

**An alternative theory**  
Meet a Union President turned global warming sceptic, page 5



**How hard can it be?**  
Imperial students try their hand at adventure racing, page 12



**Mr and Mrs**  
A "sexy, funny and action packed" new movie, page 17



**Hitting Holloway for six**  
Imperial cricketers in another impressive victory, page 20



# Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1325 ● Thursday 2 June 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

**On the big screen**  
Scenes from the new film *Basic Instinct 2* were shot at the main entrance to Imperial College last weekend.  
►NEWS page 2

**First date**  
*Felix* columnists Diogo Geraldes and Stormy Woods met up for a coffee last week. But what did they think of each other?  
►COLUMNS page 8

**What's happening at Wye?**  
The future of the Wye campus is top of the agenda as Dave Edwards talks to the Deputy Rector, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz.  
►INTERVIEW page 10

**Tuning in**  
*Felix* takes a look at the world's first and only internet arts radio station.  
►ARTS page 15

**Win games!**  
We have copies of *Fight Night Round 2*, *Midnight Club 3* and *Cold Winter* for Playstation 2 to give away.



►COMPETITION page 9

**THIS WEEK**

- News page 2
- Business page 3
- Science page 4
- Comment page 6
- Columns page 8
- Felix Interview page 10
- Clubs and Societies page 12
- Felix Survey page 13
- What's On page 14
- Arts page 15
- Books page 16
- Nightlife page 16
- Film page 17
- Puzzles page 18
- Sport page 20

## Student cyclist killed

By Dave Edwards  
Editor

An Imperial College post-graduate student was killed in a road traffic accident while cycling in the South Kensington area last Wednesday.

Apijak Srivannavit, from Thailand, was studying for an MSc in environmental engineering. It appears that he was at the junction of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road when he was hit by a coach.

Mr Srivannavit, who was 26, had a degree in chemical engineering from Chulalongkorn University in his home country. He worked as an engineer at a petrochemical company and for the Factory Control and Inspection Bureau in Bangkok before coming to Imperial in October 2004.

Chris Cheeseman, course director for the environmental engineering MSc, said: "Although he had only been at Imperial College for a relatively short time, Apijak was highly regarded both by his fellow students and the academic staff. He was a highly motivated, competent and popular student, who always appeared to be very happy. He will be missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him."

Mr Srivannavit was an active member of Imperial College Thai Society, which has created a memorial web page where dozens of people have already paid tribute to him. This can be found at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/osc/thai/board/viewtopic.php?t=66](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/osc/thai/board/viewtopic.php?t=66).

Mr Srivannavit is not the first person at Imperial College to suffer a tragic death while cycling in the Cromwell Road area. Less than three months ago, Thomas Sippel-Dau, an ICT manager, was knocked off his bicycle and killed by a 4x4 vehicle.

Ben Jefferys, acting chairman of the Imperial College

อภัยอาลัย  
พวงมาลา Imperial College Thai Society ขอไว้อาลัยในเหตุการณ์การจากไปของ  
อภิรักษ์ ศรีวรรณวิทย์  
Apijak Srivannavit  
ชวติยะ 30 มีนาคม พ.ศ. 2522  
มรณะ 25 พฤษภาคม พ.ศ. 2548  
Please pay Tribute to our beloved friend



Top: the memorial to Imperial College student Apijak Srivannavit on the Thai Society home page. Bottom: the busy Cromwell Road, on which the accident occurred

Bicycle Users' Group, told *Felix*: "Whilst it is possible to regard a single death as an aberration, two in close succession indicate there is something deeply wrong. We must learn from these deaths

and strive to prevent future repetitions."

Mr Jefferys called on Imperial students and staff to unite in demanding changes to Cromwell Road, reducing the impact of dangerous motor

vehicles and better reflecting its place in the cultural heart of London. Practical advice for cyclists and information on campaigning are available at [www.union.ic.ac.uk/icbug/cromwell.html](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/icbug/cromwell.html).

## Tanaka arrested for fraud

By Rupert Neate

Gary Tanaka, a highly successful Imperial alumnus who donated £27m to Imperial's management school, has been arrested on fraud charges.

Mr Tanaka and his business partner, Alberto Vilar, have been held without bail, accused of stealing \$5m of investors' money and using it to purchase racehorses and fund philanthropic activities such as the Tanaka Business School.

Mr Tanaka gained an MSc and PhD in applied mathematics at Imperial College in 1970. He then went on to become one of the world's most successful high technology investors. He founded the money management firm Amerindo Investment Advisors, which currently manages some \$8bn.

Mr Tanaka, of Kingston, Surrey, is perhaps best known in Britain for his involvement in horse racing. He has owned several group one winners, such as Rakti. American authorities suspect that he may have used investors' money to buy at least three thoroughbred racehorses, including Don Incauto, Agata and Fruhlingssturm.

Professor David Norburn of Imperial College described Mr Tanaka as "one of the most exceptional entrepreneurs of our time, which makes him the ideal role model for many hundreds of Imperial students."

Mr Tanaka's £27m gift is the largest private donation in the College's history. His arrest, whether he is proven guilty or not, is likely to cause Imperial considerable embarrassment and raise speculation that the Business School could have been funded through fraud.

# Felix

Issue 1325

Editor

**Dave Edwards**

Business Editor

**Numaan Chaudhry**

Science Editor

**Darius Nikbin**

Music Editor

**Andrew Sykes**

Nightlife Editor

**Simon Clark**

Arts Editor

**Paola Smith**

Books Editor

**Martin Smith**

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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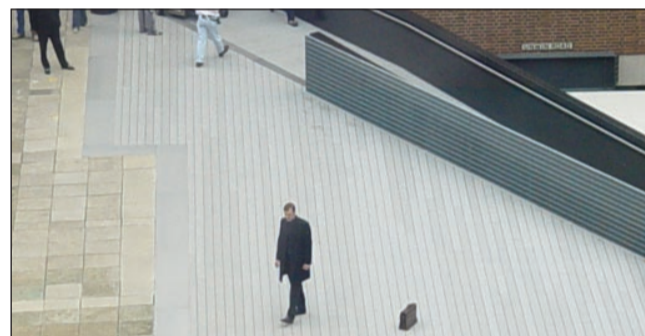
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## NEWS

# Imperial takes role in Basic Instinct 2

The main entrance and walkway on the South Kensington campus were used to film scenes from the new movie *Basic Instinct 2: Risk Addiction* last weekend (see pictures below). The mechanical engineering building was transformed into the 'Wallace Medical Centre'. The film – which stars Sharon Stone, David Morrissey, Charlotte Rampling, David Thewlis and former footballer Stan Collymore – is due for release next year



## Paddington 'super hospital' plans scrapped

By Rupert Neate

Plans for a flagship 'super-hospital' which would have replaced many of Imperial's teaching hospitals have been scrapped as a result of government procrastination and increasing costs.

The Paddington Basin Project had been beset with problems since its inception in 1997, the latest being a drastic hike in land costs from £99 to £130m. This brings the total cost of the project to nearly £1bn, a burden too high for the beleaguered NHS to swallow. Scrapping the project now wastes £10m already spent on consultant fees.

The planned 'health campus' would have seen services transferred from the nearby Harefield, Royal Brompton and St Mary's hospitals to the site adjacent to Paddington railway station. The project had the full backing of Tony Blair, who once called it "imaginative and extraordinary".

Campaigners who were keen to see the world-renowned Harefield Heart and Lung Hospital remain welcomed the news. Jean Brett, who chairs the Heart of Harefield campaign, said the Paddington Basin Project was "a load of rubbish from day one".

# Smoking ban lifted on evenings and weekends



Having been banned for the last three months, smoking is once again allowed in Da Vinci's Bar, but only at weekends or after 9pm on weekdays

By Dave Edwards  
Editor

Following a three month ban, visitors to Da Vinci's Bar in Beit Quad will now be allowed to smoke after 9pm on weekday evenings and any time at weekends. The ban remains in place from 9am to 9pm

Monday to Friday for the rest of the summer term.

Despite opposition from some students and staff, a complete ban on smoking was introduced in the bar on a trial basis beginning on 1 March. Customers were encouraged to submit their feedback via the 'Yoursay' forms. The

response was mixed – more positive comments were received than negative ones, but support for the ban was not high enough to convince the Union to introduce it on a full-time basis.

Sameena Misbahuddin, the Union's Deputy President (Finance and Services),

told *Felix*: "There's no perfect solution so we've tried to strike a balance. You can still enjoy food without smoke [because food is served until 8.30pm], but so many students are used to smoking."

Miss Misbahuddin said that smoking is "less of an issue" at weekends because

the bars are not as busy. The ban meant that running costs increased at weekends, as extra staff were needed to open the adjacent Union bar where smoking was allowed.

Students are encouraged to give their views on the new arrangement using the 'Yoursay' forms.

# Business

business.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Latest from the Square Mile

**Numaan Chaudhry** presents an update of popular indices and news of the latest IPOs

### World stocks

European stocks closed higher on Thursday, as data showed the US economy grew more quickly than earlier reported, even as oil prices hovered above \$51 a barrel.

The gains came despite a poor showing from British banks, which tumbled after Barclays warned of growing credit card debt.

The Dow Jones Stoxx 600 Index, which tracks Europe's 600 largest listed companies, rose 1.85 points to 266.33, and the Dow Jones Euro Stoxx Index, which tracks companies in countries that participate in the euro, rose 2.17 to 281.51. The Dow Jones Euro Stoxx 50 Index rose 26.2 to 3086.1, and the Dow Jones Stoxx 50 Index rose 15.6 to 2927.0.

The German DAX 30 Index rose 1.1%, or 47.06, to 4436.60 and the French CAC 40 Index rose 37.01 to 4137.28. The UK FTSE 100 index rose 23.4 to 4994.9.

The Dow Jones Stoxx 50 rose 0.5%, with oil companies such as Total among top gainers as light sweet crude-oil contracts traded at \$51 a barrel. Mining stocks like BHP Billiton also advanced strongly.

The euro was weaker, down 0.7% at \$1.2512, as US gross domestic product data for the first quarter was revised to show a 3.5% rise.

Barclays closed down 4% after saying it now expects bad debt for 2005 to be somewhat higher than its last published risk tendency.

The bank said a slowdown across the UK consumer credit sector resulted in a rise in potential credit risk loans and a resulting increase in impairment losses. The increase in delinquencies was most noticeable in credit cards, the company said.

The warning hit other UK banks, with Royal Bank of Scotland down 3.2% and Lloyds TSB falling 1.7%.

Continuing the weak UK consumer theme was home improvement retailer Kingfisher, which said first quarter sales rose 2.2% to £1.94bn (€2.82bn), but dropped 5.6% on a comparable basis, as early Easter and poor spring weather affected the main consumer businesses in the UK and France. Kingfisher shares rose 1.8%.

CEO Gerry Murphy said on a conference call that Kingfisher isn't in takeover talks. "We have no plans to break up this business and are not in discussions with anybody about anything like



China's booming economy is set to get even stronger following six major initial public offerings

that. I don't you think you make life-changing decisions on the back of a few weeks' difficult trading," he said. Current UK conditions are expected to continue for some time, he added.

### China's Latest IPOs

During the next six weeks, four big Chinese companies are going to hit global investors with more than \$8bn (€6.36bn) in new-stock sales, including the year's biggest initial public offering (IPO), at a time when IPOs around the world have performed dismally and as trading volumes across Asia have dried up.

Even with China's economy cruising along at a growth rate of 9.5%, fund managers say, these companies -- two banks, a coal company and a shipping concern -- may have to price their stock cheaply to draw investors stung by this year's raft of sinking IPOs. That means cheap valuations

and interesting opportunities, they say.

Companies will have to "scale back their expectations and climb down from their high horse," says Bratin Sanyal, head of Asian equities for ING Investment Management. "Appetite for Asian equities at this stage is less than before."

The daily average value of shares traded on Hong Kong's stock exchange this month is down 27% from the first quarter, amid concerns over a global economic slowdown, rising interest rates and currency volatility. Equity issuance by Asian companies, excluding those in Japan, is down 20% so far this year from a year earlier, according to market-data provider Dealogic.

Three-quarters of the 28 new listings in Singapore this year have fallen below their offer price. The latest, Biosensors International Group, which was listed on

May 20, saw its shares sink 39% on its first day of trading after being priced near the bottom end of an indicative range.

The trend spans the globe. Earlier this month, Boise Cascade in the US yanked its \$400 million offering, failing to find a suitable price even after lowering the offer range. High-profile stock offers by Lazard and Warner Music Group in the US have both fallen below their offering price.

Investment bankers say each of the four big Chinese companies coming to market will be different enough from the pack to attract investors, and that there are enough investors sitting on cash, waiting for the right opportunity, to absorb this flood of stock. Indeed, these offerings have long been in the works, and that in itself can generate excitement among investors. Furthermore, IPOs in Hong Kong haven't fared so badly

this year, with eight of the 12 new stocks above offer price, though the number of new issues is half what it was a year earlier.

Still, the quartet of issuers have their work cut out for them in this environment. Even a banker involved in one of the four offerings acknowledged that "in terms of [the billions of dollars of] equity you see coming to the market in the next six weeks, it looks very challenging."

Holding back for richer times isn't an option for China, which churns out multibillion-dollar IPOs of state-owned enterprises every year. That is in part because Chinese companies have limited options for raising cash. Banks have cut back on lending, and the country's domestic stock markets are among the world's worst-performing, each down about 17% this year. Two of the companies set to list soon, China Shenhua Energy and Bank of Communications,

had planned to raise money on the domestic markets but dropped the idea because of the market's poor performance.

The biggest new listing out of China so far this year is Shanghai Electric Group, which raised \$648m in April. Its shares fell on the first day of trading and have since edged back up around their offer price.

The final company coming to market is China Cosco Holdings, which last week received approval from the Hong Kong stock exchange to go ahead with its initial stock sale valued at between \$1.5bn and \$2bn. The shipping company will begin sounding out investors today.

"At the end of the day, what you are going to see is the pricing is going to be very realistic," says Flavia Cheong, a fund manager at Aberdeen Asset Management in Singapore. "It's worth taking a look."

# Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Animal testing review published

A landmark report on animal testing guidelines was released last week. **Jenny Jopson** looks at the findings and asks: how close are we to seeing the end of what some call 'a necessary evil'?

It is condemned as immoral, unnecessary and cruel by those who oppose it, but for many scientists, and indeed anyone who pops a headache pill, the use of animals in research is a fact of life that cannot be easily dismissed.

Animal experimentation is regulated by strict Home Office guidelines, but has not been formerly reviewed in almost 20 years. Last week's publication of a report into the use of animals in research by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics sees the first review of the procedures and status of the debate since the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act of 1986.

*The Ethics of Research Involving Animals* was produced by a Working Party of academic and industry scientists, philosophers, members of animal protection groups, and a lawyer, over a period of two years. The diversity of professions and viewpoints within the working party reflects the fact that this issue is one that affects the whole of society, and is not confined purely to scientists and strident anti-vivisectionists. The main focus of the report is to introduce nuance into a debate that has traditionally been very polarised with respect to defenders and opponents, and to encourage wider public debate on an issue that affects us all.

Nick Ross, a member of the working party, argues that there is an inherent incompat-

ibility in society's approach to the issue of animal research: "While we consider ourselves an animal-loving nation and want to see less cruelty to animals, we also want to live in a risk-free society where we can use a new cosmetic, perfume or painkiller with confidence." He argued that only greater public engagement in the debate could tackle these difficult issues.

The report recommended further research into 'the three Rs': refinement (a decrease in the severity of procedures), reduction (a decrease in the number of

**"This issue is one that affects the whole of society and is not confined purely to scientists and strident anti-vivisectionists"**

animals used) and replacement (the substitution of living animals with non-sentient material such as tissue cultures or computer models). It also suggested that scientific papers should include information as to how the three Rs had been implemented.

The report also has significance for students of the biomedical sciences. Dr Lewis Smith, of Syngenta CTL, complains of the current shortage of graduates willing to work in the pharmaceutical industry due to the negative image of animal experiments. This

results in the loss to industry of many talented scientists, and necessitates more and more recruitment from overseas. Research conducted by the Wellcome Trust in 2001 found that women are less willing than men to undertake research involving animal experimentation, so further advances in replacement technologies could also help to decrease the gender gap.

Frustratingly, the report in itself has no legislative power, and can only make recommendations of changes in procedure. While a review of the current situation was clearly long overdue, and is to be welcomed, further advances now depend upon the actions of external funding bodies. And given the tight budgets of research institutions, diverting funds from direct research in order to invest in replacement technologies may present its own problems.

The report hopes that, ultimately, the need for live animal experimentation can be eliminated altogether. However, current replacement technologies still lag far behind this ideal. We are not in a position to abolish the use of animals in research any time soon, which is unlikely to please the anti-vivisectionist lobby. Indeed, we may never be able to replace animals entirely, but as is the case with many things that may ultimately elude us, there is no reason not to try.



The Nuffield report emphasised the need to reduce animal suffering and find replacement methods of testing that do not use animals

### Hitchhiker Exhibition Competition Result

Last week we asked: **Who wrote the original book *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*? The answer was...**

**c) Douglas Adams**

Congratulations to Emma Turner, who gets those two tickets to the exhibition

### This week at the Dana Centre

Expand your mind for FREE, right next to Imperial College's South Ken campus.

#### Inquiries and bookings:

Tel: 020 7942 4040

Email: tickets@danacentre.org.uk



#### Thursday 2 June, 7pm

#### Hitchhiker's Guide to Science

Could *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* inspire future inventions?

#### Tuesday 7 June, 7pm

#### Hitchhiker's Guide to Space Tourism

Feel like Arthur Dent. The physical effects of space travel

#### Wednesday 8 June

#### Astro Black Morphologies

To mark the opening of the Astro Black Morphologies installation in the Dana Centre, join the artists and their guests for an evening of sound performance

Who is the Godfather of genetics?

# I, science

A science magazine for Imperial College

Issue 2 hitting the walkway on June 14

# My uncle, the global warming sceptic

An Imperial alumnus and the first elected president of the students' union, Piers Corbyn is among the world's leading global warming sceptics. **Zoë Corbyn** talked to her uncle about his views

Piers Corbyn, Imperial College educated astrophysicist and students' union president 1969-1970, makes tea in the basement of Delta House on Borough High Street.

The kitchen smells of paint and drains. Fred Millson phones about housing struggles. The tea stews. Piers is 57 years old, tall, lean, pale and mildly unkempt. He has greying curls and glasses that he rarely removes. Today he wears a bright blue shirt.

He wants a copy of the latest *New Scientist*. It contains something quite important – a discussion of the sceptics' position, an exposé on the 'hockey stick' graph that purports to show temperatures higher than they have been

**"Our carbon dioxide pollution is not changing world temperatures in any significant way. It's not making a blind bit of difference"**

for 1000 years. The graph is a symbol of what has occupied Piers' mind for a very long time and will continue to occupy it certainly for the next five hours.

Since 1990, Piers' company, Weather Action, has been forecasting extreme weather events months and years in advance. The forecasts aren't always right, but their success rate is impressive. The method is lodged in two places – in Piers' head and in a secret safety deposit box. The business has grown and shrunk, gone through dot.com rises and dot.com crashes and stock exchange listings and delistings, and will likely do

so again. But for the moment it's in a period of "right sizing", hence the recent move to Delta House.

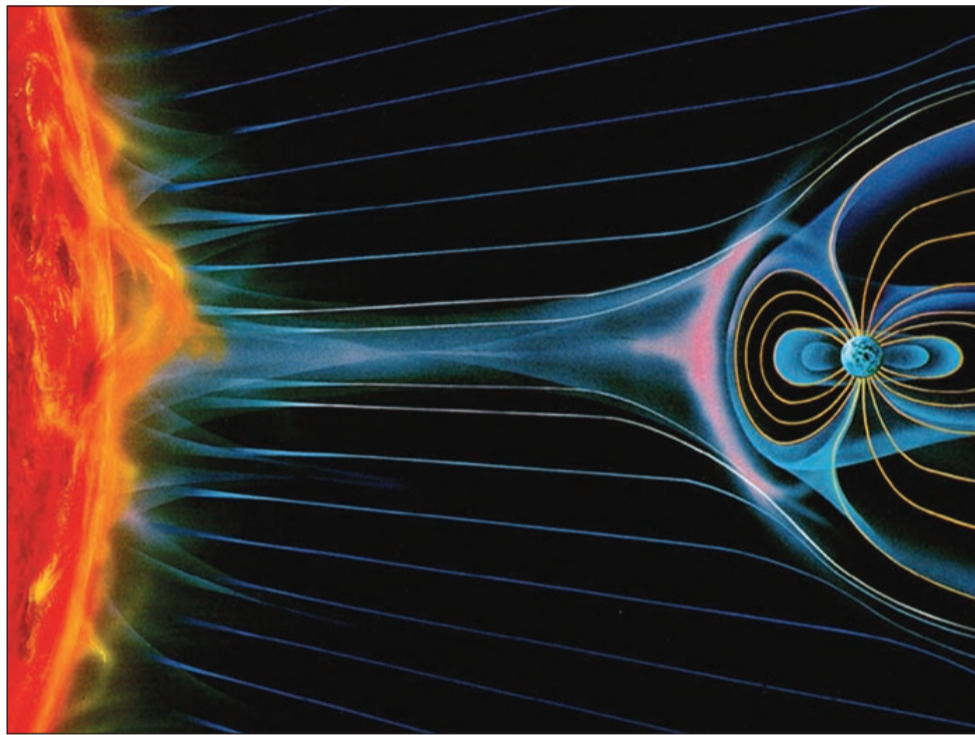
Weather Action's hub is number 19d – through triple doors on the third floor landing. But 19d can't hold everything. So the photocopier languishes outside the door, backed against a banner of solar corona. Weather Action files fill the shelves that fill the corridor that disappears to the communal courtyard. The walls are pin-drop thin.

But Piers does more than run Weather Action from 19d. He is also a leading climate sceptic, as confirmed by the Russian government.

For Piers, our carbon dioxide pollution is not changing world temperatures in any significant way. Not making a blind bit of difference. Any increase in temperature being experienced is an entirely natural phenomenon.

Piers' theory is that the real climate culprits are particles from the sun – the ones making up the solar wind and streaming earthwards to create lovely auroras at the north and south poles. They interact with the earth's magnetic field, driving the world's weather patterns and altering the global temperature. Partly delayed and over long time scales, world temperature then largely controls carbon dioxide levels. Any enhancing effects from our greenhouse gas pollution are small and second order. His data is based on a unique reworking of standard figures and published papers.

It means, for Piers, that carbon dioxide centred global warming theory is quasi-mystical – more sug-



Corbyn suggests changes in the Earth's temperature are due to solar particles interacting with the Earth's magnetic field

gestive of divine intervention or climate-homeopathy. Dangers of human-induced climate change are alarmist nonsense; the Kyoto protocol political absurdity. He's annoyed about how dishonest the other side is, that the global warming scientists will not engage in public debate. Instead they put environmental freaks up, who won't discuss the science and bandy about figures for the numbers of scientists that agree with them. Yada, yada, yada.

Piers and his mug of tea glide to the right of the photocopier and into room 19d. He manoeuvres into his desk. It forms an 'L' shape with the desk of his research assistant, Judy Humphrey. Coloured files and empty peanut butter jars protrude from the shelves that coat the walls. The room is like the final stages of a Tetris game – there is no space left.

He considers the day ahead. There's a farmer who wants a monthly forecast, the liquidation of Weather Action Limited to be finalised before the vampires bite, emails from the climate sceptics website to sort through and the paper to *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Judy arrives, but without the *New Scientist*. She has pretty, sprite-like features and is a recent planetary science graduate. She removes her chunky footwear and boots up her iMac. Piers can't pay her, but the interesting nature of the work seems to partially compensate while she looks for a PhD position. She met Piers through her dad.

Piers and Judy eat humous and cheese and tomato sandwiches. The computers add to the terrible heat of the room. They make jokes

about greenhouses and open the windows. Judy asks about progress on the paper.

"I've sent a summary," replies Piers.

Something weird happens to the correlation between world temperatures and solar particle effects in 1995. There's a divergence. World temperature goes one way and geomagnetic activity goes another. But Piers and Judy have a theory. It was announced at the Institute of Physics lecture on 2 February. It's a transpolar shift process. There's currently a rapid motion of the magnetic north

**"Piers' theory is that the real climate culprits are particles from the sun"**

pole towards the geographic north pole, producing extra warming. A movement away would give extra cooling. In the next five to ten years they think warming is likely to be maintained as a transpolar shift occurs. This will be followed by the magnetic pole moving away from the geographic pole, and considerable world cooling by 2040. Nils-Axel Morner recommended they try *Geophysical Research Letters*. He is a Stockholm University professor who Piers saw last at the sceptics' conference on the 27 January. Nils-Axel's particular beef is the wildly exaggerated claims about sea level rises.

"Did they have a positive response?" quizzes Judy.

"Well, the woman who wrote back said, 'I'm not a scientist, just send it in' sort of thing. But I think it will get published. Well the Russians have asked for it anyway. I've

got an email from Andrei Illarionov asking for it."

Andrei Illarionov is Russian president Vladimir Putin's economic advisor.

Piers likes talking about the Russians. At Andrei's invitation, he went to a conference in Moscow on the 7 and 8th July 2004. The "global warming dogmatists" were pressuring the Russians to sign Kyoto. They – Sir John Houghton and Sir David King, representing the British scientific establishment – talked them into holding the conference to kindly lecture the Russians on the ills of carbon dioxide.

It was an imperialist approach, says Piers. But Andrei Illarionov recognised it and saw an opportunity to turn things on their head. He invited seven leading sceptics from around the world – including Piers – but kept it quiet. A few days before the conference, Sir David got wind and phoned up to say that if the sceptics were there, the British contingent wouldn't be coming. Illarionov responded with words to the effect: "Very well, please yourself Sir David".

In the end, the British came anyway, but Sir David walked out soon after his speech saying he had no time and had to see a minister. Andrei Illarionov stood up and said this behaviour was totally unacceptable. Piers got so wrapped up in the trip that he missed the return flight to London and had to wait 17 hours in Moscow airport.

The Russians eventually did sign Kyoto, but Piers thinks they were just trying to out-play Europe.

Judy enters data from a book of astronomical tables. Piers examines today's

emails from the climate sceptics' network. He's sure "the enemy" has planted spies. To circumvent them, he occasionally only responds to known people.

"I don't know why you are referring to them as the enemy, we are not waging war quite," says Judy.

For Piers, the real difficulty with being a sceptic is that the opposition immediately assumes he is wrong, ignorant and, most commonly, funded by oil companies. They are big insults. But he would take the funding if he could get it. Though he would, of course, also ask for matched funding from the IPCC.

At a recent meeting, someone enquired whether the oil companies were buying Weather Action forecasts. Piers replied that the largest buyers were in fact farmers. But the questioner wouldn't believe him and instead described Mr Corbyn as being "dangerous".

It's these sort of remarks that lead Piers to provocative comparisons, which he recognises are rather over the top. He likens the campaign against the sceptics to that by the church against Galileo, the global warmers to Hitler's research scientists. To his delight, Piers was recently quoted in a magazine article as an example of a sceptic who definitely shouldn't be quoted.

But he has no doubt that people are being sacked and losing funding for not believing in global warming, and research scientists in Europe – where the global warming

**"He likens the campaign against the sceptics to that by the church against Galileo"**

lobby is centred – are doing very nicely indeed thank you.

For Piers, it's not just the science. The ramifications of the global warmers' doctrine worry him equally. He's deeply concerned by the potential for nuclear power and the potential for preventing third world development that the doctrine breeds. The hidden agenda, as Piers sees it, is to get high technology European industries at the top and keep them there – the developing world beholden to expensive carbon dioxide minimisation technology.

But it's irrelevant now, and the paper and the Russians and *New Scientist* will have to wait. He's off to the accountant now before closing time to deal with the liquidation of Weather Action Limited so the vultures can be put to bed and the company can breathe financially. He finishes sorting out the farmer and smartens up with a tie.



Piers Corbyn: Imperial College Union chief in 1969 (left); global warming sceptic in 2005 (right)

# Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Politics, cycling and sport

### NUS shenanigans

Yesterday I had the pleasure of sitting through a meeting of the Presidents of the Aldwych Group (the students' unions of the Russell Group of 19 leading research universities). One of the more contentious points of discussion was an update from Cardiff University on the situation of higher education funding in Wales – which actually required the NUS Vice President (Education) to have to walk out as she wasn't allowed to hear criticism of NUS staff.

To cut a long story short, Cardiff were upset that the NUS Wales President and his staff had been lobbying members of the Welsh Assembly to vote in favour of introducing top-up fees in Wales. This was against NUS Wales policy but was in line with the NUS Wales' political affiliations (he is a Labour activist). Whilst it's not for me to comment on what policy NUS Wales should or shouldn't have on tuition fees in Wales, I always despair when I hear

of student politicians putting their party political allegiances before their students. For me it underlines just how lucky we are not to be affiliated to the NUS and all the political shenanigans that go with it.

### Cycling safety

More eagle-eyed visitors to Beit Quad this last week will have noticed that the Imperial Standard has been flying at half mast for the last few days. This was in respect to Apijak Srivannavit, a student who was killed cycling on Cromwell Road. This follows the death in March of a much-loved ICT staff member, again cycling on the Cromwell Road. There have also been several reports in this paper of cyclists being injured.

Union officers have for some time been worried about the safety of Cromwell Road, which is part of the A4. Having driven in to London along that road many times (usually from Silwood Park) I can understand it from a driver's point of view. You

### STATE OF THE UNION



**MUSTAFA ARIF**  
UNION PRESIDENT

come in, from the M4, and it's mentally difficult to get out of the 'speed way' mind set, especially when you want to get home quickly. But that's not a good reason to compromise pedestrian safety.

We have tried to promote cycling proficiency courses before – and were offering some for free with

Kensington & Chelsea Council. However, the onus isn't just on cyclists to cycle safely. Transport for London must now take appropriate measures (traffic calming, dedicated lanes, etc) to make the A4 safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike. How many more fatalities does it need for the bureaucrats in the Mayor's office to sit up and listen?

### South Kensington sports facilities

As many of you are aware, Imperial will have a dearth of sports facilities at the South Kensington campus once Southside closes at the end of June. The new £18m sports centre is unlikely to be fully operational until January. That will mean increased pressure on other large hall spaces around College for indoor sports. We did look at relocating the fitness gym to the Union gym but that would have encroached on the only remaining gymnasium on campus. With Linstead hall residents having

evening meals in Sherfield, things will be pretty tight.

Ultimately things will be much better when the new sports centre does open. The new swimming pool and fitness gym will be free to all students and staff as the College's Director of Communications announced in his letter last week. There will be increased charges for clubs and societies to use the sports hall space, but this will be much less than the cost to the College of providing the free fitness gym and swimming pool. Overall the College will be spending more on students but the Union will have some difficult choices to make with respect to our large provision of indoor sports clubs.

### Elections reminder

Finally, don't forget. We have positions open for election, including the new Deputy President (Graduate Students). Find out how to stand for election by visiting [www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections).

## The joy of... plagiarism

There has been a lot of comment in this newspaper lately (front page, *Felix* 1323) regarding the topic of plagiarism. This has been echoing around the heady chambers of College's Senate and its sub-committees (on which I sit), and various Union committees in the last few weeks.

The College takes a very dim view of plagiarism, the act of taking without referencing from someone else's writing or speech. If caught, students can face anything from having to redo the piece of work to being forbidden from ever sitting any exams in the University of London, depending on the severity of the case.

Some students have expressed concern that they're not sure exactly what constitutes plagiarism. Directors of Studies are always keen to talk about the issue in their introductory speeches, and all students are given a copy

of the booklet *Learning to Learn*, which is also hidden deep inside the College website: [www.ic.ac.uk/educationaldevelopment/e-learning/learningtolearn.htm](http://www.ic.ac.uk/educationaldevelopment/e-learning/learningtolearn.htm).

Regarding the incidents in the Department of Chemistry, student representatives approached me, worried that the department might have acted heavy-handedly in the timing of its 'clampdown' in which they urged students to come forward if they wanted to confess to any instances of plagiarism. I took this up with Professor Tom Welton, the Director of Studies, and I was satisfied that, in the situation, the department acted reasonably. In this case, it did seem quite widespread, and about a dozen people came forward having committed plagiarism of some degree or other.

Many people have asked what the College is doing about it. Some students feel that the onus is on lecturers to develop imaginative

### UNCLE SAM



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

ways of preventing or discouraging plagiarism in the setting of their coursework. For instance, I know of one piece of coursework that has unique data which depends on the student's College ID number. Yes,

it will involve more work to think up new coursework, such that it's no longer possible to simply utilise the networks of students who are the guardians of coursework submissions dating back to before you were born, but the academic community must face facts and accept that prevention is better than remedy. Markers have at their disposal high-tech software, capable of comparing essays to work that's available online or has been submitted in the past.

Students are obviously under a lot of pressure (from families, sponsors, peers, lecturers and themselves) to succeed in their studies, and some go to any lengths to do so. Obviously, no-one ever said that degrees from Imperial grow on trees, and College figures such as the Pro-Rector (Educational Quality) are keen to point out that workload has not increased over the years and that it is reasonable to

expect what we do expect from our students.

The financial pressure on students today is such that many have to undertake part-time employment on top of their studies and any Union activities in which they may be involved. I have heard reports from students having to work as much as 20 hours a week to fund their studies. I suppose this is an appropriate point to mention the College's Student Support Officer ([student.support@ic.ac.uk](mailto:student.support@ic.ac.uk)) who administers the Hardship Fund. The Union's Information and Advice Centre ([advice@ic.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ic.ac.uk)) is also able to offer advice on financial and employment issues.

The bottom line is, in some departments, plagiarism has become a 'social crime' that has been normalised, and it's necessary to challenge this attitude before the College can move on.

## Five things you didn't know about the Summer Ball

By the Summer Ball committee

1. This year the Union has secured over £30,000 to be spent on the Summer Ball. That's a massive 10 times more than last year.

2. Every single penny from the ticket you buy goes back into the Summer Ball to make it bigger and better for you!

3. If you buy your ticket earlier rather than later, this gives us more time to arrange Summer Ball 'extras' such as a chocolate fountain, wandering magicians and 'Hollywood look-alikes'.

4. Every year most people leave it until the last few days before they buy their ticket for the Summer Ball.

5. So don't leave buying your ticket until the last moment – go and buy it now so we can make the Summer Ball even more amazing than it's already going to be.

# Letters to the Editor

## Library crisis revisited

Dear Dave,

I wholeheartedly endorse the comments of my anonymous colleague ('Library crisis', Felix 19 May). But what an extraordinary reply from the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, in the same issue. That he 'reacts with a smile' is offensive, sad... and typical. That people (ie critics of what currently goes on the IC library world) 'have to move with the times' shows how little he knows of the current situation. Has he actually visited the central library through the night to see what tiny fraction of the student population is using it... and how? Has he visited early in the morning to see the mess, ranging from pizza boxes and towers of empty beer bottles to smelly socks and sleeping bags? Has he called in during the day to see how many students can find neither table at which to work or chair to sit on due to the amount of personal possessions left by camping students who have gone home for a snooze but are treating the central library like a hotel so they can keep their own table for weeks on end? Yes, all this 'does make the place a bit different'; good of you to notice, sir. Good of you to acknowledge, too, that 'WE have to deal with that at the moment'. Why was there absolutely no anticipation of the likely problems by management this year after the similar mess of 2004?

And into this scenario it is aimed to decant yet more departmental libraries. Add to this the fact that the number of IC students increases each year, and that IC aims to move its humanities department into level 5 thereby reducing current library space. 'We have to consolidate as many of the departmental libraries as possible' says the rector because such moves are 'in the best interests of students ... That's what students want'. Few students avail themselves of 24/7 opening but render the central library unpleasant at best and unusable at worst for the majority. So, 'in their best interests', Sir Richard? I think not.

One wonders, when one hears that 24/7 was the most requested change

to library services from students, just how many actually called for it. Surely they had a right to expect there would be proper planning for it. Could it be that the rector has seen 24/7 opening at ivy league colleges in the US where, firstly, students show so much respect for their 'alma mater'; secondly, they are all very clear about rights and responsibilities; thirdly, security staff have very clear rules which they have an absolute right to enforce; fourthly, management not only give every support to security staff to implement best practice, they actually stick their collective heads above the parapet for once and show some signs of knowing how the library is being so abused, and show some genuine concern.

With departmental libraries in the central library, with more students, and with 24/7 opening, next year promises to be worse - much worse. By which time Sir Richard will be off, and staff and future students will just have to live with it, won't they?

Another central library librarian

Dear Editor,

I would like to follow up all the recent articles about the libraries and the state of the service. Clare Jenkins, the Director of Library Services, invited all the student reps to an informal meeting this evening to discuss the problems experienced over this year. It was an incredibly useful discussion if only to highlight the fact that students had something worthwhile to say and that they were also willing to listen to other side of the story.

The Mech Eng library closure has been well publicised and strongly fought. Clare was happy to divulge the 10 year plan of the library which would in fact mean that closure of all departmental libraries within the next ten years. She also wants to make sure that everyone knows that this is the plan instead of the shock tactics used by Mech Eng to make the inevitable hurt more. She was also keen to prove to us that she was acutely aware of the need for study space and adequate study

conditions. The discussion touched on the ventilation and heating in the central library, the litter and smell during the 24/7 hour season, the noise and the recent problem of desk hogging. The ICSM Rep also added that the opening hours at Charing Cross were not adequate for 4th years onwards who spend all summer studying for exams, and opening times during holidays, especially Christmas time.

It was a well attended meeting showing that the students obviously care about their library service. We know this is true from all the articles in Felix recently about various aspects of the library. However students need to be made aware that they must feedback to the library how they feel so things can be changed. Opening hours surveys are being conducted at the moment and there are plans to get undergraduate representation on a regular committee meeting. And did you know that if you cannot find your core textbook there is a link to tell them directly? ([www.imperial.ac.uk/library](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/library) and go to contacts, feedback link.) This means that Clare then has the vital student voice in pushing what WE want to have and not letting decisions obliviously go on around us or problems unnoticed.

Helen Dawson  
Mech Eng Dep Rep

## An alternative to fees

Dave,

In your last comment piece, you said that Top-Up Fees campaigners should have put forward alternative funding strategies. We did!

I remember one exceedingly long Union Council meeting in 2002 where Etienne Pollard, along with the rest of the Top-Up Fees Working Group, did exactly that! In fact Union Council eventually plumped for the alternative funding model of restructuring higher education and removing the target of 50% of young people going into HE, alongside creating more vocational course places. This model had been costed by us and public opinion had

been sought.

It wasn't just us that were putting forward this model though; the Government's own white paper on HE funding discussed this model and indicated that it was a less financially onerous option for the individual and society. Despite all the evidence available in support of this model, the Government still went ahead with Top-Up Fees.

It's all very well having an alternative, but if the powers that be don't want to listen then they won't.

Yours,

Katherine McGinn  
ICU Top-Up Fees Working Group  
2002-3  
Deputy President (Education & Welfare) 2003-4

Dave Edwards, Editor, replies:

*I did not mean to criticise Imperial's response to the introduction of top-up fees; rather my comments were aimed at protesters nationally, such as the NUS, who I felt had sent a strong "no to fees" message without giving the same emphasis to whatever alternatives they favoured.*

## Rebranding the Rector

Sir,

My proposal is to harmonise the senior management structure of the College with the 'clear and uncomplicated' rebranding exercise instigated by the Rector in 2003. The next phase of rebranding would target other aspects of the college from a 'bygone age' - such as Sir Richard himself.

"I think it would be a good move forward" said Augustus Plantagenet-Bolingbrooke, one advocate of the new phase of rebranding. "If you were to look at a page with the Rector's name on it you would see a nice modern 'Dick, Rector' without having to read all this other stuff about 'Sir Richard Sykes DSc FRS, Rector of Imperial College'."

The rebranding would mean that Sir Richard, after receiving his Knighthood in the 1994 New Year's

Honours list, would not use any of his titles in the majority of publications. "It wouldn't mean that we would discard Sir Richard's Knighthood, or his Fellowship of the Royal Society, his Honorary Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Fellowship of Imperial College of Medicine, Fleming Fellowship of Lincoln College, Oxford; nor his Honorary Doctorate in Pharmacy from the University of Madrid; his Honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the universities of Brunel, Cranfield, Imperial, Bristol, Edinburgh, Hertfordshire, Hull, Huddersfield, Leeds, Leicester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Strathclyde, Warwick or Westminster; they would just be used for special occasions."

It is noted that Sir Richard worked incredibly hard to obtain doctorates from all these universities, partly by employing scientific methods in the business world. For example, as chairman of the remuneration committee at Rio Tinto in April 2003, he used a very scientific method in the calculation of the 22% increase (from £46,000 to £56,000) in remuneration of Rio Tinto non-executive directors, including himself. The algorithm used was undoubtedly very advanced, since the adjusted share price of Rio Tinto fell some 7% in the previous year of 2002.

"We haven't actually done a survey of the Rector, or the students, but I think it would be an interesting concept, if Dick turned out to be unbelievably conservative himself and rejected the proposals..." said Augustus.

- Highlights of the proposals:
- Sir Richard Sykes would henceforth be referred to as 'Dick, Rector' or simply 'Dick', use of the abbreviation 'Sir D' should be discouraged.
  - A new website would be created, called 'e-Rector', to help the college understand the new guidelines for rebranding.
  - The new phase of rebranding concept will be paid for by 'Dick' in the same way that the college paid for itself to be rebranded by an incredibly expensive image consultancy firm.

Name and department supplied

# techforum - connecting departments across Imperial College

## By the techforum team

Ever been in a situation where you need specific technical advice in an area outside your field of expertise? Ever wondered what research goes on in various departments across college? Ever wanted to team up with people having complimentary skills to develop an innovative idea? If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions then read on...

In March this year, a new technical discussion forum - techforum - was launched with the broad objective of providing an informal means of technical information exchange throughout college. techforum is open to staff and students alike and



The techforum main page

requires registration to post messages. Since launch, the site has attracted approximately 265 registered users from all campuses and a wide range of departments. Once a 'critical mass' of registered users is established, the site will provide



Posts in a subforum

an excellent platform for connecting people for anything ranging from technical information exchange to networking for teambuilding and innovation. With time, techforum will help to remove perceived boundaries between research groups and

increase the visibility of interdisciplinary activities at Imperial to stimulate a more synergistic environment for teaching and research.

To register with techforum, please visit <http://techforum.ee.ic.ac.uk/forum/> and click 'Register' on the top right of the main page and follow the instructions. Please remember to check the 'Always notify me of replies' box if you wish to receive e-mail notification of replies to your posted messages.

Registered users can also choose to subscribe to send, receive and reply to new posts via e-mail, reducing the need to revisit the site for updates. This important feature combines the advantages of discus-

sion forums and mailing lists. To subscribe to this service, registered users need to click 'Forum subscriptions' on the main page and choose which categories to subscribe to from the drop-down menu.

Free techforum pens are available to the first 500 registered users; meaning a remaining 235 pens at the last count! This is our way of saying 'thank you' for your participation in something which will surely be of great benefit to us all!

We look forward to seeing you on the site!

For further information, comments and general site feedback, please contact us at: [techforum@ic.ac.uk](mailto:techforum@ic.ac.uk)

# Columns

felix@ic.ac.uk

## The Neighbours generation



by RUPERT NEATE

### Big Brother to blame for teen pregnancy

Worthy government agencies are, this week, blaming reality TV shows such as *Big Brother* for the

rise in teenage pregnancies. The UK currently holds the undesirable title of teen pregnancy capital of Europe.

The Brook Advisory centre stated this week that the intense media interest as to whether any of the vacuous contestants have got jiggy is to blame for teenage pregnancy.

Why shouldn't we be interested in the sexual antics of *Big Brother* or *Love Island* contestants? Well, for a start, its hardly intellectual thought-provoking telly is it? Perhaps we should be spending our time engaged in more fulfilling activity, like reading Ulysses. Perhaps. But there are times when you just want to mong out in front

of some mindless telly, the main virtue of which is the very fact that you don't have to concentrate on it. We are programmed to be interested in sex, so it would be a little worrying if we suddenly lost interest – the population is decreasing as it is.

I believe it is too simplistic and, perhaps, even contradictory to blame *Big Brother* and other reality TV for teen pregnancies. The UK has twice as many teenage mothers than France and Germany where sex is omnipresent on TV screens, to the extent that shampoo adverts show more heaving bosoms than hair.

In my opinion the perceived wisdom that talking about and exposing

children to sex encourages them to engage in sexual congress is in fact the reverse of what actually occurs in practice. We have six times more sprog-producing teens than the liberal Dutch. When things are secretive or hidden they become much more intriguing and generate interest, and this isn't just the case with sex.

Sex education is notoriously bad in schools. It might have improved somewhat now, but I didn't get my first sex ed class until year nine. I'm from the south so it was probably just in time, but it is still woefully late.

This warning comes at a time of reignited public debate in the wake of the revelation that three sisters

in Derby all gave birth by the time they were 16. Is it remotely conceivable to blame *Big Brother* or *Celebrity Love Island* for this baby factory? The mother of the girls blames schools and the government for providing inadequate sex education, and she may have a point. But, if you were the mother, after the first girl gave birth, wouldn't you sit her sisters down and spell it out?

One could be cynical, like some of the tabloids, and suspect that girls with few prospects see becoming pregnant as the only alternative to a hand-to-mouth existence. The three sisters are suspected to be receiving more than £600 a week in benefits.

## String theory



by AARON S

Exams are like pieces of string. Each piece of string is holding you up, high above the real world. The more strings there are, the less pressure there is on each one. Each time you sit an exam, a string breaks, bringing you closer to freedom down below. Once the final string snaps, away you go. Whether you land on your head or on your

feet depends on the way the strings break.

Taking the analogy a little further, some may say too far, some strings could be elastic, so that just when you think you are free and away, you bounce back and have to do resits. By the time you read this, my final string will have broken and I shall be free and falling through the nine circles of project hell.

Strings can be used in so many analogies. Life is like a piece of string, floating in the wind. Sometimes turbulently, sometimes calmly. Sometimes two pieces of string can become tangled together, either briefly, or knotted forever.

Relationships are like string, tying you down, impinging upon your freedom to go drinking with your mates or have sex with many, many beautiful women. But also, like string, they can be a source of strength. Two

objects tied together are stronger than one.

As I sit here nursing a hangover and thinking about string, my mind drifts to the three questions posed last week by Miss Woods. What is my definition of a slut? What about promiscuous males? What is your world when you are asleep or under anaesthetic?

My definition of a slut is, coincidentally, the same as the OED's definition of a slut. Great minds think alike eh? "A woman characterised by many transient sexual relationships." In case I caused offence to the undefiled Stormy, it should be noted that I only said she *sounds* like a slut, and that I was not casting judgment, since to do so would be to invite judgment to be cast upon me.

Secondly, promiscuous males do not, as far as I am aware, get their own word. So I will invent one and

hope it catches on: 'snut'. I don't know very many snuts. I'm not particularly enthusiastic about the idea. That's about all I think of it. People can do whatever the hell they like just as long as it doesn't bug me.

And finally, I've never been under anaesthetic, but when I am asleep my world becomes filled with chocolate boxes and roses. Fields of daffodils. Shooting stars flying through the Milky Way. A world of happiness and natural beauty.

You see, relationships aren't about sex. Sex to relationships is like cream to strawberries. Just the right amount can be nice, too much is sickly, and strawberries are damn nice with none at all (drinking cream on the other hand...).

Do you know what the human body goes through when you have sex? Pupils dilate, arteries constrict, core temperature rises, heart races,

blood pressure skyrockets, respiration becomes rapid and shallow, the brain fires bursts of electrical impulse from nowhere to nowhere, and secretions spit out of every gland. And the muscles tense and spasm like you're lifting three times your body weight. It's violent, it's ugly and it's messy.

Sex is like a superstring. Tiny objects vibrating at various frequencies with different amplitudes give rise to a veritable zoo of particles and life forms. And if we can figure out how to link superstrings to a theory of attraction, we will have solved one of the greatest mysteries of the universe.

In the meantime, remember some wise words from CS Lewis: "Mortal lovers must not try to remain at the first step; for lasting passion is the dream of a harlot and from it we wake in despair."

## The answers



by SUMA BHATTACHARYA

So now you know I don't know anything, read on.

I stand by my right to ask questions without needing validity through the promise of any answers. However, answers are another part of the whole process of our short experience in this consciousness. Asking "why?" (though obviously many of my questions do utilise the rest of the magic 'w' words) is just a con-

tinual effort and a journey to repair the blind subservience I have given into at some points in my life. The syndrome, I have witnessed time and time again, of enslaving oneself to the first experience, or first book, or first philosophy that fell off the shelf and hit us on the head. Asking is good, it gives people the opportunity to answer.

I went to a really interesting talk last year with a priest, a rabbi and an imam. Yes I had questions and indeed the rabbi was lovely and really respected what I was trying to ask. Unlike how some may see my presence, my questioning is with all ears and mind open for the answers. After asking some questions about hell (strictly speaking I tend to always be heading towards that elusive place, especially according to those jolly guys preaching in Oxford street every time I go shoe shopping), he said something very

true. Someone cannot be an atheist while still looking. Does that mean "being" anything means we are closing ourselves off from discovering? I cannot "be" an atheist if I am still asking.

A point of information, I am not an atheist in the conventional sense. I think the imam was just trying to reassure me about hell and that I certainly still have hope. My view is far more optimistic, I always have hope. I am thinking cryogenics.

Then there are those places where questions are welcomed but shrouded with sinister animosity. I was at 'discovery of Islam' week and before I knew it someone decided to apologise to me for the bad feeling arousing from my enquiries. I was oblivious to becoming unpopular and gladly so. Someone even suggested that my being there was just for the sake of asking something

– obviously they just didn't understand the intellectual content of the queries posed.

What was actually interesting to observe was the night that the Christian society came and posed their questions. It was almost amusing to see the steam seething from both sides like a modern day Tory-Labour fight in the commons – so much bickering over ultimately the same underlying philosophy!

Hey, look... I know the differences in the detail (the devil loves lying there) but surely it is the same God. What was really striking is how the majority of the onlookers were far more able to engage in the debate between the Christian holy trinity and Islamic interpretation of it, than my delving enquiries. Probably because my challenges appealed to the part of the mind that had died that day the book fell off the shelf.

The answers I have faced so far have had many forms. There are those that are "rational" who love to back up their arguments either with philosophical science they dreamt up in their sleep, or statistics they grew in their back garden. Then of course there are the "irrational", where the irrationality of the argument itself tends to be an argument for it. The passionate "this is the truth because I have found it and I know it is true because I feel it in my heart. Oh, and this book says so," is always a good one.

It is great listening to everything and maybe sometimes it is predictable and a whole lot of bother. So why do I persist? Because sometimes I discover little gems and it delights me. When I do ask, I am always prepared for my humble intelligence to be taken as a sign of easy prey and before long I discover everybody has the answers, except me!



# The girl about town



by STORMY WOODS

"I've been waiting, I'm still waiting..."

Faithless lyrics. That's what I hope you've all been singing along to in eager anticipation of my ruminatory musings this week. Musings on a meeting with Imperial's finest social analyser, the inimitable Mr Geraldes.

Inimitable, you say? I'd like to think so, since my meetings with gentlemen of the Latin disposition were previously limited to crude hip-hop videos and bad J-Lo movies, not to mention my mother's hideous Julio Iglesias CD collection, to which I'd rather not give a smidgen of recognition. I also hadn't had the privilege of hanging out with a biomedical engineering student before I met Diogo - I hold my hands up to assuming it ranked among the 'spot the non-Chinese person' courses based in the engineering faculty, and straightforwardly denounced any chances of having company from here. (Well, it's true, isn't it - non-EU international students tend to hang out in incestuous packs; I should know having been ignored by half my hall compatriots back in Wilson in 2001!)

So what was he like then? Charming, talkative and funny, albeit decidedly arrogant in the nicest possible way. Diogo is undoubtedly handsome, in the rugged way all Football Italia fans like their men (think Luis Amor Rodriguez from *Dream Team*), and chivalrous. Our topics of conversation included life in Lisbon, life at Wilson, life in London and partying.

I've discovered a similar arrogance in many affluent gentlemen from cultures where the female is subservient. It's not intentional, more a bravado-type front. Either way, it's slightly unappreciated by a female capable of making and holding her own opinion when it comes to a relationship context, which, my fair readers, won't be the case with me and our dearest social analyser, for these reasons and more.

So we're back to square one... or so it seems. Stormy's one-night stand with the Oxford clitophobe (he wouldn't go down on me, so I kicked him out onto the streets) has led to begging and pleading of the most desperate kind. Clitophobe, who incidentally owns a pyramidal penis, hated being kissed with a tongue and failed to see the point in a Brazilian, would like to have a second chance.

Second chances are all very well if you're willing to experiment and compromise; something that he, the king of Oxford Mechsoc, failed to do. Stormies do not go down on you if you refuse to go down on them. Laming out and snoring once you've had your fun does not do you any favours, along with endless begging and pleading emails and phone calls to tell me how great I am. Ego-

stroking is for the insecure. Try a new flex.

Speaking of new flexes, I'd like to tell you that I got mistaken for a fresher by a Busted lookalike trio in the first year of ICSM when I accosted them in the midst of a diner on Kings' Road. Flattering isn't it, when you're about to enter your fifth year of perjury?

Mindless charm aside, these fair chappies failed to recognise that people from different years *do* socialise in the medschool. They also failed to realise that the 'future doctor flex' of staring at a girl for 20 minutes wearing an ICSM clubs and socs top may occasionally fail when the girl you're fixating upon is going to be making you do her legwork around a local hospital in 730 days and counting.

Adventures make the world go round. I'll see you next week.

# Analyse them



by DIOGO GERALDES

As this is my last article this year (everyone has to be a bit of a nerd sometimes), I decided to finish with an explosive investigation. Yes, unselfish Diogo spent three minutes of his week thinking about humanity's most mysterious problems and trying to figure out

solutions to them.

## Mystery 1: Why do girls go to the bathroom in groups of three at least?

Are they afraid of being attacked? No! Otherwise they would bring the whole rugby society or a cricket bat with them. Maybe they help each other with their makeup? I find that hard to believe, because being a girl (or a metrosexual) is all about keeping the secrets of beauty and style away from our 'opponents' and trying to beat them at every opportunity.

They say that men are perverts because all they think about is sex, girls and sex (this is so not true: we also think about beer, Angelina Jolie and making love), but the same hap-

pens with girls: they are horny 70% of their time, and the other 30% they spend thinking about how horny they were before! So they gather in the bathroom and start exchanging impressions about the guy that works in the sandwich shop, the bloke-that-smiled-at-them-right-before-throwing-up-and-collapsing-due-to-the-amount-of-alcohol-he-drunk or the sexy hunk from the third floor in the library who won't stop staring at them (even if all he wants is a share of their university physics book).

## Mystery 2: Where are Saddam's weapons of mass destruction?

I'm sorry but I only included this topic to make my column look

respectful and serious. How can I find something that seemed harder to find than life on other planets?

Moving on...

## Mystery 3: Where do all the umbrellas go?

This world has six thousand million inhabitants. Almost half of them have had umbrellas at some point in their lives. But, let me think for a bit:

1. A big percentage of people have umbrellas.
2. Everyone loses at least one umbrella per lifetime.
3. Nobody finds umbrellas.

So where the hell do they go? Do they have their own refugee camp, Umbrellaland? Are they hiding from us? And why would they do

it? Who's stealing them? Where are they kept?

I thought I was audacious enough to answer to this mystery, but it blatantly has no solution!

And finally...

## Mystery 4: Who is Stormy Woods?

Everyone who reads her column wonders what does she look like, how does she dress and where does she go clubbing. Yesterday I had the opportunity to solve this mystery in High Street Ken, but I won't reveal much (since I was begged not to).

So I'll let you keep your own sexual or envious thoughts without disturbing them, feeling delighted for being the chosen one. What a man must do for the good of humanity...

## Competitions

# Win PS2 games

**Fight Night Round 2**, the sequel to the critically acclaimed 'Fight Night', is out now. Featuring over thirty licensed boxers, including cover star Ricky Hatton, Fight Night Round 2 allows you to perform like a champion and with the all new Haymaker feature you'll be able to take your opponents down with the just one blow.

**Midnight Club 3: DUB Edition** is the quintessential racing game for any true aficionado of the automotive and racing lifestyle. It is the only game to offer the full range of street vehicle culture. The full spectrum includes import tuners, muscle cars, motorcycles and luxury rides, all of which are fully customisable in both style and performance. Compete head to head with the best and most stylish racers in three of America's premier cities - San Diego, Atlanta and Detroit - each with multiple living and breathing neighbourhoods.

**Cold Winter** is the FPS that is set to take the PlayStation2 by storm, with its extensive attention to detail and hyper-realistic gameplay dynamics, built specifically with the idea of creating a PC shooter experience for the console audience. You are Andrew Sterling, British MI6 agent and expert in the kind of covert operations the public doesn't believe proper governments engage in. The game is released tomorrow, Friday 3 June.



We have a copy of each of the three games to give away. Just answer the following question:  
**What is currently top of the official UK games chart?**  
**(a) Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith**  
**(b) Half Life 2**  
**(c) Forza Motorsport**

Email your answer to felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 7 June. The first person to be randomly selected after the closing date will win the prize.

THE FELIX INTERVIEW

felix@ic.ac.uk

# What's really happening at Wye?

The future of the Wye campus is top of the agenda as **Dave Edwards** talks to the Deputy Rector, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz

PHOTO: SIMON CLARK



"I think this is the most fantastic educational institution in the United Kingdom" – Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz (left), Deputy Rector of Imperial College, with Dave Edwards

Last September, Imperial College announced plans to transfer almost all undergraduate teaching away from the Wye campus. The Department of Agricultural Sciences – which is wholly based at Wye – will be closed and the future of the campus is under threat.

Students' groups at Wye have since expressed frustration at a perceived lack of communication from College management. They have also questioned the reasons why the College has chosen this particular course of action.

Since his appointment last year, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Deputy Rector, has spent much of his time dealing with this difficult situation. With this in mind, I took the opportunity to try to find some of the answers Wye students have been looking for.

The Deputy Rector explains that such sweeping changes are necessary for three main reasons: low student numbers on most courses at Wye, declining research standards and – unsurprisingly – huge debts.

He tells me: "One of the first things I had to do was to ask the question, why is this Faculty [of Life Sciences, of which he is Acting Principal] in considerable debt? We looked carefully at what was going on, and found that about 40% of that deficit was down to the Department of Agricultural Sciences, which was totally

based at the Wye campus. So it was decided to close that department.

"Very quickly we began to look at certain courses that were being held at Wye, which were attracting such low numbers of students that sometimes we ended up having more teachers than students, and that is completely untenable. With the support of Senate [the College's senior academic body], it was decided to close those courses.

"The third reason was the academic

**"Certain courses at Wye were attracting such low numbers that sometimes we ended up having more teachers than students"**

achievement. If you look at the results of the last Research Assessment Exercise, they questioned whether Wye was achieving the levels of excellence that Imperial sets itself."

Sir Leszek insists that the College is good at communicating and consulting with its students, despite the fact that certain groups at Wye would strongly disagree. "A lot of the consultation that takes place is more informal than formal,

and I think that is a strength," he says. "I offer monthly meetings to the Faculty President and the student president at Wye, so they have every opportunity to bring up any anxiety. So yes, I believe we are good at communicating with the student body."

An official College press release, dated last August, suggests otherwise. It reads: "There will be no impact on course provision for current or prospective (2005 entry) students on taught undergraduate or postgraduate courses." But Sir Leszek tells me not only that prospective students in agricultural sciences were told to look elsewhere, but also that he cannot guarantee that current students will complete their courses at Wye.

"We made it absolutely clear that we were closing those courses down," he says. "The decisions were taken early so that those who were applying had the opportunity to apply to other institutions that were offering those courses.

"We will continue to support [current] students on whichever course they have undertaken at Imperial. They will complete that course at Imperial, we have made that commitment absolutely clear." But will that be at the Wye campus or elsewhere? "I can't make that absolute guarantee."

Sir Leszek says he "doesn't know" whether sections of the Wye campus

will be sold off, but hopes to reassure students that "this is not Armageddon tomorrow. We're talking about a medium term plan. This is a three to five year think about how we're going to manage this process."

He believes that "there are some very good science-related groups that work at Wye," some of which are "working below the high levels of excellence that we believe they're capable of, and so will have to relocate from the Wye campus."

**"The RAE questioned whether Wye was achieving the levels of excellence that Imperial sets itself"**

He tells me that Wye College could still be a centre for academic excellence, but in an entirely different form. "What's happening is you're locked into the concept that Wye has to be a land-based, biology-based campus," he says. "Why? It may actually have an opportunity to be something very different."

"What I do believe, having looked at it very carefully, is that where there is academic opportunity in Wye, it will almost

certainly not reside in the Life Sciences area, because the critical mass does not support the kind of science that I believe Imperial should be undertaking on that campus."

**The best in the UK?**

As one would expect, the Deputy Rector also has a range of other issues to deal with. He joined Imperial from the University of Wales in 2001, the year in which he was knighted in recognition of his research into vaccines.

He has high praise for his place of work. "I think this is the most fantastic educational institution in the United Kingdom," he says confidently. "I think it's way ahead of anywhere else. It's a place that has its own identity and purpose, and it looks after its staff and students extremely well. Excellence is the main driver, be that in education, in training or in research, that's what it strives for, so there's no place I'd rather be."

Strong words indeed, but surely the most fantastic educational institution in the UK would be number one in all the league tables... wouldn't it?

"We aren't the dreaming spires of Oxford and Cambridge," says Sir Leszek. "We are a very different institution. There are certain things that are always going to be far more difficult for us to score on,

but if you look at things like engineering we're at the very top."

**Student activities**

The Deputy Rector was heavily involved in student activities in his younger days, as 'President of the Non-Sporting Societies' at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff. He believes that our students' union is "very independently minded" and "very effective".

**"Current students will complete their course at Imperial, but will that be at Wye? I can't make that absolute guarantee"**

"When it wants to be heard, it makes its views known," he says. "Something that has always impressed me is that you can always have a proper discussion and debate with students here, who I believe share the vision that we have for Imperial – they want this to be a high quality institution that reflects their own abilities in being here."

Unsurprisingly, given his own involvement as a student, he believes that clubs

and societies are "very important." So why is he asking the Union to justify its club and society activity in the latest financial planning round?

"Because I ask everyone to justify financially all the activities they undertake. We have to decide how far we're able to sponsor a particular activity for a small number of students, given the budget that we have."

When I ask him whether club budgets are going to be cut, he quickly brings up the new sports centre, where "we're looking at making certain activities free of charge." It appears, then, that Union clubs may have their budgets cut in order to make certain activities free of charge at the sports centre.

"We're actually freeing individual students from having to pay membership fees for certain activities, which will increase the amount of resource that students have available to them. Clubs will have to say, well, if students wish to participate in certain group activities then maybe they will have to contribute rather more to those clubs and societies."

And will he be the next Rector? "I've no idea," replies Sir Leszek, who has been touted as the obvious successor to Sir Richard Sykes. "But what I can say is that the next Rector of Imperial College will have one of the most important jobs in British higher education."

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# Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Adventure racing: running, cycling and Jaffa Cakes

### OUTDOOR CLUB

By Robert Mahen

*"You're not designed for office life. You're not designed to just sit there. You're a hunter-gatherer, dammit."*

– Outdoor clothing company slogan

Cycling to college at 4.30am on a Sunday is bad enough, but when you are on your way to an adventure race having never done anything of the sort before, you seriously ask yourself what on earth you are doing.

A few months ago I was introduced to adventure racing. Teams or solo competitors orienteer around the countryside in a multi-sport event based around trail running

lasts in the order of hours to days. Being familiar with running and cycling (but not talented in either), I wanted to give it a go, and last week four of us from Imperial entered a 'Dynamic Adventure Race' in the Quantocks in Somerset. I mean, how hard can a bit of orienteering be?

Adventure racing has been described as "the UK's fastest growing sport" (admittedly on adventure racing websites), but before the event I had little idea of what to expect. We competed in a 'standard' event aimed at newcomers, which had time limits of two hours for running and three hours for cycling with a one hour transition period (ie eat Jaffa Cakes and rest as much as you can) in between. The aim was to visit as many checkpoints as possible from

annoyingly hilly surrounding area, although there were complications such as different score values which were only revealed after the start of the race.

To give more of an idea of what it's like, here's how it started. Arnaud and myself began by going straight up a brutal gradient, which reduced us to more of an embarrassing shuffle than a run. Halfway up, I had the fun and games of trying to find a 30cm long hidden stick based on a grid reference. After ten minutes of looking, I noticed a solo competitor much older than ourselves who we had passed on the way up, exiting the area in a different direction. Predictably, he had proceeded straight to the checkpoint and expended far less energy.

The run continued like this for the next two hours, and we admired some spectacular views on the way, even managing enough words for a debate about the utility of waterproof socks (I'm buying some after this). Surprisingly we visited every checkpoint and sprinted back to the start location on time, cheered on at the end by our friend who had so easily found the marker post earlier.

So we were leading as we began the cycling, and I was beginning to think this adventure racing lark was easy. Big mistake. My calves cramped up and I had to be helped even to collapse to the floor, where I spent 15 minutes, probably whinging in a less than manly fashion. Anyone who has had cramp like this will know what I'm talking about, and if you don't then you are missing nothing, but for the next three hours I was forced to quickly relax my calves every time cramp threatened to paralyse them.

Despite this, the mountain biking was awesome fun, with technical downhill forested areas, where my technique consisted of nothing more than holding on and releasing the brakes more, the muddier it got. Our inexperience showed in terms of our overall position, as we concentrated too much on scoring points, meaning that we got back late with a heavy deduction. This really didn't matter though, and we finished a more than respectable second overall, with Imperial's other pair – Dan and Matthew – doing brilliantly and winning the whole thing.

The few walkers that we passed certainly looked amused by our exertions,



"You may think we're mad..." – Imperial adventure racers Rob and Arnaud

and you too may think this all sounds like an idiotic thing to do. In some respects I can't argue with that! But I found it difficult to be stressed about the little unimportant things on Monday morning, having pushed myself near my limits the previous day. It's like Ed Norton said: after Fight Club, everything else got the volume turned down. Adventure racing was no fight club, and is accessible to anyone who is moderately fit, as was proved by me managing to finish a race. You may still think I'm mad, but I urge anyone tempted to give it a go: it is not about extreme endurance (at this level anyway).

Some highlights of the trip:

- Witnessing a student adventure racer's (Dan) breakfast at 5am: Jaffa Cakes and a value Swiss roll, washed down with some value coke.
- Passing a herd of deer running in the opposite direction.
- Consulting the map and realising we were taking the high road (ie going uphill), not the low road (down). Numerous times.
- Sprinting up to a cairn in misty and wet conditions as bright sunshine abruptly appeared (sounds pretty cheesy – all I can say is give it a go!)
- Chatting to other competitors afterwards: I felt strangely bonded to people who had gone through the

same experience, and when I was suffering with cramp every person who passed by enquired as to my health. One random female competitor even stopped to give me a calf massage.

I heard somewhere that being a talented endurance athlete requires a deficit in short term memory in order to keep returning to the event! I have great memories of my first adventure race, and, thinking about it, perhaps I could manage that eight hour race later in the year...

For more information, visit [www.sleepmonsters.com](http://www.sleepmonsters.com).

Contact the Outdoor Club at [outdoor@ic.ac.uk](mailto:outdoor@ic.ac.uk) or [daniel.carrivick@ic.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.carrivick@ic.ac.uk)



Winner: Imperial's Dan Carrivick

SURVEY

felix@ic.ac.uk

# The Grand Felix Survey 2005

Fill in our survey and win...

- half your weight in chocolate
- twice your height in beer
- ten times your girth in liquorice pipes

TWO prizes are on offer: one lucky winner will be drawn out of the hat simply for completing the survey. A second prize will be awarded for the best suggestion on how we can improve *Felix* next year. Both prizes can be selected from the list above

**Please either email your answers and suggestions to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) with 'SURVEY' in the subject line, or post them into the collection envelopes located at Felix distribution points around College**



Name..... Dept..... Year..... Email.....@ic.ac.uk

What is your overall opinion of this year's *Felix*?

Very good    Good    Average    Poor    Very poor  
               

Do you think this year's *Felix* has been...

	Yes	Occasionally	No
informative?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
interesting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
entertaining?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
better than last year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you think there should be more or less coverage in *Felix* in the following areas?

	More	The same	Less
College news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
News from elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Columns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funny stuff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
College sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wider sport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interviews:			
people within College	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
other people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nightlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Film	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Computer games	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you prefer *Felix* to continue in its current tabloid newspaper format or revert to the A4 glossy magazine version of previous years?

Newspaper      
 Glossy magazine      
 Don't care   

In next year's *Felix* we plan on including the following items. What are your opinions of these ideas?

	Good idea	Don't care	Bad idea
Page 3 (nudity)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agony aunt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horoscopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fashion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recipes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restaurant reviews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blind dating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What day of the week would you like *Felix* to come out?

.....

Do you have any ideas on how *Felix* can be improved next year? (Remember there's a prize for the best suggestion)

.....  
 .....  
 .....

**Also if you have any problems that you would like our team of highly 'qualified' agony aunts and uncles to deal with, please send them to me: [rupert.neate@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rupert.neate@ic.ac.uk)**

**Would you like to become more involved with *Felix* next year? We would like as many contributors as possible. Your skills are required in all fields – we need reporters, columnists, photographers, section editors and a PA to the editor. Think how good it will look on your CV, and *Felix* bar nights will be returning. If you're at all interested, please get in touch: [rupert.neate@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rupert.neate@ic.ac.uk)**

# What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

## FRIDAY 3 JUNE

### CONCERT IMPERIAL COLLEGE CHOIR AND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

8pm  
Great Hall, Sherfield Building  
£3 students, £7 others in advance; £4/£8 on the door  
Imperial College Symphony Orchestra and Imperial College Union Choir, along with members of the Thomas Hardy School Choral Society, will be performing Beethoven's *Symphony No 9* and Bruckner's *Te Deum*.  
Contact: zoe.little@ic.ac.uk

### UNION EVENTS JAZZ & ROCK BAND NIGHT

8pm-2am  
Beit Quad  
£3  
Your very own college's live music society takes over the Union to give top class entertainment from seven awesome college blues, funk and rock bands. £1 a pint Carlsberg and Tetley.  
Contact: union@ic.ac.uk

## TUESDAY 7 JUNE

### CHAPLAINCY CREATIVE MEDITATION

1.15-1.45pm  
Chaplaincy Centre Prayer Room, Beit Quad  
FREE  
An informal lunch time drop-in session which is open to all. A gentle group meditation session with commentary and background music. Suitable for both beginners and those who are more experienced in meditation.  
Contact: a.massiah@ic.ac.uk

### UNION EVENTS STA TRAVEL QUIZ NIGHT

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

## WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE

### 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 9 JUNE

### 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 STAR WARS EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH (12A)

Daily: 12.30pm, 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4pm, 4.50pm, 6.10pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm. Fri to Sun only: 10am, 11am. Fri-Sat only: 11pm.

### SIN CITY (18)

Daily: 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.35pm.

### LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN'S APOCALYPSE (15)

Daily: 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm. Fri to Sun only: 11.30am. Fri-Sat only: 11.30pm.

### HOUSE OF WAX (15)

Daily: 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.45pm.

### MILLIONS (12A)

Daily not Thurs: 12.20pm, 2.40pm. Fri to Sun only: 10.05am.

### THE PACIFIER (PG)

Daily: 12.15pm, 2.50pm, 5.15pm, 7.45pm. Fri-Sat only: 10.15pm.

### IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG (15)

Daily not Thurs: 6pm. Fri-Sat only: 10.40pm.

### MONSTER IN LAW (12A)

Daily not Thurs: 3.30pm, 8.15pm. Mon to Weds only: 1pm.

### KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (15)

Daily not Thurs: 6pm, 8pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.15pm.

### THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (PG)

Fri to Sun only: 10.30am, 1pm.

### VALIANT (U)

Fri to Sun only: 10.40am.

## Is anything happening this term??? If so, we'd love to hear about it!

*Felix* will print your listings free of charge. Just email felix@ic.ac.uk with LISTINGS in the subject field, and tell us:

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

## Surely you can't revise ALL the time.....



Imperial College  
London

## Fancy doing some volunteering?

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

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

Imperial Volunteer Centre



Linking opportunities

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

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

# Arts



arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Open all hours

New York's Museum of Modern Art launches a curious new experiment

### RADIO

#### WSP1

Museum of Modern Art,  
New York  
www.wsp1.org

WSP1 is hardly the most revealing of names. To be honest, it could allude to just about anything from a government defence programme to the name of a new games console, however, it is actually the name of the world's first and only internet arts radio station. And what a creative name it is at that.

This radio station is an initiative of the New York Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and bills itself as a 'censorship free zone' where the arts can be showcased and explored in a unique way. The station can be reached through its website [www.wsp1.org](http://www.wsp1.org). Programmes are scheduled to cover music, poetry, discussion and comment on important arts events across the world.

While this may sound like a noble mission on which to embark (using Bloomberg's money), I can't say I'm sold on the product. Having come across the station while trying to find out about another arts event, and having since revisited it, the quality of the programming doesn't really seem to justify its existence.

On my first visit I was treated to some very 'interesting' music which I can't say anyone wishing to remain sane could have listened to for more than about five or ten minutes – depending on the listener's initial

state of mind. On my next visit, I was treated to a reading on the subject of airports and airplanes. It took me a while to realise that this wasn't one of those irritating, poetic 'Visit Australia' commercials. Again, hardly impressive; I may be a sucker for punishment, but I do feel that I should give the station one last chance – three strikes and it's out.

I may not be the greatest fan of more conceptual forms of art – such as that most frequently found on the schedule of WSP1 – but I don't hate it and I often find it quite intriguing and interesting (used in this case in

**“Anyone wishing to remain sane could not have listened for more than about five or ten minutes”**

the positive sense). However, I do think that it is most successful when it couples forms media together: sound with moving images, photography with the written word, even a giant rug with an accompanying series of video images (yes, it sounds ridiculous, but I have seen it). What WSP1 manages to present is, at best, an incomplete product.

If such art forms do really interest you, your time would be much better spent at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA, [www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)), the Tate Modern ([www.tate.org](http://www.tate.org)), or at any number of galleries



On a bad day, this is all you may see of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Big Exhibitions mean queues of biblical proportions; WSP1 has no queues

throughout the country and the world. In fact, the Nordic countries and the Baltic states, in particular Finland, do some truly awe-inspiring shows.

**Paola Smith**  
Arts Editor

● For more information on the upcoming programming on WSP1, just go to their website, [www.wsp1.org](http://www.wsp1.org). If you want to have full control over what assaults your ears, just close the initial window that appears

asking you how you wish to listen and then access the remainder of the website's content. The rest is up to you, and *Felix* accepts no responsibility for any resulting headaches.

## Turkey in Europe – it's nothing new

The divine Cecilia Bartoli is at Covent Garden

### OPERA

#### Il Turco in Italia

Rossini  
Royal Opera  
Covent Garden, WC2  
Running to 15 June

The latest international opera superstar to tread the boards at the Royal Opera House is the world renowned Cecilia Bartoli. In a season that has already seen the cream of operatic talent come to London, the pace is definitely not letting up. Along with Bartoli, Zhang, Villazon and Fleming are still to come.

Bartoli will be appearing in Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia*. she takes the role of Fiorilla, who inevitably will be the eponymous Turco's love interest. As you can expect, the plot is full of confusion and intrigues which are all resolved amongst much comedy. (Yes, opera can be and often is really very funny).

Apart from the fact that an evening of Italian opera is hard to beat for entertainment value, this production is new and in the hands of two directors who have had great success with Rossini opera.

And above all, Bartoli is a stupendous artist. She manages to make her voice do things that any other human being could only dream about – her range is fabulous, classed as a mezzo-soprano, she has a good bottom register and astounding range and clarity at the top of her voice. She breezes through immeasurably treacherous passages with such agility that if there ever was an advertisement for good technique, it must be her.

The opera runs until 11 June and some tickets are still available, so I heartily urge you try to see it. Day seats are a good option if you don't mind queuing early in the morning. Otherwise, try the House's website, [www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk), or the box office on 020 7304 4000.



Roman mezzo-soprano  
Cecilia Bartoli

## 'Golden Era' musicals are back in town

### MUSICALS

#### Guys and Dolls

Frank Loesser  
Piccadilly Theatre  
16 Denman Street, W1  
Booking now open

When it comes to musicals, I'm stuck in something of a time warp. To put it bluntly, anything premiered much after 1960 isn't really my thing. Though I must say with great disappointment that *Urinetown*, a new musical, still hasn't made it to the West End from Broadway. However, what has made it back to the London stage is *Guys and Dolls*.

This latest revival of Frank Loesser's 1955 musical is going to be the 'must see' of the season. With a score packed with great tunes and a cast that would make any other show envious, it's really not hard to see why. Ewan McGregor, who has obviously been bitten by the song and dance bug following *Moulin Rouge* and *Down With Love*, is back

on the West End stage, accompanied by the Tony Award winning *Ally McBeal* actress Jane Krakowski.

The story centres on McGregor's character, Sky Masterson, a small time gambler, and a bet that he can't make the next girl he sees fall in love with him. Clearly we're not talking about deeply intellectual stuff here – just entertainment. Evidently, problems arise from the identity of the next girl Masterson sees and so comedy and song and dance numbers will of course follow.

This show should be good, and so far the reviews to emerge from the previews stage have been very promising. Unfortunately, booking tickets looks like it can only be done in person or over the phone, as every website I tried was less than helpful, to put it mildly. However, for general show information the official show website, [www.guysanddollsthemusical.com](http://www.guysanddollsthemusical.com), is very good. It also looks great and has a lot of excerpts from the score so you can have a taster of what you're going to see.

**Paola Smith**

# Books

books.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Cloud Atlas has silver lining

Jenny Jopson gives out five of our very precious stars

**Cloud Atlas**  
by David Mitchell  
(Sceptre)  
★★★★

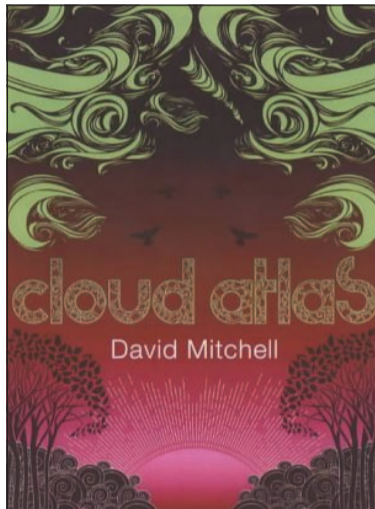
It has been a long time since I read a book that insists on intruding so often into my life, rudely barging into otherwise sensible conversation and forcing me to evangelise on its behalf. I find myself name-dropping David Mitchell's third novel with promiscuous abandon, banging on to complete strangers like a belligerent drunk that they must, simply must read this book, only to be flummoxed when they demand a description of said genius work. How does one begin to describe a book that so transcends the constraints of style and genre?

*Cloud Atlas* follows Mitchell's highly praised *Ghostwritten* and *number9dream*, and was the winner of Richard and Judy's Read of the Year 2005. But don't let that put you off. *Cloud Atlas*, apart from having some of the most beautiful cover art ever to grace a dust jacket, is a work of breathtaking imagination and virtuosity.

It is perhaps best described as six mini-novels in one, each set in different eras and countries, and written in widely differing styles. We begin with the seafaring journal of Adam Ewing, a 19th century American reflecting on the nature

of colonialism as he waits on the Chatham Islands off New Zealand for his ship to sail. But just as we become absorbed in Adam's story, we are uprooted, mid-sentence, and whisked forward in time to 1930s Brussels. Here we meet disgraced music student Robert Frobisher, and through his acerbic and caustically witty letters follow his attempts to ingratiate himself with his hero – the ageing, cantankerous composer Vyvyan Ayrs.

The pattern continues, as Mitchell takes us on a whirlwind journey across continents and centuries, via detective story, memoir and sci-fi fantasy, and sets us down in a post-apocalyptic future for a fireside storytelling session. But although chronologically the end, this is in fact only the middle of the book – like a Russian doll taken apart and then reassembled, Mitchell proceeds to take us back through time, completing each narrative where he left off, until we find ourselves again sailing the ocean waves with Mr Ewing. This may sound tricky, but the book is so much more than the sum of its parts – each narrative is cleverly linked to its predecessor, and as each one is concluded, our knowledge from the future serves to invest the interlocking stories with a significance and an emotional power that would otherwise have been absent.



Mitchell's intention is to expose the will to power that unites mankind across ages, and the universality of atrocities committed by man against man in the pursuit of dominance and possession. His ambition is a bold one, but one that is effective in demonstrating that although each person's life may appear insignificant in the grand scheme of things, ultimately we all have the potential to make a difference to our present and future.

If this all seems a little too new-age for serious Imperial tastes, Mitchell never comes across as heavy-handed or sanctimonious. The novel manages to deliver

moments of poignancy, suspense and hilarity – the memoir of cantankerous present-day publisher Timothy Cavendish, which chronicles his unwilling incarceration in a nursing home populated by the 'shuffling undead' and his attempts to escape his captors, made me laugh out loud. Elsewhere the futuristic tale of Somni, a cloned fabricant enslaved in a fast food restaurant, is both a chilling reflection on the extreme consequences of consumerism and a biting satire on present-day McDonalds culture.

*Cloud Atlas* has been criticised by a few who found it confusing, pretentious or just plain unreadable. While such an original work is sure to have its detractors, to dismiss it on the basis of its subversion of literary conventions is to tragically miss out. The sixth tale, recounted in a devastated future that has reverted to medieval feudalism, employs an invented dialect peppered with words like 'yibber', 'magicky' and 'knucklin'. Initially, it is hard going and might seem an experiment in creative writing gone too far, but persevere and it becomes poetic and absorbing.

The novel's structure can also be frustrating and emotionally demanding. This is a sprawling banquet of a book, employing an army of characters and necessitating much cross-referencing as the

web of disparate narratives grows more extensive, complex and inter-linked. Each narrative continues for just long enough to draw you in, before stopping abruptly at a pivotal moment and being replaced by another whose imposition you temporarily resent. However, it is not long before Mitchell's consummate skill and control over his material acts to immerse you all over again.

Mitchell playfully anticipates his critics through the voice of Robert Frobisher, whose composition for six overlapping soloists, *Cloud Atlas Sextet*, has a structure that mirrors the novel's own. He muses on the public reception of his masterpiece: "Revolutionary or gimmicky? Shan't know until it's finished." The novel is ultimately both, but if you are prepared to discard the standard conventions of storytelling you will discover a work of astounding originality that will not disappoint.

After a term dominated by the horrors of revision, what better way to escape the tyranny of exams than by embarking upon a literary voyage across continents and centuries? *Cloud Atlas* is not literary fast food, but a novel to be savoured, to linger over, and – like any truly great meal – share with your friends. Oh, there I go again. Look, for the sake of my social life and my friends' sanity, just read this book. Please.

# Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Pacha gets dirty

No, 'Posha' hasn't lost its chic. And the crowd haven't turned into munters. We're talking about the music, courtesy of Circo Loco

**Circo Loco**  
Pacha  
£20  
★★★★

Those of you who have heard of DC10 and Circo Loco are probably few and far between, but when their showcase comes to London, it's guaranteed to be an amazing night.

DC10 is a clubbers' club hidden away on the barrens of Ibiza. Under the flight path of planes to and from the island, it hosts many of the biggest names on the white isle. The beauty of the club is the fact that it is open during the day and so the normal scally beer boys that people

usually associate with Ibiza either don't know about it or don't know how to get there!

Circo Loco houses the best music on the island. The terrace's speakers blast out melodic deep house beats and funky rhythms while inside has a unique blend of dirty bass and acid like sounds. You will not hear the majority of the choices anywhere else – the club prides itself on being underground and individual.

Line-ups announced usually only include the residents, but many big name DJs turn up with their record bags and get involved on the decks free of charge and unannounced. This adds to the atmosphere, which is already raising the roof and ooz-

ing out of the fire exits.

This is what they tried to emulate in London, at Pacha. I had my doubts when I heard about it. Having a dirty underground clubbing experience hosted in the expensive interior of one of London's 'poshest' clubs just didn't sound right. Fortunately, I was wrong.

The lights had all been turned off and the bass was cranked up to ear bleeding, heart shuddering levels (the way it always should be). The star act of the night was the gorgeous Jo Mills, and she did not disappoint, spewing out filthy house with hard deep bass lines – music so dirty that it disgusted many of the usual visitors to the club. These were no doubt looking forward

to the usual happy, smiley funky house that Pacha usually plays. Glancing across the dance floor I could see the real clubbers, standing with their eyes closed, imagining being back in Ibiza, soaked in sweat and surrounded by gay German body builders with their tops off (well maybe not the last bit but those of you that have been to DC10 will know exactly what I'm talking about).

The sounds cannot be described by any one genre – the techno-esque bass lines were as hard as nails but as slow as house, yet Mills' choppy, messy mixing provided an amazing breakbeat element that never failed to take my breath away.

Hass Jishi



Jo Mills: gorgeous

# Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

vue  
cinemas  
www.myvue.com/students

Listings: page 14

## A different kind of plastic surgery

Paris Hilton in her movie debut. That's hot

### House of Wax

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra  
Starring: Elisha Cuthbert, Chad Michael Murray, Paris Hilton  
Length: 113 minutes  
Certificate: 15

★★★★☆

*House of Wax* is the first of this summer's big budget horror offerings and is a return to the 'teen slasher' genre that saturated our screens in the late nineties.

The plot: a group of students venture unwisely into the woods, trying to get to a football game, where they discover a creepy little town whose residents are either encased in wax or members of the murderous family that has killed everyone else.

Carly (Elisha Cuthbert) and her boyfriend Wade head up the group, which includes three other friends and Carly's trouble-making twin brother Nick (Chad Michael Murray). The gang of friends spend an largely uneventful night camping out in the woods. The tensions between Carly and Nick take centre-stage as their sibling rivalry surfaces; as does Nick's dislike of Wade.

It is only the next afternoon that things really take a turn for the worse for the friends, when they discover the town's star tourist attraction - Trudy's House of Wax. Unsurprisingly, what follows is lots of screaming, running and excess gore.

First and foremost, this is a horror movie. It follows a tried and trusted horror movie formula which, whilst well known, usually does deliver satisfactory thrills and chills. As always, someone has to survive and most people have to die. It is still a myth as to why most act with absolutely no common sense at all. No, don't go into the creepy museum all by yourself. No, don't go wandering around the dangerous woods alone.

The main differences here are the central premise of using wax to encase live bodies (it's more than a little disturbing), as well as the fact that the main protagonists are twin

**"Unsurprisingly, what follows is lots of screaming, running and excess gore"**

brother and sister rather than some loved-up teen couple. The film also misses out the mandatory opening scene massacre, instead fleshing out the history of the killers and the beginnings of the wax obsession.

*House of Wax* starts slowly, but it builds up a good atmosphere of impending doom, and a couple of isolated incidents give a taste of what is to come. When the blood starts flowing, it does so in increasingly shocking and spectacular ways. There are some memorable scenes, which is not so bad consid-

ering that this is a horror movie.

Some of the gorgeous young Hollywood starlets do well enough to pull off their obligatory kicking and screaming roles. Cuthbert comes across quite well as the heroine, and Chad Michael Murray is impressive as a sullen troubled guy who loses all selfishness and turns all hero-like as he tries to save his twin sister. The supporting cast is adequate, with Jared Padalecki standing out the most as hapless but eager Wade.

This brings me to Paris Hilton's acting debut as Paige. While it is true that she is not a great actress and her delivery is fairly two-dimensional, she still manages an average performance even though her character has to spend time being chased around in her underwear.

One of the highlights of this film is the awesome soundtrack, which features great tracks from the Prodigy, Marilyn Manson and Deftones. Another is the theatrical ending, which is big and bloody and well worth waiting for.

I did like this film, which is based on the 1953 film of the same title, as it has all the ingredients needed for the classic horror movie. This also makes it a little bit predictable in parts, but the unexpected goriness more that makes up for this. So *House of Wax* is an easy horror film filled with lots of Hollywood babes, psychotic killers and more wax than you've ever seen before or are likely to ever see again. **M K Osakonor**



Clockwise from bottom: Elisha from *24*, Chad from *One Tree Hill*, and Paris from... that video

## Good Jolie fun

### Mr & Mrs Smith

Director: Doug Liman  
Starring: Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Adam Brody  
Running time: TBC  
Certificate: TBC  
Released: 10 June

The Hollywood buzz over this film has started. Originally troubled with casting problems, after Nicole Kidman pulled out and Brad Pitt almost left the project as he could only see himself working with Angelina Jolie or Catherine Zeta Jones, *Mr & Mrs Smith* should now flourish.

*Mr & Mrs Smith* promises to be a comedy-thriller, starring Pitt and Jolie as John and Jane Smith - an ordinary suburban couple with an ordinary, lifeless suburban marriage. But each of them has a secret: they are legendary assassins working for competing organisations. When the truth comes out, John and Jane end up in each other's cross-hairs as they are hired to kill each other.

If you think it sounds familiar, that's because it probably is - I can't help but remember the James Cameron movie *True Lies* with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jamie

Lee Curtis. Arnold played a spy but lied about his job to his wife, played by Jamie.

Can someone in Hollywood have a semi-original thought please? They keep trying to recycle the same old ideas because they worked in the past. Most recent remakes have been terrible but I guess what's essentially different about this is that both husband and wife are keeping secrets in this film as opposed to just the husband - what a groundbreaking concept.

I'm being a little unfair - yes, the story isn't that original, but the trailer for the film shows potential. It promises to be full of action but also includes funny moments in which the pair almost destroy their house whilst attempting to kill each other. Perhaps some marriage counselling maybe needed.

Pitt and Jolie have an amazing chemistry on screen. Don't forget this is the film that reportedly caused the rift in Brad and Jen's marriage - it maybe worth checking out just to see if the Hollywood rumour mill was right or not. Although that's not why I'm looking forward to it.

It does boast an A list cast. Even if you don't like Pitt or Jolie, they are fairly reasonable actors and are also



Pitt-ed against each other: Brad and Angelina

joined by Adam Brody, also known as Seth from *The OC*.

*Mr & Mrs Smith* just seems like one of those movies that, no matter how unbelievable or stupid it may

get, it will still be entertaining and great way to pass your time without having to think too much. It looks sexy, funny and action packed.

**Haj Attahir**

## OUT THIS WEEK

Released on Friday 3 June at Vue Fulham Broadway:

### ● Sin City ● League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse

Released on Thursday 9 June at Vue Fulham Broadway:

### ● Mr & Mrs Smith

Visit [www.myvue.com/student](http://www.myvue.com/student) for more details.

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win a *Sin City* or *League of Gentlemen's Apocalypse* poster. Just answer this question: What comic is *Sin City* based on?

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

Last weeks winners: Jessica Wright, Lawrence Tse, Andrew Voak.

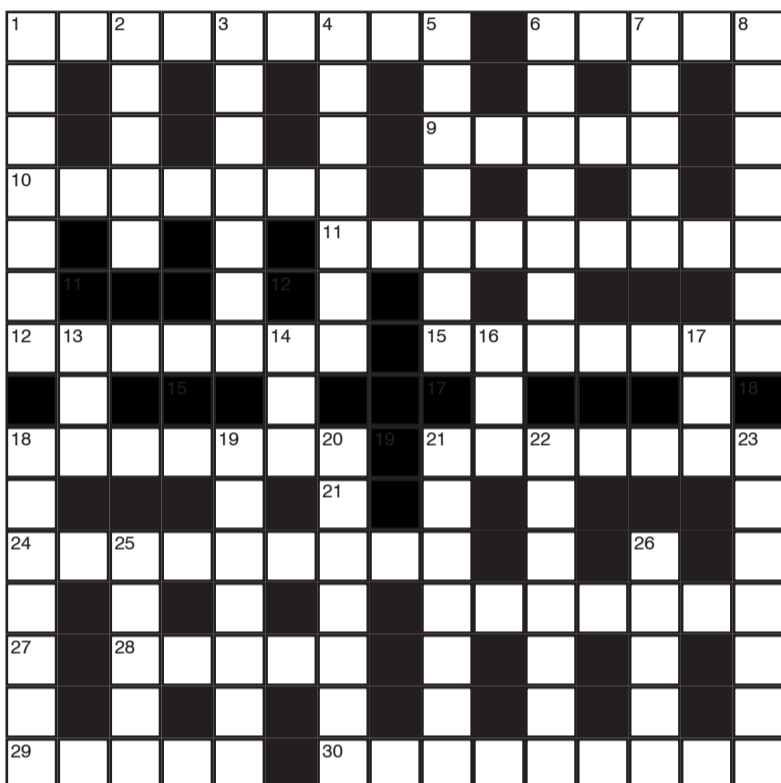
**Alan Ng**  
Film Editor



# Puzzles

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Felix Crossword 1325 by Wailer Ned



### Across

- Deer gather before wedding (4,5)
- Shorten little pudding for weapon (5)
- Apparently precipitous rule (5)
- Wearing ecclesiastical costume at home? (7)
- The uncertain wash up on the coastings (9)
- Sculpture about Taiwanese leader gives order (7)
- Covertly monitor around Europe if you stipulate (7)
- Clothes makers have suitors, perhaps (7)
- High firework may exacerbate (5-2)
- Emotional play, perhaps, in alarm mode! (9)
- Plain herb (7)
- Pungent and sharp substance goes right around (5)
- A fix may change (5)
- Deviant editor changed course of justice, perhaps (9)

### Down

- Badly scathes packets... (7)
- ...while in a lay-by hearing excuse (5)
- Golden dish is on the flat (7)
- Brightly binds bureaucracy (3-4)
- Why, facades are pants! (1-6)
- Rise, Sue, and provide again (7)
- Toadstools entertain army Joe (5)
- Houses diplomat's electromagnetic instrument, yes? (7)
- I messily ate supper (3)
- Rodent backs up stickily (3)
- Friend back on my knee (3)
- Virus got airborne, I hear (3)
- Lottery to entomb Olaf (7)
- Badly eroded right to a waitress, perhaps (7)
- Don't give in to a comedian (5-2)
- Albert and Victoria were covered in flour in good taste (7)
- Silver bad sound may cause pain (7)
- "Quiet leash," editor begged! (7)
- Hire broken easel (5)
- Red alarm! (5)

### Issue 1324 solution

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

### Last week's winner is Martin Cansdale, Bioengineering PG

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 7 June. No attachments please. The first correct solution randomly drawn wins your choice of a 128MB USB storage device or a crate of beer.

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

### Issue 1324 solution

Thanks to everyone who entered. The winner is chemical engineering student

**Nick Curum.**

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

## SPORT

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Football women in grudge match

### FOOTBALL

**Imperial Women (current girls) 5**  
**Imperial Women (X-girls) 4**

At the end of a not so good season for the IC Women's Football team there was one victory to top all the defeats! The current team defeated the best of the former players – or 'X-girls' – in a narrow 5-4 victory that was filled with tension from start to finish.

The match began with both teams very nervous, vying for the much sought after 'mixing bowl' trophy with its alcoholic beverage! Both teams were at a numerical disadvantage and so were evenly matched at seven-a-side with no resident goalies.

Kathy took advantage of the X-girls' empty net from



Imperial footballers with their new and interesting version of a 'trophy'

afar with clinical precision and put the current IC team ahead after ten minutes of tense play. This was followed by a sudden counter-attack from formidable X-girl Maria, who abandoned any passing malarkey and booted it from

the halfway line into the goal. No messing!

There were amazing skills on the pitch from both teams and the score was even until, with a trademark run, Chin took on the opposition single-handed and finished by

beautifully sliding the ball home, putting the current girls up by two goals to one. This was followed by another current girls attack, this time from the season's top scorer Aysha, taking on all the defenders and setting herself

up for a little tap across the goal line!

Mel and Helene put the 'grr' into 'grudge match' and reminded us of how it used to be done with some crunching tackles.

The current girls, feeling a bit too confident with their 3-1 lead, couldn't handle a counter-attack from last season's club captain Lou, who brought the X-girls back in the game at 3-2 behind. But Aysha did the team proud yet again and got another goal for the current girls, bringing the score to 4-2.

With some great passing between the immensely skilful X-girls Nona and Sophie, the ball was kept away from any of the current girls, ending in a great through ball to Clare and another goal to cut the deficit to 4-3.

The teams were getting

tired and over an hour had passed of continuous and intense play. The X-girls wanted to carry on until they equalised to try to regain some dignity, but current girl Mor put those dreams of victory to bed with an amazing goal after skilful defending by Alex and beautiful passing from Saz.

The X-girls ended the match with a valiant attack from the whole team, ending with stunning goal from Nona.

Both teams should be proud, as the skills displayed on the pitch showed that IC ladies are still shaking that ass! Celebrations followed in the form of straws, alcohol and a trophy! We finished the day with the annual dinner at Le Piaf, Putney and then on to Fez, ending the season with a victory and lots of fun!

Imperial College Union Presents Summer Ball 2005

# HOLLYWOOD

## Sat 18th June

10096 →  
**SUNSET BLVD.**

(MTV, Radio One)

# TREVOR NELSON

## JOE RANSOM (Fabric Live)

16900 →  
**MULHOLLAND DR.**

(Radio One)

# COLIN MURRAY

6700 →  
**HOLLYWOOD BLVD.**

# CASINO

**£25 Ents ticket**

**£45 Dinner ticket**

Over 18's only

Student ID required

R.O.A.R

The Union advises you to drink sensibly

Jazz Big Band, Fireworks,

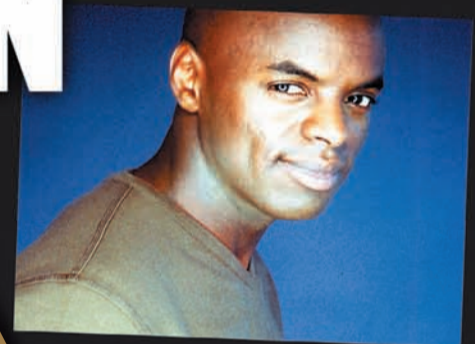
Funfair, Formal dinner

(halal and vegetarian option)

Sparkling wine / Pimms reception

and breakfast in the morning

for every ticket holder!



Deadline for dinner tickets: Monday 13 June  
Bulk ticket offers for clubs,  
halls, societies and  
departments:  
[union.ic.ac.uk/summerball](http://union.ic.ac.uk/summerball)

**Deloitte.**

**ZEN**  
MICRO



imperial  
college  
union

Imperial College Union Beit Quadrangle Prince Consort Rd London SW7 2BB

# Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Imperial give Holloway Royal thrashing

PHOTO: JIBRAN AHMED

### CRICKET

#### ULU Cup

#### Imperial Men's 2nd 270-6 (40 overs)

Almaher Shelly 120  
Vaibhav Kumar 53  
Peter Munro 25  
Suraj Dhanani 18\*

#### Royal Holloway Men's 2nd 111 all out (28.5 overs)

Vaibhav Kumar 5-17  
Ali Najefi 2-24

#### By Karthik Rathinasabapathy

A glorious hundred from Almaher Shelly and a fantastic performance with bat and ball from Vaibhav Kumar helped Imperial seconds annihilate Royal Holloway by 159 runs in the final league game of the ULU Cup.

The weather was perfect for a game of cricket, and Imperial elected to bat first on a nice firm wicket at Harlington. Vaibhav and Karthik opened the batting for Imperial and got off to a good solid start. Vaibhav continued his season of good form, driving beautifully in the arc between cover and mid-off and dispatching anything fractionally short.

Karthik fell leg before to Chris Plummer, which brought Pete Munro to the crease. Vabs and Pete put on a good partnership, which was marked by aggressive running between the wickets. Aussie Pete was in good touch and looking good for a big total when he fell with the score on 87, bringing Almaher to the wicket.



Imperial batsman Almaher Shelly hits one of seven sixes on his way to a match-winning innings of 120

The platform had been set and Imperial were on course for a score of around 200. Little did Royal Holloway know what they were in for! Al began beautifully, punching off the back foot for four and within no time was on 25 with four boundaries stroked along the ground. Then the carnage began.

In the afternoon heat, Al's innings brought a downpour of sixes. His first one was probably the biggest of the lot, deposited miles away into the vast empty spaces outside the ground. The arc between mid-on and mid-wicket received maximum attention as the fielding side

were left gasping for breath. Anything full disappeared; anything short was pummeled. It was anything but slogging, just batting at its brilliant best. It was breathtaking to watch for the sheer quality of the strokeplay and the frantic pace at which the runs were scored.

Al rocketed from 50 to 82 in the space of just nine balls, with one particular over going for 26 runs. In the midst of this mayhem Vab, who played his role to perfection in the partnership, compiled a very good half century before being finally dismissed for 53.

Jibran and Jacob perished in the quest for quick runs.

Suraj began well with two consecutive boundaries and offered good support to Al, running hard between the wickets and ensuring Al got most of the strike.

Al was on 97 not out, and expectation was high all around the ground. Everyone knew the hundred was just a matter of time away. The only doubt was whether it was going to be a six or a four to take him to it. Al hit the ball straight past the bowler for four and there were huge cheers from team mates watching and genuine applause from the Holloway fielders.

It was one of the finest 100s

Harlington had seen, and was scored in just 37 deliveries! The dominating fashion in which he batted was amazing to watch. Al continued in his quest for runs and was finally dismissed in the 37th over for 120. During Al's stay at the crease a whopping 150 runs were scored in 15 overs at 10 runs an over. Avi hit the final ball for 4 and Imperial ended with a gigantic score of 270 for six in 40 overs.

By the time Holloway had their turn to bat, they were mentally exhausted. Anand got the first wicket with Jacob taking the catch at gully. Jibran's accurate late swinging deliveries once again

proved more than just a challenge for the batsmen who had no clue whatsoever. Luck, however, wasn't on Jibran's side as the slip cordon spilt several half chances.

Imperial continued to attack with three slips and a gully and Holloway struggled to keep up with the required run rate. They then moved along to 61 for one in 17 overs with their batsmen hardly scoring anything off the face of the bat before Avi struck, getting through the defences of their opening batsman.

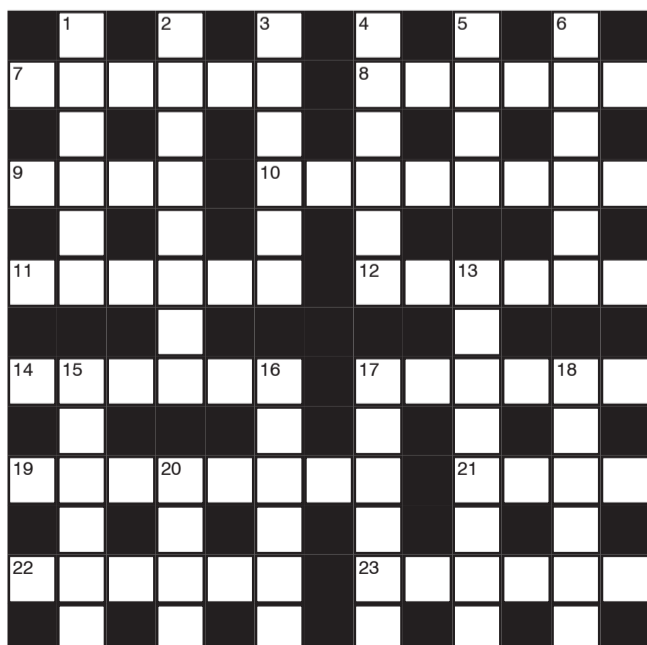
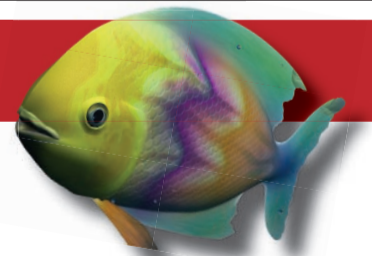
Ali Najefi picked up a couple of quick wickets with deliveries that swung in late to leave Holloway reeling at 79 for four. It only got worse for the visitors from there on. Vabs came on to bowl and one batsman followed another back to the pavilion as they choked against the swinging ball accompanied by clever changes of pace.

With his third and fourth wickets off consecutive deliveries, Vabs was on a hat-trick but Holloway survived it. The final wicket fell when the ball fittingly went straight into the hands of Al at short mid-wicket, to give Vabs a richly deserved five wicket haul. As a result of their tremendous win, Imperial seconds topped their league and are now just one game away from the final.

Imperial seconds have gone from strength to strength, a closely-knit team playing for each other and looking to go the entire distance in this tournament. The team would like to thank Robert Fitch for volunteering to score during the games and really appreciate the support.

## Quick Crossword

by Fishface



### Across

- eg Autumn (6)
- Knitting implement (6)
- Vehicle (4)
- Dutifully complying with commands (8)
- Ten years (6)
- Red fruit (6)
- Gentle touch (6)
- Breakfast food (6)
- Popular series of films (4,4)
- Norse god (4)
- Official marks used for postage (6)
- Narrow strip of pasta (6)

### Down

- Children's TV show: \_\_\_\_ Street (6)
- Guess (8)
- Additional performance (6)
- Put in (6)
- Lunch counter (4)
- Celestial body (6)
- Long race (8)
- Shrewd (6)
- At widely spaced intervals (6)
- Public place for gambling (6)
- Famous NASA space programme (6)
- Easy victory (4)

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

### Issue 1324 solution

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