



### Hyde Park Relays

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It's time for Imperial's annual sci-fi convention, page 13



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The Boat Club's latest exploits, page 26



# Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1316 ● Thursday 17 February 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

### Against Imperialism

A huge anti-war banner was hung outside a College building last Friday by students protesting against the ongoing occupation of Iraq.

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### Record turnout

The number of students voting in this year's Imperial College Union sabbatical elections reached a record high of over 2700 on Tuesday evening.

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### Under the sea

The famous Spongebob Squarepants makes his big screen debut. As if you hadn't guessed, Felix Film takes a moment to explain why the makers of this movie really shouldn't have bothered.

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### Heroes and villains

Six heroes, six villains. Answer questions about them to get your team moving up the FUCWIT leaderboard. And forget the sabbatical elections for a minute - make sure you vote for this year's official Coffee Break mascot!

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### Sport

Our five-page sport section features rugby, ice hockey, rowing, basketball, riding, badminton, water polo, sledging and all the week's results.

►SPORT page 23

## RAG raises thousands

By Chris Jackson

For those of you who have been walking around with your eyes and ears closed, last week was Imperial College Union RAG Week. There was a large amount of random strangeness and insanity from all those who took part, raising thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK and the Mercury Phoenix AIDS Trust.

Monday morning saw the RAG team surface bright and early to collect at the gates during the big rush to 9am lectures. At lunchtime, the Physical Sciences Union sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts on



An original take on Shrove Tuesday: the RAG pancake race

the walkway outside the JCR. Despite ample supplies, these all sold out, making a sizeable contribution to RAG funds.

Beside the doughnut stall were Zaki Nuseibeh and John Collins playing an upright piano. RAG legend Atul Rana then appeared with his guitar and a lively jamming session followed, including an imitable version of the Louis Armstrong classic *Wonderful World*. Those who heard it will surely never forget it, and neither will their therapists.

The icing on the doughnut, so to speak, was provided by an election campaigner hand-

ling out tins of beans, adding to the carnival atmosphere so rarely seen at Imperial College.

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, a pancake race was held. This involved running around Beit Quad collecting the ingredients for the batter in a skiff before limboing and slaloming, trying not to spill the mix. The mess left in the Quad was unbelievable but was eventually dealt with by a heavy rain shower. Needless to say, few of the pancakes were considered edible, except for one near-perfect offering from the winner of this slightly bizarre event, Hamish Pearse-Danker.

In line with RAG tradition, the raid on London took place on the Wednesday. A slightly disappointing turnout saw a hardcore elite of participants raise over £1400 by running around London doing pretty much anything they could think of, including swimming in Trafalgar Square and stealing policemen's helmets. I don't want to go into too much detail here, just in case the Old Bill ever catch up with me.

On Thursday, a City and Guilds bar night was combined with a slave auction to attract the punters. A wide range of Union celebrities were auctioned off, raising well over £1000. Several unfortunate students left the auction considerably baldier than before, as buyers became more interested in shaving people's heads for charity than actually purchasing 'slaves'.

At around 11.30pm, as the night drew to a close, a joint bid of £280 resulted in City and Guilds President John Collins and Royal School of Mines President John Sykes embarking on the traditional 'Harrods run'. For

Continued on page 3

## That's Entertainment



The 'Entertain' logo is projected onto the side of the Queen's Tower on Tuesday evening, as organisers try to attract students to next Saturday's Charity Ball. Story: page 3

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# Felix

Issue 1316

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Registered newspaper

ISSN 1040-0711

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Printed by Sharman and Company,  
Peterborough

## NEWS

# Students protest against Iraq occupation with massive anti-war banner

By Dave Edwards  
Editor

On Friday, members of the 'Imperial Against Imperialism' group hung a huge anti-war banner over the balcony of the electrical engineering library, overlooking the main walkway of the South Kensington campus.

The group took the action in protest against, in their words, "the unjust and illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq". They left the balcony after 45 minutes and then demonstrated around the campus, where they were joined by other students.

The banner bore the slogan: "No more lies, no more war". Also written on it were the words: "Demonstrate March 19th, central London", a reference to the international anti-war demonstration taking place on that day.

One protester, Petros Wallden, told *Felix*: "I believe that university is about educating people as citizens and not only as scientists. Matters of foreign policy, such as the occupation, do concern the students, and as students they want to protest."

He added: "When [College] Security got serious, we dismantled the banner and left peacefully."



Members of 'Imperial Against Imperialism' make their feelings known to the rest of the College

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## Charles and Camilla

### A romantic, heartwarming tale?

By Emily Gwyer

Since this is Valentine's week, I am ignoring all depressing news from around the globe (I am seriously depressed enough) and just seeing how the nation reacted to the 'heartwarming' story of Charles finally making an honest woman of Camilla. Isn't that a lovely tale to warm the cockles of your heart? No? You're not alone.

The news was met, overall, by indifference from most of the nation, although some of the newspapers went a bit overboard. *The Daily Mail* and *The Daily Express* went all-out as if this were a proper royal wedding (the "love affair of the century"?) and not a second-time-round event for the couple who so cruelly cheated on Diana.

In fact, most commentators, left and right wing, monarchist and republican, had an attitude of "at bloody last". As *The Daily Telegraph* put it: "It has always seemed strange

that the country preferred a prince living in sin with his lover to a formal marriage... it was so furtive and teenage... it made him look adolescent." The length of the relationship – the couple met at a polo match in the seventies, long before Charles met Diana – was frequently mentioned, as was the 'Squidgygate' series of hideously embarrassing phone calls between the pair which were recorded in 1992.

William and Harry were said to be delighted, as was the Queen. Lovely. So why the dissent? Well, the monarchists are worried about whether Camilla will become Queen or not. Call me stupid, but I had always thought that having a monarchy meant that you cannot choose who they are. You put up with what you are given. In any case, the choice of title was a tricky one that has ended with her being the Duchess of Cornwall and eventually the meaningless but fancy 'Princess Consort'. In other words, she will be to

Charles what Albert was to Victoria.

Some of us were already groaning at the thought of the overwhelming news coverage that will lead up to the wedding. If you are too, I advise you to read the republican press, namely *The Guardian*, which is hilarious: "Tripe, tosh and trivia will dominate the press... there will be royal schmaltz by the bucketload. And there will be faux moralising of hideous proportions, then there will be absurd constitutional folderols about protocol and religion. This will be treated as if it were Henry VIII all over again – history repeated as farce."

I also advise a look at the message boards on the BBC website, which are full of wonderfully furious messages from Americans, who seem to have nominated themselves protectors of Diana on Earth.

To everyone who actually enjoys these things, congratulations, and please, please make it a bank holiday.

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# It's all for a good cause...

**Continued from page 1**  
anyone unfamiliar with the concept, this meant that they ran naked from Harrods to Beit Quad. Photographs exist but are not online or available for publication.

On Friday night at 'Dave's Distance Dash', the aim was simple: get as far away as possible from The Goose (a notable drinking establishment in Fulham) without spending any money. A good number of 'competitors' turned up, but the whereabouts of many of them remains unknown. One made it Canterbury following a very long walk. Perhaps plying all the entrants with drink before letting them out into the night was not the best plan ever made.

On Saturday, the closure of the Circle Line meant that keen fundraisers set off on the rather unfamiliar 'Hammersmith and City Line, District Line, Piccadilly Line and Replacement Bus Service' pub crawl. Would anyone make it to the end? At the time of writing, we're still not sure!

Finally, on Valentine's Day, the barbershop quartets were out in force to serenade their way tunefully around campus.

Also going on during the week were trips up the Queen's Tower, which were all over-subscribed, and attacks from the infamous City and Guilds Hit Squad, who seemed to enjoy covering everyone in whipped cream.

The RAG committee would like to thank everyone who helped out by collecting, donating, turning up or doing whatever you did. A final total will be published soon at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/rag](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rag).



Clockwise from top left: Zaki Nuseibeh plays some tunes for passers-by outside the JCR; Sanjeev Sarda is the victim of a particularly severe attack from the City and Guilds Hit Squad; Duncan Richmond presents Union President Mustafa Arif with flowers on Valentine's Day; and the Barbershop Quartet serenaded a mystery student during a maths lecture. All these events were part of Imperial College Union RAG Week 2005

## Sabbatical elections attract highest ever turnout

By Dave Edwards  
Editor

Over 2800 students have voted in this year's Imperial College Union sabbatical elections, the highest turnout ever.

The online ballot system led to the start of voting being delayed for several hours on Friday morning, but there have been few other problems with the election process so far. Many observers were pleased to note the relative lack of election-related complaints compared with previous years.

Several theories have been put forward as to why the turnout is so high this year. The race for President being closely fought by five candidates may well be a factor, as could the blanket coverage afforded to the elections by the student media. Students' dissatisfaction with certain College and Union policies may also have encouraged them to have their say.

The sabbaticals are the most senior student officers within the Union, and the high turnout should result in them being taken more seriously by the College. Mustafa Arif, the current President, said: "The higher the turnout in the elections, the more the Union's voice is respected."

Results are due to be announced tonight and will be published at [www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk).

# Let them Entertain you

**Richard Jordan** gives the final details on next week's Charity Ball, which is set to raise thousands of pounds for victims of the Asian tsunami

Final preparations are now being made for one of the biggest events in College this year. By now, most of you will have heard about the Entertain Charity Ball that is happening on Saturday 26 February. For those of you still unsure about whether to go or not, let me enlighten you.

Firstly, it's a ball and tickets are only a tenner. Just £10 for a whole ball! Because of very generous support from a number of companies, and the hard work and determination of medics and engineers from Imperial College, every penny of your £10 ticket price will go straight to the ongoing redevelopment work in the areas worst affected by the tsunami.

This ball would normally cost thousands, but it has effectively been put on for free! It is a one-off chance for students at Imperial College to collectively raise tens of thousands of pounds for this important cause in one action-packed, quality evening of live music and DJs.

The venue is the Sherfield Building, Imperial College, South Kensington. Yes, I know you take your exams in the Great Hall, but for one night only, a massive 40kW sound system and a huge light show will delight and entertain you. Exams? What exams?

The MDH and Ante Room will be the places to mingle, catch the famous Jazz Big Band, and pick up some of the

hot food that will be available for your delectation.

The line-up includes the infamous 'Our Souls', providing an upbeat, funky and involving stage show. The key to their name is to say it to yourself in your head a few times. I chuckled. Lots. Cartel provide the rock back-up, making their second visit to Imperial College, all the way from Stoke. These guys must not be missed!

DJs will cater for all your musical tastes, ranging from cheese to party rock to R'n'B to house. London superclub DJ MacPherson will be wrapping the ball up with some fat tunes. There is even a cool magician on hand to impress and amaze.

So why should you come?

It's a ball, for a tenner, which all goes to charity, and it will be a great night out. What other excuse do you need? There is no dress code, so feel free to wear what you like.

Make sure you don't make the mistake of thinking it won't be any good for £10. Let me assure you it will look and sound fantastic, and will rival any ball you have been to in the past.

Tickets are on sale from Union reception and the Reynolds Bar now. Watch out, they're selling like hot cakes. Get yours before there's no cake left and you're hungry. If you want further convincing, and no mention of free cake, visit the website at [www.entertain-event.co.uk](http://www.entertain-event.co.uk).



Rock band Cartel will be playing at the Charity Ball

# Business

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## Latest from the Square Mile

While Barclays Capital stuns investors with 'massive' profits and Deutsche Bank is left confused about its asset management unit, **Numaan Chaudhry** sniggers

### Barclays

Barclays' 20% gain in net profits was helped by strong investment banking business and a significant decrease in provisions for bad loans.

Barclays' Chief Executive Officer, John Varley, also attempted to lower expectations for future merger discussions, asserting that the big British bank didn't "need to do anything". Still, according to one person familiar with the bank, Mr Varley has broached the idea of buying US consumer finance companies and, on the flip side, the bank is often mentioned as a possible target for a large US acquirer.

Mr Varley declined to comment on specific speculation, saying: "A takeover is really the furthest thing from my mind."

Barclays said net profit rose from £2.77bn in 2003 to £3.31bn in 2004, and that its investment bank posted a 25% increase in profit from 2003.

Barclays also got a big boost from a decrease in bad loan provisions, which analysts do not view as a sustainable way to increase profit. Barclays reported a 19% drop in 2004 provisions for bad debts to £1.1bn from £1.3bn in 2003. Still, those results mirrored the actions taken by some US banks in a sign of an improving economy.

Barclays' shares slipped 0.08% to 593.5 pence in London trading on Thursday.

Barclays' UK retail bank operations reported a decrease of almost 1% in profit from £1.14bn to £1.13bn. One reason for this is the bank's increased spending on employees' salaries after comparatively underpaying them, according to analysts, and an effort to renovate some branches. In 2004, Barclays said it added 1000 employees who deal directly with customers.

The percentage rate at which the bank's costs rose also surprised analysts. Operating expenses rose 15% from £7.25bn to £8.35bn. Michael Lever, an analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said analysts and investors had expected costs to rise 13%.

While Barclays Capital, the investment banking unit, helped increase profit, it also reported a 37% increase in costs to £2.2bn in 2004. The unit under CEO Bob Diamond has been on an aggressive

push that included the addition of 2000 employees last year in an effort to improve its rankings in such areas as European debt issuances.

Separately, Mr Diamond said, there remains the possibility that Barclays will settle a court case with Germany's HSH Nordbank. HSH has alleged that Barclays deceived it in a derivatives trade. A court hearing is scheduled for later this month.

Barclays has declined to comment on the allegation beyond saying that the losses suffered by HSH were the result of a sizable downturn in the credit market.

### Deutsche Bank

Deutsche Bank AG might be looking to sell the UK division of its global funds management arm as part of the German bank's shake-up of its UK institutional business, following big outflows last year.

The company's official position is that it is considering all options for the UK division of Deutsche Asset Management. However, Deutsche Bank Chief Executive, Josef Ackermann, said this month that if the UK business can't be fixed, Deutsche Bank may put it on the market.

Deutsche Asset Management operates a number of vehicles in the UK, with a total of 78.5bn euros of assets under management. Globally, it has a total of £400bn (580bn euros) under management, and real-estate makes up 7.5% of these assets, according to real-estate advisory firm Cushman & Wakefield, Healy & Baker.

A sale on this scale would be a big deal for the UK market, Andrew Thornton, joint managing director for European Real Estate at Invesco Real Estate in London, said.

"Typically you would expect the usual suspects - the Morgan Stanleys and Merrill Lynchs of this world - to be interested. Insurance companies are also diversifying more into asset management, so the funds could also appeal to them," Mr Thornton said.

Deutsche Asset Management has been hit by an outflow of funds, especially in the 2004 fourth quarter, when investors withdrew 20bn euros, most of which came from the UK.

Deutsche Asset Management outflows last year totaled 44bn euros world-wide. While



Barclays Plc: doing extremely well and with strong prospects ahead

the company declined to provide figures on a country-by-country basis, a spokesperson said that the UK outflows were "higher than normal." She declined to give further details.

As a result of the outflows, the German bank is conducting a review of its institutional business in the UK and plans to announce the outcome of the review by the beginning of the second quarter.

Kevin Parker, who became the global head of asset management at Deutsche Asset Management in December, suggested the review of the UK business. Deutsche Asset Management also has offices in 10 other European cities, including Frankfurt, Zurich and Paris; however, none of these operations is under review, a Deutsche Bank spokeswoman said.

If Deutsche Bank does decide to sell its UK asset-management division, poten-

tial bidders might include investment banks such as Morgan Stanley and UK life-insurance funds, Bryan Laxton, head of advisory services at Cushman & Wakefield, Healy & Baker in London, said.

"I don't think investors would object to the individual vehicles being sold to another high-profile company as long as the team that managed them, especially the fund managers, were part of the deal. It would make more sense to sell all the Deutsche Asset Management vehicles as one package, to take advantage of the synergies, rather than to sell the vehicles on an individual basis," Mr Laxton said.

He noted that Deutsche Bank might sell the funds piecemeal if investors show interest in snapping up vehicles to complement their existing funds.

Deutsche Bank is embarking on a cost-cutting program

to meet its goal of raising its return on equity to 25% by the end of 2005, up from 17% in 2004. The bank said this month that it will cut 6,400 full-time jobs. However, 1,200 of these will be transferred to lower-cost locations, resulting in a net reduction of 5,200 staff. The bank said expenses related to the job cuts and other efficiency measures are expected to total about 1.3bn euros for 2005 and the fourth quarter of 2004.

The bank is also expected to sell more real-estate assets this year, following its drive to dispose of these assets in the past few years. In December, it sold a portfolio of 109 buildings in Germany to Eurocastle Investment Ltd., an investment company managed by US investor Fortress Investment Group LLC, for about 300m euros. The bank, which occupies the majority of the properties, plans to lease back many of them.

Elsewhere in Europe, one of the biggest real-estate sales in German history is in the final stages, according to those who track the market.

German utility E.On AG's sale of its real-estate unit Viterra, which owns about 150,000 apartments, is expected to be completed within weeks as part of E.On's drive to focus on its energy business and sell off non-core assets. Real-estate advisers estimate that E.On could gain about 6bn euros from the Viterra sale. Investor Fortress Investment Group LLC, which declined to comment, is believed to be the main contender. Other likely potential buyers include US-based investors Blackstone Group and Cerberus Partners and UK-based investor Terra Firma Capital Partners Ltd. US investor Lone Star, who couldn't be reached for comment, is not thought to have a bid.

# Science

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## Attack of the cloner

With the creator of Dolly the sheep being granted a licence to clone humans, **Kathryn Loughheed** examines the ethical questions surrounding cloning

A licence to extract stem cells from human embryos has been granted to the creator of Dolly the sheep, Professor Ian Wilmut. The UK regulatory body, the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, has granted the therapeutic cloning licence to Wilmut and Dr Paul de Souza of the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, and Professor Christopher Shaw of King's College London. This licence, which is the second of its kind to be awarded in the UK, will allow the team to clone human embryos for research purposes.

Therapeutic cloning is different from human reproductive cloning, as the embryos are only grown up to 14 days before extracting the stem cells. Wilmut has stated that cloning a human is ethically wrong and following the public shock at Dolly's creation, he assured the world that he would never consider cloning humans. However, the award of this licence has once again opened Pandora's box with respect to the human cloning and stem cell debate.

Wilmut and his team want to use the stem cells to investigate motor neurone disease, the name given to a debilitating group of conditions that affect the motor neurones of the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurones are the nerves which the brain uses to send instructions to the muscles in the form of electrical impulses. Wilmut will use a method known as nuclear cell replacement, which involves replacing the nucleus of a human egg with the nucleus of a cloned cell: in this case a cell from a motor neurone disease sufferer. As the cells divide, stem cells, which have the potential to

become any cell in the body, are produced. The stem cells can be differentiated into neuronal cells and compared to normal neurones in an effort to understand the defects responsible for motor neurone disease.

Stem cell technology has the potential to alleviate the suffering of thousands of people. In addition to Wilmut's motor neurone research, the ability of stem cells to become any cell in the body may allow us to replace defective or missing cells in persons with diabetes, Parkinson's and cystic fibrosis. In fact, Japanese researchers recently claimed in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* to have successfully treated monkeys with a condition similar to

**"Wilmut stated that cloning a human being is ethically wrong... and assured the world that he would never consider this"**

human Parkinson's through stem cell transplantation. Therapeutic cloning has the potential to not only provide a steady supply of stem cells for research, but also to eliminate the problem of tissue rejection during transplantation by allowing every patient to be treated with cells from his or her own body.

So what is the problem with stem cell technology? The main argument of Christian and pro-life groups against stem cell technology is based on the belief that an embryo is a living person from the moment of conception, and that extracting stem cells



Prof Wilmut and Dolly: last week Wilmut was controversially given a licence to clone human embryos

– even from an early embryo – is tantamount to infanticide.

Many see the creation of embryos for stem cell research as an even worse crime than simply harvesting stem cells from existing embryos and believe that this will allow scientists to effectively 'play God.' The debate over whether the early foetus constitutes life, the potential for life or simply cells in a Petri dish will no doubt rage on.

At present, embryos left over from fertility treatments are the main source of stem cells. Aborted fetuses are another source. Is diverting some of these unwanted embryos towards medical research, which has the potential to help many, right or wrong? Even if these cells are, in fact, a person, can we really favour their survival

over the survival of a living person who could be helped by stem cell technology? If you believe using embryonic stem cells is equivalent to infanticide, it all comes down to whether it is acceptable to consider one life expendable for the greater good. This is, after all, the belief that led to some of the most deplorable acts in our history, including US slavery and the Holocaust.

Pro-life groups have pointed out that although scores of people on death row in America are 'destined' to die, we would never consider harvesting their organs prior to their executions. According to such groups, using embryos for their cells is a comparable act, and these 'cells in a dish' deserve the same respect as any living person. Is stem cell technology creating a biotech slave market where humans

are becoming commodities to be sold for profit?

Human reproductive cloning is a huge leap from the therapeutic cloning presently being carried, and is considered by the vast majority of people to be ethically unacceptable. But there will always be some individuals who do not share this opinion. Recently we heard about Little Nicky, the kitten cloned to replace a dead pet for the bargain price of \$5000. Would the grieving parents of a dead child or an infertile couple consider human cloning given the choice?

Is this scenario, similar to that portrayed by Aldous Huxley in *Brave New World* where humans are routinely cloned, still science fiction or do we really have something to be worried about? Only a few years ago it was thought that the cloning of a human embryo might be impossible since removing the nucleus was thought to rob the cell of proteins essential for survival. However, this hypothesis was proved wrong in February 2004 by a team from South Korea who succeeded in cloning human embryos with the potential to grow into a range of tissue types.

A piece of research published in October 2004 suggested that the capability to clone a human is potentially not that far away when a team of scientists successfully cloned primate embryos and implanted them into a womb. Although none of the pregnancies lasted more than a month, this is the closest anyone has come to cloning a primate, and it brings us one step closer to being able to clone a human.

But just because we can, does that mean we will?

## News in brief

### Plant biotech goes open-source

A team of scientists has developed an 'open-source' alternative to one of the most effective, but patent-protected, ways of genetically modifying plants. Until now, scientists had to pay for licences to use *Agrobacterium*, which was thought to be the only bacterium capable of transferring foreign genes into plants. New research published in *Nature* reveals that other bacteria can carry out gene transfer, a development which could allow scientists to avoid the patent licencing process that stifles innovation.

### Call for £100m UK stem cell fund

Leading UK scientists and entrepreneurs are calling for the creation of a charitable foundation to promote and fund stem cell research in Britain. They believe this will accelerate work on developing new therapies for treating spinal injuries and diseases such as diabetes and Parkinson's. The group believes a fund of £100m would be necessary to anchor the UK's position as a leader in the field.

### Genetic barcodes for world's species

A team of scientists has launched an ambitious project to genetically identify and provide a barcode for every plant and animal species on the planet. By taking a snippet of DNA from all the known species on Earth and linking them to photographs, descriptions and scientific information, the researchers plan to build the largest database of its kind. Less than one fifth of the Earth's estimated ten million species of plants and animals have been named.

### Monkeys pay for monkey porn

Scientists at Duke University Medical Centre have found that male monkeys pay to check out the behinds of female monkeys on a computer. The scientists also found out that the apes would pay extra fruit juice rations to see the faces of monkey 'celebrities'. Professor Colin Camerer, an expert on neuroeconomics at Caltech, said that it is "no surprise that male monkeys really like looking at female posteriors."

## Tribute to Ivan Noble, BBC tumour diarist

By **Kate Wighton**  
Science Communication

Ivan Noble, the science and technology writer for the BBC News website, lost his battle against a brain tumour on 1 February and died at the age of 37, leaving a wife and two children.

The journalist had been regularly, and openly, writing about his experiences in his Tumour Diary column on the BBC website, which attracted thousands of followers.

Tributes have been paid on the BBC site from colleagues



Noble: tumour diary

and readers as well as in the House of Commons, where a motion speaking of 'admiration for his courageous fight'

was signed by nine Liberal Democrat MPs.

Noble, who initially worked for the BBC as a translator before joining the news website in 2001, was diagnosed with a tumour in August 2002. He began the Tumour Diary in September 2002 in order to demystify cancer and encourage open discussion about the disease.

During the two years he wrote the column, Noble underwent three brain operations, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. On a happier note, he also got married and

had a second child, born last July.

After each of his 66 entries, many readers' comments were posted, a large number of them thanking him for his openness and for helping them come to terms with their own cancer or that of a relative. Medical students and nurses also posted messages stating that Noble enabled them to understand the experiences of cancer sufferers, aiding their ability to treat patients.

Tributes from friends described Noble's refusal to

surrender to fear. In his last entry, posted on 30 January, he said he wanted the diary to show people that they didn't have to be crushed by cancer. Although he knew the cancer would kill him, his last entry bore the phrase "I have not been defeated."

He also thanked all who had supported him: his friends, family, the medical staff and Macmillan nurse who treated him since his diagnosis.

A collection of his diaries will be published later this year and proceeds will go to charity.

# Comment

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## E-voting – end of story

One of the biggest political gambles that I took during my time in office was to force electronic voting onto the agenda and push it through as our principal method of polling. Of course it went through due process and there were plenty of very tedious naysayers who predicted that online voting would result in lower turnouts, more irregularities and, generally, the end of the world as we know it. This has not happened. In fact, far from it.

Sure, there were difficulties with our first electronic voting attempt (last year's sabbatical elections). During the Council elections earlier this year, things were still being ironed out. There will always be problems with the introduction of any new system. Many problems are

avoidable through testing (and we did this) but some just won't appear until you actually test 'in the field'. Now that we have a fair amount of experience, as an organisation, of running electronic voting, we are much better at it and able to run it very successfully.

It caused grief for lots of people (mainly me, as that's where anger was directed) along the way, but ultimately it was an investment that has paid off. The motivation the whole time was to improve the Union by making it more representative of the student body through higher election turnouts. And that has now been achieved.

In the Union's Strategic Review all-student survey last term, there was an overwhelmingly positive

### STATE OF THE UNION



**MUSTAFA ARIF**  
UNION PRESIDENT

response to the introduction of electronic voting. And now, we have seen the largest democratic exercise ever held at Imperial College. At the time of writing, over 2700 students have voted in at least one of the sabbatical elections. This is unprecedented. The previous best was when I was first elected with around 1400 voters, in a paper ballot. Turnout is over 22%, the highest it's ever been. It doesn't quite get up to the 27% realised in the NUS Referendum in 2002, however we had far less students then. (One of the main changes I made last year was to extend full Union membership to part time students, who have always been less involved, which has made a big difference to our membership. Many PhD students, traditionally

uninvolved, are also registered as part time students because they are paid by the College to do their research.)

No doubt some people will have little niggles on one or two things that could have been done better. And yes, of course they could. There is always room for improvement. But let's not take away from the facts: many students who previously would never have voted have done so, and the Union is now in a much stronger position to legitimately represent students than at any time in history.

And please, can Union hacks stop the debate about electronic voting? It's definitely the right way to go. Paper ballots are history. It's time to move on.

## The joy of... sex

Monday was Valentine's Day, that annual festival of relentless chocolates, roses and nauseating greeting cards. Inevitably, the day has earned itself the reputation of being the most romantic date in the calendar, and many couples take the opportunity to spend 'quality time' with each other. At this point, you're probably wondering why I'm writing this drivel. There are a few reasons.

Firstly, I've wanted a good excuse to write a column entitled 'The Joy of Sex' ever since I conceived the title in October, and this seemed as good a reason as any.

Secondly, it's always worth re-iterating the message of safe sex. Nigel Cooke, the Union's Student Adviser,

did a superb column on sexually transmitted infections in Issue 1312 (check the archives online). It's worth adding that you can get advice on sexual health from the college's Health Centre in Prince's Gardens, or pop down to the Information and Advice Centre to pick up more information.

Thirdly, I hope all you couples out there had a lovely time on Valentine's Day. I didn't. I was in the office until 9pm, then went home sad and lonely. The sabbatical lifestyle, far from being glitzy and exciting, is now beginning to take its toll on my personal life. Last year, the President (or someone acting on his behalf) advertised for a first lady in this organ. I have yet to decide

### UNCLE SAM



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

whether I will have to resort to this.

More important, perhaps, than sex, is communication. In this season of elections, I have accompanied the vote-hunting candidates to places as far and wide as Silwood and Wye, and one thing that became clear from talking to students was that good communication makes life a lot easier.

Communication with the student body is something we pull the College up on, but we often fail in it ourselves. It came as no surprise that this was one of the Executive's key findings in the Strategic Review document that will be presented to Council, the Union's governing body, tonight.

What are we doing to improve

the situation? For feedback on our commercial services, the Deputy President (Finance & Services), Sameena Misbahuddin, has started the 'Your Say' initiative (check out [www.union.ic.ac.uk/youresay](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/youresay)). For my own part, I am trying to manage me emails better, and get on top of my paperwork, partly with the help of an extra member of administrative staff.

The battle continues, and the situation is far from perfect; if I have let you down by poor communication, I would like to apologise by buying you a pint (or a coffee, if you prefer) and giving you some of my time. If you have any suggestions of how we can improve communication, please email me on [dpew@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpew@ic.ac.uk).

## The Spanish archer (El Bow – dumped)

Since we've just had Valentine's Day and there's a lot of love in the air, I thought we could change the mood this week by offering you all a few tips on how to dump someone without hurting them too much. We have all been there, got together with someone, and for the first few weeks it's great but then you notice a few bad habits creeping in... the next thing you know, you never want to be near the person again!

We've all had to do it at some stage in our lives, or we have all been on the end of a dumping. I was dumped once after 45 minutes! Mind you, I was only 12 at the time. I was also once given the elbow while shopping in Sainsbury's – that was extremely painful!

In all seriousness though, it's not fun and it's always important to remember how your actions will affect the other person. I suppose there is no easy way of doing something like this, though it is always good to give the other person some respect. The rest of the article will hopefully help you to consider your actions and make the process that little bit easier.

Not all relationships are meant to be. And it's much better to admit

that it's run its course than try to squeeze out every last drop. If you've decided to call it a day then play fair and let your partner down honestly but gently. A definite goodbye will hurt, but it will be easier all round if you are clear that the relationship is over.

Give some thought to how you are going to end the relationship. There are right ways and wrong ways and, although you may no longer care for the other person, don't humiliate or embarrass them. You liked them once and they deserve better. Think how you would like to be treated if the situation was reversed. You cannot be sure how they will react, and it may not be pretty, but knowing that you dealt with it decently will mean you won't be dwelling on your bad behaviour later on.

Some choose to end a relationship by text message or email. Before doing this, imagine how you would feel if somebody let you down in this way. It's difficult to break bad news but there is less confusion and upset if you give the other person a chance to air their thoughts back to you rather than delivering a one-way message. You don't have to get into a post-relationship analysis, and don't

### ADVICE SERVICE



**NIGEL COOKE**  
STUDENT ADVISER

let them talk you round if you're sure finishing is the best thing, but face-to-face or over the phone shows a little more guts and respect.

If you opt to end it to their face, then do consider where you'll do it. A public place may not be the best option if you think the other person is going to start crying or creating a scene; although if you are scared that they will take it very badly then you may feel safer with other people around.

It can be confusing if the per-

son you thought you were seeing has simply stopped contacting you. The hardest thing about this kind of break-up is not knowing what's going on. If your partner has quietly skulked off then you may end up making excuses for them. Don't kid yourself that because you haven't verbally split up, your relationship must still be OK. Be brave, pick up the phone and find out what's going on for sure. You don't deserve to be ignored! If the news is bad, at least you know where you stand and can move on. Asking or not asking them is not going to change the way they feel about you, while avoiding this conversation is only delaying any heartache.

The end of a relationship can leave you feeling miserable, even if you were the one doing the dumping. Being dumped is never nice, and if you are the one on the end of a dumping it can often make you feel rejected and depressed.

If these feelings continue and start to affect your everyday life, especially in your studies or at work, it may be a good idea to talk someone about it. Here are some tips.

● Plenty more fish in the sea – even though you are upset now, it is

important to remember that there are other men and women out there who are just as nice as the person you have just had a relationship with.

● Support network – if your partner was your support in life then it's important to find alternative support. Look to friends and family, or if this isn't appropriate look for agencies that can help.

● It's not your fault – relationships break down for all sorts of reasons. You'll soon find someone who suits your personality more.

● Have a good time – see it as a liberating experience, get stuck into the things you enjoy, meet up with friends and start to do the things you stopped doing when you were in a relationship.

● If it's over it's over – resist the urge to ring up and contact your ex. Let them do the chasing!

If you feel that you need further help, please don't hesitate to contact The Information and Advice Centre. If we can't help, we'll refer you to someone who can. Make the Information and Advice Centre your one stop shop for all your welfare issues. Telephone: 020 7594 8067. Email: [advice@ic.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ic.ac.uk).

# Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

## The partisan's guide to Operating Systems



by TRISTAN LANE

Seeing as there is no point in advocating Mac OS X to a die hard Windows user, even if it is better, more stable and prettier, I thought I'd write the partisan's guide.

### Mac OS X

Well you see this is easy. Whilst the cost for Apple hardware may initially be higher (in some rare cases), Mac OS X is the company's real cost-cutter. You see, the long term cost of a Mac is considerably lower than that of a PC. Why, you ask?

Well, a Mac doesn't crash. A Mac doesn't have viruses (at present). A Mac doesn't have spy-ware. But, more importantly, it looks prettier and works better. The assumption that it is a 'my first OS' is rubbish too. If you want to tinker, it is far more customisable and malleable than Windows, due to its UNIX core.

Applescripts allow you to automate virtually anything, and with system-wide services allowing programs to use anything from spell-

checks to image import, you can make things as easy or as tricky as you want, all without breaking the damn thing. Plus it doesn't have random interfaces - all programs are standardised.

But if you're looking for the real killer, for every delay that Microsoft announce for Longhorn (wasn't that meant to arrive in 1983?), Apple introduce another OS version that incorporates features from Longhorn 2. Plus Apple doesn't suck as much as Microsoft. They don't decide randomly to make their web-browser non-standards compliant. And they don't smell. But frankly the best thing about Apple is that their CEO has a sense of style and is so amazing he's managed to beat cancer without taking off his trademark turtleneck (suck that, Gates).

### Windows

Windows eh? That's the rubbish garbage that comes with your PC right? The thing you have to continually re-install if you hope to get any sort of performance out of it? That's the one.

The good thing is, though, that for some reason this doesn't affect gaming. In fact, it seems to positively encourage it - why else would anyone buy a £2000 PC with flashing lights and demon head monitor?

Windows isn't for family newsletters (Charles Manson excepted) or for light email browsing. It's mostly not even for video editing or pro-use. That's what Macs are for. Gaming is the *raison d'etre* for PCs nowadays. And Windows is the base system of choice. As far as I can work out, that's because it's cheap. Possibly.

Market dominance might have something to do with it as well, but I reckon it's because most people are stupid and lazy.

### Linux

I don't actually know much about linux, except that it's free. And it's loved by server-type people. And people who don't like sunlight. Apparently stable, and getting some very good apps (most of which run on Mac via X11), maybe Linux is the way of the future for the completely addicted to tinkering. Or those who feel niche computing is the way of the future and dislike svelte well-designed systems. Or those who like flagellating themselves.

By the way, I use OS X, and it's great.

## The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

Dear Fit Biology Guy,

I am terribly sorry that the blandness you revealed after our outing to Starbucks has been relegated to a tale to be told in the pub just the once, and never again.

Stormy.

I can't write that in an email. No way. It's so ungracious, especially since he'd asked to be mentioned in my fantastic column and bought me coffee to have his prowess written all over this page. Unfortunately, Miss Woods does not do shallow, unless it's a more luxurious kind of shallow,

where a completely hideous chap with a lovely personality and hotshot job buys me a Tiffany solitaire with a box of Godiva chocolates before getting down on one knee. My materialism is substantiated in a belief, propagated by countless aunties, that 'when money gets tight, love flies out of the window'.

I digress. Biology guy talked about fair trade, domestic products and his E-number intolerance during an hour of bravado and rhetorical egotistical pandering. Not once did I get a word in about myself. Not once did he ask about me! Hmph.

Anyway, more fascinating things beckon. Like the night of passion I enjoyed in the presence of not one but two of the most physically perfect men I've ever met in my life! What made it sweeter was the fact that they chose the inimitable Stormy over the group of girls I despise the most - those blubbery, self-absorbed gothic types, who automatically dislike any girl more articulate and accomplished than them. Not all gothic females offend me - it's just the pretension and the bitchiness I can't tolerate, especially from the kind who feel that wearing

outrageous synthetic hair is a good idea in their attempts to distract male attention away from a visage that a blind mother couldn't love and an inch of clown make-up couldn't disguise!

Post-Camberwell warehouse party (where fire was juggled by guy one and atmospheric breakbeat techno was spun by guy two), I realised that getting back to Hammersmith from this post-modern squat (reminiscent of the one seen in *South West 9*, complete with sculptures, resident spiritual healer and visiting drug dealer) at 2am was going to be a mission. So I invited the most fascinating, well-travelled chaps to walk me to the bus stop.

Guy number one, Travis Fimmel lookalike replete with the most stunning foam mohawk, asked me for my number so we could meet up again. I told him I'd only see him if I could see guy number two (an infinitely more interesting, snowboarding, younger version of Jonathan Davis before he got fat) at the same time. He agreed, on the condition I snogged him right then and there. Never one to shirk an opportunity, I entered a steamy clinch, first with Mohawk, and then

his friend. Before we knew it, we were back at mine, after wanting, wishing, waiting and thinking of getting down to business.

Technically speaking, first base was good. Mohawk held my body firmly and gave the finest firm body massage I'd ever had! His kisses were strong, but not sloppy, and his oral anatomy knowledge was superb. Excellent. Unlike his floppy-tongued puppy of a mate, he knew how to have a good time, and it was on the strength of this that I let him go further. It was here that I learnt lesson number one, for the ten millionth time:

'Good looking guys do not have to try to keep girls interested. Hence, they've not got the time to develop their personalities, or bedroom techniques, because they've rarely got a break from girls.'

His breast technique required further practise - a lesson with the lesbians was just what he needed. The kitten approach, mixed with kneading movements, does not serve to please. Breasts are not like penises, boys - take good care not to tear them off!

Going south of the waist wasn't

worth trying in the fear of that experience being equally dismal, so, without further ado, I skipped over to his uglier mate in the hope that the 'ugly men make better lovers' theory might have held true. I was wrong. Nine times out of ten, I have better sex on my own.

We had an interesting take on the Rockbitch board game (based on the Ann Summers one), before I ended up winning the golden condom and getting him to do whatever I wanted! 'Whatever' ended up being 'anything', and 'anything' ended up being the most beautiful body massage a girl could dream of!

Massage over and done with, we ended up going through the trauma of Korn-man being unable to make himself stand to attention. Repeatedly. It got boring after the fifth time, and my politesse could only extend to a limited period of time. In impatience, whilst knowing this not to be a reflection on myself, I bid him and his friend goodbye, and went off, in true Imperial style, to make love with the only reliable, true and technically perfect person who could deliver the goods every single time. Myself.

## Women not internet savvy



by FELLATIO FAJITAS

The most popular searches on Google in 2004 have been published, and the results show that women are lacking in certain departments...

The global top ten searches for 2004 can tell us a lot about ourselves, ranging from what we think to what we want to know. Here is the list, as given on the BBC website, rating the searches starting at the most popular: Britney Spears, Paris Hilton, Christina Aguilera, Pamela Anderson, Chat, Games, Carmen Electra, Orlando Bloom, Harry Potter, mp3.

You will note that the top seven are clearly guys looking for naughty pictures of ladies, chat rooms to talk naughtily to ladies or games to waste time.

Orlando Bloom is the only entry that may be due to ladies searching.

The problem with this being that this statistic is entirely due to me - I have a bit of an elf thing.

But wait, I hear you cry, these are the global results, surely us Brits are much better than this! Well, yes we are. In the UK top searches of 2004, there was one noticeable difference: in at number two was 'income tax returns'. This means that we are the same as the rest of the world who all want to see pleasures of the flesh, except we have a slight accounting fetish too.

Rather oddly, in the French version, the third most popular search was 'France'. Trying to find yourselves on the map, eh?

Those nice Google types even split the results up into many smaller lists covering many different areas, for instance the 'popular tech stuff' has as its top searches: Wallpaper, Kazaa, mp3, Spybot, Linux.

Since when is home decoration 'tech stuff'? There is a good connection here though - people get Kazaa, many of them will download mp3s from it, they realise they have gallons of spyware, try to get rid of it using Spybot, and then eventually get so annoyed they install Linux. I can't think of any immediately obvious way to get from Britney to mp3 in a similar fashion though.

As for the top ten searches conducted at Imperial College, sadly I could not get my hands on this valuable data, but I'm willing to bet money that 'pi to 27 decimal places' is the most searched-for thing.

So what can we learn from this? Girls: there are lots of pictures of pretty men on the internet (I recommend searching for 'fellatio fajitas' in Google). Guys: there's more on the internet than pretty ladies (I recommend 'fellatio fajitas' again).

In conclusion, there is a lot of wasted web space out there. None more wasted than www.wastedwebspaces.co.uk.

# Around Campus

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Election campaigning at Silwood



Candidates and Deputy Returning Officer Sam Rorke (centre, with pint glass) talk to Silwood Park students as 'election season' gets into full swing

# Like fumbling about in the dark ???



## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February

For more information email  
[nighthike@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:nighthike@imperial.ac.uk)

or see

[www.union.imperial.ac.uk/nighthike](http://www.union.imperial.ac.uk/nighthike)



A Recreational Clubs  
Committee Event

**By Andy Brown**  
Silwood Park correspondent

Last Tuesday saw the intense Union sabbatical election campaign pay a visit to Silwood Park, the smallest outlying campus of the Imperial world. Around 30 people, many of whom were potential student representatives, arrived to attend our termly union meeting, contributing to a turnout not seen at Silwood in many years.

The meeting was well underway when the two minibuses arrived and people started emerging and stretching off the miles. Having then navigated their way through the maze that is the new card access system, they politely sat at the back, listening intently to the issues we have, being so detached from what often seems like the rest of the world, let alone Imperial College.

Once there was a timely pause, Sam Rorke apologised for being late with stories of how they got lost four times. This was rather ironic as we have been trying to tell College how remote we are and how this remoteness is a contributing factor to many issues Silwood Park students have with their lives while studying here.

It was when the debates moved towards the catering on site and, more importantly, residences that the candidates at the back found their voices and used the presence of the current Union president Mustafa Arif as an opportunity to put forward their way of thinking if they were to be

voted into office for the next year. One candidate pointed out that campuses such as Silwood and Wye, although much smaller than South Kensington, could potentially be very influential in the elections if a low turnout was experienced elsewhere.

Much debate was had over rent increases (Silwood having seen a 21% increase over the last two years), inclusion of the telephone and internet into accommodation bills with no opt-out available, and notice to quit deadlines meaning a student leaving mid-term could potentially be landed with a bill for many thousands of pounds. I personally find it hard to see how the last two issues are in the best interest of the students. They could easily be seen as a way of guaranteeing a certain amount of income from accommodation.

Following the closing of the meeting, candidates were led past the Union notice boards where, sellotape and blu tack in hand, they were officially allowed to place their posters. Posters appeared in every colour of the rainbow (and then some more), some with pictures from bad hair days, and some personalised for Silwood (a nice touch). Unfortunately, rules had to be bent at this point, as we were told that each candidate had to place their posters at least 6m apart - an interesting dilemma when the total length of the one Union noticeboard on site is 4.23m.

With the closing of the meeting, the job of raising our issues well done, and elec-

tion material duly placed, the group then retreated to the bar, the centre of Silwood life as those biology and engineering students due to come out here in a few months will see. It's a cosy abode for many, with a wooden bar and newly polished tables.

The campaigning here started with the handing out of flyers, promises of how things should and would be changed, and personalised tins of beans. This was followed by discussion amongst the residents, who pulled themselves away from the Chinese New Year and pancake celebrations, about how Silwoodians, and more generally postgraduates, could be better represented.

Some good ideas were put forward. I was impressed by those who made an effort to put up posters and come and talk to me, but disappointed by the turning down of my offer to vote for anyone who brought me a pint from everyone bar Sam Rorke, who isn't even running for anything. Many later redeemed themselves by opting not to go home early and stay for the second minibus at 11. They drank with us and conversation stayed vaguely related to the Union but did deviate more and more with increased flow of beer.

All in all we had a good night - it was nice to be recognised by the Union, and we are always happy to have them out here. Here's to the hope that Silwoodians and postgraduates can continue the advances made over this last year.



# Careers

felix@ic.ac.uk

## IC graduates in the IT industry

By **Cassandra Aldrich**  
and **Gabriella Silvestri**  
Careers Editors

**NISHANT DESHPANDE** graduated in 1997 with a BEng in Information Systems Engineering (ISE). He's had an interesting career path, like many IC graduates.

After Imperial, he joined Goldman Sachs in London for three years, after which he decided to do an MS in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford. This was followed by a job at the Oracle headquarters in California, while at present he's working for a startup company in the US.

### Did you always want to go into IT?

No. I really didn't know much about computers at school. I liked chemistry and almost went to do Chemical Engineering at Nottingham University. Then I decided to take a year out between A-levels and university. During part of that year, I worked for a software company, and from then on, I was in IT.

### Can you tell us more about what your present work involves?

For the last five months, I have been working at Efficient Frontier ([www.efrontier.com](http://www.efrontier.com)). We are a search marketing company that handles keyword advertising for our customers. Therefore, when you search for something on Google or Yahoo, you see the 'true' search results and the paid ads on top and on the side. There is a live 24-hour auction going on amongst the competing ads to be shown, for each search phrase. We optimize this advertising channel by applying quantitative methods and a portfolio approach to handling all the keywords and ads our customer has and enabling the customer to better achieve their advertising goals.

Since joining, I have been working on exposing a lot of our functionality to customers via our website. The technology I am using is Java, Linux, Struts, and a lot of database work.

### What did your work at Goldman Sachs involve? How did you come to do your MS in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford?

Each business unit at Goldman Sachs had its own IT to develop and support applications for that business. I joined a new team for the Equity Capital Markets group in London. We started

with three people, including my boss. We learnt about the business and then developed applications to make the business processes more efficient. I was there for three years, and I really enjoyed it.

I had several motivations for doing an MS. I was keen to explore and to get a much deeper and broader set of skills and knowledge technically. Also, of course, there was the lure of Silicon Valley and California at the height of the dot com boom.

So, all of the above pointed to Stanford. As for Artificial Intelligence, I took an 'Introduction to AI' course in my first quarter, and got interested in the subject, and continued to take AI courses until I had enough to specialize in AI (the degree is from the Computer Science department).

### Do you think there are more opportunities in the States in your line of work?

Definitely, simply because the US market is so large, and the Bay Area (no one calls it 'Silicon Valley' here) is unlike any other place for technology, not just compared to Europe but pretty much anywhere else in the US. It is just like London is the centre for finance and investment banking in Europe and New York the centre in the US.

Having said that, I think London and Cambridge have a lot of things going on in the technology sector, and there have already been some success stories. I am sure there will be more in the future.

### How was your experience at Imperial?

I was in the ISE batch, and we renamed it 'Instant Sanity Erosion'. It was a small class - I think the BEng batch was probably around 35 students - and most people were really hard working, so it was hard work just keeping up with everyone. But, of course, I think for most people the undergraduate degree is the most fun; it was for me.

The teaching and facilities were very good. Looking back, I wish I had spent more time exploring the general area that I was studying; we were at college when the internet was taking off. But I've never really liked sitting in a basement in front of a computer screen for more time than necessary, especially when the other options were sitting in the Queens Arms...

### Do you think being at Imperial has equipped you well for your future?



IT skills are fundamental for nearly all graduate jobs

I have worked with people from many different universities, and I think you can always count on a person from Imperial to know his or her stuff, and be really hard-working and tenacious in finding solutions, much more than most other universities. I don't know whether that is the effect of a few years at Imperial, or the type of person that comes to IC. Either way, if you can do fairly well at IC with the stiff competition that exists, I think you can be confident you can do well in the future.

### Do you have any advice to students wanting to get into your line of work or advice resulting from your experiences?

Work as a software engineer faces increasing competition from people in developing countries, like India and China. You have to have something extra to be of value in this field. This means having first a really solid understanding of the basics - the more I have worked in this field, the more times I have had to look at the basics to get to a better solution.

The other great thing about this field is that there is very little between theory and practice. If you know something, you should be able to implement it. Keep thinking like that and trying to put it in practice, and your learning will increase exponentially.

**JOHN STAVELEY** graduated from Imperial in 1997 with an Honours and a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering. He was treasurer of the Entertainments Committee at IC and also wrote for various College publications. He then went

on to complete an MPhil in computational fluid dynamics and a Postgraduate Diploma of Management while at UMIST, where he also did part time tutoring and demonstrating. After finishing his studies, he worked for Enviro Software Consulting Team. His role as a software consultant to the environmental sector involved working with clients such as BP, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Environment Agency, the MoD and Kuwait Oil and Gas. After four years with Enviro, he's now a software engineer for Walker Morris Online where he is involved in designing and developing software products and also in the marketing and sales of these products.

### Did you always want to go into Software Engineering?

No, I was always interested in science. My MEng and MPhil were both in Chemical Engineering, though the computational element of my MPhil was very high. I had been programming since I was 13 though, so computing always made sense to me.

### What made you want to do postgraduate study after you finished at Imperial?

I didn't really feel Imperial stretched me. It taught me to learn by rote and I wanted to be more creative with what I had learnt and apply it somewhere. Research was very interesting, but doing an EngD course relies a lot on having a good supervisor, and mine left three months after I joined. I greatly enjoyed research, it was a great personal challenge which I found fulfilling,

but I didn't like the world of academia.

### How did you come to do a year of management studies? Would you recommend it to other postgraduate scientists who perhaps wish to leave research for business or industry?

This is the taught part of an MBA and is part and parcel of the EngD course (four year PhD plus applied research and management). It's very difficult to obtain MBA funding in the UK and this was a good way in. I found it very useful and I'm sure it will pay me dividends for a good while to come.

I found the transition from research to industry extremely easy - I'm not sure how others would cope. I found the world of academia very inward-looking and not always interested in solving problems that would be useful in the real world, whereas I always wanted to know how to apply research.

### How was your experience at Imperial?

I didn't much like the place. There are better ways of spending four years. It deserves as good a reputation as Oxford or Cambridge, if not better for some departments. I enjoyed being in London, this has much to offer.

### Do you think being at Imperial has equipped you well for your future?

It gives you an intellectual rigour and ability to solve problems. It definitely has a certain style about it, it gives you a work ethic like no other, and the name opens doors.

There is an oft-quoted statistic that Imperial graduates earn consistently more than graduates of other universities. This may be because they choose to stay in London where salaries are higher... but quality of life isn't, I have to add. When choosing where to work, bear in mind that £28k buys very little in London, whereas in most other parts of the country it buys a lot. I believe eventually London will suffer commercially because of this.

### Do you think that your extra-curricular activities during your studies were a big plus when looking for jobs? Did they develop your skills?

I think I got a huge amount from these activities. They were also fun and allowed

me to meet some of the more interesting people at Imperial. They've been occasionally mentioned in interviews. Most people mention the travelling I've done since.

Employers are looking for an individual who can communicate and work as a team. The jobs where this isn't a requirement are very few and far between. I think that this is somewhere Imperial lets you down - you spend so much time working that you don't get much time to socialise.

### Do you have any advice to students wanting to get into your line of work or advice resulting from your experiences?

The first job is difficult, but once on the ladder things are much easier. When you go to interview, know something about their industry and come across as enthusiastic. Emphasise your team working and communication skills. A key skill for computing is attention to detail.

Don't walk into the first job you get. You don't need a job, you need *the* job. If you can afford to, hold back. The market is pretty good at the moment, whereas two years ago it was very difficult.

Big companies are not always better. I got an extremely good variety of experience working as part of a very small team.

## Careers events

### Employer Presentation

Barclays Global Investors  
Mon 21 Feb, 6.30pm, Skempton Building, Lecture Theatre 201. Register by emailing [bigraduatecareers@barclaysglobal.com](mailto:bigraduatecareers@barclaysglobal.com), stating 'Imperial BGI presentation - 21st February'.

### Internship Opportunity Presentation

Infosys Limited  
Tues 22 Feb, 6.30pm, Blakett Laboratory, Lecture Theatre 2.

### Women's Roadshow

Shell  
Tues 1 March, 6.30pm, SCR, Sheffield Building.

### Corus

Thurs 3 March, 6.30pm. Venue and registration TBC.

### Employer Mock Interviews

Deloitte  
Wed 2 March, 10.00-5.00pm  
Sign-up begins Mon 7 Feb.

# Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Ten things I can do that you can't

### EPISODE FOUR: The Whip

#### JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

Juggling is something of a versatile art. It has connections with such pursuits as magic, balloon modelling and gymnastics. Other connections may seem less obvious, and this brings me neatly onto the subject of today's article: whip cracking.

Come on, admit it. Who hasn't wanted to be (or be with) Indiana Jones at some point? Armed with a proper leather bullwhip, the skilled whip-cracker can put out candles without touching the candle itself, split an A5 sheet of newspaper in half without the person holding it feeling anything, and, of course, grab beer bottles and pull them across the room. Dodging giant balls of stone and combating Nazi archaeologists are optional extras.

The first thing to do is choose your whip carefully – a badly made whip will be both hard to crack and more likely to hurt you. A leather bullwhip about 10ft long is an ideal starting point. Run it along the ground behind you in a straight line [see picture 1]. If it isn't straight, it's going to wrap around your leg on the way past and possibly even perform an impromptu castration.

Make sure there are no poor sods within whipping distance, and ideally nobody for quite some distance in front of you – the whip is capable of picking up small bits of grit and propelling them at Mach 2 or above, which is cool in a

geeky kind of way, if a little painful for the recipient.

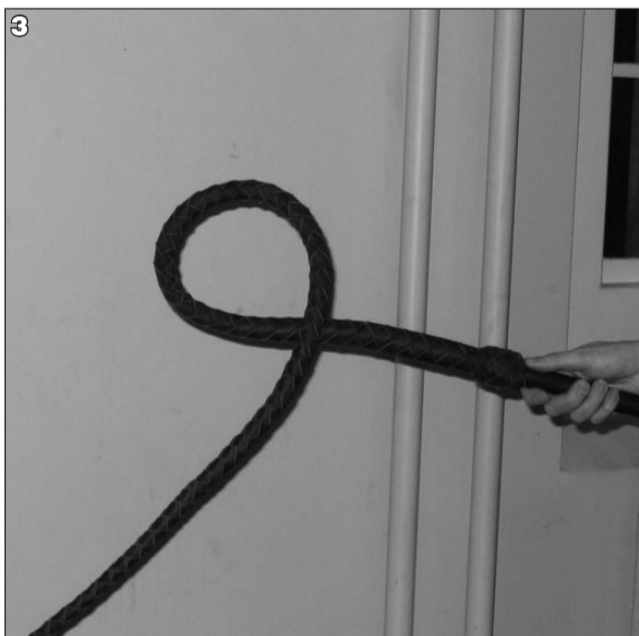
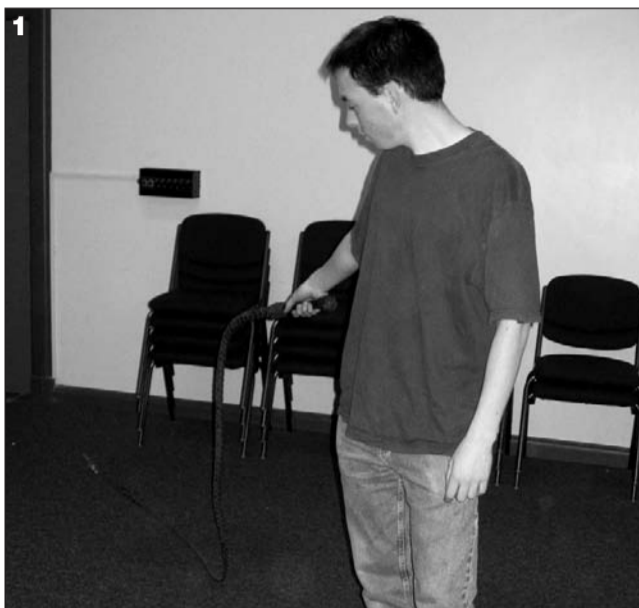
Swing the whip forwards so that it rotates up and finally drops behind you [see picture 2].

Once the whip is behind you, bring your arm forward in a smooth motion to put a loop in the whip [see picture 3]. This loop is the bit that actually gives you a big crack. It accelerates down the whip, and once it passes through the sound barrier a crack is heard. The important thing to note is that a big crack doesn't take strength, it takes good technique. Putting a good loop in the whip is far more important than flinging it around [see picture 4].

OK, that's all there is to it. Since we are at a science and technology college though, here's the science:

What makes a whip crack – it's the tip creating a sonic boom, right? Not quite. Professor Alain Goriely from the University of Arizona performed some theoretical modelling in 2002, which showed that it isn't the tip breaking the sound barrier that causes the crack, rather it is the loop. Measurements have put the accelerations at the tip during a crack at well over 50,000G, which is why the tip can do so much damage. Anyone who hits themselves during practice will be able to testify to this.

Well, there you have it – another strange juggling-associated art demystified. As I'm sure you're aware by now, Imperial's Juggling Society meets on Tuesday evenings from 6pm. Email [juggling@ic.ac.uk](mailto:juggling@ic.ac.uk) for more details.



1. Choose your whip carefully. Run it along the ground in a straight line. 2. Swing the whip forwards so that it rotates up and finally drops behind you. 3. Bring your arm forward smoothly to put a loop in the whip. 4. Listen for the crack!

## IC Radio does the mainstream

#### IC RADIO

#### TBR

**Presented by:** Martin Archer

**Style:** Mainstream

**When:** Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6pm

**How to listen:**

[www.icradio.com](http://www.icradio.com)

**Latest 'Most Requested' vote:**

1. Natasha Bedingfield – *I Bruise Easily*
2. Tyler James – *Foolish*
3. John Legend – *Used To Love U*
4. Mario – *Let Me Love You*

The TBR (To Be Released) Series is IC Radio at its most mainstream and has been

running in one form or another for the past three years, progressively getting bigger and bigger.

TBR actually consists of three rather unique shows, but the central theme is bringing you the best in new music. I strive to play the hottest forthcoming singles as soon as possible, sometimes even before commercial stations.

The newest stuff can always be heard on the Monday night show, the original TBR, along with the top five selling singles, the day's new releases and a rundown of the weekly online vote.

On Wednesdays you can tune in to TBR: Here & Now which focuses more on music

news – I run down my chart predictions and summarise the big stories in music, all interspersed with new music taken from the TBR playlist.

Finally I kick off Friday nights with TBR: The Remix, which is just about getting people in the mood for the weekend with big upcoming urban singles plus a few cool remixes and mash-ups.

All three shows are totally interactive, running special features which can be found on TBR's very own website: <http://shows.icradio.com/tbr>.

For example, you can vote for the Most Requested throughout the week, request any of the new songs I have to play for you, browse the latest music news and



TBR's Martin Archer at the Brits 2005

gossip, check out the singles and album charts...

The interactivity is a central part of the way TBR works – I want to play the new music that you want to hear. You don't necessarily have to call up live on air if you don't want to (though I always like chatting to listeners), you can

simply use the website to air your opinions and make your selections.

Every now and again, TBR also runs very special features such as competitions and interviews. For example, this year I've interviewed the likes of The 411, Jamie Scott, Raghav, Estelle and Jamie Cullum for the shows as well as covering the MOBO and Brit Awards from beside the red carpet.

A lot of work goes into the TBR Series so that you don't have to trawl through the other stations, internet, newspapers and magazines. If you want to know about new music and what's going on in the mainstream music world, all you have to do is

listen to IC Radio on 999AM in Southside and Linstead, 1134AM in Wye (thanks to the IC Trust) or the online stream at [icradio.com](http://icradio.com) every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6pm. You don't even have to listen live – recordings of the shows are also available online for you to listen at your leisure.

But even if mainstream music isn't to your taste, we have a wide range of programming from the most alternative music to drum and bass to genres I'd never even heard of before. There's a show out there for almost everyone, and if there isn't one for you, why not start it yourself? Visit the website for details.

# A musical about chess?

## MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY

By Robert Felstead

A musical... about chess? How does that work? The answer is: "Very well!"

Musical theatre gets a hard time of it. It's often seen as cheesy, corny and clichéd. A street full of people suddenly burst into song and start to walk in time, singing loudly in harmony before swinging round lamp posts. Or tough street gangs in New York skip lightly into a ballet sequence as they fight each other. Plots are predictable as bad guy turns good, falls in love with the unobtainable glamorous girl, wins her heart, and they both live happily ever after.

But it's not all like that. Last month, the BBC televised the recent West End smash hit *Jerry Springer The Opera* to much controversy. There was nothing corny or clichéd about that. It was inventive, exciting new music built around an original, humorous plot parodying some of the extremes of today's society.

Although West End theatres are enjoying a revival and box offices are grossing millions for classics like *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, people still don't see musical theatre as a 'serious' art form.



Last year's MTSoc production, *Little Shop Of Horrors*

But that needn't be the case.

Musical theatre very often tackles ideas and topics that other art forms wouldn't dare to touch. This is illustrated in the current West End show *The Producers*, where two producers set out to try to make a musical about Hitler, in the hope that it will fail.

In some cases, musical theatre succeeds because of the very blatant suspension of reality that it provides. When you see a chorus of Ku Klux Klan members tap dancing (*Jerry Springer*), Nazis soldiers singing and dancing gaily (*The Producers*), or a

man-eating plant singing like the king of soul (*Little Shop of Horrors*) this somehow makes the unacceptable or unbelievable palatable.

However, on a more serious level, the beauty of song and dance is that they can connect directly into the brains of the audience and communicate with them in a way that isn't possible within the constraints of language alone. Musical theatre can be like watching opera, dance and drama rolled into one. Often, watching someone sing and dance a role can be far more affecting than just watching them act it – provided that the

music and choreography are both strong.

For every corny, cheesy and clichéd musical out there, there is another touching, beautiful and poignant work too. So much musical theatre is never seen by the mass audience, because of the commercial nature of the art. The West End is dominated by Lloyd Webber and a handful of shows based on the back-catalogue of famous pop/rock bands.

But you don't have to go to the West End.

Next week, for one week only, the Imperial College Union Musical Theatre

Society will be producing *Chess*. The musical was written by Benny Andersson, Bjorn Ulvaeus and Tim Rice, running in the West End in 1985 and on Broadway in 1989.

The action takes place against the backdrop of the Cold War in the early 1980s and follows the East versus West story on a number of different levels. On the surface, we see the World Chess Championship taking place between the American and Russian Grandmasters (Freddie and Anatoly). Things become complicated, though, when a love story unfolds

between Florence (American) and Anatoly (Russian). Furthermore, we learn about goings-on in Florence's past involving her father during the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. As part-Hungarian, Florence still feels resentful towards Russia for its involvement in this episode. This leads to some underhand diplomacy by American and Russian agents. The three stories are closely interwoven, and the story of chess becomes an allegory to link them all.

*Chess* is an emotional, diplomatic and sporting battle, which sees loyalties and friendships stretched to the limit. It is an incredible work of musical theatre: with a solid, complex and twisting storyline woven around very deep and interesting characters, it fuses together a wide variety of musical styles from orchestral to choral, rock to pop.

Cheesy, corny and clichéd it is not. But if you want a night of real musical theatre, with a fascinating plot, intriguing characters and beautiful music, come to see *Chess*.

● MTSoc presents *Chess* from 22 to 26 February at 7.30pm in the Union Concert Hall (doors 7pm). Tickets, priced £4.50 for students, are available from ICU reception or on the door. For more information, visit [www.union.ic.ac.uk/mtsoc](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/mtsoc). *Chess* is part of ArtsFest05.

# Picocon 22

## SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND HORROR SOCIETY

By Cristina Rodríguez Trobajo

Think about all those wonderful things that only happen once a year. Christmas: 25 December. Your birthday: (read as appropriate). End of the College year: 24 June. Picocon: 19 February.

For those of you puzzled by this last event, let me tell you what I'm talking about. Picocon is the one-day convention run by Imperial College Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Society (ICSF for short) at the Union in Beit Quad. It is smaller than most conventions (ours only lasts 10 hours), but don't be deceived by its size: a long-lasting tradition of success is backing us up.

Picocon is in its 22nd year, reaching the respectable age when the event is older than some of the people organising it. If you are still unsure about what Picocon is, you probably ought to come find out for yourself. I can tell you it is a fun day, filled with dis-

cussions, games, stalls and all sorts of randomness you will appreciate.

This year, we will enjoy the presence of three greats of British science fiction and fantasy as our guests.

Gwyneth Jones is a writer and critic of science fiction (also known as Ann Halam, writer of teenage horror fiction) and one of our returning authors. She won the 2002 Arthur C Clarke award for her novel *Bold As Love*, and her novel *Life* has been nominated for the 2004 Philip K Dick award.

Jon Courtenay Grimwood is well known in SF circles as the author of the *Arabesque* trilogy (*Pashazade*, *Effendi* and *Felaheen*), which have won several awards, including the Arthur C Clarke for *Pashazade*. His latest novel, *Stamping Butterflies*, has been nominated for the 2004 British Science Fiction Association awards.

Brian Stableford is the proof that we treat our guests very well, as this will be his fourth Picocon. He has been publishing books for almost 40 years, writing over 50 novels and almost

200 short stories, as well as many non-fiction titles. Two of his collections of short stories, *Asgard's Secrets* and *Sheena and Other Gothic Tales*, are about to go to press.

Picocon 22 will open its doors at 10am, with the absence of a fish duel. At 11, the events will begin in the Union Dining Hall (UDH), with a welcome speech from Simon, the ICSF ChairEntity, and a talk from Gwyneth Jones on the topic of insanity.

Afterwards, we will have a lunch break of an hour and a half, during which the Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise (DoDM) auction will take place: those really tacky pieces of merchandise tagging along after every single film and TV series made today will be up for sale, with all proceeds going to RAG. If you win the auction, you can keep the piece, or, if you truly dislike it and wish to destroy it, we will have liquid nitrogen and heavy blunt instruments available for your enjoyment.

At 1.30pm, Jon Courtenay Grimwood will hold a Q&A session, followed at 2.30 by

a talk by Brian Stableford on the myth of the Space Age. At 3.30, all our guest speakers will take part in a panel discussion.

At 4.30 there will be an hour of silly games. You all know them: Just a Minute, Mornington Crescent... and, if you don't, you should come and learn!

Finally, to round up the day, there's The Quiz at 6.00. Picocon will close its doors at 7pm, without a fish duel, of course.

As if this wasn't enough, during the whole day there will be wargames, LAN gaming, capture the hat, a scavenger hunt, book stalls, lots of insanity and good fun.

You don't need to be a member to come. You don't even need to be into sci-fi. Come for the talks, the games, the Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise, the people, the heck of it, or the absence of a fish duel. But come.

Picocon 22 will take place on Saturday 19 February in the Union Building, from 10am to 7pm. Entrance fees are £7 for normal entrance / £5 concessions / £3 for members of ICSF. See you there!



This is what a furby looks like when immersed in liquid nitrogen. Want to know what happens next? Come to Picocon and find out!

# Hyde Park Relays: more

## HYDE PARK RELAYS

By Peter Dickenson

It may have taken 57 years since it was first held, but the Hyde Park Relays committee finally managed to spread the word and attract students to this great event in large numbers.

Some students were even crazy enough to want to run more than one leg for different teams. Pre-race entry numbers from internal teams were high, and you could sense the buzz around campus leading up to Saturday.

The question now was how to make this race one of the

most memorable ever for the new competitors. We wanted it to be remembered by everyone, both individually and as a team thing. The latter was easy – the camaraderie that is produced year in, year out by each team is unmistakably obvious and so we did not need to concentrate on that too much. The former was a bit more difficult. Meeting after meeting was held until we decided there was only one way to make the race different for each runner – the weather!

Whatever the competitors thought, it was careful planning that made the weather for each leg's runner vary so much. Using the proven Sod's

Law Formula of pre-start glorious sunshine to post-start light drizzle, with strong winds, heavy rain, hail and all other weather conditions in between, the committee believed we truly made the race unique. It was great to see the competitors waiting for their legs dashing backwards and forwards from the Dell Café, trying to get some protection from the weather. Then, to finally complete the Sod's Law Formula, when the very last runner crossed the finish line we organised for the sun to come out again. Some committees are just born with these preparation skills!

Saturday may have been

the day of the 57th Hyde Park Relays, but for the HPR Committee it all began the Wednesday before, when 50 crazy Polish students arrived and took over Southside Gym. The foreign invasion continued throughout the days leading up to the event, with the Dutch, Italian, German, French, Welsh and Irish arriving and crashing all over the university. Various members of the committee had the 'pleasure' of sleeping over with the teams – well, 'sleeping' is probably the wrong word to use, seeing as a sleeping bag was the only cushion against the hard, cold wooden floor. However, the card games, sleeping bag

races and, of course, ridiculous amount of drinking in Southside Bar and the Union contributed to the friendly atmosphere (and headaches) of the competitors.

When Saturday morning came and the HPR committee was rudely awakened by the sound of their alarms (some as early as six in the morning), race day preparations began with setting up the race course, the JCR and the Union, picking up the food and drinking lots of strong coffee.

At around 10.30am, the first competitors came to register, and at 2pm the men's/mixed race began to a huge cheering crowd. Five minutes later

the women's race started. Frank Horwill, the University of London coach, kindly started both races to a rapturous applause. Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the committee were cutting the bread, making the soup (not surprisingly very popular, especially amongst the marshals after the race, who had been standing in the same place for around three hours) and sorting out the race t-shirts.

After the race had finished and the course signs were collected in, competitors headed over to the JCR for some after-race food and the presentation. The men's/mixed race was won by 'Goldsmith's Past and Present', a guest



Top row, left to right: hundreds of competitors register for the 2005 Hyde Park Relays in dBs on Saturday morning; the men's race gets underway; the women's race follows soon after; and the Beit Hall and EEE teams pose for the camera. Bottom row, left to right: the winning internal men's team, from the Outdoor Club; the winning internal women's team, from the IC Boat Club; a finished competitor (literally); and the after-race party at the Union

# popular than Westwood

team, so Trinity College, Dublin were the first university team. The internal men's/mixed was won by 'We Prefer Vertical' – the IC Outdoor Club – in a time of 119 minutes and 12 seconds. The next internal team was 'IC Theory Tortoises' in a time of 128 minutes and 41 seconds. Third was 'IC Hockey' in 129 minutes and 51 seconds. The fastest internal individuals were 'Socks', 'Snuffy' and Alex Herbert.

In the women's race, the overall winners were Oxford University. The 'IC Boat Club' team won the internal women's race in a time of 59 minutes and 42 seconds. Second place went to the

'Lacrosse Ladies' in a time of 64 minutes and 58 seconds, and 'Beit Babes' came third in a very respectable time of 67 minutes and 32 seconds. The fastest internal individuals were Carlyn Greenhalgh, Leila Shepherd and Chinedu Igwe.

Both the men's/mixed and women's winning teams received the First Internal Race Shield, on which their names will be inscribed forever and, of course, as should occur in every student race, alcohol was amongst the prizes!

The 'Gary Hoare' prizes were also given out. Gary is a former IC Cross Country Club Member, whose sole aim

was to be last in a race but first to the pub afterwards! In the past, people have deliberately tried to win the wooden spoons. The 'Gary Hoare' awards for internal teams this year went to 'Jnes' in the men's/mixed race and 'The Dawes Road Runners'. Congratulations guys, you are the envy of every other competitor and that is the truth!

Once the presentation had finished, it was time for another clearing-up job for the committee, whilst competitors who hadn't showered did so. The crazy Polish put their make-up on (both the men and the women) and the committee chair had the

first of many well-deserved pints at the exclusive after-race party in dBs. The boat race was won by the 'Mellingtons', a team consisting of some of the IC Cross Country Club, although I do not know how, because 'Mr Mellington' himself has to be one of the worst neckers I have ever seen. There was an extended bar licence and around £3700 was taken on the bars, which was significantly more (over 20%) than the Union's Friday night Valentines party featuring Tim Westwood – but then we did have the crazy Polish!

Thank you once again to all the competitors who took part. You make the event

what it is. The HPR committee would like to personally thank IC, ICU, catering, security, all their former friends who helped marshal and everybody else, who, if mentioned, would fill *Felix*. However, a special mention must go to Kris Rajamanikam and Aziz Bilgrami, without whose help the Hyde Park Relays and internal competition would never have happened. Thanks guys!

Although it is not official yet, it is likely that the next Hyde Park Relays will be over the Valentines Weekend – that's 11 February 2006, so pencil it into your calendar. An official date will be announced when next year's chair is elected.

This year's chair is now taking a well-earned rest.

Full results and photos can be found on our official website, [www.union.ic.ac.uk/hpr](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/hpr). As more photos come in, the website will be updated. If anybody has any photos that they took on the day and are willing to share them, then could they please burn them onto a CD and email [peter.dickenson@ic.ac.uk](mailto:peter.dickenson@ic.ac.uk) so they too can be put onto the site.

If you enjoyed Hyde Park Relays and would like to go for an introductory run then visit [www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/runic](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/runic) or email [run@ic.ac.uk](mailto:run@ic.ac.uk). We hope to see you all there next year!





# 20-25 feb

sunday

**MEDICS FASHION SHOW**  
@Sketch, 9 Conduit St **6:30PM**

**MONDAY**

**ORIGAMI DEMONSTRATION @JCR 12-2PM FREE!**  
**CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT @Read Lecture Theatre 6:30-8PM FREE!**  
URBAN MUSIC SOC presents **HEAVY ELEMENTS @dB's 8PM FREE!**

tuesday

Jazz&rock gig @dB's 7pm free!

**WEDNESDAY**

**DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA!** featuring CAPOEIRA, IC DANCE COMPANY, DANCESPORT and FUNKOLOGY @JCR **2-5PM FREE!**  
**TSUNAMI RELIEF CONCERT** featuring IC CHOIR, IC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA and JAZZ BIG BAND @Great Hall **7-8PM FREE**

thursday

jazz big band gig @dB's 8pm free!

friday

final concert @Great Hall 7:30-10pm £2.50/£5  
after party featuring FABRICLIVE'S JOE RANSOM @Union 10pm

all week:

Art exhibition featuring LEOSOC, ORIGAMI and PHOTOSOC @Blyth Gallery, Sherfield Level 5 free!  
tue-sat: MTSOC's chess @Union Dining Hall 7pm £4.50/£6.50

# What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

## THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY

### FILMS HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

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

### UNION MEETING COUNCIL

7pm  
Union Dining Hall  
Beit Quad  
The results of the sabbatical  
elections will be announced.  
Contact: union@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

## FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY

### UNION EVENTS SUB RED

8pm-2am  
Beit Quad  
£3  
Featuring Brian Gee,  
MacPherson and IC Radio's  
Spindle and Chug. Vodka and  
draught mixer only £1.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

## SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY

### ARTS FEST 2005 MEDICS FASHION SHOW

6.30pm  
Sketch, 9 Conduit St

## MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY

### ARTS FEST 2005 ORIGAMI DEMONSTRATION

12-2pm  
JCR, South Kensington  
FREE

### ARTS FEST 2005 CHAMBER MUSIC

### CONCERT

6.30pm  
Read Lecture Theatre  
FREE

### ARTS FEST 2005 URBAN MUSIC SOC presents HEAVY ELEMENTS

8pm  
dBs, Beit Quad  
FREE

## TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

### ARTS FEST 2005 JAZZ & ROCK GIG NIGHT

7pm  
dBs, Beit Quad  
FREE

### UNION EVENTS MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY presents CHESS

7.30pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£4.50/£6.50

### 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

## WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY

### ARTS FEST 2005 DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

2-5pm  
JCR, South Kensington  
FREE  
Featuring capoeira, IC dance  
company, dancesport and  
funkology.

### ARTS FEST 2005 TSUNAMI RELIEF CONCERT

7-8pm  
Great Hall  
FREE  
Featuring IC Choir, IC  
Symphony Orchestra and  
Jazz Big Band.

### UNION EVENTS MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY presents CHESS

7.30pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£4.50/£6.50

### 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 24 FEBRUARY

### VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

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

### UNION EVENTS MUSICAL THEATRE SOCIETY presents CHESS

7.30pm

Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£4.50/£6.50

### ARTS FEST 2005 JAZZ BIG BAND

8pm  
dBs, Beit Quad  
FREE

## ALL WEEK

### FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY

Student discount ALL WEEK  
**SHALL WE DANCE (12A)**  
Daily: 12.50pm, 3.20pm,  
5.45pm, 8.15pm. Fri to Sun  
only: 10.20am. Fri and Sat  
only: 11pm.

**CRIMINAL (15)**  
Daily: 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm,  
9.45pm. Fri and Sat only:  
11.50pm.

**IN GOOD COMPANY (PG)**  
Daily: 12.40pm (not Fri to  
Sun), 3pm, 5.20pm (not  
Thurs), 7.50pm. Fri and Sat  
only: 10.30pm.

**THE SEA INSIDE (PG)**  
Daily: 6.05pm (not Thurs).  
Thurs only: 5.20pm.

**THE DOOR IN THE  
FLOOR (15)**  
Daily: 8.45pm. Fri and Sat  
only: 11.20pm.

**THE SPONGEBOB  
SQUAREPANTS MOVIE  
(12A)**  
Daily: 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm.  
Fri to Sun only: 11am.

**THE MAGIC  
ROUNABOUT (U)**  
Daily: 1.55pm, 3.55pm. Fri to  
Sun only: 11.45am.

**SON OF THE MASK (PG)**  
Fri to Sun only: 10.30am,  
12.40pm.

**LAURA'S STAR (U)**  
Fri to Sun only: 10.15am,  
12.15pm.

**OCEANS TWELVE (12A)**  
Daily: 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,  
9pm. Fri and Sat only: 11.25pm.  
Fri to Sun only: 10.55am.

**MEET THE FOCKERS  
(12A)**  
Daily: 12.35pm, 3.10pm,  
5.50pm, 8.30pm. Fri and Sat  
only: 11.15pm. Fri to Sun only:  
10am.

**RACING STRIPES (U)**  
Daily: 1.15pm, 3.45pm. Fri to  
Sun only: 10.45am.

**CLOSER (15)**  
Daily: 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 7pm,  
9.30pm. Fri and Sat only:  
11.55pm.

**MILLION DOLLAR BABY  
(12A)**  
Daily: 6.10pm (not Sun),  
9.15pm.

**THE AVIATOR (12A)**  
Daily: 8pm.

**THE INCREDIBLES (U)**  
Fri to Sun only: 11.15am.

## Imperial College London

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

## Imperial Volunteer Centre



phone  
020  
7594  
8141

check out  
www.  
[imperial.ac.uk/  
volunteering](http://imperial.ac.uk/volunteering)

Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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

Felix will print your listings free of charge.

Just email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk) with LISTINGS in the subject field, and tell us:

- the name of the event
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## Digweed delivers

Fabric has the size, the reputation, and pulls some of the best DJs around. Tonight, it was John Digweed

### CLUB REVIEW

#### Fabric

Fabric, Charterhouse Street

★★★★★

So much has been said and written about this place, it's hard to know where to begin without telling you what you already know or boring you. I'll try not to. The bottom line with Fabric is that, on most nights, a few minutes after arriving at cold, drizzly Charterhouse Street, you can step in and all of a sudden find yourself surrounded by fantastic music and a very large, energetic, noisy crowd. A few metres underneath the bleak streets of nocturnal London, there is one hell of a party going on.

Tonight we were here to see Digweed, a DJ from way back when who's played a part in shaping the club music and lifestyle we have today. He truly is a legend. Unlike some other high profile jocks, he hasn't lost his edge or his skill. Check out his recent mix, *Fabric 20* (see review in *Felix* 1312), and you'll see what I mean.

The night and CD release were probably timed to coincide, but this was always going to be a big night due to Digweed's status. Lucky, then, that my group all avoided the scarily large queue and went straight in. Even luckier that we were allowed into the VIP area (the balcony over room one) and luckier still that one of my friends had decided to pay for us to have our own exclusive table in said VIP area. When Fabric gets this full, there is often nowhere to chill, but we had a nice area with a sofa, and the music still sounded great from there.

Preceding Digweed was Pete Moss, whose *Strive to Live* is, incidentally, track one on *Fabric 20*. Moss set the scene perfectly for the big man, with smooth yet driving tunes and the occasional bit of bouncy bass-led fun. When we first arrived the crowd was already



Digweed. 'Nuff said

pumped, cheering and screaming to the breakdowns, and the dancefloor in room one was pretty packed.

At 2am, the break in the music and the almost deafening roar of the crowd signified Mr D's arrival in the booth. The atmosphere was electric with anticipation; everyone had been waiting for this, and we were all ready.

Digweed began his set with low-intensity, dreamy-sounding tracks, and the noise died down as everyone got back to what they came here to do: dance. We spent the night flitting between our table, the dancefloor and the stairs: the floor being very crowded, the table being too far from the action and the stairs, as ever, being a great place to sit amongst some randoms, have a smoke and watch endless streams of people walk up and down past you.

One way or another, we were locked into Digweed's sound all night. When you go and hear a prog DJ, it's very easy to get lost in the music and just be carried by it. This was exactly what happened. The style of the music really precludes tune-spotting, but it was bloody amazing all night.

The sounds this guy finds and the way he presents them results in a beautiful layered progression of sounds, each one grabbing a different part of you. Delicious. To add to the fun, as everyone (including Digweed himself) says, the sound system in Fabric is divine and perfectly suited to this kind of music. Basslines are warm and envelop you wherever you are in the room, the midrange is punchy and slaps you round the face, and the highs spin around the room above your head.

Fabric closes officially at 7am, but they have a 24 hour licence (you can see it when you queue for the cloakroom) and Digweed played on. God knows how long for; we were partied out and left shortly after.

Please, take my advice: there's no question of whether or not you should see Digweed, the question is when.

**File under:**  
Progressive house  
**If you like this, try:**  
Renaissance @ The Cross

**Simon Clark**  
Nightlife Editor

## Atomic Mass

No, not in a physics way. In a full-on-party-in-a-church way. Honest

### CLUB REVIEW

#### Atomic Energy

Mass, St Matthews Church, Brixton

★★★☆☆

The venue of a club is one of the most important factors for me in choosing a night out. Some are tiny, friendly, and intimate. Others are vast arenas with towering speaker stacks and screaming crowds of thousands that are easy to lose yourself in. Many are converted theatres with balconies providing amazing panoramas of the rave scene below.

Mass provides the most interesting venue of all: it is situated in a church. Now, I've seen the conversion of disused churches into venues to great effect (speakers hanging from stone pillars, walls adorned with memorial plaques), but the difference here is that the home of Mass, St Matthew's Church in Brixton, is still in full and active use.

Let me explain a little more. St Matthews is really quite a huge, relatively modern building that is divided into many different regions and rooms, some of which are used for religious worship, others for entertainment (the Bug Bar is also here, in the crypt). Lucky, really: meeting the congregation on the way home from Saturday night's frolics wouldn't really be my perfect end to a party.

Atomic Energy is one of those nights that is held with vague regularity: there's about one every three months. It's the kind of party that people make the effort to get to, and tonight was Atomic Energy's sixth birthday. With three rooms, but only two DJ line ups, the flyer promised 'London's Finest Hardbeat Energy in Two Rooms' from the likes of Captain Tinrib, Kevin Energy and Group 185, as well as a third room of 'Psychadelic Energy'. Energy all round, then.

The Mass has three rooms, two of which are on the same level and

and the third is far below, down a long spiral staircase. At the bottom and top of this staircase is where you enter and where you'll find the cloakroom and toilets respectively. The top two rooms were home to the crisscrossed main line-up, whilst the psy was downstairs, which is also known as '3rd Base'.

The music tonight, as you might have guessed, was fast, hard and bouncy. I'm not sure who I saw and when, but it was all very, very good. The place wasn't ram jammed, but it was pretty full in the upstairs rooms. The bigger of the two had a kind of upper section, with a lowered dancefloor in the middle in front of which was the stage. The sounds here were twisted and fast, with a very nice acidic edge. When I was here there were some crazy dreadlocked cybers on stage providing the sounds.

In the other upstairs room, I saw Captain Tinrib, genius of the Tinrib label. Those with a penchant for hard house should know the name: it's synonymous with fast but fun pumping music. You might think this sort of thing is all drum rolls and Hoover noises, and whilst those are important elements, there's a lot more in store for your ears if you're willing to listen for a bit. Appearing on stage with a live percussionist, the Captain was awesome.

Downstairs in the psy room, there weren't really many people at any point. This was fine though, since it leaves lots of room for flailing around the floor. Maybe the music wasn't as intense and driving as I like, but it was still, as the flyer had suggested, full of energy.

This was really quite a good night out, aside from the 5000 flyers I was loaded up with on our way out.

**File under:**  
Hard house, psy trance  
**If you like this, try:**  
Knowwhere @ The Fridge

**Simon Clark**

## Sub Red @ Imperial College Union

### PREVIEW

#### Sub Red

ICU

£3 (£3.50 Guests/£2.50 Ents Card)

ICU's popular drum and bass night, Sub Red, is back this Friday, 18 February with guest DJ Bryan Gee and the Union's own MacPherson, as well as IC Radio's Spindle and Chug.

It's halfway through term, so if you're anything like me, the purse strings will already be tightening. Don't despair though, since ICU is once again bringing you another

top night of drum and bass DJs and cheap drinks.

Sub Red is one of the best nights held at the Union, previously attracting such famous names as Nicky Blackmarket and Ray Keith. At the top of the bill this time is Bryan Gee, accompanied by MacPherson (the Union's Venue Manager, who can also be seen playing at superclub Fabric). Spindle and Chug made a name for themselves with their Basement Sessions show on IC Radio and are now taking dancefloors by storm.

Bryan Gee is a key figure in the drum and bass scene. Through the label V Recordings, he and Jumpin'

Jack Frost have been releasing material by a whole string of big names, including Roni Size, DJ Die, Ray Keith and DJ Marky & XRS to name a few.

As if that wasn't enough to whet your appetite, there's also an offer on drinks: vodka with mixer is only £1. Once the dancefloor is full of weary students working off the week's worries, the turbosound PA is pumping and the light show is in full effect, dBs can easily rival any venue of its size.

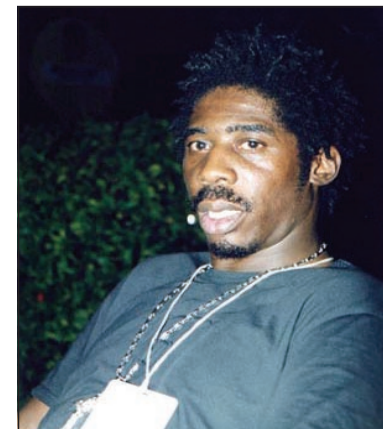
The DJs, the sound and lights and the (cheap) bar are all there. All that's missing is the vibe, and that's down to you. Come along, have some

fun and make some noise!

Just before you groan: "Urgh, but it's the Union," take a moment to reflect on what's on offer here: an impressive line-up of first class, professional DJs, cheap entry (try getting into any halfway decent club in London on a Friday for less than a tenner) and cheap drinks, all in the comfort and familiar surroundings of your very own Union.

*Felix* will be down there to check out the action: look out for a review next week. So get yourself down to the Union this Friday, and you might just get yourself in the paper!

**Simon Clark**



Bryan Gee: Sub Red Headliner



Imperial College Union Musical Theatre Society  
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Presents

# CHESS



Music by Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus.  
Lyrics by Tim Rice.  
Based on an idea by Tim Rice.

Tuesday 22nd - Saturday 26th February 2005  
Union Concert Hall, Union Building, Beit Quad  
Performance starts 19:30 (Doors open 19:00)



Tickets: £6.50 (Students £4.50)  
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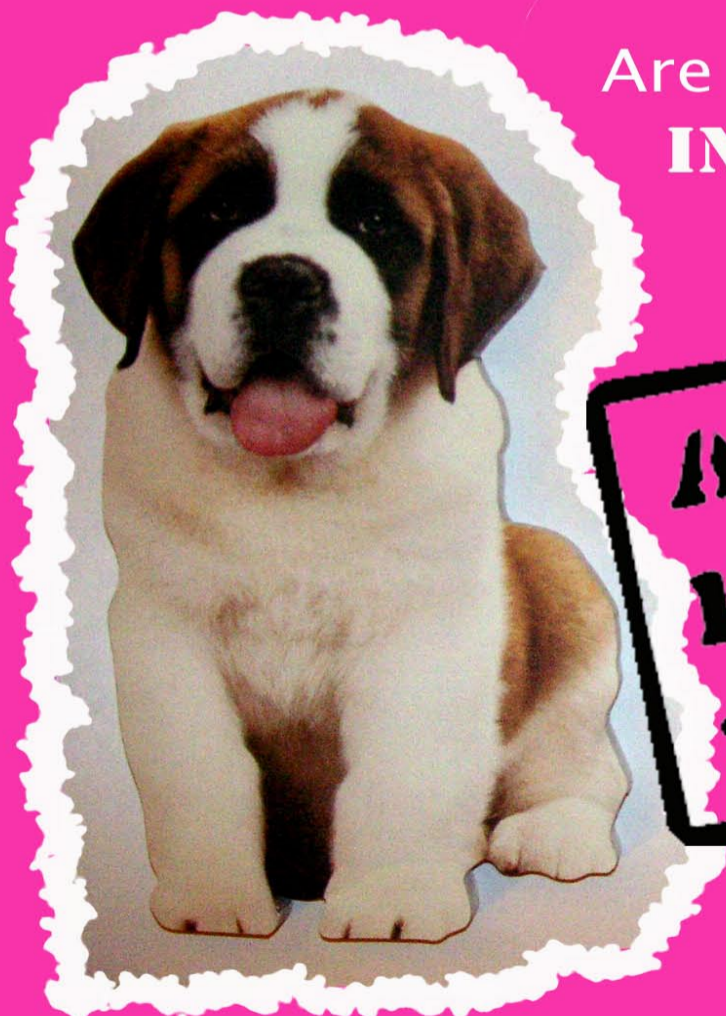
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# Arts



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## The Arts Festival is back!

We sing, we dance, we soliloquise, fold and paint... join in, you know you want to

### ARTS FEST 2005

20 – 25 February  
Various venues

Have you seen the bright pink, some have called them garish pink, posters up around college? You know, the ones with the dog that encourage you to bring a friend? Reading anything up on the walkway can be a bit of a hit and miss affair, especially when you're trying to get somewhere, so let us fill in the gaps and tell you about this year's arts festival.

We all know that we attend an art student-free college; we have a reputation for being nerds and science geeks. Some of that reputation is probably richly deserved and treasured by some parties, but we are not lacking in creativity! The arts festival exists to showcase the wide range of artistic talent throughout the college.

Cleverly branded 'Arts Fest 2005', this year's arts festival kicks off on Sunday 20 February and will end with a grand finale on the following Friday. Over 15 societies are taking part this year, ranging from Leosoc to Capoeira and everything in between. Events are taking place throughout the week and most are free.

The festival kicks off on Sunday

with the medics' fashion show at the renowned Sketch on Conduit Street. (If you messed up Valentine's Day, this could be a good chance to make amends. The venue is regularly voted one of the most romantic in town.) The show starts at 6.30pm.

Throughout the week, there will be an exhibition in the Blyth gallery, on the fifth floor of the Sherfield building, and performances of Chess by Musical Theatre Society in the Union Concert Hall in Beit Quad.

The exhibition will officially open at 6.30pm on Monday 21 February, with

**"Over 15 societies have taken part this year, from Leosoc to Capoeira and everything in between"**

a concert by the Chamber Music Society in the Read lecture theatre, also on the fifth floor of Sherfield. The concert, like the exhibition, which will be showcasing work by Leosoc and the Photography and Origami societies, is free.

Chess [see Clubs and Societies, page 11] is a ticketed event, £4.50 for students. For those of you not familiar with the musical, its story is



Members of Imperial's Symphony Orchestra and Choir performing for the Queen at the opening of the Tanaka Business School

based around a love triangle caught up in the world chess championships between Russia and the United States. It premiered in May 1986, and is the work of lyricist Tim Rice with music by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus.

Other events taking place during the week include an origami session on Monday lunchtime in the JCR. The Urban Music society will be hosting a Heavy Elements night

that will feature live DJs and MCs from 8pm Monday in dBs.

If none of this is to your taste, there is still a lot on offer that will hopefully satisfy you. On Tuesday evening, dBs will be the venue for a Jazz and Rock gig night, and on Thursday it will welcome the ever-popular Big Band.

Wednesday will be a very busy day. The Dance Extravaganza will come to the JCR from 2 until 5.30pm. Those

keen to take part will be glad to know that the Dance Extravaganza will be your chance to try out capoeira, breakdancing, hip hop, latin and more dance styles for free. In the evening, there will be a short concert in the Great Hall given by the Choir, Symphony Orchestra and Big Band. The concert is free, but you will be asked to make a donation to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

The festival wraps up on Friday with the Finale concert in the Great Hall at 7.30pm, with an after party at the Union. Tickets, £2.50 for students, will be available throughout the week at the ticket desk on the walkway level of Sherfield. The concert will be the final glittering showcase of the wide breadth of artistic talent at the college. The after party is free for those with a concert ticket and will feature Fabriclive's Joe Ransom and £1 pints. You can suffer for your art, but there's no need to be thirsty!

More information on the events taking place during Arts Fest 2005 is available on the website [www.union.ic.ac.uk/artsfest](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/artsfest). There are so many societies taking part in the festival, you have to be really apathetic not to get involved.

**Neville Tam**  
Arts Festival Chairman  
**Paola Smith**  
Arts Editor

## A life beyond television

Lynsey McInnes enjoys a good performance of mediocre material by Pacey and Jean-Luc

### A Life in the Theatre

Apollo Theatre,  
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2  
Written by David Mamet  
Directed by Lindsay Posner  
Tickets £17.50 for under 26s  
(actual value £40)

Excessively cheesy billboards luridly display a grinning Patrick Stewart and an equally beaming Joshua Jackson, as if these famous faces were the greatest enticements of the play, *A Life in the Theatre*, currently running at the Apollo in the West End.

Admittedly, my interest in seeing the play was, shamefully, fuelled by the thought of being in the same room, indeed within 10 metres of, Joshua Jackson, star of the embarrassingly addictive television show *Dawson's Creek*, which I avidly watched throughout my teenage years. Patrick Stewart, eternally associated with *Star Trek* and his role as Jean-Luc Picard, also held a degree of pulling power. It looked as though the theatre had picked a winner: something for every (wo)man. But who even cares what the play is about?

In case some people are interested in what these famous faces are

up to on stage each night, the play is, in brief, a study of theatre life, depicted through Robert (Stewart) and John (Jackson), old and young actors working together in a middle-of-the-road theatre company.

It's obvious that neither is going to make it big, but while John is at the beginning of his career, aspiring to greatness, Robert has spent his life in the theatre. Despite his lack of success, Robert obviously feels his life could not have been spent elsewhere, and as his career wanes still further, he takes to dispens-

**"Even Joshua Jackson in his underpants fails to retain one's attention"**

ing advice to his young protégé in the hope of revealing the inherent pitfalls and soul-destroying tasks of such a life.

Initially, John is reverent in his attention to his superior's words, but slowly he gains confidence and loses faith in Robert, grasping for the upper hand and belittling the older man as it becomes clear he is not the mover and the shaker he purports to be.



Our protagonists contemplate the operation of the household appliance known as the 'telephone'

All this sounds a little dry and perhaps more suited for an audience of theatre professionals better equipped to 'get' the insider jokes and references. However, the playwright David Mamet, himself an actor in his youth, attempts to steer clear of falling into that niche and presents a play which is very accessible and often very funny.

Patrick Stewart masterfully portrays Robert's construed self-importance, and Joshua Jackson functions well as a cushion off which Robert's inconsequential advice and rambling proclamations bounce and tumble.

The play consists of short scenes

of the two actors performing together and then returning backstage to their tiny shared dressing room to dissect the state of affairs. The 'on-stage' scenes are often very funny, with neither 'actor' exhibiting much skill.

As the play progresses, Robert loses grip on himself, performing more comically and becoming wracked with an amusing self-doubt. John gains in confidence, though not in skill, and revels in villifying the older man.

Couched in all this humour is a touching tale of the shifting dynamics between these two men at dif-

ferent stages of their lives. One exits the theatre a little moved and perhaps more enlightened over the plight of the many men and women in theatres up and down the country and beyond.

Patrick Stewart and Joshua Jackson, the undisputable draws of the play, do deliver. Both show themselves to be surprisingly competent comic actors and do their best to give some returns on the ticket's hefty price-tag.

However, despite a running time of less than 90 minutes, this performance drags. While chuckles are freely given and deserved, there is not enough meat in the play to properly satisfy. While Mamet does avoid creating a play with no relevance for the general public, he does not succeed in creating a play that is fully gratifying for this public. By the end, the jokes elicit, at best, a smirk. One begins to lose compassion for the fumbling Robert, and even Joshua Jackson in his underpants fails to retain one's attention.

In short, Patrick Stewart and Joshua Jackson are indeed the greatest attractions of this production. It is just a shame that they were not provided with better material with which to dazzle us once we had bitten the bait.

# Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Lights, camera, history

Laurence Fahrni calls the shots as he checks out the tale of the development of cinema

### The Story of Film

by Mark Cousins  
(HarperCollins)

★★★★☆

Griffith, Keaton, Ozu, Riefenstahl, Ford, Welles, Bergman, Cissé Chahine, Imamura, Scorsese and Sokurov. These are just a few of the directors Mark Cousins considers to be particularly prolific, and I would be surprised if more than a handful of readers are familiar with more than four of these names. Of course, this should not discourage you from reading *The Story of Film*.

Cousins' book doesn't focus on the mainstream, not because it is written in a pretentious way, but because, generally, more successful movies draw from other trendsetting movies and, thus, are not worth mentioning in a book that guides the reader through the history of film.

*The Story of Film* is a chronological exploration of the cutting-edge cinematic advancements that have

shaped film over the years.

The book is divided into three epochs: silent, sound, and digital. Over these periods, film evolved due to developments in technology and technique. But the most important advancements, according to Cousins, were the filmmaker's ideas.

Not only does Cousins describe the films, but he also explains the philosophy of art and its progression, social influences and even genetics (though briefly). It is impressive to see just how much intellectual material he draws from, and it's always refreshing for us Imperial College students to find artists who don't have the usual fear of art's nerdier older brother: science.

Seeing film as art is often less than natural for most people, especially after watching the likes of *Faster and Even Furiouser*. Cousins discusses Hollywood's reluctance to see film as art, and the tendency of studios to follow the safe bet with box office takings in mind. It is



interesting to read that American film was originally based on the East Coast until a patents war drove many companies west at a time when Los Angeles was just a sleepy Southern California town. Cousins cites Germaine Dulac's 1920s avant-garde films, which were influenced by Monet and Charles Baudelaire, as an example of art's influence on film.

The first film was shot in England by a French man in 1888. Early film was mainly focused on "tech-

nical thrills" like the famous footage of a train pulling into a station that is often associated with the birth of cinema. Only after ten years did films with more than one shot appear, making longer scenes and full-length body shots possible.

The book's chronological structure allows you to appreciate the sequential introduction of the ideas we are so accustomed to now. During television interviews today, the camera cuts between views of the actors' faces and shoulders. When ideas like this were conceived, it was thought that sudden changes would mentally jar the audience. A reverse example is seen in Laurel and Hardy films, which use a fairly common method of looking directly into the camera. This can feel wrong to a viewer not accustomed to the technique and may have unsettled an early twentieth-century audience.

The main theme of the book is one of schema and variation. Cousins highlights techniques used by direc-

tors that are emulated by their favoured predecessors. A typical example (although not mentioned in much depth in this book) is Quentin Tarantino's extensive use of the Hong Kong film *Hu Fen Yung's* (*City on Fire*) plotline. Although Tarantino borrowed heavily from the storyline, the post-modern techniques such as non-linear progression (cutting back and forth in time) are what make the film unique. You may expect that ideas for new filmmaking techniques are running thin, but you will find revolutionary films are still being made today.

Film is an extraordinarily powerful medium with the ability to set social norms. The dominance of Hollywood can be attributed to the westernisation of eastern culture and the world-wide prevalence of the English language. Therefore, Cousins' detailed study of the history of film does a lot more than discuss the plots and techniques of various films, making the book a fascinating read.

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# Film

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Listings: page 16

## Choosing death

**Haj Alttahir** sees a riveting, moving and sensitive drama about a paralysed man's desire to end his life

### The Sea Inside / Mar Adentro

Director: Alejandro Amenábar  
Starring: Javier Bardem, Belén Rueda, Lola Dueñas, Mabel Rivera, Celso Bugallo  
Length: 126 minutes  
Certificate: PG  
★★★★☆

Terminal illness movies always set out to be life-affirming, but few actually earn their uplifting conclusions as this Spanish biopic does.

The film is the fact-based story of Ramón Sampedro (Javier Bardem), a virile seaman who was severely injured in a diving accident in the late sixties and bedridden thereafter, unable to move from the neck down. He has a poet's soul and is deeply sensitive, yet he has allowed himself to become bitter over his situation. He is convinced that "a life in this condition has no dignity" and battles the courts for the right to kill himself.

Since the accident, he has lived in his family's house, with his quietly brooding father Joaquin, his grumpy older brother José, his anxious sister-in-law Manuela, and their slightly dim-witted teenage son Javier. José considers it his duty to provide for his incapacitated brother, and Manuela cares for him with a devotion tinged by hints of romantic affection; Javier, meanwhile, looks upon his uncle as a second father. Ramón has no dignity in the current arrangement, no zest for life. He

wants to die.

Through the help of a group called Death with Dignity, he secures the services of Julia (Belén Rueda), a lawyer herself suffering from a degenerative disease, to prepare for his court presentation. The notoriety the case achieves attracts the notice of Rosa (Lola Dueñas), a single mother who comes to visit him, and a quadriplegic priest, who comes to the house to dissuade Ramón from his goal. This is given a humorous touch by the presence of a couple of hapless seminarians, who must carry their messages up and down the stairs of the family house.

Ultimately, this isn't a film about death, but about life. Tortured by missing the freedom he once

**"The picture rises above its generic roots to emerge as a powerful human drama"**

enjoyed, Ramón is plagued by visions of his past. It's here that director Amenábar excels. His direction is graceful throughout, but never more so than in one beautiful scene where Ramón imagines swooping out of his bedroom window, soaring over the Spanish countryside and landing on a beach where Julia is waiting to kiss him, all accompanied by Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*. The poignant story subtly reminds us how fortunate we are to be able to choose life.



Javier Bardem (right) in an unusual and remarkable performance as Ramón

Thanks to sensitive writing by Amenábar, a truly remarkable performance from Bardem and excellent support from the rest of the cast, the picture rises above its generic roots to emerge as a powerful human drama.

It's entirely credible that Ramón should be the focus of romantic attraction (and understated rivalry) on the part of all three women in his life, who, in the excellently varied performances of Rueda, Dueñas and Rivera, effectively represent the different possible reactions toward Ramón's desire to die. What makes

*The Sea Inside* such a riveting drama is that none of these relationships is sufficient to make Ramón want to go on living. It is probably the most uplifting, life-affirming film about suicide ever made. He's such a wonderful, honest man that you really hope he dies at the end.

*The Sea Inside* takes on a topical issue, and gives no answers except that which is entirely specific to Ramón: this man has clearly weighed up life and death carefully and chosen the latter. Valid arguments are presented against his choice – his family, who adore him, don't want

to lose him, and a priest notes that "life isn't just moving your arms and running around." But Ramón hasn't taken this decision lightly. At night, he weeps, asking himself: "Why do I want to die?"

This is one man's story, told with great empathy, and Amenábar deserves great credit for lifting the film above the tacky, clichéd soap opera sentimentality into which it could have easily fallen. I took two extremely cynical friends to see it with me and we all were incredibly moved. Like Ramón in his dreams, *The Sea Inside* often soars.

## Who lives in a pineapple under the sea?

### The Spongebob Squarepants Movie

Director: Stephen Hillenborg  
Length: 90 minutes  
Certificate: U  
★★★★☆

After five years on Nickelodeon, Spongebob Squarepants makes his way from the bottom of the ocean to the big screen. So how exactly do you keep the viewers entertained for 90 minutes? The least you could do is give it an interesting plot!

For those who are unfamiliar with Spongebob, he is a yellow sponge who wears square pants and lives in a community called Bikini Bottom, in a pineapple under the sea. Spongebob and his best friend Patrick (a starfish) are completely optimistic, cheerful and light-hearted. This merriness is crushed when Spongebob doesn't get the managerial position at the new Krusty Krab hamburger restaurant because he is a 'kid', despite the fact that his dedication has won him hundreds of 'employee of the month' awards in the past.

Meanwhile, in a place not too far away from the Krusty Krab restaurant, lies the tiny evil genius that is Plankton. Plankton's intentions are to steal the secret formula of the Krab's hamburger and subsequently rule the world. Having tried all his evil plans (stored in an evil plan drawer) from A to Y, he loses hope of world domination. However, his spirits are raised when his (make-believe) computer wife reminds him that there is an extra letter in the alphabet – Z! In fact, not only does

**"They should have stuck with television"**

Plankton find plan Z, but he also finds it to be 'evil, diabolic and lemon scented'.

The plan goes extremely well. Mr Krabs is framed for stealing King Neptune's crown (the main purpose of which is to cover the King's shiny bald head). Plankton steals the secret formula to Krab's hamburger and offers a bucket helmet with every purchase. Eventually Spongebob and Patrick go on a mis-

sion to retrieve the stolen crown in order to save Mr Krab's life, stop Bikini Bottom from being taken over by Plankton and prove that they are men, not kids. To do this, they have to go to Shell City, from where no-one ever returns.

The movie, together with its obviously intelligent and complicated plot, also had lessons of self-acceptance and self respect. This is where the reader should toss their head backwards and laugh. It was a painfully extended version of a 30 minute television programme. It is cartoonish enough for students to tolerate, and it does have occasional funny moments. However, if you do actually laugh, you should be ashamed of yourself.

The movie would probably be great for major fans, especially kids, since it has the inspirational 'it's okay to be a kid' message. But it won't win over many other people. As for the songs, they weren't catchy or even tuneful. Horrible is all I can say. Nothing is really witty, except perhaps the 'lemon scented' tag line. The rest is just plain craziness.

If you're looking for humour along



A sponge and a starfish riding along in a hamburger. Enough said

the lines of *Finding Nemo*, this won't get you there at all. The movie is completely colourful with creatures of all sorts and has too many sense-

less messages. It was pretty disappointing, and they should have stuck with television.

**Vidula Vinayagamoorthy**

# Coffee Break

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Hello. It's almost the end of term soon, which of course means revision and exams, this being Imperial and all. So now's the time to get pissed, sleep late and skip lectures. And of course, send your answers to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**

## Heroes and villains



1. Bono  
He's singlehandedly saved the world, many *many* times over. What's his real name though?



2. The Hoff  
Two words: Knight Rider. One man, several hundred satisfied ladies, and one gay car. The question is, what does KITT stand for?

Our main quiz this week is Heroes and Villains, which is just a simple test of your general knowledge.

On the left we have six heroes, and on the right are six villains. They've each got a question associated with them, and you just have to answer.

It's pretty easy really. There's **two points** for each correct answer.

They all have their own reasons for being good or bad, and if you disagree, feel free to email us and complain. But we think our choices are pretty fair.



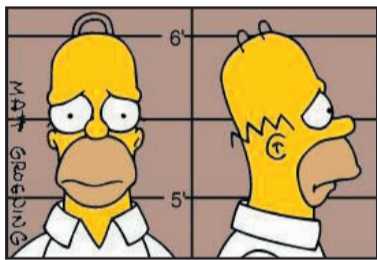
7. Kate Moss  
She's a mum now, so maybe it's time for her to grow up. How old was Kate when she was first discovered?



8. Usher  
Usher's made some of the worst songs ever - he's shit. True or false, he recently signed up to promote his own credit card scheme?

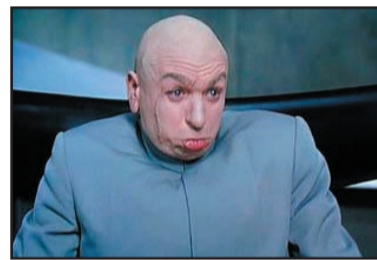


3. Mr T  
He was once 'The World's Hardest Bouncer'. For real. What was the name of the character he played in *Rocky*?



4. Homer Simpson  
He's the dad you always wished you had. When Homer had his snow plough business, what was his name?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12



9. Dr Evil  
Holding the world to ransom makes you a villain in our book. We want to know, what was the name of his cat?



10. Robbie Savage  
If you know football, you won't like this guy. How many red cards has he picked up across his career?



5. Action Man  
He might be made of plastic but he's hard as nails. Do you know when he was 'born'? It was either 1942, 1966 or 1983.



6. Ellen MacArthur  
She sailed a boat, all the way around the world. Apparently, that's some achievement. What was the name of her boat?



11. Barney The Dinosaur  
There's something not quite right about this... thing. Complete the lyrics of his evil chant: "with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you..."



12. Michael Jackson  
Did you see that snazzy white suit he wore to court? Apparently it used to be black. Can you name Jacko's most successful album?

## Coffee Break elections

In case you've had your head buried in the sand for the past week or two, it's been the sabbatical elections at the Union recently. Apparently, it's very important or whatever. But not as important as this: we need a mascot for Coffee Break.

Last year they had PowerSheep, this year we've had nothing. It's time for a change! One solution, revolution! We've got three candidates for the role, all legends in their own respect, but only one who truly deserves it.



1. Stephen Hawking  
He's the smart choice, but he works at regular here now, so Cambridge. Will that count against him?



2. The Hoff  
He's getting pretty regular here now, so would you like to see him every week?



3. Georgie Thompson  
One for the lads here, the Sky Sports News presenter makes even relegation sound sweet.

Send your votes to **coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**

## FUCWITs

**Issue 1314 answers**

**Cat-Phrase**

- Catch 22 (two little ducks, get it?)
- Caught with your trousers down
- As strong as an ox
- Cat got your tongue?
- Shiver me timbers
- As easy as falling off a log

**Quick Quiz**

- True
- False
- True
- True
- False
- False
- False
- True
- False
- True

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5		
Smith & Wesson	188 points	Forever Throwing Doubles 38 points
Araldite Sniffers	184 points	The Schist Ones 38 points
The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	134 points	Eastbound and Down 31 points
Management Slackers	127 points	Kings of Kensington 31 points
Team Willy J	93 points	Withnail and I Society 31 points
Team Robin	81 points	Rod Watson's Super Army 29 points
Schoolboy Error	80 points	Oliver Carson 29 points
Caledonian Conspiracy	48 points	Tinkerbell 12 points
Team Bulwer	42 points	KPN <sup>2</sup> 11 points
		Natasha Kundi 10 points

**Answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk**

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Rugby Firsts are league champions again

# Firsts make Cup final

RUGBY

Sponsored by



Reading Men's 1st 6  
Imperial Men's 1st 25

By David Jackson

"It was best of times, it was the worst of times," mused Imperial's First XV captain Michael Hicks on the coach, and whilst he was not anticipating a gory guillotining as a member of the French aristocracy, he too, like Sydney Carton in that famous novel, had worries. He knew that, short of an enormous defeat against Reading, Imperial were assured of their second league win in as many years. However, with the Varsity match looming large on the horizon, he also knew that any match practice was invaluable and so welcomed the opportunity of a final, albeit virtually meaningless, BUSA



Champions: the Imperial Firsts rugby team in action

match against Reading. Imperial were buoyed by an excellent and sociable coach journey on one of the premier members of the Golden Tellings fleet. They also enjoyed an excellent warm-up in the idyllic surroundings of Reading's leafy and female-dominated campus. The Reading players, looking resplendent in brand new kits, were hoping to claim a hefty scalp and cement their team's position as the league's second best team. The game began and Imperial were quick to rubber stamp their mark on the match, exciting the crowd with the fast free-flowing rugby which they have come to be known for. After an exchange

of early penalties, Imperial smoothly moved into a higher gear and following a period of pressure it was, inevitably, Achi who powered through a hapless defence to score the first try. The gasoline was continually supplied to Imperial's revving engine, and the scoring did not stop there. The versatile James Pedder sniped around the edge of ruck and rounded off another superb multi-phase move with a fine try. The best try of all was scored by the enigmatic Jon Spencer. He, Alex O'Rourke and Gabriel showed magnificent hands on a swashbuckling blind side move, with Jon scoring superbly past a bewil-

dered and dizzied Reading defence. The awe-struck crowd, fully aware of the skill they had just witnessed, applauded loudly. The second half was a somewhat messy affair, indeed in patches it was as scrappy as Scooby Doo's miniature side-kick. Reading were far more physical in the last half and did their utmost to make it difficult for Imperial. Their defence was breached, however, as the impish Gabriel (only the second shortest man on the pitch) finished another end-to-end move in the corner. The Imperial defence held firm and the match ended four tries to nil to Imperial. The team was jubilant to have secured the league and enjoyed the opportunity to practise some new moves, with varying success. Notable appearances were made by captain Michael Hicks and Gabriel, playing in his preferred position of full-back. Other appearances were made by old maestro Robinson, exciting young Serbian sensation Jovan, and by a young man whose Imperial career is proving as bright as the Blackpool illuminations he loves so much - Steve.

RUGBY

Sponsored by



Imperial Men's 1st 18  
UCL Men's 1st 5

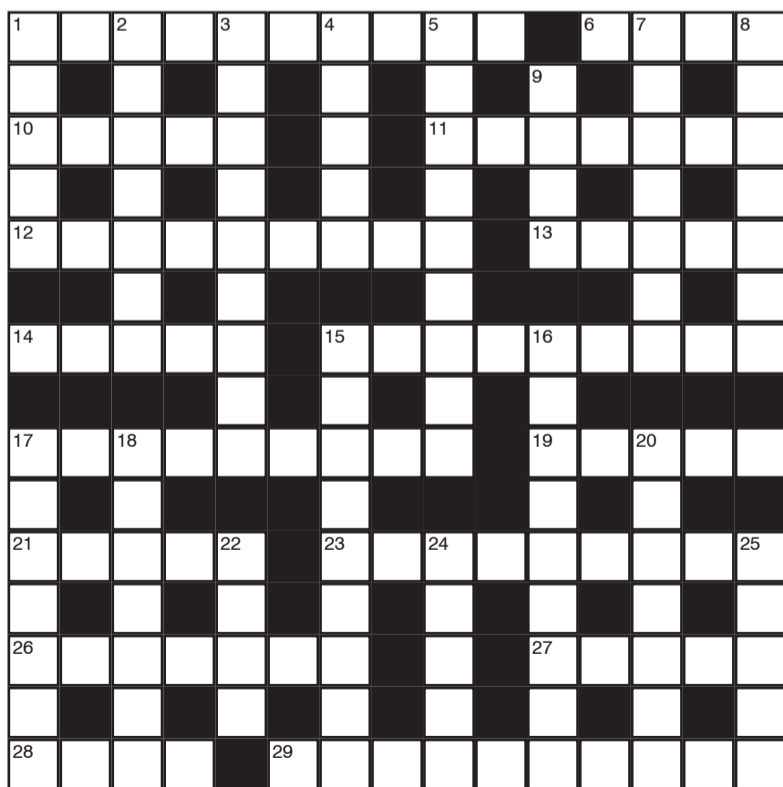
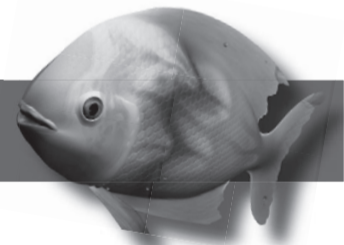
By Michael Hicks

After winning our league for the second year running, the Imperial College Union Rugby Club First XV faced UCL in the Gutteridge Cup semi-finals. Having won the tournament last year and being in good form, we set off confidently to our opposition's ground. On arrival, we found ourselves facing a gale and some pretty heavy rain. This, along with kick-off being 20 minutes later than planned, hampered our pre-match preparation. When we finally kicked off, we came under some good pressure from UCL and knew we were in for a tough game. Luckily, we woke up fairly quickly and started playing some good rugby. We got our first reward after ten minutes when good hands down the

line found Al Newman on the wing. When he got wrapped up, a great supporting run from Steve McClellan allowed him to take the ball on and around their arriving cover to score in the corner. Jon Spencer then converted to make it 7-0 to Imperial. Unfortunately, UCL came back quickly and a simple overlap allowed them to score out wide. They missed the conversion into the wind and the score was 7-5. We then began to assert ourselves and after some broken play close to the UCL try line, Robinson drew the defence, allowing Pedder to dart through and touch down. In the second half there were no more tries, but instead plenty of penalties as UCL's discipline very noticeably started to slip. Man of the match Jon Spencer kicked superbly and added another six points to our tally to make it 18-5 after 80 minutes. We now face our toughest games of the season with the annual varsity match against the medics, a play-off for promotion and the Gutteridge Cup final where, if we retain the trophy, we will achieve the league and cup double!

## Felix Crossword 1316

by Fishface



Across

- Edge one or eleven one - a crab, perhaps (10)
- In fab band or group (4)
- Confused ram followed queen and burst forth (5)
- Mad gent bit the odds offered (7)
- Most relaxed person nearest the ground (9)
- Native American mixed up a verb (5)
- Nasty lice revealed they go along with the groove (5)
- Angry about half an African waterbuck and instances of crossbreeding (9)
- Glen gets mixed up then starts stroking and grows bigger (9)
- Meat bloke past his sell-by date? (5)
- Sheep smell an action hero (5)
- Cones swallowed spoiled mail and excavations (4, 5)
- Weird sea bird not from the West (7)
- Contemptible person reflected before an irrational stab (5)
- Throw to the Nazis (4)
- Strange posh coroner loses ring on the Street (6, 4)

Down

- A boring colour and a middling grade precedes dream without beginning (5)
- Normally, Ms McBeal follows the University of Southampton Union (7)
- Skin marker is a model after rubbish as well (9)
- The Church of England is about a man and an old woman (5)
- Golfing seabird (9)
- It found its way into brain country (7)
- Fishermen rang Les, oddly (7)
- Smashed bust appears stunted (4)
- Tarnished creed, cons get louder (9)
- Cobbler makes hero annoyed (9)
- Regal saint peculiarly the biggest (7)
- Arch-enemy seems in chaos (7)
- End with a northern nationality (7)
- Above six balls (4)
- Rate on an item of clothing (5)
- Creatures second pile, we hear (5)

Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in. Since no-one managed to send us a correct solution to Jabberwock's lovely musical offering last week, I thought I'd make things a bit easier for you this time around. My crosswords are always a bit nicer, right? Not necessarily 'simpler', just 'more accessible', that's what I say. Credit here should also go to Captain Peaky for several of the clues. At this point, I should mention that we need more people to compose challenging cruciverbal conundrums for the pages of Felix. So if you'd like to try your hand at writing a crossword, cryptic or quick, let us know at coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Fishface

Issue 1315 solution



**No-one managed to solve last week's cryptic crossword!**  
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

felix@ic.ac.uk

# Fancy a spot of après-ski?

Last month, a team of Imperial College students visited Switzerland to take



**RICHARD WALKER**  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT  
(CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

with **Jenny Austin, Gavin Daisley, Alex Law, James Reddick and Adit Singhal**

Ah Switzerland, a fair swag of clichés: irresistible chocolates, yodelling Heidis, humourless bankers, international bureaucracies and an orderly, anally retentive and rather bland national persona. But Harry Lime was wrong on more than one account when, in *The Third Man*, he said 500 years of Swiss democracy and peace had produced nothing more than the cuckoo clock. For a start, the Germans invented this monstrous timepiece. Secondly, the Swiss, who are a brainy lot, have won more Nobel Prizes and registered more patents per capita than any other nation on earth. Thirdly, as we were too find out, they're quite a sporty bunch too.

So the scene was set for the fifth IDEA League sports event. For the uninitiated of you, the IDEA League is a collaboration between Imperial College, Delft, ETH Zurich and Aachen universities, and this collaboration is strengthened each year by a sports tournament. This year, Imperial took on the cream of European universities at badminton, basketball and water polo, and no-one was in the least bit intimidated for the simple reason that we were all about to spend three days in the lofty splendour of the Swiss mountains in a small, exclusive ski resort called Davos.

Indeed, despite ETH Zurich having a sports hall three times the size of London on their doorstep, they quite rightly felt that everyone would prefer playing indoor sports at a height of 1560m, with a view of the Alps out the window.

And so, on day two, we found ourselves trudging through three feet of the whitest snow at 7.45am towards the swimming pool for the water polo tournament. The stupid o'clock start was necessary because at 12pm the whole pool was being turned into a conference centre for

the world economic forum. Which was comforting, as it meant that even world leaders subscribed to the fact that work is best done when combined with the opportunity for a spot of skiing!

The water polo was played in a round robin format. First up for Imperial were Aachen, who were the eventual tournament winners, beating everyone. Imperial put out a disciplined defensive strategy, but Aachen had some big outside shooters and were able to find the back of the net from distance, going 4-1 up at the end of the first period. Imperial managed to pull the score back to 5-4 in the second period, but in the end the strength and depth of Aachen proved too much, and the game ended 10-4 in their favour. Tim Keating scored all Imperial's goals.

Our next game was against Zurich, a weaker side than Aachen but with two very good players. One of these players was very strong on 2m (centre forward) and won many exclusion fouls and goals. Richard Thoburn found himself 'wrapped' (three strikes and you're out) early in the second period and Imperial lost an important defensive player. The game ended 11-8 to Zurich. Tim Keating was once again the top scorer with five goals, Chris Iliadis scored two and Mary Kan scored the other.

Our final game was against Delft, and it followed straight after the Zurich game with little time for recovery. This game would decide third place, and it was very closely contested with Imperial and Delft always within one or two goals of each other. We played with passion and every player, though tired, gave 100%. Sadly we were unlucky to draw 9-9, giving up possession cheaply with 20 seconds remaining. Delft scored with only eight seconds on the clock.

Aachen had a fearsome cheering squad and throughout the tournament they were winning, with well-rehearsed chants of support. However, Imperial also had a fantastic set of fans (especially given that the matches started at 8am!) It was great for the water polo team to have so much support from the sidelines.

Imperial finished in last place on goal difference, but it was a great learning experience, cementing a great team spirit. A special mention should go to Soren, our IDEA basketball player come water polo super-sub who agreed to play with us at the last minute. Tim Keating must surely have been 'man of the matches', scoring 90% of the goals.



An Imperial basketball player looks on as an opponent shoots

Next up was the men's basketball. Aachen's team consisted of footballers (apparently Aachen don't do basketball, so their footballers and rowers battled it out to see who would go), who were royally trounced by Imperial. Zurich's team had a combined height equivalent to the Matterhorn, which is due to the combination of alpine air and not much to do other than grow, and so we were royally trounced. Last up was the cheeky team from Delft. In a game that would decide who would come second, Imperial were in a commanding position, however, with four minutes left Delft inched two points in front whereupon

they started a song and dance in double Dutch about technical fouls and the like until the time ran out. Sadly we finished third.

If you were to see Imperial's ladies' team and guess the sport they play, you'd be unlikely to say basketball. You could say that Imperial's women's team is "vertically challenged". However, with the kit finally arriving the day before we departed, our girls were raring to go and ready to make the College proud.

On arrival in Switzerland we discovered that our counterparts were not so vertically challenged and thought "oh dear" (or something along those lines!) Our first

match was against the team from Aachen, who had no less than three women over six feet tall. But we were able to prove that skills can count for more than height, when at half time we were in the lead. Unfortunately Aachen's coach realised their advantage and in the second half put out their tallest team. Our girls put up their best defence, but if your opponent is a foot taller than you, she is going to get the ball! So we narrowly lost the match.

We suffered defeats in our other two matches, but did ourselves proud and our spectators were impressed with the talent on the team. Our two Spanish players, Beatriz

Alcolea and Olalla Del Rio, deserve a special mention for their fearless determination. Many of our points came thanks to their fast breaks.

And then there was badminton. The actual time spent playing badminton during the whole tour was about two hours. Imperial came second out of the four universities in the competition, beaten narrowly by Aachen. The format of the games was strange to say the least. Normally, all matches are the best of three games to 15 points each, but the rotund organiser decided to make the matches timed, ie whoever has the most points after 20 minutes of playing wins. Folly. This format didn't help the Swiss (though neither did their hangovers) due to the fact that the Aachen team had one amazing pair who destroyed all of our pairs in 20 minutes. Before the tour, typically, Imperial had decided that if anyone lost a match, they would have to drink as many shots as points they lost by. This was quickly abandoned when Adit and Heather lost one of our matches 49-11. But the matches were good, and after being content with our performance, we got down to the serious work: the drinking.

And so with the bulk of tournament complete, all that remained were a few days of damned good skiing and a finale event in a little thing called Hornschlitten Rennen.

Entering what was casually described as a four man sledging competition, Imperial's four volunteers, Gavin Daisley, Soren Krause, Dmitry Pestov and Angharad Care, had amiable thoughts of pleasant days spent in the prime of one's youth on the old rabbit hill with two inches of snow and a homemade sledge. Little did they know that this 'casual sledging event' was actually a 60kg 2m long sledge (no tea trays for them). One person sits at the front with blades on to steer the sledge, whilst the other three sit behind, clinging on desperately as brakes for this monster by wedging their delicate feet into the snow.

With only one practice run, where they spent less time on the course than a UCL student doing physics, it was felt that Zurich had to be the overwhelming favourites due to the convenient fact that they have a national coach.

In the semi-finals it was Imperial versus Aachen. The times in the trials had been very close, so this looked to be an exciting race. Aachen pulled away first and no-one thought we had a chance. However, with Gavin employing a new driving style, Imperial kicked in and around

# What a good IDEA!

part in the annual IDEA League sports event

the outside of Aachen, darting into the lead. Indeed, even the Swiss national coach shed a tear of joy as he witnessed such exquisite style and poise.

In a head to head Imperial-Zurich final, all was at stake; Zurich apparent masters of modern sport, with their alpine fitness, snow sport heritage and national coach against Imperial, by far the most intelligent, but lacking the athletic edge and still getting used to the fact that more snow had fallen here in the last 24 hours than in 24 years back in England.

Off they went and at the top of the hill, incredibly, Imperial were ahead. But soon Zurich managed to pull across in front of us, leaving no option but to ram them off the course. However, they turned the corner before we reached them, but what a bad corner it was for them. They hit the inside post and, once again, Imperial went around the outside. We were about one foot down side by side as we rammed them properly. Soren wisely pulled back their sledge and they tried to push away from us. By the final corner, Zurich were clearly going to win, until Gavin dived on one of their players and pulled him and the sledge back. Imperial went past them and onto the log before Zurich started to attack our sledge. After a



The victorious Imperial College sledging team

couple of minutes of fighting, Zurich were in trouble, their sledge upturned, their lead girl on her back and the three guys being pulled off our sledge. Imperial were just seconds from a glorious victory when the officials declared the event a draw.

To be honest, though, it

was proud finish and lifted the name of Imperial on high. Despite coming last overall in the tournament, the Imperial team did themselves justice. Living in London means that we never see snow and this year has been tough on our sports facilities. The badminton team have to play in the

Great Hall, the basketball team play in Brixton and the water polo team only have a 20m paddling pool at their disposal. In these training conditions, the skill and courage that our teams displayed was exemplary!

It was with this sense of achievement that we spent

our remaining days enjoying some of the best snow in the world this season, forging relationships not only with the other universities, but also amongst ourselves. Special thanks must go to ETH Zurich for putting on such a great event and especially the snow sports day,

where we partied to cheesy music and got to experience skiing, snowboarding, air boards, snow skates and snow bikes before being escorted by cable car to the mountaintop restaurant for fondue madness and prizes.

I'd also like to thank Neil Mosely and Grant Danskin of the College Sport and Leisure Department for organising the Imperial teams and funding the cost of getting there. They were a pleasure to work with (and drink with!) although if I never have to hear Grant snore again I shall die a happy man.

I'd like to congratulate the overall tournament winner Jonas Emmanuel Trecenti Gomes, 24, the goalkeeper in water polo for ETH Zurich. As a truly international student he received the big cowbell for the ETH team; he was born in Brazil, did an internship at RWTH Aachen, and is now studying Mechanical Engineering at ETH. I hope that some of our competitors take up the opportunity to continue studying at these institutions once they finish at Imperial, although they had better not compete against us if they do.

Finally I'd like to thank our competitors, who proved themselves to be true ambassadors of Imperial College.

If you would like to know more about getting involved in sport at Imperial and possibly joining any of Imperial College Union's 60+ sports clubs, please get in touch with Richard Walker, the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) at [dpcs@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpcs@ic.ac.uk).



Imperial water polo player Tim Keating with the ball



## SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

# “Where the hell is the River Nene?”

## ROWING

### Head of the Nene

By Ben Anstiss

There are some who would question the academic benefits of rowing, but, as I proved at the Southside pub quiz a few weeks ago, it is invaluable. The answer to the question “Through which major city does the river Nene flow?” is, in fact, “Peterborough” (but my team still came third). And that’s where Imperial College Boat Club headed on Saturday 5 February, to compete at the Head of the Nene.

The competition was split into three divisions: pairs/singles, fours and eights, raced at different times during the day. The first two divisions raced over a 2.5km course, with the third division (eights) traversing 4km. These divisions were split into categories of novice, senior and elite. Novice rowers are those who haven’t won any regattas yet. Each regatta win earns one point, with senior classes being numbered from 4 to 1, reflecting the number of points allowed in each crew (paradoxically, these numbers run in reverse – for example, senior 4 means a maximum of one point per rower, senior 3 two points etc). Elite is for those amazing people who win lots of races.

Three rowers were entered in the single sculls category, with Ollie Mahony finishing second in open novice and 14th overall, Helen Ellison winning in the women’s sen-



Imperial students on the Nene

ior 2, and Sanna Supponen coming fourth in the same race just 19 seconds behind her. This event was run with the doubles and pairs category, a total of 116 competing crews. Imperial took the top four places in the open elite coxless pairs competition (which were also the top three times overall), with further 1st, 3rd, 4th and 6th places in the senior 2 coxless pairs.

The second division was fours, both coxed and coxless.

Imperial raced two coxed and two coxless men’s fours and one women’s senior 3 coxed four. The coxless fours, racing in the elite category, came first and second both in their category and overall, with only eight seconds separating them. The senior 2 coxed four won their competition easily, coming sixth overall. The senior 3 coxed four came second, losing out by just seven seconds to the eventual winners, despite overtaking four crews during their race and

placing 13th overall. The real success story was the women’s four, who not only came first in their category (21st overall) but also beat every other women’s four, both coxed and coxless in every other competition! It was a great result all round.

The third and final division was the eights, an opportunity for the novices and the senior women’s squad to flaunt their stuff. The women’s squad narrowly lost out on first place to Nottingham University Boat

Club by just four seconds, but the result shows great promise for the upcoming Women’s Head of the River at the start of March. The men’s novice crews really stepped up to the challenge, with the ‘A’ crew winning the open novices by 22 seconds, and the ‘B’ crew less than two minutes behind, cox-box failure notwithstanding!

After some frantic de-rigging and boat loading (mainly in order to get the train back in time for the England v Wales

rugby match - the unfortunate result needs no discussion), it was back to London for celebrations. It was also Andy Horsfall’s birthday, meaning that the alcohol flowed thick and fast, mainly in his direction. Kudos to the angry little ginger man, who managed to turn up to training at 8am on Sunday morning. There are a few more races coming up this month, followed by the huge Men’s and Women’s Head of the River races on the Thames in March.

## Revenge is sweet

### BASKETBALL

Imperial Men’s 2nd 62  
Holloway Men’s 1st 61

By Robert Boland

You may have noticed in the Results section of last week’s *Felix* that the men’s basketball team lost to Royal Holloway in the ULU league. This is where we claim it was all part of the masterplan.

Having lost to them in the league, the determination to beat Holloway in the cup was stronger than ever. Playing them only three days after losing may not have given us much preparation time, but if there’s one thing you can say about Imperial students, it’s that they learn fast.

Knowing how they play, we knew who he had to look out for and how they were going to attack us. Despite the intensity we came out with, they began knowing they could beat us. In much the same way as the match the previous Friday, Holloway attacked and pushed us back.

A disappointing score of 13-22 at the end of the first quarter meant we had to grit our teeth and start pushing forward.

A clever tactical change from our coach gave us the push we needed. By changing to an adapted 3-2 zone, we stopped their shooters and it was now up to us to make the most of it. Our chances came and we should have been up entering half time, if only we could finish them off. The shots weren’t dropping for us. Despite this, we refused to let Holloway score and ended up winning the quarter 10-6. Half time score 23-28.

Encouraged by the change in fortunes, we started the third quarter with all guns blazing. Half time shooting practice seemed to have worked as the shots started to drop. Our defence held strong despite improved efforts on their part. As the bench and the support roared their encouragement, we pushed forward and the quarter was a magnificent contest. Winning it 25-17, we entered the last quarter with

a 3 point lead. One quarter to go and we would be in the semi-finals!

The final quarter was as tense as you would imagine. Both teams knew how important it was and gave it everything they had. Fouls flew in and three players ended up being fouled out of the game. The teams exchanged baskets for the duration of the quarter until it came down to the last ten seconds of the match.

These ten seconds seemed to last a lifetime. The ball in our possession, Royal Holloway did what they had to and fouled us until they had a chance to take the ball back. Their chance did eventually come, but with the strength of our defence they were left with only one second to take their shot. An off-balance fadeaway just wasn’t good enough and the men’s ‘second’ team took home victory.

It was an incredible win, leaving the second team in the semi-finals and two matches away from the trophy.

Watch this space.

## Convicts’ XV trounced

### RUGBY

Wye Men’s 1st 48  
Reading Agrics Men’s 1st 0

By Richard Stratton and James Anderson

With five minutes to go before kick-off, two Reading boys were arrested following the previous night’s antics. Charlie, Nick and Henry were good sports and agreed to play for the opposition so we could play full XV’s.

The first half was evenly matched, with both sides putting up solid defence and running cutting lines. Fresher Andy, playing at full back, was excellent in support play and was always keeping our defence tight.

The Wye pack dominated the first half with great forward play and tactical possession rugby. Art Tukker and Mike ‘Hunt’ West were always on hand for a crash ball, while flankers Freddie and Henry were awesome in open play, picking up loose ball and anni-

hilating the Reading fly half. Fresher Sam, Angus Doe, Leo and Adam from Essex ensured we won our line-out as Art found his new role as part-time thrower.

The deadlock was broken towards the end of the first half, when yet more forward ingenuity allowed Henry to slide over for the first try. The half time whistle blew with the Wye Boys yearning for more as Reading skulked off the pitch to lick their wounds.

The second half was a different story. We turned on our physicality as Wye’s superior fitness, strength and ability shone through. Trehane ran like an ostrich through the Reading defence, scoring two tries. A lovely switch move orchestrated by Ando at fly half saw Paul Lau score under the posts. Manos and George were too pacy for their opposite numbers, both scoring some well-deserved tries, including a cheeky chip and chase from George. The blood bath continued as Ando scored in the corner, before slotting over some great con-

versions and missing two shockers.

Overall it was a brilliant performance from Wye, which Reading were simply unable to answer. Special mention must go to Adam from Essex, who, hooking for the first time, had an absolute stormer and was an easy choice for the man of the match award. Another special mention should go to Adam from Watford, whose blistering pace, usually associated with pikeyball, was put to good use on the wing. The pack, led by our very own Flying Dutchman, put in a Trojan performance, out-pushing, out-jumping and for once out-thinking the opposition. The call for bail came a bit too late for Reading as they missed their players who were on lockdown.

Perhaps a redeeming feature of these convicts was that they managed to knock down an entire wall in our Union. Let’s just say the Wye Boys are looking forward to being let loose in Reading for some proper agricultural demolition!

SPORT

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# "You can't lead a cavalry if you think you look funny riding a horse"

**RIDING**

By Kate Douglas

It was the first competition for the immense Imperial College B Team. This year we were pitched against Reading, Surrey and the Vets. The short story here is that we won, outright. That's how good we are, you see. Our dressage tests were all close to perfection and we all went clear in the jumping. So, the day ended with us driving off into the sunset clutching our shiny red first place rosettes and beaming with pride. But then I woke up... and it was 6.30 in the morning, really cold and still dark.

Not a great start to a day that didn't get much better. The train ride was verging on the duller side of not interesting, and then we had to battle the streets of Reading to find the damn stables, which we managed to do with five minutes to spare. So maybe things weren't going to be so bad.

The dressage came first, as it tends to do because the rules say so. The horses seemed ok. There was nothing exciting or interesting, so we picked who we wanted and off we went. Kat rode first on a skewbald cob that

resembled a tank and did a good job. Then it was Sarah on a wiry and sort of balding chestnut called Newman. Apparently her test went well, according to El and Kat, but the judge didn't agree and suggested that she "try to ride the horse". Good advice, I suppose.

I was third and probably couldn't have done worse if I tried. William (another wiry chestnut) didn't like me or the arena so stepped out several times. The judge didn't like this, or me for that matter, and accused me of talking during the test, crazy lady! Lastly it was El's turn and she did very well. Her horse was small, cute and looked lazy but wasn't.

Thankful that the first part of afternoon was over, we sat down for lunch and then found out that we were currently in fourth position. Not that this was a surprise, but it definitely didn't improve the day any. My amazing performance meant that I only did marginally better than the girl who looked like she didn't even know what a horse was.

The end of the day was jumping. William and Newman were back and were joined by a fluffy pony and the biggest horse in the world. El chose Newman, Kat

took William, Sarah chose the pony, and being bravest (read: dumbest) I had Pembridge the giant, who was actually gorgeous and easy to ride. Kat almost went clear but knocked down the style which was quite hard to get a good line to.

I redeemed myself by going clear on Pembridge, as did El although she didn't have any redeeming to do. Sarah was last and the little pony was super-duper but halfway round she lost her stirrups so circled away from the jump. This, apparently, meant she was eliminated which was totally harsh and I think it was the wrong decision, but who are we to argue?

And so the day came to an end. We pulled up in fourth position with a shocking number of penalties which I won't divulge here. El got herself an individual seventh place. Good for her! But we were glad to get home.

Somehow, the competition had dragged on for six hours, the scoring was messed up but the highlights were definitely the cat who hung out on my shoulder a lot, the fat ugly dog, the blind girl and lunch. Oh, and the Union later that evening. That was fun too. And just so you know, John Peers said that thing about a cavalry.

# Wye find right formula for Vets at last

**RUGBY**

RVC Women's 1st 12  
Wye Women's 1st 22

By Lucy Le Cocq

There was only one thing between Wye and the cup final: the vets. And we had a lot to prove. Having never put any points past them, we were not prepared to let it happen again. So, avoiding road rage by leaving number eight to find her own way to the game, we were ready to show the vets how we usually play. And we didn't hang around.

Although everybody was feeling the pressure, we managed to divert this into positive energy and had the first score on the board within ten minutes. Another one of Emily's elusive (sorry to use this word again; other words in the thesaurus were unsuitable) runs gave us the first try which helped us to settle and enjoy the game a little

more.

Massive bandaging was needed for the backs, who all seem to have acquired shin splints except Andrea, who still managed to produce a beautiful pink display of bandaging so that she didn't feel left out. Massive force at the beginning of the game in the tackling department from everybody appeared to surprise the vets as they had not come up against such a force at the beginning of the season.

Gobby scored the second try and then converted it, stamping our authority on the game. Wye were now free to play in our usual style. The backs enjoyed prolonged spells of running after this and made much ground. Although the forwards didn't exhibit the usual storming runs, they showed great strength in the scrum and even turned it over.

Spaz's and Pike's breaking from the scrum produced some great interceptions of

the ball and their players. Our full back remained calm throughout, even when challenged with some difficult kicks and tackles which were successfully accomplished.

By half time, we had scored four tries and both teams were much relieved to have a break. We faced uphill into the wind in the second half. The difficult conditions allowed the RVC an opportunity to score from a penalty, which was swiftly taken. They managed to put another try past us later in the second half.

The game was well controlled by both sides, however Wye came out on top. This was a promising game and Wye are looking forward to the final, which we intend to contest strongly.

The Wye rugby girls were thrilled to win and feel that this shows great potential for our cup final and for the sevens tournaments that we will be playing in later in the season.

# Results

## WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY

**BADMINTON**

Sussex Women's 1st 4  
Imperial Women's 1st 4

UC Chichester Men's 1st 8  
ICSM Men's 1st 0

ICSM Women's 1st 0  
UC Chichester Women's 1st 8

**BASKETBALL**

Imperial Men's 1st 50  
Hertfordshire Men's 1st 59

Imperial Women's 1st 31  
Hertfordshire Women's 1st 26

**FENCING**

Imperial Men's 1st 135  
Sussex Men's 1st 39

Imperial Women's 1st 135  
Brunel Women's 1st 39

**FOOTBALL**

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

Hertfordshire Men's 2nd 5  
Imperial Men's 2nd 0

London Met Men's 2nd 1  
Imperial Men's 3rd 1

Imperial Men's 5th 1  
Holloway Men's 5th 1

LSE Men's 7th 3  
Imperial Men's 6th 0

Roehampton Women's 1st 8  
Imperial Women's 1st 1

ICSM Men's 1st 4  
Middlesex Men's 1st 7

ICSM Men's 2nd 1  
St George's Men's 2nd 0

LSE Men's 6th 4  
ICSM Men's 4th 1

**HOCKEY**

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

GKT Men's 3rd 0  
Imperial Men's 4th 4

Imperial Women's 2nd 6  
Goldsmiths Women's 1st 1

ICSM Men's 2nd 3  
Canterbury CC Men's 2nd 0

ICSM Men's 3rd 3  
St George's Men's 2nd 0

ICSM Women's 1st 3  
St George's Women's 1st 0

GKT Women's 4th 0  
ICSM Women's 2nd 3

ICSM Women's 3rd 0  
RVC Women's 2nd 7

**NETBALL**

LSE Women's 1st 23  
Imperial Women's 1st 18

Sussex Women's 2nd 27  
Imperial Women's 2nd 16

Queen Mary Women's 1st 19  
ICSM Women's 1st 33

**RUGBY**

Reading Men's 1st 6  
Imperial Men's 1st 25

Imperial Men's 2nd 24  
Brighton Men's 2nd 8

St Mary's Men's 2nd 19  
ICSM Men's 2nd 22

St Bart's Men's 2nd 0  
ICSM Men's 3rd 32

**SQUASH**

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

**TENNIS**

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

LSE Women's 1st 4  
Imperial Women's 1st 6

**VOLLEYBALL**

Imperial Women's 1st 1  
King's Women's 1st 3

## SATURDAY 12 FEBRUARY

**BADMINTON**

Imperial Men's 1st 8  
Bournemouth Men's 1st 0

**BASKETBALL**

Imperial Women's 1st 56  
Luton Women's 1st 49

**FOOTBALL**

ICSM Men's 3rd 1  
Imperial Men's 5th 4

Queen Mary Men's 5th 1  
Imperial Men's 6th

ICSM Men's 4th 1  
Queen Mary Men's 3rd 5

**RUGBY**

LSE Men's 2nd 12  
Imperial Men's 2nd 24

ICSM Men's 1st 39  
Holloway Men's 1st 7

## SUNDAY 13 FEBRUARY

**FOOTBALL**

Luton Men's 4th 1  
Imperial Men's 3rd 1

Imperial Women's 1st 1  
Holloway Women's 1st 3

**NETBALL**

Hertfordshire Women's 1st 35  
ICSM Women's 1st 28

**RUGBY**

Imperial Women's 1st 5  
LSE Women's 1st 40

## MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY

**NETBALL**

ICSM Women's 2nd 35  
King's Women's 2nd 14

**SQUASH**

Imperial Men's 1st 3  
LSE Men's 1st 2

**WATER POLO**

Imperial 1st 6  
ICSM 1st 5

Next week in Sport:  
Reports and reaction from all the  
Varsity matches



sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Devils robbed!

## ICE HOCKEY

**Imperial Devils 3**  
**ULU B 6**

By Tom Andrews

The Devils don't normally like to whine about tough games, so in this report we'll try to stay positive. We were ready to play our local rivals, the upstart ULU team. However, facing the brave Devils was a ULU squad suspiciously bolstered by the presence of at least six players from their A-team, including their regular A-team goaltender.

Due to the pleasing number of female players on their side (and the lack of on ours (cheap advert)), the game was limited to no contact. The match started off well for the Devils, as we dominated them while constantly probing into their zone and firing shots at will on the ULU goal.

Unfortunately ULU struck first, with a goal completely against the run of play. The Devils had around 80% of the possession during the first period (though this figure grows every time we talk about it), but despite our best efforts ULU scored again.

Towards the end of the first period, it emerged that our star goaltender Ruth was injured and had to be urgently replaced. Our reserve 'keeper Carlyne, who had been happily spectating without a care in the world, now had to step up to the challenge of her first real game. ULU took advantage of this and got an early goal in before she was warmed up.

In the second period, the Devils started strongly (again), and our perseverance and vehemence led to a devilishly good strike from Sho to reduce their lead. Three-one. Despite this, it seemed that lady luck had deserted us, as although we had most of the possession, every mistake we made was punished by an A-team-led counter-attack (and a few more goals).

The goals on both sides kept flying in, with Tom A scoring from a few centimetres out, and David proving that we could actually score a proper goal with a nutmeg of the goaltender. This prompted ULU to put on five A players at the same time, to prevent them from conceding any more.

Near the end of the match, ULU showed their frustration by hitting David into the boards from behind, after which Yingke stepped in and got himself two minutes in the box.

The final score was an undeserved 6-3 to the ULU B team. And just to prove they fielded more A team players than allowed, here's a snippet of an email from their mailing list: "Note, in the future only two A team players will be allowed to ice." I guess they really didn't want to lose. Whine over.

If you are interested in joining the ice hockey team, or just want to come and support us (anyone is welcome) then email us at ice-hockey@ic.ac.uk. We need players! Don't be intimidated by the game - it's basically hockey on ice (imaginatively named) without the rain.

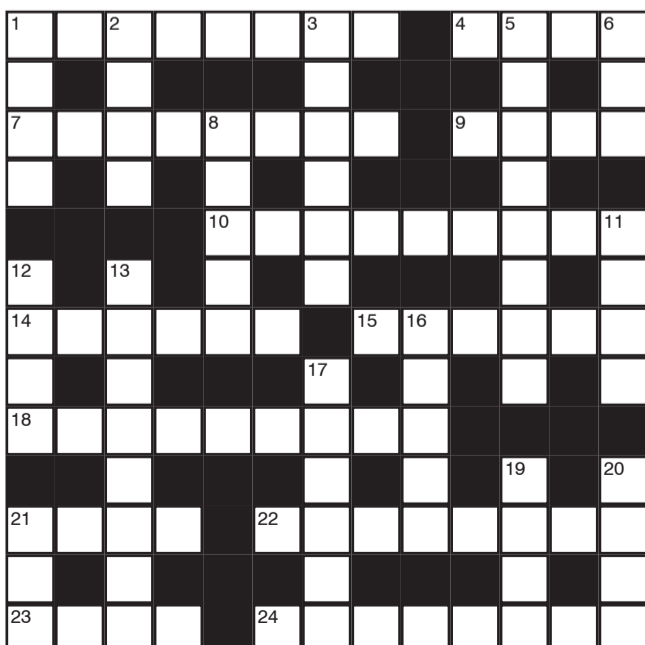
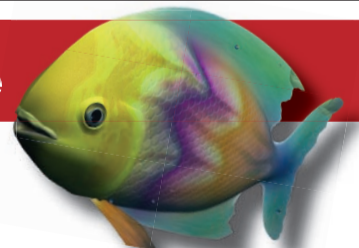


PHOTO: TONY BOOT

Dancing devils? Apparently this is a goal celebration

## Quick Crossword

by Fishface



### Across

- 1, 10, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 24. Opening of poem by Edgar Allan Poe (4,4,1,8,6,5,1,8,4,3,5)
- 4. Pornography (4)
- 7. Plane curve (8)
- 9. Release (4)
- 10. See 1
- 14. See 1
- 15. See 1
- 18. Natives of this continent (9)
- 21. Remainder (4)
- 22. See 1
- 23. See 1
- 24. See 1

### Down

- 1. Pensioners (abbrev.) (4)
- 2. Fish (4)
- 3. Rig used to drill for petroleum (3,3)
- 5. Plant with yellow or orange flowers (8)
- 6. Small peg used in golf (3)
- 8. Surname of current Prime Minister (5)
- 11. Leafless branch (4)
- 12. Lazy (4)
- 13. State of central USA (8)
- 16. Soaked with a long tube (5)
- 17. Monkey (6)
- 19. Zone (4)
- 20. Current of water or air (4)
- 21. Argument (3)

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

### Issue 1315 solution

