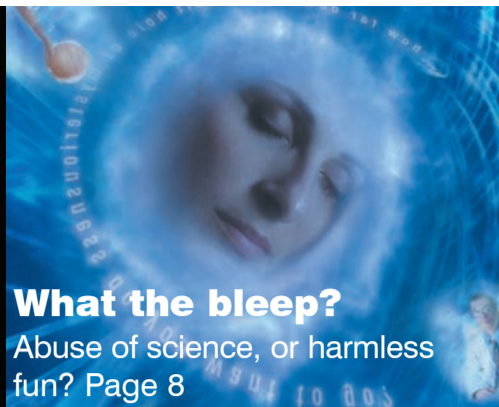


Planet pseudonyms

What the new discovery should really be called, page 3



What the bleep?

Abuse of science, or harmless fun? Page 8



Don't panic

Felix Film casts a critical eye on the *Hitchhiker's Guide*, page 16



Cup win

Hockey men emerge from dramatic final on top, page 20



Felix



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Library lost

Despite receiving assurances that their departmental library would remain open "for some time", mechanical engineering students have discovered that it will close for good this summer.

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Security: "a help, not a hindrance"

Security at Imperial College has attracted coverage in the news, comment and letters pages of *Felix* so far this year. In the first of a series of interviews with key figures at Imperial College, we talk to two of the people responsible for keeping you safe and secure on campus.

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Avoiding the 'house of horrors'

Looking for a new home? Turn to the Information and Advice Centre's guide to essential questions to ask a landlord before you sign on the dotted line.

►COMMENT page 4

Terror trade

Imperial's Amnesty Society state their case for tighter worldwide gun control laws.

►COMMENT page 6

Electioneering

"So, a new term, and maybe even a new Britain. Today, the great and the good of the country will come together to make us all a new future. Or alternatively, what will actually happen: the lazy people will have the greatest say." Tristan Lane returns.

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Last orders for Southside Bar

By Rupert Neate

When the Southside area is rebuilt next year, the popular Southside Bar will not be replaced. The building is due to be demolished in July, and College redevelopment plans make no allowance for a bar, either during the reconstruction work or in the long term.

The new Southside, costing approximately £50m, will occupy much less space than the present one, being only six storeys high compared to the current nine. Space will be lost throughout the building, particularly in communal and retail areas. There will be only one floor devoted to non-residential activity, and this will be predominately occupied by an expanded health centre and a café.

The College has stated that due to the intense demands on space, it is not possible to have a licensed bar in the new Southside. This will be welcomed by local residents, but not by students.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, believes that in the long term there may not be sufficient demand for a bar in Southside.



Students enjoy a lunchtime drink at Southside Bar, which will be demolished this summer and not replaced

"Students are drinking less, and the national trend is that bar profits are in decline," he said. However, demand at Southside Bar would appear to be high – it is difficult to get a seat most nights of the week, and hard to even find

standing space on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Tony Mitcheson, the College Secretary, told *Felix* that, as a partial replacement for Southside bar, "College has proposed that the existing hall bar in Linstead should

be refurbished and opened to all Imperial College staff and students and their bona fide guests." However, this will not go ahead after objections were received from the Union.

Mr Arif said: "The Union

objected to plans to move Southside Bar into Linstead Hall in the short term. It

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● State of the Union, page 4

Union launches Summer Ball 2005

By Dave Edwards
Editor

This year's Imperial College Union Summer Ball will be held on the South Kensington campus on Saturday 18 June 2005. Over £34,000 of funding has been secured from the College and corporate sponsors. Tickets will be on sale from Monday and, according to the organisers, "it looks set to be a great event".

Music at the ball will be provided by Radio 1 DJs Trevor Nelson and Colin Murray, amongst others. Indoor entertainment, including jazz

music and a casino, will continue through the night until the survivors' photographs are taken at 4.30am. Outside, there will be fireworks and a funfair on the Queen's Lawn, finishing at midnight.

Dinner tickets are priced at £45, including a three course meal. 'Ents only' tickets, costing £25 each, will grant access to everything but the dinner.

Organisers hope to have a liquor licence until 3am, and will serve breakfast from 2.30am, included in all ticket prices.

Sameena Misbahuddin, the Deputy President (Finance

and Services), told *Felix*: "We're having the ball in College because whenever it's been on campus it has attracted a large number of students, and we wanted to make it accessible to as many students as possible. It also gives us the opportunity to have several different rooms, a funfair and fireworks."

Last year's ball, held at Alexandra Palace, attracted less than 1000 guests and made a loss of over £15,000. However, Ms Misbahuddin said that she expected around 1500 people to attend this year, and that less than 1000

would be needed to break even, due to the funding that has already been secured.

She added: "The majority of other universities have a large, formal college-wide event to celebrate the end of the year, and students at Imperial deserve the same if not better. It will be an excellent way to end the year."

Tickets will be available from Monday at Union reception, the Union shop, Wye College Union, the Reynolds Bar at Charing Cross Hospital, and other locations to be announced.

● Comment, page 4



Trevor Nelson: the headline act at this year's ball

Felix

Issue 1321

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NEWS

End of story for Mech Eng library

By **Dave Edwards**
Editor

Despite receiving assurances that their departmental library would remain open "for some time", mechanical engineering students have discovered that it will close for good this summer.

The department's reading room, adjacent to the library, has been taken over by the Business School. As a result, staff have decided to transform the present library into a reading room, moving all books and collections to the central library.

Speaking on behalf of the current 'council of professors' that runs the department, Professor Peter Cawley told *Felix*: "We were placed in a

situation where we had no reading room, and that was our absolute priority. We concluded that the present library area was by far the most suitable location. All the books will be moved to the central library, which as you know has much longer opening hours than mechanical engineering, and so will be accessible during evenings and at weekends."

The library currently holds books, projects, exam papers and solutions in a convenient location. It is widely used, especially during exam periods. A petition against its closure, signed by over 400 mechanical engineering students, was given to the head of department in January. Students claimed that access to crucial materials would be lost in the central library, and staff would not be able to provide the same level of specific advice and service.

Helen Dawson, the mechanical engineering department representative, told *Felix*: "The students are gobsmacked that such an important resource in our department is being closed down, and it is a sore blow when we thought the library was saved

for now. No effort has been made to move the library to unused store rooms in a bid to keep it."

Felix understands that the closure of the library was widely supported by academics, who believed it to be in students' best interests.

Prof Cawley said: "I want to

make clear that our priority in discussing the future of the library area has been the interests of students. We appreciate that students value the services the departmental library offers and we will be consulting students and staff in the next few weeks on what they need."

One undergraduate in mechanical engineering, who wished to remain anonymous, told *Felix*: "Anyone would think that Mech Eng is a business for wannabe politicians, not a university for the education and stimulation of the students."

● **Comment, page 4**



The mechanical engineering department library is to be transformed into a reading room. The books will be moved to the central library instead

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<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/fitness>

Side effects of Southside rebuild

● **Continued from page 1** is unfair to leave Linstead students with no private communal space." The result: no Southside bar from summer 2005.

Mr Arif added: "If we moved it to Linstead, it would not be the same Southside Bar anyway. It would be much smaller, it would be on the first floor, it wouldn't have the same atmosphere, and College were intending for the Union to run it."

The closure of student bars does not stop with Southside – there are plans to close both Weeks and Linstead bars too. This change also appears to stem from views expressed by the Union. Mr Mitcheson states: "ICU have expressed the view that there is over-capacity in bars in the College and that the closure of the Linstead bar and the bar in Weeks Hall, with the refurbishment of both as social spaces, is to be preferred. The College has no objection to this and is now proposing to go ahead on this basis."

No indoor sports facilities

There will be no sports facilities in Princes Gardens for the duration of the autumn term next year. This will give Imperial the dubious honour of being the only major university in the country without a fitness gym on campus. The problem arises because



Southside: set for demolition this summer

the new sports centre will not open until January, having been delayed for four months, and the current fitness gym in Southside will have been demolished.

The College and Union are currently in negotiations with Fitness First in South Kensington with regard to a reduced membership rate for students and a possible College subsidy. Student clubs and activities requiring a sports hall are likely to be helped to find alternative venues and/or reimbursed the cost of travelling to Wilson House.

Reduced communal areas

The new Southside halls are to have 70 more rooms and yet the building will be reduced in height by three storeys. As a result, something has to give. The main casualties, aside from Southside Bar, will be communal areas.

Surprisingly, given prevailing student opinion that there are already too many people per kitchen, the plans are for only one kitchen per floor per hall. This could lead to up to 30 people using the same kitchen. The kitchens are planned to double as communal areas with sofas and televisions.

Students to be re-housed

Due to reduced capacity, the College plans to house students in private accommodation while Southside is being rebuilt. The students will be housed in hall-type accommodation run by UNITE Housing.

UNITE featured in the national press in October 2003, when students from the University of Liverpool and John Moores University experienced continuous problems including leaks, a lack of hot water and builders walking

into their rooms while they were still in bed.

Imperial plans to lease whole sections of UNITE's accommodation and run them like Imperial-owned halls with their own warden, sub-warden and re-apps. However, the UNITE properties are far from conveniently situated for travel to Imperial – Orient House is close to Chelsea Wharf in Fulham, and Piccadilly Court is in northeast London.

The College plans to charge approximately equal rates to those charged for Imperial-owned accommodation, minus the cost of the necessary travelcard.

Linstead will no longer be catered

The College's catering review has recommended that a shop or café outlet is needed in Princes Gardens during the Southside construction project.

Mr Mitcheson said: "The College is proposing to convert the present Linstead Hall dining room into a shop and cafe. Linstead would then no longer be a catered hall and arrangements would be made to ensure that those resident in it would not be disadvantaged by this."

However, Linstead is Imperial's last remaining catered hall, with some 9% of students listing it as "very important" in the Union's 'Your Say' survey.

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

First direct observation of exoplanet

Last week astronomers confirmed the first direct observation of a planet outside the Solar System.

Darius Nikbin looks at the new discovery and discusses the hazards of nomenclature

Astronomers clearly have no idea about marketing. The first direct observation of a planet outside of our Solar System, and what do they decide to call it? *2M1207b*.

How naive can you be? How can you capture the public's imagination by naming the first ever planet observed outside of the solar system after the number plate of the lead researcher's Mondeo?

In the past, they named planets after gods: Jupiter was 'the ruler of the heavens'. They named Neptune after 'the ruler of the oceans'. Mars is 'the god of war'. Constellations take their names from mythical beasts. Galaxies are named after characters in mythology such as Andromeda, Perseus, Eosphorus and M-77 (NGC 1068)... OK, maybe not the last one. They even named

Pluto after Mickey Mouse's dog.

A similar problem has been encountered in atomic physics. Here, physicists' originality was put to the test when it came to naming certain new radioactive elements. Their solution? They started naming the new elements after planets (92-Uranium, 93-Neptunium, 94-Plutonium), celebrity scientists (99-

"...they started naming the new elements after the planets..."

Einsteinium), and America (95-Americium).

Perhaps there are simply not enough Greek symbols, gods and myths to name new particles and planets? Rubbish argument. We humans don't have 'enough

names' to go round – which is why we have surnames and nicknames. So why don't you call the new planet 'Jupiter Fivetimes' (because the planet is supposed to be five times the size of Jupiter)?

People may argue that this is unimportant, that name-calling should not get in the way of the serious business of finding new stuff.

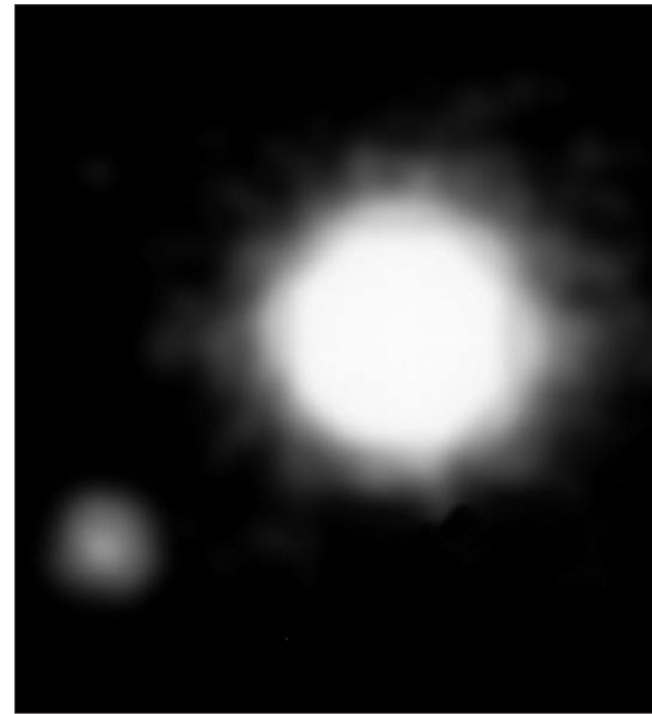
But the scientific nomenclature headache is developing into a migraine. In biology, geneticists are facing a similar problem. Working in relative isolation, different researchers studying on different species have become attached to their own respective gene-naming traditions. Those studying *Drosophila* (fruit fly), for instance, indulge in using gene names such as 'Sonic the Hedgehog' and 'Lost in Space'. Other research groups may call the same genes by another name,

and more often than not it is hard for different research cultures to agree on a shared name.

In the words of Michael Ashburner of the EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute), "biologists would rather share a toothbrush than share a gene name... gene nomenclature is beyond redemption."

The first direct observation of the exoplanet is a major achievement, especially if you consider that the first brown dwarf (body too small to be a star, too big to be a planet) was only observed in 1994.

Let's do this new planet justice by giving it a proper name. One easy solution? Corporate sponsorship. Advertisers would pay good money to sponsor historic celestial objects. Who needs *Planet Orange*, when you can have *Planet Pringles*...



Brown dwarf and exoplanet: 200 light years away

When I met Baldrick and learnt about geophysics

By Elena Lengthorn
Science communication

Channel 4's *Time Team*, that successful gang of history hounds fronted by Tony Robinson (better known to many as Baldrick from the BBC comedy series *Blackadder*), have descended upon their first site of 2005 for a manic three days of uncovering relics and architecture for their thirteenth series.

The first episode was filmed in March at a Northamptonshire site called Glendon Hall where a local resident, Martin Hipwell, had uncovered a body when building a home for his mother. Not just one body, but body after body. He then called in the local archaeologists, who put him on to *Time Team*. I joined them there and met Tony 'Cunning Plan' Robinson over a sumptuous lunch to hear all about his love of history.

Tony never liked history much at school, or school in general, but as an adult, he has an infectious enthusiasm about understanding the past, to such an extent that *Teachers' TV* managed to draft him in to teach a history lesson!

One of my interests, apart from meeting funnyman Robinson, was in the science that helps to make the programme possible, not the



Tony Robinson (centre): famous as *Blackadder's* servant, Baldrick

technology of the cameras and the sound, but the geophysics.

Cue John Gator. He is the man responsible for this area of the programme and presents the geophysical findings to camera. An expert with 18 years experience in geophysics, he has his own independent consultancy and is associate editor of the *Journal of Archaeological Prospection*.

The geophysics team consists of three highly trained operatives including John. They use three different survey techniques – magnetometry, resistivity and ground penetrating radar – to try to

locate sites of significance for the diggers without having to actually excavate.

Electric measurements have been used in area surveys since the 1940s. A resistivity survey works by sending small electrical currents into the ground and measuring the variations in resistance as the current meets obstructions. High resistivity readings indicate possible foundations, floors, paths or roads, and low resistivity readings are produced by pits and waterlogged ditches.

Fluxgate gradiometers are used to measure small anomalies in the earth's magnetic field. They were specially

developed for use in archaeological prospecting and have been around since the 1970s. They work by measuring the vertical gradient using two fluxgate sensors either 0.5m or 1.0m apart. They have an adjustable range and are extremely sensitive, detecting changes as small as 0.5 nanotesla. It's a fast method that can be used for scanning or for a more detailed survey. It's been used to find kilns, ditches, pits, furnaces, hearths and much more. I can't tell you what it detected at Northamptonshire – I don't want to spoil the surprise!

The final method they used for the Northampton-



IC Student Elena met Baldrick working on *Time Team*

shire show was Ground Penetrating Radar – GPR – which is used for shallow prospecting. It's a relatively new technique that uses the absorption and reflection of electromagnetic waves. Waves are transmitted into the ground and reflected back when they hit different layers such as soil, concrete or rock. It provides stratigraphic information and defines discontinuities. It enables the depth of targets to be estimated based on the time it takes for the waves to be reflected. It can also be used, when data is collected along a series of close parallel passes is combined, to create a 3D image

of the area. Geophysics is a key tool in unlocking archaeological secrets and has been used by *Time Team* right from the off. It makes a huge difference to what can be discovered in the pressured three days of explorations.

The geophysics team worked tirelessly during the year's first dig to undertake their surveys and then analyse the results in a bid to discover when and how these bodies came to be here. I can't tell you any more I'm afraid, apart from to say that they'll need more cupboards for the skeletons galore, and you'll have to wait and see!

Comment

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Felix

Southside Bar will be missed

After over 40 years, the Southside buildings will finally be demolished this summer. Undoubtedly, large scale refurbishment of the site is long overdue, especially given the current sorry state of the halls of residence. But the reconstruction project brings with it several knock-on effects that were not anticipated. It is difficult to escape the feeling that students will be worse off as a result of some of these changes, and that more could have been done to improve the situation.

Southside Bar – popular, award-winning and with an unrivalled atmosphere – will not be replaced. The College claims that having a bar in the new Southside is a ‘low priority’, but how many of the students and staff who regularly frequent the present bar would agree? In the short term, the students’ union claims to have been faced with “a stark choice”: either move the bar to Linstead Hall, resulting in the loss of communal space, or close the bars in Linstead and Weeks. The latter option was chosen, as the President and the Executive believe that there are enough public bar facilities on campus and that it was more important to protect the private communal space in Linstead.

Why does the Union appear so keen to see Southside Bar become consigned to history? Could it be because Southside is often more popular than the Union bars? More people should frequent the Union building, but preventing choice is not the way to achieve this. Improving what the Union has to offer is the only way to go.

Southside Bar will be fondly remembered and sorely missed by many. It is disappointing that the College and Union have not worked harder to find a place for it, both during the reconstruction and in the longer term.

Library disappointment

Mechanical engineering students will be saddened to discover that their departmental library will close in the near future, especially having received assurances that it would remain open after we first broke the story in January.

Bizarrely, the department claims that the decision was taken in students’ best interests. It is doubtful that the 400-plus students who signed a petition against its closure would share that view. The library will be converted into a reading room, as the current reading room is being taken over by the Business School. But surely the library’s books, collections and specialist service are of greater value than an empty room designated for private study.

Students and their Union must continue to fight for highly valued resources such as this. The library may have been lost, but recent battles for a place on the governing Council and sensible working hours have been won, at least in part. This demonstrates that although the College may seem to be placing financial or other concerns ahead of educational ones, the voice of the students can still be heard.

Backing the ball

Almost traditionally, the Imperial College Union summer ball comes in for a lot of stick in the pages of *Felix*. This year, as ever, we hope that criticism will not be necessary. At this stage, the signs are promising, and it would appear that large scale student support is all that is needed to make the event a big success.

The entertainment is booked, detailed plans have been released, and tickets are on sale soon. The only question mark hangs over how many students will attend and how enthusiastic they will be.

By attending events such as this, and bringing your friends along, you can play your part in changing the stereotype of bored, apathetic Imperial students. Only by being positive can a real ‘summer ball culture’ be created within College. So, if you like the sound of what’s on offer this year, buy a ticket, go along and enjoy yourself. We’ll see you there.

Felix

Politics and brinkmanship

More than just doughnuts...

In case you haven’t noticed, there is a general election going on. There are no gimmicks available to entice you to vote today (yes, today is the day), other than, hopefully, the conscience that comes with your sense of citizenship. (And before someone writes in to tell me that we are all subjects, not citizens, I’m a Republican!)

Being in a university environment can be quite liberating. Many of us will broaden our horizons and experience many new aspects of life during our time here. However, the depth of our immersion in this liberal culture can be quite insulating. We can easily forget that there is a wider world out there, one that we shall soon be moving into. A world in which issues that we glaze over in news reports really do matter.

It’s true that many of us are disillusioned with politics – particularly the mainstream political parties. However, that’s not good reason for sitting on your posterior. Politicians already ignore us because they know that young people do not vote. You may well believe that the main parties are just as bad as each other. You may, like me, wish the UK would adopt the Single Transferable Vote (and the inclusion of a New Election option) in parliamentary elections. But even if you just spoil your bal-

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

lot paper or register a ‘protest vote’ by voting for a no-hoper, you are sending a clear signal: you are not apathetic.

Firearms can hurt

When I was first elected, Andy Heeps (President 1997-1998) warned me that the day would come when the College would “put a gun to your head” to get their way. I took Andy’s advice guardedly and haven’t really had to face that sort of situation – until the future of Linstead hall came into question.

Linstead is the only catered hall in South Kensington, and conse-

quently, despite some perceptions, the most oversubscribed hall we have. The College proposed moving the Southside shop to the ground floor dining hall (ending catering for residents, whilst providing no replacement kitchens). They also proposed opening up Linstead’s first floor bar into a public College bar, operated by the Union. This would have the effect of leaving Linstead residents with no private communal space. The Union Executive asked me to oppose the proposals.

When I met College officials to discuss the situation, they were in no mood to compromise over the ground floor. They did offer me a choice with the first floor – I could either choose to have a College bar there or else choose to have the area refurbished for residents’ use, but with the existing hall bar closed. For reasons of “fairness”, the Weeks Hall bar would close with the Linstead one.

In the interests of the hall residents (and given the underused bar capacity on the rest of the campus), I had to choose the hall bar closure option. Both the Union Executive and the Warden endorsed my stance, in the circumstances. I do not understand why College are taking this position. Perhaps they thought I’d back down? Anyway, that’s why the hall bars are closing.

Don’t move into the house of horrors

When finding a new house or flat, as well as looking at the area you want to live in and the people you want to live with, it’s important to bear practical issues in mind as well.

It is also important to make sure that your landlord keeps to his or her responsibilities under the law. Some of these are mentioned below. If you think that your new landlord is bit dodgy or if you would like some advice on the agreement you are about to sign, please feel free to contact the Information and Advice Centre as we offer a comprehensive contract checking service and will be able to advise you if your agreement is fair to you, the tenant.

Don’t be nervous to ask your prospective landlord the questions you want answered, no matter how awkward they are for him or her.

- Is the deposit refundable? This is the money you pay to cover damage to the flat or non-payment of rent. This is usually around the same as one month’s rent. Make sure you get a receipt for this. It will be returned to you when you leave. You may also have to pay the first month’s rent in advance.

- Check your tenancy agreement thoroughly. Make sure both you and the landlord agree on the details. How much will you pay and when? How long is the contract? What is the notice period? Does the contract set all this out?

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

- Under a tenancy agreement the landlord must make sure the property is in good repair, with adequate water, gas, electricity, sanitation and heat. If the landlord says he will be fixing something before you move in, can he confirm that in writing?

- Check your obligations. What exactly does the landlord expect from you? What aspects of the upkeep of the flat does he expect from you? Preferably this should all be in writing in the contract.

- Get the landlord’s contact details in case something goes wrong. Take as many details as possible, including who you should phone if he goes away on holiday.

- What are your rights? If something

does go wrong, it’s useful to know exactly what you’re entitled to. To find out, why not contact The Information and Advice Centre.

- Do the gas appliances have valid ‘approved’ certificates? Landlords must have them checked annually by a registered CORGI (Council for Registered Gas Installers) engineer. Ask to see the certificates. Faulty gas supplies can be fatal if they result in carbon monoxide leaks. The law states that your landlord must provide a safety check certificate within 28 days of the gas check taking place and it must be produced before you move in.

- Will bills be in your name (collectively)? Will your landlord inform the relevant offices? Were readings taken when the last people moved out? Were they accurate?

- Check if you are insured, either on your parents’ or your landlord’s insurance.

I hope you have found this article helpful and that you will find a property that is suitable for all your student needs. Just remember that if you have any issues whatsoever while house hunting or if you just have a quick question with regard to housing rights, please do not hesitate to contact The Information and Advice Centre on 020 7594 8067 or advice@ic.ac.uk. You can also visit the centre in the east wing of Beit Quad on a drop-in or appointment basis.

Summer ball and the Union building

Summer ball

It's that time of the year – and that means the Imperial Summer Ball. The date for your diaries is 18 June. This year's ball will be held at the South Kensington campus and will include all the old favourites, plus some exciting improvements on previous years. With sponsorship and money from College, it will be the unmissable event of the year.

With a drinks reception, a funfair on the Queen's lawn, fireworks and music all night with Radio 1 DJ Colin Murray, MTV's Trevor Nelson and jazz, it looks set to be a great

evening. This year's event will carry on until 4.30am, with a survivors' photo and free breakfast for all those who last that long. Our sponsors have donated loads of fantastic giveaways including MP3 players. All this and more is included for just £25 for an ents ticket.

As in previous years, there will be a dining option at £45 per head, which includes all of the above as well as a three course meal in a marquee for 500 people on the Queen's lawn.

The summer ball is the biggest event the Union holds and is an excellent way to end the year in style with your friends.



SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(FINANCE & SERVICES)

Union building

Does your Union building meet your needs? Ever thought that Beit Quad could do with a revamp? In the centre pages of this newspaper, you will see ideas from the architects on the future of the Union building. Initial feedback was sought during the Strategic Review surveys and focus groups last term and now there is another opportunity to give your feedback, via the Union website. Focus groups will be held during the next month. So turn to the centre pages and discover how your Union and its building can offer you more.

'No smoking' trial in DaVinci's

Two months into the 'no smoking' trial in the Union's café/bar DaVinci's, we have been inundated with feedback, both for and against the trial, by email to yoursay@ic.ac.uk and through the Yoursay feedback forms.

Thank you to all those who have aired their views – we need as much information as possible to ascertain whether 'no smoking' will continue after the trial ends and will be using the feedback and suggestions received in this evaluation. Keep your thoughts coming...

Emissions trading: is it the answer?

Under emissions trading agreements, will the environment become just another commodity to be bought and sold? **Simon Bennett** investigates

It will not have escaped the attention of *Felix* readers that climate change and environmental issues have recently been receiving increased levels of publicity. Responsibility for this appears to rest with the Kyoto protocol and the precarious balance of climate change issues at the top of Tony Blair's G8 agenda. Both are admirable political efforts. Both will be severely compromised by their political basis (see *Felix* 1319, 'Oh, Kyoto! What a Complete Farce' by Richard Fenning).

For all the excited talk about Kyoto, it is sad that perhaps its greatest strength as an emissions reducer is likely to ultimately undermine the accomplishment of the task. I refer to emissions trading. By trading permits for greenhouse gas emissions, it draws nations down a route of environmental valuation. A scheme that encourages profiteering from environmental protection makes the environment seem like just another resource to be accounted for on the balance sheet. It is a vital progression away from not accounting for environmental impacts at all, but does this solution take our worldview closer, or further away, from one that is harmonious with nature?

The premise of the Kyoto and EU Emissions Trading Schemes is that the current prevailing belief system of capitalist economics has not been sufficiently valuing environmental impacts (see *Felix* 1318,

'Cutting Carbon Under Kyoto'). As a result, it is more profitable to pollute than to invest in abatement if the environmental detriment does not directly harm the polluter's cash flow. Essentially, a dualist approach that separates human operations from environmental considerations exists. A permit trading scheme offers a method of attempting to make the polluter pay for damage caused. However, the outcome of such a system is not one in which the polluters will pay full compensation for the casualties of their actions. The outcome is that the overall level of pollution by all polluters is merely reduced by an amount dictated by the number of permits allocated. No compensation is ever received by injured parties and the allocation is made on a political basis.

Despite this, tradable permits can be effective at reducing emissions, as shown by the US Acid Rain Program. Emissions reductions are essential if we are to seriously address climate change, and market-based methods are politically friendly since neither taxpayers nor governments are especially financially burdened. Political sensitivities may have more impact on the endorsement of Domestic Tradable Quotas as proposed by the Tyndale Centre's research programme. If all the inhabitants of the earth were allocated a tradable carbon quota then climate-friendly behaviour

would result. Or would it?

If the problem is that a dualist belief system has become dominant, in which nature and human behaviour are regarded independently, then it should be this that is addressed. Pricing the environment makes our behaviour become even more about the immediate needs of the human race, promoting the impression that the environment exists for our benefit. This echoes the biblical instruction that man shall have "dominion over the works of [God's] hands". It also suggests that we can control nature through technological change. In the wake of recent natural disasters, this appears further away than ever.

But the inference is not diminished by the presence within many companies of environmental managers, a title that compounds the impression that environmental improvement is the product of control and management of nature. Imperial College itself may soon have its own Environmental Manager and many graduates of Imperial's prestigious MSc in Environmental Technology may go on to take up such roles. Indeed, many graduates of the course will land some very influential positions having been indoctrinated by the potential successes of economic solutions such as emissions trading, but having been given no debate on the fundamental implications. Is it really possible to assume that the

solution can be found within the very model that is responsible for the problem of dangerous pollution levels? Such levels are side-effects of the pursuit of technology to fuel economic growth, a process that has so far only served to concentrate power in the hands of those with the least regard for our environmental legacy.

So as we enter what appears to be an inevitable era of employing markets to address environmental issues, we should all be asking ourselves a few vital questions:

Is the introduction of globally-backed, market-based measures a genuine cause for celebration? Amending the problems of the current system by introducing fixes that place a value on the environment will primarily benefit those who can afford to buy their slice of nature. The rest of the world will become the most burdened, as it compensates for such behaviour; doing nothing to improve our fundamental relationship with our environment. Whilst tradable permits have been shown to be effective emissions reducers, they are inherently limited in scope. We should continue to look beyond these measures and not be scared of looking outside the current system. Effective policies that address the behavioural causes of needless carbon emissions might not be complimentary to existing structures.

Are we really addressing the prob-

lem or merely the symptoms? Co-existence with a healthy biosphere surely demands that we live within that biosphere and consider ourselves to be one powerful component of the planet's biodiversity. This means questioning whether our measures serve to ingrain dualist philosophies that encourage the belief that we can ultimately 'win' the battle with nature. The problem may not strictly be that we are not valuing the environment, but that we are using the wrong system of valuation to make decisions about the world's future.

Does the current environmental education system see the field too narrowly? By working closely with the main current employers in the field, students are being equipped to succeed within the current political and economic paradigm. It may, however, prove equally important to educate students in the fundamental failings of the system and the need for longer-term solutions.

These are merely concerns to be accounted for when considering the claims about Kyoto. If radical changes are threatened, are intrinsically incremental measures good enough, or are we consigning ourselves to tinkering at the edges of the problem before we've even started to address it?

● **Simon Bennett is an MSc student of environmental technology**

The insidious effects of intellectual property rights

By **Jamie Brothwell**

Imperial College Student Pugwash

The belief that intellectual property rights have little impact on people's lives is an extremely dangerous public misconception. Are you aware that patents make vital medicines inaccessible to the people who need them most? Or that 95% of copyrighted works are no longer available? Do you know the crisis your own library faces because of the increased commercialisation of academic publishing, and can you

imagine how much worse things are for libraries in developing countries?

Last term, Rufus Pollock, director of the Open Knowledge Foundation, gave a talk addressing these issues, hosted by the Student Pugwash Society. He highlighted the radical new possibilities for equitable information-sharing that have arisen with the internet, as well as the ever-increasing global regime of intellectual property protection that threatens them.

Coders and hackers who use open

source software are acutely aware of the threat from inappropriate applications of intellectual property – the proposed European Software Directive could lay free systems such as Linux open to a flood of litigation.

Environmentalists, on the other hand, or those who campaign for a fairer deal for developing nations, are often unaware of the all-pervasive effects of 'intellectual property'. There is a great deal of debate over the rights and wrongs of the World Trade Organisation,

but when did you last hear about the World Intellectual Property Organisation? Away from the public gaze, they are implementing a programme of harmonisation that has recently led India to outlaw the production of generic medicines. Currently, India supplies 60% of the generic AIDS drugs used in Africa.

The Open Knowledge Foundation (OKF) exists to promote awareness of these issues, to campaign for fairer legislation and to foster projects that use the principles of

open access to information. The OKF will be back at Imperial at the start of the next academic year, talking and orchestrating a campaign to increase access to academic literature – an issue that affects each and every one of us. Meanwhile look them up online: www.openknowledgefoundation.org.

● **Find out more about Imperial Student Pugwash at www.union.ic.ac.uk/pugwash**

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COMMENT

Stop the terror trade

Maya Chowdhury, of Imperial's Amnesty Society, argues for tighter worldwide gun control laws

"One day we argued. I was with some other people, planting vegetables, and he shot me through the leg... Then he shot me through the chest, and the third bullet just skimmed my hair, it was so close..."

These are the words of Yem Para, from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, who was viciously gunned down outside her home following a disagreement with someone she knew.

"At first everyone was afraid to intervene, but when he'd finished the rounds, the neighbours came and stopped him bashing me with the butt of the gun. I still get pain from my wounds. And now I can only do about half what I used to."

Covert arms shipments from China and the USA to Cambodia's anti-Vietnamese factions started arriving in the 1970s. An estimated 500,000 small arms are believed to remain in Cambodia – half of them controlled by the official military and police forces and the other half unaccounted for. Yem Para's case simply highlights the tip of an iceberg affecting the entire global community.

There are in the region of 639 million small arms and light weapons worldwide today. Every year,

approximately 500,000 men, women, and children are killed by armed violence worldwide – that equates to one person being slaughtered every minute. A further eight million more arms are produced each year, serving only to add to the misery and horrors resulting from armed violence. It is estimated that, by 2020, the amount of fatalities and injuries from war and violence will surpass the number of deaths caused by infectious diseases such as malaria.

The unregulated flow of arms allows criminals to unleash their butchery and makes it easy for soldiers and police to murder arbitrarily. Although illicit wartime killings are a cause for concern, soldiers, paramilitaries and police are also misusing military gear to commit terrible atrocities against civilians during peacetime.

In the absence of sufficient control of the arms industry and without measures to protect people from their misuse, the unregulated arms trade will continue to be the trigger of a tirade of catastrophic tragedies. Easily obtainable weapons will only help more violent crimes to occur. Greater numbers of people will be

forced to flee their homes and abandon their livelihoods in an attempt to escape brutality. The vicious cycle of human rights abuses, suffering and poverty will continue.

Gun control is currently in the hands of national governments. Unfortunately, their legislation and authority is too frequently inadequate to command reasonable arms control. Amnesty International takes the stance that an international arms trade treaty is required to overcome the carnage caused by unregulated arms commerce and use. Such a treaty would create legally binding gun controls and ensure that all governments control arms to the same basic international standards.

Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, justified his support for such a treaty when he explained that "the excessive accumulation and illicit trade of small arms is threatening international peace and security, dashing hopes for social and economic development, and jeopardizing prospects for democracy and human rights".

In spite of this view, and perhaps unsurprisingly, much of the blame for unregulated arms trading can be

placed at the doors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The UK, US, France, Russia and China account for up to 80% of reported arms exports. From 1998 to 2001, the US, UK and France secured a greater income from the sales of arms to developing countries than the total amount of aid they donated to them.

Politicians in this country are well aware of the problem of arms control, as can be outlined by Norman Lamb MP: "The Government has been hypocritical on this issue... and British companies are profiting from it. There's blood on the Government's hands over this."

Similarly, in the US, former President Jimmy Carter complains: "We can't have it both ways. We can't be both the world's leading champion of peace and the world's leading supplier of arms."

Clearly the public needs to show its support for greater gun control and help to apply pressure on the government to encourage such action. Similar public drives over political issues have been successful, for example in banning landmines and cancelling third world debt.

Amnesty International has launched a Million Faces petition campaign in conjunction with Oxfam and the International Action Network on Small Arms in an attempt to show the international governing bodies that there is a great public demand for tighter gun control. It is hoped that if one million people join the petition before the next UN arms conference in 2006, sufficient pressure will have been applied to ensure the adoption of an international arms treaty and better gun control. The campaign was launched a year ago and already has the support of over 225,000 people worldwide. It is vital that the targets are met to highlight the world's largest popular movement against the misuse of arms.

For more information, or to add your name to the Million Faces petition, visit www.controlarms.org. Alternatively, come along to Imperial College's Amnesty International group meetings in the Union on Wednesday lunchtimes where this and other human rights abuses are discussed. Contact oscar.dahlsten@ic.ac.uk for further details.

What the bleep do they know?

A documentary about quantum physics, psychology and spirituality has become a huge US box office hit. Thought-provoking entertainment, or dangerous abuse of science? **Edmund Hunt** knows where he stands

Last Thursday, ICU Cinema hosted a free preview screening of *What The Bleep Do We Know?* which I attended with a couple of my friends. We were happy to take advantage of the offer of a free movie, and the film promised to be a *Horizon*-style discussion of purported links between science and spirituality. Unfortunately it turned out to be sinister propaganda for a bizarre New Age cult called the 'Ramtha School of Enlightenment'. I would urge people not to pay money to see this film, because if you do, you are unwittingly enriching some very shady characters.

The movie follows the narrative of a photographer, containing such perennial human musings as the meaning and purpose of life, control over one's future, and her problems with a distorted self-image. So far, so fair. However, it's interspersed with comments from 'scientific experts' and such luminaries as a failed Catholic theologian and a cult leader claiming to be a channel for a 35,000-year-old warrior spirit.

Most of the film is simply a deluge of high-speed computer graphics and meaningless phrases, designed to wow the audience into thinking something new and profound is being said. However, it's really a half-baked concoction of ideas from humanist psychology, misrepresented quantum physics and fuzzy New Age thinking about the nature of consciousness. To be fair, I suppose the film is somewhat entertaining, in the same way that watching a bellowing televangelist makes you chuckle: these people really do believe their

own hype.

We were privileged to have one of the talking heads in the film, Fred Wolf, come and do a Q&A at the end of the showing. Unfortunately, his hypocrisy – urging us to be 'open-minded' in one breath, mocking those with serious questions about the film's poor science in the next – really left a bitter taste in the mouth. It ought to remind us that even PhDs aren't immune from arrogance and self-delusion.

Now, believe me, I'm not against an open discussion about spirituality – philosophies on the nature of reality from the likes of Plato and Buddha are fascinating and thought-provoking. Indeed, I think an awareness of them is beneficial to the thoughtful scientist. But what's dangerous about this film is the way it contains some genuine science and some sensible attitudes – giving it the veneer of respectability – and then proceeds from there to make completely unjustified, unexplained and unfalsifiable conjectures that are presented as scientifically-endorsed fact.

Alas, the filmmakers seem to have little time for such quaint concepts as measurable results and scientific proof. The theory of quantum mechanics does provide for such startling ideas as quantum superposition, where a quantity may take on several values until observed, when it will be 'collapsed' onto one of the possible values. However, the filmmakers take this idea and interpret it as humans literally creating reality with the power of their conscious

thoughts. From here we get to such wacky self-help notions as 'create your own day', recognizing your own 'god-like power'. Now, encouraging positive thinking is to be applauded, but telling people that they can walk on water if they 'really believe it' strikes me as a little disingenuous, to say the least.

Regrettably, *Bleep* may be a popular release in Britain. I think it's a duty of the scientific community – especially those at such respected schools as Imperial – to speak out against the aggressive, intentional misuse and misrepresentation of science. We mustn't be unwitting stooges of cultists; one of the physicists quoted in the film, David Albert from Columbia University, claims his views were "radically misrepresented" through selective editing of his interview. We need to be vigilant and proactive in explaining to the unwitting public what theories like quantum mechanics do, do not and cannot entail for our world-view as conscious beings.

With quantum mechanics becoming popular buzzwords in the west, it's clearly going to be an uphill struggle to explain the necessary limitations – and remarkable explanatory power – of the scientific method. However, if science sits idly by while society is infected with misleading ideas about its work, all humankind will suffer. Well, all except perhaps the likes of the Ramtha leader, who has already made her millions.

● **Edmund Hunt is a physics undergraduate**



What The Bleep Do We Know? At a cinema near you soon

Columns

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Electioneering



by TRISTAN LANE

So, a new term, and maybe even a new Britain. Today, the great and the good of the country will come together to make us all a new future. Or alternatively, what will actually happen: the lazy people will have the greatest say.

Nothing will change. Despite years of bitching and complaining about how this country sucks, no-one will get off their arse for long enough to make a difference. And because of the electoral system of this country being as mad as a badger, the Government will once again be left with a majority of 40,000 seats in the House of Commons, and will be able to plough ahead and knock down the House of Lords to make

way for a bowling alley. This will be despite only have gained just 11.3% of the vote, with most seats coming from recent 'restructuring' in constituency boundaries. Only in the UK and its parent country, the USA, can such blatant vote tampering happen.

But I'm not one to whine about things, so I'm going to look on the positive side. It is only when politicians feel comfortable in their posts do they do something useful, so I reckon the next general election should not be called until 2012, in order to really muck up the Olympics.

All joking aside, use some of the energy you've saved up for porn to tick a small box and make a small child happy.

The real world

Time flies when you're having fun, and even more so when that fun is actually university. One minute you're this fresh-faced youth with time on his side and an intriguing take on the world, the next you are a grubby, bearded 'man' of indeterminate age with an intriguing take on the concept of hygiene. What

happened to the intervening years? Were there really that many kebabs? Really that few women?

Sadly yes, but even more saddening is the concept of finals. Fortunately it's only my housemate Seb who is doing these things, and being biology they shouldn't really pose too much of a problem. Now, whilst I like Seb, I truly fear for the future, for what is left of my life if even my housemates are having to become part of the real world?

I can't believe how cruel life is. I was just getting into *Neighbours* and *Hollyoaks*, *No Angels* and *Casualty*, *Doctors* and *Murder She Wrote*; and then those buggers come along and expect me to remember some silly lecture from my first year, about enzymes. Or was it hormones? Whatever, I doubt I'll ever need it again... especially as exam avoidance has allowed me to fulfil my lifelong (well since *Eastenders* last night) ambition to become a qualified tap dancer.

Toilet seats

Seriously, why is leaving the toilet seat up such a big issue? It's not like people are small enough to actu-

ally fall into the bowl. How many people have actually drowned in the toilet? Whilst trying to piss? It's not exactly rocket science. Plus girls aren't like blokes, and so generally turn the light on whilst using the bathroom. No such luxury for us, especially if the floor is tiled. It's all about efficiency, and possibly beating the house record time, whilst still maintaining an air of dignity. Well, maybe without the dignity, and possibly with a lot more muffled swear words as you kick the bath for the twentieth time that week.

Personally I think this is the clincher: women *never* put the seat back up when they're done, even if a man has carefully left it up for his next visit. It's only fair to leave it as you found it, surely? Having cleaned up for us of course.

Science

Scientists have recently worked out the main driving factor behind all scientific discoveries. As, historically at least, most scientists have been men, it's surprising it hadn't come to the fore earlier. The engine of learning is sex. From Newton (equations for dangling breasts, now

used heavily by bra manufacturers and cosmetic surgeons everywhere), to Einstein (equations describing how time slows down when a particularly attractive woman becomes naked), sex has driven men to develop new and intriguing ways of enjoying it.

The most recent example is of course the internet, or the 'web of porn' as it was originally called. Its amazing how quickly broadband has been picked up. Strictly for email of course, which gets there quicker if you have a dedicated 8Mbps line linked into the Vivid Videos film site. Honest.

But on a serious note, space travel and exploration has taken a back seat since the Americans went to the moon and confirmed it was like Monday lunch in the local pub – a complete lack of hot ladies. So my idea to rejuvenate NASA and their ilk is to restart the programme that brain-washes scientists into thinking that their is intelligent life elsewhere that just happens to be shaped like a centrefold. You might have heard of it, it's called *Star Trek*. There's always hope when aliens have to be told about this thing called love...

The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

La la la la la,

The summer has finally arrived – it's officially too warm not to wear a skirt. The intrepid Stormy has been out and about, sizing up the best styles around to display her perfectly

tanned, hairless pins. She hasn't had to worry about much else, since legs or no legs, Stormy hasn't been short of attention for the past week or so, the majority of it being unwanted.

Take the hapless geriatric Arab (hello, is it *ever* anyone else?) illegal immigrant who tried to make a pass at me on the bus last week. Eight thirty am is just *not* the time to try it on, especially if you have no chance in hell of getting anywhere.

The conversation went a little like this, whilst I had my headphones in listening to *Hot Fuss*, my favourite album of the last year, for the ten millionth time. He disturbed me in the middle of my favourite song, the wonderful *Somebody Told Me*.

"You vote next week?"

"Yeah."

"You vote immigration policy?"

"I don't know."

Cue puzzlement.

"I vote you be mine".

Cue disgust. I replace my headphones and turn to face the window. Resistant and persistent, his perviness continues, after tapping me repeatedly on the shoulder.

"I like music."

"Cool."

"I listen your music?"

"No, you can't, the bacteria in your auditory canal will ruin my music."

Thankfully, the bus pulled into a stop within running distance of College. Off I got, flustered and annoyed, and ran the fastest 1500 metres possible in three inch heels.

Three inch heels?

Yes, I've taken to joining the rest of the vertically challenged skinny sluts in College since it's project handover week, meaning I've got presentations galore. Imagine my glee on walking, all-prettyed up, into a room full of coffee, biscuits and flirty Brazilian waiters. Tasty stuff.

Alas, that's as good as it got. My presentation went dismally, considering it turned out to be an impromptu discussion of my inappropriate couture footwear and a complete dismissal of my vital research into the mouse tissue factor gene. I mean, animal rights aren't part of a BSc project discussion, are they? Stupid vegan mohair woman with her mousy hair and oversized Birkenstocks.

She's evidently jealous that she can't afford Jimmy Choos. Don't touch what you can't afford, sister!

I walked off in a huff, ready to break down in tears, when the Ethan Spears-lookalike I'd had a brief tryst in the Huxley with arrived with hugs and chocolate. He'd heard I was in the building and knew things hadn't gone well. He asked me out to coffee, and I obliged.

It's the least I could have done – if I'd not got in there, somebody else would have. And that, my dear readers, after his Thai soap massages, is not something I'd have like to have happened!

So did Stormy get lucky or didn't she? Let's just say the cat got the cream. I'll see you next week.

Who am I?



by SUMA BHATTACHARYA

So hello all you Imperial people! I am sure there are people out there who already think they know something about me from that sentence.

You see, I was lying on my bed the other night and it was seriously dark. I couldn't tell between opening and closing my eyes. Without any parents, any friends, any mirrors, any writing on the walls, any visible society or anything except my own meandering mind, I wondered what there really is of me. OK, so I had my mind, and the wonderful concept that I am thinking and therefore I must exist. Though I don't really see how that proves anything. I mean this is it, really – the stripped down version of ourselves that everything around us, including our faces, seem to decorate.

So I was meant to introduce

myself, but I couldn't think of a way of fundamentally identifying myself without creating a reflection of something or someone else in the world outside.

I hate being asked where I am 'originally' from. I find the whole idea pretty hilarious. I mean, how original do they want to get? I stupidly tell them, "from this world" (no, not even a distinction between the first and the third), only for them to stare at me pretty blankly until I just want to end their misery.

What would a country say about me? Each country is just as diverse as the landscape of our being. It would give clues about the empires

that flourished and demised with time, the arbitrary political struggles that lead to men in traditional clothes drawing maps and lines to signify the borders dividing the new generations, only to change over and over again throughout history.

How European will the Turks feel as soon the Brussels team are ready for them to join? How Pakistani did the Pakistanis feel two generations ago? At least it leads to Imperial boasting about more and more clubs and societies, I guess.

I am really glad that I have been 'accused' of 'trying' to be black, white and probably all the pretty colours in the rainbow, while ultimately

amusing myself in the knowledge that I wasn't 'trying' anything and was just being myself. And all along, how much those people misinterpreted me, wasting their breath, thinking that I would be insulted by saying I was pretty damn universal! Oh yes, the age old psychological insight that tells us that we should feel insecure if we cannot provide a label for ourselves. How about striving to find security within ourselves without the labels and the whole façade? Fortunately, no single country, no single religion, no single way of life can sum it up for me. A blank canvas leaves me far more to play with!

COLUMNS

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The Neighbours generation



by RUPERT NEATE

I promise I'm not going to mention *Neighbours* in every single column. But has it not been particularly fantastic recently – the fire, the return

of bad boy Paul Robinson (son of Jim Robinson, aka Caleb in *The OC*)...

Neighbours have upped the stakes because this is the 20th anniversary year. Watch out for the 20th anniversary episode, to be screened in October, in which many famous ex-neighbours are rumoured to be returning, including Billy Kennedy, Flick Scully, Paul McClain, Lance Wilkinson and Amy Greenwood. Unfortunately Kylie has declined, as has Jason Donovan because he has "other pressing commitments". Yeah right mate, your career is really taking off, isn't it?!

Also, don't miss Dr Karl's band,

who are currently touring the UK! He's playing Royal Holloway Union on 3 June – I've already got tickets. But why isn't he coming here? More to the point, why does nobody ever play at our Union? Response required, Mr President.

4th floor library dude

Have any of you noticed that there is certain vest-wearing tall guy who must spend his whole life on the fourth floor of the library? As research for this column, I've been spot-checking for his presence at random hours of the day and night. He is always there.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not having a dig at conscientious hard-working people, but this guy is a joke. He never does any work, just sits at the computer and acts the 'big man' chatting to his mates. OK, the fourth floor is the group study area, so people should be aloud to chat. But, so loudly and with his penetrating baritone? Please shut up.

A couple of my mates reckon he stalks them around the library. They eyeball him on the fourth floor, head down to the second, but then low and behold he turns up downstairs a few minutes later.

I've once seen him really agitat-

ed, I think he was worried that as none of his mates were around he might actually have to do some work instead of pretending to. But he was on the case: he got out his phone and texted his friends so that they could have a little party in the library!

While on the subject of the library, should it really be open 24 hours? People live in the library, which is just plain wrong, not just for their sanity, but also our nasal passages. '24 hour stinters' don't appear to go home and wash, and I've seen some people brushing their teeth in the toilets. I mean that's just plain wrong!

Analyse them



by DIOGO GERALDES

There are moments when you want to die, there are moments when you want to cry, there are moments when you scream for help... and then there are Imperial College exams!

By now you are either revising for an exam, taking an exam (and probably failing it, as you should be reading the exam paper, not this!) or you've just finished an exam (and instead of partying like there is no tomorrow, you're reading *Felix*! What an exciting life, huh?)

In our academic lives, we all have to face exam time, whether we like it or not. (And if you like it, I wrote an article about you last week.)

So today, I'm going to concentrate on these two questions:

1. What kind of personalities can we spot in exams?
2. How can you make it through an exam?

1. What kind of personalities can we spot in exams?

- When you are in an exam classroom, you can smell it in the air... no, not the tension, but the sweat of the students who haven't showered for three days just to catch up with all the theory! These are the **examinators**: studying machines brought back from the future with only one goal, to get at least 90% in all the subjects! Virtually impossible, you may think... but not for them! Even if they are attracting male giraffes that confuse their odour with that of females in mating season, they won't be distracted from their goal!
- On the completely opposite side are the **cheaters**! For them, cheating is not a solution, it's a way of life. They can't really be bothered to do any work, and so they spend the whole time trying to figure out totally new and efficient cheating styles. I could write a whole article about them, but I'm going to let that

opportunity go.

- You can usually find a couple of **sleepers**. They slept through all the lectures, they slept through all the revision period, they slept the last time they tried to have a sexual relationship and they sleep through their exams. Like a mutation from human to koala, they hibernate for the whole year, only opening their eyes to grab some bamboo or eucalyptus.

- The fourth type usually goes unnoticed. **Silent but deadly**, like ninjas, they release a gas bomb that will disturb half of the class, get another third killed by intoxication and leave only the examiners still hard at work. They are at the brink of extinction, but there is a discreet farters' resistance trying to rise from the ashes.

- Finally, we have the **normal students** (like you and me), who spend the year partying and then go mental at exam time, trying to revise everything in one week. They usually end up doing well in the exams, but that doesn't stop them from almost having a cardiac arrest on each exam's eve and browning their pants when they receive the exam paper.

2. How can you make it through an exam?

This part of the article is written for 'normal students' only. So, if you're not one, please just re-read Stormy Woods' column instead. (I would like to use this public space to say that I am really going to miss my columnist partner when she graduates! I reckon on your 'loving' odyssey you haven't tasted a Latin social analyser so, Stormy, whoever you are, if you want to improve your CV, just email me – and I know from last week that you're waiting to add a Latin lover to your collection!)

Anyway, making it through an exam... I'm not the best person to do this (in fact, I'm probably the one who needs professional advice), but I'll try to do my best.

- Try to sleep before your exam. Don't spend the night watching porn or thinking about how much you're going to have to study for the resits.
- Stop getting drunk every other night and start drinking stuff that won't interfere directly with your DNA.
- Unless you are a 'silent but deadly' type, avoid beans and curries.
- Try to revise every day, and not only on the way to the exam (I've

seen loads of late revisers crashing into trees in Hyde Park doing that).

- Write notes while you're studying. It helps you understand what you're reading and makes you look smart enough to the girls in your department (if you have any).

- Never, but never, hang around with walking encyclopaedias! They'll make you feel like the dumbest guy in the world and you'll want to finish all the pain with a quick jump into the Thames! Ignorance is bliss...
- Finally... take it easy! It's hard,

but not impossible! And think of all the girls/guys you are going to find in that tropical country where you'll be spending your holidays (if you're from a tropical country already, think about all those fit tourists loaded with money!)

Imperial College London

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

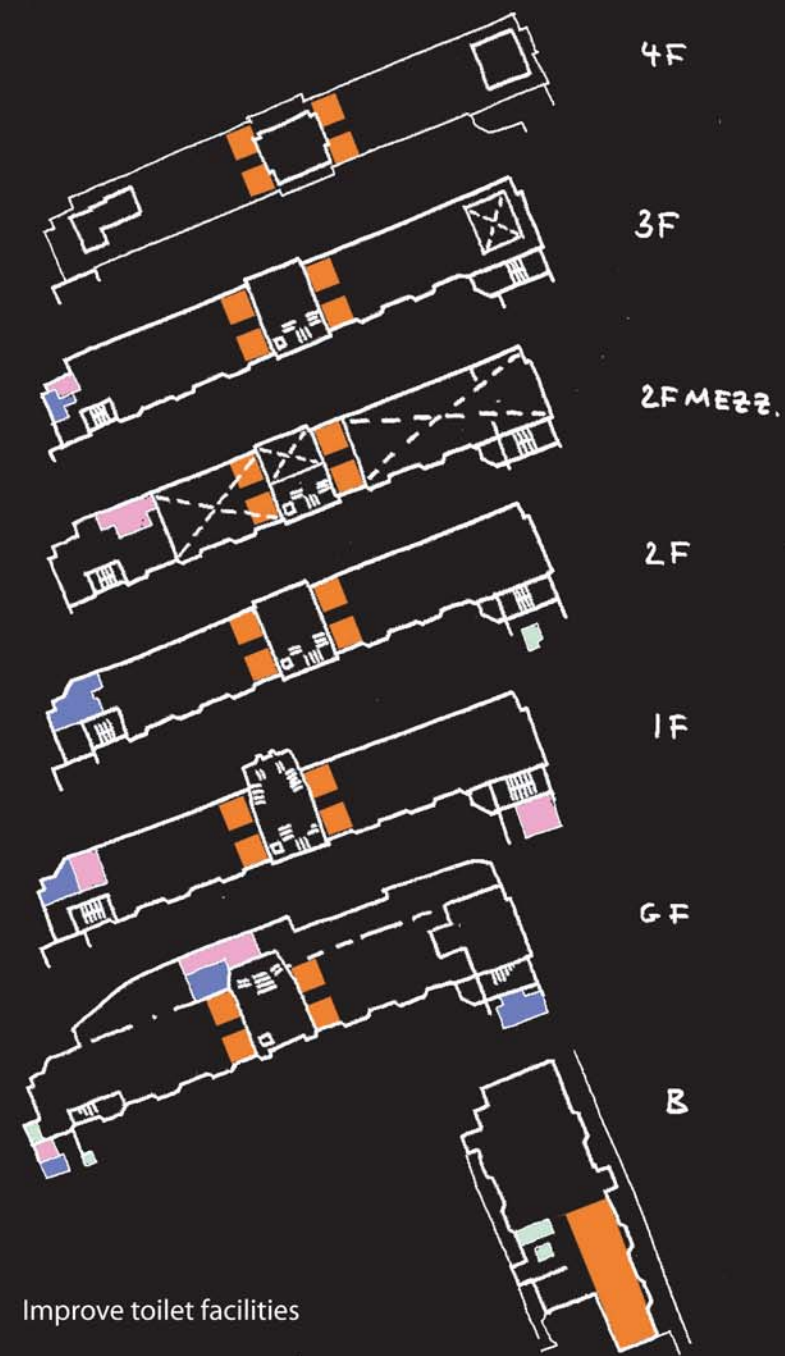
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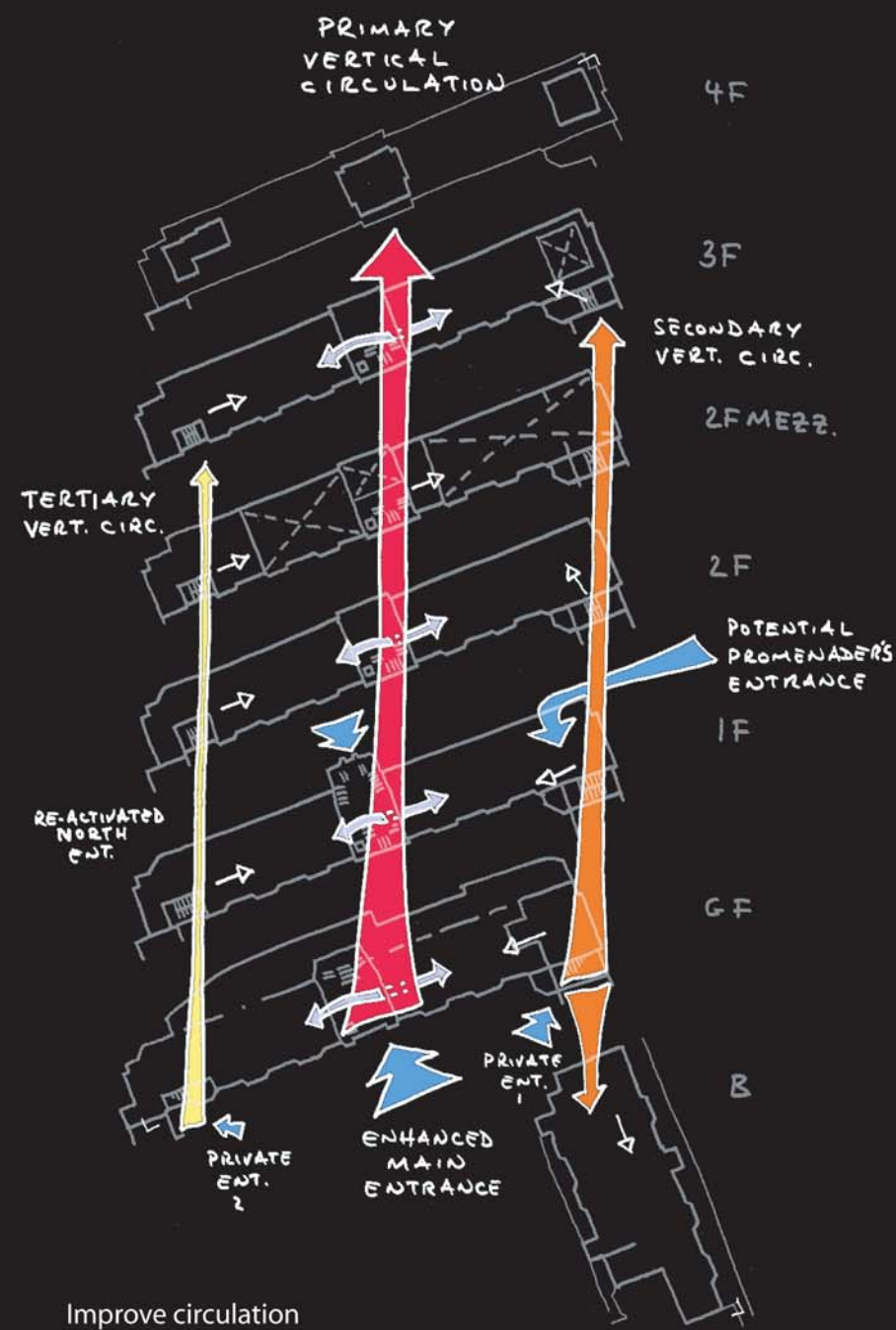
Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BB



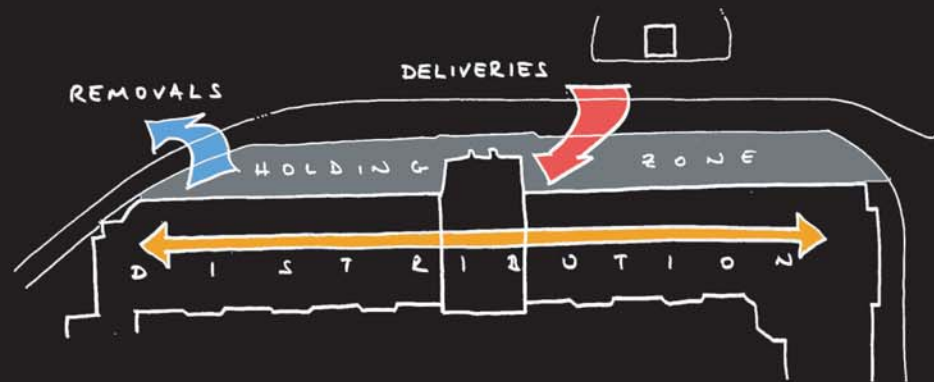
Improve toilet facilities



Improve circulation

Key Targets

- Maximise use of vertical circulation and create a new lift
- Improve lighting and wayfinding
- Enhance the main entrance and reactivate the north entrance
- Improve security and provide a reception
- Rationalise deliveries, distribution and storage
- Upgrade mechanical and electrical services
- Enhance the building to current regulations
- Additional zones for toilet and storage accommodation



Improve deliveries

Overview

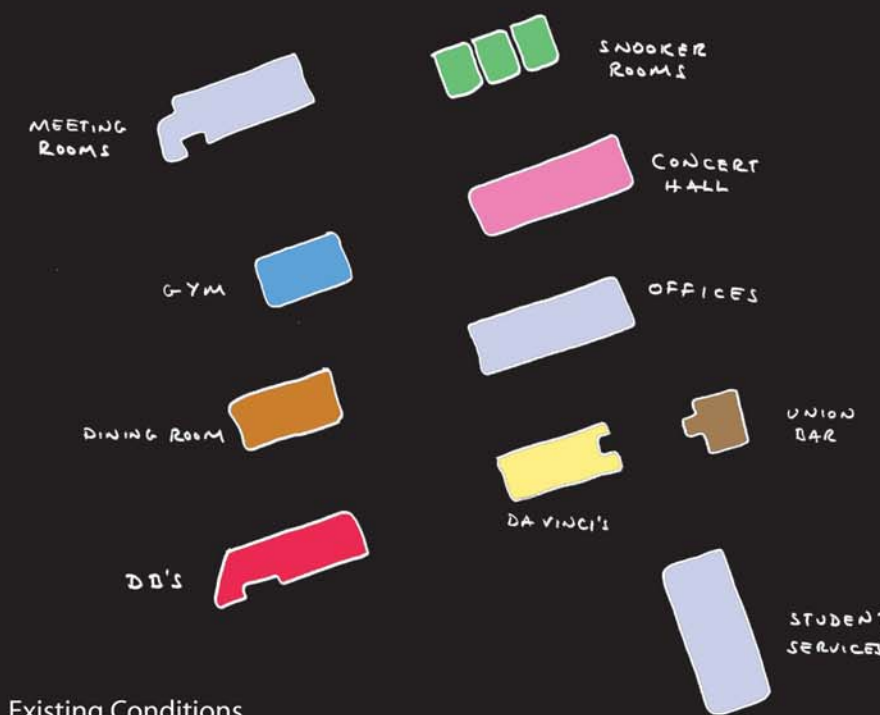
Following on from last week's report on the Union Strategy, one of the next steps is the long awaited and much needed refurbishment of the Union Building in Beit Quad. Swanke Hayden Connell Architects have been selected for the project and they are now working with us to develop the plans for the building. The first stage is to develop a brief by mid June, stating what the different areas of the Union Building will be used for.



How to get involved

Your views were first gathered during the focus groups and surveys (for the Strategic Review) held in the Autumn term. It is now necessary to gather further feedback as the brief is developed to ensure that the best design for the Union Building is delivered.

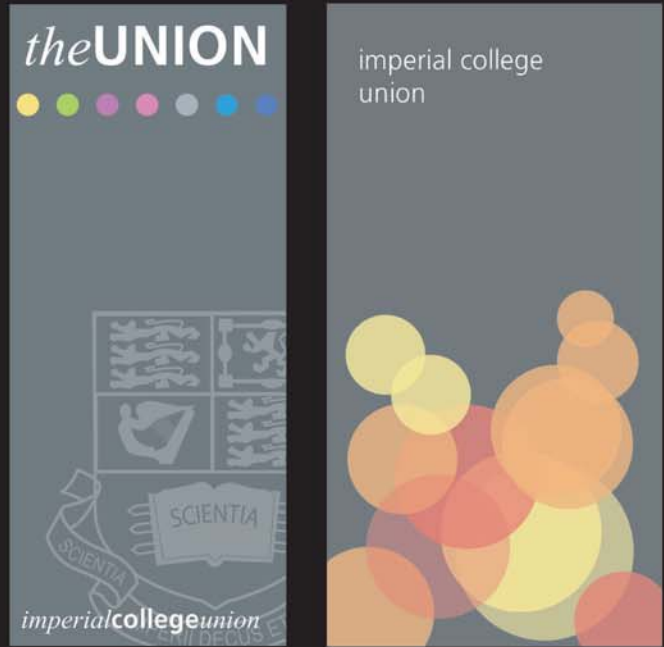
Over the next few pages are preliminary ideas and suggestions from the Architects. This information is also available online via www.union.ic.ac.uk where there is an opportunity to give your feedback. Focus groups with the Architects will also be held in mid May to discuss areas of the brief. Do take the opportunity to get involved.



Existing Conditions

Our Objectives

- Create a cohesion out of the disparate functions of the Union Building
- Establish a new Union Identity
- Unite the spaces together through the design language of the circulation and the spaces themselves
- Wayfinding will be instinctive through the new identity
- The functions will be distinguished but part of the same family
- Group the social functions together
- Group the office spaces together
- Create an identity for the Union within the campus and within the community
- Create an engaging, desirable destination for students

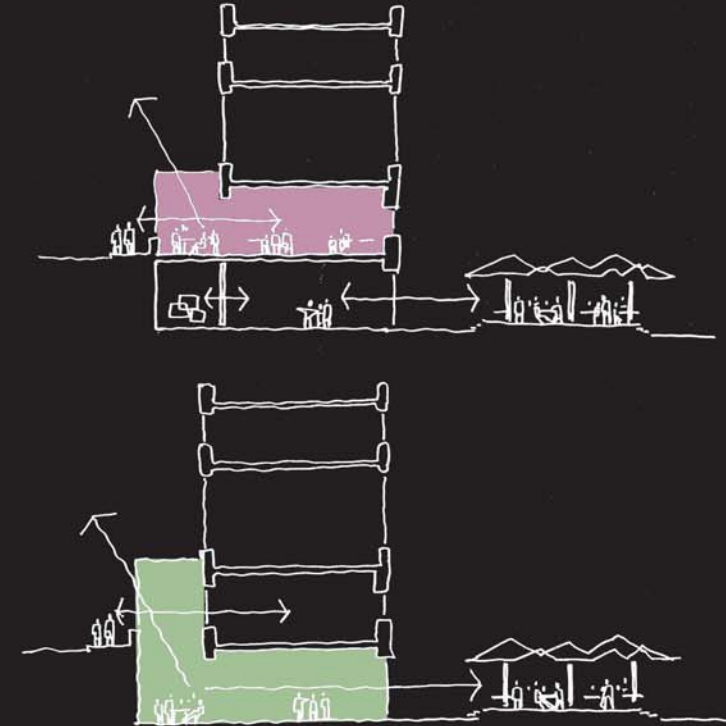


How do we improve identity?

- Reuniting the functions through graphics
- One overall brand with sub-brands
- Welcoming feel
- High standard of communication
- Use of colour

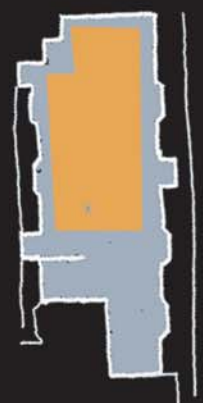
Using the Section

- Taking advantage of level changes
- Optimise use of the large volumes
- Create connections with external spaces
- Potential for rooftop addition

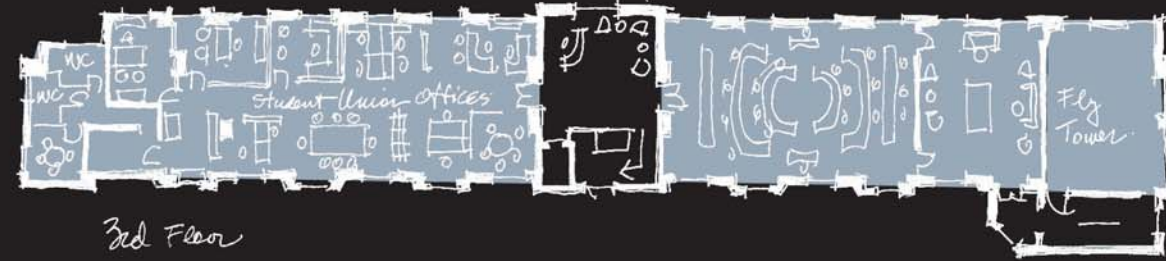


Ideas

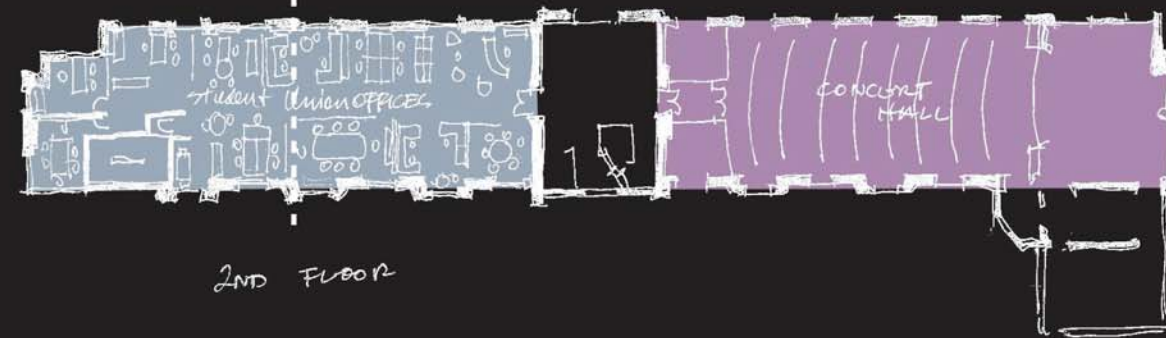
- Third floor
 - Potential Office Space
 - Meeting rooms
 - Flexible activity space
- Second floor
 - Concert Hall
 - Better storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Improved mezzanine area
- First floor
 - Dining Room
 - Chill-out spaces
 - Good quality social spaces
- Ground floor
 - Music Venue
 - Day and night use
 - Linked to external spaces
 - Reception and cash-point
 - Enhanced bar / cafe spaces
- East Basement
 - Activity spaces
 - Storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Gym



East Basement



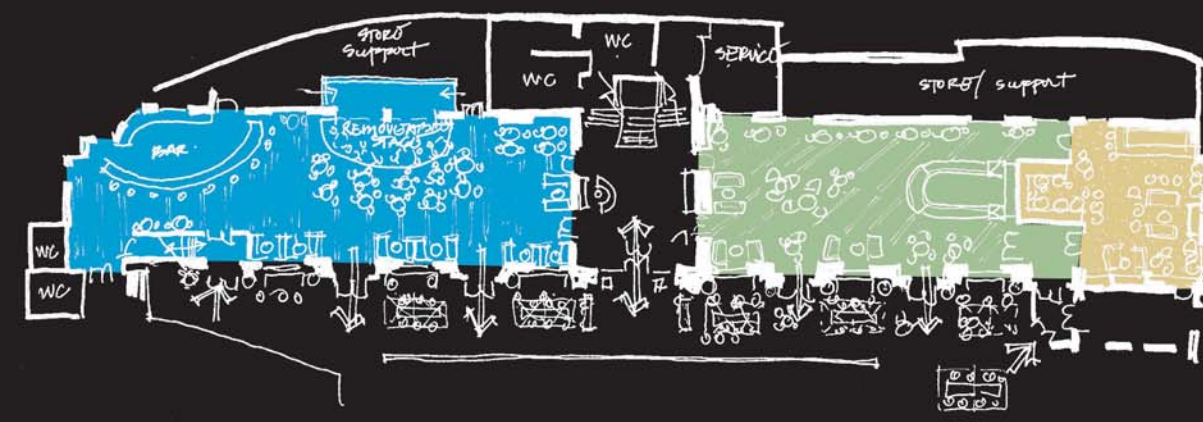
3rd Floor



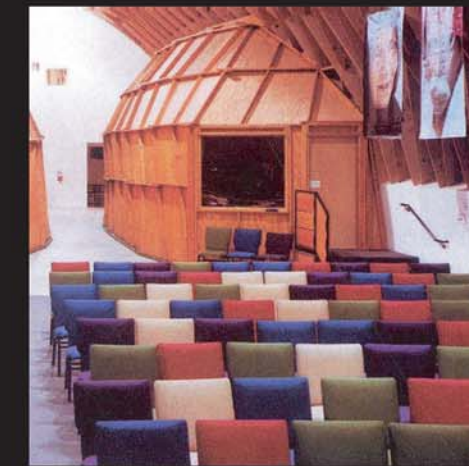
2ND FLOOR



1st Floor



GROUND



Unity

Identity

Adaptability

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Sci-fi Soc on the road

SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY

By Cristina Rodriguez Trobajo

There is a little village in Wales, called Hay-on-Wye, where the ratio of inhabitants to second-hand bookshop is about 150:1. What sort of social routine leads to 38 bookshops in a small village in a singularly remote corner of the world? The Imperial College Science Fiction Society (ICSF) organised a road trip there, in an attempt to bring you the answer to this and other mysteries, and also to buy books for our library.

The day started in a very unusual manner, as the 12 members of the party met in the right place at the right time and set off on their journeys ahead of schedule. After four hours, we all managed to meet again in Hay-on-Wye without too much lasting brain damage from in-car stereos.

After finding our Bed and Breakfasts and some food, we set on to explore the wonderful world of second-hand bookshops.

The type of bookshop varied across the town, from specialised bookshops to the



The Science Fiction Society: yes, they really are outdoors

amusing Castle bookshop, with its shelves of chaos and amusing books, and the box to pay for your books (50p for hardbacks and 30p for paperbacks!) It was here that we found some of the jewels of our trip, especially *Two's*

Company, *Three's A Swing* which managed to shock everyone in the random three page test, and *The Bluffer's Guide To University* with its all-too-familiar descriptions of our own lives.

After an afternoon of rather

silly book-shopping, we found ourselves without a purpose, and we headed on to the pub. There we indulged ourselves in some celebration drinking. As our conversations dangerously shifted from random trip talk to uni talk, each of us

were one by one forbidden to talk about our respective subjects, creating a serious strain on both the geeks amongst us and their livers.

Despite a late night and some problems with the sleep arrangements (for example,

two of us being locked out of their B&B), we all managed to meet again at 10am to carry on. It was here that a new member joined our party: a two metre long pink and blue fluffy snake.

This is a small town, and here we were, 12 Imperial students, poring over books, buying science fiction and carrying a pink snake. We were asked questions...

Armed with maps and determination, we managed to visit most of the bookshops, including the cinema. Hay-on-Wye is a place crazy enough to turn its cinema and its fire station into bookshops; because, of course, who needs a fire station in a village made out of books?

Amongst some of our best acquisitions, you can find titles from Brian Aldiss, Neil Gaiman and Tom Holt.

On leaving, we provided local entertainment when we tried to fit about 50 books and a gigantic pink snake into the already over-filled boots of two very small cars. Don't try this at home, kids.

If you want to see the pink snake or read our new books, you can find them in the ICSF library (west wing basement, Beit Quad) pretty much any time of the day. See you there!

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 5 MAY

GENERAL ELECTION VOTE

7am-10pm
Exercise your democratic right today. Use your vote.

FRIDAY 6 MAY

UNION EVENTS RED HOT SALSA

8pm-2am
£2.50
Try out your steps with our instructors. With shisha bar upstairs.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

SATURDAY 7 MAY

UNION EVENTS ROCKSOC presents PANDEMONIUM

8-11pm
dBs, Beit Quad
£2-£4
Rocksoc brings you a night of live music from Liquid Sky, Bate's Motel, Gripshift and Donkeybox.
Contact: rocksoc@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 10 MAY

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 11 MAY

UNION EVENTS SPORTS NIGHT

8pm-12midnight
Beit Quad
Free entry before 9pm
Current and classic chart music. Carlsberg and Tetley £1 a pint in all bars all night. With Bar Shisha in the UDH. Free cloakroom for sports bags. Now with summer barbecue.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 12 MAY

VERY IMPORTANT FELIX PUBLISHED

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

ALL WEEK

FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY

Student discount ALL WEEK
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (15)
Daily: 1pm, 2pm, 4.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm. Fri-Sat late: 10.40pm Sat-Sun only: 10.45am.

HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)
Daily: 12.20pm, 1.20pm, 3pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 6.30pm, 8pm, 9.15pm. Fri-Sat late: 11pm, 11.45pm. Sat-Sun only: 10.40am.

XXX2 (12A)
Daily: 1.10pm (not Sat/Sun), 4pm (not Fri), 6.50pm, 9.30pm.

THE WEDDING DATE (12A)
Daily: 2.10pm (not Sat/Sun), 4.20pm, 6.40pm (not Tue), 9pm. Fri/Sat late: 11.30pm.

GUESS WHO (12A)
Daily: 1.10pm (not Sat/Sun), 4pm (not Fri), 6.50pm, 9.30pm.

AMITYVILLE HORROR (15)

Fri-Sat late: 12.05am.

THE INTERPRETER (12A)
Daily: 12pm, 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm. Fri-Sat late: 11.15pm.

SAHARA (12)
Daily: 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm (not Fri).

DOWNFALL (15)
Daily: 8.45pm (not Thurs).

HITCH (12A)

Fri only: 6pm.
ROBOTS (U)
Sat-Sun only: 11am, 1.15pm.
VALIANT (U)
Sat-Sun only: 11.30am, 1.30pm.

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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 FELIX INTERVIEW

College security: “a help, not a

In the first of a series of interviews with key figures at Imperial College, **Dave Edwards** Director of Estates, and Terry Branch, Chief Security Officer, about bikes, thefts, ID cards

PHOTO: SIMON CLARK



Terry Branch (left) and Diana Pinn (centre), with Dave Edwards

Security at Imperial College has attracted coverage in the news, comment and letters pages of *Felix* this year. Thefts from halls of residence, problems with bicycle parking and a less than perfect relationship between students and security staff are just some of the issues that have been brought to our attention.

“I would like security to be seen as a help, not a hindrance,” says Diana Pinn, who holds much of the responsibility for finding a suitable balance between security and freedom on campus. Formerly in charge of administration at Cazenove, an investment bank in the City, she is now Assistant Director of Estates at Imperial College and took responsibility for security in August last year.

She describes Imperial College as “fascinating... like a mini-town,” and believes that security officers have challenging roles to play within that community.

“What has surprised me is the sheer breadth of the role they [security officers] have to deal with. They have to be nannies for some of the students who are away from home for the first time, they have to be receptionists, they have to be first-aiders, they have to be quasi-parents on occasion.

“Students do some amazingly

stupid things, in terms of money and carelessness. If they’ve just left home and had parents looking after them, they’ve never had to think, and from that point of view it’s incredible what the security guards are having to deal with.”

It surprises me to discover that no prior training, experience or qualifications are required for these challenging roles.

“To work here, they [security officers] have to have a ten year

“I would like people to wear ID cards at all times... but there’s no way we can enforce it”

checkable work history for criminal records,” says Pinn. “Inevitably, not all of them have had security experience, but if they’ve got common sense and a good attitude they can be trained.”

Terry Branch, the Chief Security Officer (Operations), has been working at Imperial for four years. He joins the interview late, having been called away to an incident in the Royal School of Mines building.

Branch thinks the relationship between students and security officers has changed during his time here: “I believe we’ve improved upon it. There are some individuals who get on much better with the students than others and who have built up a good relationship. And we’re trying to improve the other ones through good training.

“Dealing with students, we really have to be on the ball. We’ve all been there... if a student’s had a bit to drink, you’ve got to understand that, as long as they don’t overstep the mark, a quiet word is always better.”

Some security guards at Imperial work shifts lasting 12 or 14 hours each. Can they really be effective under those conditions?

“Yes, I believe they can,” says Branch confidently. “There are a lot of big shifts across the board now, but we’re trying to gradually reduce them. It’s not as if they’re patrolling all through the night without a break.”

“On paper,” Pinn chips in, “one of the difficulties is to make sure they’ve got things to do and they’re kept awake.”

Indeed, keeping staff awake overnight seems to be a more difficult task than it sounds. Having lived and worked in Beit Quad, I’ve now

lost count of the number of times I’ve seen a security guard asleep on duty. Needless to say, their superiors insist that such behaviour is “taken very seriously”.

“One officer was reported [asleep] by a student, and he’s no longer with us,” says Branch. “He was dismissed. Two have been dismissed for that since I’ve been here.”

“They’re paid to be there, awake and doing the job,” adds Pinn. “If you see it, ring control and tell them.

“There were efforts to concentrate bike parking in certain areas and make them as secure as possible”

They will be disciplined.”

Following up on numerous complaints from security officers themselves, I asked why hats – described as “cheap imitation police caps” by Union President Mustafa Arif – had been introduced as part of their uniform.

“I don’t like them myself,” admits Branch, “but I believe the Rector wanted us to have a higher profile and make us stand out.”

Pinn enthusiastically supports the uniform: “I believe that a hat or cap contributes to the overall professional smart look and can also give a guard confidence in dealing with an incident. It gives them a status and stature in terms of appearance that helps them carry out the job.”

Identity cards

Writing in *Felix* in December, the Union President called College security “intrusive” and “unsettling”. Amongst other things, he questioned whether students should have to wear identity cards at all times.

Is it necessary? Pinn thinks so, as it would help to eliminate the problem of ‘tailgating’ at swipe doors: “I would like people to wear ID cards because if somebody comes in behind you and they’ve got an ID card, you don’t have to embarrass yourself by asking whether they should be there.

“But equally I understand there’s no way we can enforce it when senior academics and staff would refuse to wear them.”

She commends the Civil Engineering department for their ‘wear your ID card at all times’ policy, and says she has no problem with the Business School asking for

felix@ic.ac.uk

hindrance”

talks to Diana Pinn, Assistant
and sleepy staff

passes to be shown to a security guard at the entrance – a system criticised by Arif, who called the guards “less than friendly” and the job “the most boring imaginable”.

Predictably, Pinn disagrees. “What I have a problem with is people then calling the guard a fascist pig. It’s not the guard’s fault, he’s doing his job. It’s a requirement of the Business School, and we’re providing a service.”

She adds that a swipe card barrier would not solve the problem, as people could still ‘tailgate’ in behind others. So how else can access be controlled? Those who would rather see more ‘freedom’ on campus will be disappointed to hear some of her other ideas.

“I think in certain key buildings you need access by turnstiles, and that is coming, certainly for bio-chemistry. We have to make sure that the highly sensitive areas are protected by access control and security cameras.

Pinn believes that having the college and department written on a swipe card is itself a security risk, just like leaving your address attached to your keys.

“I was surprised [to discover that the information appears on the cards]. In the City you would never find an access card with the name of the firm on it. I did raise this and it was discussed at a high level, but I think people wanted something with Imperial branded on it.”

She has “no objection” to adding the Imperial College Union logo to swipe cards, but “the layout is dictated by corporate communications”.

Bicycle parking

Bicycle parking at College has been a contentious issue for many students, and Pinn admits: “I’ve got more emails on my system about bikes, motorbikes and car parking than just about any other topic.”

“There were efforts to concentrate bike parking in certain areas and make them as secure as possible,” she says. “If you concentrate them [bicycles], you have a far better chance of being able to catch a thief... [but] it hasn’t gone down too

“Don’t carry large wads of cash. If you leave your room, even if it’s just to visit a friend, lock your door”

well with certain people because unfortunately they’ve had to walk further to their place of work.”

Cynics will not be surprised to hear that one of the reasons for removing bikes from Imperial College Road was “to improve the look of the campus”.

Pinn is optimistic that “the new students will park their bikes where we expect them to,” because they have never known any different.

“It’s the old guard who don’t like the change. There are some staff and academics who dislike the change enormously and are taking bikes into buildings, which is a health and safety no-no.”

She is critical of students who were opposed to the new cycle racks in Beit Quad. “Transport for London gave them the money, they were nice racks, carefully chosen... but there was enormous furore about them. It was just that they didn’t want change. The shelters keep the bikes dry and protect them, but we only had bad comments about them.”

Hall thefts

Following a spate of thefts from halls of residence, I was keen to find out how such incidents can be prevented.

“We’re not going to stop the incidents in halls, but we must reduce them,” says Pinn.

Branch continues: “The simple things are, don’t carry large wads of cash. If you leave your room, even if it’s just to go to the shower or visit a friend, lock your door. If someone follows you into hall and you’re not comfortable challenging them, get to a phone, call security and we’ll always come and check it out.”

How did they get the message across to freshers? “We went to all the halls in Freshers Week and got a good response, depending on the wardens,” says Branch. “If the wardens were very pro-active, everyone was there and got the talk. Other places, there wasn’t a good response.

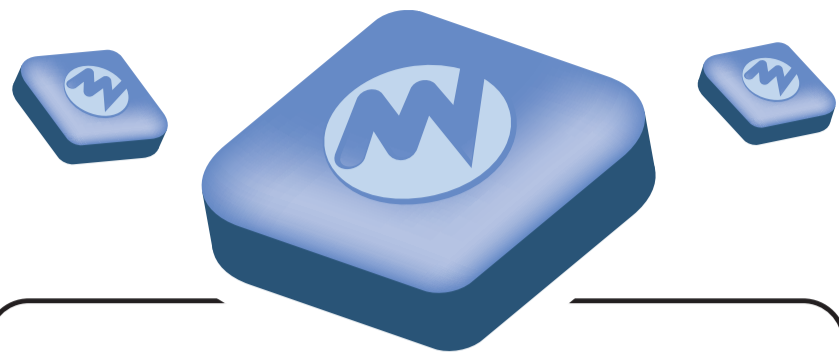
“This year, we’ll concentrate on Evelyn Gardens, because there has been a problem down there during Freshers Week, especially with thieves walking in after people. If I can spare the manpower I’ll place overnight security officers down there.”

Both Pinn and Branch are confident in the security service’s ability to keep the college safe and secure. However, both readily accept that improvements need to be made, and would encourage students and staff to play their part.

Pinn sums it up: “There are areas of improvement that we’ve identified we should make and we are making every effort to make. We can’t do it without the help and cooperation of the other people on the campus. Security guards try to do a job, a good job, to the best of their ability. If they fail in that, we must be told to improve it, but they do need and deserve support.”

● **Security Control can be contacted on extension 48900**
● **For more information on security at Imperial, contact Terry Branch at terry.branch@ic.ac.uk**

● **Look out for future interviews with the Rector, the Deputy Rector, the Union President and other key Imperial College figures later this term**



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Listings: page 13

Thumbs down to the hitchhiker

My bablefish must be malfunctioning, this sounds like American crap

The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy

Director: Garth Jennings
Starring: Martin Freeman, Sam Rockwell, Mos Def, John Malkovich, Zoëy Deschanel
Running time: 110 mins
Certificate: PG
★★★★☆

This being a science college, I'm sure most of us are familiar with the story of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Unfortunately, this is not it.

Previous incarnations of the *Guide* include successful radio and TV series and a trilogy of five popular books that define that 'sci-fi-comedy-adventure' genre. Whilst it is not unusual for the stories to differ between media, the latest film starring Martin Freeman as the hapless earthman Arthur Dent takes this idea to a new level.

As with all versions, the film begins with the now classic juxtaposition of Dent's irritation when his house is bulldozed one morning in the name of transport improvement with his disbelief when his planet meets a similar fate later that afternoon at the hands of the Vogons.

Having hitched a lift on a spaceship, a strange journey throughout the galaxy ensues, punctuated variously by encounters with a depressed robot, a two-headed galactic president and some hyper-intelligent mice with only a towel for protection. As Arthur puts it, "This must be Thursday. I never could get the hang of Thursdays."

Alongside all this, we learn about the indispensable electronic reference book, the *The Hitchhiker's*

"A confusing, Hollywood-ised, feeble imitation of the original"

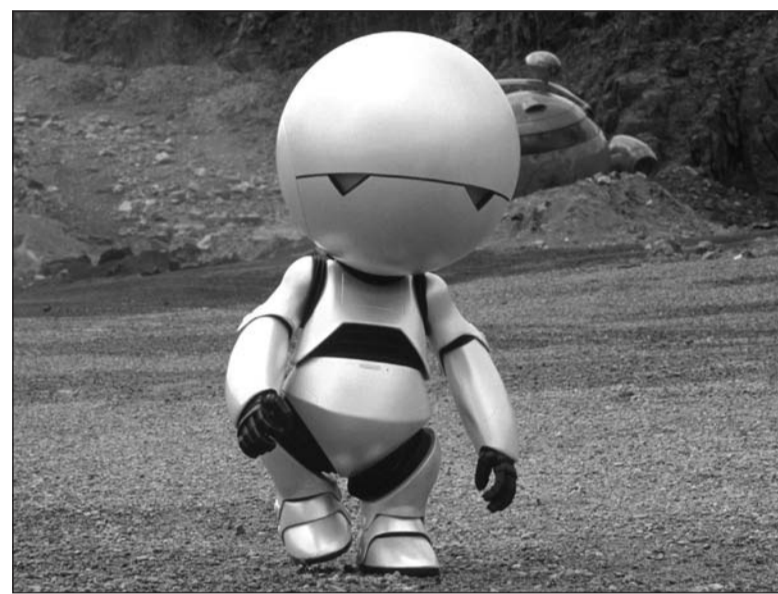
Guide to the Galaxy, which guides us through all that tricky alien interaction stuff.

Sounds like the story we all know and love, doesn't it? Think again. 'Love' is the key word here, as unfortunately vast swathes of humour have been replaced by a dull love story, as scenes of Arthur rescuing an inappropriately American Tricia McMillan (Zoëy Deschanel) are thrown in, purely for Hollywood

effect. The books are well known for their cynical British humour, but none of the characteristic pessimism so beautifully portrayed by Simon Jones in the Radio and TV series comes through, despite Freeman's best attempts. (Jones, incidentally, makes a brief cameo for the fans.) Both Ford (Mos Def) and Zaphod (Sam Rockwell) sport uncharacteristic American accents that simply don't suit the dialogue. A poor attempt at incorporating Zaphod's extra head even inspires fondness for the technologically devoid TV series.

Fortunately, there are one or two saving graces that prevent a fan from leaving halfway through. Stephen Fry's efforts at following on from the legendary Peter Jones are pleasing, coupled with the entertaining animations the book produces to explain parts of the film. Alan Rickman's portrayal of Marvin, the paranoid android, was effective, and the improvements in computer graphics did wonders for his range of expression. Bill Nighy also makes a reasonable interpretation of Slartibartfast.

Aside from a few positive add-ins, this film was generally a disappointment. At 110 minutes, there shouldn't



R2D2 has competition in the world of robotic cinema stars

have been a need to cut out such large portions of good material from the originals, and it all leads to a film that will appear even more stilted and bizarre to those who haven't read the books. Particularly sorely missed were the 'Restaurant at the End of the Universe' scene and the 'proof' that God doesn't exist. In

general, highlights were few and far-between, so only go if you already know where your towel is, and be prepared for the worst. If you've never heard of it, don't bother: it's a confusing, Hollywood-ised, feeble imitation of the original.

Martin Smith and Jenny Chambers

As if this movie needs any more hype!

Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith

Director: George Lucas
Starring: Ewan McGregor, Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid
Running time: 140 mins
Certificate: 12A
Released: 19 May

Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith, the most eagerly awaited film of the summer, has a lot to live up to.

The creative genius of George Lucas might have started out with a deceptively simple story of a smuggler and a farm boy out to save a princess. However, it has since developed into a rich tale of love, magic, scandal that ultimately leads

"Star Wars has developed into a rich tale of love, magic and scandal..."

to the destruction and then construction of a new world order.

In Episodes I and II, we have witnessed how Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) was rescued from slavery in Tatooine to become the delicious, headstrong and talented young Jedi that he is today. However, followers of the 'Force' will know from Episodes IV, V and VI that Anakin will turn into the



YAY! Chewy is back on the big screen after a 22 year absence

much-feared villain Darth Vader. Therefore, Episode III will serve as the missing link in the *Star Wars* series.

Every drop of adulation we ever had for the young Jedi will be crushed as we witness his transformation from a pure and good-looking young man into an asthmatic-sounding, evil metal-suited Darth Vader.

Nevertheless, we have to hope that Hayden Christensen's rigid acting skills have since improved with age, as this flaw was one of the major disappointments in Episode II.

In Episode II, we witnessed how the Republic achieved victory against the Separatists. As Yoda had wisely mentioned, it was not a true victory because it had strengthened

Supreme Chancellor Palpatine's (Ian McDiarmid) influence in the Republic. Viewers will marvel at the revelation of Palpatine's true nature underneath his frail, soft-spoken mask to become Darth Sidius, the lord of the Sith (an ancient order devoted to the dark side).

Through Episode III, the whole Republic as we know it will be con-

sumed by the dark side, leading to the destruction of the democratic state and the downfall of the Jedi Order. Hopefully, Ian McDiarmid's acting skills will be up to scratch to convince viewers that he is Emperor Palpatine, the tyrant who ruled with an iron fist.

Star Wars II ended with a cliff-hanger, Senator Amidala's secret betrothal to Anakin Skywalker. We might have had to endure the painstakingly long relationship development in Episode II, but the sadists inside us will enjoy watching their marriage tear itself apart in Episode III. Viewers will also finally meet Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia for the first time, and this will seal the link of Episodes I and II with Episodes IV, V and VI. Something else to watch out for is the increase in wisdom and power of Obi-Wan Kenobi from a young, foolish Padawan to perhaps one of the strongest Jedis, with powers comparable to those of the chosen one.

As expected, judging from the theatrical trailer, the visual and sound effects behind *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*, will be stellar as usual. However, the acting skills and the way the story is narrated will be more crucial in impressing today's CGI-jaded crowd. *Star Wars* is a milestone in cinematic science fiction and is integral to the cultural development of the 20th and 21st centuries. Therefore, to cut to the chase, do not miss it.

Angela Lee

Mean but not average

In the season of Hollywood blockbusters, **Haj Alttahir** perseveres with the independents

Mean Creek

Director: Jacob Aaron Estes
Starring: Rory Culkin, Scott Mechlowicz, Trevor Morgan, Josh Peck, Carly Schroeder
Running time: 87 mins
Certificate: 15
★★★★☆

Set in a nowhere town somewhere in America, *Mean Creek* follows a group of friends on boating trip. Except all is not what it seems, and soon enough the boat trip becomes everyone's worst nightmare.

Initially we see Sammy (Rory Culkin) being bullied by George (Josh Peck), a boy who's just thought of as a fat retard – he's had to repeat his year so many times. After telling his older brother Rocky (Trevor Morgan) what happened, the group of friends resolve to teach George a lesson, although Sammy will only agree to it if the boys come up with a plan that doesn't physically hurt George.

So they do; but the reason why each person wants to be involved in this is very murky. Rocky calls up George to invite him to his brother's non-existent birthday party – I guess it's not that hard to imagine a boy with no friends readily jumping at the chance of going, even though he'd pulverised Sammy the other day. Running alongside this storyline is Sammy and Millie's blossoming relationship. The first date happens to coincide with boat party, which Millie knows nothing about.

After Millie forces Sammy to explain what's going on, she makes him promise to stop the plan – it's

too mean and George actually seems to be OK once you get to know him. The only thing you can fault him for on the trip is trying to impress Marty. He essentially wants what everyone else wants – to be accepted. The rest of the group agree to drop the plan, some more readily than others, but Marty doesn't seem to want to let it go.

The boat trip carries on, but George keeps pushing all the wrong buttons. It's as if the boy has verbal diarrhoea and just doesn't know when to stop. In fact, he pushes so many buttons that Millie, the group's moral compass, allows the boys to carry on with the plan – a game of Truth or Dare. All starts out

"Mean Creek is a stereotypical indie film, but in the best way possible..."

fine, but soon the game spirals out of control and George finds out what they want to do to him. Terrible and painful secrets are unleashed on the group.

The friends are left to deal with the powerful lifelong consequences as their loyalty to each other is put to the test. I really wish I could tell you what happens but that would be spoiling it if you go, and believe me, you should.

Mean Creek is a stereotypical indie film, but in the best way possible – it looks ordinary but is actually an amazing find, quite literally since it doesn't seem to be playing in most



The fat kid better not rock the boat

cinemas. The director has used a mix between film photography and home video, which becomes more important towards the end when we see George's perspective on life. Using hand-held camera and natural light, director of photography Sharone Meir gets the sun-dappled greenery of a perfect summertime day. The music is fantastic and matches that dirty, downbeat, low-

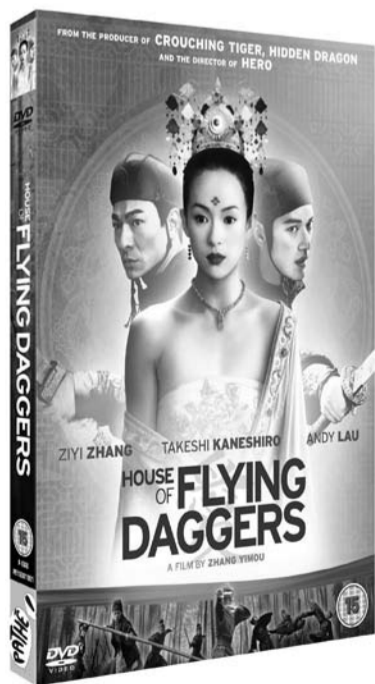
key look of the film.

The acting shines out – everyone delivers great performances, especially Carly Schroeder (Millie) and Scott Mechlowicz (Marty), who just stand out. The storyline isn't too taxing on the mind either but it is a brilliant script – the characters are complex and the relationships are well-developed. The film really begins to shine when the characters

realise that everything isn't always black and white but more likely several shades of grey.

I know that there a quite a few big films out at the moment, but this really is perfect for a sunny afternoon or evening this summer. If you've never seen an indie film before, this is good one to start off with. The entire cinema was left in silence, a sign of a great film.

WIN House of Flying Daggers on DVD



Ziyi Zhang, Takeshi Kaneshiro and Andy Lau.

From the director of *Hero* and the producer of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, this critically acclaimed film was nominated for 9 BAFTA Awards including 'Best Foreign Language Film' and 'Best Actress' for Ziyi Zhang. The film has also been nominated for an Academy Award® for Best Cinematography. Released to buy as a two disc DVD (RRP £19.99) with special features including a 'making of' featurette, director's commentary, cast and crew interviews, and music video. Make a date this spring to discover this dazzling story of love and intrigue.

To win a copy, just answer this: What is the literal English translation of the Chinese title *Shi Mian Mai Fu*?

- (a) Ambush From Ten Sides
- (b) Ambush From Four Sides
- (c) Ambush From Eight Sides

Email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 10 May. Usual *Felix* competition rules apply.

Last week's winners for three DVDs were the *only* three entrants: James Lee, Thomas Sibley and George Lin. If you enter, you stand a good chance of winning, so get up off your arses people! Three entries is a shocking effort from 10,000 of you. Why did 20 times as many people enter the Sudoku competition, which was at least 20 times more difficult?!

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Get ready to embark on a magical journey as Zhang Yimou's visually stunning *House of Flying Daggers* is released to buy and rent on two disc DVD and video on 2nd May 2005 from Pathé Distribution Ltd. A breathtaking love story wrapped inside a martial arts film, the thrilling *House of Flying Daggers* stars

Kingdom of Heaven Competition



As part of the release of *Kingdom of Heaven*, 20th Century Fox have generously provided you with the opportunity to win a promotional package with a t-shirt, limited edition watch, key chain, a set of incense sticks, bookmark and a 'making of' book.

In 1191, what did Richard the Lionheart throw into the city of Acre in order to defeat the barricaded inhabitants?

- (a) Beehives
- (b) Rotting Corpses
- (c) Rotting Cows

Email your answer to film.felix@ic.ac.uk. Usual *Felix* rules apply.

To win, be first to answer this:

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 6 May at Vue Fulham Broadway:

Kingdom of Heaven

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

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win either a 10 foot banner or one of three posters for *Kingdom of Heaven*. Just answer this question:

Who is the odd one out and why?

- (a) Orlando Bloom
- (b) Oliver Stone
- (c) Ridley Scott

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

WIN a free screening of Gladiator

Fulham Broadway Vue are giving you the opportunity to win a private screening of *Gladiator* for you and your mates. Simply watch *Kingdom of Heaven* at Fulham this weekend and enter a draw for the chance to win.

Alan Ng
Film Editor

Puzzles

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

Sudoku

SET BY FISHFACE

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square (bounded by bold lines) contains the digits 1 to 9.

Email your solution to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 10 May. No attachments please. The first correct solution randomly drawn wins your choice of a 128MB USB storage device or a crate of beer.

	1	2			3	6		7
5								8
			5		9	2		
			9					3
	3	7	8		5	4	9	
8					7			
		9	2		4			
7								9
2		6	1			3	7	

Issue 1320 solution

Thanks to everyone who entered, making last week's Sudoku our most popular competition for some time!

The winner is chemistry student **Nitin Rabadia**.

8	4	6	9	5	7	2	1	3
7	3	9	2	6	1	4	5	8
2	1	5	4	3	8	6	9	7
6	8	2	7	1	9	3	4	5
9	5	4	3	8	6	7	2	1
3	7	1	5	4	2	9	8	6
1	9	7	6	2	5	8	3	4
5	2	3	8	7	4	1	6	9
4	6	8	1	9	3	5	7	2

Coffee Break answers

Issue 1318: History of Hoff

We showed you some pictures of the Hoff, and there was some important stuff going on in the background. You had to tell us what was happening and suggest a suitable song for the Hoff to sing.

- John F Kennedy assassinated.
- The Vietnam war.
- The Berlin wall comes down.
- Climbing Mount Everest.
- The Nagasaki bomb.
- Apollo 11 lands on the moon.
- England win the World Cup.
- The Wright Bros flight.
- The Nuremburg rally.
- Pong, the first computer game.

Issue 1319: Coffee Break's Greatest Hits

We went back over old ground, asking you about things we'd done in previous issues.

- Mission Imperial: the tank was in **dBs**.
- Whose breasts are these? **Jessica Rabbit**.
- George W Bush is dumb, but he didn't say quote **B**: "When we consider the future

of our nation's libraries... we must remember the lessons of September 11th."

- Goonies Never Say Die: quote **A** wasn't from a legendary eighties film.
- Dead or alive? Pope John Paul II died on 2 April, so either answer was acceptable, depending on when you sent it in.
- The Blair Film Project: Tony was guest starring in **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas**.
- Foot in Mouth: **Rod Stewart**.
- Ugly XI: our minging footballer was Manchester United's **Paul Scholes**.
- International Beats: our translated tune was **Fitter Happier** by Radiohead.
- Coffee Break Cryptograms: **'Split personality'**.
- Hollywood's finest: the baby is **Prince William**.
- Xmas Lyrics Quiz: **Driving Home for Christmas**.
- Good year / bad year: Saturn has **34** known moons.
- Double vision: our fused celebrities were **Bill Murray** and **Murdock** from The A Team.
- Movie Quote Quiz: we took some lines from **Goodfellas**.
- Odd one out: Bert, He-Man and Chuck Norris have all been made into action figure

- toys. **Mustafa Arif** hasn't. Yet.
- Beat the intro: "Oh RSM is wonderful..."
- Close-up: our featured album cover was Joy Division's **Unknown Pleasures**.
- Small stories: we gave a brief description of **Die Hard**.
- Catphrase: **bridge over troubled water**.
- Dear David: this time our troubled celeb was **Pete Doherty**.
- Heroes and villains: little Kevin McAllister used a **clown** doll to scare away the nasty hotel staff in **Home Alone 2**.
- Eight things we hate about you: **Union hacks**.
- History of Hoff: Mr T was making a guest appearance at the coronation of **Queen Elizabeth II**, fool.

Issue 1320: Just for fun...

The odd one out was the **Kwik-E-Mart**, which never closes. The quote was "I took a speed reading course and read War and Peace in twenty minutes. It involves Russia" [Woody Allen]. And yes, two of those 'C's should have been 'F's. We're sorry.

Coffee Break will return soon

FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

1. Araldite Sniffers	264 points
2. Smith & Wesson	222 points
3. Forever Throwing Doubles	171 points
4. Caledonian Conspiracy	143 points
5. Tinkerbell	142 points
6. The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle	134 points
7. Management Slackers	127 points
8. Eastbound and Down	116 points
9. Kings of Kensington	110 points
10. Team Willy J	93 points
11. Team Robin	81 points
12. Schoolboy Error	80 points
13. KPN ²	73 points
14. Team Bulwer	42 points
15. The Schist Ones	38 points
15. House of Earthly Delights	38 points
17. Withnail and I Society	31 points
18. Rod Watson's Super Army	29 points
18. Oliver Carson	29 points
20. Natasha Kundi	10 points
21. Shatner's Bassoon	9 points
22. Minzy's Special Needs Corporation	6 points

Felix Crossword 1321

by Snufkin



1		2		3		4	5		6		7		8
					9								
10									11				
12				13							14		
15		16						17					
													18
	19					20		21					
22													
23				24							25		
26						27					28		
29										30			

Across

- Help needed now April is no longer with us (6)
- Biocidal cocktail is terribly cruel (8)
- Allergies developed in picturesque buildings? (9)
- Sounds like Wyndham had trouble with this – note the similarities (5)
- Is calligraphy represented thus? (11)
- Gold found on eastern mineral (3)
- One's wiser after correcting erratum (7)
- Rocky-shored island (6)
- Motley collection of newspapers? (3-3)
- Unready for change, he was succeeded by Pétain (7)
- Bottom – and, forget not, Dogberry! (3)
- Might these people want untraversed ground? (11)
- Enrich with decayed radon (5)
- Clumsy terrapins emerge (9)
- Put down beast and bird (8)
- Long river strained nerves (6)

Down

- Guess who's a waste of time? (4,4)
- Royal talk covers this Crimean resort (5)
- Yea, alternatively? (3)
- Man can be described thus, shaking in urinals (7)
- Aren't you lucky to have your own beef? (5,3,3)
- No leakage wasted in Russian water (4,5)
- Discuss award (6)
- Puff pastry filling might be prepared with this (6)
- Lost head over Brer in a stew, being silly (4-7)
- Car fanatic's device – it could be a death-cap! (9)
- Like the wanderings of 24? Yes, and so fantastic! (8)
- Handed over too much for dance (7)
- Elope, having lost dad's heart – taking off from here? (6)
- Beg mother first for linen (6)
- Refugee on former French island (5)
- Prosecute woman (3)

Hello again, felicitous solvers all. This week's puzzle has an unusually large concentration of clues of one particular type, for no particular reason. I suppose you could think of it as showing up, by way of comparison, just how sober and careful we setters have to be in order to give a good, unobtrusive distribution of clue-types. Or perhaps you could think of it as an entertaining gimmick in lieu of a specific theme. Either way, I hope you have fun with the puzzle – and don't forget that there are prizes to reward persistent solvers, so don't be shy about sending in your solutions.

Snufkin

Issue 1320 solution

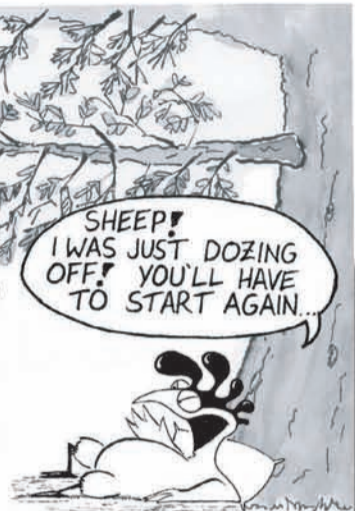
	A	B	E	M	U	Z	A	K					
D	I	D	G	E	R	I	D	O	O	I	N		
R	E	O	I	O	G	E							
O	P	E	N	C	A	S	T	N	U	G	G	E	T
P	U	N	Y	S	C	U	L	L	E	R	I	E	S
N	W	T	I	A	N								
B	I	G	F	O	O	T	V	E	S	T	I	G	E
F	U	R	B	U	T								
R	O	U	G	H	D	R	A	F	T	J	O	H	N
R	I	L	E	U	I								
S	M	I	T	H	Y	A	G	N	O	S	T	I	C
I	I	A	N	A	T	E							
T	V	R	E	C	O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

Last week's winner is Matthew Pott, Elec Eng III
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

A SMALL PLOT



GASP!
IS... IT..
WORKING
..YET..?!
PANT.



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Current and classic chart music

SPORTS NIGHT

in UDH

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Carlsberg and Tetley's

£1 Pint

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summer
B-B-Q!

imperial
college
union



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Free cloakroom for sportsbags

Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Imperial take ULU Cup in dramatic style

HOCKEY

ULU Cup final

Imperial Men's 1st 2
UCL Men's 1st 2
 Imperial won 4-2 on penalties

By Essex Wideboy

The legendary Imperial Cavaliers finished the season with the one trophy they wanted after a tense match that ended with three yellow cards, silver goal extra time and the excitement of a penalty stroke competition.

After the ladies' victory in their match, it was up to the Cavaliers to make it a double for the best hockey club in London. Having beaten the opposition already in the league match a week earlier, Imperial were confident of repeating the feat.

As for warm up, the dynamic stretching of UCL was matched by the usual jog around the pitch and smashing of balls into an empty goal by Imperial. An inspired tactical change by Toadfish saw the Harvester slot into the usual backline of Sieve, George Harrison, Foetus and Batty. Laruso was called back from his spearhead attacking position to the holding midfield role, along with Stinky and Essex Wideboy, providing the attacking ammunition for the deadly strike force that is Piles, Toadfish and Flegm.

Imperial started with typical verve and began to spread the play with pinpoint pass-



Imperial's men's hockey team, who triumphed over UCL on penalty strokes in the final of this year's ULU Cup

ing through the midfield and quick movement up front. Then disaster struck as Stinky had to be substituted after being taken down. Tallulah stepped in with calm assurance and took up the defensive position almost immediately.

Then the UCL counterfeit version of Essex Wideboy proceeded to throw himself over the shoulder of George Harrison to earn the reclusive Beatle five minutes in the sin bin. Imperial survived the power play with energetic running from Laruso and rock solid defending from Foetus.

Straight after George got back on the pitch, Flegm, the top scorer for the year with his slip deflections, latched on to a ball from Toadfish to score in the bottom right hand corner. Have it. It was then

that the umpires, two former students of UCL (whether they ever graduated was not confirmed), further disgraced themselves by attempting to wipe the goal off for Imperial having "too many players on the pitch". The problem was quickly rectified by the tournament director. Open your eyes, ump.

Imperial then went further ahead from a familiar source. In his last match for the cavaliers after four years of service, Essex Wideboy managed to score from the base line from another through ball by Toadfish. Goal pie. The half ended with Imperial 2-0 in front.

The second half started with the Anal Executioner taking to the field to give Flegm a much needed breather. Almost immediately, Harvester proceeded

to do what a Harvester does and ate his opposition alive with a crunching tackle from behind. That's five minutes' rest in the sin bin for him then.

George Harrison, not happy about being matched in the yellow card stakes, then decided to have another run-in with the same UCL player and thus took another yellow and off he went again. Special.

Unfortunately, after Imperial were restored to a full team, UCL came back with two good goals of their own, especially one by their captain with a reverse stick strike from top of the D.

Both teams became defensive in extra time and the inevitability of a penalty shoot-out loomed.

Having practised their penalty skills against ICSM in the previous round, Imperial were confident of the flick takers.

Cometh the hour, cometh the Man. Sieve, the Imperial keeper, who has never lost a stroke competition in his life, gave a virtuoso performance in goal, saving two out of four flicks.

Foetus, Toadfish and Piles all scored, but Essex Wideboy hit a weak effort straight at the 'keeper. It all fell on Flegm in the end, and he didn't let all you UCL-hating people down.

So to sum up, it was a legendary performance, ending a legendary year in a legendary way.

Sevenths lose out in six-goal thriller

FOOTBALL

Queen Mary Men's 5th 4
Imperial Men's 7th 2

By Will Swannell

Apparently there were a couple of cup finals involving Imperial teams on one clear warm Saturday last term, but in the eyes of the Sevenths there was only one match that counted – a six-pointer away to Queen Mary's.

We began the trek down to Chiselhurst with our team down to the bare bones. There were no substitutes and defenders Kofi and Will were both nursing self-inflicted knee injuries, but confidence was high as we had spanked QM 4-2 in our last meeting.

The game started out a scappily with neither team finding their feet, but after a few minutes an innocuous challenge from Will caused his knee to flare up and he had to go off. QM pressed the one man advantage home and scored what can only be described as a soft goal, with 'keeper Ario unsuspected as a poor volley from the edge of the area looped into the net.

Will then came back on as Imperial started to get back into the game, with Ryan flashing a header past the far post.

But QM somehow added a second as a ball was played into the box and the QM striker pounced to lash it ball past the advancing 'keeper.

It was only when we were 2-0 down that we started to play, with Andrea, who had been solid at the back all game,

powering a header just wide at the far post. Sam was also unlucky when he was denied a stone wall penalty as a QM defender blocked his cross with his hand.

At half time we were still 2-0 down, but with Ryan imperious in midfield and Tuan looking sharp up front, our tails were up.

We were dominating the game at the start of the second half and had QM pinned back. The goal came as Sam swung in a corner which Tuan nodded through the 'keeper's legs to end his recent drought.

The second soon followed as Sam slid a through ball to Tuan, who finished with aplomb. QM were now on the ropes as we pushed forward to complete the comeback.

Ryan, who had been ghosting past the QM defence all afternoon, hit a peach of a volley which stung the hands of the 'keeper.

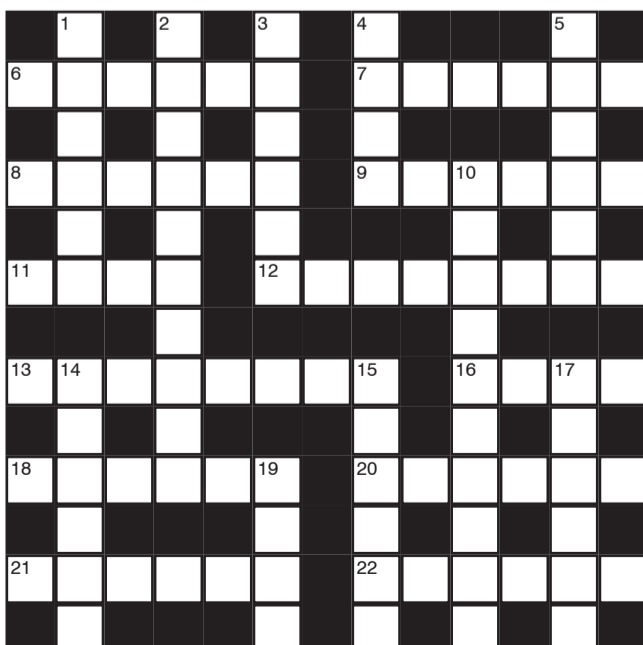
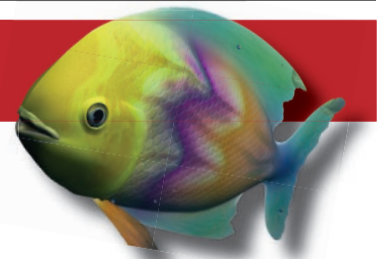
Then, with Imperial still running the show, things started to go a bit pear-shaped as Will and Andrea managed to injure themselves.

Pushing for a winner, Imperial were hit on the break as the QM striker held off John's challenge to stroke the ball home and reclaim the lead. Soon afterwards, it was 4-2 when Will foolishly decided to be a bit fancy and the ball ended up with a QM attacker who rounded Ario and scored.

We were left sick as parrots wondering how we had lost and with Andrea debating how he was going to get to hospital.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

6. Soundsystem (6)
7. Small sphere (6)
8. Sickness (6)
9. Ditch, furrow (6)
11. Thought (4)
12. Large herbivorous mammal (8)
13. Rebel (8)
14. State of western United States (4)
18. Makes amends (6)
20. Irony, sarcasm (6)
21. Shrine; wise person (6)
22. ___ Hemingway, author (6)

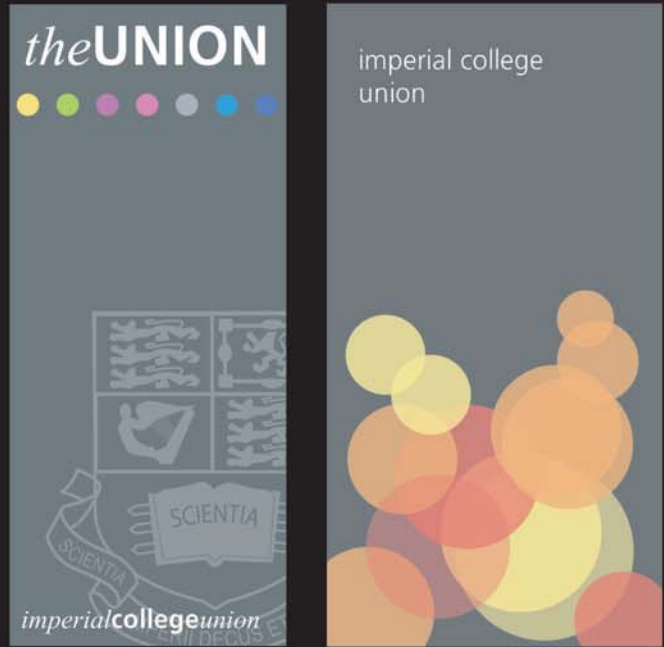
Down

1. Thread; London street (6)
2. Lobster or crab, for example (10)
3. Find (6)
4. Blemish (4)
5. Signalling device (6)
10. Tiring (10)
14. Whole (6)
15. Christian festival celebrating resurrection of Jesus (6)
17. From one side to the other (6)
19. Walk (4)

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

Issue 1320 solution

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

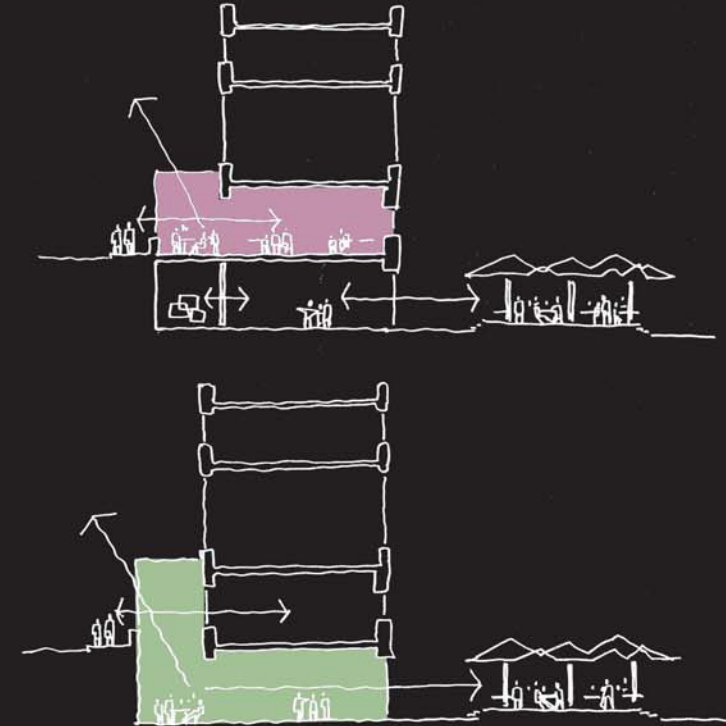


How do we improve identity?

- Reuniting the functions through graphics
- One overall brand with sub-brands
- Welcoming feel
- High standard of communication
- Use of colour

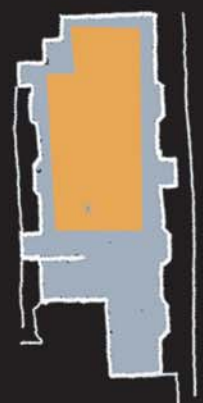
Using the Section

- Taking advantage of level changes
- Optimise use of the large volumes
- Create connections with external spaces
- Potential for rooftop addition

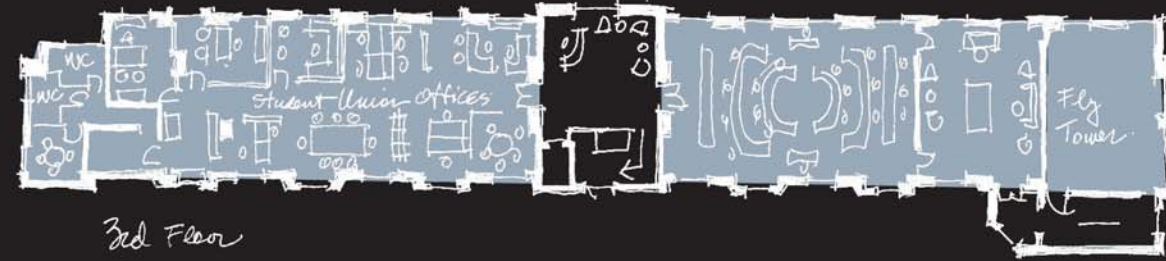


Ideas

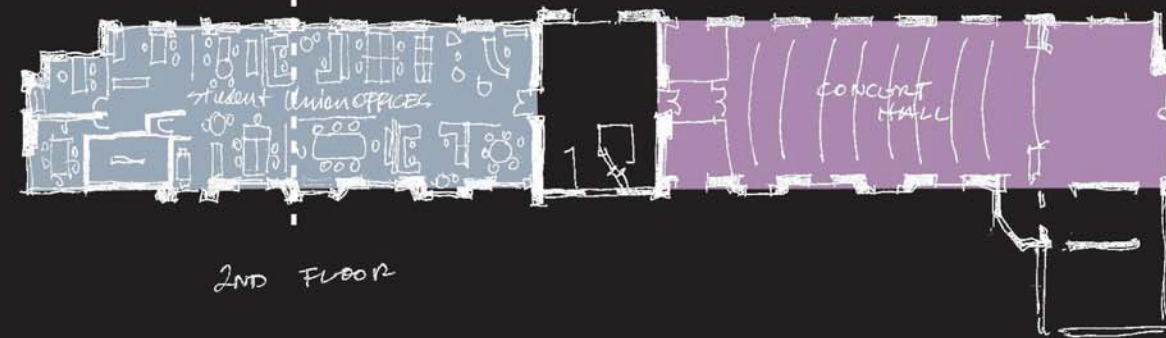
- Third floor
 - Potential Office Space
 - Meeting rooms
 - Flexible activity space
- Second floor
 - Concert Hall
 - Better storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Improved mezzanine area
- First floor
 - Dining Room
 - Chill-out spaces
 - Good quality social spaces
- Ground floor
 - Music Venue
 - Day and night use
 - Linked to external spaces
 - Reception and cash-point
 - Enhanced bar / cafe spaces
- East Basement
 - Activity spaces
 - Storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Gym



East Basement



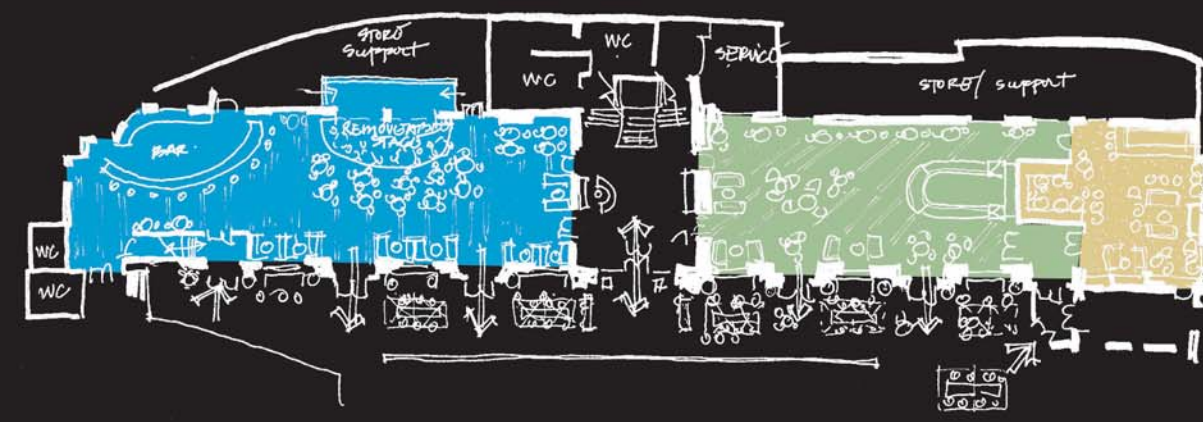
3rd Floor



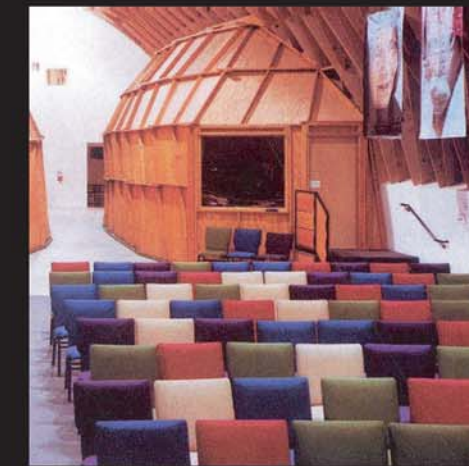
2ND FLOOR



1st Floor



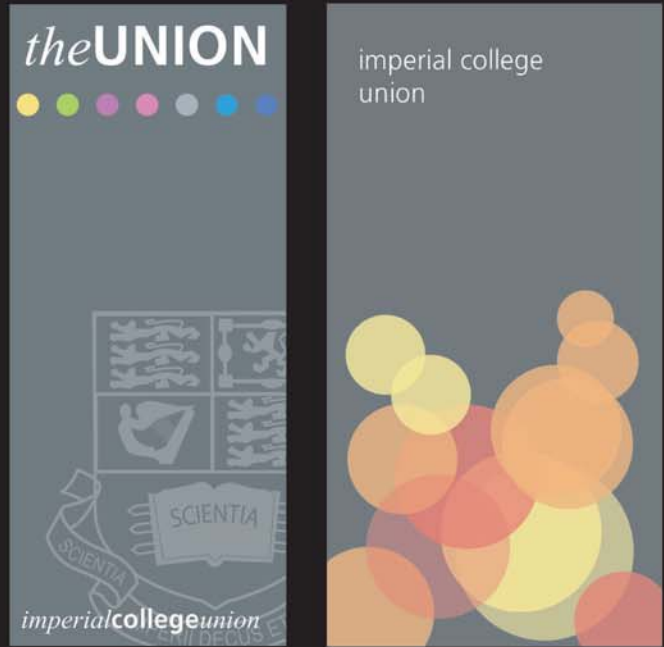
GROUND



Unity

Identity

Adaptability

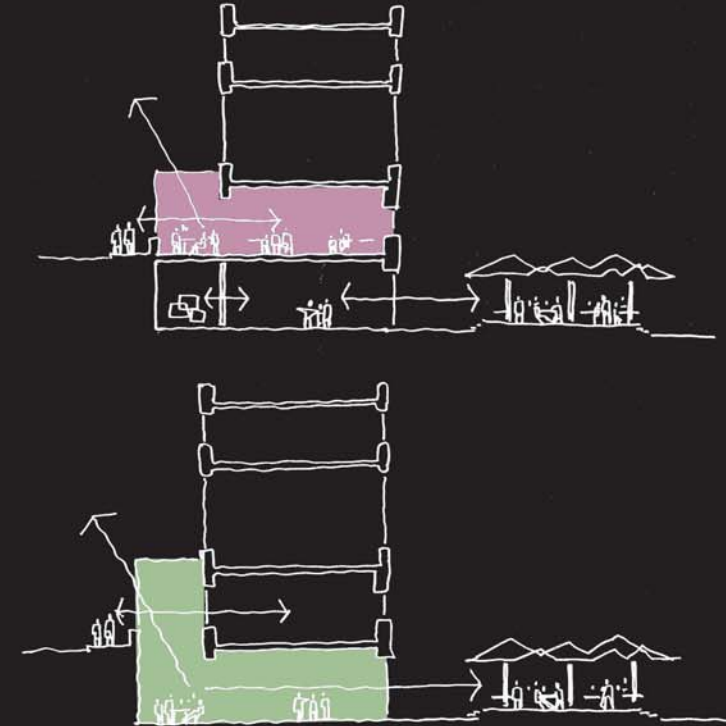


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- Use of colour

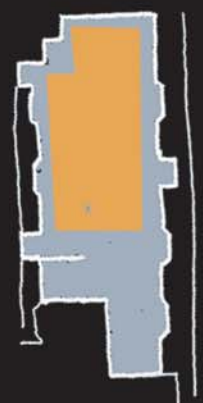
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- Taking advantage of level changes
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- Potential for rooftop addition

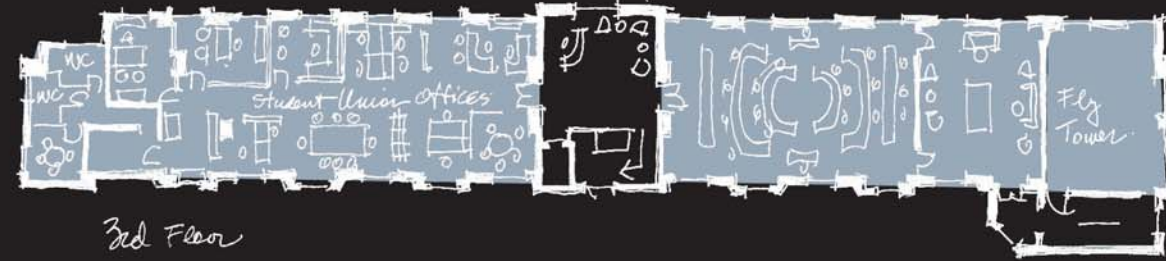


Ideas

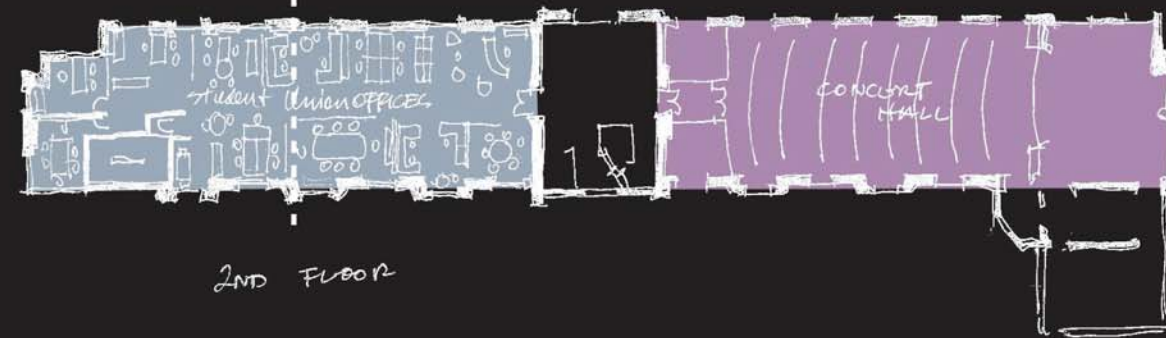
- Third floor
 - Potential Office Space
 - Meeting rooms
 - Flexible activity space
- Second floor
 - Concert Hall
 - Better storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Improved mezzanine area
- First floor
 - Dining Room
 - Chill-out spaces
 - Good quality social spaces
- Ground floor
 - Music Venue
 - Day and night use
 - Linked to external spaces
 - Reception and cash-point
 - Enhanced bar / cafe spaces
- East Basement
 - Activity spaces
 - Storage
 - Adaptable activity spaces
 - Gym



East Basement



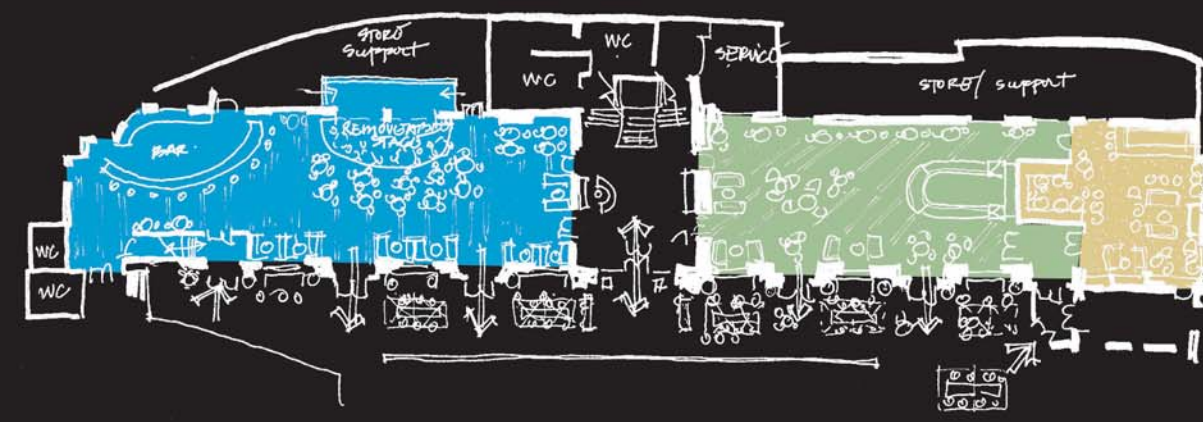
3rd Floor



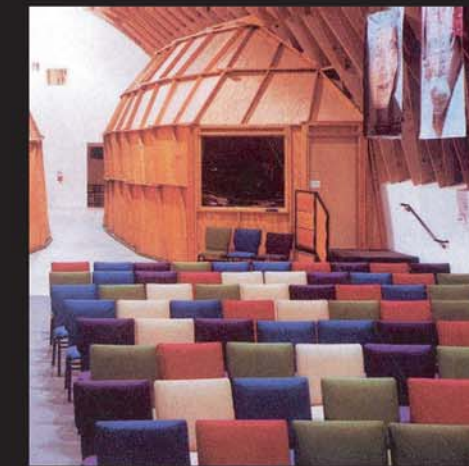
2ND FLOOR



1st Floor



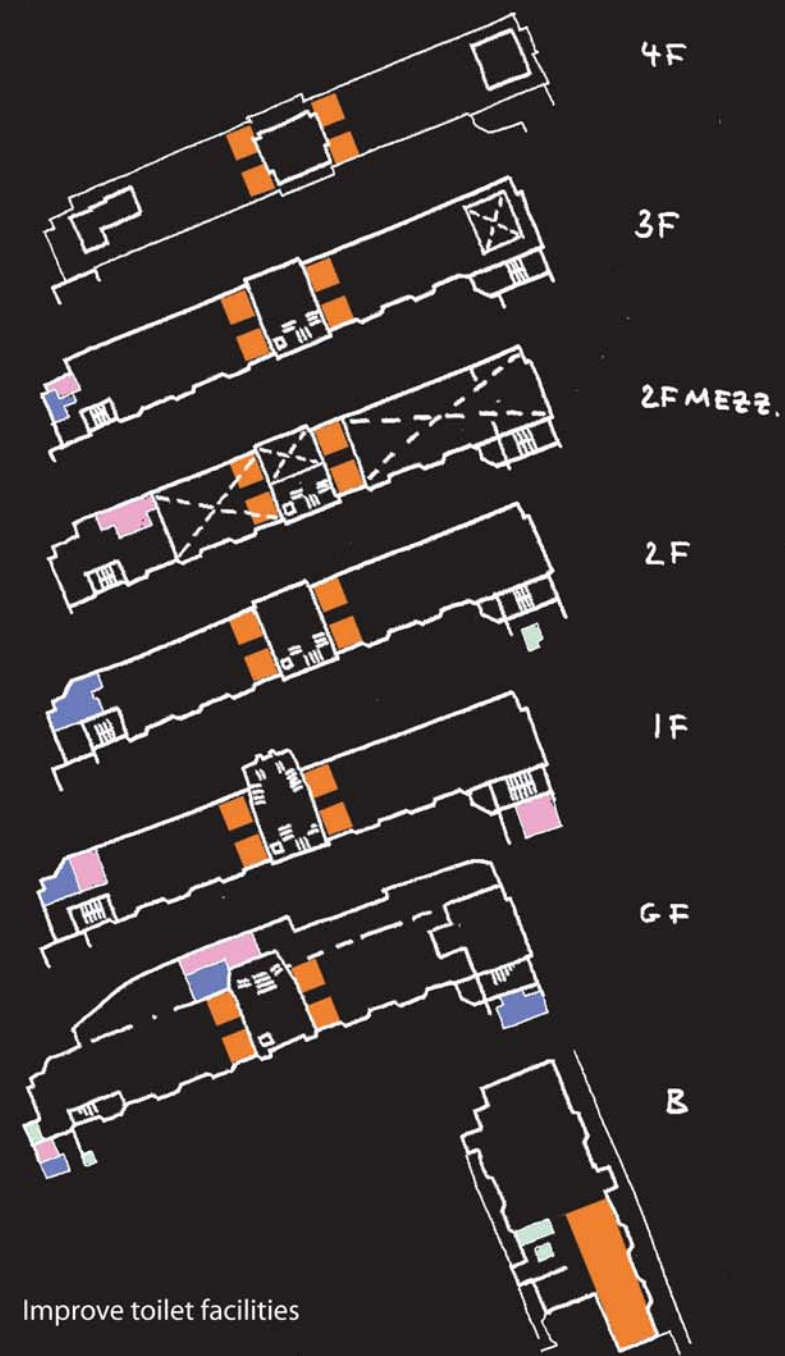
GROUND



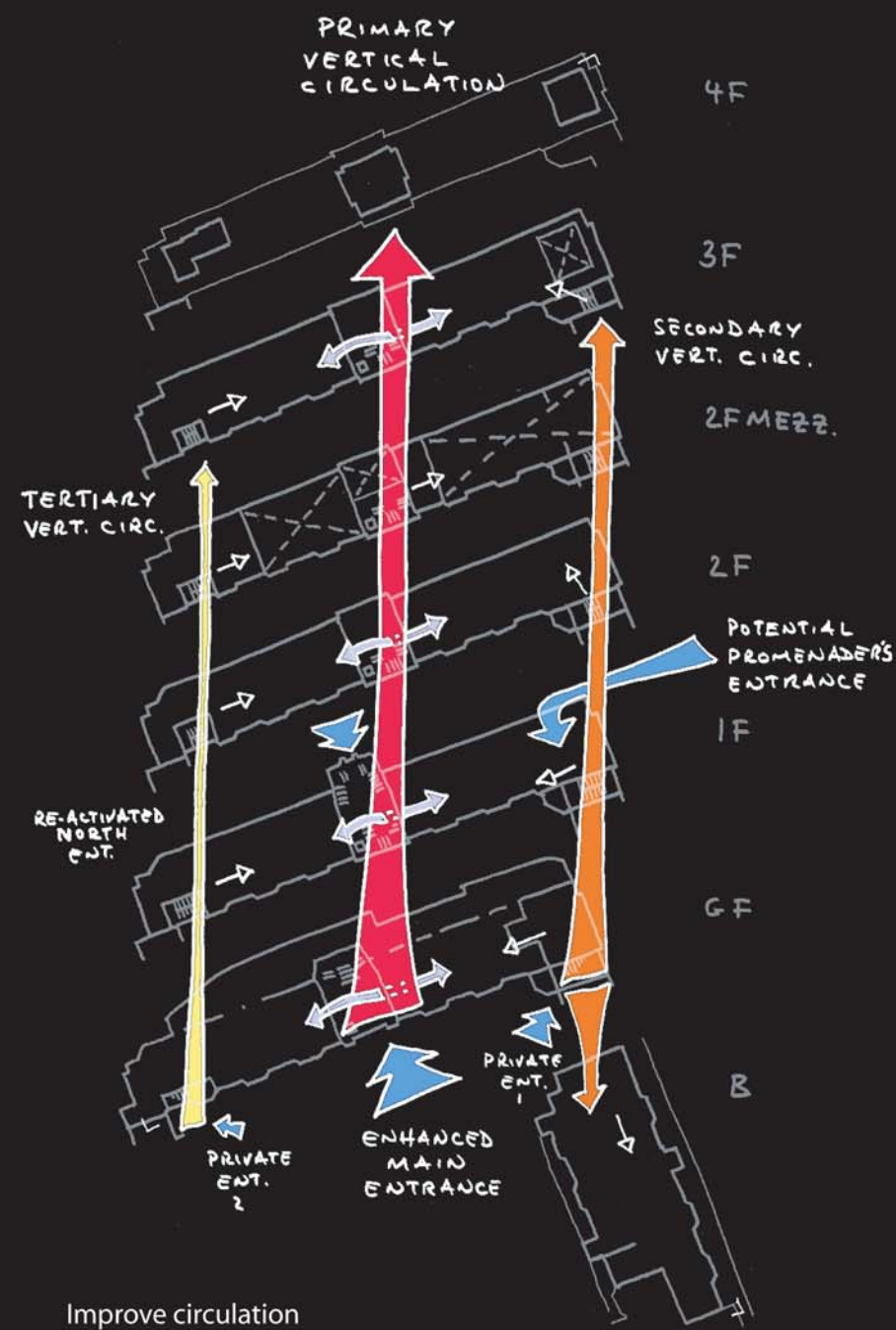
Unity

Identity

Adaptability



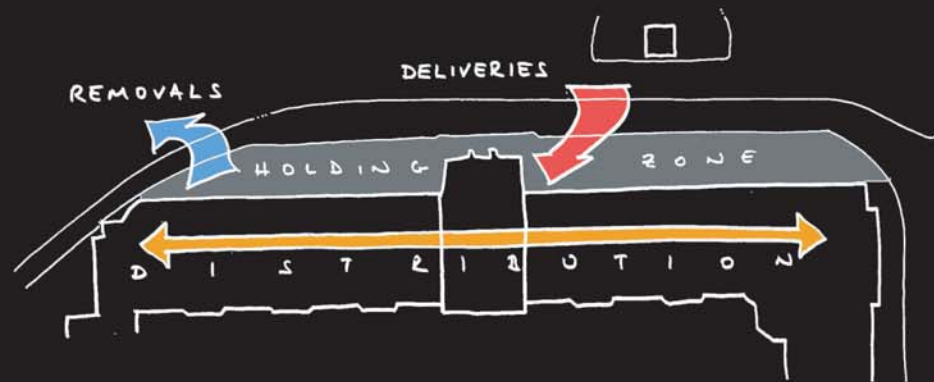
Improve toilet facilities



Improve circulation

Key Targets

- Maximise use of vertical circulation and create a new lift
- Improve lighting and wayfinding
- Enhance the main entrance and reactivate the north entrance
- Improve security and provide a reception
- Rationalise deliveries, distribution and storage
- Upgrade mechanical and electrical services
- Enhance the building to current regulations
- Additional zones for toilet and storage accommodation



Improve deliveries

Overview

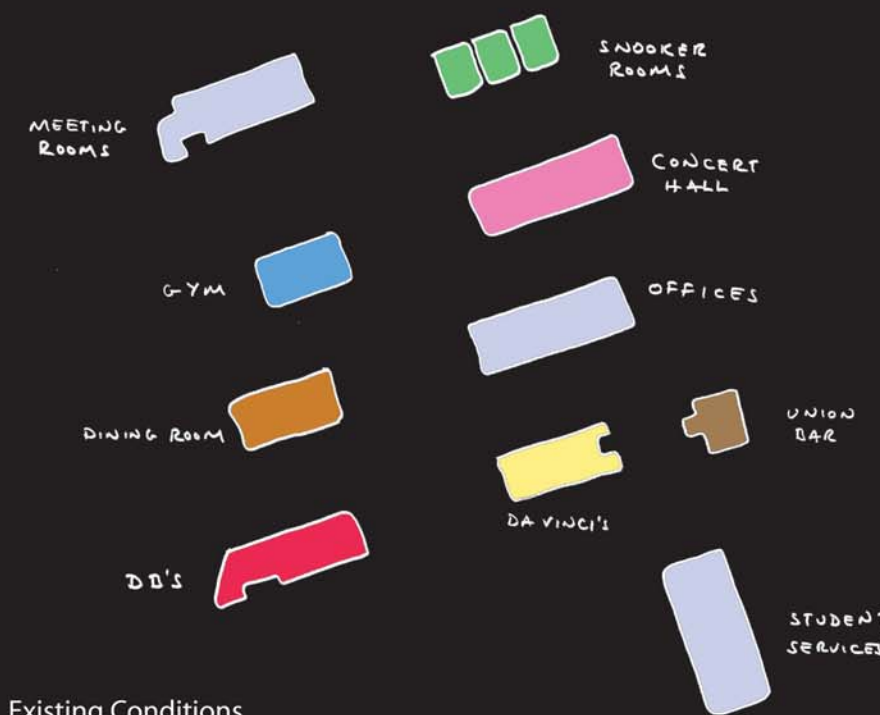
Following on from last week's report on the Union Strategy, one of the next steps is the long awaited and much needed refurbishment of the Union Building in Beit Quad. Swanke Hayden Connell Architects have been selected for the project and they are now working with us to develop the plans for the building. The first stage is to develop a brief by mid June, stating what the different areas of the Union Building will be used for.



How to get involved

Your views were first gathered during the focus groups and surveys (for the Strategic Review) held in the Autumn term. It is now necessary to gather further feedback as the brief is developed to ensure that the best design for the Union Building is delivered.

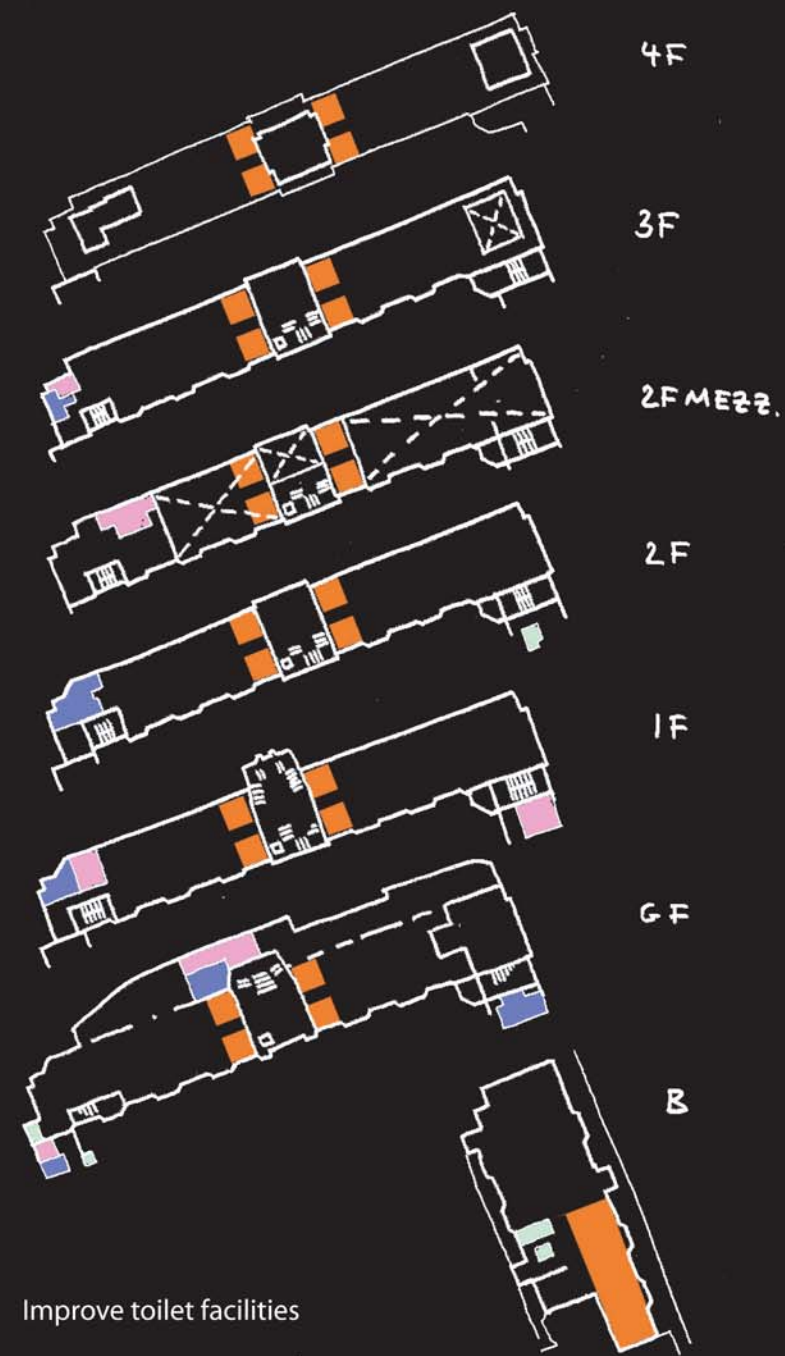
Over the next few pages are preliminary ideas and suggestions from the Architects. This information is also available online via www.union.ic.ac.uk where there is an opportunity to give your feedback. Focus groups with the Architects will also be held in mid May to discuss areas of the brief. Do take the opportunity to get involved.



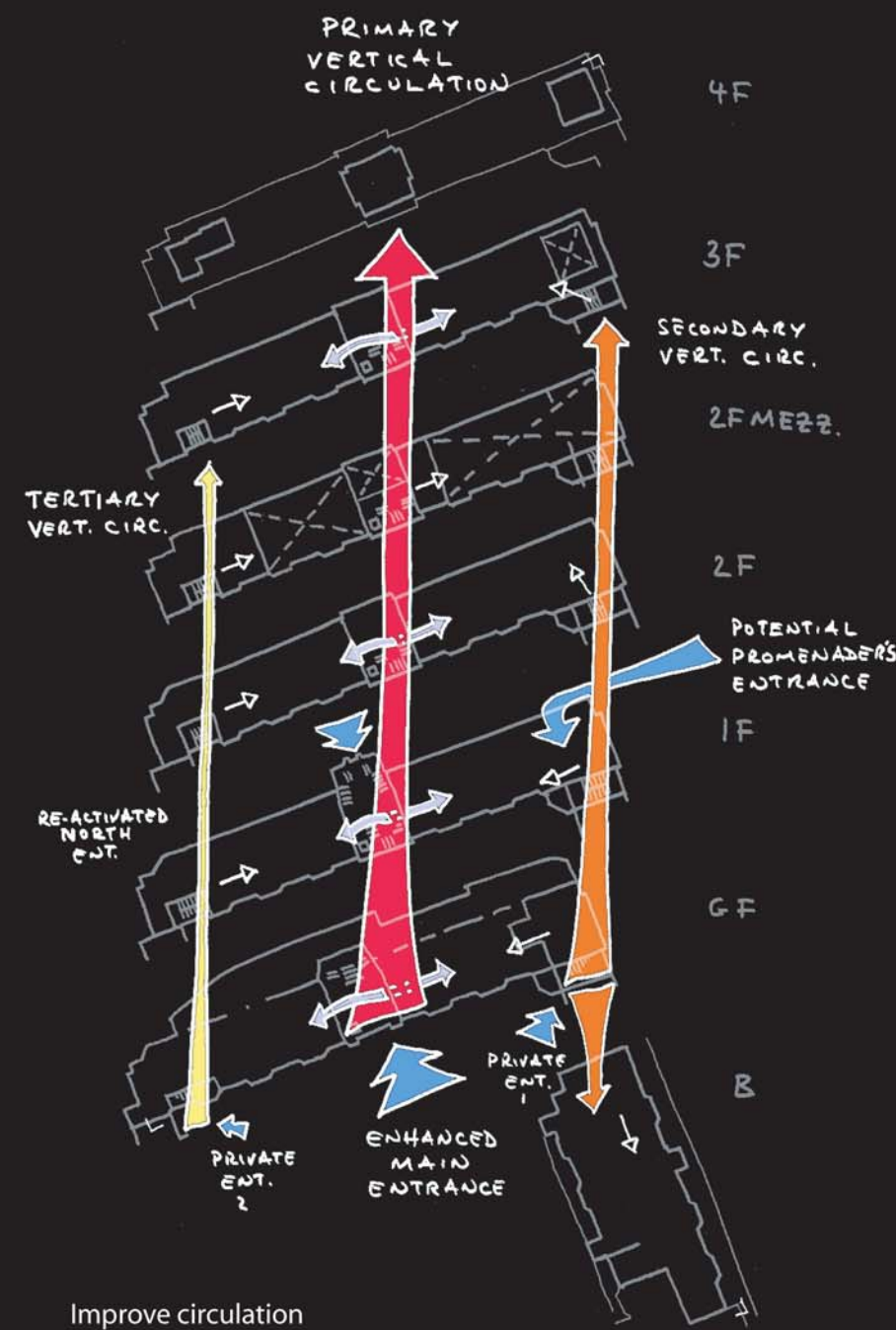
Existing Conditions

Our Objectives

- Create a cohesion out of the disparate functions of the Union Building
- Establish a new Union Identity
- Unite the spaces together through the design language of the circulation and the spaces themselves
- Wayfinding will be instinctive through the new identity
- The functions will be distinguished but part of the same family
- Group the social functions together
- Group the office spaces together
- Create an identity for the Union within the campus and within the community
- Create an engaging, desirable destination for students



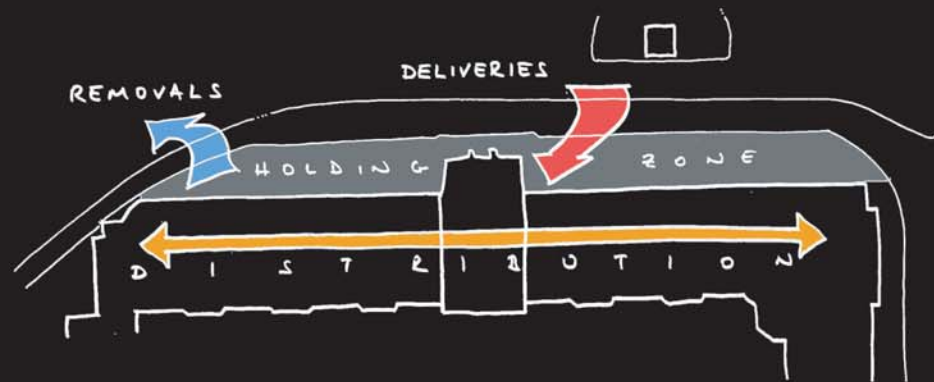
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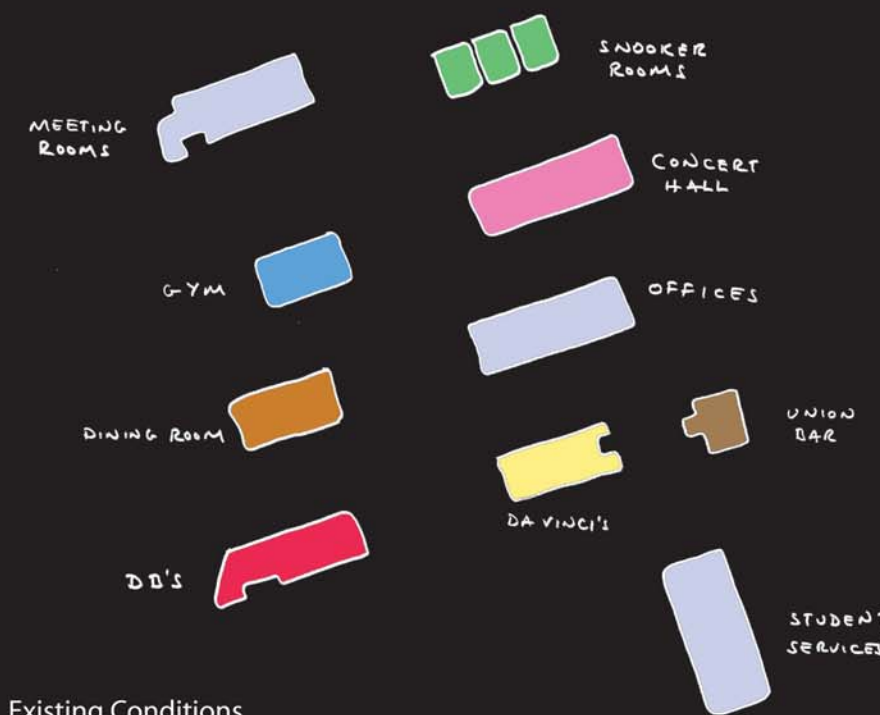
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