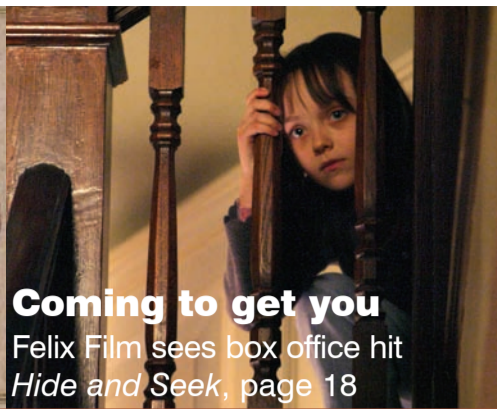




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Felix



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Staying safe

Students have been asked to take particular care over security in halls of residence this week following thefts from Linstead Hall, Princes Gardens.

► **NEWS** page 2

To learn, not earn

Huge increases in international student visa costs will place a further financial burden on a large proportion of the Imperial community.

► **COMMENT** page 7

FairTrade fortnight

"FairTrade fortnight aims to raise awareness of the ideals of FairTrade and to promote the growing range of fairly traded products available."

► **COMMENT** page 8

Sporting success

The women's tennis team continue their unbeaten run; the men's football firsts reach the cup semi-finals; and the RSM taste success again in the annual Bottle match.

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Imperial's women's tennis team

President survives confidence vote

By **Dave Edwards**
Editor

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, comfortably survived a vote of no confidence at an emergency Union Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

Mr Arif, who brought a similar vote upon himself earlier in the year by offering his resignation and then changing his mind, was one of 24 out of 35 Council members to vote against the motion calling for his dismissal.

It was alleged that Mr Arif was guilty of bad management, intimidation, a lack of communication, and steam-rolling through various high-level changes without the approval of the relevant committees.

The motion of no confidence was proposed by Tom Tibbits, a postgraduate in the physics department, and seconded by, amongst others, former Deputy President (Education and Welfare) Katherine

McGinn and former Council Chair Oliver Pell. In a letter accompanying it, the proposer wrote: "We are very concerned with the current style of management and prevailing atmosphere in our students' union".

Mr Tibbits began the meeting by asking: "Do you want a Union run by people who ignore your concerns?"

In a long speech in response to the motion, Mr Arif used the word 'sorry' on at least eight occasions. He said he agreed with some of the concerns raised and would work to resolve them. He concluded: "I'm doing my best to serve you. If we stick together, we can move forward together."

Colin Smith, the Union's Welfare Campaigns Officer, asked for Mr Arif to resign before the vote took place. Mr Arif responded: "I don't see a reason for me to resign".

Ms McGinn told the meeting: "Working with Mustafa, one of the most infuriating things to deal with was the

lack of communication within the sabbatical team itself. He was terrible at informing people about what was going on."

Deputy Presidents Richard Walker and Sam Rorke defended Mr Arif, referring to his recent success in obtaining a record high election turnout and the fact that he had been elected as President twice by hundreds of student voters.

Finally, Mr Tibbits himself attempted to change the motion to one of censure (an official rebuke) instead of dismissal, but this was rejected by the Council. With even its proposer voting against it, the motion now stood little chance of being passed by the required two thirds majority. After almost three hours of deliberation, the President remained in post when only eight members voted in favour of dismissing him.

► **State of the Union,** page 6



Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, delivers his response to a motion of no confidence which would later be supported by only eight members of Union Council

Union protests as former student faces extradition hearing

By **Dave Edwards**

Lawyers will attempt to extradite a former Imperial College student and staff member under new terrorism legislation at a court hearing today.

Babar Ahmad's case is the first to be heard under the Extradition Act 2003, which allows British citizens to be extradited to the US without the need for any evidence to be provided and without

the accused being given any chance to respond to the allegations.

Mr Ahmad stands accused of running websites for foreign terrorist organisations and providing information about potential new recruits.

A delegation from Imperial College Union were present outside Bow Street Magistrates Court yesterday for the first part of the two-day hearing. The Union



Babar Ahmad on his way to court

passed policy to campaign for Mr Ahmad's release last December.

Ashfaq Ahmad, Babar's father, spoke to *Felix* on Monday: "It's very important for us that he is tried here in the UK. I worry about the abuse of human rights in the US, especially at Guantanamo Bay."

"We are talking about someone's life here. I am absolutely confident that Babar hasn't done anything wrong. This is very unfair and it has turned all our lives upside down."

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, said: "The Extradition Act undermines our own judicial system, meaning that our legal processes can be abused. US prosecutors don't need to provide any evidence. This is why the general principles of this case are important."

If the court decides that Mr Ahmad should be extradited, his family and supporters plan to launch an appeal.

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Felix

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NEWS

Vigilance urged after Linstead thefts

By Matthew Hartfield

Students have been asked to take particular care over security in halls of residence this week following thefts from Linstead Hall, Princes Gardens.

According to eyewitnesses at Linstead, an intruder gained entry when a student let him in after he knocked on the door outside to attract attention. He then proceeded to take items from unlocked rooms, but was caught doing so and was then chased out of the building. Despite College Security being called, the intruder managed to escape whilst the security guards were investigating another area of the hall. After being chased around Princes Gardens and South Kensington by residents,

the man finally got away by jumping on a bus as it stopped at nearby traffic lights.

According to one eyewitness, "The intruder came running down the stairs while security officers were upstairs looking for him. He then pushed his way past a female student at the door and escaped". Fortunately, no-one was seriously injured in the incident, and all stolen items were recovered as they were dropped in the chase. These included his hat and coat, which contained more stolen items, suggesting to police that the man is a regular criminal in the local area.

It is not the first time that Linstead hall - or halls of residences in general - have been targeted. Terry Branch, the College's Chief Security Officer, told *Felix*: "We believe he [the thief] did exactly the same thing at Linstead Hall earlier this term. We also believe he is the same man who was arrested for breaking into Beit Hall in 2002 and imprisoned for two years". Details of the latest incident were captured on CCTV, and Security and police hope that an arrest will follow.

Mr Branch explained that



Linstead Hall, where a student allowed a thief to enter last week

students should never let anyone they don't know into halls, and stressed the importance of reporting anything out of the ordinary to College Security immediately: "If you see someone suspicious in or around halls of residence, don't confront them, call Security and we'll respond every time." He added that

it was crucial to describe the incident accurately, stating whether or not you believe there are still intruders in the building. Security officers are thought to have been unaware that the intruder was still present on their arrival at Linstead.

There have been reports that Security guards went up

in the lift when they arrived at Linstead, allowing the intruder to run down the stairs and escape. Mr Branch was unable to comment on that, but assured *Felix* that Security were "putting in a higher presence at residences".

● **State of the Union, page 6**

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Business

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HSBC announces record profits

Kabir Merali has a close look at the £9bn+ profits of the massive multinational firm

HSBC announced record profits for a UK company on Monday with earnings of £9.6bn over the past year. The firm dethroned the record's previous owner, Shell, who spent only weeks at the top spot.

HSBC's profit increase – up 37% from 2003 – comes at the end of a month in which many UK banks reported increased earnings. The Royal Bank of Scotland, the UK's second largest bank, made 14% more money in 2004 than in 2003, and Barclays announced a 20% increase in earnings for the same year.

The profit of £9.6bn works out at around £1m an hour. Chairman Sir John Bond said 2004 was “another good year for HSBC”.

Rip-off Britain?

But not everyone is happy about this increase in profit. Some argue that the recent prosperity of UK banks marks a return to “rip-off Britain,” and that banks are benefitting from excessive prices and mark-ups on interest rates.

But while banks do profit from interest collected on

“The profit of £9.6bn works out at around £1m an hour”

loans, the recent earning increase can not be solely attributed to heightened interest rates.

Banks profit by loaning money. They borrow it from the general public, by getting people to put their money in bank accounts. They then take this money and lend it to people who need it, charge a higher interest rate and pocket the difference. If they are making more money, it must mean that they are charging more interest, and creating a bigger gap between the amount they give to savers and the amount they charge borrowers.

We are currently living in a period of low interest rates, which increases the number of people who are able to borrow money. Last July, the amount owed on loans, mortgages and credit cards reached £1 trillion. Banks, in turn, profit from this increase in customers.

A large percentage of HSBC's profit is also generated overseas. Only 24% of the HSBC's earnings last year came from the UK and a sig-



HSBC Towers: Did the size and magnificence of these buildings contribute to HSBC's spectacular success?

nificant amount of revenue came from Household, the US consumer lending firm HSBC acquired in 2003.

HSBC Chairman Sir Bond defended the profits: “We are in 77 countries and our UK profits are no different from profits in other markets.”

The British Banker's Association said UK customers are “getting a good deal,” and that banks are profiting because of their size, not because of increased fees. “The return they get on the

capital needed to keep going is 1%, which is not a huge return,” a spokesperson said.

Consumers have, however, been complaining about excessive charges, such as late payment fees. Late payment fees are supposed to cover the cost of writing customers letters, but many see them as a cynical way of boosting profits.

Credit card interest charges are also very high, and can often be many times the Bank of England interest

rate. Some have complained that the excessive rates are a way of targeting the poor who

“Consumers have been complaining about excessive charges, such as late payment fees”

do not have a high enough credit rating to borrow at the standard rate.

Don Cruickshank, who headed a Treasury backed review of the banking industry, said that many of the problems consumers have with the banking industry are the same as they were five years ago. Mr Cruickshank cited improved customer services and faster cheque clearing as changes he would like to see made.

Staff to strike?

The extra profit has not

found its way to the majority of the company's staff, many of whom will not get a pay rise.

Amicus, the trade union, is balloting its members to decide on strike action by HSBC workers. They argue that the increase in outsourcing, including the latest announcement by HSBC that they will be moving 2000 jobs to India, makes a mockery of the ‘World's Local Bank’ motto that the company adopts.

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

Europe sets its sights on space

The success of the Huygens probe and Ariane 5 rocket have boosted Europe's reputation in space exploration. **Darius Nikbin** reports on a conference promoting EU cooperation in space

In the same month that NASA decided to abandon the Hubble Space telescope and a report found that the failed Beagle 2 mission was ill-prepared and under-funded, the European Space Agency (ESA) has celebrated the dual success of the safe arrival of the Huygens probe on Titan and the launch of the Ariane 5 super-rocket.

The latest version of the Ariane 5 lifts payloads of up to 10 tonnes to geostationary orbit and has reinstated Europe's competitiveness on the world satellite launch services market. On 12 February, the rocket successfully sent a Spanish military telecommunications satellite and a dummy payload into orbit, just over two years after the first attempt had ended in failure. Jean-Yves Le Gall, president of the Arianespace company which develops and launches the Ariane rockets, had said before take-off:

"Ariane 5 will be the workhorse of our company and the European space industry for the next 10 years."

In the wake of the Ariane launch, scientists have been partying hard at the ESA: last weekend the agency and the European Commission organised a conference in Brussels

"The successful launch of Ariane 5 boosts Europe's guaranteed access to space..."

involving over 40 nations and 20 international organisations to discuss space exploration. Entitled 'Winning through cooperation: sharing the benefits of space', the conference was aimed to enable dialogue between suppliers and industries that demand the space technology.

Attending the conference, ESA Director General Jean-Jacques Dordain said: "The successful launch of Ariane 5 brought us 'back to the future', boosting Europe's guaranteed access to space. And this outstanding achievement comes only a month after the discovery of a new world through the spectacular descent of ESA's science probe Huygens onto Titan."

The ESA is an independent agency, not part of the EU. However, close ties are being developed between the two organisations. Joint initiatives such as the European global navigation system Galileo, which is set to rival the US' Global Position System (GPS) and towards which the EU are paying 1m euros, are indicative of the increasing role of space exploration in European economic and political development. The EU's new constitution has also significantly mentioned

'space' for the first time.

Vice President Günter Verheugen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, said at the conference in Brussels: "The European Union, the European Space Agency and the Member States should optimise their relations and respective resources. The Commission is currently working on a proposal for a genuine European Space Policy. Reaching for the stars brings very down to earth benefits to our citizens and industry, from radio navigation, communication by satellite or early warning of natural disasters."

Verheugen also said he would propose a significant increase in the Commission's research funding, which one official said was 235m euros (\$306.8m) over the period 2003-2006. This is still minuscule in comparison with the \$16.4 bn budget proposal set by George W Bush for NASA.



Ariane 5 ECA Flight 164 takes off on 12 February 2005

Yawning: a mysterious, contagious, copycat reflex

By **Giovanna Larice**
Biochemistry department

As students we are all too familiar with the feeling of overwhelming boredom, fatigue, and drowsiness that puzzlingly accompanies most university lectures, and the intense contagious yawning that follows.

Although common amongst most of the animal kingdom (most mammals and some birds and reptiles yawn), little is known about the reasons for yawning and for the generation of a contagious response (55 per cent of people will yawn within five minutes of seeing someone else yawn). Research into this area has been lacking.

It is widely accepted that yawning results in an internal physical response, as the sudden deep intake of oxygen increases the heart rate (heart rates can rise up to 30 per cent during a yawn), helping release the lungs and bloodstream of carbon dioxide and forcing more oxygen into the brain. Yawning is thought to effectively ventilate the lungs, to heighten our alertness and to restore normal breathing.

But yawning has been (and still is) surrounded by a hazy cloud of mystery, with theories and speculation having been put forward as to what triggers it and why it takes place. Still scientists still don't understand all the biological mechanisms involved in this process.

Far-fetched-sounding hypotheses have often been put forward. Are we to believe one such theory, claiming yawning is merely a primitive remnant of our ancestors' intimidatory tactics, where a yawn would bear our ever-so-frightening teeth?

The intensely inconsistent boredom theory (which is rather self-explanatory) might be readily endorsed by those of us who suffer from a rather restricted attention span but doesn't explain, for example, why we yawn before competing in an important sporting event or before delivering a crucial presentation.

Attempts to explain the reasons for yawning as a result of low oxygen or high carbon dioxide levels (which we would experience during fatigue or sheer boredom, where breathing is shallow and little oxygen reaches the

lungs) have proved rather unconvincing.

Conclusions from research published in the journal *Ethology* by Professor Robert Provine of the University of Maryland in 1987, later confirmed in a 1997 paper in the journal *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* by Dr Ronald Baenninger of John Hopkins University, showed that people receiving additional oxygen didn't decrease yawning and people exposed to a lower amount of carbon dioxide didn't stop yawning.

Recent work by Dr Martin Schurmann published in the journal *NeuroImage*, however, has furthered our understanding of the contagious nature of the yawning process. Scientists found that the true nature of contagious yawns was as an automatically released behavioural action, rather than a truly imitated motor pattern, as was hitherto widely believed. Hence, contagious yawning was proven not to be simply an imitation act.

This data was obtained by MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanning of the brains of 30 volunteers exposed to videos of recorded

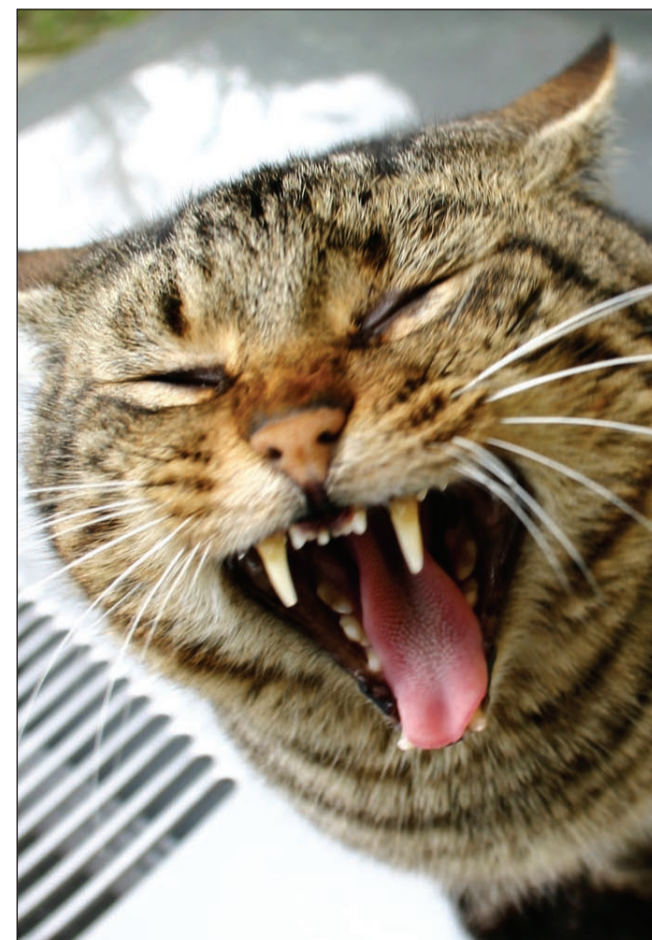
yawns, and suggests a communicative function of yawns whereby these constitute social clues that synchronise group behaviour.

Dr Schurmann writes in his paper: "Group synchronisation could be essential for species survival and works without action understanding, like when a flock of birds rises in the air as soon as the first bird does so – supposedly as it notices a predator."

The purpose of group synchronised yawning, however, was not suggested and remains unknown.

It's peculiar how a reflex so ordinary, a reflex so outwardly straightforward, harmless and natural, could be so poorly understood, yet lack of research in this area isn't so surprising, as other more pressing matters must dominate the forefront of most scientists' minds.

As yawning is trouble-free for most of us, studies into the phenomenon will continue to be rare and our inability to fully comprehend it will inevitably remain lacking for some time. Even reading about yawning can make you yawn; chances are you already have, by now.



Yawning: cats do it, humans do it... but why?

Comment

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Freedom, politics and priorities

Police state

Yesterday I attended a demonstration outside Bow Street Magistrates Court to coincide with the start of Babar Ahmad's extradition hearing. His family called for all supporters to attend. I am not a 'lefty' and am not the 'demonstrating' sort, yet I still think that his case and the wider civil liberties issues it raises are things we should be concerned about.

If only to remind us of the climate we now live in, the Government rushed its 'Prevention of Terrorism' bill through Parliament this week. Despite a rebellion amongst Labour MPs, the second reading passed through the House by 14 votes. The provisions will grant the Home Secretary powers to impose 'control orders' on British citizens and others who are legitimately resident in the UK.

What are these control orders? Well they include provisions for house arrest, curfews and smart tagging (where a chip is strapped around your wrist or ankle so law enforcement agencies can track your movements). The Home

Secretary will also be able to constrain other liberties, such as being able to ban you from using the telephone or internet.

The Home Secretary will be able to impose any of these control orders upon any of us without reference to a proper judicial process. He can do so if he believes there is enough 'intelligence' to believe that you might commit a terrorist act. You do not have the right to know what is alleged about you or the ability to see, let alone challenge, any evidence against you. Crucially, you are not presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

This is the sort of assault on freedom that would make some 'rogue states' proud. It's the very sort of thing we supposedly went to war in Iraq to stamp out. The Government claims it is doing all this to protect us from terrorism. Yet all it is really doing is allowing terrorism to claim victory by abandoning judicial process and attacking our freedoms.

London has a proud and lengthy tradition of being a home from home for political dissidents from across the world. Political dissidence is often

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

grounded in and around academia because of the liberating power of education. Imperial College should rightly be a welcoming institution for students and scholars from all backgrounds, nationalities, beliefs and affiliations. Intellectual discourse and the free flow of ideas is essential in a civilised society. It cannot and should not be constrained by political interference. In the current political climate, more

extensive security vetting of science and technology students, particularly those engaged in research, is almost certain to appear on the horizon. We must be ready to oppose it.

Security in halls

The College Security department has approached us for help in getting opinion on the service they provide to students. I believe they genuinely want to improve and offer the best service they can. They can't do this without constructive feedback, however. I should be grateful if anyone who wishes to make comments would do so by emailing president@ic.ac.uk with the subject line 'Security Feedback'. Your comments will be treated in the strictest of confidence, if requested, and will help us to make things better.

Do you feel safe in halls? Do you think security guards are conscientious and sympathetic to your concerns? There is no good reason why you shouldn't be able to answer yes to these questions and with some useful feedback we can hopefully change things to ensure you do.

Bickering

Given some of the important issues of the day, you could be forgiven for wondering why Union Councillors (and others) have been occupying their time considering a motion of no confidence against me. It is rather disappointing when normally sensible, mature student representatives get into a room together and forget why they are there. Point scoring and pursuing personality-based grievances can be fun for some of those involved but isn't really very constructive in the greater scheme of things.

One of the main protagonists privately told me beforehand that "there are only 200 or so students who really care about the Union and they are the ones you should focus on". Imperial College has 12,618 students and now, with the matter closed, we should get on with serving all of you.

As Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State, once said of his days at Harvard, "student politics is the most vicious kind there is... precisely because the stakes are so small and the fight so large."

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Human rights abuse won't help win the War on Terror

Marking the start of an Amnesty Society campaign, **Kevin Bez** explains why the sacrifice of human rights is creating further difficulties for the US and its allies

"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

Abraham Lincoln

After the Law Lords' ruling on the Belmarsh prisoners, Jack Straw commented that the right to life was the "most important liberty" and therefore the protection of the people was the Government's prime duty, even at the expense of other human rights.

This argument stands in direct conflict with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), set out on 2 December 1948. Its final article states: "Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any state, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein."

The human rights of an individual or a group are not negotiable, and continued abuse of them will bring more harm to the cause of defeating terrorism.

In July 2004 the world was deeply disturbed by the news of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, an event that will shape the world's perception of America for years to come. However, this abuse of personal power by the soldiers involved was, unfortunately, the grim tip of the iceberg of abuses of human rights in the name of the War on Terror.

The more unsettling part of Abu Ghraib was that it was far from being an aberration. The story that never really hit the news is the extent of the ongoing human rights abuses in the War on Terror. These maltreatments did not only harm the image of the US in the world, but will also negatively affect the world's effort in defeating violent and radical streams of Islamic fundamentalism.

The trail of human rights abuses leads from detentions of "terror suspects" in American judicial prisons immediately following the 11 September attacks, as investigated by a Department of Justice report published in April 2003, to an alleged 50,000 prisoners held in administrative confinement by the US and its allies, according to the US Army's Inspector General. This route leads through Afghanistan and Iraq, where the abuses surfaced momentarily at Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib.

It was an easy task for the Bush-Administration to pass the responsibility down to the offending troops. Of course, it could be argued that none of the Administration's high level officials had a direct involvement in setting policy that facilitated torture. Nevertheless, the government still bears the responsibility for ensuring that the country's representatives conduct themselves correctly according to the Geneva Conventions and human rights.

Unfortunately, there have been credible investigations indicating a contribution by the top ranks of the Administration in setting policy condoning torture and human rights abuses, a topic that never completely hit the public debate in most Western countries. Examples include denying the "enemy combatants" in Guantanamo essential human rights such as the presumption of innocence (articles 6-12 of the UDHR have been violated). The influence of these human rights abuses on the effectiveness of the War on Terror is widespread and multifarious.

Firstly, there has been a measurable increase in sentiment for the insurgents and terrorists. In the Western world, this has mainly been manifesting itself for Iraqi insurgency. As a result, the mainstream media has mostly ignored the

crimes against humanity conducted by some of these groups. Examples include booby-trapping dead bodies of American soldiers and insurgents. Never can crimes of one side of the conflict justify neglecting or even condoning crimes of the other side.

Secondly, the loss of credibility suffered by the US will impede its efforts in international engagement for a long period to come. Thanks to relentless power politics during the Cold War, the mostly unquestioned backing of Israel and the unfair management of globalisation, the reputation of the US has never been great among the majority of the Arab population. The recent human rights abuses in the name of promoting liberty and democracy did nothing to reverse this perception.

The previous two matters arising link into the third major effect of human rights abuses: political polarisation. While world opinion was not excessively in favour of a

Pax Americana before the invasion of Iraq and the Abu Ghraib scandal, afterwards the gap between the supporters of the Bush Administration and the opposition grew into an abyss. This disagreement will make constructive efforts to create peace for conflict regions such as Israel-Palestine more difficult and is bound to intensify the War on Terror. Furthermore, it has also eased the effort of terrorist groups: recruitment of young, fatuous individuals has increased significantly due to the new 'excuse' that has been given to the radicals.

Thus, continued human rights abuses cannot be in the interest of the US and its allies. Actually, a complete and just investigation of the crimes committed will greatly aid the US not only in the War on Terror, but also in future conflicts. A clean track record of US forces will not only instill desperately needed confidence in the Western world, but will also cause a consequential

destruction of a platform for terrorist recruitment.

Secondly, it would undo some of the long history of hypocrisy of which the West is rightfully accused. Should the US have an intrinsic desire to end the conflict between itself and violent Islamic fundamentalists, then it is time for it to practice what it preaches: respect for human rights.

Unfortunately, Britain's recent record is not better. Although the judicial system in the UK is now taking steps against detentions without charge, evidence obtained under torture is still allowed in British courts. Such allowances are not only in conflict with the UDHR, the UN Convention against Torture and the EU Convention against Torture, but also are likely to increase the number of human rights abuses committed by authorities. This has been widely investigated by Amnesty International in the 1980s and again in the last three years.

The founding fathers of the UDHR laid out Article 30 for an explicit reason: to prevent the abuse of the UDHR in the name of 'protecting' it. It was born out of a time when "disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind."

The US must put a stop to the continuing human rights abuses in the War on Terror and undo the damage it has done to mankind's conscience. Otherwise it risks jeopardising world peace for a long time to come. The world's only hope now can be that the US learns from the cruelties committed 60 years ago in the name of preserving 'our' way of life.

"Every nation that proclaims the rule of law at home must respect it abroad; and every nation that insists on it abroad must enforce it at home."

Kofi Annan



Detainees at Guantanamo Bay

Learning, not earning

There was much to digest in the Government's recent immigration proposals. For many international students, the plans are likely to leave a bad taste, says **Alex Guite**

For over a quarter of a million international students studying in Britain, the cost of renewing student visas will rise from £155 to £250, whilst the same-day renewal cost will double to £500.

These huge increases come scarcely a year after the charges were first introduced, suddenly and without consultation, leaving students scrambling around to find large sums of money they hadn't budgeted for.

International students shouldn't just be treated as any other user of the immigration service. Many users are skilled workers who migrated to Britain to earn and can afford to pay extra charges. In contrast, interna-

tional students, attracted by Britain's universities, are here to learn. Visa renewal charges are unfair and add to the already huge financial burden on international students paying market rate tuition fees.

British students don't pay these renewal charges, but they should still be alarmed. Even with the extra revenue for universities when top-up fees are introduced, it will still be international students paying market rate fees – totalling a combined yearly fee contribution of £1,125 million – that balance universities' budgets. Yet international students face many hardships: often they are not even allowed to open a bank account, have problems accessing

healthcare, can only work a maximum of 20 hours per week, suffer social exclusion and are now faced with this increased visa renewal charge. If enough international students are put off by Britain's inhospitable welcome, then what chance does the £3000 cap on top-up fees have of lasting beyond the next Parliament?

Worryingly, the evidence already points to a decrease in international student numbers, at a time when more energy and marketing money is being spent on encouraging them to study here than ever before. There has been a drop of almost 15% in student visa applications since 2003, and several African countries have

reduced the number of scholarships available to study in Britain because they cost too much.

Within the Government's policy on international students there lies a paradox: visa renewal charges are completely at odds with the Prime Minister's own initiative to attract more international students. Because it is unlikely that international students will leave mid-course, they are treated as a captive market to pay increased charges in a drive to make the immigration service self-funding. It is unfair that genuine international students should foot the bill for abuse and inefficiency elsewhere in the system.

Last week students, including a delegation from Imperial College Union, picketed the Home Office and lobbied their MPs, demanding that students be exempt from visa renewal charges. The fight isn't over and it's still important to keep pressure on the Government, as the Home Office has hinted that it will review visa charges in 2006.

We should value international students as an asset to Britain: they bring diversity to our campuses and are worth over £4bn a year to the economy. They are here to learn, not earn. They should not be used as cash cows as the Home Office's icy grip tightens immigration controls.

COMMENT

Cutting carbon under Kyoto

The Kyoto Protocol for reducing greenhouse gas emissions came into force last week, write **Natasha Lippens and Joseph Bull**. Can Imperial College help the UK meet its target?

As the history of the ice ages shows, the Earth's temperature has swung widely in the past, long before humans could have had any effect upon the climate. Still, most notable scientific studies conclude that greenhouse gases are accumulating in the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities.

The greenhouse gases include methane and carbon dioxide, and are thus termed due to their ability to trap heat within the atmosphere, as a greenhouse might. Anthropogenic greenhouse gases, which have been accumulating since the start of the industrial revolution, are believed by many to be causing large scale global warming. It is known that warming can cause sea levels to rise, glaciers to shrink, accelerated desertification and biodiversity loss. However, the exact role of the gases remains uncertain.

The complexity of climatic systems renders it difficult to predict exactly what changes will take place, and how quickly. An example of an unexpected effect is that the melting ice caps could halt the Gulf Stream (an oceanic current bringing warm water to the UK from the tropics), freezing the UK.

Although it has certainly been established that the climate is rap-

idly changing, the media and certain political administrations often portray the more relevant debate (as to whether the change is human induced) as hotly contested. In reality, this is not quite the case, and the 'sceptics' are a dwindling band.

In fact, a few days ago, evidence was released, by US researchers no less, that is considered by many to "...destroy a central argument of global warming sceptics... that climate change could be a natural phenomenon" (*The Independent*). The general consensus now is that something should be done to stop or at least mitigate this. In 1997, following less powerful legislation passed in 1992, governments agreed to the (legally binding) Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol came into force last Wednesday, February 16, seven years after it was agreed. The accord requires the 141 signatory countries, accounting for 55% of greenhouse gas emissions (but not including the US, which accounts for over 20% alone), to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 5.2% by 2012.

Greenhouse gases targeted for reduction under the Kyoto Protocol include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The emission targets are not for each gas spe-

cifically, but rather for a combination of the gases weighted by their relative greenhouse effect. Kyoto critics claim that these targets are too conservative: the consensus among many climate scientists is that, in order to avoid the worst consequences of global warming, emissions cuts in the order of 60% across the board are needed. As such, at best, Kyoto should be viewed as a first step in the right direction.

Each country that signed the protocol agreed to its own specific target, and Britain has said that it will reduce its emissions by 5.2% of 1990 levels. The Kyoto Protocol has provisions that allow its signatory nations (and, by extension, their businesses) to use global markets if they undercut or overreach their targets, through various mechanisms, such as emissions trading.

This works by allowing countries to buy and sell their agreed allowances of greenhouse gas emissions: highly polluting countries can buy unused 'credits' from those that are allowed to emit more than they actually do. Countries are also able to gain credits for activities that boost the environment's capacity to absorb carbon, such as tree planting and soil conservation. The advan-

tage of emissions trading (which is emerging as a key environmental tool) is that it ensures that emission reductions take place where the cost of reduction is lowest, thus lowering the global costs of combating climate change. Equally, the lucrative emissions market will provide a strong incentive to behave in an environmentally responsible way.

The UK has set carbon limits for its companies, and a national emissions trading scheme began in 2002, in a microcosm of the international community. Our own Imperial College, with 11,500 tonnes of carbon emitted annually (last year's figures), overshoots its limit and is thus presently set to be disadvantaged by the carbon market. Luckily, a world-renowned centre for research into technology should have the capacity to reduce its emissions. Even if the threat of exacerbated climatic change cannot motivate it to do so, then surely the prospect of being a financial loser in the carbon market will?

There are a number of ways Imperial might go about cutting its emissions, an obvious one being to turn to a heavier dependence upon renewable sources of energy if possible (other universities, like Oxford and Sussex, have already achieved

this). With an annual energy bill as large as ours (£7m) this could well help turn the emissions tide for us. But whatever route we take to fall in line with Kyoto, or even capitalise upon the market and help swell our apparently depleted coffers, it is an achievable goal.

Since the carbon market's inception, 6000 companies in the UK reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 4.64 million tonnes in the first year, and by 5.2 million tonnes in the second!

Aside from the obvious benefits to students and staff that not wasting money can bring, Imperial has the additional pressure that its students, in general, want it to reduce its environmental impact: in an open survey of over 300 students, greater than 95% agreed that they felt this way. But in this case we, as students, should also take responsibility and reduce our environmental impact, not just to help our university and country adhere to Kyoto, but to counter the possibility of our climate changing. And the possibility is frightening: some of the most reliable models available predict that, almost within our lifetimes, global average temperature will change by between two and ten degrees celsius.

FairTrade fortnight begins

Jamie Brothwell gives an overview of 14 days of FairTrade activity at Imperial



FairTrade Fortnight began on Tuesday. This two-week period gives the opportunity for people to re-evaluate their attitudes as consumers and hopefully realise the responsibility that they have to the producers of their food.

A FairTrade stall will be appearing at various places around campus over the next 14 days to inform

students about FairTrade and to offer a wide range of free samples. There will be all the products that can already be found at conscientious Union outlets at this time, as well as many other different foods and drinks which can be found further afield. The stall itinerary is displayed on the blue panel (below left), and I encourage all to come along and get more information, try the coffees, taste the biscuits, smell the peppermint teas, love the chocolates and support the cause!

The FairTrade logo is given to products which give a fair price to the third world farmer who grew them. For this fortnight, the FairTrade Foundation (www.fairtrade.org.uk) has given five very important guarantees for all their products:

- The FairTrade mark guarantees farmers' organisations a fair and stable price for their products.
- The FairTrade mark guarantees extra income for farmers and plantation workers to improve their lives.
- The FairTrade mark guarantees greater respect for the environment.
- The FairTrade mark guarantees smaller farmers a strong position in world markets.
- The FairTrade mark guarantees a closer link between consumers and producers.

FairTrade sales are doubling every two years and the logo can now be found on over 500 retail and 200 catering products. All major supermarkets now stock FairTrade goods,



A blatant advertisement for FairTrade chocolate bars

although with varying degrees of commitment.

As I hope you are all aware, our students' union does a good job of offering a wide range of FairTrade foods and drinks. Looking around campus, we can spot the FairTrade logo in many places:

- Tikki café in the JCR serves excellent FairTrade coffee and chocolate.
- The Union newsagent on the walkway stocks a wide FairTrade selection of chocolates, flapjacks, biscuits, mueslis and cereal bars.
- The BMS coffee shop has a FairTrade coffee machine.
- DaVinci's bar sells FairTrade coffee and teas.

● The Chaplaincy (East Wing of Beit Quad) offers a very good range of FairTrade chocolates, cereal bars, sugar, teas and coffees.

With the 'poster-blindness' that most students now suffer from, it is easy to miss the FairTrade logo when grabbing a coffee and a flapjack over lunch. The aim of this fortnight is to make you more aware of the choice around you, so that you can make sure that your food and drink is fairly traded.

Please make the ethical choice around college. It sends out a message to the caterers and managers

that Imperial is ready to take responsibility for purchases, and that the inexorable journey to FairTrade University status must be embraced by College and Union alike.

Now is not a time for moral complacency. FairTrade status will only be achieved when FairTrade coffee and tea is offered in every PhD café, in every catering outlet and for every official meeting and event throughout college; when people must actively ask for a non-FairTrade coffee at meetings and when every vending machine stocks some FairTrade chocolate. There is still much to do.

FAIRTRADE STALL ITINERARY

Tues 1 March	Sherfield Walkway
Wed 2 March	JCR, South Ken
Thurs 3 March	SAF building
Fri 4 March	Union foyer, Beit Quad
Mon 7 March	Level 3, Sherfield
Tues 8 March	Level 3, Sherfield
Wed 9 March	JCR, South Ken
Thurs 10 March	Level 3, Blackett
Fri 11 March	Sherfield Walkway

Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

The musical continuum



by TRISTAN LANE

Music is a passion for many, and so I thought a nice little method for describing artists was required.

There is so much you can do with music, and yet most popular art-

ists nowadays try to get away with as little as possible. Surely music has to be interesting? Surely something should happen in the three or four minutes that you listen to a song? Not if you are Damien Rice. His name alone bores me, and seldom has someone had to change the radio whilst driving so quickly in order to prevent them from falling asleep and crashing. So he gets the fabled 'worst, most dull artist ever' position in the continuum.

Ambient music has more presence than Mr Rice, despite less actual noise. Obviously he's closely followed by such luminaries as David Gray, Katie Melua and their friends. Gradually you work up through the

dross (Embrace, Doves etc) to the average, interesting band, who can write a pop ditty and keep you all entertained. Plus there's the old cheese attraction. People like McFly may be rubbish, but at least it's interesting rubbish.

Then you move on to people like Lost Prophets, or Morrissey, where your attention is grabbed and held. Finally the masters come into town, with artists like The Mars Volta, Aphex Twin, Thelonus Monk and Jeff Buckley, who hold your attention even when long 'wig-outs' are in progress. This is purely because they are a million times the artist bloody Damien Rice is. A chart explains it all below:

Rubbish
Dull
OK
Good
I want your children

Damien Rice
Doves
McFly
Lost Prophets
The Mars Volta

nowadays, it's a risk they can't afford to take.

But what does it take for a band to be interesting? Is it the same thing that makes them good live? Is it the music? Or is it the man standing behind you with a gun to your head? A mix of all the above surely, like the Scissor Sisters' show – flamboyant, entertaining, cracking music and free gunman with every CD.

But then again, the interesting bands aren't for everyone, for they require concentration in order to appreciate the music; as opposed to Rice who requires effort to prevent the sound going into your ears and destroying your soul.

Now what is the point of all this? The point is that it's a system that the music companies are adopting to prevent people buying the wrong type of music. They don't want 85-year-old grannies suddenly admitted to A&E due to excessive excitement caused by interesting music. That's the source of lawsuits, and seeing as they can barely afford to keep their children in million-dollar fur coats with all the piracy

The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

Being stuck a lab with polymerase chain reactions and electrophoresis to keep me busy has meant my romantic life has taken a turn for the worse. Long days, ten hours long, from nine in the morning to seven in the evening, mean the work-swamped Stormy is fighting very hard to ensure that a lack of play does not make her a dull girl! And a lack of play – with only the intranet and geeky married boffins with parents' evenings for conversational sparkle – means new opportunities have to be sought out in the beacon of intellectual talent (sic) that comprises the Medical Research Council.

With my previous experiences of good-looking men being uninspiring, due to their lack of personality (ie not having one), I hope the boffins may reveal some unearthed potential amongst their cerebral masses. And it is with this optimism that I begin 'Hospital Watch', in the vein of 'Neighbourhood Watch', for fit doctors and researchers.

Besides Hospital Watch, I've not been up to much. The talent I've started to attract is very distinctive – especially with regards to their appearance. I've had a Jew and Muslim, skullcap and beard intact, enquire outright about my romantic status. I've also been out to dinner with a baptised Sikh, complete with sword, turban and bangle, alongside a dreadlocked anarchist (yes, I can't resist them in their natural form – everybody has their fetish and locked hair on white/Asian guys is mine) from Gwent's anarchist crew. They were both very fascinating conversationalists, let me assure

you – with sketchy pseudo-badboy pasts and an idealistic take on life. Alas, neither of them got further than a friendly hug thanks to Stormy developing feelings for another guy.

You're shocked? I am too. I've never had to deal with this before. My libido is at an all time high, since I keep turning down offers left right and centre. I'm not interested in meaningless (albeit very fun) sex, or short term relationships with very generous men (face it, how long will a practising Muslim put up with a girl who drinks, smokes shisha and enjoys wearing skimpy clothes, not to mention having a sex life outside marriage?). I actually like being around him, telling jokes, swapping stories, sharing dreams. I'm not afraid to be my irreverent self around him.

So what's the big deal? It's the disclosure aspect of intimacy that fazes me. Actually letting him in on my deeper feelings and quirks. What if he can't deal with the different groups of friends I have to reflect different parts of my personality? What if he's secretly resenting the fact I come from a different background compared to what he's used to – wishing me to be like everyone else. I have different snacks in my kitchen made out of unusual ingredients, that I'm used to eating my home-cooked food with my hand – the way it's done in my parents' land. It's almost understandable how a girl could become self-conscious in these 'disclosure' type situations – and perhaps fall (out of familiarity-based convenience) for the gangster Sikh who eats food the same way, and keeps a similar snack collection in his cupboard.

The mind boggles. True love overcomes these insecurities if both partners are adventurous and willing to accept the other with whatever baggage they may come with. Or so I'd like to think; I wouldn't know for sure having never been in a functional relationship, let alone love, during my brief but eventful stay on this Good Earth.

So there we go. A brief synopsis of my week. It'll be more eventful next time. Promise.

Imperial College
London

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

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

Imperial Volunteer Centre



Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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

Charity fashion show



By Henri Ozarovski

Many prominent designers were on display at the annual Imperial College charity fashion show, a must for all fashion followers and trend-setters. This year's neoteric event stemmed from an ongoing tradition of munificence and charitable donation from family, friends and guests.

In this age of charity events that raise very little, the event was organised on the premise that 100% of the ticket price would be donated to the chosen foundation. In this case, the proceeds of the fashion show were given to the Macmillan Cancer Relief foundation.

Sponsorships came from Deloitte, Creative Labs and Shell, while gift bag assortments were provided by Sephora and Sisley. Chic Zen MP3 players were up for grabs, as were a trip to Morocco, signed Chelsea shirts and a day trip to Paris courtesy of Bombardier aerospace.

The Sketch Gallery, famous for its elegance and exclusivity, was ideal for the sophisticated young academic crowd that attended.

32 male and female student models underwent a formidable transformation process to add elegance to the defile. The choreography was put together by head organiser, Natasha Wiggins, a medical student who dedicated the most part of her last few months to the coordination and preparation of the event.

The fashion show committee, consisting of an eclectic mix of engineers, scientists and medical students, put great effort into the intricate details of the show, from the gift bags right through to the gift tree envelopes. This ambitiously tenacious committee would not consider good as an answer but rather perfection as a necessity.

Clothing lines included the trendy makes Diesel 55, High Jinks, Pijja, TM Lewin, Kew, Laundry Industry,

and So Shei, the more exclusive collections from Harvey Nichols, Calvin Klein, Formal Attire, Philipa Lepley, and the avant-garde Voyage.

The theme of the event, "It's only a matter of time", seemed appropriate in its relevance because only with sustained investment will a cure for this widespread disease be found. The show was split into two parts, allowing guests to absorb the assorted collections and the diversity of themes.

The first collection, Freetime, was based on urban streetwear but was described as 'simply offbeat' and fusing various cultural influences. The next collection, Daytime, took formal office wear as a starting point and turned it into something clearly better suited for the catwalk.

The first half ended with a section entitled Playtime, which many of the audience members seemed to find the most captivating, although this reporter cannot help but think

that those individuals' attention was focused less on what the models were wearing than on what they were not.

The second half commenced with Sometimes, an impressively elegant and graceful line of wedding dresses designed by Philipa Lepley and tuxedos from Formal Attire. This was followed by Ourtime, designed by Imperial's students, and finally Nighttime, where a selection of cocktail dresses and evening wear were displayed.

The adorning finishing touches included a diverse lighting scheme for each line of clothing and a well suited musical playlist which included an assortment of neo and retro sounds. From the well known Baywatch theme song to Moloko or the soothing tranquillity of Tracy Chapman, the artists were specifically chosen to complement the various clothing lines.

As important and sometimes for-

gotten are the indispensable backstage crew. Makeup artists and hair stylists from Toni & Guy were complementing the line-up of outfits, whilst all committee staff members were rushing around fixing loose ends, dressing models and setting the stage for each part of the show.

The show combined an unforgettable evening with making a difference. Both doctors and scientists of the future have collaborated to raise money for a disease which requires committed long term funding.

It would seem appropriate to end this article by thanking those individuals who sought to make this event memorable and enjoyable for all.

The support and participation at this year's event will continue to raise the fashion show's profile for years to come, and will ferment an ongoing tradition of giving. Let us continue this tradition and wish the best of luck to future organisers of the show.



What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 3 MARCH

UNION EVENTS MEDICS' MAIN PLAY: 'THE CRUCIBLE'

7.30pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£5

A small town in 17th century America is rocked by allegations of witchcraft. But are these accusations real, or are they a cover for the greed, lust and sexual repression in the town?

Tickets are available from the SAF building and Charing Cross sites now.

Contact:
catherine.kirby@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

UNION EVENTS MEDICS' MAIN PLAY: 'THE CRUCIBLE'

7.30pm
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
£5

A small town in 17th century America is rocked by allegations of witchcraft. But are these accusations real, or are they a cover for the greed, lust and sexual repression in the town?

Tickets are available from the SAF building and Charing Cross sites now.

Contact:
catherine.kirby@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS BLING BLING presents PANJABI HIT SQUAD

8pm-2am
Beit Quad
£3

Featuring R&B, hip-hop and bhangra. With Bar Shisha in the UDH. Smirnoff vodka and draft mixer £1 a shot in dBs bar all night.

Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

UNION EVENTS ICSM CHOIR SPRING CONCERT

7.30pm
St Paul's Church, Wilton Place,
SW1

On the door: £3/6

Programme to include Mendelssohn's Elijah and a variety of pieces from the Chamber Choir. It should be a fantastic concert so please come and support us!

Contact: zoe.little@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 8 MARCH

UNION EVENTS JAZZ & ROCK JAM NIGHT

From 7pm

dBs, Beit Quad
FREE

A night of impromptu live music from the Jazz and Rock Society. Free to all, open stage from 7pm. Bring an instrument, or come to watch.

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 9 MARCH

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 10 MARCH

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

10am onwards
Pick up the last issue of term from your department or the Union building.

Contact: felix@ic.ac.uk

UNION EVENTS ICU CHOIR SPRING CONCERT: BRAHMS: A GERMAN REQUIEM

8pm
Great Hall, Sherfield Building
Student/Other: £3/7
On the door: £4/8

After the death of his mother in 1865, Brahms' grief spurred him to compose this Requiem. However, instead of using the traditional Latin text, with its terror of the Day of Judgement, he carefully selected words from the German Bible that would console the living. Ein Deutches Requiem has since become a Requiem for the early twenty-first Century.

Tickets available every lunchtime next week from Level 2 of the Sherfield Building.

Contact: claire.doyle@ic.ac.uk

ALL WEEK

UNION EVENTS FAIR TRADE FORTNIGHT

See page 8 for details
This fortnight aims to raise awareness of the ideals of FairTrade and to promote the growing range of fairly-traded products available. A stall will be set up at various points around campus which will offer information and free samples.

Contact:
jamie.brothwell@ic.ac.uk

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES PHOTOSOC: SPRING TERM EXHIBITION

Opens Thursday 3 March, 6pm
Blyth Music & Arts Centre,
Level 5, Sherfield Building
FREE
Contact: pavlos.papaefstathiou
@ic.ac.uk

FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY Student discount ALL WEEK KINSEY (15)

Daily: 12.25pm, 3.20pm,
6.10pm, 9pm. Fri and Sat only:
11.40pm.

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (12A)

Daily: 12noon, 2.35pm,
5.20pm, 8pm. Fri and Sat only:
10.50pm.

THE BOOGIE MAN (15)

Daily: 12.20pm (not Sun),
2.40pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm,
9.45pm. Fri and Sat only:
12midnight.

HIDE AND SEEK (15)

Daily: 12.10pm (not Sat or
Sun), 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm,
9.30pm. Fri and Sat only:
11.45pm.

SPANGLISH (12)

Daily (not Sun or Thurs):
12.30pm, 5.55pm. Fri and Sat
only: 11.20pm.

HOTEL RWANDA (12A)

Daily: 12.15pm (not Sat or
Sun), 2.55pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm.

LIFE AQUATIC (15)

Daily: 12.50pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 9.15pm.

IN GOOD COMPANY (PG)

Daily (not Sun or Thurs):
3.15pm, 8.45pm.

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE (12A)

Sat and Sun only: 10.50am,
1pm.

THE MAGIC ROUNABOUT (U)

Sat and Sun only: 10.40am,
12.35pm.

SON OF THE MASK (PG)

Sat and Sun only: 11.15am.

OCEANS TWELVE (12A)
2.10pm, 5pm, 7.45pm. Fri and
Sat only: 10.40pm.

MEET THE FOCKERS (12A)

Daily: 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50p-
m, 8.30pm. Fri and Sat only:
11.30pm.

RACING STRIPES (U)

Sat and Sun only: 10.30am,
12.40pm.

CLOSER (15)

Fri and Sat only: 11pm.

CREEP (18)

Fri and Sat only: 11.50pm.

Running an event? Tell us about it!

Felix will print your listings
free of charge.

Just email felix@ic.ac.uk
with LISTINGS in the
subject field, and tell us:

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



the bible for thinking people

March

8th How do we know Jesus wasn't an
ego-maniac and in it for himself?

15th What factual evidence do Christians
have for life after death?

You may have wondered what the bible says. Is it relevant? Is it trustworthy?

The Bible makes profound and universal claims. Claims about your life and your future. Its claims have changed millions of lives and caused controversy the world over. Aren't claims like these worth thinking about seriously for yourself without relying on fashionable opinions that may be here today and gone tomorrow?

Impact is the weekly lunchtime meeting that provides this opportunity in an informal and friendly environment so that you can investigate freely. We begin with a short talk addressing common issues followed by a chance to interact with the speaker with any questions. We'll lay on some refreshments and there's a bookstall for further reading. Why not come along this week?

impacttalks.com

Every Tuesday at 1pm
Union Dining Hall

Organised by the Christian Union & supported by ICU
cu@imperial.ac.uk | www.union.ic.ac.uk/cu



Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Ten things I can do that you can't

EPISODE SIX: Contact juggling

JUGGLING CLUB

By Chris Rowlands

Well, I'm now more than half-way through the 'ten things I can do', and overall, feedback has been positive. That is to say, I've had feedback from about seven people – three were positive, three negative (there's no pleasing some people) and one person commented that when their toilet paper ran out, my article made a comfortable substitute, so I'm counting that as a positive. If anyone disagrees with this conclusion, feel free to email, but bear in mind this week's topic is specifically endorsed by the man with the wobbliest voice in popular music – David Bowie.

I highly recommend you go to your local Blockbuster, find the section with the 1980s films and look up *Labyrinth*. This is the film where David Bowie impressed everyone with two skills: the ability to spin crystal balls in a hypnotic display of light and colour, and the ability to convincingly interact with a blob of latex that has Jim Henson's hand up its arse. I'm afraid I'll have to dash people's dreams right here – David Bowie can't contact juggle at all, and had a chap with his hands through the costume doing it all for him. The good news is, you too can look just like he did. Now if you can only imitate the spiky hairdo, you'll be more David Bowie than David Bowie.

OK, first thing's first. Contact juggling is about

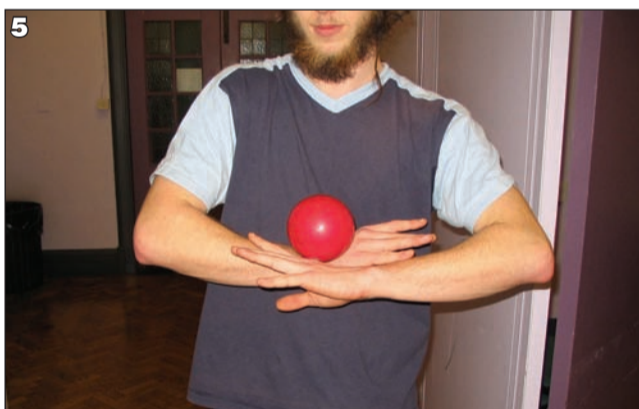
moving a ball around your body so that it remains in contact (nearly) all the time. If you throw it, that's normal juggling, and just being able to juggle one ball isn't that impressive. To contact juggle, start off with a ball in the palm of your right hand, as Steve demonstrates [see picture 1].

Now throw the ball and rotate your arm so that the ball lands on the back of your hand [see pictures 2 and 3]. Each time toss the ball a little closer to your hand so that eventually it just rolls up over your fingers and keeps in contact with your hand at all times.

Note the position of the fingers – they cradle the ball so that it doesn't fall off [see picture 4].

Now you just have to roll it across to the back of your left hand, and perform the same motion again, and you'll have it in your left palm [see pictures 5 and 6]. Seems so simple doesn't it? Once it's in your left palm, you can repeat the entire process and end up with the ball in the right palm. If you're bored by now (heaven forbid) then you can try www.contactjuggling.org for more ideas and nice pretty videos.

Ah, it all looks so easy. If you fancy coming along to juggling on a Tuesday from 6pm in the Union, email juggling@ic.ac.uk and leave a message after the beep. If you have something you can do that I can't, then also please let me know as I'm always on the lookout for new things to play with.



Keep the ball in contact with your body at all times. Looks easy, doesn't it...

Why we went to Wye

CHOIR

By Claire Doyle

Every year in the spring term, the ICU Choir spends a weekend away from college for two days of intensive rehearsals and socialising, and this year our chosen destination was Imperial's Wye campus.

Saturday morning kicked off with an early start, meeting at 7.45am in a bitterly cold Beit Quad. The choir's enthusiasm didn't falter, however, and once all our sleeping bags had been bundled into the coach, we were on our way (much to the relief of the 2012 Olympic committee, who were assembling in the Quad at the same time!)

Breakfast was served on arrival and everything seemed to be running smoothly until we discovered we'd forgotten Therees' music stand! Thankfully our very own Deputy President (Education and Welfare) and former Choir chair, Sam Rorke, came to our rescue later in the afternoon (we knew the sabbaticals would be useful one day!)

By 5.30pm and three rehearsals later we were ready to kick back and relax, and that's when the fun really started! Thanks to our official Wye guide Nichola, we were able to enjoy our pick of evening meals, whether it was traditional 'pub grub,' Indian or Chinese that took your fancy. We then ended

the day by regrouping at the Wye union for a pub quiz and karaoke session. The committee had spent many long hours carefully preparing the quiz on the coach journey, during lunch and even the afternoon break! Topics varied from 'How well do you know the choir and committee' to 'Science and Imperial' to 'Name that ringtone'. We even managed to include a polling round and discovered that the choir is more partial to triangular sandwiches than square!

The karaoke was started by one of our very brave basses Alex Field, who sang Enrique Inglesias' *Hero*. As the rest of the teams seemed reluctant to follow his lead, it was decided to give bonus quiz

points to any participants that took to the stage. One team, who called themselves 'This is a pencil', really got into the spirit of things and I think few of us will forget their renditions of *The Tide Is High* and



Choir quiz winners 'This is a pencil'

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun. They even went on to win the quiz... perhaps due to the vast number of bonus points they managed to obtain!

Other highlights included chairs past, present and future, (Sam, Stef and Kate) singing *It's Raining Men*, the present and future committee's version of the karaoke classic *I Will Survive* (someone had to do it) and tickets officer Mark serenading us with *I Believe I Can Fly* by R Kelly. A special mention must also be given to an enthusiastic group of Wye students and our very own Elvis impersonator. The evening then ended with 40-odd people singing as loudly as they possibly could to *Angels* before we retired to the JCR with

our sleeping bags.

On Sunday morning Therees was greeted by a slightly less energetic choir, but after some tea and coffee we were ready for another three rehearsals. By the end of the day, we had all had our fill of biscuits and were satisfied with a great weekend of singing... if not feeling a little bit hoarse (especially our four tenors who, despite severely lacking in numbers, gave it their all!)

So if you want to see just what we managed to achieve over a weekend, come and see us perform Brahms's *German Requiem* on Thursday 10 March in the Great Hall. If last weekend was anything to go by, it's not to be missed!

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

felix@ic.ac.uk

Pokermania hits Imperial

Know your flush from your full house? Know which card is the 'turn'? **Darius Nikbin** explains

POKER SOCIETY

Most people think that poker is a form of gambling. They're wrong. Roulette is gambling, blackjack is gambling, but the best poker players act on reason and instinct developed through experience – they never purely gamble.

To play poker, you need skill, insight and natural ability. You have to know how to make decisions, improvise and adapt to the environment. When things are not going your way, you have to roll with it, and not go 'on tilt' (start throwing in money erratically). OK, a little bit of luck doesn't go amiss either.

The ICU Poker Society has already held some huge events this year, including a VC student poker championship where entrants were each given £5 of free money to play with. The winner on that day was Zakir Burkit, who walked away with the top prize of a very cool £100 and a seat in the VC Grand Final in June where there is £25,000 up for grabs – enough to pay off his student loan twice over. In actual fact I happen to know he's planning to buy a Lexus.

Got your attention? Next Thursday evening (10 March), the Poker Society will be holding a massive poker

extravaganza, FREE for all students. The event will involve professional dealers and will have tables specially shipped in. The event is geared towards players of all levels and the dealers will be showing newcomers how to enjoy playing poker. There will also be a 'play money' (fake money) tournament later so you can test out your newly discovered skills.

Aside from all the corporate sponsored events, the Poker Society also holds weekly sessions on Thursdays at 6pm where students can come along and play for enjoyment and prizes. Beginners can quickly learn the basics and join in the fun.

In April, a team from the Poker Society will be heading to St Andrews to take part in the UK Student Poker Championships. Adam Latimer, Neel Savani, Rob Glasspool, Saurabh Pandya and myself will be representing the College against a field of over 200 poker players from across the country.

Poker is really good fun and allows you to flex those mental muscles slightly more than other pastimes like playing Nintendo or sheep-shearing. So come along to the JCR next Thursday and find out what all the fuss is about.

Email poker@ic.ac.uk for more details.



Straight flush: the best five card hand in poker

Picocon: a day of randomness and fun

SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY AND HORROR SOCIETY

By Cristina Rodriguez Trobajo

On Saturday 19 February, three of the most powerful teams in the world (Team America, Team Rocket and the A Team), helped by the Illuminati (committee members) and three Guests of Honour, invaded and took over Imperial College Union, devoting their day to randomness and fun.

The Imperial College Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Society (ICSF) held its annual convention, Picocon 22, and it was a total success, thanks to our Picocon Sofa, Ali Ryan, and all the effort he put into organising it. As our Sofa says, "the convention went smoothly [considering our first didn't interviewer arrive on time]. I think everyone had a good time and we managed to raise a fair amount for charity". Picocon was visited by more than 120 people nationwide, including some from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Picocon opened its doors

at 10am, as promised, thanks to the effort of the Illuminati, who got there at 8am to set up. As attendants were arriving, they got sorted into teams (the above mentioned). Only one team could win by the end of the day, and its members could earn points by bringing 'things' to the front desk. These 'things' included everything from former ICSF Chairs or published authors to origami pieces and tickets from Mornington Crescent. The bonus token was bringing Excalibur, for which the Kingdom "on" England was awarded. Team Rocket was the winner of the day, by a fair amount of points (too many ex-Chairs ended up in this team).

One of the best moments of the day was, undoubtedly, the Destruction of Dodgy Merchandise (DoDM). The auction was led by one of the ICSF ex-chairs, and the tools provided were a hammer, a rubber bonker, bolt cutters and lots and lots of liquid nitrogen. The highlights of the auction were the Spirit of Obi Wan, the LoTR Goblet of Greed, Wind-up Legolas and, last but not least, William Shatner's video *Mysteries of the Gods* which,



The Ministry of Silly Games in session

alone, went for £45. Sadly, it was not destroyed. It is now in David Weir's possession. If anybody sees it, you are allowed to retrieve it by any means and bring it back to the ICSF library, where it will be disposed of properly. The total raised by the DoDM was over £165, with all proceeds going to RAG.

The central events of the day were the authors' talks, running from the morning all the way through the afternoon. Two of our authors had topics to their talks: Gwyneth Jones on *Insanity*, and Brian Stableford on the *Myth of the Space Age*, while Jon Courtenay Grimwood had a Q&A session about his books. Finally, the three of them took

part in a panel discussion, where they discussed different aspects of science fiction. Both the talks and the panel discussion were a success, the attendance being very high.

Afterwards, to balance serious discussion with inanity, the Ministry of Silly Games took place, run by Dave Clements. Members from each of the teams took part, in a desperate attempt to win the last points and snatch victory off Team Rocket's hands (which, of course, didn't happen). The fact that Dave, awarding the points, belonged to Team Rocket has nothing to do with this... The players lived up to everybody's expectations, excel-

ling at Mornington Crescent, Charades and Just a Minute.

While all these events were happening around the Union building, dB's was a continuous event of games and books from opening to closing time. We had two book stalls from two of our favourite booksellers, Fantasy Centre and Porcupine Books. They are some of our stronger supporters, having come to many Picocons! Several games were running throughout the day, including a non-stop multiplayer UT2004 and others, such as Munchkin, Magic and Pirates of the Spanish Main.

However, at 5.30pm, something out of the ordinary happened. Two men, representing the noble universities of Cambridge and Imperial, met in the Quad to defend the honour of their societies by means of the ancient tradition of fish duelling. Dressed in black and protected by chain mail, both men fought, with two fish each, to the death or to the best of seven blows. Oxford brought shame upon themselves by failing to present a champion. Sadly, the Imperial champion lost to Cambridge, but lost with honour, and managed to get fish

guts on his opponent's face. Even so, the Fish Duel Trophy will be sent to Cambridge, until we can retrieve it next year.

To round off the day, Picocon ended with the Grand Quiz. Ten brave teams faced a furious barrage of questions in ten rounds, with a variety of results. Special mention goes to the Wye team that, well, tried. Surprisingly enough, the winners of the quiz were the team 'Authors and Mooks', formed by our guests of honour (because some of the questions were not about their books, of course not) and their 'babysitters'.

Something new this year was the constant presence of a filming team, putting together a documentary on fan-run conventions, both from the point of view of the organisers and the attendants. Coming soon to a theatre near you. Almost.

We hope that everybody who attended Picocon had a great time. See you there next year!

The Imperial College Union Science Fiction library can be found in the West Basement (Beit Quad) and is open between 12 and 2pm on weekdays.

Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

This is not punk rock

Youthmovie Soundtrack Strategies, Redjetson, and the truly superb 65*daysofstatic - the three most innovative, experimental and inspirational bands in London

LIVE REVIEW

65*daysofstatic / YMSS /
Redjetson
University of London Union
★★★★★

Math-rock! The genre (with its silly name) is often associated with impenetrably complex time signatures, stop-start rhythms and splitting headaches as a result of both. However, the migraine is only a result of the fact that your meagre brain cannot fully comprehend the wonder of music that refuses to be predictable, derivative and, worst of all, nice. Anyone who finds the new Kaiser Chiefs album or Kasabian song structures perplexing, be ready to evacuate your bowels. This is not another Killers gig; This is something special: a line-up that's diverse yet makes amazing, coherent sense.

Redjetson (DrownedinSound's new darlings) make very pretty music. They infuse Manchester melancholia (think Joy Division, *Closer*) with F#A#(Infinity)-era Godspeed You Black Emperor apocalyptic guitars. This may seem remarkably snobbish and indie, but you cannot doubt how powerful said bands' music can be.

As perfect this combination of styles may be, something still

doesn't feel right. The swooning vocals occasionally overshadow the prettiness of the music, and the illusion of being in a more glorious place than Bloomsbury is shattered. However, they set the scene perfectly for YMSS.

After being sedated by Redjetson, YMSS take the stage and launch into *A little late he staggered through the doors and into her eyes* (who said post-rock titles were dead?). It is difficult to resist sporadic, awkward motion when being sonically assaulted by these twitching rhythms. Yes, I am getting into the swing of all things post-rock by using a thesaurus. While this song is flat on record, it becomes pure anthem to those disaffected by conventional music live, so much so that during an a cappella moment the audience takes over whilst the band take a breather.

If Works makes you wonder how anyone ever got away with the quiet verse, loud chorus agenda for more than a decade without ever wanting to expand on such a tired, raped of life structure. Finally, as if I haven't been sycophantic enough, they finish with *...Spooks The Horse* and express what for most bands is a life's worth of ambition in eight and a half minutes. This made my heart want to burst out of my ribcage and my head implode leaving a horrible mess for the already dismal ULU

student staff to clear up. I restrained myself.

Next to pick up the pieces of my already decimated senses and mutilate them some more were the ever wonderful 65*daysofstatic. Anyone who denies the power of *Retreat!* *Retreat!* really needs to remove the pen that you stuck up your nose for a laugh when you were 16 and get your earwax removed. As soon as the soundbite, "You will not retreat, this band is unstoppable!" appears, you try to hold your breath waiting for the inevitable ear-crushing bliss, but you can't help but lose control.

By the way, I apologise to the University of London Union staff for my 'mishaps'. I can't promise it won't happen again, but I will wear continence pads. The brilliance of 65*daysofstatic is the fact that they combine electronic beats and samples with live instrumentation flawlessly. You have to give up working out who is playing what and just do what the band want you to do: focus on the music. When certain bands want you to focus on the music to detract from their blatant ugliness, 65*daysofstatic just know that with music this demanding there is no time for image. Something exciting is happening. This gig is testament to that, migraine or no migraine.

Matthew Hoban



65*daysofstatic: why do these guys still have day jobs?

Scuzzy blues from a boy-girl duo who aren't striped

LIVE REVIEW

The Kills
The Camden Barfly
★★★★★

There are many reasons why we choose the shows we do. First, it helps to be a fan of the music. In the case of The Kills that's easy. VV (aka Alison Mosshart) and Hotel (aka Jamie Hince) with their perverse, raw, hard guitar rock are, quite simply, one heck of a duo. A second reason is that it can make someone (such as a sweetheart) really jealous. Because when that someone likes a band and just can't make the gig, well, the promise of teasing them afterwards brings a sense of added deliciousness to any evening. So when a calling card for a night with The Kills unexpectedly came my way, I was on my bike bound for Camden Town quicker than you could say "a venue full of guys and gals with heavy rock'n'roll fringes and eighties boots".

From the opening songs there was a sense that The Kills were there to show off their immense talent. Guitar, vocals and a backstage drum machine created an onslaught

of sound. Willowy VV oozed rock chic coolness in jeans, an oversized T-shirt and military style jacket. The wide-eyed and gangly Londoner, Hotel, lent the event a sense of purpose in his collared black shirt. VV's dark, waist-length, straight-as-death hair engulfed the microphone while her body tossed and tumbled with each of Hotel's rifts. She was like a puppet on crazed musical strings. She paced the stage in little circles before each song, psyching herself up to wow the audience with her dark, sexy drawl.

Mostly the songs were taken from the debut album *Keep On Your Mean Side*, although their new single, *The Good Ones*, was bound to have been in there somewhere (if only I recognised it).

The first set was short. The highlight was the last song, *Kissy Kissy*, a slower, almost *Paris Texas*-like sounding number where VV also adopted a guitar. It had a strong element of 'being in the bedroom' about it as they drew close and locked their instruments in sensual conversation (even the drum machine's heart skipped a beat).

Their second set began with *Wait*, VV's voice resplendent as the sad lyrics wafted over the audience:

"Tell me what you done t' yourself / I would like to know / Write it on the rocks and then tell me where

to go / Why you say wait?" The heavier *Fuck The People* and *Fried My Little Brains* were also audi-

ence favourites.

Certainly the Kills kept up their air of mystery throughout, VV only once speaking to us to welcome in the Chinese New Year before launching into *Black Rooster* (the 'in the basement' song for those unfamiliar with intricacies). It is the year of the rooster. A nice touch, VV.

The venue also suited the mood. The velvet wallpaper and the cool black and white terrazzo tiles of the upstairs Electric matched them perfectly. The set ended with The Kills writhing on the floor and then, afflicted with a sudden attack of Wednesdayitis, there was a mass and unacceptable exodus. Stop! More foot stamping required please! But it was not to be.

I guess comparison with the White Stripes is inevitable. Indeed, they are of the same genre: girl-boy and bass-free. I suppose someone had to come first. But like all good Westerns, The Kills have their own little twists. For a start, they are certainly less colour-sensitive than Jack and Meg, but they are also bluesier and a bit more primal.

And I was the first of us to see them play live. But that's just rubbing it in.

Zoë Corbyn



The Kills: they're "just friends", kids

Arts

arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

Turkish Delight

After you get over the pun, do go see the treasures of a civilisation

EXHIBITION

Turks

Closes 12 April
Royal Academy of Art
Piccadilly, W1

The exhibition's official title is *Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years, 600-1600*, which give one a good idea of what one is going to see.

What you will see housed in the Academy's main galleries is a vast collection of over 350 items on loan from a number of institutions from 11 countries. Of course, most of the pieces on show are from Turkey, primarily from the Topkapi Saray Museum and the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art in Istanbul, and many have never been seen outside of Turkey. This is the first exhibition at the Royal Academy to be made up principally of Islamic art since the 1931 *International Exhibition of Persian Art*, so it is definitely not an opportunity to be missed.

The route through the exhibition has been planned to take visitors chronologically through the development of the culture and the art of the Turks. Unlike the Carlsberg



Dance, 14th century, Siyah Qalem

exhibition, there is no way of getting even vaguely lost. The journey begins with the nomadic tribe of

the Uyghurs in Central Asia in the seventh century; the Uyghurs' lands coincided with the route of the Silk Road and from this they prospered. On show are textiles and frescoes, reflecting the richness and variety of cultures and religions with which the Uyghurs interacted. The influence of the far east, in particular China, is clearly visible here and, surprisingly, remains so right through the entire exhibition.

The journey then moves on to explore another nomadic tribe, the Seljuks. They originate in Central Asia but eventually manage to expand their area of influence to the eastern Mediterranean; this is the first time that the exhibition crosses into the geographical territory that is now modern Turkey. The Seljuks sweep westwards from 1040, coming through Iraq and Iran. It was on this westward drive that the end of the nomadic life began for the Turkic tribes as they adopted many Iranian institutions, established their system of government and became great patrons of the arts; for this we are grateful, otherwise the offerings on show here would be of a far lesser volume and calibre.

The Seljuks eventually succumbed to the great Mongol onslaught. Although this had something of a halting effect on the Turkic tribes' sponsorship of the arts, it was not a fatal stroke. This was the catalyst for the rise of the Ottoman Empire under the leadership of Tamerlane in the 14th century. Tamerlane managed to finally fuse the nomadic Central Asian culture with the settled culture of Iran. Islam became the religion of the state; learning, architecture and art thrived. As we know, the Byzantine Empire fell to the Ottomans, whose influence at one point reached as far west as the Balkans.

However, while the historical background is very interesting, it is, after all, the art for which one goes to such exhibitions! On show are impressively preserved carpets, intricately and sumptuously decorated kaftans belonging to Ottoman emperors, swords and helmets, jew-



Jewelled censer, Ming Dynasty

elled bowls and pieces from the largest collection of porcelain outside of China. While all of these pieces are all stunning, my particular favourites were the illustrations of Siyah Qalem, the mosaic doors by the architect Sinan and in particular the beautifully illuminated Qurans on display.

The works by Siyah Qalem, otherwise known as 'Mohamed of the Black Pen', are a real coup for the Royal Academy. They have never been seen out of Turkey and the remaining pieces can be viewed almost in their entirety. The drawings date from the Seljuk period and depict the illustrator's travels and interpretations of a number of legends. They are wonderful for their breadth of content, but in particular

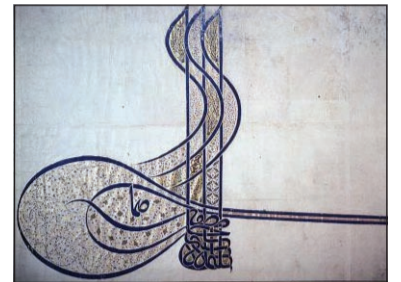
for their detail and stylistic variety. While by the time that Siyah Qalem was working, the Seljuks were already well on their way west, the influence of the Far East is still very palpable.

If you went to the illustrated manuscripts exhibition at the Royal Academy last year, or even if in retrospect you think it may have been interesting, I would definitely urge you to go to the *Turks* show to see the beautiful work that has been done in the decoration of the Qurans on show, not to mention the illustrated books of poetry that are also there. The gorgeous geometric patterns that are present in the illustration of the Qurans can also be seen to fantastic effect on the huge wooden doors by Sinan for the Sultan Murad III. Dating from c. 1578, the doors are two and a half metres tall and are inscribed and decorated purely in wood. Sinan used wood in the same way that different coloured marbles have been used throughout Europe to decorate and depict patterns; the effect is stunning.

I must say that I have few complaints about this exhibition. It is huge, so I wouldn't suggest going if you're not feeling energetic, but it is

"Wonderful for their breadth of content, but in particular for their detail and stylistic variety"

also highly enlightening. However, there is always one thing about exhibitions these days that never fails to annoy me immensely: audioguides. They're everywhere, galleries and



Tugra of Suleyman the Magnificent

historical monuments, and probably other places that I wouldn't care to explore. They're not particularly enriching, they go on for ever, tell you stuff you never wanted to know and if you did, you could have found in a book quite easily, force you to follow somebody else's predetermined course, and most irritatingly of all they always have you stop in front of the tiniest pieces in an exhibition, building up a huge crowd and preventing any other poor souls from seeing those items.

Whatever happened to independent study? If you are really that interested about an item why not search for information yourself - I assure you it's far more rewarding, and if you really must have it spoon fed to you, buy the catalogue, go on a gallery tour, attend an event linked to the exhibition or even begin some correspondence with the exhibition curator if you must!

Apart from the obvious pain caused to me by my fellow patrons' reliance on audioguides, the exhibition was really an enjoyable experience. Thankfully, the Royal Academy does now open late, up until 10pm, on Saturdays as well as Fridays, so there are now even more opportunities to go and get some culture.

Paola Smith
Arts Editor

Theatre north and south of the river

Some curious titles and well-worn plots, **Tatum Fjerstad** reviews

PLAY REVIEWS

His Dark Materials

Run Ends 2 April
National Theatre
Southbank

Based on the novels by Philip Pullman, this two-part production, totalling over six hours of performance time, is best described as a spectacular sensory overload.

Philip Pullman is known for 'stealing' themes from other authors and in the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, if you take a look, you will see everything from Shakespeare to Chekhov to Dickens.

His Dark Materials is a coming of age experience for the central characters, Will and Lyra. The play begins in Oxford, but it's immediate-

ly apparent that this Oxford is not the same as the Oxford we are familiar with. As Will and Lyra meet and experience danger, fear, excitement and friendship, they are constantly in search of answers. The queries change, but the search for answers is always prevalent.

Each level and pocket of space is used wisely by the National Theatre. In the six hours of watching this treasure, there were only about five scene settings that repeated themselves. The lighting and sound was virtually flawless. Each scene transition was seamless, thanks to the work of a dedicated technical staff.

Each performer, including the spectacular puppeteers and their puppets, had obviously taken the time to carefully craft his or her character. *His Dark Materials* is appropriate for ages 12 to 82, and

has something different to offer for each audience member.

If you're unfamiliar with the books, it's a good idea to do a Google search for Philip Pullman before you go, and read a synopsis of the books so that you know what to expect.

Part I has been sold out until the end of the run, but there are returns and other options for getting tickets if desired. The final performances take place on 2 April. This run will not be extended and there are no plans to revive the show.

By the Bog of Cats

Now Closed
Wyndham Theatre
Charring Cross Road, WC2

It's one hellish winter day in the rural Ireland community of the Bog

of Cats. Hester Swane, played by Holly Hunter, has been abandoned by the father of her child whom she is still deeply in love with. This particular day is the day he plans to marry a young girl with a rich father. Hester tries everything in her power to get him back, whilst resisting the efforts of all those who want her to leave the Bog of Cats forever.

Written in 1998 by Marina Carr, *By the Bog of Cats* is a respectable piece. It's not really worth the West End ticket price, but it will entertain for a few hours. If you aren't adjusted to thick Irish accents done by Americans, the first 20 minutes of the show might be a bit hard to understand, as it was for me. But I didn't miss out on a whole lot. The storyline is very easy to follow. The ending is most predictable, but car-

ried out swiftly and successfully.

This is mediocrity at its best. It's a nice experience, but it's nothing to get excited about. No rushing to the theatre is required, but if you've got a few extra pounds lying around and you feel like seeing something in the West End, try this... it's not going to hurt you.

● Details of both theatres' programmes are available on their respective websites. The National Theatre is at www.nt-online.org. Wyndham's is slightly harder to find at www.theambassadors.com/wyndhams/index.html. Coming up at the National Theatre is Lorca's *House of Bernarda Alba* in a new translation with previews starting on Saturday. Wyndham's season continues with a theatre adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic *The Witches*.

Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

Three in a row

One of the greatest joys of London clubbing is the all-weekender. In his quest to give you a taste of some of the hottest clubs, **Aaron Mason** has been on just such a mission

FRIDAY

The Gallery
Turnmills
★★★★☆

Having been to Turnmills on numerous occasions (and having actually started working there) I can honestly say I have never seen the club get completely rammed so quickly – the place was full by 11.30pm.

Not being a trance boy, I'm not too knowledgeable on which DJs are really famous, so I couldn't understand why it had reached capacity, but when midnight came they had to stop letting people into the club.

My ignorance soon ended when a scary midget Dutch pillhead cyber informed me that she had come from Holland just for this night as the line-up was so good. Apparently, to see Ferry Corsten or AVB on their own is a big deal, but to see them together is something that could not be missed.

Trance not being my favourite type of music I didn't quite know what to expect. This was good as I was blown away. The atmosphere was amazing – people were properly having it before midnight. The mixing was impeccable from the headliners.

The main complaint I heard all night though was about the treatment people had received from the staff. I'm surprised people still go back time after time to Turnmills, as the door staff are some of the rudest people I've ever met. They were abusive and control freaks, and this sort of behaviour is enough to spoil your entire night. I spoke to one girl who got manhandled because she questioned paying £15 when the flyer said that with your student card you only had to pay £12. This seems to be a continuing problem with a lot of the big clubs in London – they have the opinion that they can treat their customers like dirt and that it's OK.

Having said in the past that most hard house/hard trance nights are full of towny pillheads, I will take that all back. There was a huge mix; there were people from all over the world. Some of the clubbers had planned holidays from America around this night. This mix is always good because people with tans are generally far more attractive than the pasty Brit.

Drinking in clubs is always



Ferry Corsten

expensive, but this is something you just have to accept. The prices at Turnmills are not the worst. However, it is not acceptable to be made to pay £3 for a bottle of water which is the size of a can of coke. This wouldn't be so bad if you could come and go from the club as you please, but then I suppose the club wouldn't make as much money and wouldn't be able to bring in the big names.

All in all, the night was a huge success. The club stayed open an extra hour because the people just wanted to party. The only down side was the attitude of the door staff, which I think is a huge problem because if people are harassed when they arrive at a club they are more likely to get into trouble while there.

File under:
Trance
If you like this, try:
Lunar @ The Soundshaft

SATURDAY

Together
Turnmills
★★★★☆

We all know who Eric Prydz is, and if we don't we certainly know his video. You know, the aerobics one with the girls in small lycras. OK, perhaps some of the girls aren't too familiar with it, but all the guys are.

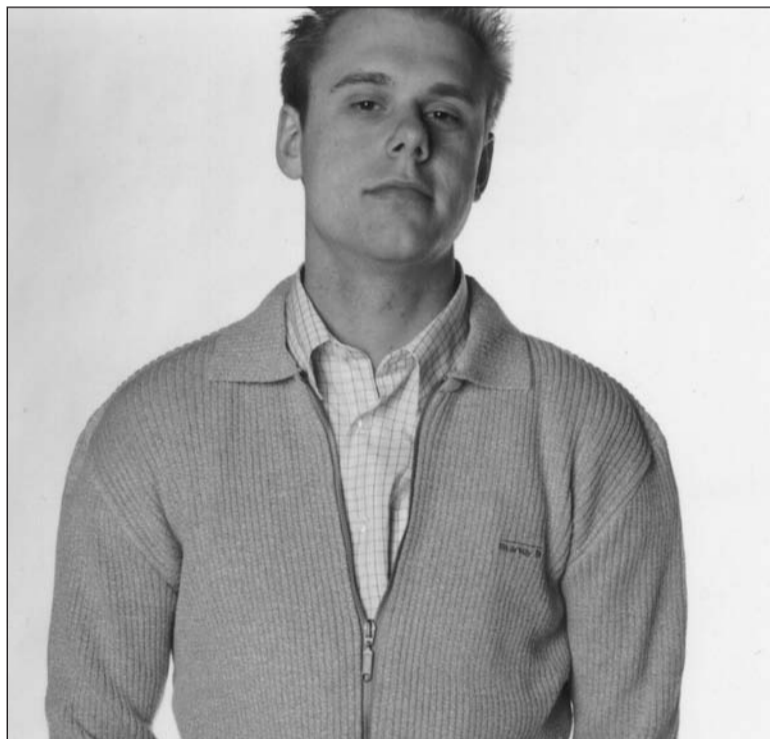
So, from a DJ set, you would expect a mix of crappy chart dance. Well you would be wrong, just like I was. You couldn't be further from what actually happened – it was a mix of deep house with a bit of electro, and the back room was pure funk.

Thankfully the club was nowhere near as rammed as on the Friday for The Gallery; you could actually make your way through the dance-floor.

The crowd was an eclectic mix. You had your beautiful fashion kids and a few beer boys who expected poppy tripe. There seemed to be quite a few older people there as well. This I always find a bit strange. I don't know if it's because I'm incredibly ageist, but there is something very odd about a 45-year old gran dropping, it doesn't seem quite right. The guy to girl ratio was very good, about half and half.

The staff, this time, seemed to have sorted out all of the issues they had the night before and were surprisingly cheerful. This may have been due to the lack of a never-ending queue or because the weather wasn't so cold. The stewards strangely also seemed to know what was going on.

The best thing about this night was that if you so wished and you were feeling incredibly hardcore you could carry on clubbing until



Armin van Buuren. Yes, he really is that good.

2pm the next day, as Trade started in the back room at 5.30am.

I would recommend this night if you like it deep – musically speaking. If you like it that little bit funkier, the back room had plenty to offer. It was tune after tune after tune, a true delight for the ears.

File under:
Deep House
If you like this, try:
Therapy meets Prologue @ The Egg



That Eric Prydz video

SUNDAY

Vertigo
The Cross
★★★★☆

This was my first visit to The Cross and I have to say the only word to describe everything is 'random'.

It is in the most random place

ever, buried behind King's Cross station in the industrial area under a bridge. The club has palm trees and sofas outside. Even though it was a mission to get to, it was well worth it.

Vertigo is a night of Italian polysexuality, which basically means if you're gay, straight, bi or just a bit of a whore, this is the night for you. It was attitude-free with some of the most beautiful people I have seen in a long while; fair enough they can't all speak English, but that doesn't matter as they then can't understand how much of a retard you are when you're chatting them up. As it is a Sunday night, most of the crowd had been at it all weekend and some probably hadn't slept or changed their clothes. Nobody noticed of course, as the majority of the people were so mashed they could barely see.

Something that was very funny was the number of people wearing sunglasses. Not just a few, like you see in most clubs, but almost everyone had a pair. It was like a branch of Specsavers had been built next door and they had a sale of tinted lenses. Also I think if you added up how much the clientele had spent on fake tan, you would be able to clear the third world debt. This was strange as most were Italian and naturally tanned anyway. They looked a bit scary.

The music was amazing; it was exactly what I needed after a long weekend of harder stuff.

The layout of the club is quite strange as there is no main or back room, it's just two rooms. The lighter room was playing the best of Italian funky house and the dark, smoke filled room had a music policy very fitting to the atmosphere. It was

dark, dirty and rough. I spent most of my time in the funky room as I could see all of the sexy people better.

Some of the mixing was a bit off but it didn't seem to matter too much – people were there to have a good time, and a good time was had by all. Many interesting conversations were had as well. This one guy was convinced I was his friend as I had the same mouth as him – a bit strange, but to be fair to the guy I don't think he even knew who he was by that stage. Aw, bless.

The staff were really helpful and happy too, which is nice. I don't quite understand why, but oh well. The bar staff were incredibly quick which maintained a high turnover at the bar. Of course this doesn't come free, as the drinks were incredibly expensive.

File under:
Italian House
If you like this, try:
Hed Kandi @ Pacha

Having not have slept much between going out over the weekend and writing these reviews, they don't seem to be too informative. I can just say I had a great time at all the places I went to, but now I think a bit of plastic surgery is in order as I look like absolute shit.

Aaron Mason

Join in the party

Well as you can see we've got another batch of London's finest nightlife tried and tested. Hopefully some of you out there are trying something new or finding something that you'd missed before.

I'm well aware that we focus mostly on house music on these pages, but really that's just because it's what we like. If there's somewhere or some night we're not covering here that you think we should, let us know, or better yet volunteer! Reviewing is a great blag as you and a mate get on the list, so you can save plenty on entrance, only to spend it on drinks again. If you're interested, or have any comments or suggestions, let me know by email at clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Just to show you how much we care, we have a special treat for you. Oh, yes. Take a glance at the other page and you'll see that *Felix* has done some blagging on your behalf, and there are four tickets to see Mylo at Neighbourhood tomorrow up for grabs. Enjoy!

Simon Clark
Nightlife Editor

Mylo's in your Neighbourhood

CLUB PREVIEW

Mylo @ Nightshift Electro
Neighbourhood, Ladbroke Grove
Friday 4th March

Sometimes it can feel a little bit lonely here at Imperial. We're pretty far out of central London, and when we leave halls most of us end up living even further west and/or south, so nocturnal excursions often involve a fairly long trip 'uptown' and an even longer one back in the small hours.

Lucky for us then, that one of London's hottest house clubs, Neighbourhood, is just a few stops away over in Ladbroke Grove. The club is the baby of Everything But the Girl's Ben Watt – a top notch house DJ and producer himself – and attracts such big names as 4 Hero, Lottie and Norman Jay to name but a few, as well as regular sets from Mr Watt.

This Friday, the man at the top of the bill is Mylo, who is currently riding the wave of success of his LP *Destroy Rock and Roll*.



Mylo (left): playing at Ben Watt's Neighbourhood

Originally from the Isle of Skye, Mylo (aka Myles MacInnes) was an undergraduate at Oxford before embarking on a PhD in Philosophy at UCLA, California.

His musical influences are many and eclectic – from Squarepusher to Serge Gainsburg to Daft Punk and Kraftwerk. This variety shows through in his music, which is funky, electronic and has been filling dancefloors all over for a good year or so already.

Categorising music feels like such

a bad thing to do, since at the end of the day genres are mostly a load of bollocks, but in this case it's worth a mention. This is because Mylo seems to be part of the latest 'cool' genre to be proposed: 'Nu Electro' (sic).

Now, don't go thinking I'm the type of ponce who goes around championing the latest buzzword – I'm merely here to inform, not influence. No, I just thought it was worth mentioning this, having noticed in Virgin the other week that there was

a new section in amongst the vinyl, with the aforementioned label. The main record they were trying to sell under this banner was Mylo's *Drop The Pressure*, with the rest being a similar electro/house/pop selection. Whilst this latest pigeonholing might not actually be anything particularly new, it does provide us with a useful umbrella under which to throw various artists, who all seem to be making radio-friendly, dance-floor-friendly, exciting new music, of which Mylo is most definitely one.

Friday promises to be a top night, with Geddes (of Mulletover) and Donkey Boss also on the bill, so go west and you're in for a treat.

Felix is giving you the chance to go for free! Check out the competition below for details.

If you find yourself left wanting more after Friday, don't fear, because there's another special guest at Neighbourhood on 11 March – Groove Armada's Andy Cato.

Simon Clark
Nightlife Editor

See Mylo for Free

Yes that's right, those nice people at Neighbourhood are offering you the chance to go and see 'Nu-Electro' darling Mylo playing there this Friday, for absolutely nada!

Neighbourhood is located in Ladbroke Grove, so it's our end of town and pretty close to college. Even if you don't fancy it, enter and you might score yourself

a very cheap Mother's Day gift (and improve your mum's taste in music at the same time).

There are four tickets up for grabs, and there's not even a token question or anything silly like that. The first four people to email nikki@neighbourhoodclub.com will be rewarded with the free tickets.

If you want to get involved with Nightlife, email Simon at clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

Farewell Dr Gonzo!

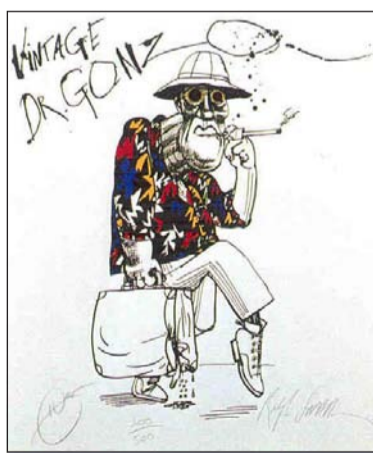
"I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me"

Virtually every student in the country has read, seen or at the very least heard of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, the misadventures of drug-addled journalist Raoul Duke and his equally dysfunctional Samoan attorney in an investigation into the heart of the American dream. The novel is a modern masterwork written by a walking contradiction of an author, doctor of journalism Hunter S Thompson, who died last Sunday of an apparent suicide. The motives behind his death appear at first hazy and indeed it took this writer several days to even believe it, but Thompson (67) was a person who lived every moment of each day to its fullest; if he could no longer blow stuff up, drink heavily, take copious amounts of drugs and still write, then what was the point?

Thompson was born in Louisville, Kentucky, to a relatively normal middle class family, but would go on

to champion a new form of reportage known as Gonzo journalism, a method that puts the writer at the heart of his very own story.

At the age of nine, Thompson had his first encounter with the US establishment, one that would affect the rest of his life. In an elaborate plan of revenge on a local bus driver, young Hunter and a few of his childhood friends tipped over a mailbox in the path of their school bus; shortly afterwards an FBI officer turned up at the Thompson household asking some rather pointed questions. It was after calling the FBI man's bluff that Thompson would embark on his remarkable crusade against authority, later becoming a counterculture hero commentating at the scene on everything from the rise of motorcycle gangs to the disastrous rise and fall of the drug culture and the freedom movements of the sixties.



Hunter S Thompson
1937-2005

Thompson became a politics junkie after being caught up and beaten by the police in a protest outside the

Chicago democratic convention in 1968. The experience traumatised him into championing civil liberties in his writing and even running for sheriff in his hometown of Aspen. He soon met his nemesis in the form of Richard Nixon: "He could shake your hand and stab you in the back at the same time".

In the following decades, Thompson wrote strangely accurate predictions on American politics, becoming one of the best and most celebrated critics of the Nixon, Clinton and Bush governments. In his most recent articles, he detailed an America ruled by post 9/11 fear and total social collapse: "In four short years he [George W Bush] has turned our country from a prosperous nation at peace into a desperately indebted nation at war".

Hunter S Thompson was a man of excess, almost constantly fuelled by drugs and booze, forever miss-

ing deadlines and a self-proclaimed gun fanatic, yet the legacy he leaves will be always be remembered. Dr Gonzo was the giant of American literature, paranoid eccentric, champion of excess or maybe just the last of a dying breed of outlaw writers who struck out against the system and won.

If you would like to learn more about the man himself, I would suggest:

- **The Great Shark Hunt: Strange Tales from a Strange Time (1979)**
- **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1971)**
- **Kingdom of fear: the journey of a star-crossed child (2002)**
- **The Curse of Lono (1983)**
- **The Rum Diary (1999)**

Michael Healy

Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

vue
cinemas
www.myvue.com/students

Listings: page 11

Hide but don't seek

Despite this film topping the US Box Office charts, **Marya Ziauddin** is not impressed

Hide and Seek

Director: John Polson
Starring: Robert De Niro, Dakota Fanning, Elisabeth Shue
Length: 101 minutes
Certificate: 15

★★★★☆

Grossing some \$22 million in the first week alone, *Hide and Seek* looked like a film that just had to be watched. It boasted a twist that was so well guarded it virtually became a matter of national security.

But either our American counterparts are easily pleased or the hype was really big, because *Hide and Seek* is in fact an unimpressive, poorly-made psychological thriller, whose well-guarded twist turned out to be conventional and predictable.

Robert de Niro stars as David Callaway, a New York psychologist whose wife commits suicide. Wanting a fresh start for himself and his daughter, he chooses to move to the country. The small country neighbourhood is enough to drive any sane person mad and, to top it all off, David starts his new life in a typical horror film house complete with creaking floorboards, surrounding woods with a ghostly lake, dark cupboards, and a basement that resembles a torture chamber.

Anyone can tell that this is the type of house where unpleasant things happen, and it doesn't take long for it to fulfil its potential. Once in the house, David's daughter Emily (Dakota Fanning) invents an imag-

inary friend named Charlie, who seems harmless enough at first. David even encourages Emily to vent her anger and grief by expressing her emotions through her imaginary friend, but things take a nasty turn when Charlie appears to be making Emily do increasingly gruesome and disturbing things: red graffiti on bathroom walls, a dead cat and serious doll mutilation are a few examples. The race is on to find out who – or indeed what – Charlie is before one of their lives is at stake.

Since this film is a thriller, I can't reveal the twist in the plot; how-

“Overall, this film is definitely one you should miss”

ever, it has been done before, and it has certainly been done better. The main problem is that the twist was revealed too early, making a quick and slick ending the next logical step. Instead, however, the twist revelation is followed by a disappointing and pathetic climax, with a pointless chase scene through the house and the surrounding woods. The entire last 25 minutes saw the film's twist – which originally did have some promise – dissolve into a complete farce, leaving the audience feeling cheated.

The plot contains a plethora of red herrings that are all equally pointless and serve to add yet more



Dakota Fanning: fast gaining one of the best reputations in Hollywood

minutes to the already overdrawn film. There are creepy neighbours consisting of an intense husband and a haunted wife, an estate agent who keeps odd hours, a sheriff who has the keys to every house in the neighbourhood and a mysterious-looking cave in the woods. These sub-plots, which were not properly explained, did nothing to help the story and only created a sense of

discontinuity.

Plot aside, the acting was unimpressive apart from Dakota Fanning's stunning portrayal of Emily. A lot is asked of her in this film. Her acting has to vary from being macabre to innocent to tortured to afraid, and she delivers each emotion flawlessly and to an amazing standard. In fact, Fanning shows up Robert de Niro, who fared

far better as the comical ex-CIA agent father in *Meet the Fockers*.

Overall, this film is definitely one you should miss. If you are looking for something frightening, you will not get it here unless a few cheap shots of things like a cat jumping out of a cupboard can make you scream. I recommend you stay in hiding and certainly don't seek out this mediocre thriller.

The true-life story of Paul Rusesabagina

Hotel Rwanda

Director: Terry George
Starring: Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte, Joaquin Phoenix
Length: 122 minutes
Certificate: 12A

★★★★★

Let's set the scene: 11 years ago in Rwanda, Hutu extremists slaughtered almost a million of their Tutsi countrymen with guns and machetes. Many of you will remember the horrific images that were broadcast on the news back in 1994 and the subsequent documentaries that followed. The Western world stood by and refused to do anything – which sounds familiar.

Hotel Rwanda is probably one of the first films to tackle the subject and follows the story of hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), who ended up sheltering and saving more than 1200 people during the massacre.

The Rwandan genocide itself is such a brutal and heart-wrenching subject that any attempt to turn it into entertainment would risk insulting both the dead and the survivors. It's not surprising then that Terry

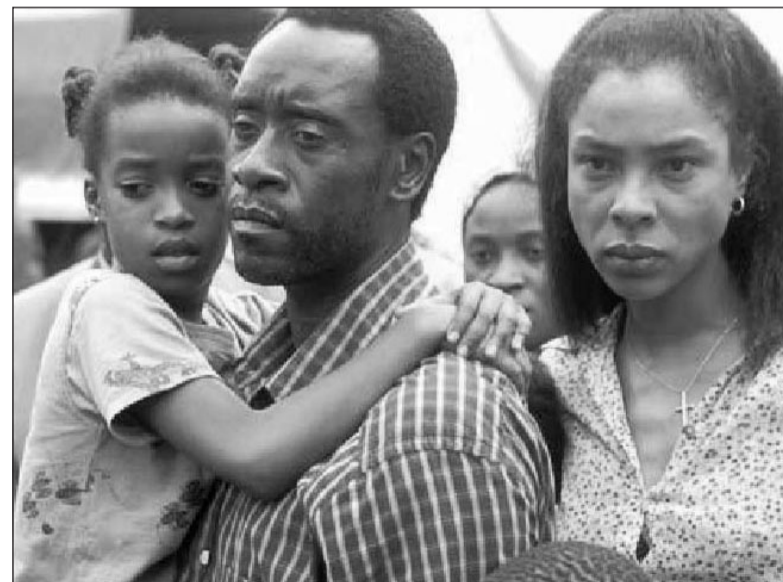
George has chosen to focus on one man's experience in Rwanda. Not original, I know, but he deals with it in such a way that it doesn't fall into the clichéd movie territory it easily could have. It may get compared to *Schindler's List*, and I can see the similarities in that both are about one man who saves a large number of lives, but *Hotel Rwanda* is far more gritty and real. You can't escape the reality in either film, but in this one you can't hide behind the beautiful cinematography of *Schindler's List*, which also had sufficient space between the actual event and the film's release.

I really can't fault this film. There's no aspect of it that let me down. The music was amazing and slotted in perfectly with each scene. There's one scene where you hear children singing a bittersweet song about their country against the backdrop of all the chaos and destruction taking place. I can't exactly describe this movie as a beautiful one – I don't really get my kicks out of dead bodies even though I'm a medic – but some scenes were incredibly atmospheric, both beautiful and shocking at the same time. The pace is fantastic too. It doesn't linger; it doesn't really need to hammer home

the point of the film.

The real selling point of the film is the acting. Each member of the cast delivers a solid performance, in particular Don Cheadle and Sophie Okonedo who were both nominated for Oscars. Cheadle's representation of Paul is realistic. The man struggles with his conscience until he finds the courage, partly from his wife, to stand up and fight to save these people. He is not a two-dimensional character. Initially naive enough to believe all the rhetoric handed down to him by his employers and the western people he encounters, he is later shocked by a conversation he has with Colonel Oliver (Nick Nolte). Paul realizes that the West does not care how many people die and that the only way to save his family and the refugees he's been left with is to use his superior intelligence to manipulate the people around him.

This film is hard to watch. You just want the relentless pain and torture to stop but it never does, which, I guess, makes it more realistic. It's not that it's drawn out; it's just so exhausting that the message seems to have more resonance. The politics is summed up perfectly and the racism displayed by Western



Don Cheadle: nominated for Best Actor in a Leading Role at the Oscars

leaders stays with you long after the lights go up.

It's simple. By focusing on Paul and his family we see love and even comedy but the film isn't afraid to show you the distasteful big picture either. This truly is a film that needs to be seen, but you do need to be prepared to be slightly

frustrated. *Hotel Rwanda* could be describing so many current situations occurring all over the globe and sadly many past and future events too. It shows you the deplorable side of human nature, but also that little glimmer of hope that maintains your faith in humanity.

Haj Alttahir

A language of its own

Adam Sandler in another movie about absolute gibberish

Spanglish

Director: James L. Brooks
Starring: Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni,
Shelbie Bruce
Length: 131 minutes
Certificate: 12A
★★★★☆

When you think of Adam Sandler and the word *Spanglish*, you might think it's a movie filled with goofy clichéd jokes about language and cultural barriers, but it is nothing like that.

The story is viewed through the perspective of a young Spanish girl, Christina (Victoria Luna), whose father left her family when she was very young. Her mother, Flor (Paz Vega), decides to uproot the family and move to America. Despite the move, Christina and Flor's social circles remain restricted to the small Spanish population in Los Angeles until Christina reaches puberty and Flor decides to work for a local American family, the Claskys.

The Claskys are a wealthy family that is far from perfect. John Clasky (Adam Sandler) is a well-known chef who owns a profitable restaurant and his wife, Deborah (Téa Leoni), is a neurotic, insecure and tactless woman. They have two children: Bernice, who, despite her lovable personality, has weight problems, and Georgie. Deborah's mother is an alcoholic whose head remains lost in her not-too-glamorous past as a jazz singer.

Initially, Flor has no intention of learning English as she has no reason to intervene in the Claskys' lives. However, upon witnessing

Deborah's tactlessness and insensitivity in handling Bernice's weight problems, Flor decides to learn English in order to help the Claskys. When summer comes, the Claskys ask Flor to move with them to their summer home. Flor is hesitant at first, as she will be required to bring Christina along, but she relents in the interest of keeping her job.

This decision soon proves to be a grievous mistake. Upon entering the Claskys' home, Deborah takes Christina under her wing as Christina is the pretty and charm-

"...predictable storyline... unnecessary additions downplay its true potential"

ing daughter that Bernice is not. Christina is gradually seduced into the locals' way of life and drifts further away from Flor. Flor, distressed by the fact that she might lose her only daughter, finds an understanding and sympathetic ear in John Clasky.

Flor is drawn to John, as she has never met a man who could understand her. Similarly, John is drawn to Flor, who is everything his wife is not. It seems Flor's problems with her daughter will remain under the water until Christina dismisses a party her mum organized to attend a slumber party at the Claskys. Everything boils over and Flor and John finally attain the lucky break they need for their mutual attraction to develop.



What's going on here? A rare occurrence for most IC people, that's what

Spanglish is not just a simple mother-daughter story. It is a movie that explores the feelings of immigrants in a foreign land. It is also a movie which challenges the individual to hold on to one's identity instead of assimilating with the crowd. One thing that I found particularly admirable about the plot is its ability to stay neutral without favouring any particular culture. Secondly, the movie manages to avoid becoming a Hallmark film by revolving around Flo and John who are emotionally

strong and do not give in to emotional theatrics.

Adam Sandler and Téa Leoni might be the household names on the casting list, but it is truly Paz Vega's acting skills that blow you away. Despite the introduction of a sweet and believable chemistry between Flo and John, it has no real impact on the story except to emphasize Flo's dedication to her daughter. Paz Vega makes an excellent and convincing performance as a beautiful and strong woman who

dares to stand up for her own beliefs despite her misfortune.

Overall, *Spanglish* is a thoughtful movie. Its unique ability to remain neutral and to avoid becoming a typical tear-jerker is admirable; however, its predictable storyline and its unnecessary additions downplay its true potential. It's alright to watch it if you have some free time on your hands, but if it was *Spanglish* humour you were after, steer clear and don't say you have not been warned. **Angela Yuen Lee**

Wes Anderson with another weird offering

The Life Aquatic

Director: Wes Anderson
Starring: Bill Murray, Owen
Wilson, Cate Blanchett
Length: 118 minutes
Certificate: 15
★★★★☆

Weird, really bloody weird. I've never seen anything like it, and, yet, it's really good, but I'm not really sure why. It's probably because it's really weird. Now there's a circular argument!

The film follows the adventures of Steve Zissou (Bill Murray), an explorer and filmmaker desperately clinging onto remnants of fame and credibility. The film opens with Zissou presenting his latest documentary, in which his best friend is eaten by a tiger shark, to critics in Italy. During the post-film Q&A, Zissou is asked the scientific relevance of his next film, the capture of the offending shark. Zissou's deadpan reply: "revenge."

The film explores Zissou's mid-life worries of inadequacies and waning sex appeal, but in a more appealing setting than the standard male mid-life crisis film.

Although mostly comedic, there are some heart rendering moments, but they pass so quickly into the biza-

rely comic that you don't have time to appreciate their meaning. For instance, Zissou's long estranged son, Ned (Owen Wilson), asks him: "Why didn't you contact me?" Zissou replies: "Because I hate fathers and I never wanted to be one."

Other members of the motley

"...mind-numbingly predictable and clichéd every step of the way"

crew include defacto-son (Willem Dafoe), who is displaced when Ned and a pregnant British journalist (Cate Blanchett), whose cover story resents Zissou's last hope at maintaining credibility, appear. Once aboard *The Belfonte*, they don red skull caps and blue speedos and do battle with sharks and filipino pirates.

How could anybody think up this story? I hear you cry. Well, surprisingly enough it's based on the life of oceanographer, Jacques-Yves Cousteau, who was perhaps the ocean's David Attenborough. Although he too led a somewhat eccentric life, one wonders if his relatives will feel tarnished by this film.



Middle-aged man in tight grey wetsuit. Nice

The bizarre is what really makes this movie. Highly coloured stop-motion animations of wacky marine creatures, a navigations officer topless for no discernible reason

and David Bowie songs sung in Portuguese by the actor who played Knockout Ned in *City of God* are just a few examples of the film's crazy happenings. **Rupert Neate**

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 4 March at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- Kinsey
- Flight of the Phoenix
- The Boogey Man

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

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

Who is the odd one out and why?

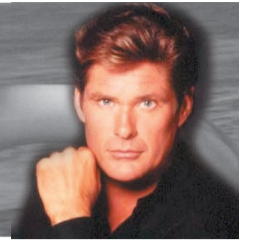
- a) Clint Eastwood
- b) Martin Scorsese
- c) Oliver Stone

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

Last week's winner of the *Hide and Seek* caps and t-shirts was **Daniel Sauder**.

Coffee Break

With David Hasselhoff



I'm back for a second week, distracting you from lectures and keeping your hands busy. Send your answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk for the chance to win fabulous prizes at the end of the year



History of Hoff

If you've ever seen any of my TV shows, you'll know the kind of life I lead. Every day is a new adventure, a new chance to get laid. But those things you see on TV are nothing compared to what I really get up to. I've been present at all of the major events of the 20th century, lending moral support through song. It's my gift, and I share it with the world. Here's some pictures of me, and in the background some important stuff is going on. There's **two points** if you tell me what's going on, and another **two** if you can suggest a suitably funny song for me to sing. There's some ideas below



1. Nice guy! Too bad we swapped seats a while earlier. I guess I'm just bulletproof.
'(Shot through the Heart) You Give Love A Bad Name'



2. Man, this place was hot! For a proud American like me, this was the place to be back in the sixties.
'Jungle Boogie'



3. My gift to the world. I bought this down, all by myself. I rock!
'Another Brick in the World'



4. It was damn cold, and getting here was an absolute nightmare. But it's nice to know I was first.
'River Deep, Mountain High'



5. It was definitely a mistake coming here, I've never walked properly since.
'She Bangs'



6. It's a testament to my skills that I can sing without the need for oxygen. That's how talented I am.
'Man on the Moon'



7. This was a real fun day. No idea what any of it meant though, I'm a Polo guy myself.
'Gold'



8. I remember this one well. Those boys, they changed the world!
'Come Fly With Me'



9. I think we all make mistakes, but this was a pretty big one for me.
'Seven Nation Army'



10. Thanks to this, a whole generation has become brain dead morons.
'Black and White Town'

FUCWIT update

Issue 1316 Answers

In that week's issue we had the Heroes and Villains quiz, and you all seemed pretty happy with us describing Usher as shit. There was a bit of disagreement over us calling Bono a hero though. Apparently he's not quite as great as he seems to think he is. When you compare him to The Hoff, who singlehandedly brought down the Berlin Wall, you realise just how little the idiot has actually done.

That said, *Achtung Baby* is pretty good.

1. Bono's real name is Paul Hewson.

2. KITT stands for Knight Industries Two Thousand.

3. Mr T played Clubber Lang in Rocky III, and not Rocky like we said. Only Forever Throwing Doubles noticed our 'delibrate' mistake, and so they get some bonus points, just like they asked!

4. Homer was called Mr Plow.

5. Action Man was born in 1966. He should really jack it in to be honest.

6. Ellen's boat was called B+Q something or other.

7. Kate Moss was 14 when she was first discovered, and from that day on she's made a very lucrative career from being thin. Nice work Kate.

8. Usher has his own credit card thing. You see, he's totally, completely, one hundred percent, in it for the music.

9. Dr Evil's cat is called Mr Bigglesworth.

10. Robbie Savage has only got one red card.

11. Barney's evil mantra goes...

"I love you, you love me, We're a happy family, with a great big hug and a kiss from me to you, won't you say you love me too?"

12. Michael Jackson's most successful album was *Thriller*.

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

1. Araldite Sniffers	213 points	11. Eastbound and Down	62 points
2. Smith & Wesson	188 points	12. Tinkerbell	45 points
3. The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	134 points	13. Team Bulwer	42 points
4. Management Slackers	127 points	14. The Schist Ones	38 points
5. Team Willy J	93 points	15. KPN ² Remember...	35 points
6. Team Robin	81 points	16. Withnail and I Society	31 points
7. Schoolboy Error	80 points	17. Rod Watson's Super Army	29 pts
8. Caledonian Conspiracy	79 points	17. Oliver Carson	29 points
9. Forever Throwing Doubles	73 pts	19. Natasha Kundi	10 points
10. Kings of Kensington	64 points	20. Shatner's Bassoon	9 points

Answers to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

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

1
2
3
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10

SPORT

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Imperial get revenge on Brighton in game of two halves

RUGBY

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

By Howard Harris

On a crisp February afternoon, Imperial Seconds turned up at Harlington to play their final BUSA league fixture.

Though little was left to play for in the competition, spirits were high and all were keen to perform well in preparation for the Varsity match.

From the kick-off, Imperial showed dominance in the forwards and sustained a good period of pressure in the opponents half. Ten minutes in, after the referee had made his intentions clear, our number seven Gareth "I'd rather watch from the touch line" Coady was shown a yellow card for repeated dissent.

After some untidy play in midfield by Brighton, the ball fell to Rich Bishop and one misplaced box kick into Alex Baines-Buffery's head sent the Brighton number five on a 30m dash for the Imperial

try line. Unfortunately he was not stopped until after crossing it, and we found ourselves five points down.

Despite the setback, Imperial continued to make holes in the opposition back line with our units that are Quincy Alan and Ed Poulding.

Towards the end of the half, as a result of a crash ball, Quincy ploughed into his opposite number. There could be only one winner. With the Brightonian on the floor in what seemed to be a slight crater (with his shoulder dislocated), the match paused for a short while.

Play was resumed with a penalty for Imperial on the Brighton 10m line. Somehow managed to find its way from my boot to the flag on the try line (touch in goal). This put us on the back foot momentarily, and we conceded a penalty on our 22 which was swiftly dealt with. Half time score: Imperial 0, Brighton 8.

The second half went much more to plan. With a few changes in the backs, notably the return of Kieran at number ten, we pinned

Brighton in their half by their ears!

It wasn't long before Rich 'Bish Bash' Bishop was making up for first half blunders. Now playing on the wing, he intercepted a wayward miss pass and sauntered under the posts.

With heads up, tempo raised, and victory within our grasp, Imperial scored again from some beautiful running from both backs and forwards. This time the scorer was none other than our beloved captain Steve "I didn't drop it this time" Barham. Well done Steve, we all knew you could do it! A touchline conversion from yours truly and we were ahead 14-8.

Imperial were now unstoppable. A penalty and then a try from Ed 'all thighs' Poulding (who was practically crowd-surfed over the line) were enough to have Brighton all wrapped up in ribbons, but then again, I guess they like that kind of thing down there!

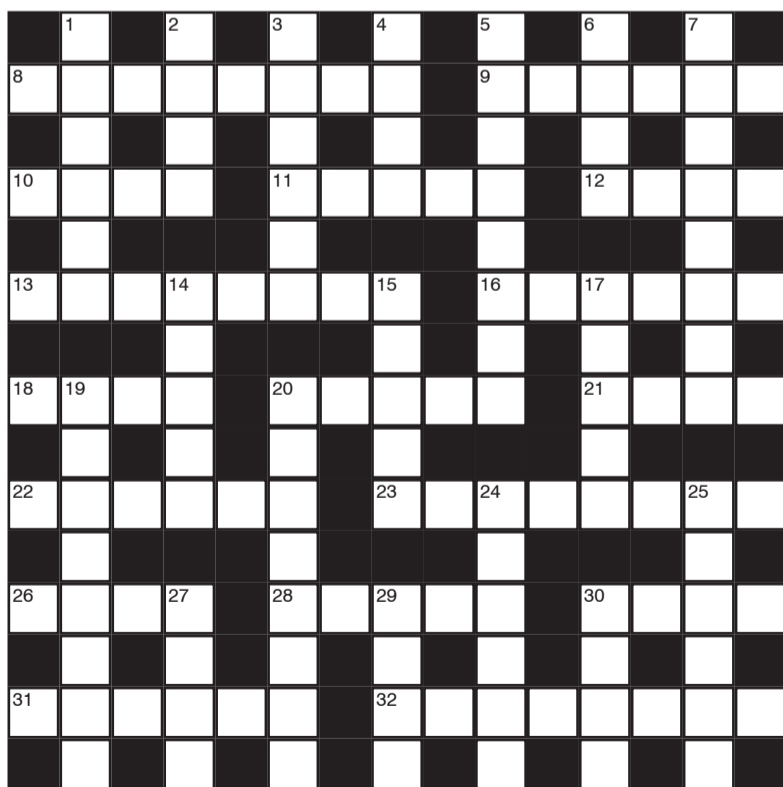
So it was a comfortable win in the end, and a turnaround of 80-odd points from when we visited the Sussex-based university last term.



Imperial forwards (in the darker strip) jump at a line-out with their Brighton counterparts

Felix Crossword 1318

by Monkye



Across

8. Enumerate (University London Union) Sum [Infinitesimal] (8)
9. Confused rascal has no direction (6)
10. HG Wells story; your unlikely to see one (4)
11. Hole for sight or vision (5)
12. Sapphic fenland feature (4)
13. Airship made of heavy metal (8)
16. Notion of Universal Environment contains rat (6)
18. Calvin Klein involved in computer crime (4)
20. Midi-Chlorian induced action? (5)
21. Expression of affection from devil serving rock band (4)
22. Hitler: a ref in Hockey Referee's Union? (6)
23. Ecstasy, induced by trance music album? (8)
26. Orphelia has all the ingredients for good foreplay (4)
28. A newspaper? Timothy goes with the *Evening Standard* (5)
30. Research Assistant, at the end of a letter, writes music style (4)
31. Ms Johnson's shooting star discovery makes her exclaim! (6)
32. Oscillating door staff (8)

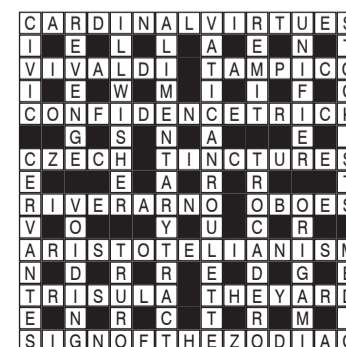
Down

1. Execute single gangster (6)
2. Old Area of Holy Land (4)
3. A qualified plateau (1,5)
4. Boat Club is double (4)
5. Weird appearance in disassociated state (8)
6. How poetic! e.g. 'Oscillate a spear' (4)
7. Dark Stan re-arranges rowing trophies (8)
14. Here's a game: jab th' Queen (5)
15. Curious never to be anxious (5)
17. Confused toy appears in knock-out city (5)
19. Water (lat.) is a fish container (8)
20. Four-man squad; a force of nature group (4,4)
24. Uplifting bust enhancer (4,2)
25. Contaminated College with Uranium loses end of safety trial (6)
27. Fails to tell the truth, but includes alternative (4)
28. Genitally deficient quarry of Ahab (4)
30. Torturous search of brain (4)

Greetings my monkey-loving friends. This is my first and perhaps my last cryptic crossword for *Felix*. I like the idea of being something of a one-hit wonder in the crossword world. This week's crossword has a theme, but it is incredibly subtle – essentially it is 'what was in my head when I was writing the crossword' – which means it will be a voyage of self discovery for you, through lesbian geography to (reasonably obscure) literary references.

This crossword is best solved whilst listening to Lynyrd Skynyrd's *Second Helping* album (1974). Good luck and play safe kids. **Monkye**

Issue 1317 solution



Last week's winner is Martin Cansdale, PG Bioengineering
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

Absolutely massive football

FOOTBALL

Sponsored by

Deutsche Bank 
LSE Men's 1st 0
Imperial Men's 1st 2

By Pat Farr

"Absolutely massive boys," remarked a hamstrung Star-Nosed Mole via e-mail midweek; not, for once, on the size of his Iranian conk, but rather the importance of the coming Saturday's game. The injured captain amongst them, this was to be a swansong for members of the Imperial old guard on the Berrylands turf, and what finer occasion than a crucial quarter-final cup tie.

The sides shared the spoils 1-1 in the League fixture earlier in the season, in a game Imperial largely dominated, but the nature of this tie saw both teams set out tentatively, with very little in the way of possession. Neither could be faulted for commitment, however, with a fired-up General Von Berkles flying in early doors, supported on cue by the Bull, a tenacious Wes, and a trademark brutal challenge from Highland Cattle fugitive JR (the farmer called, he *does* want you back).

Kimmo The Great took a nasty elbow to the nose midway through the first half. Meanwhile, attempts to play to feet were oft stifled, and the half remained a scrappy affair. No clear-cut chances

fell to either side, both being reduced to long-range efforts in the way of attacking threat. Half time came quickly, but a motivated team talk saw Imperial really up for the fight after the break.

The second 45 started much akin to the first, although there were gradual signs of the game starting to open up. 15 minutes in and it was Tweed von Cragnuts' turn to take a blow to the nose. Some brief treatment later and the Woodcock, trooper that he is, returned to the field to whip in a speciality corner from the right. It was from such a delivery, just minutes later, that Imperial nicked the opener. Cragnuts's corner was too hot to handle for the LSE keeper, the ball dropped to Goatanyanananan and

Wednesday's Medic-spanker continued his rich vein of scoring with a prod home. Just the break Imperial needed.

LSE pressed hard in the following spell, but Imperial resistance was organised and persistent. Timur, who narrowly avoided having his entire arm bitten off by an angry tapir in the warm-up (I arrived on the pitch late, so I may have misheard), and Mathan continued to bite heels up top, an example followed feverishly by those behind. Super Vasquez and the Pat Farr (back four) continued to soak up LSE pressure, presenting several opportunities for Imperial on the break.

Marzo-Munoooooooooz came close on a couple of occasions,

yet the best chance of the game followed dogged work from JR down the right. His looped centre saw a police line-up of Mathan, Wes and an arriving Berksey, all of whom had time to fold away their deckchairs and put down their feet. Imperial, however, were not to be deterred. Timur, who narrowly avoided having his entire arm bitten off by an angry tapir in the warm-up (I arrived on the pitch late, so I may have misheard), and Mathan continued to bite heels up top, an example followed feverishly by those behind. Super Vasquez and the Pat Farr (back four) continued to soak up LSE pressure, presenting several opportunities for Imperial on the break.

Increased determination not to rue this opportunity culminated in a defensive clearance, leaving Mathan to jostle with a lone defender outside LSE's box. The fleet-footed bearded dance-machine got the better of his adversary and coolly slotted

home to provide much welcome breathing distance for a focused Imperial outfit, who stayed right on top of their game for the remaining 15 minutes. Final whistle, 2-0, Spiceworld.

Not hardcore super sex, but nevertheless a job very, very well done. As the triumph settled in, Kimmo emerged with a broken conk of Steve Bruce-like chicanery, the veterans enjoyed one last fat shot of ale at the local Berrylands hostelry, and now Imperial march on with great momentum into their semi-final clash.

Rest assured, Saturday's opponents St George's will also be rendered flat-footed like a platypus, just without the egg-laying and horny spurs. Peace.

Beating every boat

ROWING

United Hospitals Head

By Ben Anstiss

It has been a common sight on the embankment of late: the IC novice first eight paddling away from Putney early on a bitterly cold February afternoon, but this was to be unlike any regular Sunday outing. Hot off their first win at Peterborough Head of the Nene some weeks earlier, the focus was firmly on the task ahead: the United Hospitals Head.

It would be healthy competition with all the London Medical Schools represented by boats ranging from novice to top senior crews. Having been offered an invitational place just 72 hours previously, the crew was excited to be racing again, if for no other reason than to break up the seemingly endless training schedule set by their illustrious coach Ed Johnson whose support and guidance they would have to do without on the day as he pursued his international ambitions with the GB squad in Seville.

Having made the journey to Chiswick through some rough water and cold winds, the crew were all glad of the opportunity to get out of the boat at UL for a quick stretch and some banter with their medic counterparts. It also gave the ideal opportunity to relieve the boat of some excess weight, consisting, as it turned out, of half of Charlie's winter wardrobe (we let him keep the head-band!)

A little over two hours after leaving Putney the boat was heading further upstream, for many of the eight in un-chartered water, to Isleworth and the start line at pink lodge.

Sitting at the back of the field, where we were to start from, everyone was pretty

relaxed, finding plenty of time for the power nap that is customary of the pre-race preparation of late! We all found ourselves slightly more alert, however, as we watched the top GKT (last years winners) and Imperial Medics boats row past during their warm up. We agreed that they both looked rather good. Neither boat stayed in our minds for long though as we began to concentrate on the race plan and, perhaps more importantly, on the extremely attractive blonde female that was occupying the two seat of a RUMS novice boat!

We started the race amid a deluge of hail and snow (it had been sunny with blue sky's less than two minutes before!) with choppy water thrown in for good measure! Early on we effortlessly moved past the crew immediately ahead of us, and despite a few minor discrepancies in technique that had the boat unsettled for a few strokes, we swiftly settled into the race. A third of the distance gone and the water became much calmer, the weather conditions rapidly improved and with that the boat moved on as we approached Kew Bridge. A masterful display of coxing, of which we have become accustomed, saw the boat move out of the stream before the bridge and with a push called we undertook two crews majestically as we flew under the central arch.

With shouts of support from a mass of spectators on the bridge to spur us on, using the two boats in our wake to push away from and with the RUMS blonde to impress, we put the hammer down. The boat was flying. UL boat house came and went and with one last big effort we increased the stroke rate and pushed through the finish line under Chiswick Bridge, passing a fourth crew as we did so. The

whole crew was pretty quiet, testament to the amount of energy that had just drained from our bodies. Being a head race we were none the wiser as to how well we had done, but it felt pretty good and we were confident of giving a respectable account of ourselves.

We spun the boat and started the final leg of our 32km outing back to Putney and more familiar waters. I dare say those final kilometres would have felt all the more effortless had we of heard the results being announced back in Chiswick; we had clocked the fastest time of the day! Albeit only officially winning the invitational category, we couldn't quite believe that we had beaten every senior boat on the water; it had been talked about in the changing room before hand but not put forward as a serious possibility! In a month that sees all self-respecting boat clubs building up for The Head of the River in March, we really couldn't have asked for a better confidence boost, and for that matter reassurance that the last three months of hard winter training are coming to fruition. We can only hope that our success on the water continues and that March 19 delivers the same feeling of contentment when we strive for the novice title on the Tideway.

Thanks to Jo Hardwick (ICSMBC Captain) and all those involved in organising the event for the invitation and hospitality at UL on the day; it was much appreciated. Congratulations to the ICSMBC novice boat on winning the novice category.

IC Novice eight: Cox, Mike 'Killer' Whale, from stroke: Marc Vonk, Tom Bertenshaw, Charlie Targett-Adams, Tim Jagelman, Andy Kinloch, Mathieu Poitrat, Jon Cooper, Peter Milton.

Tennis ladies still undefeated

TENNIS

By Mili Jossion

The undefeated IC ladies' tennis team went to Southampton for the first round of the knockout league. We were promised the luxury of indoor courts, which was an exciting prospect since we are normally playing in the rain at Teddington! But on arrival we found that they had double booked the courts and the boys got the indoor, so we were left with playing outdoors in the snow!

Everyone was quite anxious

on the IC team, as Emma, the captain, recognised the Southampton number one who had been a former British player! Nevertheless, the spirits were high as the doubles got underway.

Things couldn't have gone better as Mili and Lucinda trounced the Southampton second pair, 8-2. Shortly afterwards, Emma and Caroyl put in a repeat performance, shaming the opposition's number one pair.

The Southampton girls looked scared and visibly shaken, which may have been due to the snow and the freezing conditions! After a short

break that consisted of hot chocolate and 'giant' cookies, the singles got underway.

Again IC kicked ample ass with Caroyl, Mili and Sarah finishing quickly, having won their singles. Mili aced her opponent and Sarah out-classed hers 6-1, 6-0 (ouch).

The last singles to finish was Emma versus Southampton's star player. The rallies were long and intense. Emma came up with some amazing shots, and she put up a valiant fight unfortunately losing in the end.

Overall IC girls won 5-1, and are now through to the next round: the quarter-finals!



The Imperial women's tennis team

SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

The 103rd Bottle match

Sport results

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Continued from page 24 asserted their authority, with the forwards taking the ball into contact phase after phase, and with powerful running from the likes of Rich 'the tallest man in the world' Aung, Doug 'one pint wonder' Higgins and Raph 'the Queen used to speak French' Diguisto.

The ball then came wide to Quincy 'the biggest name in IC' who was presented with space, but due to lack of selfishness was unable to finish. Wave after wave of RSM attacks then ensured breaks similar to the American attacks on Omaha beach. Then, in a simple, yet mesmerising move, DSP let Alex 'odd socks' O'Rourke penetrate through the CSM and score. Try gracefully converted by Spencer, 15-14 to CSM, ooh...

More attacking pressure from the backs and superb rucking and mauling from Pooh Bear, Albino and Josh forced CSM to cheat out of sheer frustration, allowing man of the match Spencer to put RSM in the lead, 17-15, with 35 minutes to play.

CSM tested the RSM back three by kicking deep, but the adhesive hands of Telfon Towers, El Capitan and fresher superstar Rob Phillipps quashed any hopes of a kicking game for the CSM, who then switched to DEFCON 2 - the running game. However, the RSM were already on DEFCON 5...

The RSM team secured the match by winning 99% of line-out ball thanks to accurate throwing from Luke 'the power' Taylor, Rich 'too tall' Aung, and Steve 'Panda Face'. Special mention should also go to Rob Robinson, who, although playing scrum half, seemed to think it would be more productive for him to attempt drop kicks from the wing. But, to his credit, he did make an 80 yard break and score what would have been the try of the match, if he had scored.

Game over, Bottle retained for the ninth time. See you CSM suckers next year!

The squad included: Jo Franklin, Luke Taylor, Rich Williams, Rich Aung, Steve Mclellan, Josh Wright, Raphael Diguisto, Doug Higgins, Rob Robinson, John Spencer, Ed Poulding, Quincy Allan, Alex O'Rourke, Rob Phillipps, Andy Towers, Tom Hawkins, Roberto Abbondati, Stef Nubert, Mike Seager, Luke Henson, Alex Fergusson and James Clarke.

SQUASH

RSM 3
CSM 2

Expectations were low for the squash as no-one can precisely remember when we last won it.

This year we had a fully fit team (with no broken limbs) to contest this important match, although upon arrival things were not looking great with one player short and one player missing. But a stroke of luck had occurred a few hours before, as Nigel, who had turned up to play for CSM as a former student of the god-awful hole and was now a RSM MSc student, was not required by CSM and would play for his new home.

The other reluctant stand-in was caught lurking in the halls: Terrence, also an RSM student. So the battle lines were drawn.

Camborne supporters outnumbered RSM 4-1, but this wasn't to be the result. Terrence lost in straight sets but captain Tom Hawkins demolished his opponent. Newly acquired RSM student Nigel was to deliver a crushing blow to Camborne, beating them 9-1 9-4 to remind them of what they had lost.

With two games left, victory in either would bring triumph, but unfortunately Rob Thomas was beaten in a last second tie-breaker. Up stepped George Hutson, who, despite the pressure, crushed his opponent like an ant under a stampede of zebras. Victory was RSM's, and the quality squash team T-shirts made by Tom added insult to the ragamuffin CSM squad.

HOCKEY

RSM Women 1
CSM Women 4

By Rachel Kershaw

The day started in a sleepy state at 8am, sitting on a coach outside the RSM waiting for our 13th player to turn up (maybe that was an omen for later). We eventually had to set off late without her.

Stepping off the coach at Harlington was a definite wake-up call - stepping out to the cold, realising what we were letting ourselves in for. Camborne were already there posing for team photos so we didn't have time to do a full warm-up, let alone practice. A quick group huddle and the game was underway.

Camborne started strongly but we matched them in pace and skill. Some tight defending prevented Camborne scoring early on, but they finally broke the seal five minutes later by putting one neatly past Suzie in goal.

The Camborne cheers only spurred on the RSM further and soon the play was mostly up at their end. The accurate passing from Susie and Heather in midfield allowed some superb running up the wings by Roxy and Amanda. The continued pressure allowed a pass to the unmarked Alice who belted the ball into the corner of the net. 1-1.

The game carried on with the same high speed flare to half time with Sarah 'please put me on the subs bench' Collins running around confusing their midfield and Sarah 'everywhere' Conolly appearing all over the place. I have never seen someone run around so much (and it wasn't even 10am!)

Unfortunately the speed of the game in the first half had taken its toll on the RSM team whilst CSM replaced half their team with the five subs they had brought with them. We started the second half defending a short in which our centre back, Sara, who had come to play despite an injury and had produced some fine stops and clearances in the first half, got injured.



RSM women's hockey: the golden girls

Gemma, who was half frozen on the sidelines, came on to replace Sara and the defence had a reshuffle. Camborne took advantage and put away two quick goals as the RSM adjusted. Some good defensive play by Gilly, Gemma, Rachel and Suzie in goal stopped further attempts. Camborne caught us on the break and also caught my foot with the ball (then the stick - I later had to make a trip to A&E), and managed to convert the subsequent short corner into a goal. A final goal was disallowed despite Camborne's protests that the umpire needed glasses.

The game ended 4-1 to CSM but RSM played with determination and flare. The game saw some excellent passing and play from the RSM team with Sarah Connolly winning the 'man of the match' award for her presence absolutely everywhere on the pitch. A good time was had by all and we can't wait to turn the result around at Camborne next year.

HOCKEY

RSM Men 1
CSM Men 3

By Peter Jackson

Encouraged by the strong (but slightly unlucky) performance from the RSM women's hockey players immediately prior to our game, the RSM men took to the pitch intent on hitting back at Camborne.

However, for a long while into the first half the two teams remained deadlocked,

equalling each other in midfield. The best early RSM chance came when Simon Pike took a hit from a short corner demanding a goal line clearance from the CSM defenders.

It was the CSM team who scored first, about midway through the first half. After RSM failed to clear their lines the CSM number nine produced a good (but not great) finish from close on goal.

RSM heads did not drop after going behind; Mike Pettit, Tom Diaper and Sam Lloyd all continued to play very well in midfield and it looked like the score would stay 1-0 into half time. But just before half time came, the CSM forwards reacted quickest to a ball rebounding back off our post and the RSM were 2-0 down at the break.

It was clear that if RSM were going to get back in the game they were going to have to push men forward and so they came out for the second half on the attack.

The change in mentality paid off when shortly into the second period Martin (Stanners) Stanley produced a very neat finish, silencing the Camborne fans mid-song and pulling the RSM back into the match.

However, with more people committed forward, pushing for the equaliser, the RSM back line became exposed and CSM stole another goal, from which RSM could not recover.

The final score on the day was 3-1. The best RSM performance was produced by our central defender Tony Stocks. We would like to thank everyone who turned out to support us.

FOOTBALL

RSM Men 5
CSM Men 2

"We can have this boys... do it, just imagine what it will be like at the players dinner if we lose this game". For some of the RSM football veterans, it wasn't a case of imagining, but remembering the 2002 Bottle match where Camborne won 5-2.

It was now the responsibility of John Eudall to make sure the cup stayed in SW7 for a second successive glorious year.

There were six players with Bottle match experience. They knew what was required to win, they knew how tough the game would be and soon reminded the debutants that this would be the hardest game of the year.

The game started brightly with RSM playing a classic 4-4-2 formation and Camborne starting with a Jose (stifle the life out of football) Mourinho style 4-5-1.

Camborne got the first goal against the run of play, but making life difficult for our-

selves had become a recurring theme. Soon, however, we were back on level terms with a period of pressure resulting in an own goal.

The Camborne midfield was starting to function like a well oiled Cornish combine harvester and soon the extra man took it toll. RSM conceded two goals in a short space of time and suddenly the cup was slipping from our grasp.

Half time came and so did the inspiration. A free kick on the Camborne left was whipped in and Carlos, who was player of the season and flown specially back from Portugal for the game, powered a header past the Camborne keeper.

Fear crept into Camborne like a thief in the night. RSM started to dominate and the whole team from Rob in goal with his confidence-exuding persona to Alex Hombro who was holding the ball up well and feeding the other attacking players. From a corner, Ewan headed from close range and in a controversial incident the ball was adjudged to have crossed the line by the referee. The Geoff Hurst goal in 1966 looked more obvious. We didn't care... we were level and playing exhibition football.

From there, not even dodgy linesmen calls could stop us. One through ball, which reached Alex, bounced perfectly for him to lob their tiny 'keeper from 25 yards. This led to a mini pitch invasion from Ed Turner and Kirk (there will probably be a FA investigation).

RSM were in the lead and that wasn't going to change. The crowd got louder, the passing got better and Camborne looked dejected. On the counter attack with Camborne desperately trying to get back in the game, Rich Gibson curled a beauty from distance to seal the win.

THE AFTERMATH

After the sporting festivities, the teams and supporters proceeded to Lorenzo's for an all-you-can-eat buffet.

The night ended with everyone happy, the Bottle safely back in the RSM (Union) Bar for another year, and generally the gentlefolk of the RSM looking forward to another trip to Camborne next year!



Some people enjoyed the day a bit too much...

BADMINTON

Bath Men's 1st 7
Imperial Men's 1st 1

FENCING

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

Imperial Men's 1st 115
Cambridge Men's 1st 128

FOOTBALL

Imperial Men's 6th 1
SSEES Men's 1st 0

HOCKEY

St Bart's Men's 3rd 0
Imperial Men's 4th 2

St George's Women's 2nd 2
Imperial Women's 2nd 1

St George's Men's 1st 3
ICSM Men's 1st 2

ICSM Men's 2nd 4
Essex Men's 2nd 1

GKT Men's 3rd 1
ICSM Men's 3rd 2

Brunel Women's 2nd 11
ICSM Women's 2nd 0

RUGBY

Glamorgan Men's 1st 27
Imperial Men's 1st 19

UWIC Men's 2nd 73
ICSM Men's 2nd 5

Reading Men's 3rd 69
ICSM Men's 3rd 0

SQUASH

Exeter Women's 1st 4
Imperial Women's 1st 1

TENNIS

Southampton Women's 1st 2
Imperial Women's 1st 8

SATURDAY 26 FEBRUARY

BADMINTON

Imperial Mixed 1st 3
UCL Mixed 1st 6

FOOTBALL

Imperial Men's 1st 3
St George's Men's 1st 1

Imperial Men's 6th 0
Holloway Men's 6th 3



sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Sport

RSM retain Bottle for ninth successive year



The victorious Royal School of Mines rugby team raise the famous Bottle in triumph after a narrow victory over their ancient rivals Cambourne School of Mines

RUGBY
Royal School of Mines Men's 1st 17
Cambourne School of Mines Men's 1st 15
By Bebop and Rocksteady
 When it comes to varsity matches, this is one of the oldest, rawest, and most aggressive one in the world. With

the Royal School of Mines (RSM) team coming into the match with an unbeaten season so far, and a team line up that could rival England's, the players' confidence was high... very high.
 The match started with a turbulent whirlwind of fists from the first ruck (mostly from the Cambourne players) meaning that Joe Albino was probably going to be looking like his second row chum

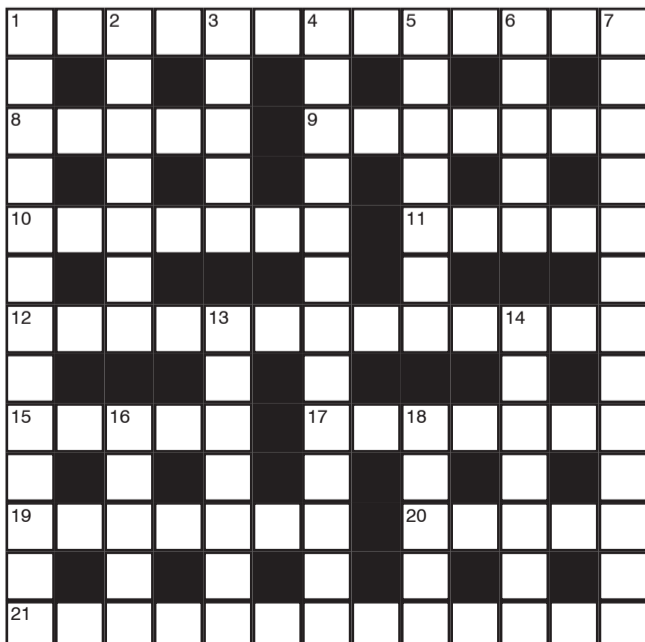
Panda-face, thus threatening the RSM's status as the best looking team at Imperial.
 The Cambourne School of Mines (CSM) forwards played well for the first five minutes of the match, ensuring fast ball for their backs, who were unable to penetrate the RSM defence. However, a sneaky pick-up from the side of a ruck allowed a ginger CSM prop to trundle past winger and captain Eddy Poulding to

score the first try of the day.
 Just when the RSM team thought their troubles were over and were safely camped in the opposition's 22, the CSM forwards hit the blind and drove over the line to score a second try.
 RSM hit back and mounted an attack using handsome decoy backs out wide (Allan, O'Rourke, Poulding and maybe Towers depending on your taste), allowing space

inside for fly half Jon Spencer to thrust Raph Diguisto through CSM like a hot kebab knife through a juicy shawarma. Try converted, 10-7, game on.
 The fuming CSM players decided to mount their last attack of the afternoon, sucking players into ruck after ruck, then shipping the ball out wide and capitalising on an overlap to once again trundle past the isolated Eddy P

and putting RSM in a difficult position going into half time 15-7 behind.
 An inspirational talk during the break, fierce battle cries from the crowds and a bit of Alex Fergusson's voodoo magic ensured that the RSM men went into the second half with nothing but victory on their minds.
 RSM received the ball from the kick-off, and immediately
Continued on page 23

Quick Crossword by Snufkin



Across

- 1. Conjuror's trick (7,2,4)
- 8. Walk in a leisurely fashion (5)
- 9. Grand residence (7)
- 10. Potentially dangerous relationship (7)
- 11. Distinctive smell (5)
- 12. O Come All Ye Faithful (Latin) (6,7)
- 15. Layabout (5)
- 17. Stormy rumbling; boom (7)
- 19. The scholarly community (7)
- 20. What Marx and Engels urged the workers of the world to do (5)
- 21. Saucy Old Testament book (4,2,7)

Down

- 1. Type of type; Belmopan, Thorshaven, Hamilton, etc. (5,8)
- 2. Welcome with open arms (7)
- 3. Conjecture; clothing company (5)
- 4. Shakespearean philanthropist turned misanthrope (5,2,6)
- 5. The country where Monty Python quite wanted to be (7)
- 6. Spanish friend (5)
- 7. Tooth-puller (6,7)
- 13. Electric ray; naval weapon (7)
- 14. Hatred of technology (7)
- 16. Gain knowledge (5)
- 18. Normal (5)



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

Issue 1317 solution

