.

What's the single most

important thing a students' union can do for its members?

Activities, identities and services are three core areas, but if I had to pick one I'd pick representation.

Should Imperial College Union be campaigning to free Babar Ahmad?

In my opinion, no. I personally believe that he should be freed and I support the campaign, however I don't think that's the role of the Union. I see ICU fighting directly for students on issues that affect students here and now, and I think it's stretching that definition quite far to say that the Free Babar Ahmad campaign affects the students right now.

What are your views on hall rents?

I feel that it's important that the College offers a range of accommodation, and a high standard. Rents at the moment are getting towards extortionate levels, and I would like to see them held for the next few

years. When the new Southside halls are built in a few years' time, I do not want to see rents shoot through the roof like they have done in Beit.

Should rents be based on students' ability to pay? Should richer students pay more for the same quality of accommodation?

No.

You say in your manifesto that you support moves to modernise Beit Quad. Which moves in particular?

As I said, I think the current moves to modernise the Quad are excellent, and I am fully behind them. However I wouldn't let anything go ahead that would jeopardise club and society activities. In particular I'm thinking about the Union gym and some of the meeting rooms. In my opinion, the plans for the gym and some of the meeting rooms have not been thought through fully, and we'd be putting ourselves in a seriously difficult position in terms of clubs and societies. However I am fully in favour of modernising the

ground floor. I think the main foyer is grotesque and needs completely overhauling and modernising, our entertainment venues could do with modernising, and there's no doubt that the catering facilities in Da Vinci's need to be brought into the 21st century.

You also mention your "involvement with ICU at every level". How would that make you a good President?

Well initially I got involved in a handful of clubs and societies in my first year, as I think most people did. I went on to be chairman of Musical Theatre Society, before becoming chairman of the Arts and Entertainments Board this academic year. I've also been involved as senior part time staff in the ents department for the past two and a half years. I've thoroughly enjoyed working for the Union, and I think that having seen both sides of the Union does make me a better candidate, as I have a realistic impression of what goes on. Working as a volunteer officer you can get a very idealistic viewpoint of what you should be achieving, but working as staff

you get a much more realistic idea of how things actually work. I've thoroughly enjoyed being behind the scenes, not just being a person who says how they want it to be, but being a person who actually makes it happen.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

As I've said, I have got a broad level of experience from different points of view, the inside and outside, as a student and a staff member. I don't think it's a fair argument to say that a newcomer to the post would take months to get to grips with it. In actual fact I will say explicitly now that I am against two-year sabbatical positions. Sabbaticals are there to give the ideas, the representation and the leadership, not to do the day-to-day work. After people become removed from the student body, they become removed from student opinion. I believe that I offer a realistic outlook for the Union. I'm talking real things, real achievements, sensible ideas, not campaigns to save the world or stop the war in Iraq.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Vote online Friday 11 – Tuesday 15 February

www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections

ELECTION INTERVIEWS

elections@ic.ac.uk

MORTEN OLESEN



Why are you standing for President?

I'm standing because I want to make a difference. Over the last three and a half years that I've been here, I've felt that people don't get involved enough with the Union, and I think I can change that.

How?

First of all, I think the website and *Felix* are underused for two-way communication. I think the sabbs in

their regular inputs to *Felix* should make it clear what they've done over the past couple of weeks, so students know. Also, with the website, it would be so easy to create a forum where students can post their comments and questions to the sabbs. It wouldn't take long to reply, and I think it should be demanded of sabbs to take 15 to 30 minutes to sit down and answer questions from the students, so people feel that their queries are being answered.

What's the single most important thing a students' union can do for its members?

I think it's got to be the representation, which I think is especially important for *our* union. Not enough people are interested, and the Union can't represent students' views to the College or cater for their opinions and demands if students don't get involved.

Should Imperial College Union be campaigning to free Babar Ahmad?

In my opinion, no. I think political issues that deal with things that are directly relevant to students, such as top-up fees and hall rents, are issues where the Union should campaign on behalf of the students. But on other political issues such as Babar Ahmad and the war in Iraq, I don't think it's the role of the Union to have a stance, because it would seem that the Union was dictating to the students what their opinion should be. It should be the role of the Union to ensure that people can express their views and act within the law to support those views, such as through demonstrations.

The current President claimed to work 100 hours a week during the autumn term. How would you manage the workload?

It's a good question... I think everybody at some point will have worked that amount for their degree, if you've got lots of coursework due in on one day, or in the last few weeks before your exams. I've worked that hard some weeks for my degree and

never buckled under the pressure. There will be weeks when you can take it slightly easier.

What are your views on hall rents? Should they be based on students' ability to pay?

I can see the logic behind standardising all hall accommodation, but at the end of the day, there are people who aren't able to pay £150 a week, so there should be cheaper rooms that cater for what people are able to pay.

Your manifesto promises to make the Union "a venue that caters for everyone". How will you achieve that?

At the moment, what hits you when you walk in is the bar, basically. We have late licences on Wednesdays and Fridays, all broadly based on a European mentality of going out. But at the moment we have 40% overseas students, people who come from a culture that doesn't involve going out for a pint, and I think they should be catered for. I think the

suggestion of having a coffee bar in place of Da Vinci's is one of the greatest suggestions made by the Union this year – somewhere people can go where there's no suggestion of alcohol consumption around them and where they can go and sit in the afternoon.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

I think it's the kind of person that I am, I'm a lot different to the Presidents that we've had recently. Not to say anything bad about them, but I think I'll be more approachable, and I think people will actually believe I'm representing their points of view.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

People should vote for me if they think I'm the best candidate, and if they think I'll be able to do the things that I promise to do. But the most important thing is to vote.

SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN



Why are you standing for President?

I want to get a Union that the students are proud of. I've got the experience and the knowledge from being a Deputy President this year. I want to make sure that clubs and societies don't have the ridiculous hassle of paperwork that we put on them – it should be done online. I want to ensure that the Union continues with the projects it's started

this year, such as the refurbishment project and the strategic review.

What's the single most important thing a students' union can do for its members?

Give them what they want, and serve them in the way they want to be served.

Should Imperial College Union be campaigning to free Babar Ahmad?

I think if students have a passion for something then they should be encouraged to follow that passion. So if they have a passion for this cause, they should be given advice and helped to follow it. However, I don't feel that Union backing actually improves the situation in this case. I don't feel that having a Council motion actually helps this cause.

What about other political issues, such as 'stop George

Bush' or pulling British troops out of Iraq?

At the end of the day, if students have a passion for something, they should be supported in terms of advice and ideas, but the students' union needs to be dealing with students' issues primarily.

The current President claimed to work 100 hours a week during the autumn term. How would you manage the workload?

I've already been a Deputy, so I am capable of doing it, and I do spend a lot of time working this year. The fact that I have the experience and the knowledge of deputising this year means that I don't need to spend the time learning the job.

What are your views on hall rents?

We need to ensure that the price of accommodation doesn't deter stu-

dents from living in our halls or coming to our university. We also need to ensure that there's sufficient help for students who can't afford our prices, such as by making sure there are always options available to share rooms to reduce the cost.

Should rents be based on students' ability to pay?

I think we need to look at the students' ability to pay, but we also need to look at the bursaries and help that are available.

But should richer students pay more for the same quality of accommodation? Yes or no?

One thing I've found is that the people who lose out in the system are just on the borderline, paying prices that are high and they just about can afford. I think the issue is that we need to ensure that financial aid is available for students who are unable to pay the higher prices.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

Improve the communication, making it a more approachable and proactive Union that's positive in getting things done and making them happen. I want it to be a students' union that students are proud of.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

Because I've got the experience and the knowledge to make changes happen. I've already proved myself by fulfilling most of my manifesto pledges from last year, even though I've still got six months in office left. I've played a leading role in big projects that this Union is undertaking, like refurbishment and the strategic review. We need someone who can hit the ground running and continue these projects, rather than having to learn them.

JAMES DEVINE



Why are you standing for President?

Because I think I can make a difference.

What qualities would you bring to the job?

I'm an experienced member of the Union – I've been part of it since I started at Imperial. I've taken an

active role in clubs and societies, and I have management experience from summer placements working in industry. Also ICU is a big team operation, and I'm able to motivate staff and fellow student officers.

What's the single most important thing a students' union can do for its members?

Representation, because nobody else can do it. The Union is the only body charged with that responsibility.

Should Imperial College Union be campaigning to free Babar Ahmad?

Personally I think it's an issue of conscience. If the majority of students are in favour of it, then we should go for it.

What about other political issues, such as 'stop George

Bush' or pulling British troops out of Iraq?

Personally I think it's a great idea, let's go and campaign for everything... but it comes down to a question of resources, and we have to use our resources in the best interests of the students. At the end of the day, you have to do the sums, and it might be better to put money into staff than campaign against George Bush.

The current President claimed to work 100 hours a week during the autumn term. How would you manage the workload?

It comes down to prioritising. There's an awful lot of work that lands on the President's desk, and a lot of it is important, but I'm sure some of it is not important. It's a case of choosing those things that you actually need to do and delegating the rest as appropriate.

What are your views on hall rents? Should they be based on students' ability to pay?

From the Union's perspective we need to argue for equality, and I think in these terms that means equal rent for equal accommodation.

In your manifesto, you say the College must put students first. How will you make sure they do that?

By working with them, not against them. I don't think confrontation benefits the students. We also need to show them what we can do for them – it's not a one-way game. The College need to put students as their first priority but also need to understand the Union can do things for the College that the College can't necessarily do as well for themselves.

How will you make your manifesto pledges happen?

First of all, persuade people within the current Union structure that these pledges are worth delivering on, then following through to make sure they happen.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

Not to change anything unless I had a good reason. I think, particularly with the strategic review, there will be a lot of changes arising, not necessarily done in the best interests of the students. It's important to think about whether changes will help students before we make them.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

I'm competent, capable and committed to doing the job. What I think sets me apart from the rest are my skills as a leader, communicator and team worker.

ELECTION INTERVIEWS

elections@ic.ac.uk

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

- The DP(F&S) is responsible for all the Union's finances and commercial services
- There are **3** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

EDWARD PIGGOTT



Why are you standing?

I'm standing because of the fact that I feel it's a job I can do. I've always been involved in the Union since I first came to the College back in October of 2001. This is something that I feel I'm actually quite good at, and I can use the abilities that I have naturally to give something back to the students.

What's your opinion on modernising Beit Quad?

It's a double-edged sword really. Coming from the position of Equal Opportunities Officer this year, I can see that there is some modernisation needed in order to comply with legislation that will be coming into force towards the end of this year. Ultimately this Union needs to give the members what they want, and if we're not doing what the members want, then we should change what we're doing. However if the members are happy with the building, we should keep it as it is, but still remembering the new legislation that's coming in.

How can the Union improve ents to attract more students?

Again, it's a double-edged sword there. You get many people within the College who like the ents that we have. Wednesday nights, for

instance, have always been popular with sports clubs. Basically it comes down to finding out what the students want, and then doing it so you actually get feedback.

What do you think they want?

Cheap beer, good music and the ability to go somewhere with their friends where they feel safe.

Do you think the Union wastes money?

Yes.

Where, and how will you stop it?

For one thing, we do a lot of duplication. Lots and lots of paperwork gets duplicated. I know this from being a club officer, we have to pay for these things to be printed and processed, and what's the point? We can do all these things on the web, using the data from College. We might as

well use it to implement a system whereby club officers can use it in a way that they want to. We may need 25 different forms, but we don't need 25 different bits of paper. Also, one of the things that's really got my blood boiling is the fact that about £37,000 currently needs to be accounted for. That's a lot of money.

Your manifesto says "more money for clubs & societies". Where will it come from?

We need to prioritise properly. It's not that difficult. Money will still come from the block grant from College, but also by looking at our commercial outlets, things like catering, bars, the shop and the newsagent. If we give our members what they want, they can go in and buy it, and we can recycle that money back to them via their club or society.

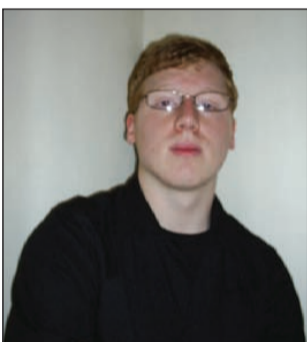
What's the one biggest change you'd make?

The bureaucracy. I cannot stand it; it's overbearing on our officers. I'd change it by simplifying it, moving a lot of it online, making things so much easier and better for the ordinary students on the ground who get involved in clubs and societies.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

I've been involved in this Union for a fairly long time. I've got one of the most wide-ranging sets of experiences within the Union, not just one particular pathway. I also have the track record of doing what needs to be done. A lot of the positions I've taken, there's been no-one else to do them, so I've stepped into the breach, I've done the job and then passed on the mantle to another student officer who's taken up the reins. To be frank, I've lost more elections than I've won, but I'm still here, I'm still fighting, and it doesn't faze me any more.

ROBIN AVERY



Why are you standing?

I feel that I'd be good for the job because I have experience in running lower level clubs and societies in the treasury department and also the chair department. I know how hard it can be for treasurers to do

their job, and I feel I can do something to make their jobs easier. Also because I like this place, I think I'd be good for the job and good for the people.

What's your opinion on modernising Beit Quad?

We do need to review the amount of space that different clubs and societies get for storage purposes and just for general meetings purposes. Rooms like the Union Dining Hall are nigh on impossible to book sometimes. We need more room for clubs and societies, because there are something like 250 of them here. The ideas of having a dedicated Council chamber or a whole set of new offices are probably not necessary.

What about having a coffee bar instead of Da Vinci's?

Da Vinci's, from what I know, doesn't have a huge amount of trade and Union ents aren't that well attended. That's something that I'd like to sort out to begin with. Some people might think that having three bars on the same floor is excessive, but they all serve different purposes, and you can get a coffee just about anywhere around here.

How can the Union improve ents to attract more students?

Ask the students what they actually want, using an incentive-based survey. What I really liked about the last series of elections was the ability to donate 25p to a club or society of the voter's choice, so if we could do that with a survey, I'd like to.

Do you think the Union wastes money?

Any institution wastes money, it's just a case of how much. Nothing is entirely efficient. I personally haven't had chance to look into the Union's finances in detail, but I'd like to review the funding and subsidies given to clubs and societies. Arts clubs are horrifically underfunded. I feel that at an institution where we don't have any taught arts, it's very important to have some arts through the Union, so we can be recognised for having a fantastic Symphony Orchestra and a good Big Band that enters competitions and wins things. The Big Band had to put in a contingency claim for a competition last year, whereas sports clubs get something like £1000 for that. I'm not saying we should cut funding for sports, but we need more money for arts and entertainments to level the playing field.

Your manifesto promises "more support for clubs and societies". How will you provide that?

I plan to be available five or six hours a day. I still have the idealistic view that I can spend time in my office, so people can come up and ask me questions and I can help them. I would plan to be around almost all the time for people.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

I feel I have the experience at the grass roots level. It's people at that level who have a thankless task, a huge workload put on them and very little training. They need the help from someone who has done it and knows about it.

TIM APLIN



Why are you standing?

Because it's my final year and I've been involved with the Union back and forth every year that I've been here. I've had experience on both sides of finance and services, working in the bars, participating in clubs, and I've been active amongst the Union and on the committees as well.

What qualities can you bring to the role?

A lot of experience that comes with participating, being a member of staff, having good working relationships, and generally having a good feel for what people want in the Union.

What's your opinion on modernising Beit Quad?

I think it's a good idea and it's probably something that's been overdue for a while now. I think it needs a little more thought, it needs more consultation of students as to what they actually want, such as the coffee style venue and non-smoking areas.

More consultation than the strategic review, which has just taken place?

Yes, I think we need more detailed reviews on specific aspects of it.

Do you have any ideas of your own about modernising the Union building?

From what I know, I haven't heard of anybody trying to integrate together bars and catering into one unit. That could bring a lot of savings in terms of staff time, and also efficiency and quality.

Your manifesto says that Wednesday and Friday nights at the Union have "fallen below par". How would you improve them?

I think it's very important that we try harder to tap student groups who don't particularly have any reason to come into the Union on Wednesday and Friday nights, such as most of the overseas students, the Europeans particularly. The Asians seldom come into the Union unless it's one of their own events. I don't have any clear cut idea on how to attract those groups

en masse - I'd have to consult with the line managers and see what was possible.

Do you think the Union wastes money?

I don't think it wastes money *per se*, but I think in some parts it runs with a certain degree of inefficiency. By taking closer looks at parts of the Union, parts of the process, you can find a lot of inefficiencies and make the place run smoother and at lower cost.

Should clubs and societies be given more money?

In principle yes, because my origins come from clubs and societies. But you have to look at the bigger picture and see where the money's going to come from. Obviously we have the subvention from College which goes towards pretty much everything in the Union. In principle it is definitely a good idea, but

you have to look carefully at where the losses are going to come from. If there was no increase from the College or trust funds or anything, I'd have to look towards outside sources of income, possibly blanket sponsorship, but that's a long way into the future.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates?

Because, unlike both the other candidates, I have constantly sought bigger challenges, and succeeded at what I've tried to do. If you look at Robin, he's done one club, I've overseen 45. I recently sat on the finance review group of the Union, which looked at club and society budgeting as a whole, and I'm very keen to continue that, something which neither Robin nor Edward have done. I think my experience on both sides of the bar brings me out as a stronger candidate on the services side than both of them.

ELECTION INTERVIEWS

elections@ic.ac.uk

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

- The DP(C&S) is responsible for all the Union's clubs, societies and student activities
- There are **2** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

JAMES THATCHER



Why are you standing?

Basically I think that the clubs at Imperial do a great job. So many stu-

dents are members of clubs and it's a fantastic service. The Union has to be there to handle the bureaucracy and make sure the clubs can do what they want to do. Having been involved on the club side, I also wanted to be involved on the Union side and put something back in.

If you're elected, how will you make a noticeable difference to students' lives at Imperial?

My main aim is to be there for the club officers. Hopefully if I do my job well, the students should know nothing about me. If I'm working effectively, they shouldn't have any cause to moan and won't hear about me.

What's your view on the redevelopment of Beit Quad and its effect on clubs and societies?

Some proposals have been made to change the nature of the Union gym, and this concerns me a lot, especially as we're going to be closing Southside in July and the Sports Centre potentially could be late. I don't think we should change the nature of the gym until we know for sure we're going to have somewhere to put all the clubs.

Do you think there should be a separate sabbatical officer to deal with sports clubs?

That's a very interesting issue, because obviously the sports clubs and the non-sports clubs have a lot of differences. I don't think we need another sabbatical officer to deal with clubs. The CSC chairs have to work very hard to do the jobs that they do, but I think they do them really well.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

I think its important that we have continuity. That's why, in my manifesto, I'm not really saying that I'll try to make huge changes. But the one thing we really need

is online forms, online documentation - it would be so much more efficient.

Why should people vote for you ahead of Simon or RON?

Simon says he'd like to make sure that every club or society has a home. This just isn't a feasible aim. We only have a limited amount of space and we have to make the best of what we've got. I want to run an organised and efficient system to represent the clubs so that their problems are dealt with swiftly and they're not waiting around for things to get processed or to get answers.

SIMON MATTHEWS



Why are you standing?

Mostly because it seems like a fairly natural progression. I started off

as treasurer of the Science Fiction society, and then I took over the SCC treasurer role because it was quite frankly crap and I thought I could do the job better. Then I took over the SCC Chair role, so I've just been moving up, so to speak, getting things better organised and making things better for everyone else around.

What's your view on the redevelopment of Beit Quad and its effect on clubs and societies?

It gives us a good opportunity, but obviously we need to be careful, because there's going to be a big

problem with gym space. At the top of the building, we could make much better use of the space up there, and renovation will give us the opportunity to do that.

Do you think there should be a separate sabbatical officer to deal with sports clubs?

I don't really think it's needed. I think if you have a separate sabbatical for sports you're just going to be duplicating work and people aren't going to be working as efficiently and effectively. Possibly you might want some extra support to help the ACC exec organise things, but I don't think we need an extra sabb.

One of your goals is to "see every club have a home". Is that realistic?

It's not entirely. It's what my dream would be, so to speak. Even if it's a room shared between five or ten clubs, having a home just gives you the stability so you can work with your members and get them more involved.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

Personally my goals are to make an immediate impact and improve things like room bookings, commu-

nication between clubs, and get the whole system working smoothly.

Why should people vote for you ahead of James or RON?

Voting RON is a bad option because it just means that the elections have to happen again, you're unlikely to get any new candidates, and you're just backing yourself into a corner and making things worse. As for James, the big difference is our backgrounds - he has very limited and narrow experience, whereas I've got a much better track record of getting things done and a much broader experience of things around the Union.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE)

- The DP(E&W) is responsible for promoting important welfare issues and safe-guarding the education of students
- There are **2** candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

SARAH KHATIB



Why are you standing?

I'm standing because I'm eager to

have an input in the Union. I'm an international student myself, I've depended quite a lot on the services of the Union, and that's why I'm sensitive to students' needs in general, concerning their welfare and their education. I've been a rep, and I think students have the right to be involved and say what they think.

How would you address the recent problems with exam and lecture timetables?

Concerning exams, the problem this year was mainly with aeronautics, because the exams were straight

after the Christmas holiday, which was really short. I can make changes for the future, but not for the next few years because term dates have already been set. As for lectures being at the wrong time of day, I think this is an issue that has to be dealt with. It's important that students get a break during the day, and I'm sure there's another timeslot apart from lunchtime that can be used.

What are your views on hall rents?

I think hall rent increases have to

be fair, and my vision of fair is that all halls should increase in the same way. I think students should have a say on whether they want an expensive or a cheap room.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

I want to galvanise the dep rep scheme.

How would you do that?

Firstly I need to make sure that dep reps are enthusiastic about being

dep reps, because their job is to get feedback from students. Students aren't really that responsive, sometimes they're shy, so I think it's important that dep reps go up and ask them and make sure everything's OK, otherwise they won't get that feedback.

Why should people vote for you ahead of Aleks or RON?

Because I think I am determined enough, I'm a very friendly and outspoken person, and I think people need to have a connection with the person doing that job.

ALEKS CORR



Why are you standing?

I've used the welfare system before,

and I'm quite confident so I know who to talk to. Not everyone is confident, and not everyone knows what is there. I want to make people more aware, and I think I can do that.

You say you "would like to see more subjects introducing reading weeks". Why?

I think people might pick up on that wrong. What I really meant was not necessarily a reading week as such, but more time to prepare for exams, because you can't do well in exams when you haven't got time to prepare for them. That affected me this

year, and I was just outraged.

If you had a reading week, wouldn't you have to lose some lectures as a result?

No. If the lecturers plan their time well, then there's no problem with it, surely.

If you're elected, how will you make a noticeable difference to students' lives at Imperial?

Having more time to do their work would make people less stressed, and they'd enjoy themselves more.

People need to realise that the Union is there for them.

What are your views on hall rents?

I think the students should be able to choose what price bracket they're in. Costs should be different across the halls, but rents shouldn't be based on students' ability to pay - there are so many grants out there for students if they need them.

What's the one biggest change you'd make to Imperial College Union?

I'd like to see more awareness for disabled people and people with learning disabilities, because it's pushed under the carpet a bit. I'd also like to get more postgrads involved within the Union.

Why should people vote for you ahead of Sarah or RON?

I've been working at the Union for four years and I know a lot of different people throughout the College to talk to, not just students. They should vote for me because I'm going to be better! I've got fantastic people skills and I'm well organised.

ELECTION INTERVIEWS

elections@ic.ac.uk

FELIX EDITOR

- The Felix Editor is responsible for the editing and management of this newspaper
- There are 4 candidates, plus the option to Re-Open Nominations (see page 13)

MARTIN SMITH



Why are you standing?

Well, I've enjoyed reading *Felix* in my first year, writing crosswords

and other articles in my second year, and editing the books section in my third year. So I feel it's something that I'd be very passionate about and spend a lot of time on, and I've got the experience to do it.

What is Felix's role?

Constitutionally, *Felix* is supposed to provide students with College and Union news and that kind of thing. But I think *Felix* would be better serving the students if it not only gave them the facts, but also some different opinions about the events, and why things going on at Council, for example, are relevant to them.

What writing and editing

experience do you have?

This year I'm pleased to say that I've taken the books section from non-existence to a regular feature. I've also edited *Broadsheet*, the Faculty of Physical Sciences newspaper.

How would you attract more contributors to Felix?

The thing to do is start off well. You need to have a good base of writers at the beginning of the term, to fire people up and kick-start the opinion column process and the comment section. I can use the network of writers I've built up through *Broadsheet*, *Felix* books and other areas. There's nothing quite like

being invited to write something.

Which is more important: giving students something to read or something to contribute to?

I think it's more important that *Felix* is there for people to express their views and develop some writing skills. You can contribute in a lot of different ways, whether it's cartoons, photography, reviews...

Would you go back to the A4 magazine style?

I'd certainly be tempted, because it had some advantages, but I'd be more than willing to subject it to a

survey over the summer and see what people think.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates or RON?

Well, RON certainly doesn't have any experience in *Felix*, and I'm not sure that Rupert does either. The other two candidates have *Felix* experience, but perhaps they don't have wider editorial or financial experience. I'm the only candidate who can provide *Felix* experience and wider experience, through *Broadsheet*. I've got the clearest policies and the most attainable vision, and I'll make *Felix* into a newspaper that people want to read and want to write for.

DARIUS NIKBIN



Why are you standing?

I've really enjoyed writing for *Felix*, editing and just being involved in the thing. I've realised that there's

scope for improvement. As you can see in my manifesto, I think I can continue to push things forward in *Felix*.

What is Felix's role?

Firstly it's there to inform and entertain the student body. It's also there as a medium for freedom of speech, so people can express themselves through *Felix*. It also has a central role in communicating what the Union is doing for the students, and especially in communicating what clubs and societies are doing.

What relevant experience do you have?

In terms of *Felix*, this year I've been

managing and editing the science section, last year as well, and previously the film section. Also I've been involved recently in managing groups of writers for a new spinoff from *Felix* in the future.

How would you attract more contributors to Felix?

With the science section we've had a very wide range of contributors. I've organised that through weekly meetings, encouraging people to express their views in an open forum. As Editor I would generally try to engage the student body – if students find something in *Felix* they're really interested in, they will respond. It's about being in touch with the student Zeitgeist and the

issues of the day.

Would you go back to the A4 magazine style?

I think the decision was originally made not just on the format but on financial considerations as well. If I was to make that decision in the summer, I'd look at the finances and then decide. I think the newspaper format has gone down surprisingly well.

Which is more important: giving students something to read or something to contribute to?

I don't think you can really compare the two.

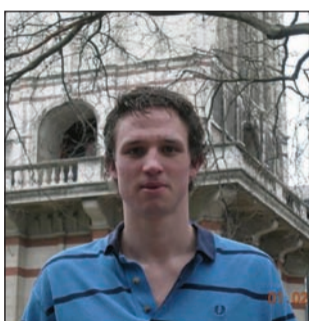
What's the single biggest change you'd make to Felix?

The single biggest change is that I would encourage a broader group of writers to write more humorously. I think a phrase I've used was to be more relevant in content and more irreverent in humour.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates or RON?

First of all I'm the most experienced section editor on *Felix*, so I've got more experience than the other candidates. I think my aims are more realistic, and I've got a proven track record of delivering both humour and serious content.

RUPERT NEATE



Why are you standing?

Mainly because I want to give something back to the students, and also because I think *Felix* needs improv-

ing – more fun, more comedy, more serious news and more opinions to represent what the students are thinking. Also because I want to be a journalist and this would be great work experience.

What is Felix's role?

To inform the students about stuff that's going on in College and also stuff that's going on in the world that's relevant to students, and to express students' views.

What relevant experience do you have?

I've written one front page story for *Felix*, and I've also been published in local newspapers and had work

experience at *The Guardian*. I'm a really sociable person, unlike some at Imperial, so I think I'd be good at managing people.

You've had three years at Imperial... what's your opinion of Felix during that time?

I really liked last year's *Felix*. It was a bit more light-hearted, and I really liked the 'Ash's Voice of Reason' column and the page 3.

Why have you never been involved with Felix regularly?

I was so busy with other uni stuff, and I didn't realise that it'd be something I'd like to do until more recently. I haven't contributed

recently because I've been ill a lot so I haven't been in College.

Would you go back to the A4 magazine style?

I personally don't really have a preference – I think it would be up to the students to decide, using a poll at the end of this year.

How would you attract more contributors to Felix?

I think if we had a special 'come and write for *Felix*' day, people could pop in throughout the day, see what goes on, do whatever they like, and if you get people interested early enough, quite a lot of them would carry on.

Which is more important: giving students something to read or something to contribute to?

I think it's much more important to give people something to read, because there are more people in that category.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates or RON?

I think people should vote for Darius if they like the science section and want more science. If people are scouts or they like origami then perhaps they've got other people to vote for. I seem to be the only one who's had actual newspaper experience.

SIMON CLARK



Why are you standing?

I think there's a lot that I could bring to the position. I've been involved

with *Felix* for a while, and I've always enjoyed working on it. *Felix* is good at the moment, but there's a lot of potential for expanding it and covering a lot more things that matter to the students.

What is Felix's role?

To inform and entertain the students, and allow them to tell one another about what they're doing and what's going on within their Union. Also to give people something to get involved in, because the contributors can get a lot out of it as well.

What writing and editing experience do you have?

I've been writing for *Felix* since I got here. I've been editing the nightlife section this year, which has involved editing, layout and getting people to write for me, trying to get as many people involved as possible. I also produced a Scouts newspaper last summer.

You've had three years at Imperial... what's your opinion of Felix during that time?

It's developed from being an entertaining magazine into a full-blown newspaper, and I'd aim to carry that on and make it even better.

What's the single biggest change you'd make to Felix?

I'd like to see articles by or about as many different people from around the College as possible. There's huge diversity here, and at the moment *Felix* doesn't really cover it all, for whatever reason.

Would you go back to the A4 magazine style?

I'd like to re-run the survey from last year. Subject to that, my personal preference would be for keeping it as a newspaper. I know there's a Union rule about having news on the front page, and I don't think that would look particularly good as a magazine.

Which is more important:

giving students something to read or something to contribute to?

Given that there are a lot more readers than contributors, I'd probably say something to read, but they are both very important things.

Why should people vote for you ahead of the other candidates or RON?

I'm in touch with the students, probably more than the other candidates, and as such in a better position to get more people involved, get more contributions, and cover more of the College community.

Entertain

Charity Night

Live Bands

Line-up announced: Includes 'Our Souls' the awesome Soul funk Band,
Superclub resident MacPherson, The Jazz Big Band and Rock band Cartel
Society of Music

Saturday February 26th

From 7pm till late

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Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Ten things I can do that you can't

EPISODE THREE: The Ultimate Wheel

JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

I'm told that a good way to start an article is with a witty comment or startling revelation. After considering this, I have come to the conclusion that I don't have anything startling to reveal (well, legally anyway) and that being witty is difficult when challenged, as people who know me are very much aware.

Therefore I will start the article like this: those who are disappointed can send a stamped self-addressed envelope with £10 in used notes to me and I will send a written apology. And with that, here's this week's topic of minor insanity – the Ultimate Wheel!

The Ultimate Wheel is the ideal thing for people who think unicycling is for wussies. If you can unicycle, the most obvious thing is surely to take the seat away for added difficulty, right? You wouldn't think it is possible, but some sanity-deprived individuals can actually transport themselves on this device, which basically consists of a wheel with two pedals and nothing else. Only the mentally disturbed need apply.

In order to ride this lunatic contraption, the first step is to put your feet on it. Our carefully selected model (no expense spared) demonstrates [see picture 1].

The next thing to do is mount the Wheel properly [see picture 2]. Thankfully, the pedals are quite sticky so your feet don't fall off, unless

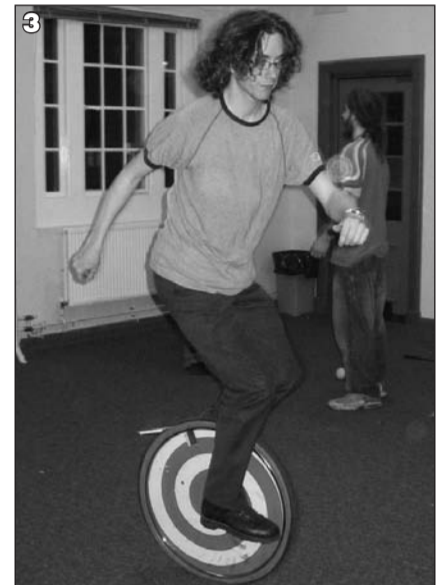
you crash, in which case they tend to sever your tendons. Just consider it fair warning. You can either mount with the assistance of a wall or lamp-post, or free mount which is harder – you just jump on and pray. See the Big Red Ball episode for more information on the importance of prayer.

After that, pedal. Try to keep the Wheel upright [see picture 3]. I appreciate that this is probably obvious, but the faster you go, the easier it is to keep going. If you have done this indoors, you're about to find a small problem with the Ultimate Wheel...

Changing direction. You're probably quite pleased that you've not suffered major damage by now, but this state of affairs is about to change unless you move away from the looming wall. In order to achieve this, wrench your hips in one direction, hard, and put your weight slightly over to that side [see picture 4]. Now push your vertebrae back into place.

Finally, you've got to get off. I recommend falling – it's easier and almost a foregone conclusion after a while. Alternatively you can step off, but the net effect is much the same [see picture 5].

Well, that's it. If anyone has an Ultimate Wheel that they didn't know how to use, they do now. If, for whatever reason, you don't have one (and lets face it – why not, dammit?) you can always use ours. Mail juggling@ic.ac.uk, come to juggling on Tuesdays at 6pm and we'll let you play with it, as well as many other things. Ahem.



1. Put one foot on the pedal; 2. Mount the wheel; 3. Pedal, keeping the wheel upright; 4. Change direction; 5. Dismount. Simple!

I'm special too

In the first of a series of articles, we showcase one of IC Radio's many specialist music shows

IC RADIO

(Instru)mental

Presented by: Anno Domini

Style: Hard dance

When: Wednesdays

10pm-midnight

How to listen:

www.icradio.com

Current big tunes:

BK & DAVE the drummer

– Riot EP4

Dave Holmes – Samsara

(Nick Sentience Remix)

Chris C & Madam Zu meet

Ben Kaye – Rock The Target

(Barely Legal Remix)

(Instru)mental was created last October with the aim of giving me an opportunity to take the music I listen to and present it to anyone who is interested. The emphasis is on the tougher varieties of dance music, in particular hard house and hard trance.

The basic structure is an eclectic first hour, with a broad spectrum of dance music, followed by a live mix in the second hour, where I pick the latest hard dance and put it alongside some older material, all for the listening pleasure of anyone who tunes in.

Although the above is a

fairly accurate description of my show, I think it fails to capture the real spirit of IC Radio. I'm certainly not a professional, and although IC Radio does produce shows of a high quality, the emphasis is much more about having fun than producing something groundbreaking.

For most of the shows I do, I simply arrive with a stack of vinyl and a rough idea of the order I want to play it in. I think this is typical of most of the specialist music shows on IC Radio – there is a strong feeling amongst us that it's the music that matters, and that too much preparation



IC Radio: turn it up!

somehow spoils it all!

Also typical is that I play what I want to. There are plenty of opportunities for

people to come in and play more mainstream music, or even do news and current affairs, but the brilliant thing about IC Radio (or indeed any student radio) is that we are your radio station, and part of the reason we exist is to let students of all musical tastes share their passion. The chances are that at university you will always find someone whose musical tastes are similar to yours, and specialist music shows are about presenting that music both to people who know and love it, and also to people who might not have come across it before.

It's easy to get bored with the music policy of the Union. R'n'B and drum and bass are alright, but the Union really lacks the variety of specialist music that student radio can offer.

As I fade out the latest Short Circuit promo and switch back to our sustain service, I can't help but wonder why more people don't do what I do. The opportunity to play the music you love on air is very rare outside university. Locking up the studio for the night, I walk out of Beit Quad and pass some people leaving the Union. I can't help but think they are missing out.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

Messing about on the river

CANOE CLUB

Yorkshire New Year Trip 2005

By Harry Wood

We decided that a repeat of the previous New Year's antics was definitely in order, but from the start it was clear that this trip would be a complicated one. Everyone wanted to show up for some paddling on different dates, and drive to Yorkshire from different Christmas holiday locations. Chaos

To make matters worse, those club members who normally take up the organisational challenge decided they were fed up of it and went on strike, leading to a bizarre situation in which Harry was labelled 'the most organised'. Harry responded by throwing technology at the problem. Ludicrously complex spreadsheets and wiki websites were put in place, and eventually we all came together...

Theo, Nick and Jeurgen were the only ones driving up in the minibus from London. Unfortunately they never quite made it, after toppling over on the M1 in Derbyshire. Luckily the only injuries were to Nick, his laptop and a throwline. The police obligingly rescued the cans of beer, which had rolled out of the broken rear window all over the motorway. Tim's dad came to the rescue, complete with a trailer for the boats. They all spent the night in Doncaster watching DVDs and reducing the volume of the rescued beer bucket.

Alice also never quite made it, electing to drive up with Jon the next day instead. Claire and Robin were a little late, so the only one who actually made it to the agreed meeting place on time was Harry 'the most organised', who was delighted to be spending time in a pub, so all was well. The afternoon paddling plan was abandoned due to lack of boats and paddlers, so Harry, Clare and Robin checked into the hut.

On Tuesday morning, everyone finally met at Kettlewell to paddle the Wharfe. Well, not quite everyone. Alice and Jon didn't believe that we would put in at 10am, so they missed the boat. The water



Canoeist Emily stays afloat whilst enjoying the picturesque Yorkshire surroundings

was cold as predicted, and Alexa kicked off the swimming, but a pleasant paddle was had by all. Theo and Tim ran Linton Falls at the Takeout with many spectators.

As we went to the car park to get changed, we were greeted by Alexa's dad, Jim, with a huge fully equipped motor home, providing shelter from the rain and cups of tea. What luxury! The monster van was thereafter referred to as 'Mission Control'. And it seemed we would be needing 'Mission Control' assistance a little longer, because in the evening we discovered that the RAC would not be providing a replacement van on the Union breakdown insurance, because they'd got us on a technicality. Thanks a bunch!

The next day, everyone met up at the Young Offenders Institute in Barnard Castle at 9am. We didn't see any young offenders, but Jim P showed up, released on parole from his girlfriend. In the car park Claire had a quick driving lesson, then Theo, Jon, Jim, Juergen, Alice, Alexa, Claire, Robin, Tim and Harry ran the Tees from Barnard Castle to Wiston Bridge. Alexa had a swim and decided to get out at Whorlton, the halfway point where 'Mission Control' handily intercepted her.

Afterwards we drove back up and Theo, Tim, Jim and Claire ran the upper section from High Force to Low Force. This should have been called 'gale force', as we were blown down the river. Interesting bits included the 'dog leg' grade four rapid and low-force itself (a 10ft waterfall). Everyone ran the drop, with Jim experiencing complete submergence and Claire playing with the stopper for extra excitement.

'Mission Control' ran out of diesel, but thanks to some navigational genius involving autoroute express, Nick's battered laptop and a digital camera, Jon was able to get to Darlington in the nick of time to rent a new van.

On Thursday, we paddled the Ribble, Helwith Bridge (where we were staying) down to Settle. Robin, despite having very little paddling experience, had managed the previous day's paddling swim free. His luck ran out at the start of this river. The more technical sections above the 'two bridges' rapid caused him three swims in short succession, culminating in a nasty tooth chipping injury. Stainforth force presented a rather forceful looking towback, and so only Tim attempted it.

Muppetry meant we had only one and a half throwbags (with the M1 having eaten at least a half), but luckily they weren't needed. As Theo didn't realise his digital camera didn't compensate for daylight saving hours, he sent Tim frantically paddling ahead thinking he would miss the last train from Settle to Leeds. Harry had forgotten dry clothes, and so we slung him in the back of the van with all the other wet gear. He sat in pitch blackness, and only after the journey realised that the van had an inside light.

On New Year's Eve we

and handrolls.

After the river Rob unfortunately ran over Nick's foot. Perhaps he decided that it would be compassionate to Theo to have a little accident of his own. Nick was left hobbling, but nothing was broken (it turns out just torn) and it gave him a good excuse to stay off the dancefloor that night.

New Year's Eve celebrations took place in the 'Helwith Bridge' pub, where the local people made us feel most welcome (a nice change from Wales). In fact, Theo had an interesting time with the barmaid. The less said about that the better. Suffice to say he was glad Harry didn't have his camera.

The next day, we did a lot of faffing around before finally ending up at the put-in for the Lune, at Teebay. 'Mission Control' got a bit of scrape on the way down the dangerously narrow lanes. Near the end of the river, we encountered carnage on the strid, with Robin deciding that swimming the rapid would be far more exciting than paddling it. But no one was paddling to full ability, due to the hangover. A very pretty river though.

Our final day's paddling was the Kent, where we met Tim, Amie and Tim's Dad, Nic. The water was cold but the levels were OK and everyone bimbled down most things successfully. Theo was comically backlooped in the gorge section, but if he insists on paddling a stupidly small boat, things like that are almost inevitable!

Right at the end of the trip we all did Force Falls blind for comedy value. After the river, some set off on the long journey home whilst Theo, Tim and his Dad sneaked in a quick descent of the nearby Leven. The highlight of this was backbarrow falls - a big grade four that drops away under a low bridge. Theo made up for earlier muppetry with the best line of the day. They did get stranded at the takeout for a while as Jeurgen (driving the minibus) missed the turning for the takeout and tried to do a scenic tour of the lakes.

Big thanks to Alexa's dad and Tim's dad for lending substantial vehicular support, without which we would surely have made a disaster out of a crisis. As it was, we all enjoyed an excellent week of Yorkshire paddling!

REASONS to vote RAWSON for PRESIDENT

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nearly 4 years
on all levels

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support for all faculty union,
campus and club identities

3.. ACTIVITIES

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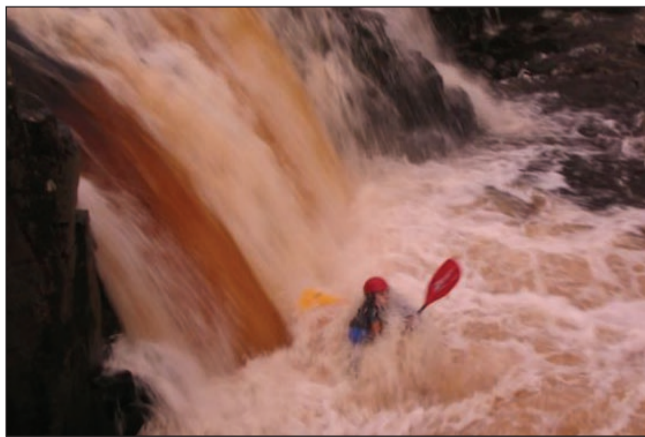
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want to use them

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Claire takes on a 10ft waterfall

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY

**RAG WEEK
BAR NIGHT AND
SLAVE AUCTION**
Beit Quad
Contact: rag@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
GARDEN STATE**
6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Showing at the Union's own
cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
NAPOLEON DYNAMITE**
8.30pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Showing at the Union's own
cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY

**ELECTIONS
VOTING OPENS**
00.01am

Vote for next year's Union
sabbaticals at [www.union.
ic.ac.uk/elections](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections).
Contact: elections@ic.ac.uk

**UNION EVENTS
HIP-HOP AND R&B
VALENTINES PARTY**
8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£6

Featuring Radio 1's Tim
Westwood and Fabriclive's
Joe Ransome. Tickets on sale
now at Union bars, shop and
reception.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY

**RAG WEEK
CIRCLE LINE PUB
CRAWL**
How will we complete the tra-
ditional pub crawl when the
Circle Line is closed?! Come
along and find out for your-
self!
Contact: rag@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 15 FEBRUARY

**FILMS
THE INCREDIBLES**
6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

**UNION EVENTS
PARAMOUNT COMEDY
ON TAP**
7.30pm
Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross
Hospital
£4
Featuring Glen Wool, Alan
Cochrane and Patrick
Monahan.
Contact: lucy.pickard@ic.ac.uk

**UNION EVENTS
STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT**
8-10.30pm
Beit Quad
FREE
Cash and beer prizes on offer.
Get a team together and see
how much you really know.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
HOUSE OF FLYING
DAGGERS**
8.45pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY

**UNION EVENTS
SPORTS NIGHT**
8pm-1am
Beit Quad
£1
Carlsberg and Tetley £1 a pint
all night in all bars.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY

**VERY IMPORTANT
FELIX PUBLISHED**
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Pick up the next issue from
your department or the Union
building.
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**FILMS
HOUSE OF FLYING
DAGGERS**
6pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Showing at the Union's own
cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

**FILMS
THE INCREDIBLES**
8.45pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£3
Showing at the Union's own
cinema.
Contact: cinema@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

**FILMS: VUE CINEMA,
FULHAM BROADWAY**
Student discount ALL WEEK
THE SEA INSIDE (PG)
Daily: 4.15pm, 6.50pm,
9.30pm.
**THE DOOR IN THE
FLOOR (15)**
Daily: 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 8.50pm.
Fri and Sat only: 11.30pm. Sat
to Thurs only: 10.40am.
**THE SPONGEBOB
SQUAREPANTS MOVIE
(12A)**
Daily: 12.40pm, 3pm, 5pm,
7.05pm. Fri and Sat only:
12midnight. Sat to Thurs only:
10.30am.
**THE MAGIC
ROUNDOABOUT (U)**
Daily: 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm.
Sat to Thurs only: 10am,
12.15pm.
SON OF THE MASK (PG)
Daily: 2pm. Sat to Thurs only:

9.45am, 11.50am.
LAURA'S STAR (U)
Daily: 1.40pm. Mon to Thurs
only: 10am, 11.50am.
OCEANS TWELVE (12A)
Daily: 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm,
6.15pm, 8pm, 9pm. Fri and Sat
only: 11pm. Sat to Thurs only:
11.15am.
**MEET THE FOCKERS
(12A)**
Daily: 1pm, 2.45pm, 3.30pm,
5.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm,
9.20pm. Fri and Sat only:
11.15pm. Sat to Thurs only:
11.50am.
RACING STRIPES (U)
Daily: 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm.
Sat to Thurs: 10.50am.
CLOSER (15)
Daily: 5.45pm (not Mon,
Thur), 8.15pm. Fri and Sat
only: 10.45pm.
**MILLION DOLLAR BABY
(12A)**
Daily: 9.10pm (not Mon).
THE AVIATOR (12A)
Daily: 8.40pm (not Mon).
**ASSAULT ON PRECINCT
13 (15)**
Fri and Sat only: 11.50pm.
**TEAM AMERICA: WORLD
POLICE (15)**
Fri and Sat only: 11.45pm.
THE INCREDIBLES (U)
Sat to Thur: 10.10am.

VOTE


SAMEENA

For **President**

- **Successful track record as current Deputy President (Finance & Services)**
- **Help clubs & societies** by reducing admin
- **Improve integration for outlying campuses**
- **Union building Refurbishment**
I've helped get this started, so let me make sure it gets seen through - our students deserve it!
- **Extend library hours**
- **A better Union Website** -comprehensive and user-friendly
- **Improve Postgrad Representation**

VOTE FOR A PRESIDENT WITH A PROVEN TRACK RECORD

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www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections



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1. To ensure an open forum for news and views
2. More humour in Felix
3. To deliver a new termly science and culture magazine
4. To support Clubs, Societies, and Union events
5. To revamp Felixonline and expand our online content

The most experience
the most reliable

VOTE

Darius Nikbin

For FELIX EDITOR



For voting and hustings details visit www.su.ic.ac.uk/elections

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FOR C&S!

MORE FUN
LESS FORMS!

LESS FICTION
MORE FACT!

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NOT GIMMICKS!

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VOTE

EDWARD PIGGOTT
FOR DP (F&S)

VISIT THE CAMPAIGN SITE - www.nonrevolution.org.uk

VOTE DEVINE FOR PRESIDENT

100 Things I'll do if elected..

1. New Finance System
2. New Website
3. An Intranet to handle the paperwork and MORE..
4. An online 'Knowledge base' for every club
5. An online 'Contacts base' for every club
6. A smoke free bar area
7. Bio fuel for Union minibuses
8. Debit card payment for club membership in the Student Activities Centre
9. Our staff are a huge asset to the Union, more recognition for their performance
10. Keep the night bus service and save money
11. Support for Fairtrade University status
12. Support for more faculty union sabbatical presidents
13. Spending your money (legitimately) on behalf of the Union? I'll make sure you get paid back sooner, rather than later.
14. Save money, no loss making ICU summer ball
15. Support for a Faculty of Medicine Summer Ball
16. Support for a Faculty of Engineering Summer Ball
17. Support for a Faculty of Life Sciences Summer Ball
18. Support for a Faculty of Physical Sciences Summer Ball
19. Praise. Better recognition for those who make a contribution to our Union.
20. Less paperwork (just like they all say..)
21. Less paper, and more of that recycled!
22. More convenience, focus on student needs.
23. Support for the individual identities of our faculty unions,
24. let medics be medics, 25. engineers be engineers 26. and scientists be scientists.
27. ICU is here to help, not hinder.
28. Real support for our Union officers
29. Not just an 'open door policy' but actually an open door.
30. A listening Union, your emails will get an answer.
31. Commitment to building a functioning Post Grad representation structure
32. More Recycling!
33. A Felix article from your president every week, every single week.
34. More salsa nights
35. Commitment to make accessing the union easier for students
36. Partnership with college, not divorce.
37. Take the lead on refurbishing the Union building.
38. The refurbishment is a long term thing, it may have to last 30 years, I'll do my best to make sure we get it right, not cut corners that will cause problems in the future.
39. Listen (to you..)
40. Speak (for you..)
41. Think about your needs as students.
42. Even more salsa
43. Treat everyone (staff, students, college, even random people) fairly.
44. Cut down on decadence, it's a union not a 4 star hotel. We all enjoy freebies, but there are limits.
45. Follow through with the strategic review.
46. Try to serve coffee in the Union. (just like everyone else will)
47. Integrate all those forms, a one stop shop for clubs and societies.
48. Work as a team with the other sabbs, it's vital.
49. Be Innovative
50. You're half way, carry on..
51. Make mistakes (although hopefully nothing too bad..)
52. Learn from them, not repeat the same ones
53. Teach others from my mistakes
54. Eat (I'd do this anyway)
55. Sleep (But I'd probably do more of this if I lost..)
56. Cycle (One of my hobbies, again I'd still do this if I lost)
57. Sit in lots of boring meetings and stay awake to argue for the best interest of students.
58. Not hold unnecessary meetings.
59. Not waste my time.
60. Not waste your time.
61. Leave meetings once my purpose has been served.
62. Go around reminding people that Students ARE important to college.
63. If the Rector is wrong about something, I'm prepared to tell him.
64. Support initiatives like the drive by the Royal Academy of Engineering to encourage women to join engineering.
65. Take people seriously, your concerns matter!
66. Try and get EVEN better food from catering.
67. EVEN better beer in the bar. (Is this possible?)
68. ~~Make the sun shine every day for the whole of next year~~
69. Put Imperial Students first.
70. Support our membership of ULU
71. Do more to support our sports clubs.
72. Better promotion of union employability skills workshops
73. Personally praise people who do their jobs well, both staff and student officers.
74. Share knowledge, not silo it.
75. Take personal criticism and act on it, not ignore it.
76. Tidy my office regularly
77. Not waste my money (I'd do this anyway)
78. Not waste your money.
79. If you're still reading this, well done!
80. A new section of the new union intranet to help you get internships, putting you in touch with those who have done them in previous years.
81. Our clubs are for everyone, not just undergrads but post-grads too!
82. Better welfare support for postgrads, they probably don't need it as much as undergrads, but they still need it.
83. Listen to Wye students, because they're people too!
84. Support Wye students in their arguments against the closure of Agricultural study at Wye.
85. Work for better careers support for Physical Sciences students.
86. Continue the campaigns against Visa Charges and Top-up Fees.
87. Encourage all departments to strengthen their personal tutorial system, because it helps students.
88. Southside is being demolished; make the Union a more welcoming place for Post grads to drink.
89. More consultation, fewer long surveys.
90. Decent and useful offices for all our faculty unions.
91. An outward looking union, providing and supporting opportunities for our students to develop themselves.
92. Help college to provide better careers advice.
93. Think before acting.
94. Democracy not dictatorship.
95. Encourage the college to be flexible in its approach to students in general.
96. Ask the college to review charging interest on tuition fees.
97. Take personal responsibility for my mistakes.
98. Commitment to follow through with the conclusions of the strategic review.
99. Ask the college to review the issue of non-academic debts, which stop students progressing through college.
100. Raise the profile of the academic appeals procedure.
101. Congratulations, you made it to the end!



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Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Guitarists need not apply

Death From Above 1979, E6 and Eric Clapton catch our critical eye this week

ALBUM REVIEWS

Death From Above 1979
You're A Woman, I'm A Machine
(679 Recordings)

★★★★★

A band consisting of only two blokes and a pink album cover adorned with their heads and modified phallic-trunk-noses immediately conjures up the 'two puffs and a keyboard' genre of music we all hoped was banished to the eighties. Thankfully, Death From Above 1979 are not your average two man ensemble but instead are out to insult, expose and educate you.

Violent music has been about for years, well honed in electronica (the Prodigy's new album a prime example) and metal, but it has never really been expressed alternatively. Perhaps indie kids don't want it, or perhaps no one can provide it, but the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are the closest band in sight to mildly assault your ears.

So are Death From Above the answer? Yes, not only do they fill the void, they kick you in the teeth and are the embodiment of the innovation and class that has been lacking from today's new acts. Listening to the album, I could only be inspired by the bass lines exceeding the scope of many modern guitar parts, whilst Sebastien Grainger provides not only original drumming but lurid vocals of women and love. Perhaps it's the fact they are ex-convicts who met in a sleazy Toronto jail, or their insatiable desires for the opposite sex, but the energy of their performance is outstanding, picking up from where everyone else has left off.

From the start of *You're A Woman, I'm A Machine*, their debut LP, Death From Above capture your attention with the fast paced *Turn It Out*, followed by *Romantic Rights*; a summary of Grainger's rampant libido and his favourite chat-up line "I know you love me you don't know what you like." Never letting up, Jesse Keller powers out blistering bass riffs to put Lemmy to shame. Thickening the mix with imaginative

synths, the backing complements the hollow vocals, with tracks such as *Go Home, Get Home*, introducing catchy, melodic undertones whilst keeping the amps on 11.

I would love to find a bad word to say about the overuse of distorted bass or the at times substandard songwriting, but Death From Above capture your heart and fly away with it, leaving a shrivelled shell of the person you once were. Looking around, I'm not the only one praising the band, as it appears they have instilled fear in fellow musicians and awed their audiences around the world. I doubt any significant success will come from such an outstanding and rule-breaking LP, but when has anything groundbreaking been out in the mainstream? Hell, they don't even have a guitarist, and unlike Keane there are no extra dubs sneaked in in the studio. There is no doubt this album is paving the way for something big.

After listening to and reviewing *You're A Woman, I'm A Machine*, I am left with a sense that this is what any other new band has to live up to. Grainger claims "I wanna show you how I handle business" in the smoldering finale to a hectic album (*Sexy Results*), and some would say he already has. I would like to feel that this is just the beginning; guitarists need not apply.

File under:
Sex-obsessed guitarless duos
If you like this, try:
Lightning Bolt – *Wonderful Rainbow*

Nick Simpson

Electric Six
Señor Smoke
(679 Recordings)

★★☆☆☆

I have to admit here – I never really "got" Electric Six. When they broke out a few years ago with their hit *Danger! High Voltage!*, and the now omnipresent anthem *Gay Bar*, the six-piece from Detroit came bursting into action and were hailed as one of the most exciting bands to come



Death From Above 1979: would you let these men near your pets?

out of the New Rock Revolution™, despite only really having a few retro riffs with some catchy tunes.

So it's with some trepidation that I approach their follow-up album, *Señor Smoke*. Billed as their 'darker, macabre' follow up to *Fire*, I'm glad someone told me about this, as I couldn't hear it at all from listening to it. Don't listen to the PR sell – it's just more of the same silly disco tunes, and I literally mean that. Every tune is pretty much identical – some electric riffing that will have ACDC's lawyers knocking on the door; followed up by some of Dick Valentine's repetitive baritone ("It's torture, it's torture, you scorcher, you scorcher!" he bellows on *Be My Dark Angel*), then a dodgy keyboard solo, then repeat for a bit. Last time they were perilously close to becoming a joke band, but they avoided it – with this album they've become a self-parody, which is quite an achievement considering their non-serious approach.

General piss-poor writing doesn't help either. Every other song has *Dance* in the title, which would tire out even the mighty Bez whilst high on a bag of sherbet. Lyrically, it's a case of throwing together known words which rhyme ("Can't sit down 'cos I'm a dancer / And you know I have the answer" is a prime example in the closer, *Future Is In The Future*), which stinks of laziness. The attempt at satire and humour is weak as well: the opener *Rock And Roll Evacuation* wins the award for the most hilariously bad political statement ever, with "Mr President makes a little money sending people you don't even know to Iraq / Mr. President, I don't like you, you don't know how to RAWK!" Some people might defend this, citing that it's meant to be intentionally camp. I hope to God that they're not serious.

There are some good tunes to be found here though, which remind us what made them big in the first place. *Vibrator*, which was free

to download, is a decent piece of new-wave rock, and the cover of *Radio Ga-Ga*, despite coming from one of the world's most overrated bands, power chords itself along well enough. *Jimmy Carter* stands out as one of the few tunes where the dark humour hits home, talking of "Ronald Regan falling asleep forever more / Dreaming of nuclear war..."

It's these tracks, plus a few other nice riffs, which saves it from being a complete disaster. But what *Señor Smoke* has shown us is that not only are Electric Six flogging a dead horse, they've gone and sold it off for dog food. Outright comedy shtick can only go so far – it's time for Electric Six to move on.

File under:
Camp novelty rock
If you like this, try:
Brain surgery

Matthew Hartfield

Eric Clapton
Session For Robert J
(WEA)

★★★★☆

Being one of the most influential men in music history, Eric Clapton has spanned the decades, making music before you or me were born. From the early days, with Eric Clapton and the Powerhouse, playing alongside another legend, Steve Winwood, Clapton has been in most of the defining British bands up until the late 70s, such as Cream (whose tickets are selling at £800+ for four special gigs at the Royal Albert Hall), The Yardbirds and Derek and the Dominos. All time classics such as *Layla*, *Sunshine Of Your Love* and *Tears In Heaven* are proof that Clapton is nothing short of god; so who inspired the great man himself?

A self-confessed Robert Johnson freak, Clapton describes on the DVD

for *Sessions For Robert J*, in search for rock roots he stumbled across the skinny delta bluesman, debatably the best blues player before Hendrix. Robert J Johnson, like the majority of great musicians, died before his time, at the rockstar death age of 27. By then he had amassed a handful of flakey recordings that fit on a single CD (often reduced in record stores to £2.99). The magic of Johnson is the mesmerizing lyrics of desperation and a man in search of happiness to lift him out of a world of sorrow; Clapton captures this well in a compilation of his personal favorite covers found on this combination.

The CD is a summary of the tracks seen on the DVD, which are mainly a mini-documentary of Clapton and a handful of musicians in his home studio/barn and several American locales. Well produced, the covers give life and expand on Johnson's sparse compositions, raising the profile of a much forgotten genius. Unfortunately, the close up cuts and three camera angles of the studio footage become tedious by the third track of sixteen, leaving only the accompanying CD with any longevity.

The problem with this CD/DVD combination is that it is no different to Clapton's previous outing, *Me & Mr Johnson*. Dedicated fans will lap up the footage, but to most it appears to be a pointless exploit in repetition and an attempt to show off Clapton's home, musical friends and various music locations of fame. This is an easy listening introduction to Robert Johnson, at twice the price of the original material; better examples of Johnson and Clapton are out there.

File under:
Guitar heroes' hero
If you like this, try:
Robert Johnson – *The Complete Collection*

Nick Simpson



Electric Six: they wanna party like it's, uhm, 1979

Cellos from hell

Rammstein bring their gloriously over the top show to the UK, supported by the intriguing Apocalyptica, and *Felix* interviews the young Neil Young loving upstarts, Hal

LIVE REVIEWS

Rammstein & Apocalyptica Brixton Academy ★★★★★

Generally speaking, Brixton isn't the place you want to be whilst wearing a long black coat and heavy eye-liner, or other paraphernalia of the metal-loving community. However, there's safety in numbers, and the black-clad hordes descending on the Academy up to three hours before doors remained more or less un-molested. Some had come from as far away as Norway, so they had a right to expect a damn good time. They were not disappointed.

Opens Apocalyptica were a revelation. Seated on angular metal thrones against a stark background, they played the heaviest of heavy metal on cellos from hell. Yes, that's right – cellos. Classically trained to a man, these Finnish maniacs offer a novel take on the archetypal hard-rocking metal usually purveyed by the likes of Pantera and Slayer, and it works surprisingly well. Live, their purely instrumental renditions of everything from the Metallica covers of their early days to self-penned anthems from their newly released album, the self-titled *Apocalyptica*, are like a window into another world.

The rich, soulful tones of the cellos cut smoothly through your brain to clutch at your heart, contrasting beautifully and magnificently with the jagged melodies coaxed from them. Combined with manic head-banging that shouldn't be possible while sitting down and the kind of playing-from-all-angles antics that wouldn't have disgraced Jimi Hendrix, theirs was a set to remember and cherish. The audience lapped it up, going from what-the-hell-is-this bewilderment to jumping-up-and-down enthusiasm in seconds. They sang along to *Enter Sandman* and roared their appreciation at every pause: a stunning response to a band that have nothing like the recognition they deserve in this country. The crowd even cheered and threw the horns for the triumphant closer, Edvard Grieg's classical masterpiece *In The Hall*

Of The Mountain King; now that's what I call a crossover success.

No one knows how to put on a show like Rammstein. Opener *Reise Reise* began with clearing smoke revealing the band posed on a giant two-tier stage of industrial-looking platforms. The first deep, guttural notes of overpowering German vocals set the tone for what was to come: an hour and fifty minutes of complete mayhem. The show really kicked off with third song *Feuer Frei*, when singer Till and guitarists Richard and Paul donned masks to breath twelve-foot flames over the audience; the heat could be felt at the very back of the venue. After this, nothing could be the same. Whether it be covering the crowd in red, white and blue confetti in *Amerika*, Till boiling keyboardist Flake in a giant pot (heated, naturally, with a flamethrower) during recent single *Mein Teil*, or Paul crowd-surfing around the auditorium in a dinghy for final song *Stripped*, the Teutonic nutcases just kept on upping the ante.

The crowd went wild when Till shot fireworks at them from a giant crossbow and immense gout of flame lit up the stage during *Du Hast*; they laughed like maniacs when Flake rode around the stage on a Segway whilst playing *Amerika*; they whooped when various members ran around in suits covered in fireworks. Let's face it, who wouldn't?

The driving percussion, throbbing guitars and visceral vocals that have hypnotised many a metal-club dance floor were all present in a set that covered most of the new album and all the old classics, from *Rammstein* to *Sonne* and much in between, meaning that no one could leave dissatisfied. Their industrial-metal stylings have entranced millions across the world for years on record, but truly nothing can compare with them live. When your lead singer had to become a qualified pyrotechnician so that you could perform, that pretty much goes without saying.

Rammstein: if anyone knows a better way to have fun with six oiled Germans in leather lederhosen, I'd like to know about it.

Anna Novitzky



Rammstein: pyrotechnics, flamethrowers and simulated violence. But not in this picture, obviously

Hal Camden Barfly ★★★★★

"I collect badgers!" beams front-man Dave Allen in the band's hotel bar – only he's pointing at circular logo-bearing pins on his bag so we figure he's said 'badges' and quickly replace bewildered expressions with ones of glee and mutual badge-appreciation. Amidst the confusion that follows, we accidentally convince Dave that his band has been likened to Elton John in the music press, subsequently throwing in a 'gayness test', then suggesting that he'd like to interact with his own mother. All in all, a sober outing for *Felix*.

We're back in Hal's hotel awaiting the young Irish four-piece's arrival. Dave's the first to stroll into the bar fresh from their soundcheck at the Camden Barfly. He's alone, expressionless and heading straight for the gents. A minute later his three bandmates emerge, relaxed and cheerful. Dave's younger brother Paul, also the band's bass player, seems pleased to have spotted us. He's gripping the note we left them at reception and tells us that the soundcheck went well. "Why don't you interview him in the toilets?!" suggests a short-haired guy in thick-framed spectacles. It turns out this character is Steve Hogan, Hal's funny-man drummer, all but invisible in band photographs. When it comes down to it, they all seem more than happy to let Dave speak for the band.

With Hal's virtual plot of cyberspace, Halmusic.com, promising a wealth of intriguing band news and links, only to deliver more 'coming soon' messages than a Friday night visit to your local Odeon, we decided to play an interactive game of 'human website' with Dave to fill in the gaps and find out exactly what's going on in the Hal camp. First up, we clicked on NEWS. Dave happily obliges by informing us that his day has been mostly comprised of badge-shopping in Camden. In the joy that ensues, the one of us dressed in lady's clothing subjects Dave to an in-depth showcase of the twenty badges on her skirt. Dave

takes to the game of 'pick your favourite badge' without even being asked. He likes the spotty one with a dog on it, and then returns the favour with a guided tour of his very own badge collection. Highlights include his 'Art Brut' badge, one of a dog in American Indian headgear, and a lonesome 'Bloc' badge longing for a 'Party' counterpart. Having purchased the badge at a Bloc Party gig in Sweden, he's eagerly awaiting receipt of the 'Party' pin bought by a friend at a Dublin Bloc Party gig. Dave's a big Bloc Party fan. Now that's news to us.

Next up, SIGHT & SOUND. With Hal's debut single entitled *Worry About The Wind*, we hilariously find out that Dave did in fact worry about the wind once upon a time, and that his favourite hurricane (but not the band's namesake) would be Hurricane Hal. The band are, in reality, named after Hal Blaine, Dave's favourite drummer of all time who played in every band in the early 60s as far as we could tell, including the Ronnettes as well as on the Beach Boys' *Petsounds*, Hal's mutual favourite record and undoubtedly their biggest influence.

Then t'was time to navigate our virtual cursor to the 'HALS FAVOURITE THINGS' link. Already fully aware of the badge obsession, we were keen to find out what other unspeakable things Dave was into. "I like little funny things" we're told. "I change my answer message on my phone once a month. I put myself in a different imaginary scenario each month and that's the reason I can't get to the phone". Intrigued, we ask what surreal experience we'd be exposed to if we rang him right this minute. "I hate those McCafes, so I speeded up my voice on a dictaphone so I sound like a chipmunk on drugs, and I am apparently sitting shooting the breeze in a McCafe somewhere in Dublin, thinking about life, and someone rang me up two weeks ago and said change your answer message, it's gay!" At this point we clumsily throw in a 'sexuality test' based on the length of Dave's index finger versus that of his ring finger, only to find that "No, no, I'm definitely not that way orientated at all... so I'm going to

change my message on the first of the month to something less gay, maybe slow it down to sound like Johnny Cash!" We feel enlightened and privileged but he still doesn't give us his number.

When we try to inform Dave that it's been suggested elsewhere in the music press that Elton John would probably love Hal, he misconstrues what we're saying as, "you guys sound like Elton John!". We haven't the heart to correct him and instead listen to Dave sigh in shock and needlessly defend his band's integrity by listing such great influences as Neil Young, his favourite track being *Don't Let It Bring You Down*.

Eventually, both *Felix* and Dave feel so at ease with one another that we ditch the 'clicking on links' metaphor and ask him what it was like touring with label-mates Delays. We discover that Delays' Gilbert brothers were just like nurturing big brothers to Hal's Allen brothers. Sweet.

Onstage it's a ten-track set, effectively a taster of Hal's forthcoming self-titled album, though current single and album-opener *What A Lovely Dance*, described by Dave as "a magical experience of falling in love... and then out of love", is saved for the all-important third song slot. Mid-set we're presented with a beautiful number, *Keep Love As Your Golden Rule*, a song sounding not too dissimilar to the Beach Boys' *God Only Knows*. Debut single, *Worry About The Wind* is saved for the end of the set and with it's gorgeous harmonica-laden endtro, is well worth the wait. Falsetto-delivered soaring melodies have been done before – Geneva failed due to lead singer Andrew Montgomery's hideously grimacing face in performance. Dave Allen, on the other hand, appears onstage dressed all in white with the breathtaking voice of an angel, ensuring that Hal's sun-kissed Beach Boys-esque tunes will be favourably received.

Catch them on their 'back by popular demand' extra date at Rendition in London. To listen to the interview in full along with music from Hal and a selection of Dave's favourite tunes, visit icradio.com and click the delightful 7th Feb show of NSUAOSATOC. **Wael Dabbous**



Hal: the badger collector himself. His name isn't Hal, though

MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

American idiots? Apparently not

Green Day have been playing their brand of melodic pop-punk for what seems like forever. Now they've caught a dose of politics, bringing their new material to the UK for the first time

LIVE REVIEWS

Green Day
Brixton Academy
★★★★★

Last week, nineties rock heroes Green Day showed the Brixton Academy crowd why punk can still be king in an age of paranoid conservative politics.

For the world tour of their new album, Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool have drawn on all their years of pop-punk experience to produce a show capable of matching *American Idiot* in power, passion and imagination.

The band exploded onto the stage with the album's lead single and title track, before ordering, "Sing it so those rednecks can hear us!" The politics of the grown-up Green Day material may be controversial amongst some fans, but the 5000 here in attendance seemed in fine voice for joining in: "Don't wanna be an American idiot... One nation controlled by the media".

The crowd seems just as excited

by the following *Jesus Of Suburbia*, a nine minute epic, and one of the two pieces of cross-track storytelling which have left traditional three-minute punks suspicious of the new album. When the classic material started flowing (*Longview*, *Basket Case*, *Brain Stew*, *Hitchin' A Ride*, even *2000 Lightyears Away*) it was heart-warming to hear that most of the evenly mixed 14 to 40 crowd knew all the words to both the old and new songs.

What raises a Green Day concert above the pop-punk competition is the band's tireless commitment to entertaining their audience. The band never let the pace drop, with water pistols, pyrotechnics, sing-alongs and even getting the audience up on stage to play. For one and a half hours, Billie Joe climbed speaker stacks and charged the length of the stage, seemingly trying to engage every one of the capacity crowd with his trademark crazy-eyed stare.

Presumably as a treat for us Brits, *King For A Day* was merged seamlessly into Lulu's *Shout* and the show was finished with a brilliant cover of



Green Day: you're not punk unless your guitar hangs at least to your knees, and Billie Joe knows it

Queen's *We Are The Champions*. As the words "We'll keep on fighting till the end" flashed up on their massive dot-matrix backdrop, this song seemed a perfectly appropriate choice. To Green Day, punk isn't just a phase you go through as a teenager, but a philosophy for life.

And the way Billie Joe tells it, his fight now is against America's neo-conservatives for our freedom as individuals. His take-home message: "Don't let the powers that be tell you how to live your life... Listen to your heart and to your mind!" Good advice indeed.

Finally we were left with Mr Armstrong alone on the stage, playing a stirring solo electric version of the truly anthemic *Good Riddance* and sharing the wish: "I hope you had the time of your life." After a show like that, who wouldn't have?

Ed Hunt

The good, the bad and The Game

Felix presents you with the hotly anticipated new single from The Mars Volta, Fatboy Slim's ambitious cover, and some other stuff you might like

SINGLE REVIEWS

Fatboy Slim
The Joker
(Skint)
★★★★☆

Norman Cook and Bootsy Collins have reunited for this ambitious remake of the Steve Miller Band classic *The Joker*.

Fatboy enlisted Bootsy's magic on the inspired *Weapon Of Choice* on his last album in 2001, and *The Joker* is the lead single from his latest offering *Palookaville*. This is definitely a controversial track – Steve Miller fans will likely loathe it, or at least loathe to like it, while Bootsy fans will gush about his masterful vocals and witty improvs. Love it or hate it, this song will get your foot tapping with its catchy riffs, reggae overtone and infectious sense of fun.

I rather like this song – it is quite simply as silly and absurd as Bootsy himself. He drenches it with his contagious outrageousness that cannot fail to make you smile. *The Joker* is released on 28th February. Fo shizzle ma nizzle. **Ben Ramadan**

Jem
They
(Ato)
★★★★☆

Question: what do you get if you mix folk music with some hip hop beats and a sprinkling of a kids' chorus? Answer: the debut single from one

of the most hotly tipped artists of the year, Jem Griffiths.

If you haven't heard of this 29-year-old Welsh singer songwriter, don't worry, you definitely will soon. She has already managed to captivate American listeners with her considerable talents – her music has been used on US series *Six Feet Under* and she made a special guest appearance in the season finale of hit US teen drama *The OC*.

So, does she have the songs to live up to the acclaim? On this evidence she certainly does. Kicking in with a strong hip hop beat and incorporating elements of *Prelude In F Minor*, by a certain Mr JS Bach, Jem certainly shows no fear in mixing styles to define a sound which is so infectious it will no doubt burrow its way into your head within minutes of your first listen. Say hello to 2005's next big thing. **Dom Wong**

The Game
How We Do
(Interscope)
★★★★☆

The Game, aka Jayceon Taylor, has induced a lot of excitement in hip-hop circles.

Described as "the new future of hip-hop", he turned to rapping after waking from a coma and shedding a shady past of dealing and robbery to try his luck in a world where bullet wounds get you noticed.

How We Do is the first single from his debut album *The Documentary*, which has had nods of approval from Kayne West, Timbaland, Mary

J Blige and Eminem. It's a top notch Dre tune, featuring vocal subsidies from 50 Cent – you get the impression Game is being led by the both hands into the hip-hop world.

It works. The tune is both simple and catchy, and while Game's lyrics could be more original, he lives up to Dre's quality production. The spare 808 beat and fifties influence are sure to make this a dancefloor favourite. Listen out for this tune after the single's Valentine's Day release, and be prepared to hear a lot more from G Unit's latest prodigy.

Ben Ramadan

The Mars Volta
The Widow
(Island)
★★★★☆

iTunes is selling half a billion songs a year; it is an all powerful marketing machine which iPod users (about the whole world) are all too familiar with. Notably, it has an uncanny ability to classify almost any song, and when its pushed to the limits (such as Kid Symphony) it just shoves it in the 'Unclassifiable' genre. So after reading an interview with (ex-At The Drive In, and now) The Mars Volta vocalist, Cedric Bixler Zavala, describing how the Volta try to break down labeling of genres, I was surprised that their new single *The Widow* was popped into the 'Alternative' tab – I am sure he's not pleased.

As the first single from their new album *Francis The Mute*, *The Widow* is another trip down wierdo-

prog lane. Once more, strange lyrics flow out of the sharp-tongued mouth of Cedric throughout the operatic track, which opens with unforgettable wailing vocals before the start of the trademark eerie guitar used extensively on their debut LP. Listening to the single, I couldn't help feeling a Muse influence, the vocal and instrumental tracks swell and die out to a slow beat, with epic intensity, shredding and horns.

The lyrics on their debut album (*De-Loused In The Comatorium*) described the world dreamt up by a coma victim but take a different turn on *Francis The Mute*, animating the journals of Volta's lost friend Jeremy

(Ward, died of a heroin overdose – *Ed*). Whilst the video depicts a death dealer trawling the streets of a wasted city, the anger and stress within the song is notable, with imagery of broken men and rampant fear – a slow ballad, Mars Volta style.

Strangely, the song seems overly familiar (and immediately identifiable as the Volta's). Whether it's because of their desire to cast off any label, or the epic concept album feel their songs have, the new, refined Mars Volta sounds like a second take of their first attempt and not the innovative, progressive band they claim to be.

Nick Simpson



The Mars Volta: experimental, strangely funky, and very, very good

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Thomas Smith, 2004 award winner, says,

"Winning the L'Oréal/Royal Institution Science Graduate of the Year Award really has opened up so many new opportunities for me. The judges really value dedication and originality in the entries so I'd certainly recommend applying. The value of winning a prize such as this can't be overestimated!"

L'Oréal / Royal Institution

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L'Oréal and the Royal Institution are pleased to invite applications from students working in the life sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, plant sciences and medicine. Now in its 6th year, the Award is open to young researchers in British and Irish universities who have not yet submitted their doctoral thesis. The Award is intended to recognise high quality research of a ground-breaking nature, which shows originality and the will to innovate. The Winner will receive a £6000 prize, media training, life membership to the Ri and the opportunity to present at prestigious lectures in London and Paris.

To apply, candidates should submit five hard copies of the following: a one-page summary of their research, indicating the way in which it meets the criteria; a CV; and a report from their supervisor. There is no application form to complete. Applications should be sent, quoting reference SG05/03, to: Head of Programmes, The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1S 4BS. For further information visit: www.rigb.org

Applications to arrive no later than Friday 4 March 2005.



L'ORÉAL



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Defective Defected

Defected Records is one of the hottest house labels around, but all was not well at their album launch on Saturday

CLUB REVIEW

Defected in the House
Pacha

The first thing I have to make clear is that I didn't get in to Defected, as the security were being twats with the guest list, but I do have some recommendations to anyone who wants to go.

Defected used to be at Ministry of Sound once a month, then it had a break over the summer. It went back before Christmas, but there was numerous problems. These were mainly due to the huge turn-outs – the place was apparently rammed. Therefore, when they moved to Pacha (a smaller venue) for their album launch, they knew it was going to be huge. And I mean huge.

I turned up at about 9.30pm, knowing there was going to be a huge queue, even for the guest list. The main queue at this point was already right round the other side of the building, about 75m long. The thing with the guest list queue that night was that it wasn't just a guest list; people who had tickets were there, they had a paying guest, a house guest, the list went on. So, as you can imagine, it was a complete free for all. As the night was so popular, they had decided to cut down the press guest list. This cut included me, so I wasn't best pleased. Even

worse, instead of being given a straight answer, I was just bumped from queue to queue.

Anyway, enough of my whinging, I wasn't the only one this happened to. People who had tickets were experiencing the same problem, being told they couldn't get in as there were too many people. It's acceptable, but irritating. You can cut the guest list, but when people have paid money it's just not good business to turn them away. These problems would never have had occurred if they had predicted the size of the turn-out for the night. To make matters worse, the staff didn't seem to know what was going on either – there were Defected staff and Pacha staff all being told different information about lists and where people should be and whether they were paying.

This review, if you can really call it that, isn't a bitter bitch about how I didn't get in, it's really just a piece of advice to the organisers: ensure that all the staff know what they are doing and don't employ people who are there on a power trip.

Defected have become massive recently, so any event they hold is sold out a few weeks if not months before the event. If you do have tickets, I recommend getting there early. Not just 20 minutes, I mean at least an hour early. If you don't have tickets but are going to queue to pay, I would say get there even earlier because there is going to be a big crowd. As for the guest list, this



A defective house. Or should that be Defected?

is always a bane of every clubber's night out – whether or not you are actually on the list, and if so, is the bouncer going to be a dick? Pacha has this weird system of a house list and a club night list instead of just having one nice alphabetised list.

If anyone actually managed to get into Pacha then I hope you had a good time, as it was meant to be one of the biggest nights in the Defected calendar. I would go again if they were doing another party, but I'd get

there two hours early with a thermos of soup, a ticket and perhaps a small child to entertain me through the boredom of waiting. Or even a heavily overweight midget on a tricycle. Yodelling. You know it makes sense.

Aaron Mason

File under:

Balls up

If you like this, try:

Standing outside in the cold for a long time

BAR REVIEW

Cactus Blue
86 Fulham Road
★★★★☆

I count myself very lucky to be able to live in such a nice area and be so close to bars and restaurants of a high quality. Cactus Blue is one such place.

Located along the Fulham road towards South Kensington station, it's got a kind of western (as in cowboy) feel about it. It spans over two floors, the upstairs being the restaurant, which is nice but expensive. Don't expect change from £20, but it is worth the money. It is an ideal place to go if your parents are down and they are paying, or if you want to eat somewhere cool before going out into London.

Cactus Blue one of those places where you just have to ignore the fact that you just spent £7 on a cocktail and soft drinks start at £2. Champagne cocktails are also £7 so it's worth just drinking those all night – it reminds you of what is was like to not drink snakebite just because it's cheap and gets you wasted.

The best thing about the whole place is the fact that they have a tiny lift for glasses. It was a cage in the centre of the bar, which I have to say has entertained me numerous times when a little bit drunk.

Something else important is that they ask for your credit card when they take your order. This is for security reasons, so if you're thinking of doing a runner, don't. The only reason I say I this is because I have thought whether it'd be possible to run and grab my card and make it out of the door. It's not.

Aaron Mason

Fabric's breaks beat the rest

CLUB REVIEW

Fabric Live
Fabric
£12
★★★★☆

We pulled up to Fabric at 11.15 to find a queue snaking miles around the block. We immediately knew this night was going to be a little bit special.

For once, we didn't have to worry about the long wait in the cold and, thanks to Nightlife editor Simon,

joined the much less daunting guest list queue. A touch of blagging was in order to extend my spot to three people, but the chick with the clipboard was won over by my winning smile and we ventured inside.

The night was getting more and more promising when we swiftly bypassed about 40 people in the cloakroom queue, though I'm not sure why – I was slightly dazed and being led by the hand at this point. We checked our coats and that moment of imminent clubbing excitement and nerves was upon

us. For those of you who know the club, we came down the back stairs into Room 2 – you really come in on a high because the music is already cranked and the crowd is dancing. I was struck by how empty the place was compared to the hundreds waiting outside (over-enthusiastic bouncers as always) but immediately headed to the bar to get things rolling.

I'm not much of a drum and bass fan, but I love my breaks and I was there to check out the much lauded Australian breaks wizard, Phil K. Distinctive Breaks were doing their monthly spot in room 2, and Phil K is doing the next in their excellent Y4K cd series, which has seen the likes of Hybrid and DJ Hyper produce quality mixes.

Evil Nine were doing the warm-up job and were banging it out a little too early, in my opinion, their excellent heavy guitar mix of Alex Dolby's *Hazy Way* straining the speakers at 11.45. There was little movement on the dance floor and I was disappointed by an act that I had heard many good things about.

A few drinks later and I am arrived. A feeling of expectation swept the floor and the stuttering beats of the Melbourne maestro's



Hybrid

first tune hit the speakers. The lasers came on and the party was in full swing.

Phil K is regarded as one of the most talented DJs around and now I know why: layer upon layer of filthy breakbeat shuddered the Fabric system. Not a single missed beat or still moment, just cranking it up tune by tune. The basslines and hi-hats kept us hypnotically on the floor, boogieing away. Then he dropped Prodigy's *Spitfire* and the crowd erupted. If you haven't heard the caustic breaks of the Prodigy's new album, check it out!

The next hour or so went in a bit of a blur and, before I knew it, Phil

K was winding things up with the resonant, Jimmi Hendrix-esque guitars of Andy Page's *Serpent* – check his Y4K for a choon and a half! The rest of the night was spent equally between Hybrid, who were also excellent, room 3 for a bit of the UK hip-hop of Rodney P and Skitz, and the stairs for a bit of breather! I met many new and old faces and generally had my best night for a while.

Cosmo Shield

File under:

Breaks

If you like this, try:

Chew The Fat @ The End



Evil Nine



Books

A day in the life

Nicolas Osman extols the virtues of an epic 20th century novel. It's even better than revision

Ulysses

by James Joyce

★★★★☆

Put away your notes. Turn off the television. Put the textbooks back on their shelf. Find a copy of *Ulysses*, and read it now.

I admit that this is a slightly odd opening, but I would really recommend reading this book. I can't really describe it, I don't understand it, it's just absolutely brilliant.

Most book reviews would cover the plot. I can do that in a sentence; *Ulysses* is about a man, who gets up, goes to work, wanders around Dublin, and goes home. That's it. 24 hours in the life of a certain Leopold Bloom, on 16 June 1904. Now, you might think that this makes for a dull book (especially as this is spread over 900 pages). However, *Ulysses* shouldn't be read for the incredible plot; instead, it is the way it is written that is to be enjoyed.

We are used to reading novels where characters are forced through a series of quite extraordinary events by god-like authors. James Joyce, on the other hand, takes the role of neutral observer rather than director. The novel is a verisimilitude, like an intricately detailed picture taken from nature, where every brushstroke is loaded with meaning.

However, there is a definite parallel between the novel and its all-action predecessor, the *Odyssey*. Each chapter of *Ulysses* is a retelling of an episode of the *Odyssey*: the aged professors at the library are Scylla and Charybdis; the Sirens become barmaids, and a nationalist citizen takes the place of the Cyclops. As well as this, *Ulysses* is a physical novel – each chapter has an associated piece of the anatomy, and these disparate chapters all add together to make a functioning whole. Also, each chapter is

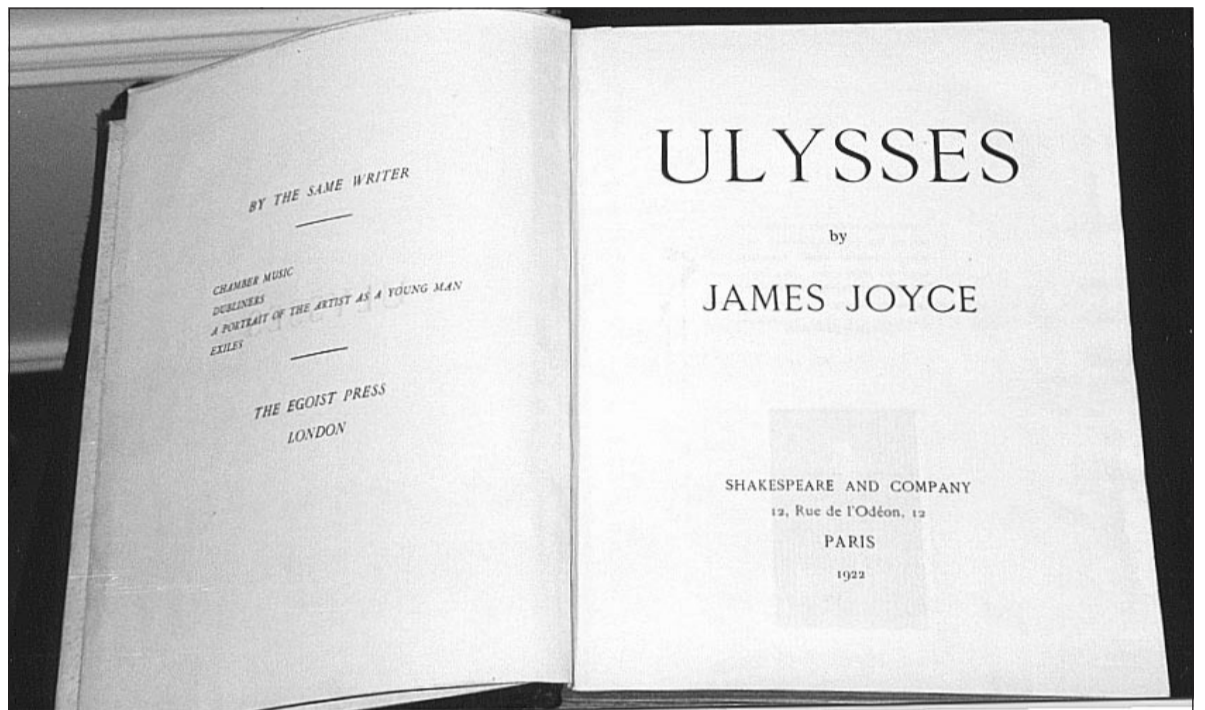
assigned a colour and a field of study; although none of this is mentioned explicitly, Joyce used these themes as blueprints for this massive novel.

Ulysses reflects the fact that Joyce sees his language as dying out. Not only is the Irish language giving way to English, but English is giving way to 'electrical English', the language of cinema, gramophones and wireless. And, as such, *Ulysses* is a novel to end all novels.

Taking the starting point with the ancient tradition of poets passing down their epics, Joyce seems to move through every conceivable mode of written English. One chapter is written in Middle English; another is written as a play. The most striking chapter is the Nausicaa chapter, in which Bloom fantasises about a young girl on the strand before him. The language is flowing and poetic, building up to a climax, when Bloom suddenly realises that the girl is lame. At this point, the language collapses into a mess of the incomplete sentences and intangible thought processes that are so common in the rest of the book. Although this writing style seems overwhelming, it does indeed seem that we are reading the mind of the protagonist. As an example, consider the lines:

"Perfume of embraces all him assailed. With hungered flesh obscurely he mutely craved to adored"

To most people, it seems that the words are random. In fact, Joyce spent an entire day on these two sentences alone. His English seems to be teeming with life and beauty, but only because the words are in exactly the correct order. At times, entire sentences are repeated in a completely different order, to show the fluidity of language. And the theme of language is an important one; Joyce shows how language defines the way we think, and the



Ulysses. It's a book, y'know. It's quite good too

way that we see the world.

The novel was written in the early part of the 20th century and, like most creative art from that period, it deals with encroaching mechanisation. Bloom sympathises with the machines, thinking in their terms and giving them words ("Silt", "Gurrhr" and "frseeeeeeeefronnng" are all words assigned to inanimate objects). Indeed, Bloom himself seems an automaton at times, following strings of instructions, with little apparent motivation. As well as seeming to be part-machine, he seems to be part-female as well. One character, Stephen Dedalus, sees heaven as a place where "everyman is his own wife"; Bloom takes this to extremes, both physical (masturbation in the Nausicaa chapter) and mental. Indeed, reference is made

both to Bloom's foreskin and (during a particularly odd episode) his vulva, showing his struggle between masculine and feminine. Perhaps Joyce saw that man and woman would eventually become completely indistinguishable, as humanity and the inanimate coalesced.

One of the most fascinating aspects of *Ulysses* is the range of references it makes. As well as Shakespeare and Chaucer, Joyce includes some surprising pieces of information, including astronomical classifications, historical events, and entire pieces of legend. A small section is devoted to an Irish warrior, who bears images of "Irish heroes and heroines of antiquity"; these include Captain Nemo, Alessandro Volta and (for fans of Saint-Saëns) The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo. This dense layering of cross

references means that its hard not to realise that you recognise something, although, at the same time, I was always wondering what I wasn't picking up while reading.

I will admit that, for the most part, I didn't have a clue what was going on in *Ulysses*, but then again, it isn't always necessary to understand something to enjoy it. If you approach it without trying to dissect it, it's really enjoyable. The problem comes later on when you start to think like bloom yes and stop using punctuation like the last 60 or so pages and everything becomes like one big sentence which is a brilliant ending very upbeat yes and the paragraphs go awol as well but the word limit approaching how many words did he say seven hundred yes too late for that and yes to write yes and will I stop now Yes



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Listings: page 22

Big on stars, low on story

Twelve is the new *Eleven*: George, Brad and the gang get involved in another heist

Ocean's Twelve

Director: Steven Soderbergh
Starring: Brad Pitt, Catherine Zeta-Jones, George Clooney, Julia Roberts
Length: 125 minutes
Certificate: 12A
★★★★☆

Style, glamour, the most beautiful locations in Europe and some of the biggest names in Hollywood have all been packed into this new film by Steven Soderbergh. It's the big budget sequel to *Ocean's Eleven*, the aptly titled *Ocean's Twelve*.

Adding in the promise of a little intrigue, a dash of romance and a twisty plot, you might think that Soderbergh would have produced a really great movie, but unfortunately *Ocean's Twelve* never quite delivers the goods.

So Danny Ocean and his boys are

back. At the end of the first film, his new-age gang of thieves disbanded and went their separate ways after stealing \$160 million from lecherous casino boss Terry Vincent, played as slick and menacing by veteran Andy Garcia. Now, three years later, Vincent has tracked down all those who stole from him and he wants his money back, with interest, in just two weeks. With no time to spare, Ocean rounds up his old crew and they head for Europe to steal enough to save their lives.

What follows is a whirlwind of planning and execution, as they come up with inventive and original ways of stealing their proposed targets. At the same time, however, they are being watched by a mysterious figure – the Nightfox – a master thief himself, who could turn out to be either friend or foe. Also in pursuit of Ocean *et al* is Isabel, a brilliant Europol investiga-

tor, who is determined to catch the slippery boys in the act and send them all to prison. She also has to contend with ex-boyfriend Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) who uses his considerable charms to try to get the better of her.

George Clooney reprises his role as Danny Ocean, and brings class and boyish charm to the lead. Brad Pitt plays his right hand man to perfection: making him the suave, if slightly arrogant, master con artiste and point man he needs to be. A couple of other well-known names such as Matt Damon and Don Cheadle

“It is here that the film lets itself down – the plot more or less sucks...”

are thrown in as well, with British actors Eddie Izzard and Robbie Coltrane in special guest starring roles.

The ladies of this film, do their very best to balance out the almost overwhelming levels of testosterone present, whilst also bringing a lot of glamour to the screen. Julia Roberts is Ocean's long-suffering wife Tess, who gets in on the action this time around; and Catherine Zeta Jones is the enigmatic Isabel.

The cast is, without a doubt, full of first-rate actors, but with so many stars present the film seems to be cluttered with lots of two-dimensional characters. This includes Matt Damon, who comes across as terribly inconsistent and is nowhere near believable as Linus Caldwell, the young pickpocket trying to prove



How many celebrities does it take to make a good movie?

himself. The American comedian Bernie Mac also appears, but his comedic genius is completely unused by Soderbergh as Mac's character is left to languish in a Dutch jail for almost the entire movie.

As the story progresses, we are taken across the continent from Amsterdam and Rome to the shores of Lake Como, and all is done in lavish style. The European backdrop provides the film with the elegance that is not often found in many of today's Hollywood offerings. The soundtrack skips from contemporary to classical with a bit of late sixties retro thrown in to perfectly offset each scene.

Soderbergh has wonderfully succeeded in choosing the perfect backdrop for the story and the action that is meant to follow; but it is here that the film lets itself down – the plot more or less sucks. It isn't terrible, just extremely weak – an initially confusing plot eventually gives way

to some very predictable final twists, taking two hours to do so. The end dragged on miserably, attempting to tie up all loose ends.

There was also hardly any tension throughout the film, which is unusual in this kind of production. And the meticulous preparation for the heists, which was what I had come to expect from *Ocean's Eleven* and had made it that much more interesting, was simply skimmed over this time. It was also disappointing that the few action scenes were erratic and short-lived.

Whilst there are some enjoyable scenes in the film and no one part of it is too terrible, it just seems to lack any real substance and comes across as no more than an excuse to get a lot of famous friends together in one movie. The cast is definitely the main draw of the film, as any fan will tell you. It was, in a word, fun, but not something to write home about. **Mandirassa Osakonor**



Their expressions look as bland as this film

Are you talkin' about a sequel?

Recent reports in the press have suggested that Robert De Niro and Martin Scorsese have been discussing plans for a sequel to *Taxi Driver*.

“I was talking with Martin Scorsese about doing what I guess you'd call a sequel to *Taxi Driver*, where [Bickle] is older,” said Robert de Niro, the star of the original movie. Coincidentally, the National Film Theatre are now screening Scorsese's 1976 masterpiece next week, giving fans an opportunity to watch it on the big screen.

This is a film about a lonely Vietnam veteran, whose antipathy towards the decadence in the streets around him drives him to undertake a violent mission to rid the city of “the scum, the dogs and the filth”.

Taxi Driver was Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro's second collaboration after the superb *Mean Streets*. Thanks to its success, the two went on to make a series of legendary films such as *Raging Bull*, *Goodfellas*, and

Casino. This is, without doubt, a very important film.

Taxi Driver is one of those rarities – an art-house movie that was a complete critical and commercial success. Nowadays, no matter how good a film is, it will not reach a massive audience unless its release is preceded by several months of costly marketing and

“Taxi Driver is one of those rarities – an art-house movie that was a complete success”

advertising. Unashamedly commercial films such as *Ocean's Twelve* make money and dominate the cinema listings because of huge marketing campaigns that condition audiences into knowing what to expect. *Ocean's Twelve* is a good bet for mindless entertainment, therefore, it is a bankable movie for a Friday night. *Taxi Driver* is the

opposite – your expectations will inevitably be shattered, and your response after seeing it will be unpredictable.

Taxi Driver is a disturbing movie in which every scene is designed to capture the lead character's oppressive loneliness. Its famous “You talkin' to me?” scene, where De Niro's character has a gunslinging competition with his own reflection, has been referenced in movies such as *La Haine*. The film ending and plot has even influenced recent box office hits such as *Bad Santa*. Most famously, perhaps, there were calls *Taxi Driver* to be banned after the film inspired a real-life assassination attempt on the life of Ronald Reagan in 1981.

In the current commercial climate in the movie industry, I would not be surprised one bit if they made *Taxi Driver II*. A sequel to such an influential film is guaranteed to be a massive commercial success, and nowadays, that in itself is a good enough reason to make it.

Darius Nikbin

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 11 February at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- The Mask 2: Son of the Mask
- Spongebob Squarepants



Spongebob: you what?

- The Sea Inside
- The Magic Roundabout

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

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win merchandise for the week's new releases. Just answer this question:

Who is the odd one out and why?

- a) Jim Carrey
- b) Leonardo DiCaprio
- c) Matt Damon

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

Last week's winners

Ocean's Twelve
Marco Visentini Scarnzella
Jessica Wright

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Another week, Another Coffee Break. It's Valentines Day on Monday, so we thought who better to give love advice than the sex god himself, Mr David Hasselhoff. He was Michael Knight for god's sake! Send your answers to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**



Dear DAVID

The World's No1 Agony Uncle / Lifeguard / All-Round Legendary Guy



Do You Have A Problem?
Want To Share it With The Hoff?

Send David an email at coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk, and we'll print the best. Or even better, send us your mates' problems, and we can all have a laugh at their expense



"Hey there students! Working hard? I hope so. College is an important part of growing up. Going to College was the best thing I ever did... apart from that German chick I met at the Love Parade back in '87. Man, could that girl go! Seriously though, College is important. Personally, I went to DCL, David's College of Life! And that's where you guys are going too, for one week only. I'm an international superstar. I singlehandedly brought down the Berlin Wall. I just speak the truth and if I help some people with their own pathetic little lives at the same time, then that's just great! There's **three points** if you can work out who has each problem, and what their problem is."



Happy Valentines Day!

Embarrassing brother

Hey David,

I've found it hard to talk about my problem, I don't think anybody takes it seriously. Please, let me explain.

My family has always had a rough time of it, with people gossiping behind our backs, calling us names, that kind of thing. My parents had a messy divorce, as they'd both been cheating on each other. A few years later, my mum died.

Every since it happened though, my little brother just hasn't been the same. He started hanging around with the wrong type of people, going to parties, that kind of thing. Gradually, over time it's just got worse and worse.

He drinks far too much, and ends up fighting with random people outside clubs. Dad always finds out. He

smokes too, I think he's being doing drugs. It's breaking our Grandma's heart!

The final straw was a few week's ago. He went to a party, dressed completely inappropriately. There was a lot of fuss caused, and I got the blame!

Life is so unfair, what can I do to sort him out?

David Says: I'm afraid I'm pretty sure I know what the problem is here bud. Your brother's a prick. There ain't too much you can do about it. I think he'll calm down a little if he has to settle down and be a dad. So until then, just encourage him to have as much unprotected sex as possible, with as many needy women. That'll sort him out!

Drugs are bad, mmmkay

David,

I've just started a new relationship, but nobody is supporting me!

I met him a few weeks ago, at a party. I love to party, and so does he. So we sat around and talked about parties for a bit. Then I had some coke, and we sat around and talked about how amazing we both are. Before that night, I'd never met anyone as selfish and irresponsible as I am. I thought, "he could be my soulmate".

I invited him to my birthday party and since then our relationship has just grown and grown. We're inseperable, apart from when I'm in New York 'working', and when he's lying half dead in a drug dealer's

living room.

My parents and my friends aren't so keen though. They think I should know better. And they keep reminding me that I have a child. Why do they do that? I'm trying to forget!

How can I convince them that a crackhead heroin junkie is the right guy for me?

David Says: I did some crazy things in my time. I remember the time myself and KITT drove to Thailand to find ourselves. Man, that whole month is a blur. There's a moral to this story kids, and that's never ever trust that bastard KITT. Your crackhead heroin junkie is fine though, so have fun lady!

I've been a naughty boy

Hey Hoff-man!

I really respect you and your work David, you've been such an idol to me for so long. I love you.

I love lots of things. Zoos, fairgrounds, a child's naive smile, that kind of thing. I'm just full of love, some would say too much, but they're just ignorant.

I've had some health issues too David, causing my skin to change colour, my talent to dissapear and my nose to fall off. It's been pretty hard going, but I've had my little friends keeping me company.

But now, people want to stop me playing with my friends! It's just not fair!

I've never done anything wrong or

inappropriate in my life. Not once have I done something that I consider 'weird', 'perverted' or 'illegal'. But people are telling me that I have!

They say it's wrong for me and my buddies to have sleepovers. They say that I'm not allowed to share my bed with my best friends. They say that I'm gonna be in big big trouble. I'm a nice guy, why won't people let me be myself!

I don't want to hurt anybody, I just want to love them!

Why doesn't anybody believe me? I don't understand!

David Says: Get out of here before I slap you silly!

Ring The Hoff!



If you've got a problem and there's nobody to help, ring one of David's pre-recorded helplines, and you'll get all the help you need... Just dial 08791 123 000 plus the number matching your problem

Dial 1 if you're a sexy lesbian cheerleader and can't find your underwear

Dial 4 if you're in love with your brother's girlfriend's parent's dog

Dial 2 if he prefers *Football Manager* to you

Does Size Matter? Dial 5 if you think so

Dial 3 if you want to know why it's still itching

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

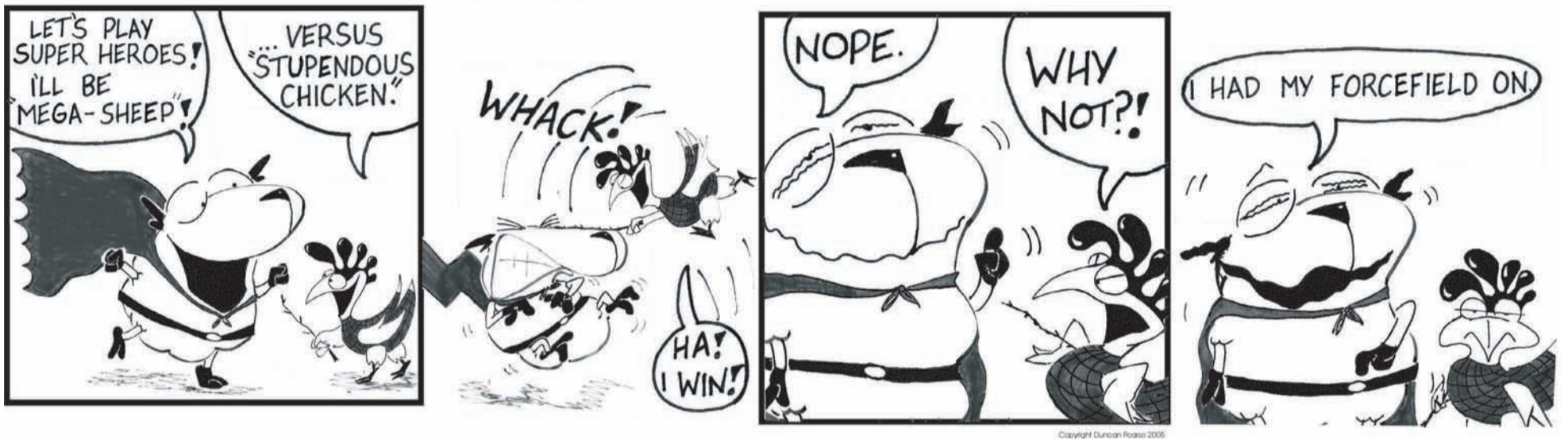
Smith & Wesson	188 points
Araldite Sniffers	176 points
The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	134 points
Management Slackers	127 points
Team Willy J	93 points
Team Robin	81 points
Schoolboy Error	80 points
Team Bulwer	42 points
The Schist Ones	38 points
Caledonian Conspiracy	31 points
Eastbound and Down	31 points
Kings of Kensington	31 points
Withnail and I Society	31 points
Rod Watson's Super Army	29 points
Oliver Carson	29 points
Forever Throwing Doubles	23 points
KPN ²	11 points
Natasha Kundi	10 points

Answers to....
coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

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

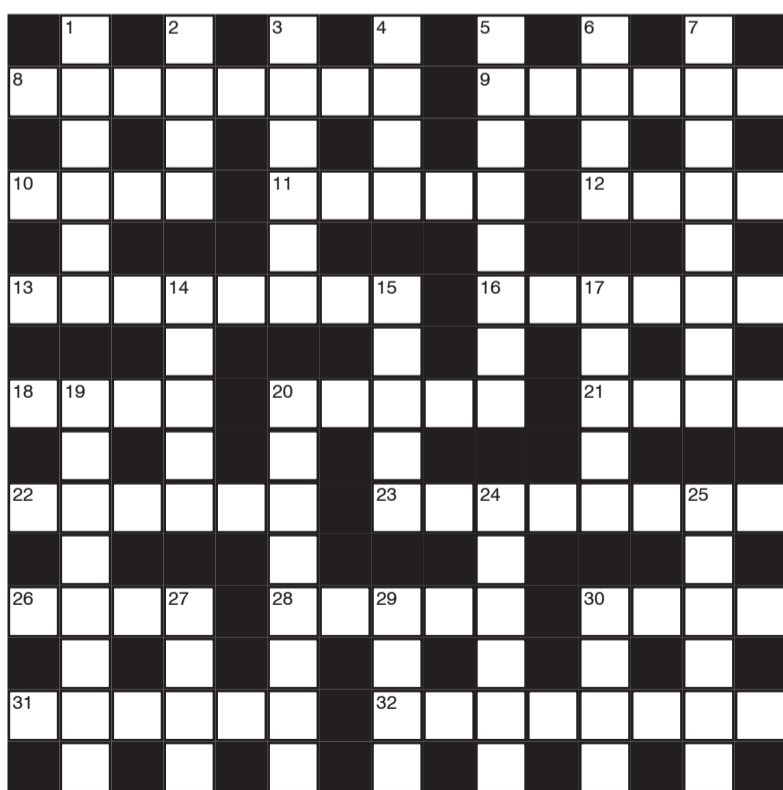
COFFEE BREAK

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Felix Crossword 1315

by Jabberwock



Across

- 8. Utterly frighten away little Albert? (8)
- 9. Angered Pinochet deported alien (6)
- 10. I see, so to speak, a point breaking off Titanic destroyer (4)
- 11. Regal manoeuvre... (5)
- 12. ...to behead King's fellows (4)
- 13. Heathen leaders incited Nicaean insurgency (8)
- 16. Drove most recklessly to Alaska (6)
- 18 & 21. Shrieks, we hear, uttered by the French queen (8)
- 20 & 28. Holy men introduce regular pageants (5-5)
- 21. See 18
- 22. Force acceptance of French water (6)
- 23. Brother, for one, may lie to us (8)
- 26 & 27 down. Tricks reverse American vessel... (7)
- 28. See 20
- 30. ...carrying graduate from China (4)
- 31 & 32. Kiosks I mark over directionless journey (6-8)

Down

- 1. Diagrammatic outline found in Nietzsche manuscript (6)
- 2. Audibly twisted crossbar (4)
- 3. The old people and I, an Arab (6)
- 4. Such a party may be held before entering the Union (4)
- 5. Authorise account payment? (8)
- 6. Insane protocol's second half rejected (4)
- 7. Helicopter body, e.g., contains a dangerous firearm (8)
- 14. A point of view audience is not meant to hear (5)
- 15. Climbing plants, I contend, sting initially (5)
- 17. Shakespeare's dark-complexioned character may be found in Seoul (5)
- 19. Once more achieved control by impounding half of ambassador's staff (8)
- 20. Sultan is anxious to obtain narrow sail (8)
- 24. Small restaurant exposed twice to regular terror (6)
- 25. Release international organisation's carbon record (6)
- 27. See 26 across
- 29. Some deer seen on elevated railroad in Kansas (4)
- 30. Dandy lover (4)

Greetings, cruciverbovoracists!

Carrying on with thematic puzzles, this week all the across clues are undefined but are of a kind. The theme is not altogether unrelated to the one in my last puzzle and should be easy to guess. Note a peculiarity of 26 across which 'turns a corner' into 27down, hence is only seven letters (a word length otherwise unavailable in this grid).

I had a feeling most of the clues were a bit dull, so if you do enjoy any in particular, please write in to cheer me up. Good luck! **Jabberwock**

Issue 1314 solution



The theme was Chinese New Year, and the central square contained the digits 4703, which is the number of the new year in the Chinese calendar.

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

SPORT

Disc Doctors battle SE teams

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

By Jaidip H Patel

In the fashion of Disc Doctors's (dD) attempt to dominate the sports pages, another match report is brought to you for your perusal, even if it only gets read by those of you at home sat on the bog!

Last week dD took a timely trip to Falmer (Brighton) to take on two teams in a match-day hosted by University of Sussex's own team, Mohawks.

First a bit of background work: In the run-up to the regional play-offs in six weeks time it had been taken upon the South East teams to go head-to-head against as many teams in as many matches as possible in order to feasibly seed 30+ teams that would be competing for a place in the nationals. Does that make sense? Basically, this means that various teams would play each other to see where they ranked (roughly) in the region to ensure that they got a fair fight at the actual regional tournament. And so the "ladder system" was born. This means that teams gained



Spectacular stuff: Gif launches himself to catch the disc

points (and thus rank) not only by playing matches, but also for going against better teams on their home ground even if they lost! Genius. Another reason is to increase the profile of student ultimate (as it's called by those playing Ultimate Frisbee) in the SE region, which lacks good student teams despite having the best open Mens team nationally. Proudly, dD's own star mid-receiver, Kris Wong, played a vital role in devising

the ladder system. Enough of that technical babble. dD showed up with seven players and three rolling subs in Brighton suited and booted who were: Emmanuel "I can't catch, but I'm still President!" Bennett, Neville "Captain Canadian" Dubash, Chris "Those big red balls cost £120!" Rowlands, Ian "Munky" Ballantyne, Jee "small but cool" Kwan, George "Gordan" Brownbridge, Laurie "I always get the

girl" Fischer, Stas "CTAC" Parpantel, Nathan "I'm the best" Muir and yours truly. Although this wasn't the entire first team, as scheduled dD were ready to take on the regions best and worst. In total six teams showed up to play two matches each and pick up some well-earned rank points: Under Cover Lovers (UCL), Mohawks (Sussex Uni), Brunel (that's it; that's their name), Holloway Hammers, Surrey Scorpions and dD. Our first match was against Brunel:

Disc Doctors 1
Brunel 11

Having convinced us of their ability at indoor regionals last term, both teams wanted to prove their outdoor worth for the first time on the field. With their full 1st team, Brunel lined up ready to take on dD and, unperturbed, we threw a zone play (imagine a wall of three players marking the player with possession of the disc) as a defensive tactic for the first point. As it turned out, their main receiver and "hucker" was able to break this with huge throws up either side of the

pitch to a skilful, high-jumping receiver and managed to beat any of our deep defenders. Quite annoying really. Then, to make matters worse, they threw their own defensive play that comprised of one player trying to cut out any open-side passes (a.k.a a "poach") merely by guarding close open space usually left clear for cutters. Brunel continued to dominate the match with precision and skill despite Manny's committed lay-out (equivalent to a diving header with your hands to catch the disc) to deny Brunel, one of the points. Just when we had got used to breaking their defence with some great passes and expert flow to allow Stas to score, Brunel took the match comfortably. I guess we didn't "suck it up" enough, dammit!

Disc Doctors 11
Under Cover Lovers 2

Down, but not out were Neville's (ye old Club Captain) words of wisdom that ensured lessons were learnt. The next game was to be a whole different story. Unfortunately, UCL could only field six players (short by one) and so were

outnumbered for the duration of the match. But that didn't stop them from scoring on us. With myself and Chris leading from the back with some good flow and up-field passes to the mid player receivers (Manny and Munky), dD took quick charge of the game. Due to being outnumbered UCL could only try clever formations, sacrificing players into a zone-type play. But dD had practiced against much of this in the preceding weeks and easily broke UCL's strategy with impressive points from Manny, Stas and George. Despite long-field hucks and end-zone hammers by "Easy" (UCL), dD proved their merit by taking the game well within the 40 minute time limit.

I hope most of that made sense folks, and if it didn't, why not come along to a practice sometime? Practices are nearby in Hyde Park next to the tennis courts. Just look out for the flying discs! All levels of ability are welcome, and no previous experience is necessary. You could make the first team in less than a year!

Keep it real y'all. Track dD's route to regionals here in the coming six weeks.

No victory but best effort award to Imperial ladies

FOOTBALL

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Sussex Women's 1st 8
Imperial Women's 1st 0

It was a cold Wednesday morning when we all met apprehensively at London Bridge. Unfortunately, 'all' consisted of seven players and no goalie! Quel damage! But to Sussex we went, not thinking of the storm ahead.

We were offered 35 minutes each way by the ref due to our lack of players, but the opposition refused! Kick-off was given to Sussex, but it soon

appeared that they weren't all that! We were only seven and substantially more petite, but we definitely had presence on the pitch. It took them 25 minutes to score with our defence (all the team) holding them up-field with amazing offside traps (at least 20 free-kicks given to us in the first half!). We kept possession well although when we lost it, they stretched us far and wide. This was handled beautifully by the stunningly fit (in more ways than one) and agile IC ladies.

Libby, the brave Brummie in goal for the first time, showed us her hidden talents by making some spectacular saves from fast, unpredictable shots. Kathy (who can do amazing things with her legs) defended brilliantly down the right and smelt very nice

whilst doing it: strawberries. Guiles, our centre defender, kept us in line and made some amazing sprints and tackles, which kept Sussex's strikers at bay.

Our team captain, Poppy, picked up on a free-kick and sprinted fast for something so small in the distance: Sussex's goal. After dribbling past their defence, Poppy executed a shot that just nudged their keeper. They had learned to fear us! And so they should as Chloé, our left winger, did not allow anyone down her line. When she had the ball (Zidane-like, French genes at work) she always managed to find Poppy or Joe and triangulate their way forward. The right side was held by Joe, who, during one of her many forays back to defend the goal, pulled off such a

perfect tackle that she got congratulated by the girl she took down. Courageous Alex (the birthday girl) ran left and right with amazing defending tactics and skills and, along with Guiles and Kathy, held the line tight. She was challenged by a girl three times her size in the second half and still managed to save the goal.

The whistle blew for full time and the game ended at 8-0, but the IC ladies can hold their heads high because we played fantastically with only seven players and each player gave a great performance! The score wasn't that important in the end because so much fun was had by all. And not just on the pitch but by celebrating with some burgers and chips in Brighton! IC ladies... shaking that ass!



IC Ladies: a fantastic performance with only seven players

Patsolutely Farrbulous

FOOTBALL

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Imperial Men's 1st 3
UCL Men's 1st 2
(after extra time)

By Oliver Wright

Imperial's flagship football team returned to Shenley to avenge the semi-final defeat of two years ago. Admittedly, we

were playing UCL Seconds, and a win should have been a formality for such a talented bunch of individuals, but as we all know, anything can happen in the cup!

The game kicked off, and with Imperial sleeping, UCL was quick to capitalise. Firstly, a blistering strike from a UCL midfielder seemed to be firing into the top corner until a flying Peruvian by the name of Carlos Alberto Vasquez diverted the danger. What a goalie!

The pressure persisted, however, and after a neat build up, their striker (who was smelly) fired past the on-rushing keeper. One-nil. Uberbeef! The troops rallied and, following a Chris Woodcock free-kick, T found Pat Farr free in the box to equalise. One-one. Back of the net!

The goal seemed to inspire the team to produce some sexual football. One such piece of erotic play saw Timur combine brilliantly with Javier to

slot calmly past the 'keeper. Eat my goal! Imperial began to dominate, with a thunderous effort from Berksy arrowing just over, but the third goal remained elusive.

The second half started much the same as the first, with sloppy Imperial defending and gifting their smelly striker a second goal.

Again Imperial responded in the best possible way, creating numerous chances, but our luck wasn't in. Javier was pulling the strings in the mid-

dle, and a couple of his efforts narrowly missed the target. As full time approached, JR, T and Mathan all had chances to win it, but last ditch defending saved UCL. Full time, two-two!

A rousing team talk by the hamstrung badger breathed life into aching limbs. Imperial again looked the most likely to win the game, but they had to rely on the agility of their South American stopper to keep them in it. In the final moments of the game,

Woodcock whipped in a dangerous corner, and Pat Farr, who'd been a rock in defence all game, rose to power in the winner. GET IN! His second of the game brought ecstatic celebrations and a huge sigh of relief.

Special mentions must go to Carlos and Berksy who covered every blade of grass, and man of the match Pat Farr. A tough tie against LSE Firsts now beckons in the quarters, as Imperial hunt for the ULU Cup.

SPORT

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A feast of hockey

HOCKEY

By Tristan Lane

ICSM Men's 3rd 4
Bart's Men's 3rd 0

Something was obviously in the water over Christmas. Since the holiday, not one goal was let in, and seven were scored. But enough of the frivolities, down to the game.

The team were psyched for this game, mainly because most of us thought it was LSE. But Barts turned up, so we thought: what the hell might as well give them a game. And we did. Slick passing flowed like syrup from the mid-field, leading to many breaks and more chances than we've had this season. Unfortunately, we could only convert four of them with Terry's poaching skills finely honed. The first half was essentially one way traffic, with wave after wave of attacks foundering upon either astute defender, or the inability to hit the goal. But eventually the pressure had to tell, with a fine shot from Avi being stolen by Terry after it had already beaten the goalkeeper. A rare Barts attack was broken up by Ahran (a rock at the back), whose finely placed through ball confused and delighted both sides as it rocketed to Terry, who calmly fended off attention and slotted our second just before half time.

The second half began in confusing fashion for Barts. Our champagne hockey forced them to concede a silly free hit outside the D. Harry pummelled in the dead ball, and a gentle flick from King the skipper took the ball into the net via the goalie's helmet. Yet another 3rds goal worthy of the scrap book. The final goal of the game, however, was something special: a tantalising run by HK from end to end past six players ended with a generous pass to Rao, who spanked our fourth goal.

Rarely has it been seen for a side to dominate a game quite so easily, but our champagne tactics and promises of Secrets as a reward for good play means its going down well for the 3rds.

ICSM Men's 3rd 2
GKT Men's 2nd 0

GKTs. The grudge match. GKT 2nds. The hard grudge match. And this time it was to reach the BUSA play-offs at the expense of: Yep, you've guessed it, GKT 2nds. Every single person in our team was pumped for the match, especially after last week's drinking massacre. None more so than keeper, Rao, who had decided to add to his injury tally by fracturing a metacarpal on a kebab. This meant that he was relegated to referee, and Biscuit became the man of the moment.

Good job too, frankly, as we

were a bit rubbish. In fact, for the first half, we played appallingly. Fortunately, we dragged our opposition down to our level, and no-one beats us in an unfair, home advantage street fight. It was heartening, at least, to know that even at about 25% of maximum we were still able to beat a "better" GKTs side.

The first half was quiet, with no goals, but some good runs from both sides. Their front four were quite adept and gave our defence a bit of a run around, but, fortunately, their midfield had forgotten to turn up, so there was no setting up for the killer blow. Instead, it was route one at various angles, which, whilst tricky, had none of the difficulty of a well worked move. Best of all, on the few occasions when it did work, or they actually passed, Biscuit was there to assuage all doubt. It wasn't all one way stuff in anyway though, with some cracking crosses being dummied and missed all over the shop and a couple of speculative shots creeping wide (though, to be fair their keeper, did do quite well a few times). The majority of time was spent in their half, although nothing made it into the net.

This left us in a quandary at half time. 0-0. What do we do? Fortunately, we remembered some more hockey skills, and decided winning was the best option. Again we tried wave after wave of attack, but this time the half chances turned into full chances, with crosses being met and their goalie entertained. Finally, our persistence paid off, with Terry tidying up and slotting the ball home after a messy goal mouth fandango. But 1-0. Never enough in hockey, especially not in a grudge match. Back they came with vigour, and Biscuit was again tested, but proved worthy. Gradually we regained authority and gently ran down the clock whilst sending out a few break out counter attacks. The killer blow was dealt with exactly one minute left on the clock. Terry pounced again to guide the ball in from one cm, following cracking play by King and Harry in an intense short corner session. But there was still time for the most amazing goal avoidance ever. Harry, having made a clean break through, went one on one with the keeper, and gave GKTs their only cheer of the match as the keeper won with ease. Still, by then it was all academic.

ICSM Men's 3rd 5
LSE Men's 2nd 2

Yet another double-header grudge match. This time against LSE. The grudge was further stoked by last year's defeat in snowy Battersea. It was cold this year too, but we made the most of a bad situation by out-classing the accountants and clerks to within an inch of their lives.

But in a nice way. Perhaps.

As per current tradition, we turned up a good half hour early to warm up the magical hockey skills that the thirds currently seem to possess. As a tribute to past glories, Frankie "the cock doc" McDermott returned from the heady world of actual work to spearhead the attacking line-up. We started in fine fettle, ready to take on the world and possibly even LSE. Unfortunately, most of the game's events have long since passed into the steamy alcoholic memories, but some things have remained.

Once again, we dominated the game from start to finish. From the off, we pillaged deep into enemy territory, pinning them back in their 22. Following many different attacks, with the ball pinged into the D from all angles just begging for a tap-in, we won a couple of short corners, and Kumar managed to slip the final one into the back of the net. Despite a spirited fight back that lasted all of about thirty seconds, we ran straight back into their half and thought about tightening our stranglehold with a second goal. This would have been a great time to score, but instead LSE hit back with a cheeky little strike from a short corner, which, despite Rao's commendable efforts, resulted in a goal. This levelled things up to 1-1, and a proper match looked in the offing. Fortunately, we struck back decisively soon after with another bit of Kumar and Triscott magical interplay, leading to another virginity-shattering goal. 2-1. Another bit of delivery from Kumar gave us a half-time score of 3-1.

A quick team chat and a slap to wake up goalie Rao set us up for the second half. We were ready for a hard retaliation, and so it proved. They poured forth onto our defences, looking for a crack or an easy way through. Fortunately, we held firm, with the midfield commendably taking the brunt of it. Eventually, we started to break out, and forced a few errors, which eventually led to a most entertaining goal. Following an altercation, their players completely stopped, despite an amazing lack of whistle, which allowed Terry, sharp as a ferret, to pounce and snaffle up a goal. It made the score 4-1, but completely knocked the stuffing out of them, leading to arguments and general discord. Another run forward by Kumar made the score 5-1. Game over. Yet there was still time for a shock consolation goal. A cheap free hit outside the D in the dying moments of the game shot through a pack of players and glanced off a stick to loop over Rao in the goal mouth and plopped into the goal. But no-one really minded as the final whistle blew, and we had beaten yet another team.

Firsts beat King's

NETBALL

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Imperial 1st 43
King's 1st 33

By Erika Kennington

Another Wednesday, another BUSA fixture for the firsts. This time we were at home against King's, who are in about the same position as we are in the league, having won and lost to all the same teams. So, it was set up to be a close game.

After last week's "too close for comfort" win over Goldsmiths, we knew we would have to step up the pressure if we were to secure

the points. Fortunately, we had actually had a training session before this match, and it meant there was a much more cohesive performance from the team as a whole.

We got off to a flying start in the first quarter, breaking King's centre four times whilst easily holding our own, which gave us a seven-goal lead by the break. Even a forced substitution for a twisted ankle couldn't stop us, and our newest recruit Sotonye fitted in straight away, getting some awesome interceptions within minutes of coming on court.

King's tightened their play in the second quarter, but we battled on, and our newly rehearsed tactics (cunningly devised ten minutes before the match) paid off and saw us extend our lead to nine goals. We kept the defence tight in the third quarter, whilst continuing to test theirs. Sam's shooting was on top form and

deservedly gave her man of the match.

And so to the final quarter, which, up until this game, had always been our weak point. But no more. Precision passing and some great set-plays combined with sheer determination meant that King's couldn't make any impact on our lead. This is our best scoreline to date, and a very positive result because we won all four quarters. Next week, UCL and LSE.



The netball first team

Results

WEDNESDAY 2 FEBRUARY

BADMINTON

LSE Men's 1st	2
Imperial Men's 1st	6
Imperial Men's 2nd	5
LSE Men's 2nd	3
ICSM Men's 1st	2
King's Men's 1st	6
Holloway Women's 1st	8
ICSM Women's 1st	0

BASKETBALL

South Bank Men's 1st	84
Imperial Men's 1st	79
Imperial Women's 1st	38
South Bank Women's 1st	59

FENCING

Imperial Men's 1st	135
King's Men's 1st	76

FOOTBALL

Kent Men's 1st	4
Imperial Men's 1st	1
Imperial Men's 2nd	2
Luton Men's 3rd	3
Imperial Men's 3rd	0
Hertfordshire Men's 3rd	0
GKT Men's 2nd	6
Imperial Men's 4th	1
RSM Men's 1st	0
Imperial Men's 5th	2
Imperial Men's 6th	2
GKT Men's 4th	0
Imperial Men's 7th	1
GKT Men's 5th	4
London Met Men's 1st	4
ICSM Men's 1st	3

Royal Free Men's 4th	3	Brunel Men's 2nd	14
ICSM Men's 3rd	2	ICSM Men's 2nd	15

SQUASH

LSE Men's 7th	3	King's Men's 1st	4
ICSM Men's 4th	0	Imperial Men's 1st	1
Imperial Men's 1st	0	UCL Men's 2nd	2
Canterbury CC Men's 1st	2	Imperial Men's 2nd	1
Imperial Men's 2nd	0	Imperial Women's 1st	3
Brighton Men's 2nd	1	LSE Women's 1st	2

TENNIS

Reading Men's 2nd	15	Imperial Men's 1st	3
Imperial Men's 3rd	1	UCL Men's 2nd	7
St Barts Men's 3rd	2		
Imperial Men's 4th	2		

SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY

FOOTBALL

Surrey Men's 1st	5	Imperial Men's 1st	1
ICSM Men's 1st	4	UCL Men's 1st	1
ICSM Men's 2nd	9	Queen Mary Men's 2nd	1
Royal Free Men's 2nd	0	Imperial Men's 3rd	2
ICSM Men's 3rd	2	Goldsmiths Men's 1st	2
GKT Men's 2nd	0	Imperial Men's 4th	1
Greenwich Women's 1st	1	King's Men's 4th	2
ICSM Women's 1st	0	Imperial Men's 5th	2
ICSM Women's 2nd	2	Imperial Men's 6th	2
Essex Women's 2nd	1	Queen Mary Men's 4th	1
ICSM Women's 3rd	0	Holloway Men's 6th	4
Goldsmiths Women's 1st	8	Imperial Men's 7th	0
		ICSM Men's 4th	0
		SSEES Men's 1st	1

MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY

SQUASH

Brunel Men's 3rd	24	Imperial Women's 1st	3
Imperial Men's 2nd	17	King's Women's 1st	2
ICSM Men's 3rd	27		
Imperial Men's 3rd	0		



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RSM more than Goodenough

RUGBY
RSM 49
Goodenough College 5
 By **Bebop and Rocksteady**

The miners were faced with what looked like a fit and well organised Goodenough College side, or so it seemed, when 15 Royal School of Mines (RSM) warriors turned up on the pitch in Regents park from all different directions... except for Tim Praill, who spent the night on a park bench!

With two minutes to go, acting captain Quincy Allan (in for the unavailable Eddy Poulding) warmed up his team and told volunteer referee Rich 'the tallest man in the word' Aung to check the opposition for sharpened studs, which the Americans are renowned for. This was mainly done to buy time to induce any last minute vomiting from his athletes before the game started.

The match began with a very keen Goodenough side holding the RSM pinned in their 22, but excellent fringe work from the likes of Dirty B, Huy, Big Steve and Joe 'Albino' Franklin meant Goodenough were going nowhere.

Superb phase rugby allowed the RSM back line to begin perforating the Americans, giving fearless vice-captain Alex O'Rourke the opportunity to miss pass to himself over winger Kim Grogan and score the first points.

RSM came under heavy fire soon afterwards with the yanks using intrepid moves such as 'Iraqi Freedom' and



Men in black: the RSM Rugby Club

'Infinite Justice', but once again the forwards showed what they were made of and tactical turnovers came from the combined efforts of Josh Wright and Barry Stoffell. This led to another score when fly half Huy's magnificent kick

was caught on the try line by the adhesive hands of Allan.

This opened the flood gates on the pace to break through their tackles like a German tank through a Russian village (game over for Goodenough!)

Flurries of breaks from Enrico Ferri (fresh from LA) and Tim 'the prowler' Praill, in combination with efforts from the most heroic back row in the continent, Steven Hawking and Steff Nubert, meant lots of tries for the

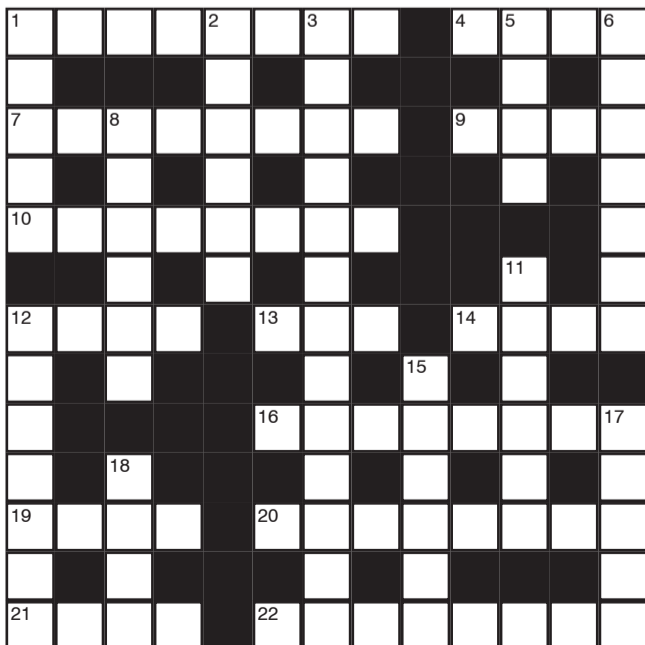
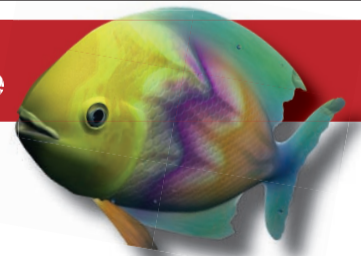
boys in black.

Five minutes to go, and the blood-soaked Goodenough team were so fatigued that Allan and O'Rourke were both able to run in their second tries, ploughing through at least eight people each to

take the miners to ultimate victory.

The RSM is looking like a freight train going at 200mph, unlikely to be derailed by any Cambourne roadblock come the famous Bottle Match on 26 February.

Quick Crossword by Fishface



Across

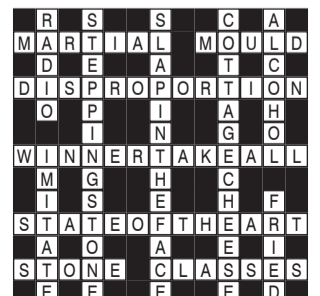
- 1. Slaughterhouse (8)
- 4. Crustacean (4)
- 7. Group of people gathered together (8)
- 9. New Zealander (*inf.*) (4)
- 10. Favouritism given to relatives (8)
- 12. Intelligent but socially inept individual (4)
- 13. Attempt (3)
- 14. Part of leg (4)
- 16. Long narrow flag or banner (8)
- 19. Snakelike fishes (4)
- 20. Establishment selling literary works (8)
- 21. Open mouth wide (4)
- 22. Strong coffee (8)

Down

- 1. Once more (5)
- 2. Red fruit (6)
- 3. Drawings (13)
- 5. Destroy (4)
- 6. Court officer who takes away possessions (7)
- 8. Light evening meal (6)
- 11. Kindness or affection (6)
- 12. Upper section of theatre (7)
- 15. Large cup (6)
- 17. Abbreviation for a copy or duplicate (5)
- 18. At a low speed (4)

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

Issue 1314 solution



Special thanks to Edward Hall and John Sargent (both Materials I) for getting the last two Quick Crosswords right and making the effort to bring their solutions to us!