

Canoeing in Corsica

Imperial students mess about on the river, page 10



Music is back for more

Brendan Benson live, Four Tet and our festival guide, page 14



Win Star Wars stuff

Plus reviews of *Kingdom of Heaven* and *The Interpreter*, page 16



Summer sport is here

Imperial cricketers get into the groove, page 19



Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1322 ● Thursday 12 May 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

Discrimination can lead to illness

A recent survey published by Imperial College researchers has found that lesbian, gay and bisexual people are 10% more likely to have mental health problems than heterosexuals. The researchers believe that this is caused by discrimination and bullying.

► **SCIENCE** page 5

Amazing caving

"We explored a wholly out-of-this-world landscape. The chamber is the size of four football pitches side by side, and tall enough to consume the Blackett Laboratory..."

► **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES** page 12

24-hour libraries

Uncle Sam looks into the practicalities of having the central library open all hours.

► **COMMENT** page 7

Arbitrary 50%

Rupert Neate suggests an alternative to the Government's target of 50% of school-leavers entering higher education.

► **COLUMNS** page 9

Wye winners

The Wye women's rugby team win the ULU Cup with a brilliant 17-0 victory over LSE.



► **SPORT** page 20

Campus food unhealthy and overpriced, say students

By Dave Edwards and Darius Nikbin

Students believe that the food available on Imperial College's main campus is unhealthy and overpriced, according to a *Felix* poll conducted this week.

Of the students interviewed, only 26% felt that food on campus was 'healthy' and just 32% believed it was 'good value for money'. The poll also shows that caterers would be wise to reconsider the nutritional content of their food, with 67% of students saying they would be interested in healthier options than already exist.

Edward Lilley, Imperial's Catering Manager, told *Felix* that the College serves food that is popular with students. "We provide customers with what they want," he said.

Many of the sandwiches sold in the JCR contain worryingly high levels of salt and are significantly more expensive than similar products offered by local stores such as Boots, Marks & Spencer and The Sandwich Shop [see page 3 for further details].

According to Mr Lilley, the College has considered ways of reducing salt levels and promoting healthy eating: "We've already started ini-



"Chips with everything?" Meals served on campus, like this fast food in the Main Dining Hall, have received criticism from students in a *Felix* poll

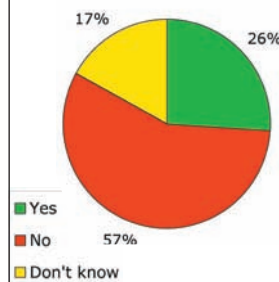
tiatives to reduce salt, such as lo-salt sachets, [and] we ran a trial of the Options programme on Mondays in the JCR."

He also said that students are given the opportunity to express their views via annual surveys and comment cards.

Neither Mr Lilley nor the Union's caterers could provide us with any written nutritional information or healthy eating policy.

Sam Rorke, Deputy

Do you think the food sold on campus is healthy?



President (Education and Welfare) of Imperial College Union, said: "Obviously it's important that students can get food that's healthy and reasonably priced. I think Union catering has improved enormously over the last six months."

The Union said that it would always listen to feedback from students about its catering and other services.

The survey also brought up a few unforeseen sugges-

tions. Some students in the central library, which is open 24 hours a day during the summer term, asked for food to be made available later into the night. One respondent suggested that eating at the nearby Royal College of Art was a better option, while others called for a radical boycott of College catering.

● **The high salt content of campus food, page 3**
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Conservatives capture local seats

By Dave Edwards
Editor

Mark Field, of the Conservative party, has been re-elected as MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, the constituency containing Imperial's South Kensington campus.

The Conservatives also comfortably won Kensington

and Chelsea and reclaimed two nearby seats, in which a considerable number of Imperial students live, from Labour.

Mr Field, who was interviewed in *Felix* two weeks ago, took 47.3% of the vote, compared to 25.1% for Hywel Lloyd of Labour.

Malcolm Rifkind was elected in Kensington and Chelsea

with 57.9%. Jenny Kingsley, of the Liberal Democrats, finished second on 18.3%.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, which contains Charing Cross Hospital, Greg Hands of the Conservatives was elected with 45.4% of votes. The result in neighbouring Putney was one of the first to be declared on election night, and Justine

Greening's victory was the first strong suggestion that the Tories were set to make gains nationwide.

Damian Green and Adam Afriyie, both of the Conservative party, were elected in the constituencies containing the Wye and Silwood Park campuses respectively.

Overall, Labour's major-

ity was slashed to 66. They now have 356 MPs, the Conservatives 197 and the Liberal Democrats 62.

Tony Blair is the only Labour leader in history to have won three consecutive general elections, but his party was backed by only around 22% of those eligible to vote, the lowest figure in modern times.

18th June



Summer Ball
2005

Felix

Issue 1322

Editor
Dave Edwards

Science Editor
Darius Nikbin

Music Editor
Andrew Sykes

Film Editor
Alan Ng

Felix
Beit Quad
Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BB
Telephone: 020 7594 8072
Email: felix@ic.ac.uk
Web: www.felixonline.co.uk

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The high salt content of College life

Are you getting the best health value out of your food on campus? **Martin Smith** had lunch in the JCR, read the Government's recommendations on salt content, and was shocked by what he found

Much has been said and written about the cost of a decent sandwich around campus, in particular the over-priced bread-based offerings in the JCR. However, a few moments' research shows that buying your lunch on the walkway might not just be damaging your pocket, but your health as well.

Salt is a chemical that we are all familiar with, and there can't be many people at Imperial who aren't aware

"Buying your lunch on the walkway might not just be damaging your pocket, but your health as well"

that it is composed of sodium and chlorine, two rather nasty elements.

If your sodium levels are too high, your body retains too much water, causing blood pressure to rise and putting strain on the heart. As the CASH (Consensus Action on Salt and Health) website claims, "it is also widely recognised that a high salt diet has other adverse effects, such as osteoporosis, asthma, and is closely linked to cancer of the stomach. There

is also evidence that a high salt intake in childhood may predispose us to getting high blood pressure later in life.

All in all, it seems that too much salt isn't good for you. Government recommendations for daily intake tell us that we should consume less than 6g of salt per day.

The Institute of Medicine suggests that "healthy 19- to 50-year-old adults should consume 3.8 grams of salt a day, to replace the amount lost daily on average" and places an upper limit "that people should not exceed" at 5.8g.

However, it isn't always obvious exactly how much salt a product contains, as usually only the sodium level is quoted on the packaging. Fear not, Imperial students, for a moment alone with a periodic table reassures you that to convert sodium weight into salt weight you just have to multiply by about 2.5.

Back in the JCR, I'm munching on a fairly tasty (but overpriced) lunchtime meal of Café Life's 'Breakfast Wrapped Up', along with a packet of salt and vinegar McCoy's. Which one has more salt? The crisps? Wrong. A few scrawlings on a piece of paper (calculators



JCR shop: rip-off merchant or just misunderstood?

are for wimps) reveals that the sandwich contains 4.25g of salt and the crisps 2.75g. That's a total of 7g of salt, and so assuming I had a sensible breakfast I'm well over my daily allowance already. By the way, 7g is roughly equivalent to drinking 700ml of Atlantic seawater. Tasty.

Is this surprising? Few people would look at 'Breakfast

Wrapped Up' and assume that this sausage, egg and bacon wrap is healthy, but most would put that down to fat content. However, the fact that this sandwich has 55% more salt than the crisps shocked me.

This sandwich is by no means the only one in the JCR that might cause health problems if you ate there

JCR SHOP PRICE CHECK

We compared prices at the JCR Shop with three local high street stores. The figures speak for themselves, yet eating in the JCR remains a popular option

JCR SHOP (after 10% student discount)

Chicken and bacon Caesar salad sandwich	£2.70
Classic BLT sandwich	£2.34
Ham, cheese and coleslaw sandwich	£1.70
330ml can of Coca-Cola	59p

BOOTS, GLOUCESTER ROAD

'Delicious' BLT sandwich	£2.00
Ham and mustard sandwich	£1.40
2 x 500ml bottles of Coca-Cola	£1.29

THE SANDWICH SHOP, GLOUCESTER ROAD

All pre-packed sandwiches	£1 to £1.60
330ml can of Coca-Cola	50p

MARKS & SPENCER, HIGH STREET KENSINGTON

Roast chicken salad sandwich	£1.60
Tuna and cucumber sandwich	£1.40

every day. Most sandwiches I saw contained between 1 and 1.3 grams of sodium (or 2.5 to 4 grams of salt): around half of your daily allowance, even without the crisps.

In practice, it may be difficult to reduce the amount of salt in your diet, simply because there is so much of it in processed food. According to dietician Rosie Taylor, "it can be difficult to ensure a low salt diet. This is because 65-75% of the salt we consume is from hidden sources - processed foods or naturally occurring in foods. Only about 15% of the salt we eat is added during cooking or at the table."

However, this is an issue that the Government is taking seriously. Taylor continues: "The Government are now in discussions with food manufacturers to decide ways of reducing the salt content of foods over time, so that this target of 6g can be reached"

The levels of salt in some JCR sandwiches are very worrying, and there are clearly health risks involved. The least they could do is lower the price - then we could save up for the nursing we might need in later life.

● Government health recommendations regarding salt intake: www.salt.gov.uk

SOME 'READY SALTED' FACTS

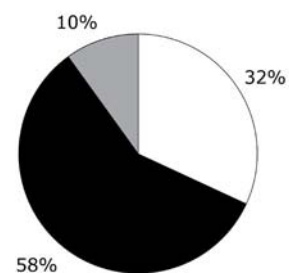
75% of salt we eat comes from processed food

6g is the maximum amount of salt the Government says you should consume each day

85% of men and **69%** of women in the UK have too much salt

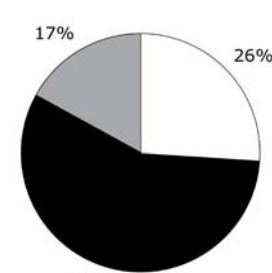
Felix food survey: the results

Do you think the food sold on campus is good value for money?



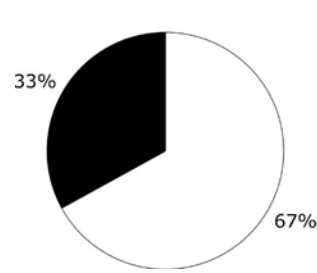
Yes
No
Don't know

Do you think the food sold on campus is healthy?



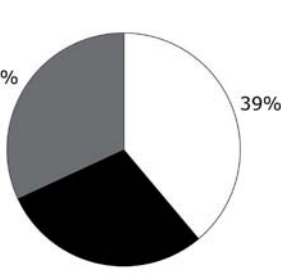
Yes
No
Don't know

Would you be interested in healthier options than already exist?



Yes
No

Do you ever consider nutritional content when you buy food?



Yes
No
Sometimes

Felix spoke to 100 students at a variety of locations across the South Kensington campus on Tuesday 10 May

A demand for healthy food

Food counts towards whether you pass or fail exams. Dietician **Rosie Taylor** explains why you should care about what you eat

The importance of good nutrition is nothing new. Back in 400BC, Hippocrates said: "Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food."

As a population, our lifestyles and eating habits have changed drastically over the past couple of decades. The environment we live in has also changed, with the ever-increasing availability of food at all hours of the day, from takeaways and home deliveries to supermarket ready meals, we have become a population of fast food lovers. And it's impacting on our health.

Links between diet and disease are better understood than ever before, and there is a large body of evidence showing that what you eat has an enormous impact on your health. Today, at least four of the ten leading causes of death in the UK - heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes - are directly related to the way we eat, and diet is

also implicated in scores of other conditions. We mustn't underestimate the influence on our health of how and what we eat.

Yet, whilst awareness is increasing about the role diet can play in promoting good health and reducing the risk of certain diseases, it seems that healthy intentions are often hampered as a result of

"Do universities need a 'school dinners' style visit from Jamie Oliver to banish the chips and bring in the salads?"

the food available to people at their places of work, or, in the cases of students at Imperial, their places of study.

As the *Felix* survey has shown, there is demand for healthy food at Imperial. So are we being let down by those who supply the food? Do universities need a 'school dinners' style visit from Jamie

Oliver to banish the chips and bring in the salads?

I think not. There are unhealthy foods available on campus - take the salt-ridden meaty sandwich from the JCR or the rows of chocolate bars and sugar-laden drinks in the walkway newsagent, and of course you'll end up with a pretty dire lunch, lacking in vitamins and fibre, and riddled with sugar and fat.

On the other hand, buying a couple of pieces of fresh fruit and a bottle of water from the JCR before taking a short walk across Prince Consort Road to buy a hot jacket potato and baked beans would give you an altogether different kind of meal. As the mantra of my fellow dieticians across the country goes, "no foods should be banned from a healthy diet, it's about variety and moderation".

So, I would like to argue the case for - along with a reduction in salt added to processed foods by manufac-

turers - improved nutritional labelling on foods: something the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are currently developing a 'signposting' system for. I believe that the College should continue to provide a wide selection of foods, so that the individual can make their own informed choice about the way they eat, but perhaps they could do more to highlight to us busy and preoccupied students just which options are the healthiest.

This problem will be partially solved when the FSA's new signposting system is launched. This will not, however, apply to foods that are freshly prepared and so come unpackaged. It is here that I think the university could have a big impact on informing its students about healthy options. Who knows what effect it could have - improved exam results as a consequence of improved concentration, perhaps?

Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

America puts Darwin on trial

Last week, authorities in Kansas took steps to reintroduce religious teaching into the school science curriculum. **Darius Nikbin** looks at the trial of Charles Darwin's work and the spread of 'intelligent design'

Charles Darwin has finally been brought face to face with the religious authorities. Despite never being tried in his own lifetime, last week the Kansas Board of Education began making their case against the father of modern evolutionary theory.

The courtroom took evidence from six anti-evolution scientists arguing that Darwin was guilty of proliferating a theory that fails to explain gaps in the fossil record, the complexity of DNA, or the origin of life.

Outside, boycotting the trial, irate mainstream scientists demonstrated against the proceedings – but in vain. The State Board of Education's conservative majority is set to push through legislation ensuring that pupils are taught to challenge the basic precepts of evolution.

One of the witnesses at trial, Jonathan Wells, explains his motivation: "Father's words, my studies and my prayers convinced me that I should devote my life to destroying Darwinism." Dr Wells is an embryologist and senior fellow at the Discovery Institute in Seattle.

The witnesses for the prosecution in the Kansas trial include William Harris, a professor of medicine, who said

that Darwinism clashed with the biblical teaching that life was created by God. "Part of our overall goal is to remove the bias against religion that is currently in schools," he said. "This is a scientific controversy that has powerful religious implications."

Up until now, 'creation science' has lost every legal challenge associated with the creationism-evolution debate.

In 1982, a federal judge ruled that 'creation science'

"...my prayers convinced me that I should devote my life to destroying Darwinism"

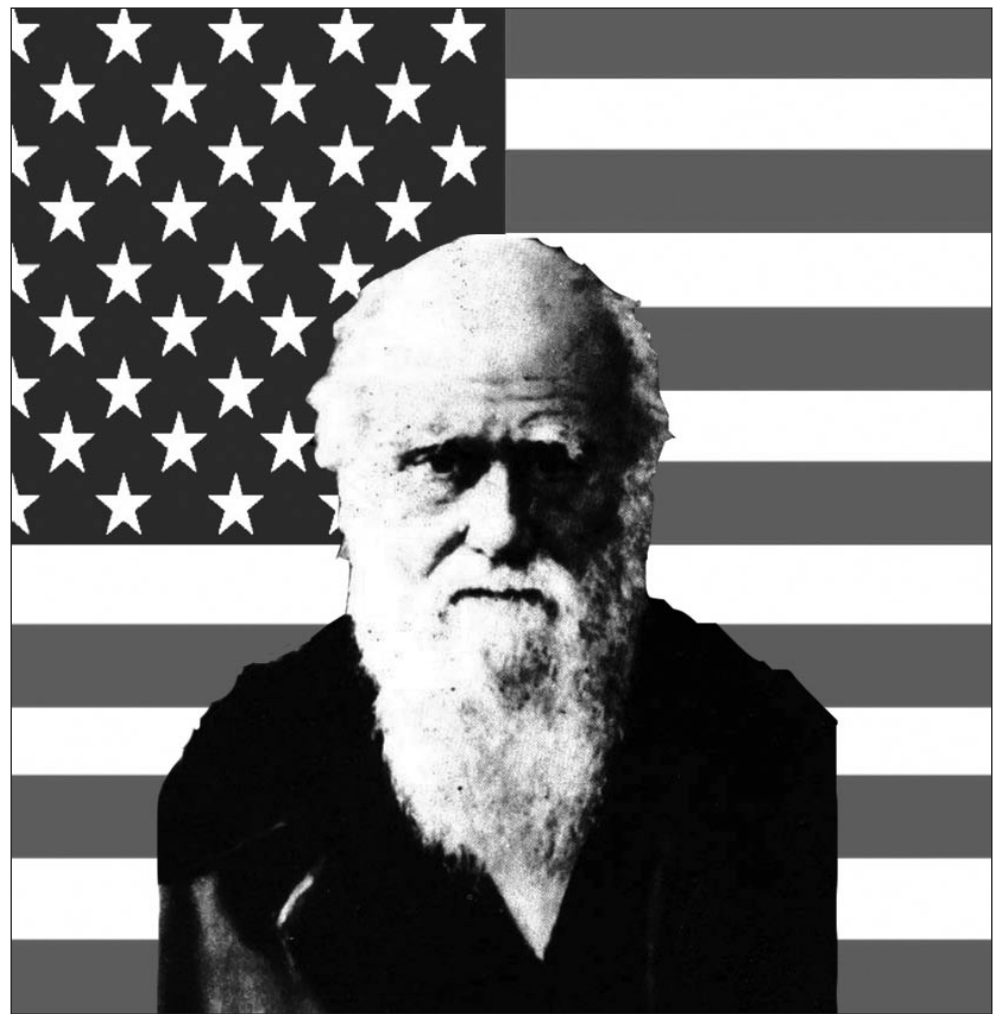
has no scientific significance and is merely an attempt to promote religion. In 1987 the supreme court ruled that biblical creationism must not be taught in tandem with evolution in the US. Even so, creationism continues to be taught in many schools.

Creationists have, therefore, been forced to adapt their tactics. Theories of 'intelligent design' are becoming more popular as a substitute for the banned literal interpretation of the Bible. 'Intelligent design'

posits that life's complexity cannot be explained without a supernatural creator or architect. Earlier this year, a high school in Pennsylvania made history by becoming the first in the country to discuss teaching 'intelligent design'. Critics suggested that this is simply a backdoor to allowing non-empirical creationist theories to be taught.

With legislators in Alabama and Georgia also considering Bills to allow teachers to challenge Darwin in class, millions of schoolchildren in the United States will be taught to question Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Christian fundamentalist activists have ensured that non-empirical 'guiding-hand' teleological explanations will be taught alongside established scientific theories of evolution.

In parts of the US, it appears that religious and scientific education are now overlapping. After all these years, the ideas propounded in Darwin 1859 book *The Origin Of The Species* have failed to gain the acceptance of the moral majority. To many Americans, it seems that nothing could be more subversive than suggesting that humans are apes.



On trial: is it right for 'intelligent design' to be taught alongside evolution?

The week at the Dana Centre

The Dana Centre is right next to Imperial College's South Ken campus. Go along if you want to see controversial issues in science discussed in a thought-provoking, frank and often entertaining way

Inquiries and bookings:

020 7942 4040

Or email tickets@danacentre.org.uk



Today: Thursday 12 May, 7pm 'Can you eat yourself healthy?'

We all know that eating apples is an antidote to all ills, or is it broccoli? In Cancer Prevention Week, join the Antenna science news team and a panel of experts to unravel how your fridge's contents affect your health.

Tuesday 17 May, 7.30pm Punk Science: The Albert Einstein Experience

Everyone knows that what Albert Einstein found out is really, really important. As featured in last term's issue of *I, Science*. Find out what the fuss is all about...

Wednesday 18 May, 6.30pm Dinner@Dana

Had a good day at work? Bit stressed? Well relax and join Café Scientifique for a delicious dinner while Eric Brunner from University College London tells you more about how stress at work can affect your health

Thursday 19 May, 7pm Is it you or I who should be in the asylum?

People with severe personality disorders, such as schizophrenia, are often perceived to be a danger to the public. But most are a danger to no-one, and some abnormalities in behaviour can lead to highly creative phases. So why do we lock them up?

AMERICA ON EVOLUTION

"Evolution is as well-documented as any phenomenon in science, as strongly as the Earth's revolution around the Sun rather than vice versa. In this sense, we can call evolution a fact"

Stephen Jay Gould, Harvard paleontologist

"All the ills from which America suffers can be traced back to the teaching of evolution"

Three time democratic candidate for the presidency, William Jennings, 1925

"The monkey mythology of Darwin is the cause of permissiveness, promiscuity, pills, prophylactics, perversions, abortion, pornotherapy, pollution, poisoning and proliferation of crimes of all types"

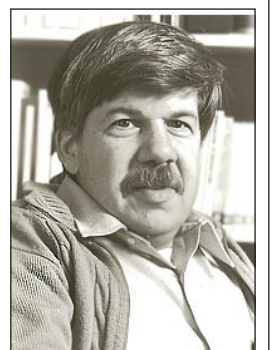
Judge Braswell Dean of the Georgia State Court of Appeals, 1981

"I'd make it a goal to make sure that local folks got to make the decision as to whether or not they said creationism has been a part of our history"

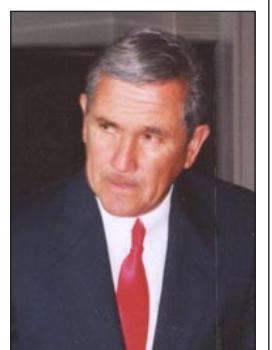
George W Bush, Associated Press

"He doesn't really care about that kind of thing"

George W Bush's views on evolution, according to a friend (NY Times, October 2000)



Stephen J Gould



George W Bush

Discrimination can lead to suicide

A study at Imperial has suggested gays and lesbians suffer a higher risk of mental disorder due to discrimination. **Sophie Hebden** talked to the lead researcher and reports on the findings

Detectives were alerted to Alan Turing's 'crime' when he and his gay lover reported a burglary in 1952. The father of the modern computer and Enigma code breaker was later charged with 'gross indecency' and given the choice of prison or a year of oestrogen injections to neutralise his libido. He chose the therapy, and committed suicide a year later.

Yet although homosexuality is no longer considered a crime or mental illness, bullying and harassment of lesbians, gay men and bisexual (LGB) men and women continues, and we have little understanding of its effect on mental health. Now scientists have discovered that physical and verbal abuse may be driving some gays and lesbians to suicide.

A recent survey published by Imperial researchers into the mental health of LGB people found that gay men and lesbians in the UK were 10% more likely to have mental health problems than heterosexuals. Most crucially, the link between abuse and attempted suicide shows that homophobic attacks really can damage people.

Imperial psychiatrist Dr James Warner discussed his findings in his office at St Mary's Hospital. He told *Felix*: "Gays, lesbians and bisexuals are at a greater risk of mental disorder and deliberate self-harm than heterosexuals. We think this may be caused by discrimination and having been bullied at school."

This is the first study to show the potential effect of discrimination on mental health and the biggest clinical

survey of its kind in the UK. It involved over 2000 people, just over half of whom were lesbian, gay or bisexual.

Warner and his colleagues needed to find a sampling technique that would avoid biasing the study, a particularly difficult issue when you are surveying a dispersed population group. He explained the recruitment techniques they used: "It's easy to recruit LGB men and women in gay venues, but these people are more comfortable with their sexuality than those who don't go out. So to avoid bias we used a snowball sampling method that works friendship

"Gays, lesbians and bisexuals are at a greater risk of mental disorder and deliberate self-harm than heterosexuals..."

DR JAMES WARNER

networks."

It works like this. The first wave of people (group A) is recruited via posters in health clubs and public libraries, adverts in the national, local and gay press, etc. Group A do the questionnaire and are given five postcards to pass on to friends who would be prepared to take part: group B. No sexuality requirement is made. Group B then nominates group C, and so on up to group G.

Participants completed a computer questionnaire with questions about the mental health symptoms they had experienced in the previous week, such as fatigue, memory problems, sleep dis-

turbance, irritability, worry about physical health, depressive thoughts, general anxiety, compulsive behaviour and obsessive thoughts. This is a standard procedure to assess mental health, termed the Clinical Interview Schedule (CIS). They were also asked to describe their sexual orientation, indicating sexual attraction on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 indicating attraction only to the opposite sex; 2, mostly to the opposite sex; 3, both sexes equally, etc.

The survey found that 42% of the gay men, 43% of lesbians and 49% of bisexual men and women had a clinically recognised mental health problem, and nearly one third had attempted suicide.

Damage to property, personal attacks or verbal insults in the last five years or insults and bullying at school were reported by 83%, two thirds of whom attributed this discrimination to their sexuality. Mental health problems (high CIS scores) were linked to unemployment, conflict between religious belief and sexuality, being under 40, being attacked in the last five years, being verbally assaulted in the last five years and having been bullied at school. Out of the whole sample, 31% had attempted suicide. This was linked to discrimination and school bullying, but not higher CIS scores.

Warner said: "The results of this research show that there is a likely link between levels of discrimination and an increased risk of mental health problems. Of course it cannot be proven to be a causality, but many respondents linked attacks with their



New research at Imperial College reveals the damaging effects of discrimination against homosexuals

sexuality."

None of the LGB counselling groups that I contacted found the link between discrimination and mental illness surprising. Allan Wardell, press officer for Stonewall, told *Felix*: "Physical attacks on LGB people and damage to property have severe implications for mental health. The study highlights the need for the police and Crown Prosecution Service to be aware of these issues and to take them seriously. Lesbians, gay men and bisexual men and women need to be assured that the police can be trusted to treat them fairly."

He also spoke of the importance that health professionals be fully aware of the specific needs of LGB people. He says: "We've seen a high

incidence of mental health problems in LGB people for many years. The fact that only half of gay men are not out to their GPs has implications on the health treatment that they are given." Training for mental health professionals should include increased awareness of the potential for substance misuse and self-harm in this group, he says.

The Imperial study finds relevance beyond the police and NHS: it has implications for how all of society deals with gay people. This is a group of people, one in 20 Brits, who have been oppressed for many years.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, commented on the study's findings, saying that the high levels of discrimination

reported are "disgraceful". He says the study "reveals that there is a residue of extremely unpleasant homophobia around. We are, unfortunately, still a long way from being a society that is truly inclusive and is sensitive and respectful to those who are different from the majority."

So can we accept people for who they are or not? Alan Turing was very open about his sexuality, and was persecuted for it. As young gays are increasingly open about their sexuality, we need a society that can respect and accept them. This study is a stark reminder of what can happen if we do not.

● For confidential student support and advice: www.nightline.org.uk

The evolutionary biology of the female orgasm

By Sarah Hogan
Biological sciences

It takes an average of 20 minutes of concentrated effort to attain, but normally only lasts 30 seconds. It has been baffling inexperienced teenage boys since the dawn of time, but the female orgasm has also puzzled evolutionary biologists.

The male orgasm is a brief feeling of intense pleasure, coupled with ejaculation of semen containing sperm with the male's DNA. It's essential when it comes to passing on those highly desirable genes. The female orgasm, however, seems unnecessary for making babies, but according to some new theories it may be a clever way of ensuring a girl gets what she wants out of her man.

If the male partner is capable of making her reach a cli-

max, he must be physically fit, so the female can be assured that any offspring will be healthy. However, there are no guarantees of healthy offspring, since we can all pass on faulty genes we're not aware we have.

"A more likely reason for female orgasms is incentive: she will be more likely to have sex with her man again..."

A more likely reason for female orgasms is incentive: she will be more likely to have sex with her man again if she enjoys the experience, and so the chances of conception are increased.

There are also more practical explanations for this energetically costly experience. During orgasm, a woman's pelvic muscles, vaginal walls

and uterus contract, and the position of the uterus tilts slightly. These movements are thought to direct the semen towards the uterus. This may be the reason why women can experience multiple orgasms.

Interestingly, the after-effects of an orgasm may be just as important as the climax itself. The feeling of exhaustion that follows such a peak of pleasure encourages the female to stay lying still after sex, helping to retain the sperm inside her.

These reasons all refer back to when we had caves, not beds, and making babies was our top priority. Now, however, it is not necessarily so. There is another theory more in keeping with our times: being able to make your partner feel amazing will make them less likely to stray, and more likely to want to return the favour.



Thanks to the *Felix* in-house model for kindly demonstrating

Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

Rewards, regulations and redevelopment

Union Colours 2005

Is there someone you want to recognise for their contribution to student life at Imperial? Perhaps someone who has been a powerful advocate for representing student views in your department? Or perhaps someone who has played an outstanding role in helping to run your club or society?

The Union's Colours and other awards are made annually to individuals who have supported the aims and objectives of the Union: representation, student welfare, clubs and societies and provision of services. Any person (including staff or someone from outside College) may be nominated. Any full member of the Union (ie any student) may send in a nomination. Nominations open today and close on 25 May. Details are available on the web at www.union.ic.ac.uk/colours.

Governance changes... and more elections!

There has been consensus this year in the Union Executive that we need to elect the bulk of our officers, Council and Executive, before

the summer holiday, so that they may be trained and in post for the start of the new academic year. (Historically, we have elected many positions at the start of the year.) Together with the creation of the post of Deputy President (Graduate Students), this has necessitated a look at our Constitution and Regulations.

In line with the Union Strategy agreed by Council, the Executive have been developing proposals that should make the Union more accountable. At the heart of this are two symbiotic proposals. The first is to make the Union's management committees (especially the Executive and the Student Activities Committee) more effective by giving them appropriate responsibilities and reforming their memberships. The second is to remove all Officers, except the Executive, from Council. The remaining places on Council would be filled by elected representatives from each faculty or department – so that there is a majority of non-Officers who are able to hold the Officers to account.

The proposals should be discussed at Union Council tonight and then hopefully passed at an 'adjournment

STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF
UNION PRESIDENT

meeting' on Monday. Assuming all is agreed, elections for a plethora of positions will start taking place shortly.

Linstead Hall and Southside closure

Much of my time has been occupied with the future of Linstead Hall. The position agreed by the Union Executive has been that we should

aim to retain a catered hall on campus. We are now negotiating with College over the position of evening meals in Sherfield, which is looking positive. The College is determined to open the café/shop on the ground floor of Linstead, which will now serve breakfast and weekend meals (currently unavailable in Princes Gardens).

As previously reported in *Felix*, the Linstead first floor area will remain the private communal area of the hall – consistent with all other Imperial College halls. I have been somewhat surprised to receive representations from Southside aficionados that a new bar could equally have provided a social space for the residents. This is simply not true. Look around you. How many students are there on the South Kensington campus? Do they all use the bars? Of course not – we only have capacity for about 10% of students.

There is a proportion of our student population who do not like or feel comfortable socialising in bars. Moreover, most people don't want to spend every night in a bar for lack of any other communal space. The College needs to provide alternative

social provision, of which we currently have none in the evenings. It also needs to be sensitive to the needs of an increasingly cosmopolitan student body, and telling students in a hall of residence that their only social space is a general College bar just won't cut it.

When friends from other universities visit, they often make the observation that Southside is more of a 'traditional university bar' than the Union's. When I ask them what they mean, they talk of white, middle class students, many of whom are winter team sports players. The fact is that in an ever-changing student demographic it becomes increasingly difficult to provide social space that appeals to everyone.

That's not to say that the Union social facilities do much better – hence the motivation behind creating a redevelopment masterplan for Beit.

The Southside bar has a long and cherished history and will be sorely missed. The College does need to provide alternative social space, as well as improve what is left. However, it must be for the benefit of today's student body as a whole, not yesterday's.

Ankle-biters

When you thought about coming into higher education, you had to take the following factors into consideration:

- Where will I be living?
- Can I afford it?
- Have I made the right choice of course?

If you are now a student with children, you have even more to think about:

- Does the university have childcare facilities?
- Do they offer financial help for childcare?
- Are there any benefits accessible to single parents?

Being a student while you have children can be a real challenge, but your ambitions should not be held back just because you have started a family.

Some institutions do not offer childcare facilities at all. This is often an issue upon which students' unions campaign.

At Imperial, a childcare facility is provided at Princes Gardens for the children of both staff and students. It caters for babies and children aged from six months to five years, and can accommodate around 54

ADVICE SERVICE



NIGEL COOKE
STUDENT ADVISER

children. However, there is a long waiting list.

Students with children may be eligible for some benefits. If you meet the criteria, you may well be eligible for the following:

- Parents Learning Allowance – This is intended to help cover your course related costs. How much you get depends on your income and that of your partner or spouse if you have one. The maximum entitlement is £1,300.

- Childcare Grant – If you have responsibility for a child under the age of 15 (or 17 if (s)he has special educational needs) and you use registered or approved childcare, you may be able to apply for the childcare grant.

- Lone Parents Grant – This is only available to students who started their course before September 2001. It is not income assessed but if you are eligible for this grant then you cannot claim the childcare grant.

This is just a snapshot of the support that is available and, as mentioned before, not everyone will be eligible for this help.

If you are a student parent and would like more information on both the Early Years Education Centre and student parent benefits, please do not hesitate to contact The Information And Advice Centre on 020 7594 8067 or advice@ic.ac.uk. Pop in and see us in the east wing basement of Beit Quad, and you may even get a cup of tea!

Don't let your concern turn into a crisis. Make the Information and Advice Centre your first choice for all your welfare needs.



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The joy of... 24-hour libraries

As most of you have probably realised, the dreaded exam season has hit Imperial College once again. To many, that will mean lack of sleep, too much caffeine, and a growing realisation that it might have been a good idea to work a little harder throughout the year. When they told you in October that this year was going to be hard, they actually meant it!

This year and last, the summer term has also meant round-the-clock access to the central library, thanks to the Union lobbying the library service on behalf of the student body.

Whilst the extended service has been highly praised, and appreciated by students who value the added flexibility of being able to use the library at any point during the

revision period, there have been a number of consistent complaints.

There has been call for better ventilation, as a continuous stream of hard-working students takes its toll on air quality. The library has acknowledged this and is currently asking the College for more money to enable it to address the problem properly over the next couple of years.

Secondly, there is a lack of refreshments. The library provides some vending machines in the Haldane Collection on level 1 (where consuming some food and drink allowed), but this is limited by space. There are also vending machines in the Junior Common Room, and the Union's catering service in Beit Quad is still the only place on campus to get decent hot

UNCLE SAM



SAM RORKE
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(EDUCATION & WELFARE)

meals until 8.30pm (and later on Wednesday and Friday evenings).

One of the worst complaints is regarding the lack of space, particularly when other users are "reserving" desks with their bags and books. At some points, only two thirds of spaces are being actively used, but there are none available, since the others are being reserved. The library has tried to combat this problem by asking users to remove their belongings when they are going to be absent for extended periods, but this has had limited success and there is not sufficient staff to 'police' the library overnight.

On behalf of other library users, I would like to ask you to be considerate and sensible – of course, it is reasonable to leave your desk for an hour to get lunch, but if you are going to be gone all night, please

do the decent thing and let others use the space. Apart from the issue of basic courtesy, some people appear to be quite careless with valuable belongings. The library is not your home, and it's not a good idea to leave your laptop or iPod unattended.

I'm sorry if this sounds like a rant – I suppose it is – but some people are getting quite fed up. I quote the comments of one library user on a feedback form: "I arrive in the library at 8-9am and leave at 11pm and I can never get an individual table by the window... because they leave their stuff overnight."

If you do have any feedback about the library, please contact library@imperial.ac.uk or fill in a feedback form in the library.

Best of luck with your exams!

Redeveloping your Union building

We hope that last week's centre page spread will have whetted your appetites with the information about the redevelopment of the Union Building in Beit Quad, despite the project still being in its early stages.

As mentioned last week, your views were first gathered during the surveys and focus groups held in the autumn term for the Strategic Review. Then in the spring term the tendering process for choosing the architects was undertaken, where three architectural companies were given the opportunity to compete for the job of developing a masterplan for the Union Building. Having given their presentations to show why they should be selected, the

company Swanke Hayden Connell were chosen, as they understood best the issues facing our students and the Union building and were keen to interact with the students throughout the process.

Following on from this, during the Easter holidays a working group (made up of Sabbatical Officers, Executive Committee members and House Committee members) have been meeting regularly with the Architects about this project, discussing the current uses of the building, the problems facing users and oversight of the process. The architects have also been looking at the structural issues that affect the building to determine what can and can't be done.



SAMEENA MISBAHUDDIN
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(FINANCE & SERVICES)
& **RICHARD WALKER**
DEPUTY PRESIDENT
(CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

Last week's pullout showed sketched design. The pictures did

not show what will happen to the Union building but are the initial drawings from the architects which they used in the tendering process. They were given to show their ideas, spark discussions and generate thoughts in preparation to receiving student feedback and development of the actual brief for the building. Focus groups will be held with students to discuss the building and how best it can be redeveloped to reach its potential in serving the Union's students.

In June, with all the information that the architects have gathered, they will propose a brief for the building to the Union Council, which suggests what different areas of the building will be used for. Once this

is done the process will then be to expand on these ideas, with the help of user groups for each of the different areas. In October the architects will give more detailed proposals of how each of the different areas of the building will be used. These will be publicised and you will be consulted again for feedback. From then until January, the designs for the building will be worked into the final masterplan.

Do have a look at the Union website; it is intended as an ongoing source of information about the project so that you can keep up to date. You can reach it via www.union.ic.ac.uk and give your feedback (yoursay@ic.ac.uk).

● **Letters to the Editor, page 8**

Judgment day for Babar Ahmad

On Tuesday 17 May, the case of Babar Ahmad looks set to reach its close, 18 months after events started to unfold. The case is not only a terrifying and tragic experience for Babar, his family and friends, but also represents a fundamental attack on all our rights and civil liberties and is an example of so-called British 'justice'.

The ordeal started with Babar's arrest in December 2003, an arrest for which there was so little evidence to back up the outrageous claims of Babar being 'Osama Bin Laden's London General' that he was released without charge after a week of interrogation.

There is, however, extremely strong evidence pointing to quite serious abuse (including life threatening injuries) inflicted on Babar by the arresting officers whilst held in his cell. However, the only police officer charged with use of excessive force was recently acquitted by the supposedly 'Independent' Police Complaints Commission, who ludicrously claimed that the officer concerned acted "professionally with great bravery. We support his actions: he should be commended and not castigated."

Following his re-arrest on 5 August 2004, Babar has now been imprisoned for 6668 hours. He is awaiting a decision on whether he will be extradited to the US. The extradition request is based on weak evidence similar to that which led to his release after his first arrest, except now the new extradition law means that Babar's defence cannot challenge this. They are merely able to argue that Babar should be tried in Britain as he would't face a fair trial in the US.

With talk of torture, execution, Guantanamo Bay and a highly islamophobic post-September 11 US legal system, his defence certainly have a strong case. But I think we have to question, given the way Babar's case has unfolded, whether he is likely to get fair treatment from the British legal system. If there is indeed no new evidence obtained since December 2003, then we should be demanding not 'a fair British trial' but his immediate release if the extradition request is not granted.

This is the prospect that we face on 17 May. Of course, Babar is just one man against the US and British governments' political agendas and



COLIN SMITH
WELFARE CAMPAIGNS
OFFICER

their 'war of terror'. Of course, all persons making decisions (like the one made to recently shut down Babar's HSBC bank account without justification or warning, from which he was paying his elderly parents' bills through direct debit) are connected to the establishment.

But this is also an establishment that is now on the retreat. We saw in the general election how Tony Blair's New Labour was punished, largely for the war on terror, both abroad in Iraq and at home over civil liberties. This was most notably

exemplified by the victory of George Galloway for the Respect Party in Bethnal Green and Bow. Labour's majority was slashed across the board. Babar himself stood from behind bars in Brent North and received a very respectable 685 votes. The campaign to free Babar is gathering momentum – each demonstration is bigger and better than the last.

We have to remember that the judge, however much tied to the establishment, is just one individual who does not want to make the wrong decision. If Babar gets extradited, and in years to come the absurdity of that decision is highlighted, his career will be ruined. The mass demonstrations outside court and continued high profile campaign can tip the balance here. With this in mind, once again (and possibly for the last time) Babar's friends, family and supporters have called for everyone to be outside Bow Magistrates Court, Covent Garden, at 10am on Thursday 17 May.

If the decision goes against us and judge agrees to the extradition, then we need to be there in our hundreds to let the world know he is

not going without a fight. But if the judge rules against the extradition request, then there is a very real possibility that Babar will walk free into crowds of his supporters. And what a glorious sight that would be.

Make Poverty History

The Make Poverty History (MPH) campaign, mentioned in the first issue of *Felix* this term, was successfully launched on Monday at a very well attended meeting. Those in attendance heard speakers from Christian Aid, The Guardian, Globalise Resistance and the NUS talk about the importance of demonstrating at the G8 and putting pressure on the leaders of the eight richest nations of the world, whose political agendas result in the status quo of global poverty.

The next stage of this campaign is to take a motion supporting MPH to Union Council. That will be done this evening. Anyone in support of this motion (which can be viewed at www.union.ic.ac.uk/meetings/council/2005/5/12) is requested to join us at Council. We are meeting beforehand, at 6pm in the JCR, to discuss it.

COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

Letters to the Editor

The Union building

A letter to the Editor;

I hope that the ICU rebranding pullout was some kind of sick joke. Such horrendous marketoid drivel – “Tertiary Vertical Circulation” – should have no place in a student run union, and I feel is indicative of its descent into institutionalised CV-priming self-service.

If the union truly want to consult the student populace, they should start by declaring how much has already been spent on architect's briefs, and explaining exactly where the funding for such future developments will be coming from.

For the union to prosper, I feel what is required is a greater degree of student involvement, rather than a ‘rebranding’ exercise & continued decay into a business-consumer relationship. By the students & for the students, not by a consultant to screw as much money out of the students to pay for more consultants!

The idea of somehow squeezing the gym into the clearly diminutive east basement is obscene, and no extent of buying colour coded chairs & glass topped wine bars will make up for it.

Yours,
Jarvist Frost
Physics III

Dear Felix,

Your double page spread in last edition 1321 on the future of the Union building included plans (which were difficult to read) for each floor in the Union building.

What surprised me about the plans was the indication that the Union Gym, which is currently used by many and diverse Clubs and Societies looks as though it will be replaced with Union offices. So where will all the Clubs that currently use the Gym go when the Union Gym is used to house all the computers Mr Arif needs for his electronic ballots?

Into the newly built Sports Centre at commercial rates? I understand that the Sports Centre has a strict mandate to make money out of providing services to the wider community, as well as the students at Imperial, and needs to allocate time during the week to be able to do this, penalising student usage.

But why do we need Union offices moved from their present location on level 1 to occupy twice the floor space on levels 2 and 3? The answer in the plans is that there will be another bar built on level 1. So four food/drink outlets in one building, instead of three, to displace a sporting asset, the Gym.

Unusually, the President is reticent about how this could have happened, after a motion passed in December by the Union Council expressly ruled out the loss of the Union Gym as a facility for students. With the Southside Gym about to shut, and ever increasing numbers

of indebted students turning to hobbies and sport instead of drinking to enjoy themselves outside of lectures, it strikes me that this course of action in the Union building is highly risky. He insisted to me that the Union would be able to pay for extra space in the new Sports Centre for Clubs – but I'm not sure how. The subsidy that the Union gives Clubs fell last year.

If you need facilities in the Union that are under threat of demolition, write to them and tell them! If you're in the Fencing club, unsheath your pens and let them know! If you play snooker, leave your balls on the table and break theirs for once! If you practice any sort of martial art (and I hear a lot of it going on these days!) it's time to apply self-defence to the venue you use, not just your own bodies!

yoursay@ic.ac.uk

Good Luck!
Tom Tibbits
Physics PG

Richard Walker, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), responds:

The Union building redevelopment project is one of the most exciting projects that I have been involved in during my time as Deputy President. Following the development of the Union strategy that cemented the core objectives of what our Union should strive to achieve, it is an important step to look at redeveloping the inside of the Union building, one of the finest on campus, into one that can facilitate those objectives.

It was students that decided how much should be spent on this design project, it was students that decided its scope and it is students that are managing the project and students that are constructing the brief and prioritising what is best for students.

What I, we, the Union are about to create is a Union building that has at its heart clubs and societies and social space that will become a place where students can balance their academic work life with their outside life.

When there are huge demands on space in area such as South Kensington I, we, the Union must use what we have with great care. We have a responsibility to each other not to be wasteful. Relocating office space and student service space to work next to each other allows us not only to share space, but to work together and involve more students. Relocating gym hall activity to a single height area which allows the same activity to continue without detriment allows us to extend mezzanine levels to create added floor space for more student activity.

I am proud of the passion that Imperial students have for their Union and I am humbled to be a part of it. I have listened to your comments and I urge you to keep them coming and I hope that then

I, we, the Union will create a better place for us all.

Kicking up a Stormy

Dear Ed,

I was slightly disturbed by Stormy Woods' article this week. While I appreciate that she might not be short of attention in recent times, is there any particular reason why she goes out of her way to type-cast the gentleman accosting her on the bus as a ‘geriatric arab illegal immigrant’? And no less on voting day! While she herself might not care much for the political parties' attitudes towards immigration, her insta-judgement of the average middle-eastern man in the street being past their 50's and possessing no right of abode in the UK leaves me questioning why so many foreigners would want to come here in the first place, at least in their home countries they aren't lambasted and stereotyped in such a dismissive way!

There are more appealing ways to try and emulate the Sex and the City-esque columns that she is undoubtedly aiming for and from what I gather Stormy's plans are to venture into the medical profession. She would do well to learn some manners and tact to go with her ‘perfectly tanned hairless pins’ (I'll have to take her word on this as I haven't had the opportunity to see for myself) before being allowed to see patients, or is she going to pick and choose who she sees and treats and see that as acceptable practice??

I've enjoyed some of Stormy's columns, and I've disagreed with some; but this one I feel has pushed the boat too far. It's not big, it's not cool and to be honest it's not right to judge people the way she has. As for the cat getting the cream, perhaps it was the only way to stop her from making another self-centred, tactless comment.

Regards,
Tim Aplin
Aeronautics IV

Dear Editor,

In reply to this week's issue of Felix, I'd like to express my disappointment at Ms Woods' lack of tact in a time where immigration and racial prejudice are sensitive topics.

First of all unless a document was presented by the man in question during Ms Woods' 30 seconds of fame – and I doubt it – stating he was and I quote “an illegal immigrant” I believe it's a borderline-racist and tactless comment to make particularly when it coincides with election time.

I would expect better from a future doctor studying at a respected university. Having a foreign accent doesn't mean you are an illegal immigrant and cannot afford a plane ticket to visit London or any other city in the world for that matter.

From a woman's point of view, it's true that some men (regardless of their nationality) have a rather unobvious and unattractive way of showing interest, I have had my share! However, advertising perfectly tanned legs in a skirt and three inch heels calls out for attention but a woman cannot choose where

it comes from; it would be selfish and unfair to the opposite sex, I am afraid these are the rules. Being attractive is not an achievement, curing cancer is.

Regards,
Name and department supplied

Stormy Woods replies:

Thank you for taking the time to write in. My column is apolitical, with much irreverence thrown in for entertainment's sake. Hence, election day did not spring to mind when I wrote the piece. I'm confident that most Imperial students would have the intelligence to vote on policies from the parties themselves, not the politically incorrect rantings of an enfant terrible!

First thing's first: my perfectly-tanned hairless pins, and the prejudice displayed by the pair of you when reading about them. It is perfectly possible to display one's assets without appearing slatternly. I should know, being the owner of several knee-length Prada skirts, as worn on the day of the presentation. I'd like to point out that three-inch heeled fifties pumps – more specifically, worn with tights and said skirt – aren't automatically becoming of unwanted attention either. Especially when worn with a high neckline, tasteful jewellery, no cleavage and a natural sun-kissed glow, courtesy of MAC. Do the words pot, kettle and stereotype have any relevance to you?

I'm perfectly aware of the perils and pitfalls of typecasting and ethnicity. Believe me, I've had my share. However, numerous women at College have had problems with gentlemen similar to the chap I rejected on the bus, most notably those who reside in North Fulham and Edgware Road, on an almost daily basis. To put it bluntly, these men are relatively uncouth and of Middle Eastern or North African origin. I wouldn't have an aversion their existence if they kept themselves to themselves, like similar men of different ethnic origins tend to do. Being of foreign origin myself, it's evident I'd have seen the diverse social strata within my ethnic group and others – living in London means that I would have seen affluent Arabs with their beautiful wives aplenty, so insta-judgement of those from other cultures with foreign accents is a non-issue.

I agree that the illegal immigrant assertion is unfair – I got carried away with the public perception that the nastier element amongst foreigners in the UK must automatically be illegally present, and apologise for castigating them so hastily.

I would like to conclude by telling you that doctors aren't infallible. We are human first, medics second. The same goes for the unwashed gentleman on the bus – should he pay me a visit as a patient, where I am confident, he would take a different tack. There isn't a single person who doesn't harbour prejudices; what separates bigots from the rest is their failure to suppress theirs.

Alternative exam rules

Dear Editor,

Fortunately, my finals were early

this exam season, but while I'm sitting here slowly trying to rehabilitate myself off caffeine, it has occurred to me how many things pissed me off during the exam sessions. In an effort to ensure anyone with exams left to go do not have to face these annoyances, I have made a list of rules people should have to read and abide to and preferably should be put at the back of every course book.

Invigilators:

- DON'T walk up and down the stairs un-necessarily: The stairs to the stage in the Great Hall are an inadequate metal arrangement that squeaks hideously. You know this, I know this, so think twice when deciding if it's truly necessary to use them.

- DON'T wear tap shoes: If you have to pace up and down the hall in boredom, at least wear trainers or soft soled shoes. This is not a time for your highly individual wooden sandals/leather flat shoes that your research group find so amusing (sigh).

- DO make sure you're paying attention: It is not difficult to see a hand in a group of hunched students. When you see one, at least try to make some semblance of haste in your efforts. In addition, I'd like to point out another fact, ignoring bathroom breaks, if students put their hands up, they generally want one of three things: To know the time, more paper, paper fasteners (and possibly doughnuts), can invigilators please make sure they are in possession of these things when they go to investigate hands.

- DO put up seat allocations sensibly:

When revising, it is not possible to remember your candidate number or seat location, fact. May I suggest therefore, that putting the list directly beside the door to the hall is a bad idea? Just a few meters further back would save many crushed feet.

- DO ensure tables don't wobble: Why is this sooooo difficult, WWHHHYYYY???? The function of a table is to create a stable level surface, and none of them do this. I can only assume table sellers have a powerful union and are headed by a very evil sadistic man, maybe Michael Howard.

Students:

- DON'T stop to talk in a stupid place: Why do certain people have a compulsion to stop and talk the very second they leave the exam hall? THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE BEHIND YOU trying to get out of the tiny doors. You are no better to me than the idiot mothers with prams that stop to talk in the middle of busy pavements. Pah.

- DON'T sigh contentedly when you have finished: I haven't, and it makes me want to throw things.

- DO dress sensibly: Girls for example, you are rubbish and your bladders are weak, accept this and wear trainers not heels, this will significantly reduce walking noise during your toilet breaks. Guys, this may be a personal annoyance, but don't cover yourself in lynx deodorant the morning before. You are not 13 and apart from trying to ignore the smell, I worry that if my table rocks again a spark may cause an explosion.

Right, rant over and good luck everyone,

Sebwin

Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

The Neighbours generation



by RUPERT NEATE

Why is the government so keen on the arbitrary target of getting 50% of school leavers to attend University?

Blair *et al* state that more people need to be educated to university level so that the UK can maintain its position as the world's fourth biggest economy. Obviously, it is impor-

tant to maintain our economy in its present happy state and university educated people generally contribute more to it. But how many highly educated people does the country actually need?

The arbitrary target is just that – arbitrary. There are no targets for individual subjects. There is a difference between chemical engineering or economics and surf science or tennis. How do these so-called 'Mickey Mouse' courses contribute to the economy? Also, I know the media is playing an ever-increasing role in our society, but how many media studies graduates does the country really need?

Currently over 40% of people go to university, many of whom can't find a graduate level job. So after years of toil, they are in the same position they were in before they went to university, the only difference being

that they are also saddled with a massive debts. I wonder how many of these people agree with the 50% target.

If a university education were restricted to those undertaking relevant and useful degrees, there would not be the need for the introduction of top-up fees.

It is my opinion that the government is only keen on increasing university intakes because it reduces unemployment figures.

I am not arguing that people should be prevented from going to university – it is a fantastic opportunity and we are privileged to be here. It is marvellous that more people have the chance to go to university, and the door should remain open to everyone.

But university is not the only option. If you have ever had to call out a plumber, carpenter or electrician, you'll know that these guys

(there are virtually no women) are in intense demand. There is a great shortage of key skilled workers in the UK, but in schools pupils are generally not informed of the other options, such as apprenticeships.

The shortage of tradesmen has led to an influx of highly skilled Eastern European labourers. In line with the rules of supply and demand, getting a leaky boiler fixed is now a serious financial outlay. The earning potential of the trades has led numerous professionally trained people to make the switch, notably the doctor who retrained as a plumber.

If it is common knowledge that there is money to be made being a tradesman, and the job prospects of university graduates are continuing to decline, why aren't more school-leavers starting apprenticeships?

The main attractions of university

are the opportunity to move out of home and live with your friends, and the 'debaucherous lifestyle' it brings. Conversely, apprentices generally stay at home, splitting their time between formal learning and on-the-job training with people many years their senior.

This may lead to apprentices believing they are missing out on the social benefits provided by university. To solve this problem, I propose residential trade-skill 'universities', where students can learn useful profitable skills and enjoy the benefits of living away from home.

Dr Karl

The President has not responded with regard to why Dr Karl Kennedy (Alan Fletcher) is appearing at Royal Holloway Union and not Imperial College Union.

Analyse them



by DIOGO GERALDES

Universities in this country love to give their students the opportunity to divert their attention from their work (in your case) or from clubbing and girls (in mine). In order to prevent students from passing the year, students' unions create sports teams.

People join a sports team because: a) they like playing sports; b) it's cool and they think they're going to pull more chicks (instead of the usual 0 girls per year, their average raises to an astonishing 0.43); c) they provide the opportunity to

get drunk every Wednesday at the Union (unless you join the Keraazy Archery Club or the Table Tennis Gangstas).

Sports clubs provide a great environment in which to analyse the different personalities within Imperial College, of which I highlight the following:

- **The arseholes** – they were born for sports. Football flows in their veins (unfortunately, I can't say the same about intelligence), rugby all over their skin and hockey on their wrists. They are professional scoring/tackling/dribbling machines, but it's a shame that they can't tie their own shoe laces or go shopping to Sainsbury's without confusing £13.50 with £13,500.

- **The geeks** – they are nerds and they know it, but they try to disguise it by joining a cool sports team, crowded with hardcore party animals. They love to spend their pocket money on cranberry juice to do sick mixes like 'stroking the salami on the beach' (cranberry and orange juice) or 'bubbly fizzle' (coke

and fanta) and down them with their badminton, ultimate frisbee or squash mates.

- **The losers** – they love their sport, even though they suck and their team languishes at the bottom of the league.

- **The drunks** – members of all clubs (except table tennis, archery and badminton), their main objective is to destroy their livers before they graduate, so that they won't have to worry about finding a job. They usually spend their afternoons/evenings/mornings drinking pitchers and playing drinking games (such as the famous 'drinking a shot every time someone in the room breathes').

- **The stoners** – they love nature and feeling all the sensations of the world (and spending their food budget on drugs). So they join clubs where they can either be in altered states of mind (kendo, tai-chi, karate, yoga or origami) or in direct contact with God's touch and write poetry about what they see while rock climbing, canoeing or

surfing.

- **The teen movie girls** – I can't imagine a changing room crowded with naked women without at least one lesbian fantasy coming to mind. Come on! If I were female and next to all these fit and athletic ladies, I wouldn't even think twice! I don't know if that's the result of all the porn I've seen since the age of 12 but, please don't take this dream away from me!

- **The fat smoking bastards** – they know they are fat and lazy, but in order to feel less guilty, they play one of those not-having-to-move-their-arse 'sports', such as darts, snooker or table football.

- **The useless wannabes** – like fungi, they are everywhere and you can't get rid of them! Usually they end up in the fifth team licking the coach's arse.

- **The rich boys** – they are crap at everything they do, but as they were born with a golden spoon in their mouth they can afford the best kit. They usually play really exclusive and expensive sports that no-

one knows how to play or that they even exist, such as golf, fencing or cricket.

Personalities apart, there is another parallel universe in sports teams at Imperial: the medics.

I could write a whole column bitching about them! They think they are so much better than the mere mortals like engineers or scientists that they have to have their own teams: no mixing allowed! Maybe it's the fact that they can't stand the idea of getting the shit kicked out of them (like I will, after the sports teams read this article) by lousy non-divine people. Whatever floats their boat...

My point this week: joining a sports team is always good because, even if you suck, it improves your social skills and maybe your biceps and abs too. It's always better spending a Wednesday afternoon rubbing your face in a puddle of mud or someone's sweaty, smelly or sexy armpit, than laying in front of the TV and bloating your belly.

Let's get physical.

One hundred reasons



by TRISTAN LANE

So Channel 4 has finally given up the fight. They know they'll never beat Five for sheer cultural value

any more, and so have swapped place with them. Now Channel 4 is the place to scour for poor quality porn, and Five is the place to go for interesting documentaries on things like the 'the boy whose skin fell off and was eaten by naughty teenagers'. Which is always a draw. And bloody FilmFour nicked all the good movies whilst no-one was watching. Bastards.

What have Channel 4 replaced the hard-hitting dramas and documentaries with? *Will & Grace*, *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *The Top 100 Best Shows That Cause Internal Haemorrhage*. All of these are crap,

especially *Raymond*, as no-one loves Raymond. At least no-one with a modicum of self-respect.

The only good *Top 100...* show was in fact the last one, which was all about cartoons. This is because you don't get to watch your favourite cartoons all that often – when was the last time you watched *Dungeons and Dragons*? All 100 were much-loved classics, and it was nice to see them again. The rubbish 'celebrities' that intone on them could have been lost, or preferably shot. But other than this one 'gem', the rest are bollocks. Why do I care whether or not Jimmy Carr is the number

one most hated comedian in the south of Wales? Does it matter? Obviously the national hatred of a smug bastard is always good, but we've got Damien Rice for that.

And who votes for these things anyway? I bet it's the same bored housewives that appear on Trisha for guidance from the Morality Queen, and therefore these polls are truly representative. Is this lack of good TV just because the producers have become so damn lazy that repeating the same four-hour show every week for eternity seems a good idea? Or is it an edgy social experiment? Maybe they're trying

to up the national birth rate – nothing good on TV leads to more sex through sheer boredom.

Hang on... that's a bloody good reason to watch Channel 4... I'll get so bored that even I will have sex. The plan can't fail. And you say they just have loads of random porn on it? Why haven't I seen this before? Real boobs, you say? Be right back...

Bloody hell. That was pretty good, until I had to vote for my favourite breast moment. £1 for a one second clip of Jodie Marsh doesn't make my bank manager happy. Besides, I voted for Britney – how was I to know she wasn't on the poll?

Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

Canoeists tour Corsica

CANOE CLUB

By Jim Pullen, Ralph Evins, Patrick Clissold and Chad Sankey

Thursday 24 March – the journey

The journey to Corsica was far from straightforward. As a cost-saving exercise we flew the boats and ourselves to Alghero in Sardinia using very cheap Ryanair tickets. We hired a far-too-small Ford Focus and stuffed it with kit, loading the boats onto an inflatable roofrack. We then bombed across the top of Sardinia and caught a ferry over to Bonifacio in Corsica.

We decided our warm-up river would be the Taravo. We got near to the put-in around dusk and followed the road until we eventually found a decent camping spot to set up. After failing to get one of the cookers working, we cooked our pasta dish on a single ring. We settled down fairly early after a few mugs of cheap red plonk with thoughts of tomorrow's paddling strong in our minds.

Friday 25 March – Taravo (by Jim)

I awoke first, got up and

started to sort stuff out. Eventually the others arose and we breakfasted on French bread and cheese before loading the car back up and heading to the put-in.

The warm-up rapid was fine for Patrick and me, only to be followed by an upside-down, pretty miffed looking Chad. Ralph bobbed round the corner wondering what was going on as we reunited Chad with his kit – oh well.

We paddled on down the river and were beginning to wonder whether it would get any more interesting when we rounded a corner to see something that needed inspecting. The river diverged into three channels, with only the right being inspectable from the bank. The extreme left looked pretty evil and you couldn't really see the middle channel.

Both the middle and right slots were hardly more than a boat width across, about 10m long and ended in a 1.5m drop. We decided to give it a go with Patrick being used as the probe while we acted as bank support/film crew. He ran it without hassle and everyone else then went in turn with no problems. The fun had started in earnest!

Our next obstacle was a sweeping turn that looked pretty nasty. We chose to port-

tage on river right. The rest of the river proved great fun. A river-wide stopper greeted us at one point. We sent the probe through it and watched him being forced to roll, so the rest of us opted to walk round.

Chad managed to 'swim' a couple more times, and I was just thinking I'd got away with it when the river-gods decided to punish me. Upon following Patrick down a series of rapids, he decided to wave me past for the final "innocuous-looking" little drop. I got cocky and launched over the top of a rock to be welcomed by a munchy little hole that decided to play with me. After several sessions of sky/river-bed antics and about five rolls, I ended up against a rockface and decided this play-boating gubbins wasn't for the likes of me and made a technical exit. Very annoying.

After being reunited with my kit, we headed on down the remainder of the river. The road bridge soon appeared and I removed my wet kit, left the others and headed up the road for the shuttle. Eventually some local farmer-types picked me up in their standard issue Toyota pick-up and were kind enough to run me to the car after pretending to understand my pidgin French.

After picking up the others and the kit, we decided to head back south towards the put-in for the Rizzanese. Unfortunately, it was dark by the time we got there, and much faff was had trying to find a suitable camping venue. Tents were eventually set up and more pasta and cheap wine consumed before we dozed off to dreams of 10m waterfalls...

Saturday 26 March – Rizzanese (by Ralph)

After our pleasant day on the Taravo, we were looking forward to something more on the Rizzanese – more excitement, bigger drops, steeper creeking. We found it.

Everyone successfully tackled the first rapid, following the overeager probe. After an exciting kilometre, we got to a nasty 6m fall with rocks in the bottom. Everyone instantly decided to walk around it. Patrick ran a 2m fall sideways having mucked up the entry rapid, and surfaced partly in the cave behind the fall. A good 'Duracell bunny' impression got him clear. More pool-drop madness followed – Chad proved that throwing people in at the deep end gets results. We portaged another 6m fall, then found ourselves at the main event, a 2m, 10m, 3m combination of falls.

Patrick and I had talked a lot about how high 10m actually was, including scaring Jim's missus and my mum by likening it to a second floor window in Beit. Well, 10m is *very big*. We might have considered it, had the levels not been high. As it was, no one felt brave/stupid enough for this, and we began a massive portage. It took nearly an hour.

Just when we thought nothing more interesting would happen, Chad provided some action. One section had a couple of trees two-thirds of the way across. Everyone else made it around them, but Chad managed to capsize on the rapid, rolling up just in time to fight his way through the branches of the first tree, only to be hit in the chest by the trunk of the second. I'd eddied out just downstream, and lost no time in getting onto the bank with a throw-line. Luckily Chad was simply wedged on the surface, not stuck against the bottom, so was able to pull his deck and let his boat depart without him. I roped him to the side and sent him off to find his boat, considering bringing a chainsaw on our next creeking mission.

We continued for what felt like many miles, every so often shouting "Ou est la f**king pont?!" Eventually, to much rejoicing, "la pont" appeared. We sent Jim off to run/hitch the 14km shuttle, and stood around feeling cold

and sorry for ourselves until he returned.

As it was already very late and dark, we opted for the same camping spot as the previous night. Something easier tomorrow please.

Sunday 27 March – Fium Orbo (by Jim)

After a couple of hours' driving whilst getting severely dripped on, we reached the Fium Orbo, where the weather chose to brighten up considerably. After checking the gauge about 0.5km up and deciding the level was decent, we pulled up at the closed café halfway up the river to be met by a minibus full of French paddlers in full face helmets. Chad decided he was having a rest and would meet us at the bottom.

We got on to discover a lovely continuous pool-drop river and soon caught up with the French group. They seemed to want to inspect everything and after about a kilometre of using them as probes, we got bored and overtook them. About halfway down we came across a 2m drop that had a dodgy looking siphon, so went for the portage river left. This required an excellent 3m seal-launch back into the river.

Another interesting rapid followed, requiring a seal-launch past the start on river right. Patrick managed this fine, but upon landing I decided my helmet hadn't been sufficiently tested yet, so opted to do the rapid upside down, rolling up at the bottom – oh well.

We carried on down to just before the gauge, where the leaky boat and nasty looking rapid made me decide it was time to exit. Patrick opted to run this one, which consisted of a double drop that flushed into a cliff-face. For some reason he thought that the second drop was best attempted upside-down, and literally ended up climbing the wall to get out of an awkward situation!

Chad had found us by this time, and we hauled the boats back up to the road and then went to recover the car. Once we were back on the road again, we headed south towards the Travo. After getting the tents up with much bending of pegs, we cooked dinner, made a dent in the whisky and attempted boat repair – Blue Peter style!

Eventually we went to sleep knowing that the following day we would be paddling the most famous (or infamous) river in Corsica – the Travo.

Monday 28 March – Travo (by Patrick)

I had seen this river from the road the day before and got quite excited. We parked the car at the get-in where a sign

told us that we could only be on the river between 10am and 6pm. It's not going to take that long, I told myself... how wrong I was.

The river was full of loads of amazing pool drops that were either run or portaged fairly easily. This, however, was the exception to the rule. A set of rapids were decided to be "not worth it", but I wished I had paddled them now. The portage consisted of trying to drag the boats over 45 degree smooth rocks, which was a nightmare task. However, after much effort, we got back in and carried on down. We then came to the crux of the river, the reason I was so excited about Corsica – the amphitheatre falls.

The photographs were of picture perfect smooth falls over smooth bedrock in a breathtaking rock amphitheatre-like gorge. The inspection was difficult and the water was higher than I had seen in the photos. The first drop looked easy enough, but the larger second one could not be seen easily. We all ran the first drop and managed to get out to look more carefully at the second drop. At that point, another group of paddlers arrived. Their big creek boats and full-faced helmets meant they had to be German. I was proved correct and the leader ran the second drop without even getting out of his boat to have a look. This was all the convincing I needed, and I quickly jumped in my boat and copied exactly what he did. The others opted for the portage.

At this point we realised the time and exactly how much river we had left to do. After discussion, we decided to keep on going. Another arduous portage around the killer rapid followed. We were all very tired but no end was in sight and we had to keep on going. What happened next is probably one of the most odd situations I have had in my kayaking career.

An easy boulder garden led into a chunkier rapid around a bend. I, for some reason, decided to go upside down in the easy bit and my paddles were ripped from my hands. I hand-rolled up and managed to get myself into the smallest of eddies which I could only stay in by holding onto the rocks. My paddles floated down the rapid but were luckily caught by our good friends the Germans. There was, however, no possible way of getting them to me. In the end I had to try to cross the river with just my hands as paddles. This proved unsuccessful and I was washed quickly towards the oncoming chunky rapid. Desperation led to Ralph throwing my paddles, using the best javelin technique I have ever seen, straight into my open hands. I then man-



Chad on the Travo

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Ralph on the lower Travo

aged to battle down the rapid. I wish we had got it on video.

It was at this point that we were seriously running out of time, so we decided to try to walk out. Jim and I did a scout up the hillside to find the road. After much effort and scratched legs, we found it. We went back down for our kit and we all headed back up. Emerging onto the road, we heard dodgy electronic techno music coming from down the road. A van with kayaks came round the corner. It was the Germans again! They gave Jim a lift to the top and the sense of relief could be felt by all. It was eight o'clock. We had taken eight and a half hours to do four and a half kilometres of water.

The evening consisted of eating pizza in a nearby town and then a long drive to the put-in for the Tavignano, where we were due to meet up with some guys from the Glaxo paddling club. We all fell asleep, absolutely knackered!

Tuesday 29 March – Tavignano and disaster! (by Jim)

The guys from Glaxo arrived in the morning and after a

quick change we hopped into our respective cars and drove down to the bottom of the river. We arrived at the take-out and myself and a guy from Glaxo got into the third car to be driven back up to the top.

My memory of the events that followed is somewhat hazy. I can remember pulling off and talking to the guy in the seat in front. I can also remember seeing a white van hurtling towards us and both cars skidding in the same direction. The fraction of a second before impact will remain with me for the rest of my life – knowing that you're about to hit and there's sod all you can do isn't a particularly nice feeling!

Fortunately, all three of us got out of the wreckage without much damage. The French bloke we hit wasn't so fortunate. Whilst the Laguna had excellent crumple zones, seat belt tensioners and front airbags, his little van benefited from none of these. Eventually the emergency services arrived. Their priority was obviously the French guy, but our driver was also treated for a suspected broken foot and I had some seat-belt cuts treated by the paramedics. By this time there

were three police cars, three different ambulances, a fire crew and a helicopter.

The French bloke got air-evacuated after being cut out through the back of the van. Our driver was also taken to hospital. We were asked to follow the gendarmes to their station. We were interviewed separately by a policewoman who spoke reasonable English, and were also asked to sign statements.

The others had a more enjoyable day, according to Chad:

"We started sombrely at the Tavignano, given that there had just been a car crash that had put all but two of the Glaxo group either in hospital or the police station along with Jim. We decided to set off, as we would have to wait four to six hours anyway before the police were finished. It started relatively easily with a few kilometres of flat water paddling, the only feature of note being a hydroelectric dam that required portaging. The only exit was through the inlets, but presumably there must be some kind of warning before they open them, otherwise things could get quite interesting!"

"Then came the bit we were



Patrick on the Rizzanese

all waiting for – the gorge section. This was fun, however due to my over-optimistic interpretation of the temperature I just wore a cag-deck and shorts and since little sunlight enters the gorge (at one point it narrowed to less than paddle width), it gets cold. However, this had an unusual benefit in that the one time I did capsize, after three roll attempts, it seemed about time for my daily swim but given the lack of insulation on my nether regions I remained in the boat and on the sixth attempt I was in calm enough water. However, one of the Glaxo crew did have a brief swim there after no roll attempts.

"After 2km of this we reached the get-out and awaited the return of a Laguna to transport us back to Jim at the police station. Whilst waiting, we had a look at the road markings at the accident site to keep warm."

The others turned up at the station and got changed into their dry things. Eventually we all headed back to the other guy's gite. Once there we made use of the cooking facilities and hot showers. When I removed my boot, my foot was pretty black and

nicely swollen – a definite end to my paddling on this trip.

Food was consumed in vast portions and beers, whisky and some strange local brew were drunk. Eventually we all settled down for a good night's kip, with me being very glad to have survived relatively unharmed.

Wednesday 30 March – Lower Asco (by Chad)

After some tea and breakfast at the gite, we parted company with the Glaxo posse and headed off to do a warm down river. After a brief trip to find a bakery, we found our way to the Lower Asco. Jim followed the progress from the road above with the camera and we set off in what must have been the clearest river I've ever paddled in.

It proved a rather leisurely run with no horizons for me to get out and inspect so, just to show willing, I got out to "inspect" the bottom of an eddy. My initial fear was that Jim had recorded this ultralame swim but to my relief he was round the corner. Unfortunately Patrick did see it (how did he get the camera out so fast?)

We finished the river by

2pm, and so had plenty of time to drive to Bastia and polish out the scratches on the car roof left by the rack. After four hours of searching, we found what we were looking for and drove back toward Bonifacio to await the ferry the next day.

After fixing the car roof we set up camp in a nice park and chilled out on the beach watching the sun go down whilst reflecting on a day that was in stark (and welcome) contrast to the previous day's vehicular carnage.

Thursday 31 March / Friday 1 April – the fools fly home (by Jim)

We spent Thursday leisurely waiting for the ferry and then driving back across Sardinia. That night we set up camp right next to the airport, but the sound of the planes didn't disturb us too much – we were far too tired!

An early start saw us returning the abused hire car and checking into the airport before flying back to Stansted.

So that was the end of our Corsican adventure – an incredibly tiring, but very enjoyable 9 days!



Imperial canoeists relax in Corsica



Jim

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felix@ic.ac.uk

Sa Compana: out of this world

Imperial College Caving Club visited the largest cave on Mallorca

CAVING CLUB

By Jarvist Frost

We left the villa by 10am and were soon wiggling our way up the fantastic bends of the C710, then down towards Sa Compana, flying over the beautiful Scalextric-inspired 270 degree bridge bend.

We were faffing with ruck-sacks when an enormous mountain police 4x4 roared up and three men in oh-so-tight lycra dived out clutching gleaming tackle bags of prepacked kit. Gerardo applied his language skills and discovered that the men in tights were three eighths of the entire Cave Rescue Organisation for the Balearic Islands, doing a light spot of

training for the day.

They shot up the mountain-side and we waddled slowly after them, following the many cairns along the ridge walk, then the vast quantities of red spray paint around to the entrance. The limestone was sharp but grippy, though if you stumbled on the scree it was an awful long way to the valley floor!

As we caught up with the Cave Rescuers at the entrance, we eyed up each other with equal bemusement – us with disbelief at their shiny scratch-free Pretzl metalwork, them at the sight of the finest Yorkshire mud that we had imported into the country. I really wonder whether UK cavers have an entirely inverted view of caving equipment compared to

the rest of the world. We view new, shiny kit with suspicion and an assumption of inexperience, whereas the continent sees inexperience in not keeping every item gleaming and serviced.

Entrance pitch was a pleasant daylight 10m abseil down a steep slope into what would be a very large chamber indeed for the UK – something you could easily squeeze Beit into. Once everyone was safely down, we wandered around the corner into the cave itself.

Big doesn't even start to describe it. There were enormous formations, stalagmites and flow stone (a smooth calcite deposit) larger than houses, curtains (lines of moulded together stalactites) larger than a façade on Oxford

Street, and gour pools (crystal pools formed by water dropping onto flow stone) that would have seemed more at home on Brighton beach. Amazing stuff.

We orbited the little tea-lights showing our path back out of the chamber, calling to each other across the many-second echo and generally exploring this wholly out-of-this-world landscape. The chamber is the size of four football pitches side by side, and tall enough to consume the Blackett Laboratory.

We continued down on rope, along a 60m long piece of smooth flow stone that started out horizontal, then got steadily steeper until almost vertical – not a place for the unwary! Just beyond, there is a little muddy chamber, absolutely filled with candles from previous cave trips. We cracked open our Darren drum of baguettes, a very pleasant lunch by candlelight!

The rest of the extensive cave is reached by crawling through a gap not much larger than a television, and here you can notice the very strange 'breathing' of the cave. Three seconds breathe in, two seconds hold, three seconds breathe out. The very bottom is just three metres above sea level, and it is believed that there is a submarine tunnel too small for a human (or merely as yet undiscovered) connecting the cave with the sea, resulting in the Mediterranean waves causing air to be sucked in and out. Truly a freak of nature!

The speedy Spaniards soon overtook us coming the other way, and after sorting out the inevitable cat's cradle of rig-



NUCC visited Sa Compana two days later, and took a photo of one of the larger stalagmites. Photo: Andy Jurd

ging when two groups do the same cave, we decided it was getting late and so began our ascent. It was Gerardo and Pella's first SRT [rope] trip, so progress was fairly sedate but very pleasant.

The sunshine was glorious as we exited, gobbling bananas and Haribo before ambling along the 90 minutes of steep mountain back to our cars. We drove on to the seaside resort, sitting outside for a coffee in the gathering twilight. While having a hopping

race from the beachfront back to the cars, we bumped into the Rescuers staying in the resort overnight, managing a stilted conversation about the size and impressiveness of the cave while pretending not to huff and puff from our wacky race.

ICCC is planning to run one last weekend trip this year suitable for first-timers. Exact date TBA, but some time in June – see our website for more info: www.union.ic.ac.uk/caving.



Imperial College Caving Club standing outside the rather inconspicuous entrance to Sa Compana. Photo: Jarvist Frost

What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

THURSDAY 12 MAY

GENERAL RENAULT F1 TEAM SHOW

10am–5pm
Beit Quad lawn
The Altran Engineering Academy brings the Renault F1 team show car to Beit Quad. Come along to find out more. Win a 6-month placement with the Renault F1 team!
Visit: www.altran-academy.com

CHAPLAINCY WEEKLY EUCHARIST

1pm
FREE every Thursday
Open to all Christians

Chaplaincy Communion services are for Christians of all traditions. During the term the services vary between the Church of England, the Swedish Lutheran Church, the Methodist and Baptist Churches.
Contact: chaplaincy@ic.ac.uk

FRIDAY 13 MAY

UNION EVENTS BLING BLING

8pm–2am
£3
R&B, hip-hop and bhangra. £1 a shot vodka and draft mixer in dBs bar all night. With Bar Shisha upstairs.
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

TUESDAY 17 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 18 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 19 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

THE JACKET (15)
Daily: 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8pm. Thurs only: 9.45am. Fri-Sat only: 10.30pm.

MONSTER IN LAW (12A)
Daily: 1pm, 3.20pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm. Fri-Sat only: 10.45pm. Sat, Sun and Thurs only: 10.45am.

A GOOD WOMAN (PG)
Daily: 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm (not Thurs). Thurs only: 10.45am.

ONG-BAK (18)
Daily: 6.40pm (not Thurs), 9.15pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.45pm.
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (15)

Daily: 1.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.10pm. Sat, Sun and Thurs only: 11.15am. Thurs only: 9.35am.

HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)

Daily: 2.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm. Daily, not Thurs: 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm. Fri-Sat only: 11pm. Sat, Sun and Thurs only: 11.20am.

THE WEDDING DATE (12A)

Daily, not Thurs: 1.40pm, 4.10pm.

THE INTERPRETER (12A)
Daily: 12.15pm (not Sat, Sun, Thurs), 3.15pm (not Thurs), 6.15pm (not Wed-Thurs), 9pm (not Thurs).

ROBOTS (U)
Sat-Sun only: 11.30am.

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£1 Vodka & draught mixer in dBs bar all night

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The Union advises you to drink sensibly

Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Everything eclectic

Four Tet's new album proves that 'new directions' aren't necessarily a bad thing, and we present alternatives to the big festivals (since they've all sold out, boo hoo)

ALBUM REVIEWS

Four Tet

Everything Ecstatic
(Domino)

★★★★☆

Keiran Hebden's Four Tet guise has slyly converted many guitar-worshipping indie kids to his slinky and beguiling mixture of folk and electronica (I know, I am one), with 2003's *Rounds* providing laid-back jams, dancefloor-humping beats and the nine-minute epic *Unspoken* earning him seemingly endless critical acclaim.

Expectations are riding high on this, his fourth album on Domino. In the intervening years, Hebden has professed an intense dislike for the term 'folktronica' that was foisted upon him by general critical opinion, while producing his friend Dan Snaith's band, Manitoba (now known as Caribou due to a ridiculous conflict with a punk singer, Handsome Dick Manitoba). In short, anyone expecting a straight-out repeat of *Rounds*' mostly acoustic fare will be sorely disappointed. Hebden has made it clear time and time again that he falls in the class of artists that believe only progression is worthwhile – witness his earlier incarnation in the band Fridge, formed at the tender age of fifteen, who veered from Krautrock to post-rock to you-name-it on their two vastly unappreciated records.

The single, *Smile Around The Face*, is constructed around a Chipmunk-sounding soul vocal and crashing live drums that clearly owe a lot to his work with Caribou. Pretty toy xylophones jump from speaker to speaker, as the sample is cut in/out against splashy cymbals and tight snares. The cohesive moments provide a hook that's almost pop in its simplicity and child-like glee.

And *Then Patterns*' opening laid-back and deceptively complex beat harks back to the downtempo sound of *Rounds*. A pretty piano figure winds around phasing synth lines and slowly draws you into the warm

soundscape of crackling sounds and faraway-sounding vocal samples.

Hebden has professed a love for last year's MF Doom and Madlib collaboration, *Madvilliany*, and recently worked on an EP of remixes due for release soon. Hearing them brings it home how much Four Tet's snappy beats and cymbals owe to hip-hop production – *High Fives* has a punchy, tense drum pattern that's vaguely reminiscent of Prefuse 73's instru-hop. Again, the sheer inventiveness of the production is enough to keep the listener's attention, rephrasing the warped xylophone sounds of *Rounds* opener, *Hands*, into a hummable melody.

The undisputed high point of this album is *Sun Drums And Soil*. It starts with Boards Of Canada-esque synth washes and gentle bleeps, before Hebden loses his restraint and brings in a huge cymbal-breaking beat that's straight out of the Caribou rulebook. Jazz saxophones loop and dance on the massive beat, while warm rhodes piano builds an ascending melody that's almost sinister. Nothing he's ever done sounds like this. It instantly calls to mind Boom Bip, who tend to merge post-rock's love of severe volume changes with downbeat electronica. Boom Bip never had the utterly sublime production that this record does, each beat perfect, each component of the mix melding seamlessly with its neighbours.

Sleep, Eat Food, Have Visions is interesting in that it spends three minutes being a laidback bleep-fest, while the remaining five minutes – a hammering drill'n'bass – work out with roughly a billion drum sounds all crushed into one beat. In that way, it's akin to the opener, *Joy*, which mauls listeners with its huge, evil bassline. It's almost as if Hebden wants to refute the possible coffee-tableness of *Rounds*.

This is probably the best IDM record that'll be released this year; a thoughtful mix of charming melodies, sophisticated production, and sheer ingenuity. Stick it on repeat.

Andrew Sykes
Music Editor



Four Tet: even laptop geniuses have to go outside sometimes

No Glasto ticket? No worries...

PREVIEW

Felix

Alternative Festival Guide
This summer's best

With Glastonbury, the Carling and V weekends and even T In The Park all reaching or achieving sold out status, music fans nationwide are beginning to despair at the prospect of a summer without festival delights. But worry not, my friends,

as there are more than enough hidden gems to go around!

Isle Of Wight (10-12 Jun): Faithless, Feeder, Snow Patrol, Morrisey, REM (£90)

Sonar (Barcelona, España, 16-19 Jun): Chemical Brothers, Laurent Garnier, Le Tigre, James Murphy, Soulwax, DJ Yoda, Hood, MIA, De La Soul (€105)

Middlesbrough Music Live (UK, 19 Jun) Line-up TBC but previous

years include TCTC, Goldrush, Razorlight, Kasabian, Bloc Party, Ordinary Boys (FREE)

Arvika (Sweden, 14-16 Jul): Bright Eyes, Ed Harcourt, New Order, Annie, The Faint (830kr)

Truck (Oxford, UK, 23-24 Jul): Magic Numbers, Biffy Clyro, Editors, Fonda 500, Patrick Wolf, yourcodenameis: milo, Battle (£37.50)

Fuji Rock (Naeba, Japan, 29-31 Jul): Foo Fighters, Coldplay, Maximo

Park, Beck, Sigur Ros. Cake, Mercury Rev, Royksopp (¥38000)

Fiberfib (Benicassim, España, 4-7 Aug): Nick Cave, LCD Soundsystem, Doves, Polyphonic Spree, Mylo, Lemon Jelly (€152 with week camping)

Big Chill (Eastnor Castle, 5-7 Aug): The Earlies, The Bays, Hexstatic, Emiliana Torrini, !!!, Efterklang, Chris Coco, Norman Jay (£112)

Andalucia Creamfields (Almeria,

14 Aug): Massive Attack, Fatboy Slim, Goldfrapp, Erick Morillo, The Orb (€40)

Green Man (Hay-On-Wye, Wales, 19-21 Aug): Bonnie 'Prince' Billy, The Earlies, James Yorkston, Adem, Micah P. Hinson, Broken Family Band (£75)

Also, look out for the Somerset house series in July, featuring Sigur Ros, Bright Eyes and Bloc Party.

Keira Poland

Summer is here

While the weather may be utterly crap, Hot Hot Heat's quirky, danceable indie will bring a smile to your face, as will Brendan Benson's live show

ALBUM REVIEWS

Hot Hot Heat
Elevator
(SIRE)
★★★★☆

So here comes summer, bringing wasps, bikinis and Hot Hot Heat, one of the most criminally underachieving bands to have graced our shores (via Canada).

Whilst everyone is desperately running around emulating bands like Television or Right Said Fred (I'm onto you, Kapranos), HHH have been sounding like XTC for ages already. Their debut album, *Make Up The Breakdown*, faded away to nothing despite its brilliance. The indie dancefloor slaying *Bandages*, from that very album, should have been number one for a gazillion weeks, but the 'Great' British Government decided that singing the word 'bandages' during the Iraq War was insensitive and took it off the air, further adding to our war crimes.

But look! It's now 2005 and you've got quirky indie popsters like Franz Ferdinand and Kaiser Chiefs scaling the charts: HHH are perfect for this musical climate. Check out forthcoming single *Goodnight Goodnight*, all off-beat drums, bright guitar and bouncy Hammond organ, instantly accessible and just clever enough. It's bound to sit comfortably on the play lists of Radio1, XFM, local radio and, um, even IC Radio.

Let's take a moment to observe front man Steven Bays. Originally he was only the keyboardist, but they booted the singer and he took over. He has an ace yelpy Canadian singing voice, melodic and effortlessly up-beat. More noticeable somehow is his incredible man-'fro: it makes the hairy one out of Hundred Reasons look like a billiard ball. Lyrically, HHH aren't going to win an Ivor

Novello, relying more on bitchy one-liners or witty turns of phrase, my personal favourite being: "Running with scissors wasn't smart, I tripped and cut open your heart!"

Bays' delivery is the important thing. I challenge you not to smile when he starts and ends *Island Of The Honest Man* with a frantic capella: "I was picked up and then dropped off in a culture counter-clockwise turned around."

There are so many gems here that it's hard to pick any out specifically. *Shame On You* has a nice latino beat, and piano-led album track *Elevator* is reminiscent of wonderful album closer *In Cairo* from their previous album.

Barring another war, HHH should be assaulting your eyes and ears for the foreseeable future. So there you go, better than wasps and at least as good as bikinis. **James Millen**

Lindy
Beautifully Undone
(My Dad)
★★★★☆

The name that he records under may sound awful, but it is honestly his name. According to his website, Mr Lindy Vopnfjord (something I can't personally pronounce), hails from Icelandic shores, where he began to play guitar from the age of two and toured with his folk-singing family. His online home also hints this may all be a lie, so I choose to believe he was raised by a polar bear or something. But some people will say anything. It's what he sings that counts.

Lindy certainly has a beautiful voice. In places it has a raw, gruff, Scandinavian edge, a bit like a Kelly Jones you don't want to kick. In others it effortlessly soars into the higher octaves, with a satisfying vibrato, more like a Matt Bellamy with the volume turned down. His



Hot Hot Heat: pre-afro days. My, aren't they serious young men?

folk roots are evident in his songs, his style of finger picking punctuated by heavy strumming is common throughout. The ace in Lindy's pack is that, unlike his folk contemporaries, he hasn't descended into beard-stroking quirkiness (à la Devendra Banhart), but instead manages a more northern English indie sound. Rather fittingly, he has recently signed to new Mancunian record label My Dad Recordings, and labelmates such as Jack Cooper provide a good reference point.

Lead track *Beautifully Undone* consists of a delicately plucked

melody with light strings, clearly highlighting his voice. *In The Air* enlists a full band to produce a fuller, more upbeat sound. It reminds me of Oxford boys Goldrush at their most pop, with a jangling backing overlaid with slide guitar. *After All The Rain Falls* is in a similar vein to the title track. It is more ethereal, with extremely light synth and piano underneath gentle guitar. Towards its close, strings and drums are brought in as the song builds, culminating in cymbal crashes aplenty before dying back down again. Most interesting is *Look At The Way*. Though from the

surface it appears to be a standard guitar/bass/drums-type track, Lindy executes some tricky counter melodies to the instrument line. At times he cautiously borders on being out of tune, but the closeness of dischord is skillfully mastered.

While I don't see him crashing the charts any time soon, Lindy is the kind of artist who will build a solid fan base. And who knows where that kind of momentum can lead? I mean, who saw Damien Rice coming? This four track single is worth eighteen minutes of anyone's time.

James Millen



Brendan Benson: the master of bittersweet pop

LIVE REVIEWS

Brendan Benson / Hal
Electric Ballroom
★★★★☆

Support slots can be tricky things. On the one hand, you get to play to audiences larger than you would probably get if you were headlining, but on the other hand you have to win over people who have paid to see someone else and are probably getting impatient for the main event.

Fortunately for Hal, their particular brand of sunny west coast pop is very difficult to dislike. Taking to the Electric Ballroom's rather small stage, front man Dave Allen introduces the band in an interminable Irish drawl, a stark contrast to his clear and well pitched singing voice. There's quite a loud hum of conversation from the disinterested audience as the band begin their set, but by the time they've played first single *What A Lovely Dance* a few songs in, the crowd are suitably impressed. Hal may be playing a dingy club somewhere in north London, but

throughout the half hour-long set you could swear you were enjoying a Californian summer.

By the time headline act and Detroit native Brendan Benson stepped onto the stage, the Electric Ballroom was living up to its name in terms of the atmosphere. The set started off with the pop tunes that have earned him his following, lifted mainly from his two earlier albums. Midway through, he declared it time for the "singer-songwriter part of the show," so with acoustic guitar in tow he strummed out the songs and the crowd sang along with every heartfelt word. It is a truly amazing experience when such a large group of people all connect with the music; you can only imagine what Benson was feeling as the crowd became one big backing vocal. The rest of the set mainly comprised of songs from his latest album, *Alternative To Love*, which were performed brilliantly, sung with a verve and energy that is so often missing from solo singer-songwriters.

An alternative to love? I'm not too sure about that, but listening to Brendan Benson is a good place to start. **Dom Wong**

Film

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Listings: page 12

Scott fails to deliver

Kingdom Of Heaven falls into the shadow of masterpiece *Gladiator*

Kingdom Of Heaven

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Orlando Bloom, Eva Green,

Liam Neeson, Jeremy Irons

Running time: 150 mins

Certificate: 15

★★★★☆

Since it is directed by Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*), one would expect *Kingdom of Heaven* to impress and amaze just as much as its predecessor. In this respect, the film does not fail to please – sweeping battle scenes, opulent sets and on location shooting certainly make for astounding pieces of cinematography, which is the main reason for the three star rating. Visually, you can expect all the brilliance of *Gladiator*, only fitted in with a different genre – one of the Christian and Muslim armies against the backdrop of Jerusalem.

The film follows the story of Balian (Orlando Bloom), a French blacksmith in mourning after the suicide of his wife, who one day decides to ride to Jerusalem after being approached by the father he never knew (Liam Neeson) and urged to join the Crusades.

Unfortunately en route to Jerusalem, Balian's father Godfrey is killed, leaving Balian the sole beneficiary and heir of his men and lands in the holy city. While the



Orlando Bloom, as Balian, turns from blacksmith to crusader

father lies dying, he knights his son and charges him with safeguarding the fragile peace in the city, protect-

ing the helpless and serving the leprosy-afflicted king with loyalty. This he does, speedily evolving

from simple mourning blacksmith to skilled swordsman, irrigation expert, surveyor, builder, military strategist and politician, whilst also finding time to bed the beautiful (and married) Princess Sibylla. What a multitasking blacksmith.

There are two major failings of the film that prevented it from truly reaching 'epic' status. Number one was the fact that the plot was riddled with more holes than Swiss cheese. Balian's knowledge of irrigation and military expertise seem

"...certainly not offensive to watch, and provided plenty of conversation material..."

to appear from nowhere. A possible (and likely) explanation is that progression took a long time; however, the film does not give this impression.

Problem number two is Balian himself. Ridley Scott appears to give Bloom as much screen time as possible, and this proves to be a huge failing, mainly because of his lack of screen presence. The camera is little more than a terrier trailing

Balian. True, the film is about one man's journey and his rude awakening into the world of intertwined religion, politics and war; but the film's scope seems to omit anything that has no immediate impact on the central character, whose impassive attitude that he put to good use as a detached and well-spoken elf has been used throughout the film. In fact, he has no other attitude, his face is always a picture of constant consternation and grim determination. His lines are kept to a bare minimum to save him from embarrassing himself, yet he does just that. His delivery is invariably terse and over-dramatic.

Whilst some scenes were historically inaccurate and some battle scenes were a bit too drawn out for my liking, this film was certainly not offensive to watch and provided plenty of conversation material afterwards. The dialogue was poignant, with the supporting cast delivering strong performances on all fronts. Scott dealt with the issue of the Crusades sensitively and in such a manner that neither Christians nor Muslims were demonised. The film also raises interesting parallels between the struggle in the holy land back in 1180 and events in the Middle East today.

Marya Ziauddin and Alistair Finn

Star Wars Episode III Competition



As part of the release of *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, 20th Century Fox have generously provided you with the opportunity to win one of three t-shirts and one of ten posters.

To win, just answer this:

Who has starred in the most *Star Wars* movies?

- (a) Yoda
(b) Darth Vader
(c) Chewbacca

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

Last week's winners: *House of Flying Daggers* DVDs: Rakhi Sehmi and Rafael Gates; *Kingdom of Heaven* package: Marco Visentini Scarzanella.

OUT NEXT WEEK

Released on Friday 13 May at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- The Jacket
- Monster In Law
- A Good Woman
- Ong-Bak

Released on Wednesday 18 May, 12.10am at Vue Fulham Broadway:

- Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith

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

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win posters for *The Jacket* or *Ong-Bak*. Just answer this question: Which jacket is the odd one out and why?

- (a) Strait
(b) Bomber
(c) Potato

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

Last week's winners are Adam Rae, Jess Wright and Dave Arquati.

Alan Ng
Film Editor

An average interpretation

Eavesdropping is bad, no Kid-ding

The Interpreter

Director: Sydney Pollack
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Sean Penn, Catherine Keener, Jesper Christensen, Earl Cameron
Running time: 129 mins
Certificate: 12A
★★★★☆

Nicole Kidman stars as UN interpreter Silvia Broome, a cosmopolitan linguist who accidentally overhears a whispered conspiracy that might be an assassination. She never sees them, but they spot her, yet she doesn't report the incident until the next day, after she learns that Matobo's dictator, Zuwanie (who has been accused of ethnic cleansing and brought up on charges of genocide in the World Court), is coming to the UN to make a speech.

Coincidence? That's what Secret Service agent Tobin Keller (Sean Penn), a professional cynic, wants to know. Silvia is uncommunicative about her past and secretive about her present.

The Interpreter is touted as the first commercial movie to shoot inside the United Nations, which means that this thriller is blessed with a truly incredible set-piece. The movie also boasts two of the best actors around – Kidman and

Penn, along with director Pollack, are all Oscar winners. By all measures, *The Interpreter* should be one of the sharpest movies around, but it is not. It is intelligent, intriguing and topical, but too often it gets bogged down in its own good intentions.

The United Nations serve as little more than an inspired backdrop for what turns out to be political thriller that, while often gripping, is neither as clever as it tries to be or as politically savvy as it pretends to be.

The writers take care to make misinterpretation itself a bit of a motif by playing with it in small ways, with smaller discussions throughout the movie – very clever. The dialogue

“Neither as clever as it tries to be or as politically savvy as it pretends to be”

between Penn and Kidman is sharp, interesting and at times rich. Their acting is powerful and compelling. The screenwriters enjoy painting her as the word-lover, the linguist; she listens. And they paint Penn as the face man – he peers into the eyes of his subjects and tosses them some line to see if they choke them-



What's your favourite scary movie?

selves. He doesn't seem to trust their words as much as his gut feeling regarding their sincerity.

If there was ever a romantic suggestion between the two damaged loners, removed from the social world because of the pain of loss, Kidman and Penn do away with it completely. The heat of danger may break down the fence between them momentarily, but back in the calm they retreat into their shells. Unfortunately, the script gives them

nothing beyond their dramatic tragic pasts and Pollack doesn't seem interested in filling in the blanks. Instead it's another one of the film's corny storylines – it just seems as though they've ripped off ideas from other films with the intention of making them look a bit tacky.

If you start to think, you might ponder why an emotionally fractured agent would be in charge of such a powder-keg situation. Or why Kidman's character isn't taken into

protective custody immediately. Or why the US intelligence agencies are so, well, damn stupid.

That's not to say the film doesn't have any fascinating or surprisingly funny scenes. At one point, with the Secret Service shadowing three different figures, the characters and their American shadows all converge on the same city bus. The editing (by William Steinkamp) is something to behold. He juggles multiple stories, characters and perspectives, keeping the narrative line impossibly clean while building an old-fashioned sense of tension and suspense by slowly building the tempo, paced by Penn's performance as the Secret Service point man choreographing his agents while pondering the real meaning of the “coincidence”.

But apart from the film's climactic bus sequence and another nicely crafted sequence towards the movie's end, this thriller never visually builds much tension or suspense.

Catherine Keener (*Being John Malkovich*) is sadly underused in the role of Keller's wise-cracking partner. This is probably due to poor script development. Had this been expanded a bit more, the film could have been more than just average.

The Interpreter is ultimately fluent in many things, but an out-and-out thriller it is not. **Haj Altahir**

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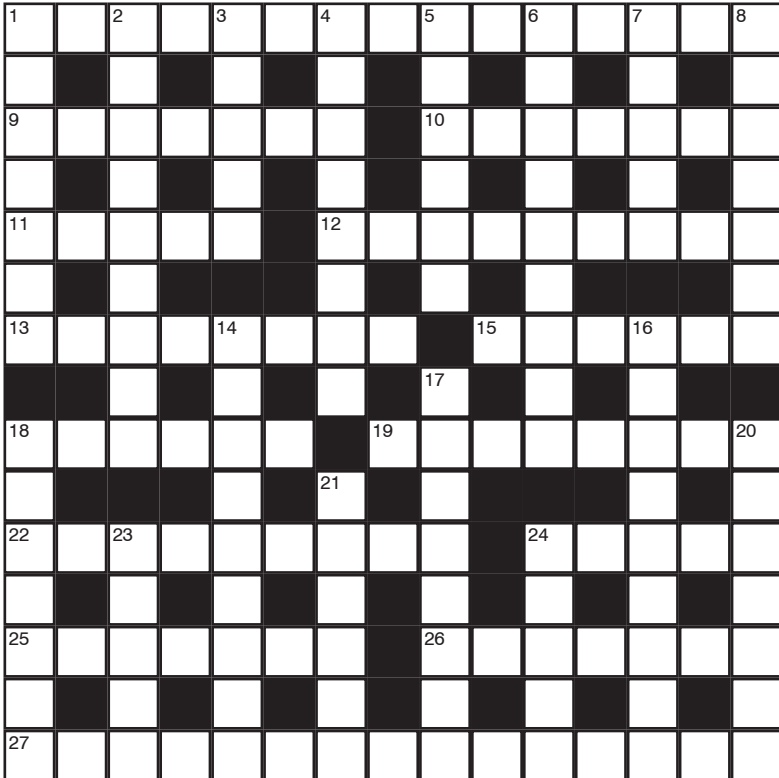
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Puzzles

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Felix Crossword 1322 by Snufkin



Across

1. Old song? (4,2,5,4)
9. Found old Tom in red-light surroundings? (7)
10. Again goes over note about adverts (7)
11. Instrument stowed away by chancellor (5)
12. Imperial biographer's second rehash of tenuous material takes one in (9)
13. Little creature's roar bringing along more of his kind? (4,4)
15. Mammal whose time has come? (6)
18. Poor version of ropy ad? (6)
19. Sexual animal with voracious appetite? (3-5)
22. Plenty of room on board this craft? (9)
24. Starts to take hold of negligée, groping for G-string (5)
25. Order to give licence to publication (7)
26. After tea, chewed pita or similar bread (7)
27. Have a healthy breakfast – and a trundling commute? (2,2,4,2,2,3)

Down

1. Wild dog found by scout – a little one, that is (4-3)
2. Unknown character spoken of in *The Sword in the Stone* (9)
3. Explosive opening pair turned up for start of performance (5)
4. Short guy whose dancing provides minor attraction (8)
5. Persian king turning suggestive epithet on its head? (6)
6. Having sliced loaf, ready for a few pints (4,2,3)
7. Look – a pigmy's captured a giraffe (5)
8. Last of candidates to enter takes exam again but struggles (7)
14. Companion of the Roses, perhaps? (9)
16. Justification for beer being under usual measure (9)
17. Turn up with cheapo substitute (not English!) for cold soup (8)
18. Letters sent in packet on the job (4-3)
20. Fixing the sails (7)
21. Virgin Queen becoming more fair (6)
23. Accept trouble with patient tranquility, initially (5)
24. Taking invocation at first, thanks Egyptian god for headband (5)

Issue 1321 solution

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

Last week's winner is Simon Overall, Computing IV, who should be revising for finals

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

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.

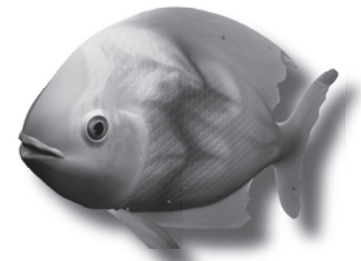
Email your solution to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 17 May. No attachments please. The first correct solution randomly drawn wins your choice of a 128MB USB storage device or a crate of beer.

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

Issue 1321 solution

Thanks to everyone who entered. The winner is biology student **Katie Abranson.**

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



Hello again! If you've got exams at the moment, or if you've got them coming up soon, this puzzle will stave off the tedium of revision for a while; if you've had your exams, or if you've not got any this year at all, it will give you something to do with all that spare time, you lucky son of a bitch. Not much to say about it, really, except that there are a few clues here that I'm extremely proud of. I hope that little toot on my own kazoo entices you to give the puzzle your best shot. Good luck!

Snufkin

I A SMALL PLOT I I



SPORT

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Imperial cricketers claim landslide victory over UCL

CRICKET

ULU Cup

Imperial Men's 2nd
193-9 (40 overs)

Jacob Chacko 60
Vaibhav 36
Jibran Ahmed 20

UCL Men's 2nd
51 all out (17.4 overs)

Anand Subramanian 2-20
Pete Munro 2-16
Avishek Das 1-6

By Karthik
Rathinasabapathy

Imperial's second XI moved a step closer to a place in the semi-finals of the ULU Cup after beating UCL's second XI by a whopping margin of 142 runs at Harlington.

The day began on a good note for Imperial seconds when skipper Karthik won the toss and elected to bat on a pitch that had a tinge of green to it.

Vaibhav and Karthik began well for Imperial, with Vaibhav pouncing on anything short and cracking a few early



Imperial's second men's cricket team, who comfortably overcame the challenge of their UCL counterparts

boundaries to get the innings moving. Karthik complimented Vaibhav's attacking stroke play with a mixture of

tight defence and some wristy shots square of the wicket. The 50 partnership came up in the tenth over but just

when the batsmen looked set for more, they were dismissed against the run of play.

54 for no wicket soon

became 56 for 4 as Imperial suffered a mini-collapse with Karthik, Vaibhav, Al and Peter succumbing to a mixture of poor judgement and careless stroke play. UCL had fought back strongly but Imperial had enough batting depth to weather the storm. Jacob set about rebuilding the innings with some good sensible batting and built partnerships with Avi, Khurram and Devesh.

Soon defence turned into single-hunting, gliding and efficiently flicking in the gaps, and gradually Imperial accelerated, with ones turning into twos and the odd boundary being poached. When he finally fell in the 36th over, Jacob's fantastic knock of 60 had taken Imperial from a perilous position to a very competitive total. Jibran then used the long handle to good effect and Imperial finished on 193-9 after 40 overs.

Imperial's fast bowlers, led by Jibran, then produced inspired spells in the afternoon as UCL found themselves in deep trouble. Jibran's terrific spell of fast

bowling with his late swinging deliveries left the UCL batsmen looking as confused as a child in a topless bar. A good piece of fielding resulted in the first wicket when Asif found himself inches short of the batting crease.

Subby then picked up a couple of wickets, with Jacob pulling off a tremendous catch at backward point. Avi and Pete continued the good work with some accurate and disciplined bowling as the UCL batsmen crumbled, unable to handle the pressure. Although Imperial's fielding was quite good overall, Jibran was unlucky to have a couple of catches dropped off his bowling. Pete Munro then put an end to UCL's misery with a perfect yorker to bowl them out for a mere 51.

On the whole it was a clinical and proficient team performance from the Imperial second XI, which has almost secured its place in the semi-finals. The exceptional talent, commitment, dedication and spirit should ensure that the team goes the entire distance in this tournament.

Wye champions

Continued from
back page

to score any points.

The fast pace of the first half did not slow in the second. The pack were brilliant to watch in the scrum, and if LSE did manage to win the ball, Liz's quick breaking off made sure that their number 8 didn't get very far.

Early in the second half Suzie, after moaning in the minibus about how she knew she was going to get hurt, dislocated her knee after a heavy tackle and had to be whisked to hospital. As a result, Jess was drafted in to replace the injured flanker. New to this position, Jess played with strength and determination adding to Wye's tackling ability.

Suzie's injury provoked a major attack. It was payback: no-one injures a Wye player and gets away with it. The tackles consequently got harder and more aggressive.

For most of the half there were bodies from both teams all over the pitch, indicating the high intensity of the game. Emily scored Wye's

third try 20 minutes before the end with an inventive run which ultimately, along with her tackles, earned her the most valuable player award. Andrea kicked the conversion to put Wye 17-0 in front.

Andrea's performance throughout the game was excellent, all the time making crucial tackles and kicking down field as much as possible.

Lil made some terrific breaks on the left wing and was very unlucky to score a try, as she certainly deserved one. Towards the end of the game, Wye's determination not to concede was immense. Gemma battled to the end with an ongoing injury displaying awesome courage, while Lou was propelled into the air at every lineout, stealing many LSE throw-ins. Kate had a great game as full-back, adding a sense of calm to the team.

Overall, it was a truly inspirational performance by the whole team. It was great to see the utter determination and superb teamwork displayed by everyone on the

pitch. The match was a once in a lifetime opportunity to achieve something for Wye ladies' rugby and for Wye College and I'm delighted that the team's hard work throughout the life of the club was finally fulfilled.

The cup final marked the end of the Wye rugby season and was the last game for many of the older players. This win was a perfect way to end the year and left the team on an eight match winning streak. No-one ever thought with the founding of the team, three years ago, that we would ever achieve the success that we have this season.

Special thanks must go to Andrea for founding the Wye ladies' rugby team, to all our supporters over the season, and of course to our amazing coach, Hugh, who has shared his knowledge, time and experience of the game with us. Personally, I would also like to congratulate the team and thank them for their commitment, support and enthusiasm throughout the entire season.

The year's success will never be forgotten, especially by those leaving this year. Wye will not be the same without them and I hope they'll always remember the overwhelming feeling when the final whistle blew at the end of the cup final. I wish all the leaving players - Andrea, Annie, Hetty, Emily, Lou, Suzy, Liz, Lynette and Gemma - all the best in the future, in particular with their rugby. You will be missed.

The team will carry on and play next season, with this year's freshers hopefully continuing to play rugby. Our success will be hard to beat, but in true Wye spirit we'll always battle on and tackle anything, any shape or size, on the pitch.

Even though Wye College is sadly losing its agricultural and science students, ladies' rugby will still continue at the forefront of sport at Wye for as long as possible.

Wye has a crown, now the ladies' rugby team have a cup. What a fantastic achievement.



Wye claim the ball at a line-out

Is your sports team active in the summer term? Send us your reports! sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

Sport

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Wye ladies win ULU Cup



ULU Cup winners: the all-conquering rugby ladies of Imperial's Wye campus

RUGBY

ULU Cup Final

Wye Women's 1st 17
LSE Women's 1st 0

By Suzanne Horn

The Wye girls have been anticipating this match for months, and they weren't

going to lose without a fight. Eighty minutes was all it was going to take to come away with the cup. And what an 80 minutes it turned out to be.

Wye kicked off the match and immediately put pressure on LSE in the form of an aggressive wall of maroon and white shirts. The awesome attack from the Wye girls prompted panic within

the attacking LSE line, forcing them to make mistakes and suffer many turnover balls.

The first try came from a blindside set piece move off a scrum, which was run in by the scrum-half from the halfway line, all the way being chased by LSE. The try would not have been successful without the excellent

communication between the half-backs and the amazing strength of the pack.

Possession was difficult for Wye to come by. LSE were very strong in attack and recycled the ball extremely well. Tackling was key to Wye's performance. Annie's tackling was especially striking, and overall she put in a fabulous display on the pitch.

LSE came close to scoring, taking the ball across our try line but being unable to ground it with Liz and Andrea under the ball. This outstanding defensive effort provoked increased determination in the forwards. A massive tackle by Mary turned the ball over. In a blink of an eye, the ball was efficiently passed down our back line

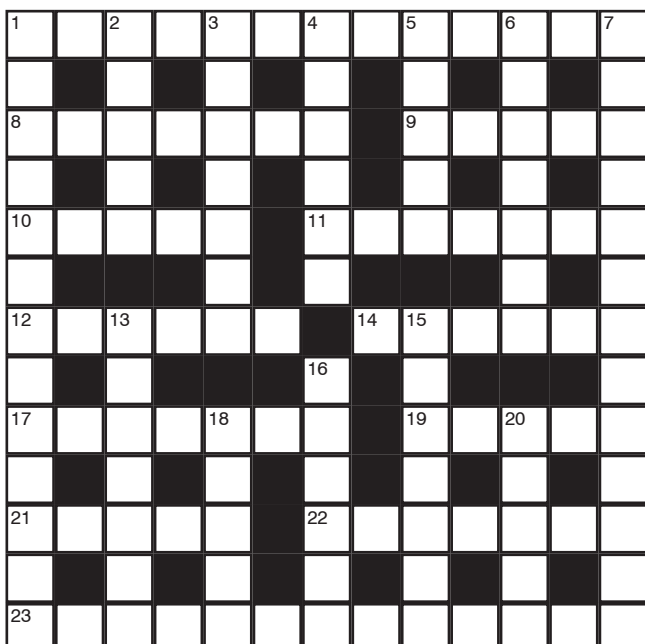
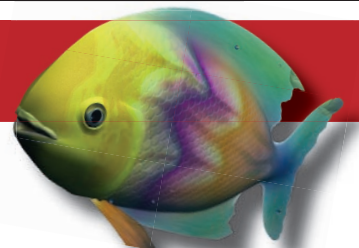
to the winger, Lucy, who ran in between the sticks for our second try of the game.

Towards the end of the first half, Wye took charge and dominated the game within LSE's 22 yard line. Hetty was on fine form, streaming through their defence at any opportunity adding to Wye's dangerous attack, but unable

● **Continued on page 19**

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

1. Expressed ironically or facetiously (6,2,5)
8. Carry out (7)
9. Spin (5)
10. Part of whole (5)
11. Sportsman (7)
12. Claim back (6)
14. Diverse, disorderly (6)
17. Cancelled out (7)
19. Follower of Rastafarianism (abbrev.) (5)
21. Native of country invaded by US and allies in 2003 (5)
22. Enthusiastic approval (7)
23. Main theme song from *Rocky* movies (3,2,3,5)

Down

1. BBC2 series featuring Sir Alan Sugar (3,10)
2. Female relative (5)
3. Small four-stringed guitar (7)
4. Mass of ice and snow (3,3)
5. Capture (5)
6. Outstanding, distinguished (7)
7. Star of *Frasier*; voice of Sideshow Bob in *The Simpsons* (7)
13. Deteriorate (7)
15. Yellow-orange fruit (7)
16. Book by James Agee: ___ ___ *In The Family* (1,5)
18. Burglar (5)
20. Language occurring in casual speech (5)

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

Issue 1321 solution

