



**Review of the year**  
From Keith Flint to campus food... and other stories, pages 4 and 5

**Caribou unmasked**  
Félix Music doles out five very precious stars, page 21

**How it all began**  
Felix Film has *Batman Begins* goodies to give away, page 27

**Coffee time**  
The Hoff says farewell, page 28. Plus giant Sudoku, page 31



# Felix



The student newspaper of Imperial College ● Established 1949 ● Issue 1327 ● Thursday 16 June 2005 ● www.felixonline.co.uk

**Transport trouble**  
Imperial College Union clubs and societies face transport difficulties next year as the number of parking spaces available for minibuses is cut.  
► **NEWS** page 2

**Water aid**  
Imperial College mechanical engineering students have won an international award for developing a device for pasteurising water in rural Nepal.  
► **SCIENCE** page 8

**Representing the students**  
*Felix* talks to the Union President about top-up fees, Southside Bar, student democracy, great achievements, big mistakes and a few other things as well.  
► **INTERVIEW** page 16

**Flying Colours**  
A full list of the recipients of Imperial College Union Colours and other awards.  
► **COLOURS** page 15

**Survey winners**  
Find out which lucky readers have won half their weight in chocolate, twice their height in beer or ten times their girth in liquorice pipes. It could be you...  
► **SURVEY** page 19

**THIS WEEK**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| News                | page 2  |
| News Review         | page 4  |
| Business            | page 7  |
| Science             | page 8  |
| Comment             | page 10 |
| Letters             | page 12 |
| Columns             | page 13 |
| Felix Interview     | page 16 |
| Clubs and Societies | page 18 |
| What's On           | page 18 |
| Music               | page 20 |
| Nightlife           | page 23 |
| Arts                | page 25 |
| Film                | page 26 |
| Books               | page 27 |
| Coffee Break        | page 28 |
| Puzzles             | page 31 |
| Sport               | page 32 |

## Union reveals plans to transform Beit

**By Dave Edwards**  
Editor

Imperial College Union's main building in Beit Quad is set to undergo large-scale refurbishment from early 2006. The Union's facilities will be severely disrupted for at least six months and the project will cost several million pounds, but the process should bring huge benefits for students in future years.

In last term's online survey, 68% of students were in favour of improving or refurbishing Beit. The Union Council this week agreed to support a proposal to take forward planning work on the project, which could revolutionise the Union building and its facilities. However, some delegates suggested that changes in the management of current facilities could be more effective than a complete overhaul.

The plans have not been finalised – a working group will review them over the summer, student feedback will be sought in the autumn term and the Council is due to sign off final proposals in December.



The Union's refurbishment plans for Beit Quad include making more use of the north entrance opposite the Royal Albert Hall, as demonstrated in this architect's drawing

Some likely changes include revitalising the tired-looking main entrance and stairwell, increasing use of the north entrance next to the Royal Albert Hall, moving the Student Activities Centre to the main building, putting in large doors so that the two main bars open onto the Quad, refurbishing the Union Bar, and building a new lounge bar on the first floor. Union officers are considering these and many other alterations as part of a flexible plan from their appointed architects.

Sameena Misbahuddin, the Union's Deputy President (Finance and Services), told *Felix*: "Students deserve a much better Union building.

The refurbishment will give better facilities for student activities and better social facilities. Students will be proud of the new Union building."

The entire redevelopment project could cost anything between £3m and £10m, depending on which options are chosen. Funding could come from the College's catering and conferences review, which has recommended investing £7m to £8m into bar and catering facilities across the South Kensington campus. In the

past, the College has allowed the Union to borrow funds for major projects on an interest free basis. Also, the new building should have greater commercial potential, unlikely to be well received by Imperial's conservative student body. Meanwhile, during the refurbishment, there could be no sports facilities or drinking areas at all.

However, the project could create a modern building focused on students' needs, moving Imperial's recreational facilities in line with the College's reputation as one of the world's premier universities.

Further details on the redevelopment plans are available at [www.union.ic.ac.uk](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk).

Some aspects of the proposals could be controversial. The architects' plans for rebranding the Union are unlikely to be well received by Imperial's conservative student body. Meanwhile, during the refurbishment, there could be no sports facilities or drinking areas at all.

However, the project could create a modern building focused on students' needs, moving Imperial's recreational facilities in line with the College's reputation as one of the world's premier universities.

Further details on the redevelopment plans are available at [www.union.ic.ac.uk](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk).

**"Students deserve a much better Union building..."**

allowing some of the cost to be repaid over time.

## Location found for 'new Southside Bar'?

**By Dave Edwards**

Felix has learnt that College officials have found a potential location for a replacement for Southside Bar.

The popular bar will close its doors for the final time on 24 June, shortly before the Southside building is demolished. Over 3000 people have signed a petition calling for a replacement for the bar, which recently won the Campaign for Real Ale 'Club of the Year' runner-up award.

The 'Save Our Southside' campaign group has been searching for suitable locations on the South Kensington campus, and it appears that one may now have been found.

We cannot reveal the precise location at this stage, but Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, said he was "70 to 80% confident" that it would be transformed into a new College bar in the near future. Discussions between students' groups and the College are ongoing. Further details will appear on the Felix website, [www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk), in due course.

● **Comment, page 10**

**This is the last Felix of the 2004-5 academic year. The next issue is published in late September, when the autumn term begins. From all of us: have a great summer!**

# Felix

Issue 1327

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## NEWS

# Transport trouble for clubs and societies



Imperial College Union clubs, societies and other groups rely heavily upon the Union's minibus fleet for transport. Under College proposals, the majority of the minibuses will be relocated to Wilson House in Paddington

**By Dave Edwards**  
Editor

Imperial College Union clubs and societies face transport difficulties next year as the number of parking spaces available for minibuses is cut.

The College currently has 342 parking spaces on its South Kensington campus. 98 of those will be unavailable while Southside is being redeveloped, so all departments and faculties are having their number of spaces

cut by around one third. However, the Union faces a much greater reduction, from ten spaces to just four.

The Union currently owns nine minibuses that are based in South Kensington, behind Linstead Hall. With the demolition of Southside, five of those will be moved to Wilson House in Paddington. Dan Lehmann, the Union's Transport Manager, claims that this will "add nearly two hours to the trip" and hence "severely restrict student activity".

Mr Lehmann also said: "All equipment is based in South Kensington, as are 98% of minibus users, so leaving from Wilson House is totally impractical." He explained that many drivers are female and it would be dangerous for them to have to walk back to South Kensington at night.

Diana Pinn, Assistant Director of Estates, told *Felix*: "Everybody is unhappy about the car parking. We have a limited number of spaces and we just can't fit everybody in. I sympathise with

the Union's predicament, but in discussions we've had, I have not heard them make one concession. The Union has grown its number of vans over the years without any authority, I'm told."

Miss Pinn added: "We've got a breathing space until November [when the Southside spaces are lost] to try to sort this out."

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, said he was "confident of resolving the issue by November".

● **Comment, page 10**

## Felix wins President's Award

*Felix* has won this year's Imperial College Union President's Award for Clubs and Societies.

The Union has over 250 clubs and societies, more than any other students' union in the UK. Each year, one outstanding club or society is selected for the award, which last year was won by the rugby club.

The President, Mustafa Arif, said he was impressed by the quality and quantity of material produced by *Felix* this year, the high standard of its spin-off magazine *I, Science* and the way *Felix* has been run as a Union club.

Dave Edwards, editor of *Felix*, said: "I've got a great team of people working with me on *Felix* this year and I'm pleased to be rewarded for what we've done. We made a lot of changes and most of them have gone down very well. I hope everyone has enjoyed reading the newspaper as much as we've enjoyed putting it together."

Mr Arif also gave President's awards to College Secretary Tony Mitcheson, Union Council chair Danny Sharpe, student representative Will Dawson, Deputy President Richard Walker and staff member Richard Washington.

Colours and other awards were given to a total of 50 individual students for positive contributions to the Union. Fellowships were given to Richard Plackett, James Robinson and Nicola Williams for continuous and exceptional long-term service. A full list of award winners can be found on page 15.



The Campaign for Drawing

"Drawing Together:  
The Big Draw meets Carnival"

Sunday 2 October 2005

A fun start to the new academic year!

The National Launch of The Big Draw will take place in and around the institutions of Exhibition Road on Sunday 2 October 2005. Interactive drawing and carnival activities will be taking place throughout the day, culminating in a carnival procession.

Visit the events website for further information nearer the time: [www.imperial.ac.uk/events](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/events)

If you want more information, or would like to help out, contact [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk)

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## NEWS REVIEW

# Imperial 2004-5: Felix news

## Future of Wye campus in doubt

Last summer, Imperial College announced plans to transfer most courses away from the Wye campus, close the department of Agricultural Sciences and consider the future of the campus in a review.

The Department of Agricultural Sciences, which is wholly based at Wye, was making a loss of £1.8m per year. Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, the Deputy Rector designate, said: "The Faculty of Life Sciences' presence at the Wye campus in its current configuration is not economically viable."

The College insisted that students starting courses at Wye up to and including 2005 would not be affected, but in an interview with *Felix* in May, Professor Borysiewicz told us that prospective students in agricultural sciences would have to look elsewhere



and he could not guarantee that current students would complete their courses at Wye.

Undergraduate teaching will continue at Wye, but only in Applied Business Management.

## Students to have no voice on College Council?

In September, we brought you news of the College's proposal to remove all student representation from its main governing body. We asked how the Council of an academic institution could govern effectively without representatives from the student population.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, called the proposals "misguided" and told *Felix*: "Students are the most important stakeholders in higher education. Council is there to hold management to account over the College's long term strategy. The College's future depends on attracting and retaining the best students, so student representatives should be able to contribute to that process."

Students were successful in lobbying



against the change, and three weeks later it was decided that the Union President would remain a member of the Council after all. However, the number of elected members of academic staff on the governing body was cut from six to one.

## Former Prodigy star assaults student at Union

An Imperial student was assaulted in dBs by Keith Flint, the former Prodigy vocalist, and two other men.

Mr Flint, 35, and his new band Clever Brains Fryin', played live at the Union as part of Freshers Week. During their performance, the student, who does not wish to be named, was apparently dancing the 'macarena' in front of the stage. This may have offended the band members. According to witnesses, Mr Flint and two of his colleagues then jumped down off the stage and began to punch the student, who was left with cuts and bruises to the head and face.

Later that night, police officers questioned the band members and the student, who eventually decided not to press charges.



es. According to a senior Union source, the police were prepared to make arrests at the scene for actual bodily harm.

The assault was an isolated incident in an otherwise successful Freshers Week for Imperial College Union.

## Imperial ranked world's 14th best university

Imperial College appeared in 14th place in a list of the best universities in the world, compiled by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* and published in November.

Harvard University, in Massachusetts, took first place by a considerable margin. Seven of the top ten institutions in the list were American.

Imperial was ranked fourth among UK universities, behind Oxford, Cambridge and the London School of Economics. The only other European university in the top 20 was ETH Zurich, Switzerland, in tenth place.

Mustafa Arif, President of Imperial College Union, commented: "It's a good thing for Imperial students, when they graduate, to have the value of their degrees recognised by employers across the world".



In an interview with *Felix* in May, the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, said that "Imperial has done extremely well" to be ranked so highly. "It's an amazing feat when you think we're not even 100 years old," he added.

## Pay problems for student staff

Students who work part time for Imperial College suffered serious problems receiving their pay between October and March.

Despite opposition from the Union, weekly pay was scrapped in the autumn term, with the College imposing a monthly pay system. Student staff complained about a range of issues, including a lack of communication, insufficient compensation payments, short notice, incorrect tax deductions and the fact that some non-student staff were still being paid weekly. Some workers even quit their jobs as a result.

The change was made in order to cut costs and make it easier to co-ordinate payments. However, under considerable pressure, the College reversed the decision and



reintroduced weekly pay from 1 March. Malcolm Aldridge, the College's Financial Controller, admitted: "Paying students on a monthly cycle was leading to recruitment problems in our organisation."

## Departments break rules on working hours

In November, *Felix* revealed that students in a number of College departments were having to attend lectures and tutorials at times supposedly reserved for humanities classes and lunch breaks.

According to the Imperial College website, "on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the autumn and spring terms there is a two-hour break at midday for the lunch-hour Humanities Programme".

However, some students had regular lectures, tutorials or labs between noon and 2pm. In the worst cases, first year students attended lectures and classes continuously from 10am until 6pm in the autumn term.

Students in aeronautics, chemistry, electrical engineering and information systems

engineering were among those affected.

Professor Rees Rawlings, the Pro Rector for Educational Quality, told *Felix* that he was disappointed to hear about the issue, continuing: "The situation is quite clear. Certain times of day should be kept free for these activities. By now, all departments should be aware of this and timetable their activities accordingly."

The problems have since been solved in some cases, but a significant number of students still have classes timetabled in the 'no-go' areas of lunchtimes and Wednesday afternoons.

"Students need to bring the examples to the Union so they can be brought to me," said Rawlings in an interview in May.

## President survives confidence votes

The President of Imperial College Union, Mustafa Arif, survived two votes of confidence this year.

In October, he offered his resignation but then withdrew it a day later. Having originally written in an email, "I no longer believe that I am up to the job," Mr Arif quickly changed his mind and told us: "It is in the best interests of the Union that I continue in office and serve out the remainder of my term."

Then, in March, physics postgraduate Tom Tibbits brought a second motion of no confidence to Union Council, alleging that Mr Arif was guilty of bad management, intimidation, a lack of communication, and steamrolling through various high-level changes without the approval of



the relevant committees. Mr Arif called it "silliness".

After almost three hours of deliberation, the President remained in post when only eight members voted in favour of dismissing him.

## High turnout as election results announced

The turnout in this year's Imperial College Union sabbatical elections reached a record high of more than 2800 votes – over 22% of the student body.

Mustafa Arif, the current President, expressed his pleasure at the turnout, saying: "The Union is now in a much stronger position to legitimately represent students than at any time in its history."

Sameena Misbahuddin, the current Deputy President (Finance and Services) was elected as President, overcoming her nearest challenger Morten Olesen by 1126 votes to 862 after the other candidates' votes had been reallocated.

Miss Misbahuddin told *Felix*: "I was delighted to be voted President and I'm looking forward to it immensely. There's a



lot of work ahead, as always, but I'll do my very best to justify the faith of those who supported me."

The Deputy Presidents will be Tim Aplin, Simon Matthews and Sarah Khatib. Rupert Neate will be next year's *Felix* editor.

# review of the year

## Former student set for US terrorism trial

The case of Babar Ahmad, who studied engineering and went on to work in ICT at Imperial College, appeared in *Felix* and the national news on several occasions.

Mr Ahmad, 31, has been in prison since last August. He stands accused of running websites to raise funds and recruit new members for terrorist organisations in Chechnya and Afghanistan. His case is the first to be heard under the Extradition Act 2003, which allows British citizens to be extradited to the US without the need for any evidence to be provided and without the accused being given any chance to respond to the allegations.

In December, after a highly charged Council meeting, Imperial College Union decided to campaign for his release from prison.

Writing for *Felix* in January, Mr Ahmad



said: "I know, and God knows, that I am not a terrorist and that I have not done anything wrong or illegal."

In May, as hundreds of people protested outside Bow Street Magistrates Court, a judge ruled in favour of Mr Ahmad's extradition. The final decision now rests with the Home Secretary.

## Last orders for Southside Bar

When the Southside area is rebuilt next year, the popular Southside Bar will not be replaced. The building, which also contains halls of residence and the health centre, is due to be demolished in July. College redevelopment plans make no allowance for a bar.

Imperial College Union was given the option of using the communal space in Linstead Hall for a replacement bar, but rejected it. "It would be unfair to leave Linstead students with no private communal space," said Mustafa Arif, the President.

Just weeks before its closure, Southside Bar won the runner-up award in the national 'Club of the Year' competition run by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

Meanwhile, over 3000 people have signed a petition calling for the continued existence of "a Southside Bar" on campus. Students'



groups are investigating alternative locations but are running out of time – Southside will close its doors for good on 24 June. The situation is set to worsen when the Union bars in Beit Quad are closed for refurbishment next year. There are plans for a new bar when Linstead hall is rebuilt, but this is unlikely to occur for several years.

## Campus food unhealthy and overpriced, say students

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

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

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



he said.

Many of the sandwiches sold in the JCR contain worryingly high levels of salt and are significantly more expensive than similar products offered by local stores such as Boots and Marks & Spencer.

## College clothing controversy

Union staff told *Felix* that they were asked to stop selling certain items of clothing which were seen as offensive to the Imperial College brand.

The College's Director of Communications, Ardi Kolah, and Director of Project Management, Chris Towler, visited the Union shop on the Sherfield walkway in May. "I understand that my staff found them quite threatening and intimidating," said Union President Mustafa Arif.

The staff felt that they had been asked to take various items – bearing the name 'Imperial College London' without using the new logo – off the shelves.

Mr Arif continued: "It was stock that was apparently 'offensive to the brand', in particular the underwear and the fun T-shirts,



like the Matrix spin-off and so on."

Mr Kolah said: "We're working together to find a solution to this. There is policy on how the brand ought to be used, and there should have been more importance placed on following that to the letter."

## Staff say central library is 'an embarrassment'

Imperial College's central library has become "an embarrassment" and "a total dump," according to some members of its staff. In letters to *Felix* in May, two central library librarians launched a scathing attack on College management for "putting finances before education".

Sir Richard Sykes, the Rector, told *Felix* that the central library is "not an embarrassment, absolutely not. This is the way forward, it has to be 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Meanwhile, the mechanical engineering department library will be transferred to the central library despite opposition from students. A petition signed by over 400 mechanical engineering students was handed to staff, who then assured them

that their library would remain open for 18 months. But it was later announced that it would close this summer.

Helen Dawson, the mechanical engineering department representative, told *Felix*: "The students are gobsmacked that such an important resource in our department is being closed down, and it is a sore blow when we thought the library was saved for now. No effort has been made to move the library to unused store rooms in a bid to keep it."

Sir Richard said that the College needs to transfer "as many of the departmental libraries as possible" to the central library, "because you cannot work in a departmental library 24 hours a day, 7 days a week".

## Imperial cyclists killed on Cromwell Road

A postgraduate student and an ICT manager were both killed while cycling in the South Kensington area. The two accidents occurred on the same road within three months of each other.

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 in late May. He was 26.

Thomas Sippel-Dau, who was 54 and originally from Germany, had worked in ICT at Imperial for many years. He was knocked off his bicycle and killed on Cromwell Road by a 4x4 vehicle which then drove away.

Imperial College Union called on 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).

## In brief

● Due to timetabling issues and the way the College term dates were arranged, many students faced the difficult prospect of having only a two-week Christmas break in which to revise for their final exams. The Christmas vacation usually lasts for three weeks.

● In February, *Felix* exclusively revealed that the Imperial College Union shop and newsagent were selling three Cadbury's Creme Eggs for just 90p.

The shop and the newsagent, located on the Sherfield Walkway, were inundated by crazed students desperate for the fondant-filled treats.

● Tony Blair visited a research laboratory in Imperial College's chemistry department in March. On the same day, the Government announced that it would invest £10bn into UK scientific research.

The Prime Minister and Patricia Hewitt, the Trade and Industry Secretary, visited Professor Donna Blackmond, a US citizen who holds the College's chair in catalysis.

● Death threats were made to College security guards by a group of aggressive young men, at least one of whom was carrying a weapon, as they left a Union event in Beit Quad in February.

● Smoking was banned in Da Vinci's Bar for a trial period beginning in March. The bar, on the South Kensington campus, was officially smoke-free all day every day for three months.

The response to the trial 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. Smoking is now permitted after 9pm on weekday evenings and any time at weekends, again for a trial period. On our letters page, students have expressed their disappointment at the reintroduction of smoking in Da Vinci's.

● Eighties superstar Mr T joined an elite group of physicists in May, when his picture appeared in a display of Nobel Laureates in the Blackett Laboratory. The prank amused students as they revised for exams, but the photograph was soon removed.

● The Imperial College Union summer ball secured over £34,000 in funding and, according to the organisers, "looks set to be a great event". The Hollywood-themed ball has been promoted around campus by characters ranging from 'Marilyn Monroe' to 'Darth Vader'. It will take place this Saturday on the South Kensington campus.

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## Fancy doing some volunteering?

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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



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# Business

business.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Latest from the Square Mile

**Numaan Chaudhry** brings you the freshest hand-picked business news

### Shell comes clean

For the first time in its history as a PLC, Royal Dutch/Shell Group has published its internal guidelines for estimating reserves of oil and natural gas.

The guidelines were tightened last year after the company disclosed that it had significantly overestimated its oil reserves. The revised rules now meet US regulatory guidelines and help put behind it an accounting scandal that unfolded in early 2004.

The Anglo-Dutch oil company cut its estimate of reserves by more than a third since last January and has faced criticism of its accounting practices, such as booking reserves on projects before

investment plans had been approved.

Under its new rules, Shell said that for a major field of 50m barrels of oil equivalent or more, the final investment approval must be received before a project is booked in its reserves. However, for smaller oil fields, Shell must also have evidence that similar projects have come to fruition as this would prevent unnecessary environmental damage.

It said all proven reserves must be monitored at every year end, to make sure prior bookings are still valid. Documentation of changes at the reservoir level must be carried out each year.

The disclosure comes after a \$150m settlement with both the SEC and the FSA, the

financial regulatory bodies in the US and UK respectively, in July, following a string of restatements after the company allegedly boosted its numbers artificially. The payments didn't imply a recognition of guilt, but the company is still the target of related class-action lawsuits in the US.

In case one wonders why such guidelines are so important, they can have a major impact on the share price of stocks, especially when estimates, profits and revenues are revealed to the world by a PLC like Shell.

### Spitzer subdued

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer last week had his lawsuit defeated as

jurors acquitted the Bank of America's broker, Theodore C Sihpol III, of 'late trading'.

Late trading involves the exchange of mutual fund shares after the close of trade (4pm). Trades posted after that time are supposed to receive a price set the following day. But, in a battle of wits, Sihpol was acquitted as late trading was never considered improper before he was being prosecuted and arrested in September 2004.

C Evan Stewart, Sihpol's lawyer, praised him for abandoning the traditional settlement with Spitzer and going to court to contest his allegation. In this case, it paid off.

Sihpol's success is a fairly significant achievement, as it will encourage other firms that have pending lawsuits

filed by Spitzer, whose relentless pursuit of firms operating outside the law has seen their shares drop by over 50%.

Richard Grasso, the former head of the New York Stock Exchange, has also chosen to prepare a defence for trial instead of reaching settlements with the New York's Attorney General. Mr Spitzer last year filed a lawsuit against Mr Grasso, arguing that his compensation package represented excessive remuneration for the head of a not-for-profit organisation. His case has not yet been scheduled.

Three other executives in the mutual fund industry are scheduled to defend charges of permitting improper mutual fund trading before

the New York Supreme Court judge who heard Mr Sihpol's case.

### Final words

In this past year, we've tried to bring you news that is relevant and interesting to the business-minded students of Imperial College. We've tried to present a fair, true and rounded picture of the state of some of the world's baddest governments, mammoth power-hungry corporations and ugliest billionaires. Unfortunately for you, you're in a country run by one of those governments, you'll probably join one of the mammoth corporations and, like certain Imperial graduates, you might just end up as one of the ugly billionaires!



"How much oil have we really got then?" Adjustments will now be made as to how Shell's reserved are calculated and presented to the public

# Science

science.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Imperial engineers helping make poverty history

Forget Geldof and Bono. Over the next few decades, today's engineers will make the real changes. **Dan Wilson** reports on an event promoting engineering solutions to aid developing countries

It is estimated that more than 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean drinking water. By heating water to 65°C for five minutes the water becomes pasteurised, killing 99.999% of all harmful bacteria – a simple yet necessary process.

The Developing Technologies Department in Mechanical Engineering, headed by Ron Dennis, is a registered charity which aims to provide engineering solutions to the developing world. This year, a group of third year Imperial students embarked on developing a water pasteurising unit for use in cookstoves in rural parts of Nepal as their 'Design, Make & Test' project. The project was run in con-

junction with a student from the University of Tribhuvan in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Back in December 2004, the project was entered for the Mondialogo Engineering Award, an international con-

**"The Imperial water pasteurisation project was entered for the Mondialogo Engineering Award..."**

test organised by UNESCO and DaimlerChrysler. The award is an initiative aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue among young engineers around the world. The initiative calls on stu-

dents from industrialised and developing countries to work together on proposals for sustainable engineering applications to aid developing countries.

An international jury assessed project ideas for sustainability, feasibility and quality of communication within the project group. More than 1700 engineers and students from 79 nations registered for the contest, forming 412 international teams. From this, 40 finalists were selected in March and two Imperial College teams were lucky enough to be nominated.

As the culmination of the contest, the Mondialogo Symposium was held in Berlin on 27-30 May, and two representatives from the water pasteuriser team, Dan Wilson and Marcus Rafla, went along for the four day event. A total of 65 participants from 28 countries attended, making it a truly international event spanning both the industrialised and developing worlds. The Nepalese student, Sushobhan Joshi, made the 4000 mile trip and met his team mates face to face for the first time.

Naturally, with Daimler Chrysler being the owners of Mercedes, the teams were chauffeured around in their fleet of S classes and put up in a luxurious hotel – a welcome change to the London



A team of Imperial College mechanical engineering students won an award for developing a device for pasteurising water in rural Nepal. Over one billion people in the world do not have access to clean drinking water



Winning engineers (left to right): Dan Wilson, Sushobhan Joshi and Marcus Rafla at the awards evening

Underground and student living.

The Symposium consisted of a mixture of sightseeing, tours of the DaimlerChrysler plant and lots of food and drink to ease the intercultural dialogue. On the last day, a series of workshops took place in order to exchange ideas on the contributions of engineering to sustainable development and poverty reduction, followed by the prizegiving ceremony in the evening. Held in Mercedes' flagship showroom, the ceremony was a lavish event

overflowing with champagne and, of course, nice cars.

The tension was high but as the winners were called to the stage it soon became apparent that all 21 teams in the attendance had won. All teams received a prize fund of €15000 along with the glory of being an international engineering award winner.

Congratulations go to the entire team for all their hard work: Dan Wilson, Jonathan Tweed, Caroline Robertson, Philip Wassouf, Marcus Rafla, John Latham, Alex Parker, Julian Soon and

Zaina Naboor. The prize money is going to be used to fund an expedition to Nepal to carry out further research and testing of the pasteurising device.

DaimlerChrysler has yet to announce if it will support another award next year, but if this year is anything to go by, it will be a storming success.

● If you would like to find out more or are interested in participating next year, contact [dan.wilson@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dan.wilson@ic.ac.uk) for further details

## Tam Dalyell leaves, New Scientist loses political edge

**Zoë Corbyn** discovers that 'National Enquirer of science magazines' will not replace its long-serving political columnist

For more than 36 years, parliament's greatest dissenter, Tam Dalyell, has been bringing another dimension to *New Scientist* magazine with his column, 'Westminster Diary'.

He has shown us science from the inside, highlighting the issues on the lips of the politicians in the corridors of power and doing his utmost to goad them into action. But while the Labour backbencher may have retired at the last election – duly leaving the House of Commons in April 2005 – it seems that *New Scientist* has also permanently retired his column. 'Westminster Diary', the last of which appeared last month, is no more.

But why not find a replacement columnist? According to

Michael Bond, Opinion Senior Editor at *New Scientist*, the answer appears twofold. Firstly, "Dalyell is pretty irreplaceable frankly. Because he was Father of the House, he had all the experience and incredible access to politicians. There was no-one really suitable on that level."

But *New Scientist* also envisages itself doing something different with the pages. According to Bond, it is not to say that in the future there won't be people in Westminster writing about politics, but "political coverage will come in different formats rather than just through one column, for example an opinion piece from a politician or an analysis."

So Dalyell is an irreplaceable columnist, and it is only

one column after all... but the plot thickens. It seems 'Westminster Diary' is not the only political column *New Scientist* has axed. 'Washington Diary', providing the inside story on the American political scene since 1994, has also made a departure. Andreas Frew (alias Chris Joyce and Joe Palca from the National Public Radio science desk) had their last regular spot at the end of May too.

So is *New Scientist* moving away from the politics of science? All we can do now is speculate and wait to see. Perhaps this just a freak *New Scientist* blip, or perhaps it will herald the beginnings of a new chapter for the magazine: science minus the politics.



*New Scientist* has dumped its political columns, 'Westminster Diary' and 'Washington Diary'

### This week's headlines in *New Scientist*

Superfast 'gun' addresses Jupiter's core issues

Kinky bypass grafts last longer

Dolphins teach their children to use sponges

Voters give thumbs down to babyfaced



# Shooting stars to predict climate change

At the edge of space, the Earth's atmosphere may actually be cooling. **Emma-Lynn Donadieu** reports on scientists using an unusual technique to monitor the mesosphere

"It's a bit like going to Ikea and buying a flat-pack. It comes in several boxes, you put it together, plug it in, turn the power on and hope that it doesn't blow up," explains Dr Peter Younger, a postdoc from the University of Bath. He recently returned from a two-month expedition braving severe gales, some rather aggressive fur seals and 'horrific' wind chill, to set up a radar the size of a football field on a rocky beach in Antarctica.

The new radar, a joint project between the University of Bath and the British Antarctic Survey, will allow scientists to measure climate change in the mesosphere, the highest layer of the Earth's atmosphere at the very edge of space.

Luckily for Dr Younger, this radar is entirely autonomous and can be controlled via the internet from the warmth of an office.

The team at the University of Bath will use the radar to explore the theory that while the lower atmosphere is warming; the mesosphere may be cooling by as much as one degree Centigrade a year. Under the higher pressures of the lower atmosphere, carbon dioxide has a reputation as a greenhouse gas and acts as an efficient heating agent. In the mesosphere, however, the

pressures are so low that the chemistry changes and carbon dioxide acts as a refrigerant. Unfortunately, at heights of 80-100km the mesosphere is notoriously difficult to investigate, so the rate at which it is cooling is unknown.

"The mesosphere is too high to reach by Met balloons or aeroplanes so you can't fly a thermometer up there. You can fly a rocket through it with a thermometer attached, but a rocket gives you a snapshot and it costs £100,000 a

**"The team will explore the theory that the mesosphere may be cooling by as much as one degree centigrade per year"**

time," explains Professor Nick Mitchell, who heads the project in the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Bath. "But fortunately, nature provides us with an excellent answer to the problem of investigating the mesosphere."

Meteors the size of a grain of sand burn up in the mesosphere creating the romantic phenomena of shooting stars. Hitting the upper atmosphere at a typical velocity of 12 to 17 kilometres per second, they

create a column of ionised gas a couple of metres across and tens of kilometres in length.

Using the radar, the team can bounce radio waves off the ionized gas columns to produce distinctive echoes, which act rather like thermometers. The way the echoes decay as the ionisation diffuses is dependent on the temperature of the mesosphere. By analysing this decay, scientists can obtain accurate temperature measurements to within five degrees centigrade. Data the group at the University of Bath have analysed to date reveals an extremely chilly mesosphere with temperatures delving as low as -130 degrees Centigrade.

By continually monitoring temperature fluctuations in the mesosphere, Professor Mitchell and his team hope to separate known changes in the upper atmosphere associated with the Sun's 11-year solar cycle from climate change caused by carbon dioxide produced on Earth.

"The mesosphere has been called the miner's canary for climate change; meaning that it is very sensitive and the changes there may be larger than in any other part of the atmosphere," comments Professor Mitchell. "The great advantage of the radar is that we can pick up 5000 meteors a day and we can do

this day after day after day, so we can continually monitor the temperature for as long as the radar is running."

The radar in Antarctica is the latest addition in a global array being installed by the University of Bath group. Their most recent edition was purposely built as a clone of another radar inside the Arctic Circle in northern Sweden and will enable them to compare the upper atmosphere of the Arctic with that of the Antarctic.

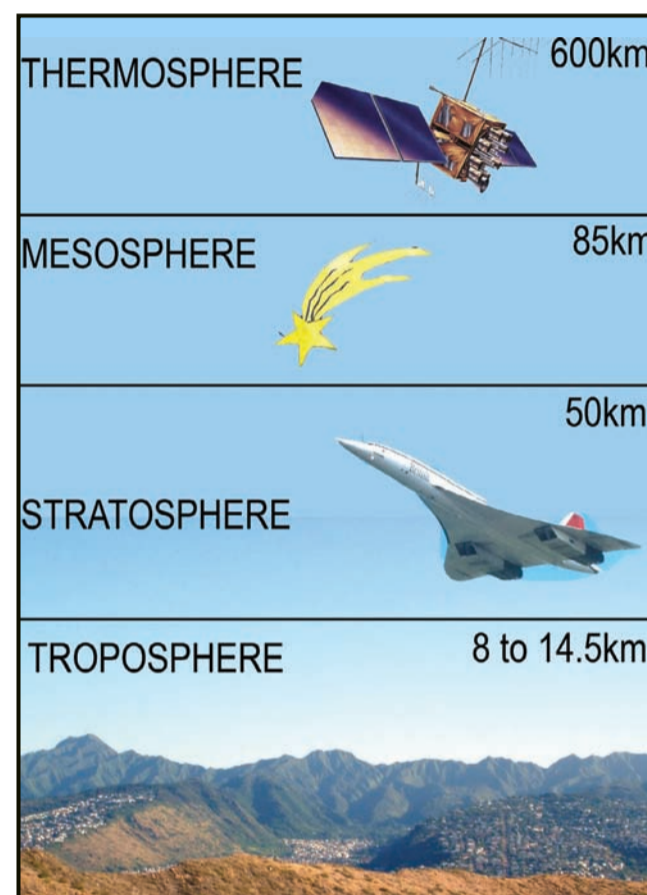
New physical phenomena may already be appearing because of the cooling trend in the mesosphere. These include unusual clouds known as noctilucent clouds and sprites formed by gigantic lightning discharges from clouds up into the mesosphere.

For us here on Earth the effects of are likely to be less dramatic. How a cooling mesosphere interacts with the warming lower atmosphere has yet to be determined. "There is some theoretical work that suggests that there are coupling processes that can connect what happens upstairs with what happens downstairs. The effects, if they are there, are subtle and mysterious and are simply not well understood," explains Professor Mitchell.

Like the myriad of other

monitoring techniques, a flat-pack radar on a remote Antarctic beach won't provide the definitive answer on climate change. Nevertheless, shooting stars are not just a

pretty sight but may reveal new insights into a poorly understood part of the atmosphere, enabling scientists to fit another piece into the complex climate puzzle.



Shooting star events take place in the mesosphere

## 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 16 June 7.30pm Astro Black Morphologies

Join Anna Piva and Eddie George, the artist-musicians behind Astro Black Morphologies, and experts from the worlds of astrophysics, electronic music and art to participate in a dialogue about contemporary astronomy and sound art

### Tuesday 21 June 12.30pm Cooleurs

A multimedia fusion of live and recorded images and music: part composed, part improvised, completely entertaining! Members of the Music, Art and Performance group from the Royal College of Art and Guildhall School of Music cook up a lunchtime feast

### Wed 22 June 7pm Premature babies: life but at what cost?

Many babies born prematurely cling on to life and somehow pull through. How do doctors and parents make almost impossible decisions about the lives of these miracle children?

### Thursday 23 June 7pm Neuroethics: the ethics of brain research

The rapid pace of brain research points towards new ways to understand the brain and ourselves. Find out about the hopes and fears of those at the leading edge of brain research and take part in a discussion on 'neuroethics'.

## Arrest this man, he talks in maths...

# I, science

On the edge of Imperial College

*Pick up your free copy now in your department, the library, the Union building, SCR, JCR...*

# Comment

felix@ic.ac.uk

## Felix

### Beit redevelopment is long overdue

Imperial College is ranked in the top four UK universities and the top 15 in the world. From next year, many of its students will be paying £3000 per year in tuition fees, while those from overseas will pay well over £10,000. A students' union with good social and recreational facilities is essential to building a vibrant university community in which students can both learn and enjoy themselves. For all these reasons and more, the outdated facilities in Beit Quad must be redeveloped and brought into the 21st century.

The exact specifics of the redevelopment are to be considered over the coming months. All students should be encouraged to find out more and submit feedback via the Union website – not only because their views are important, but also so that they know they are part of the process.

It is crucial that Imperial College Union provides facilities that are useful and events that are appealing, all together in a building that its students can be proud of. If the Union is confident, dedicated to the task and willing to make big changes – and if the College can be persuaded to part with the cash – then there is no reason why our Union building cannot become the envy of the rest of the higher education world.

### Transport trouble could cut student activity

It is totally understandable that each section of the Imperial College community must lose parking spaces during the Southside rebuilding project, when 98 spaces will be out of use. But how can it be fair that departments and faculties face cuts of around one third when Imperial College Union faces a 60% reduction?

Student activities at Imperial depend on transport to a large extent, especially considering the central London location of the main campus. The Union's minibuses are frequently used, most often by sports teams, and their relocation will cause considerable delay and inconvenience to club members in their already busy schedules.

Extra-curricular activities produce well-rounded, employable students. Without sufficient transport, participation will become far more difficult. Unfortunately, it would seem that the College does not realise how important these activities are.

### Saving Southside: location, location, location

Less space in the new Southside building means no room for a new Southside Bar. Campaigners have already made significant progress in persuading the authorities that there is enough demand for a new bar, but on a campus where there is already intense demand for space, the problem of finding a location has proved a major difficulty.

Now, however, it appears that a suitable spot in South Kensington may have been found. Whilst we would not wish to 'jinx' the process by revealing the location or saying that the deal is done, we are optimistic that students' efforts in campaigning for a new bar will be rewarded soon.

Visit [www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk) in the coming weeks for further developments on this and other stories.

### Join us next time

The next issue of *Felix* will be published in late September. Any comments, questions or contributions should be directed to the usual address: [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk).

## Felix

## The joy of... columns

Well, having contributed to this esteemed organ more than a dozen times throughout the year, this is it – my last column. I'm quite sad really... in more ways than one.

### Accommodation

It was my birthday on Tuesday, and I was stuck at work, busy interviewing wardens for the new halls which are being opened to replace the capacity lost by the demolition of Southside. Now that's been an interesting project, and not without its controversies either! Needless to say, I don't want to reopen any cans of worms (since Mustafa seems able enough at that), but I am glad that the College is finally getting round to sorting out a hall of residence which is ceasing to operate as it should. I don't say that without affection for the place though, since I lived there for three years; I think we should all give the hall, and the bar, a good send-off, and look forward to ushering in the new.

Accommodation has probably been one of the more interesting (and contentious at times) areas of my job. I have enjoyed being involved in the selection of new wardens and sub-wardens, and firmly believe that the quality of pastoral care that freshers receive in our halls easily outstrips the competition from other universities. So well done to the wardens for that! I have been quite busy working with Residences to develop a good

### UNCLE SAM



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

exit survey, so that we can improve the provision of accommodation to future generations of students.

### Patience

It always seems to be future generations who benefit from our labours. A turning point in my job was when I stopped expecting instant results and recognised that many of the things I was working on would not benefit the student body until future years. Once I realised that, my frustration diminished and my enthusiasm increased. I guess that's one reason why colleagues of mine have decided to stand for sabbatical positions for a second year, so that they can see through the

work they've started.

Some things I've been involved in, such as the Strategic Review and the QAA Audit, may take quite a few years to manifest themselves. I think it would be quite interesting to come back in ten years' time to see the transformation to Princes Gardens and the Union Building. Hopefully I'll have better things to do.

### Your Union

We've said it countless times before, but this is your Union, and you should use it as such. You should take the opportunities which are available to make your views known. You could always stand to serve on a committee, or Council. You could vote! Why am I telling you all this now, at the end of the year? Maybe you haven't been involved in the Union or one of its clubs and societies this year... you could reflect over the summer about what you want to get out of your student experience, since you only get one shot at it. Why not come to the Summer Ball on Saturday? And yes, that was a cheap plug.

### And finally...

As I said before, this is my last column. It's been a pleasure working for you, and with you, if you are a fellow officer or member of College or Union staff. I've had a great year. Enjoy the summer, and don't get sunburnt.

## Feeling the sand beneath your feet?

It's not long now until all you guys will be off for a nice long summer break. Of course, some of you will be off for good, and perhaps others are hanging around to work academically or to earn some extra money.

This has been my first academic year at Imperial as the adviser and I can honestly say it has been one of the most interesting and challenging years that I've experienced. The Information and Advice Centre (IAC) has dealt with a multitude of issues including all the classic things such as housing, finance and academic issues, and some unusual queries as well.

In *Felix* we have covered all sorts of subjects. It can be quite challenging trying to think of something to write about week after week, so I thought I would use my last column of the year to let you know how you can use our services over the summer period.

Many people think that some services in the Union close down over the holidays. The IAC doesn't close – we are still here to help you with all your welfare needs and we will be running a full service over the summer period.

We will be available for advice in all areas, including housing rights, employment rights, consumer rights,

### ADVICE SERVICE



**NIGEL COOKE**  
STUDENT ADVISER

debt advice, academic appeals, complaints and international student issues. We will also still be here as a point of contact for all information in the College.

Over the summer, we are also reviewing our leaflets and publications and will be producing two new booklets for the new term – one on money management, and an international students' welcome guide. We are currently in negotiations with the College to produce these together.

In the summer, many students choose to work full time to supplement

their finances. Sometimes, unfortunately, companies try to take students for granted and treat them unfairly. If this happens to you, the IAC can advise you on your statutory rights at work and can write letters to these employers on your behalf.

Over the summer we also get a lot of academic appeals, so we are going to produce an information sheet which talks students through the process. We also be available to assist any student who believes they have a case to launch an academic appeal.

Whatever all you students out there have got planned, I would just like to wish you all the best of luck, especially those who are going off into the big wide world. I hope that all your dreams come true.

I would like to thank Dave Edwards for giving me this column in *Felix* and for being a supporter of the cause throughout the year. I would also like to wish those leaving the Executive Committee good luck for the future and thanks for your support.

Remember: don't let your concern turn into a crisis. Make the IAC your one stop shop for all your welfare issues. If you would like to contact us, please call 020 7594 8067 or email [advice@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:advice@imperial.ac.uk).

Have a great summer!

COMMENT

# Farewell statement

For many of you, this will be the last issue of *Felix* you read whilst at Imperial College. That's certainly the case for me. This is the last issue of term and on 31 July I leave Imperial after nearly six years.

## Appreciation

There are many people who I need to thank for their support, guidance and mentoring during my time at College. Inevitably I shall forget to mention, or allude, to someone and for that I can only apologise in advance.

I wouldn't be here now if I hadn't graduated in Information Systems Engineering and I therefore owe a debt to staff and fellow students in the Departments of Computing and Electrical Engineering. In particular Peter Cheung, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and many other lecturers for the frequent coursework extensions I had to ask for because I was too busy running some part or other of the Union's activities as a volunteer.

Dinesh Ganeseerajah was President of City & Guilds College Union in my first year in 1999-2000.

He was the first (and only) C&G President to have been re-elected to a second term (2000-2001). Dinesh was not the average Union 'hack' and had precious little time for lengthy debates in Council meetings or other politicking. Whilst others would worry about the precise rules enshrined in the Union's constitution, he would just ignore it and just focus on doing whatever he believed to be in the best interests of students.

It was a philosophy that I continued when I succeeded him and, controversially, adopted later as President of Imperial College Union. Some will have read of some of the ensuing political fallout from the pages of *Felix* this year. But ultimately, this laissez-faire attitude to the finer points of the rules secured the highest ever turnouts in all Union elections this year, one of the first successful transitions to online voting in any students' union, and ultimately many more students getting involved in the business of the Union's democratic processes.

The Union is nothing without its volunteers or the staff who facilitate them. During my years as a

## STATE OF THE UNION



MUSTAFA ARIF  
UNION PRESIDENT

Union Officer I am fortunate to have worked with many other co-operative, talented and supportive colleagues who I can't possibly list. I have publicly recognised most in one way or another. Those I have never mentioned include Chris Piper, former President of King's College Union, who was President of ULU (University of London Union) last year and provided support

and guidance in difficult circumstances. Sir Graeme Davies, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, also gave me invaluable advice in dealing with difficult circumstances in the College. My Deputies over the last two years (Richard, Mike, Sam and Sameena) have displayed remarkable patience with me and have been a tremendous support.

Despite sometimes being at loggerheads over student issues, and the occasional public disagreement, I have managed to maintain cordial relations with most senior College staff. In fact they have often been very supportive when I have been able to articulate a strong student case. To that end I would like to place on record my thanks to Sir Richard Sykes, the Rector, as well Professor Chris Hankin, now a Pro Rector but Dean of City & Guilds College when I was C&G President. Several other senior College staff are mentioned elsewhere but I would also like to thank Heather Allan and her team at ICT, Chris Gosling and his HR staff, and Hameed Khan's financial accountants for their invaluable assistance this last year.

Finally I ought to thank my friends and family for their endurance. Buried away in College and Union activity I have probably neglected those closest to me over the last two years and I am grateful for their patience in accepting what is important to me.

## Final remarks

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Imperial. It's sad for me to be leaving after so long. You can become very attached to an institution that you've put your life and soul into and I'd be lying if I didn't admit to shedding a few tears whilst writing this column. Nevertheless I'm also glad that it is time for me to be moving on to new challenges.

I imagine I might get a party invite to the College (and Union's) centenary celebrations in 2007, but my involvement is otherwise at an end. It's been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President for two years but the time has come for me to pass the baton on. I wish the Union, and Imperial as a whole, the very best of luck. Sameena, it's over to you.

# Goodbye

Well, that's it. After 29 issues, 700 pages and something like three quarters of a million words, the *Felix* year comes to an end.

I first wrote for *Felix* back in 2000, 142 issues ago, and I'm pleased to have been a regular contributor ever since. The newspaper has been a big part of my life and I'm going to miss it. Working here has taught me a huge amount, not only about putting publications together, but also about managing teams, understanding Union politics and staying up until stupid hours of the morning.

I'm proud of what we've achieved

with *Felix* this year. We made a lot of changes, most notably the change from magazine to newsprint which could have backfired horribly, but I think we've been successful. I believe *Felix* has become a well-respected, well-written and well-read student newspaper. Preliminary results from our survey suggest that you agree.

Everyone here is pleased to have been given the President's Award – it's an honour to be singled out of Imperial's 250 fantastic student-run clubs and societies.

I would like to thank every single person who has contributed to *Felix*

## EDITORIAL



DAVE EDWARDS  
EDITOR

in any way over the past year. The newspaper could not exist without the time, effort and enthusiasm of our excellent team of volunteers. There is no way I can list them all, because there are too many, but I must mention my eight regular section editors – Numaan, Darius, Andy, Simon, Paola, Martin, Alan and Shaun – who were a pleasure to work with, week after week.

Thanks to the other sabbaticals and the Union staff for their help throughout the year. Thanks to everyone who helped produce the *Union Handbook 2004* and our new magazine *I, Science*. Thanks

to Alisdair Wren for running and revamping our website. And thanks to everyone who has kept me company on a long Tuesday night.

Whoever you are, and whatever you think of *Felix*, I hope we've managed to provide you with some combination of information and entertainment during your studies. If you're leaving Imperial, best of luck for the future.

Finally, just to create a bit of symmetry with my first editorial and to prove that we don't always learn from our mistakes, guess what time it is. Yes, it's 5am again. Thanks for reading.

# Making economics history!

**Andrew Ireson** responds to last week's criticism of the Make Poverty History campaign

I hardly think that a few pop stars could do a worse job on global poverty than the economists have done so far. Surely, humanity's greatest failing as we move into the 21st century is the shocking fact that as the world becomes richer and richer, the gap between rich and poor becomes wider and wider. Never have we been so rich. Never have there been so many suffering and dying from poverty. This is not an ideological point – it is a point of fact.

Last week's article ("Making economics history?") suggested that the solution lies with the economists. We would do well to recall the leaked memo written by the chief economist of the World Bank in December 1991, Larry Summers (now president of Harvard University – the man who recently made the controversial comments about women in science). He argued that the World Bank should be encouraging the migration of "dirty industries" to

the "Less Developed Countries (LDCs)", for which he gave three reasons.

Firstly, it is only rational that the increased morbidity and mortality caused by health-impairing pollution should occur in a country with the lowest costs, and hence the

**"Face the reality that poverty is exacerbated, if not caused, by the policies of the rich nations"**

lowest wages. "I think the economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable and we should face up to that." He then says we should attempt to distribute pollution more evenly across the world, regardless of its source: "I've always thought

that under-populated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted, their air quality is probably vastly inefficiently low compared to Los Angeles or Mexico City". Finally he explains that in countries where the life expectancy is low already, the increased risk of prostate cancer is no cause for concern. In other words, the poor don't matter at all – their lives are just not economically useful. For the full memo see [www.counterpunch.org/summers.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/summers.html).

Jose Lutzenburger (then Brazil's Secretary of the Environment) replied to Summers, saying: "Your thoughts [provide] a concrete example of the unbelievable alienation, reductionist thinking, social ruthlessness and the arrogant ignorance of many conventional 'economists' concerning the nature of the world we live in." I think this sums it up perfectly.

Summers closes his memo with

the following statement: "The problem with the arguments against all of these proposals for more pollution in LDCs (intrinsic rights to certain goods, moral reasons, social concerns, lack of adequate markets, etc) could be turned around and used more or less effectively

**"We live in a free and democratic country. We have the power to act. If we do not, no-one else will"**

against every Bank proposal for liberalisation." From this we should take our cue.

So, hang your hopes for the poor on these economists if you will. Alternatively, you could face up to the reality that to a large extent poverty is exacerbated, if not caused, by

the policies of the rich nations. As such, the best hope for the future is for the citizens of these nations to dismantle the deceit in which we have become embroiled, and refuse to accept this. It is not complicated. You do not need a PhD in economics to understand the problems. It is simply a question of politics, that is, the competing interests of the rich and powerful with the rest of us. We live in a free and democratic country – we have power and we have the responsibility to act. If we do not, no-one else will.

● Students from Imperial are going up to the G8 summit in Edinburgh and Gleneagles from 2 to 6 July to join the protests and make our voices, and the voices of the poor, heard. Travel and the conference are subsidised by the Union so please consider joining us. Contact [cs602@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cs602@ic.ac.uk) for more information and to join us.

## COMMENT

felix@ic.ac.uk

# Letters to the Editor

## Comments from another librarian

Dear Felix,

I have followed the recent correspondence about the Central Library, and the responses of senior management, with great interest.

The Rector, in his interview with Felix, brushed off the concerns raised in the first of two anonymous letters from central librarians. In her letter last week, Clare Jenkins, Director of Library Services, managed to avoid any reference to the letters at all.

In truth, neither the Rector nor Ms Jenkins have dealt properly with the central concerns raised in these letters: how exactly is it in students' interests to cram more departmental libraries into the Central Library, thus reducing the amount of stock available for consultation, and at the same time exacerbating the problems caused by 24/7 opening? And how can one of the premier educational establishments in the country hope to maintain and improve its reputation, when its main library is allowed to degenerate into a third rate hostel.

Another issue raised in the first letter was the "cavalier" treatment meted out to the Science Museum Library. It is undeniable that the astronomical hike in the charge made to the Science Museum for its library's occupancy of part of the Central Library building has jeopardised the library's future.

Has the Rector, in his remorseless drive to implement his vision of a college fit to operate successfully in the new global education market, paused to consider that he is in danger of sweeping away a valuable resource for this and future generations of students, academics and members of the public alike? The Science Museum Library is one of the foremost libraries for the history of science and technology in the world. The unique mix of material it contains, built up over a period of 120 years, will be destroyed if the museum is forced to disperse the collections.

Is it really part of the Rector's vision to see this valuable resource lost to the national and wider international community?

Member of Staff  
Science Museum Library  
(Name supplied)

## Outrage at return of smoking in Da Vinci's

Dear Editor,

I want to state my disgust at the decision announced last week that the union will start allowing smoking in the Da Vinci's bar again. I always thought that the student union should be a progressive place that would want to do what is best for the students. The government are making moves to implement large scale smoking bans across the country so why can't the union take a step forward and do it now.

According to last weeks Felix,

during the trial of the smoking ban the union did not lose money from the bar and also from the comments sheets, more people supported the smoking ban than opposed it. This in itself is unusual as people will generally take more time to complain about things than agree with them, so the general consensus must be even more in favour of the ban. I even know people that have started going to the union specifically because it's the only non-smoking bar in the area. So why, why, why, would the union stop it?

The new rules allow smoking in Da Vinci's after 9pm but in my opinion is the worst time! During lunch time the level of smoking is low, the only time it becomes unpleasant and sometimes unbearable is on the busy nights, so this should be the times to target.

Passive smoking is proven to cause damage to people's health and not only that, it is very unpleasant for the non-smokers. Why should the people who are intent on doing harm to themselves have the right to inflict this upon other students who want to use the bar? Do the union not care about this?

Charles Haworth  
Philip Bates  
Felicity Eakins

Dear Editor,

I'd like to express my regret that the smoking ban was not left in place in DV's after the trial ban ended recently. As an employee of the Union Bars I enjoyed working in a smoke free environment, I thought it was more pleasant and just generally cleaner since there was no smoking litter that needed to be cleaned up.

Walking in between the Union Bar and DV's was utterly astounding whilst the ban was in place... you could actually see for the lack of smog! It made for a much more pleasant working (and drinking) atmosphere.

Obviously going to a pub goes hand in hand with a smoking environment and that's fair enough. If people want to smoke then let them. But the fact is they have 3 places to smoke whilst enjoying the Union Bars. They have dB's, the Union Bar itself, and outdoors. Now after 9pm non-smokers will have no choice but to sit outdoors to get away from the smoke. That's all fine and dandy during the summer but what about winter?

According to last weeks article Miss Misbahuddin says, "The ban meant that running costs increased at weekends, as extra staff were needed to open the adjacent Union Bar". I work at the bar in question and have done a number of weekend shifts (both before the ban and during) and I have to totally disagree with that statement. As far as I can remember there has always been at least 3 staff in the DV's and the Union on weekends, one managing and two bar staff. That has always been the case and it is more than enough to run both bars during the weekends. The weekends

aren't ever as busy as the weekdays so two bar staff is more than enough (one per bar). So how running costs would increase over the weekends is a total mystery to me. In fact what she said implies that the Union Bar was open especially to allow smokers a place on the weekends. That's utter rubbish. The Union Bar has always been open during weekends to the best of my knowledge. It was never opened just to cater for smokers.

In fact during the ban I can't remember there being a time when business has ever been down solely due to the fact that there has been a smoking ban. I have to admit that the ban was mostly during an Easter break and the exam period so an accurate calculation of the loss in revenue due to the ban could not be made. A fault of Union policy and foolhardy planning, methinks, and from working there I have to say I have never noticed the difference.

I myself do not smoke so am obviously biased in favour of a smoking ban. But its not like we would be outlawing smoking altogether. As I mentioned, smokers still have other options within the union complex with which to smoke and drink. But why should non-smokers be limited to enjoying their drinks until 9pm only in a smoke free atmosphere? Then they have no other alternative but to leave.

It almost seems as though the you are punishing non-smokers from going to the union. It has always been a god given right to have a smoke with your drink at a pub, so why should the reverse not be the true for non smokers too?

A simple solution would be to have DV's smoke free permanently, affording the non smokers a place to enjoy themselves but also not restricting the smokers to not smoking. Obviously the Union Bar would stay a smoking bar as would dB's. I don't understand the financial or the practical arguments against that.

Mez Pahan  
DV's & Union Bar bar staff

Sameena Misbahuddin, Deputy President (Finance and Services), responds:

*Thank you for your letters. Regarding the extra costs; during the Easter holidays, usually only DaVinci's is open. However, to maintain a room that smokers could go to whilst there was a smoking ban in DaVinci's over this period, the Union Bar was also opened. The extra cost which was incurred due to this was approximately £1000.*

*During term time on the weekends DaVinci's is open on Saturday and Sunday, but in the evening of Sunday, DaVinci's closes and the Union Bar is opened. However during the trial extra staff were needed on the weekends in order to allow both the Union Bar and DaVinci's to be open, to ensure there was a no smoking bar as well as a smoking bar.*

*When the Union deduced that there was a loss of revenue, it obviously took into account the fact*

*that the ban spanned over Easter holidays. Therefore when looking at revenue it was compared to the figures from this time last year (and the change in dates of last year's and this year's holidays were also taken into account). During the discussions, details of last year's sales figures, this year's figures and trends so far this academic year were all taken into account, so it was not a simple decision to make. On top of this, the feedback from Yoursay was included.*

*Having looked at all the information, there was no clear answer – there was more favour for the ban in the feedback through 'Yoursay', but then the loss in trade indicated that students were going away from the building. There were also extra costs as well as a loss in revenue.*

*As the resolution, it was decided to continue with non-smoking from 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday. This was in effect a compromise, as there was not enough evidence that a total ban was the correct decision to make, whilst at the same time not enough evidence that reverting to smoking as before was the correct decision either.*

*However, in the proposals (which are still in their early stages) for the redevelopment of the Union Building, the need for a non-smoking area has already been identified by the Strategic Review. But before the redevelopment of the Union Building, the question is what we do with the current Union provisions. As a non-smoker myself I understand your feelings, but the committee could only go on the evidence they have and try to find a solution that will be the best compromise.*

## Why McAloon missed the point on poverty

Dear Editor,

I write in response to the article by Stephen McAloon in last week's Felix, in which Mr McAloon criticised the Make Poverty History campaign and the plans for a rally in Edinburgh to coincide with the G8 finance ministers meeting.

Mr McAloon seems to have missed the point of the campaign – which is that the deaths of some thirty thousand children every day from extreme poverty is totally unacceptable. Poverty can be stopped – it is within the powers of the G8 finance ministers to help Africa. To cancel its crippling debts; to increase aid and to make trade rules fairer for African countries. The governments of the developed nations have repeatedly failed to do this because they do not see it as a high enough priority. They have failed to stop this suffering because, in their eyes, the money is better spent elsewhere. Our campaign aims to show world leaders that the people of this country do indeed care about the people of another – by whatever means are necessary. That is why we will gather in Edinburgh on the 2nd July, whether it is convenient for Mr McAloon or not. That is also why we

will wear bands on our wrists – to advertise our campaign that others may find out more and join, not to flaunt our altruism as Mr McAloon assumes. I would urge all to visit [www.makepovertyhistory.org](http://www.makepovertyhistory.org) and join, because if you never make your views heard then nothing will ever change. Personal donations are indeed an essential part of helping the third world – as Mr McAloon graciously acknowledges – but this campaign asks only for your voice. It asks you not to help Africa quietly, as Mr McAloon suggests, but shouting; shouting so loud that they can hear it all the way in Gleneagles. Do please stand up and be heard.

Aidan Russell

## Responding to the global warming sceptic

Dear Felix,

I was interested to see the interview with Piers Corbyn in last week's Felix. Your article included two photographs of him: as a student politician, and as a sceptical scientist opposing the consensus on climate change. It is very appealing to imagine that Piers might be a lone voice of truth arguing against the vested interests of a corrupt establishment – but it is important to remember that Piers' track record is much more as a politician than a scientist. The question about whether we should respond to global warning by altering green house gas emission is one of the most important questions facing the world at the moment. There is now a rather fragile scientific and political consensus on this issue which Piers wants to end. Whether or not Piers is right is a very important question.

Piers is a very convincing speaker, and has a great skill at getting people at a public meeting to back his view against that of "the establishment". As an example, two years ago, Piers was very successful at bringing a £800million redevelopment of one of London's worst estates (the Ayelsbury in Southwark) to a grinding halt, by catalyzing a campaign against it on the grounds that the proposed public-private partnership constituted "privatization" of the estate. I'm sure he is very proud of his achievement, but the results? Not a better estate, but one that continues to have the same old problems, and most pertinantly to me a lost opportunity to rebuild my local secondary school, that is languishing at the bottom of the league tables and desparately in need of investment. Piers certainly has the ability to sow mistrust and stop things happening – but as we consider Piers' views on global warming, we must make sure we are doing so on the basis of the science, not his rhetoric about vested interests and conspiracies. And I personally am far from convinced that his scientific track record merits taking him seriously.

Professor DH,  
Imperial College Physics 1984-87  
(Full name supplied)

# Columns

## The Neighbours generation



by RUPERT NEATE

### RIP Southside Bar

I have tried to distance myself from the Union politics hot potato that Southside Bar has become, but I can't let the issue slide anymore. I am personally devastated that Southside Bar is to shut its doors for the last time on 24 June. Southside Bar is one of the very few things that

help Imperial maintain a passing resemblance to a 'normal' university's social atmosphere.

When I was researching for my original story on the closure of Southside (*Felix* 1321), Mustafa Arif, Union President, had a lot of excuses as to why Southside managed to pack in the punters every night of the week while the Union bars remained empty.

His main reason was that the rugby team only frequent Southside because their honorary president, Roger Pownall, is the bar manager. This may account for some of the Southside patrons, but I highly doubt that most of Southside's loyal customers have any idea who Mr Pownall is. I certainly didn't.

I was out with some mates last Friday, and for a reason that escapes me now, we decided to go to the Union. But Chav Night at the Union

had a door price of £3, so we decided against. Everyone knows Union nights have been dreadful this year, so charging people who are trying to give it a go really isn't the way forward. £3 may not sound like a lot, but compare it to £5 at Kings, UCL and LSE, where you actually have fun and which draw students from all across London.

Instead we headed to Southside, which was rammed. The bar, TV room and even café area upstairs were all occupied. Meanwhile, I'm told Chav night was so unpopular that dBs bar closed early. "There was nobody in there," according to a Union steward.

The situation is only set to get worse – all Union bars are set to close sometime in the Summer term next year, perhaps as early as the start of the Easter holidays. This will mean there will be no under-

graduate bars anywhere on campus! Does the Union lack any concept of foresight? How could the Union possibly consider the – albeit much overdue – refurbishment of Beit Quad at a time when there will be no alternative places to go for a drink?

The issue I find most staggering in the Southside Bar saga is that the president of our Union, Mustafa Arif, turned down the College's suggestion of moving Southside bar into an extended Linstead bar. He said that this would be "unfair on Linstead students as they would have no private communal space". But, having been a resident of two different halls myself and chatting to others, there is definitely much better hall bonding and atmosphere in halls that have bars.

It may be the case that students who do not drink feel they cannot socialise in bars, but, not to wanting

to over-generalise, these students are hardly the most sociable whatever the situation.

This travesty of Southside's closure should not be allowed to take place, at least without a little bit more of a public fight. Three thousand signatures is a good start. I'm sure that at another university if the 'powers that be' attempted to close down the most popular bar on campus there would be some kind of uprising. The apathy of students at Imperial is incredible – no-one gives a shit about anything, even things that will greatly affect them next year.

Southside halls were designed specifically to prevent student riots. Even in my wildest imagination I cannot think of any cause against which we Imperial students would riot. Perhaps the library not being open 24 hours any more?!

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# What a good IDEA!

Union Deputy President **Sam Rorke** visited Delft in Holland for a conference of student representatives from four European universities

Last week, I was fortunate enough to go with a delegation of officers from Imperial College Union to visit the lovely town of Delft in Holland. "Good grief, what are they up to now?" I hear you all cry, but don't be so quick to judge: it wasn't a jolly! We were there as guests of members of the Student Council of Delft Technical University, one of the four members of the 'IDEA League', at a conference of student representatives.

The IDEA League is a strategic alliance between Imperial College London, TU Delft, ETH Zürich and RWTH Aachen; these four technological universities are committed to the highest international standards in both research and education. The League aims to increase collaboration between the institutions and facilitate student mobility.

Established in 1999, the IDEA League has hitherto only been utilised by the highest level of policy-makers within the institutions – whilst we were in Delft the Rector was meeting his counterparts at a monastery in Zurich – and as the basis for an annual sports tournament.

Our colleagues in Delft had identified that the League could also be exploited by student representatives, in order to enhance the quality of representation on matters of European significance, and to open up the IDEA League to a higher level of student participation. They started this process back in January when they visited the three other institutions on a 'Grand Tour'. Alright for some! They were investigating factors which affect duration

of study, since the average length of study in Delft is 7.2 years, and there is increasing political pressure to reduce this. Government intervention in higher education (usually to save money) was a common theme that emerged. Delft since decided to host this conference to get everyone together for two days to discuss pertinent issues.

Some interesting contrasts came out of the conference; it appears that Imperial and Delft are leading the field when it comes to quality assurance. All those hours I have spent in College 'scrutiny' committees (with seemingly limited powers) seemed worthwhile when I found out that representatives at Zurich appear to have very limited capacity to monitor the quality of education and suggest improvements.

We had much interesting discussion about the Bologna process, which is a move by governments all over Europe to harmonise the structure of higher education to allow greater student mobility and more widespread mutual recognition of degrees. They seemed to know a lot more about it than us, since the rest of Europe is adopting the Anglo-Saxon Bachelor's/Master's system, so changes to date in Britain have taken place behind the scenes. In particular, the Germans seem to resent these alterations.

Probably the most significant thing we achieved was a date for the next conference! I also gracefully volunteered next year's sabbaticals (who were represented by Sameena Misbahuddin, President elect, and Sarah Khatib, my successor) to host the event in July. It took quite a lot of

time to converge the diaries of four very different institutions with different exam dates, different officer terms, and other complications.

We also managed to agree on draft aims and objectives, and a few of the projects which we would like the alliance to work on, and set realistic target completion dates. We decided on a name: my suggestion of 'IDEALiStiC' – IDEA League Student Council – was, rather surprisingly, accepted. We identified possibilities for cultural exchanges between societies from member institutions, and decided that we wanted to lobby our institutions to organize a summer school to raise student awareness of, and participation in, the League. We also tasked Zurich with setting up a website for the alliance.

Possibly the most enjoyable part of the trip was experiencing life in another (very different) university town. Delft is a small city characterised by the proliferation of canals and bicycles. The people are very welcoming, and things seem a bit more laid back than London. We also experienced student life in Delft – one evening, we did a tour of some of the 'student associations', which seemed to be founded on the principles of cheap food, free-flowing beer, a very strict pecking order and humiliating initiations!

Dutch universities don't have automatic-membership unions in the British sense, so the student associations really underpin the students' social life. There appeared to be a great sense of camaraderie, and loyalty to the associations, which Imperial College Union could only



Top: Delft Technical University. Bottom: bicycle parking is a big problem in South Ken, but not in Holland!

dream of experiencing. Best of all, of course, was the superb hospitality extended to us by our hosts, and the friendship between all the delegates which was formed very quickly.

So, what's the message? Britain is only a tiny island, I guess. There

are other things going on in other places and it's about time we got out of our silo and started talking to our neighbours! I was pleased with what we managed to get out of the event, and I wish the alliance the best of luck next year.

# And they're off

Imperial student **Mustaffa Junaid** took part in the BUPA 10km run in Hyde Park

As I stood there at the starting point, heart beating, heavy breathing and nerves on the edge, I awaited the starting signal. Over 8000 people were gathered just before the Serpentine Bridge, just as eager to start the race. All that training, all the talk, it was all down to this. The siren went, we were off.

It all started in January, with my sister introducing me to the idea. I have never participated in a real race in my life (that's if you exclude the 1 mile fun-run I did in Primary school. Man that was tough!)

The BUPA 10km race in Hyde Park was the perfect motivation factor to get me back into shape and jogging again. All too often we use the excuse of work to prevent us from improving oneself physically. Thus, I entered the race along with my sister as 'Reem Team' (eem meaning a type of deer or gazelle in Arabic). The race was organised by 95.8 Capital FM radio along with BUPA, and all the money collected from sponsorship went to Help a London Child (a charity run by the station).

So early February, while normal human beings were still sleeping

in their lovely warm beds, I was out in Gunnersbury Park bursting my lungs. Each day saw more improvement, quicker time, and longer distances. It was a struggle but I knew it was going to pay off at the end.

The day of the race had finally arrived, Sunday 5 June. At 8am we set off for Hyde Park for the long awaited race. At 9.30am there were several hundred people gathered in the park, but the number soon grew to thousands by 10am. There were young and old, male and female, fit and unfit. A stage had been erected for the DJs to entertain the crowd. The warm up session started at 10, and I can tell you that it was a lot harder than I could have imagined, leaving me with a stitch before the race had even begun. Then the hordes of runners filed towards the starting line and Richard Bacon (formerly of Blue Peter) sounded the starting siren. We were off, going across the Serpentine Bridge before running along the Serpentine.

I had my mp3 player in my ears with the Rocky theme music and I felt really good. The first 2km were pretty easy. The course then led us around the edge of Hyde



Mustaffa Junaid proudly shows off his medal after completing the 10km run

Park, before coming back towards the Serpentine, then along the edge of Hyde Park again. Large crowds of people had gathered along the race course. Some were taking pictures, some cheering, and others clapping. Every kilometre seemed like a few miles. I kept running, just dreaming of the 5km mark where they would be providing us with

water. The most testing time was the 6 to 8km section, where I hit the infamous psychological wall (every experienced runner should know about that, though for them 6 to 8km would be a breeze).

The final kilometre took us across the lake before the long stretch alongside the Serpentine. This was the part where I forgot that my muscles had stopped working and that I was no longer able to breathe properly. I became a mad man near the end, giving it my all. Whatever it took, I was going to reach my target of one hour. The long stretch seemed to go on forever, but bit by bit I was getting closer. Just as I thought I had nothing left in the tank I crossed the line with my whole body in agony.

Despite all my training I did find the course quite tough, as did the other runners. The majority of the course had a gradient that meant twice the workload. However, this did not prevent me from reaching my target of 1 hour (my time was 59min and 43sec). I came in at position 2792 out of over 8000 people. The other Reem Team member (my sis) came in at 1hr and 29sec (pretty

impressive). As I passed the finishing line the satisfaction I felt was immeasurable. I did it! I had finished a whole 10km race for the first time. I had my medal in my hand and a bottle of water, perfect!

The warm down then started at 12noon before the award ceremony for the fastest runners. The fastest male had a time of 36min and 28sec, and the fastest female 36min and 49sec. However, the most notable prize went to the wackiest fancy dress, a man who wore a Darth Vader outfit (that must have been terribly uncomfortable).

Many of you would think that you need to be super fit to run in any race but the reality is that it is possible for anyone. All you need is motivation and a will to go all the way. Since the event is right at the doorstep of Imperial, it should be a perfect occasion for many of us students to take part in. Next year you can join in as a group or individually. It is a great way to keep fit, collect some money for charity, and have a wonderful time. Go and find those old trainers, wipe the dust off and start jogging. I expect to see more familiar faces next year!

# Imperial College Union awards

Imperial College Union has given out the following awards for the 2004-5 session.  
Congratulations to all the recipients.

## Half Colours

"Awarded for a positive contribution to the general life of the Union in an extraordinary fashion"

Clare Anderson  
David Balfour  
Joseph Bull  
Matthew Cunningham  
Rachel Daniels  
Michele Daryanani  
Helen Dawson  
Mark Flower  
Andrew Haynes  
Suzanne Horn  
David Horton

Nicholas Jones  
Ryan Kerstein  
Hussain Khan  
Robin Kumar  
Zhi Lim  
Christopher McIver  
Louise Oakes  
Morten Olesen  
Henri Ozarovsky  
Simon Pascoe  
Daniel Reader

Christopher Rowlands  
Fabio Sidoli  
Siddharth Singh  
Eirini Spentza  
Martin Smith  
John Sykes  
Yingke Wang  
Helene Wehrmann  
James Yearsley  
Imran Younas

## Full Colours

"Awarded for repeatedly, through outstanding achievements, over the course of the year, making a significant contribution to the life of the Union"

Philip Braude  
Edward Coles Gale  
Nichola Hawkins  
Jessica Hill  
Dan Lehmann

Brett Manning  
Max Marsden  
Darius Nikbin  
Michael Perring  
Simon Rawson

Colin Smith  
James Thompson  
Thomas Tibbits

## Outstanding Service Awards

John Collins for his continuous outstanding achievements across a broad spectrum of Union activity, including: valuable contributions to Council, being a very active RAG treasurer, involvement in DramSoc activities, improving representation within the City and Guilds College Union and developing alumni relations in the engineering faculty. The quality of his representational work has been noted, in private, by College officers as well as his peers.

Alex Guite for driving forward the development of the Physical Sciences Union. He played a major supporting role last year in starting up new events such as the Freshers Ball and has built on those achievements this year as President. He played a key role in helping to develop the Union strategy and also had a major influence on the Union's mini governance review. He has revived both the Labour Society and the Debating Society, largely running both single-handedly for two years.

## Fellowships

Richard Plackett for continuous and exceptional long term service to the Jazz and Rock Society and the Arts and Entertainments Board in general. Richard has single-handedly run the technical aspects of the Jazz and Rock recording studio and related facilities for seven years. Numerous club and society events, successful student bands as well as parts of the Arts Festival simply would not have happened without Richard's dedication to the Union.

James Robinson for continuous and exceptional long term service to STOIC (Student Television of Imperial College) and the Media Group in general. James single-handedly kept STOIC News running through a very difficult period when they were moved into a bare basement in 2001 and had to rebuild their studios from scratch. He brought back STOIC's coverage of the sabbatical elections from the archives to reality. James has truly dedicated his extra-curricular time at College to our media societies and the Union is richer for it.

Nicola Williams for her continuous and exceptional long term service to the Athletic Clubs Committee (ACC) and the Union in general. Nicola has been the Chair of the ACC for two years. During that time she played a pivotal role in helping the Union develop a draft sports strategy last year, and followed that up with a major contribution to the development of an overall Union strategy this year. Nicola has been a stalwart representative for the interests of sport at Imperial College and a conscientious Union officer.

## President's Awards

Tony Mitcheson, Danny Sharpe, Will Dawson, Richard Walker and Richard Washington

## President's Award for Clubs and Societies

Felix

## Honorary Life Membership

Sameena Misbahuddin, Sam Rorke, Dave Edwards, Lucy Pickard and Therees Tkach Hibbard

# “My job is to represent the interests of all the students”

Mustafa Arif, outgoing President of Imperial College Union, talks top-up fees, Southside Bar, student democracy, great achievements and big mistakes with **Dave Edwards** in our final interview of the year

Mustafa Arif has been President of Imperial College Union for the last two years. Despite receiving criticism for his handling of a number of important issues, he was elected with a substantial majority on both occasions and comfortably survived an attempt to ‘sack’ him last term.

A 25-year-old graduate in Information Systems Engineering, Arif claims to work upwards of 80 hours per week on a regular basis in his role as President. I managed to find a spare hour in his schedule to discover his views on a range of subjects such as higher education funding methods and the controversial closure of Southside Bar.

Arif decided to study engineering in 1997 because of his interests in science and business. He says he “wasn’t posh enough” for Cambridge, and Imperial came highly recommended, though not for the usual reasons:

“My physics teacher, who I had a bit of a crush on, used to work behind the bar in Da Vinci’s and she told me I’d fit in perfectly at Imperial because they were mostly spotty and wore glasses.”

He wanted to be President “ever since the first year welcome meeting where I remember Natasha Newton (President 1999-2000) getting up on the stage, and yes, I probably had a bit of a crush on her as well. Then in my fourth year issues like tuition fees and the proposed merger with UCL made it seem quite interesting, and I thought I could probably cope with being President.”

Arif found his first year in the job “frustrating”, as it was “difficult to get things done”.

“I don’t think any sabbaticals really appreciate until they’re elected just how many external constraints there are,” he says. “Even with the best will in the world you often can’t do what you set out to achieve.”

He tells me that the impending departure of the Union manager (Mandy Hurford, who retired in summer 2004) meant that it was impossible to start any new major projects when he started the job in August 2003. “To be elected and then realise that you can’t do what you promised to do, what people elected you to do, is very galling. To some extent, despite my manifesto being focused on developing the Union’s services, I spent my time not doing that but instead raising the profile of campaigns and representation... and I don’t think we did a bad job.”

The next Union manager – or Permanent Secretary, as he was officially known – has recently left the Union after less than a year. I put it to Arif that this departure will cause similar problems.

He argues that the organisation is now better equipped to cope with such changes: “I think things are quite messy with the departure of the Permanent Secretary, but we’re in a change mode, we’re not in a static mode. We’re still pushing the big priorities forward, and I think we’re coping.”



“Even with the best will in the world you often can’t do what you set out to achieve” – Mustafa Arif (right), President of Imperial College Union, with Dave Edwards

## Top-up fees

An outspoken critic of the National Union of Students (NUS), Arif places much of the blame for the introduction of university top-up fees at their door.

“The battle was lost in 1997 when the NUS gave their support to the Labour Government to introduce their original tuition fees of £1000 per year,” he says. “Everyone in the university business knew that that was the indication that

**“The fees battle was lost in 1997 by the NUS... who for their own political reasons supported the Government”**

free education would stop, a fee would be set, sooner or later the fee would rise, and sooner or later universities would be allowed to vary it. The debate was lost by the NUS, who for their own political interests supported the Government at the time.”

He believes that there is over-supply of university education in Britain, “because people seem to want a degree when it might not necessarily be of benefit to them. A lot of people who go to university these days are just using it as a middle-class finishing school.” He brings up a MORI opinion poll from 2002 which showed that “public opinion was against the 50% education target and would prefer real education for a more defined set.”

And his personal view? Is there a solution to the fees problem in the current political climate?

“My view is that, given the situation of

the past few years, the only way we’re going to get back to a sensible number of people doing degrees is if we do have a market for tuition fees. Inevitably the £3000 cap is going to rise, and I think eventually it could become unregulated, but what I think we would need is a system of state scholarships to fund tuition as well as living costs. Others who want to do it when there is no academic benefit can pay the whole way. You then wouldn’t have such a burden on the taxpayer.”

**“I do think we need to get the Southside Bar issue into perspective. This isn’t a long term problem”**

## Southside Bar

The decision to close – and not replace – Southside Bar in just over a week’s time has been met with disappointment and anger by students, staff and others who value the award-winning venue. The President has been attacked for rejecting the College’s proposal to move the bar into Linstead Hall, and for not doing enough to find an alternative location for Southside Bar after it the building is demolished.

“I do think we need to get this into perspective,” he says. “This isn’t a long term problem. There will be a bar in the new Linstead [though not for several years], and the Union will be redeveloped so that we have a pub-type environment.”

“I don’t think we need a direct replacement for Southside Bar... but with the redevelopment of Beit we’re looking at something like a 12 to 18 month project,

and if that’s going to happen we’re going to need something.”

The Union is often criticised for poor communication. So should the student body have been consulted about Southside Bar and perhaps other issues too? Arif is not convinced. He argues that in fact, “this year we’ve engaged in the Union’s biggest consultative exercise in my entire time as a student – the strategic review”.

“It’s an interesting paradox with consultation,” he says thoughtfully. “When you consult people, they always demand more consultation, and they may not necessarily have done that if they had been ignorant because you hadn’t consulted them at all.”

I argue that if the issue had been put to a referendum, an overwhelming majority would have voted in favour of moving Southside Bar into the communal space in Linstead. Arif accepts that, but points out that one of the problems with democracy is “the tyranny of the majority”.

“My job is to represent the interests of all the students,” he stresses, “and I can’t allow Linstead students to be screwed over just for a bar – a bar that wouldn’t have been that big, it would have been non-smoking and it wouldn’t have had the massive real ale collection.”

## Confidence and accountability

The President is critical of those who brought motions against him to the Union Council. “Some people got a bit overexcited, and in one or two cases that’s a bit disappointing because they should have known better due to their previous involvement in the Union. They could have asked for clarification rather than writing motions to Council.”

But he admits: “I’m human and all humans make mistakes. University is a learning experience for everyone; student politics is a learning experience for all involved.”

## Attendance at Union events

I bring up the low level of attendance at Union events – in particular the Wednesday and Friday late nights – compared to other London colleges. Arif claims that he is either “the best or the worst person to ask, because I had never been to one until I was president”.

“It’s to do with our student demographic,” he explains. “We have a very science and engineering centred student base. We have a very male student base, and I think many students prefer to go out where they meet a more rounded set of

**“I’m human and all humans make mistakes. Student politics is a learning experience for all involved”**

students. I don’t think we’re ever going to get around that.”

He sees little point in trying to compete with local clubs and other students’ unions. “I think it’s more realistic to recognise what our limitations are and provide services when the building is redeveloped. We’re not a campus university, we are in the middle of London. We can’t provide everything so we should provide what the rest of the city doesn’t provide and we should provide a community focal point.”

## The future

The President believes that Imperial College needs to be more positive and ambitious in its outlook. “The College needs to stop holding back on the Bologna process of standardising degrees across Europe,” he says. “We need to get out of the mindset of competing with the Russell Group of [British] universities and into the mindset of competing with the likes of Harvard and MIT and Princeton.”

He thinks the Union must develop its facilities to meet the rising expectations that will come from rising fees. He also suggests “something like in the US, where part of the Union’s funding comes from a compulsory addition to student fees,” though he accepts that “it’s not an option at the moment because of the current fee arrangements.”

“We would have to consider whether people could opt out of paying that fee and joining the Union, but more importantly it would mean that when you vote, you’re voting for a membership fee.”

## Achievements and regrets

Arif believes his greatest achievement was “going from a situation where we’ve been endlessly sitting around discussing things to a situation where we’re taking the best steps of taking the union forward.”

“The evidence of that is in the successful adoption by Council of a strategic plan; the creation of the Graduate Students Association; and the massive increase in turnout as a result of electronic voting, despite all the criticism, mostly from the authors of the accountability motion, about rushing change through. We can’t let bureaucracy get in the way of what is the right thing to do.”

And his biggest mistake? “I didn’t take holiday between the end of my degree and the start of my tenure as President because I have worked every holiday since the age of 16 in paid employment, which in hindsight I regret – I probably should’ve done some travelling. So last year I was burnt out and this year I’m still burnt out. I know I haven’t personally performed as well as I’m physically capable of doing over the past two years.”

Afterwards, Arif tells me he will consider taking a postgraduate course at Cambridge or return to the IT world. But first: “Basically I need a two to three week break to physically get back together.”

exhibition road music day  
London's home of Fête de la Musique

21 June 2005  
from 10am to midnight  
www.exhibitionroadmusicday.org

Fête de la MUSIQUE  
21 JUNE

exhibition road music day

Fête de la MUSIQUE  
21 JUNE

## What’s on at Imperial?

Imperial is thrilled to be participating in the first Exhibition Road Music Day. Two major performances will take place on the Queen’s Lawn on **Tuesday 21 June 2005**:

**13:20 Imperial College Big Band**

**18:00 Imperial College Symphony Orchestra**

Imperial student musicians will additionally present informal performances outside the College’s main entrance on Exhibition Road.

BBQ food and a bar will be available on the Queen’s Lawn, between 12.00- 15.00 and 17.00- 20.00.

The full programme of local events is available at [www.exhibitionroadmusicday.org](http://www.exhibitionroadmusicday.org)

For further information, email [events@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:events@imperial.ac.uk)



# Clubs & Societies

felix@ic.ac.uk

## The Friday feeling

### ISLAMIC SOCIETY

By Sagir Hassam

When it was announced that Southside halls were being replaced, the first thought running through our minds for many of us was probably: "Oh no! What's going to happen to our Southside Bar?"

But believe it or not, the Southside Bar is not the only long-serving tradition that will be lost in the midst of the Southside demolition debris. The Imperial College Islamic Society has been holding weekly Friday Prayers in Southside for more than 20 years. And some even quote the figure nearer to 30!

The 'Juma Prayer', formally known as the Congregation Prayer, acts as a focal point for at least 300 students during term time from a range of societies, not just the Islamic society.

You will see many attendees from societies like Arab, Bangladesh, Malaysian and Pakistan to name a few. You may even spot a few faces from the local community, from Embassy workers to Science Museum staff. But whoever you might bump into on their way to Juma on a Friday at midday, he or she will be sure to tell you that Juma is a time for them to revitalise their connection with God; a time to reflect and evaluate oneself during the past week. It is also a time to

come together as an community to share ideas and support one another in people's everyday affairs.

"So what?" I hear you cry, but this religious and sociable gathering means much more than that! In fact Juma is one of those weekly highlights in many Muslim students' lives. The post-Juma ritual of catching up with the week's events and grabbing some "munch" has become an addictive tradition for many each Friday afternoon. The Juma Prayer at Imperial has also hosted many charities to raise thousands of pounds for the less fortunate across the world. In November 2004, Islamic Society collected £9000 for the Bangladesh floods that occurred several months prior. Unfortunately all of this will come to a close on Friday 24 June, when Southside is knocked down.

The Islamic Society has been given the use of the Union gym over summer as a temporary solution. Over the summer, the Juma prayers will be held in this gym between 1 and 2pm each Friday, until a long-term replacement has been found. The Juma attendees will find it a little difficult in the gym itself, as it is too small to fit the entire congregation; the Prayer has to be split into two rooms, and on some weeks it will occur on two floors!

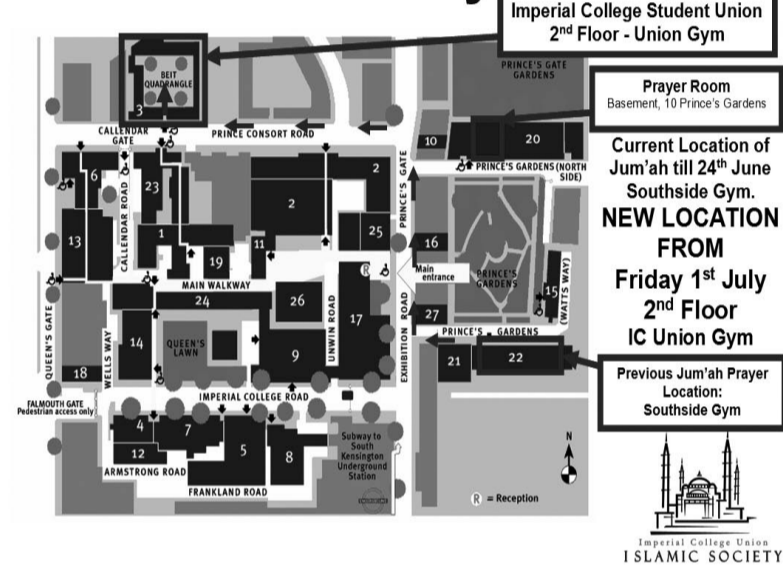
We, the Islamic Society, would like to notify all students of the Juma location change from Southside to the Union Building (opposite Beit

Quad) during the summer. We also ask students to watch for updates with regards to the Autumn term Juma venue, which is yet to be resolved. The Islamic Society welcomes all to attend the sermon before the prayer that is given in English.

For more details about the Juma Prayer and the Islamic Society's activities, please visit [www.union.ic.ac.uk/islamic](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/islamic), email [islam@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:islam@imperial.ac.uk) or alternatively ring Haji on 07956 493050.



### ICU Islamic Society



### ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

By Noah Nkonge

Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is a student-run charity that sees engineering as a tool that can be used to help people escape from the cycle of poverty. To that end, EWB Imperial held a training weekend to demonstrate appropriate technology for less developed regions, and to promote and increase awareness of social, political and health issues around development work.

The weekend comprised of practical group activities such as the construction of solar cookers (thanks to Quentin Stowell of Nordson UV Ltd) and a mock waste incinerator, as well as a series of illuminating talks from those who have first-hand experience of work in the development field.

There were talks from EWB members Mo Ali and Susan Long, who had been to Ecuador to help build mud stoves in a small village; and a talk on the current state of photovoltaic energy, and a talk from Tom Jackson (Voluntary Services Overseas) on his experiences of working within the Tanzanian culture whilst building waste incinerators.

The training weekend was also an invaluable opportunity to meet people with practical experience of development engineering and others who shared a mutual interest in the development field. Apart from the dodgy heating system in Civ Eng, the training weekend was a success, and EWB Imperial hopes to run a similar event next year.

# What's on

felix@ic.ac.uk

## THURSDAY 16 JUNE

### FILM KINSEY

6pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£3  
Contact: [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@ic.ac.uk)

### FILM HOTEL RWANDA

8.30pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£3  
Contact: [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@ic.ac.uk)

## FRIDAY 17 JUNE

### UNION EVENTS ROCK CITY

8pm-2am  
Beit Quad  
£3  
Playing the best rock party tunes. Snakebite and black £1 a pint.  
Contact: [union@ic.ac.uk](mailto:union@ic.ac.uk)

## SATURDAY 18 JUNE

### UNION EVENTS SUMMER BALL

8pm-4.30am  
South Kensington campus  
Ents only tickets: £25  
The summer ball is the main event in the Union's social calendar. This year's ball has a Hollywood theme and features headline acts Trevor Nelson and Colin Murray. There's still time to buy ents tickets from Union reception, the Union shop, the Reynolds Bar and Southside Bar.  
Contact: [union@ic.ac.uk](mailto:union@ic.ac.uk)

## MONDAY 20 JUNE

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES IQ END OF YEAR PARTY

7pm onwards  
Leinster pub, Bayswater  
FREE  
The final IQ party of this

academic year has arrived! The pub boasts cheap drinks (around £2 for a pint or £6 for a bottle of wine). For all who attend there will be free drinks and Q-jumps to Heaven. See website for details: [union.ic.ac.uk/sec/iq](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/sec/iq).  
Contact: [hugo.carr@ic.ac.uk](mailto:hugo.carr@ic.ac.uk)

## TUESDAY 21 JUNE

### FILMS ICU CINEMA ALL-NIGHTER

6pm  
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad  
£10 for all six films  
The famous all-nighter returns. Six quality films shown back to back.  
Contact: [cinema@ic.ac.uk](mailto:cinema@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](mailto:union@ic.ac.uk)

## WEDNESDAY 22 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](mailto:union@ic.ac.uk)

## FRIDAY 24 JUNE

### UNION EVENTS END OF TERM SHOWCASE

12noon-2am  
Beit Quad

£4 (free before 8pm)  
Start the last day of term with sunshine tunes in the Quad from midday. Later, there's music in dBs from Nicky Blackmarket, Macpherson, Spindle. In other rooms, look out for Candy vs Rock City, Bling Bling and Bar Shisha.  
Contact: [union@ic.ac.uk](mailto:union@ic.ac.uk)

## ALL WEEK

### FILMS: VUE CINEMA, FULHAM BROADWAY

Student discount ALL WEEK  
**BATMAN BEGINS (12A)**  
Daily: 12noon, 2pm, 3pm, 5pm, 6pm, 8pm, 9pm. Fri-Sat only: 11pm. Sat-Sun only: 11am.  
**THIRTEEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ONE THING (15)**  
Daily: 3.25pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.30pm. Sat-Sun only: 1pm.  
**MR & MRS SMITH (12A)**  
Daily: 12.05pm, 1.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.15pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 8.15pm, 9.45pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.20pm.  
**SIN CITY (18)**

Daily: 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm. Fri-Sat only: 11.35pm.

**THE PACIFIER (PG)**

Daily, not Thurs: 1.20pm,

3.40pm. Fri to Mon only: 6pm.

**STAR WARS: REVENGE**

**OF THE SITH (12A)**

Daily: 1.20pm, 2.25pm,

4.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm,

9.30pm.

**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

**(15)**

Daily, not Thurs: 9.20pm.

**THE HITCHHIKER'S**

**GUIDE TO THE GALAXY**

**(PG)**

Sat-Sun only: 10.30am, 1pm.

SURVEY

felix@ic.ac.uk

# Twice his height in beer



André Refig, a postgraduate student in mechanical engineering, won our survey prize for the best suggestions on how to improve *Felix*. He told us that the Letters section was his favourite part of the newspaper and suggested offering a prize for the best letter, to encourage people to write in. He also suggested running reviews of pubs. His prize (above) was twice his height in beer – 26 cans of John Smith's.

Rachel Lambert, a third year biology student, won our random draw and will receive half her weight in chocolate. Thanks to everyone who filled in the survey.

## Clubs and societies: send your handbook entries in now!

The Imperial College Union Handbook is published over the summer and mailed out to all UK-based freshers before they arrive. All overseas-based freshers get a copy on arrival, and any student can take one from Union reception throughout the year. Putting an entry in the Handbook is a great way to publicise your club, especially to freshers.

We need...

1. A brief description of your club in **NO MORE THAN 200 WORDS**. This might include what the club does, why freshers should join, where to find the club (if applicable), dates/times/locations of regular meetings, and any other information you think necessary
2. Contact name
3. Contact email address
4. Club website address (if you have one)
5. A good quality, high resolution photo
6. **PLEASE** Let us know if you have any special requirements, for example regarding the name of your club. We would usually remove words like 'Imperial' and 'Union' from club names

**So, if you want your club to be included in the Handbook, please send the above to [handbook@ic.ac.uk](mailto:handbook@ic.ac.uk) BY THIS FRIDAY, 17 JUNE**

# Music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

## OMG ROFL!!!!!!111

A slightly unconventional review of the new Leaves live set by two of our most stalwart contributors, and, braving the 100 Club toilet 'experience', Felix checks out The Rifles

### LIVE REVIEWS

#### Leaves

The Buffalo Bar

★★★★☆

#### Indier than Thou says:

Hey Matty

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Hey James

#### Indier than Thou says:

Did you enjoy the Leaves gig the other night?

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

I did, I thought it was quite special, I'm glad I missed The Hair, or should I say The Colon Hair

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Lol

#### Indier than Thou says:

rofl they reminded me of some thing, can't quite put my finger on it...

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

the past?

#### Indier than Thou says:

That's it, the smooth sound of 2002

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

smooth? more like garage rock tinniness

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

lol

#### Indier than Thou says:

Yup, I quite liked the Buffalo Bar, despite the smell of stale vomit

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

rofl, it did follow us around the room like a middle-aged gay guy in Clapham

#### Indier than Thou says:

Ha! So, onto business. Did you know the Leaves are Icelandic? Which means they spend half the year in TOTAL DARKNESS!

#### Indier than Thou says:

(Better than being in The Darkness)

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

rofl, omg it must be crazy, how do owls and other nocturnal creatures like the humble badger

cope with it? They must be incredibly tired from the 24 hour foraging in the undergrowth

#### Indier than Thou says:

I never thought of it from their angle! So, do you remember Leaves the first time around?

#### Indier than Thou says:

With their smooth sounds of 2002

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

I do, 2002 is obviously back in, I did however notice a resemblance to Coldplay which felt out of place at the time of the new rock revolution

#### Indier than Thou says:

I agree. But they were more atmospheric than the Chris Martin Show. I can't believe how much Leaves have changed in three years!

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Yeah, they must have tripped over the Post-Rock Rule Book as written by Explosions in the Sky and Godspeed You! Black Emperor, i.e. lots of snare, lots of strings and cool noises and plenty of climax

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

more 1998 than 2002

#### Indier than Thou says:

lmao Though they know how to write 'em short as well. The Spell for example was ace, and only about four mins long. Do you remember that one, With the slamming piano and fuzz bass? I think it comes out soon as a single.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

I hope that is a plug because I'm sold!

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Lol

#### Indier than Thou says:

Indeed, I'm expecting my cheque from Island Records any day now! So onwards and upwards, what did you think of the band? Some of them were a bit scary lookin'

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Yeah, being Icelandic must be a very miserable experience. They

looked so grumpy they make Thom Yorke look like a prozac addict

#### Indier than Thou says:

Mmm, prozac. I think I'd be pretty miserable playing the tiny Buffalo Bar, and being supported by a band called The Colon Hair. Their singer had a pretty amazing voice.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

It must be annoying have epic music confined to a few square metres of taste-deprived decorated basement space and those lads with the digestive tract disorder just heighten the filthy ambience. His voice was very powerful, even though at times he seemed drowned out by the Rock and the Roll he managed admirably those high notes.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

...and he has a TOIGHT body YESH!

#### Indier than Thou says:

Very droll Matty. I have to say it, I was blown away by their set closer Shakma. So good. You can't fault a good snare drum.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

It is one of those songs which manages to defy time, when it ends you haven't realised how much time has passed and you never want the song to come down.

#### Indier than Thou says:

Do you think they'll manage to graze the charts? I though Good Enough sounded radio-worthy. Sing along chorus et al. And if Athlete can do it...

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

I'm not so sure, aspects of each and every song I think require time to engross you like with a lot of good music. It can be hard to digest for the Athlete loving unambitious ear of the chart makers i.e. the public

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Other bits which seem accessible come across as a poor imitation of Coldplay still. But they are carving their own impressive sound.

#### Indier than Thou says:

I guess so. But album sales are often more indicative of quality, and their newey Angela Test comes out in August. We shall see.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

Yeah, I believe the album will be more indicative of whether they sink into the public's imagination. After all, there is a market for those who like Sigur Ros but need something more accessible at times.

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

The Colon Hair however I think will be destined to the fate of most 2002 garage rock bands: eventually having a bath

#### Indier than Thou says:

God, I hope they're not even



Leaves: I know, it's not the band, but they are extremely photo-shy

signed! Well there you have it then. Leaves, uniting the musical taste of Imperial's indie boys and post-rockers. Oops, did I just use plural?

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

You did, they are out there somewhere. They are just stuck inside the body of Kaiser Chiefs loving scallywags.

#### Indier than Thou says:

Bless their cotton socks. Bye bye Matty

#### Me=Post-Rock says:

tfn James

**James Millen and  
Matty Hoban**

#### The Rifles

The 100 Club

★★★★☆

If you were to approach the average man in the street and ask him, "Who do you associate with East 17?", chances are that he'll ramble on about a pisspoo boy band from the early nineties, whose lead singer hilariously fell from grace after making a *faux pas* over ecstasy.

However, E17 (featuring the suburb of Walthamstow) is also the home of up-and-coming band The Rifles. Firing as part of the latest volley of London rock groups, they follow the current trend of recognising and paying homage to the punkera, with various magazines comparing them to classic acts like The Clash and The Jam. If this description sounds too much like The Others for your liking, don't worry; their songs tend to reflect a more personal line rather than harking on about how cool they are.

Arriving on stage after some strong support courtesy of The Izzys and trippy rockers Trap 2, the band form an immediate attraction with the crowd, with the four piece shaking hands and hugging more excitable members of the crowd, allowing people up on stage to, ahem, 'skank' during the more jumpy num-

bers, such as ska flashback *Lazy Days*, which is the perfect anthem for those care-free post exam days you'll have.

In fact, with their ska influences The Rifles could be seen as a modern day Specials, and this is most obvious on *Repeat Offender*, with a menacing bassline steamrolling the song along and the theme of adolescent hooliganism apparent from the title.

Their main strength comes from their ability to make catchy, shouty music which accurately captures the spirit of London circa 1977. Just take the performance of their first single, *Peace and Quiet*, which, following a swift drum intro, breaks into a series of swaggering guitars which has the whole crowd jumping like crazy, as the songs builds up to its strong point, the anthemic "...All I want is a little peace and quiet!" as its chorus. This is not a one off; when the B-side *Breakdown* is played later in the set, all the elements combine again to make another astounding live track.

Unfortunately the set flies by too quickly, and after the forthcoming single *When I'm Alone* is finished the crowd surround the stage so the band can't leave to do the whole 'we're just popping off before we play our encore' routine, forcing them into the final track, the haunting *Lost In London*.

The Rifles are playing a succession of gigs around the country in the forthcoming months, and this reporter urges you to go out and catch their brash rock music whilst you can, being a welcome and upcoming addition to the popular music canon.

Oh, and as a final note, if anyone from the 100 Club happens to be reading this, can you please sort out your chairs and the toilets? The former made my back ache, while the latter required wellies to navigate. Shame on you.

**Matthew Hartfield**



The Rifles: damn photo-shy bands

# Gazing at shoes, enjoying the sun

Friends with Four Tet, obsessed with shoegaze, and a lover of a good drum fill. Sound good to you? Dan Snaith's newly-monikered Caribou (née Manitoba) doesn't disappoint

## ALBUM REVIEW

### Caribou

The Milk Of Human Kindness  
(Domino)

★★★★★

The story so far: Dan Snaith, a good friend of Mr Keiran Hebden (aka Four Tet), and key member of Hebden's first band, Fridge, used to be called Manitoba. His second record, *Up In Flames*, was a storming blend of sixties psych, glitchy IDM, and sunny shoegaze melodies, and was lauded by many as one of best records of 2003. Since a minor confrontation with an old punk singer, Handsome Dick Manitoba (heard any of his records? No? Nor have I), who tried to claim Snaith was infringing his image, he simply picked another Canadian placename rather than fight.

So, Caribou is Manitoba. As anyone who has heard both *Up In Flames* and *Start Breaking My Heart* (his debut) will attest, Snaith's sound changed massively in the two years that separated them – the latter is a mixture of pastoral electronica and stoned beats, while the former is a bombastic, rapturous affair. In fact, you can barely tell they're the product of the same artist. Many



Caribou: "I can, like, play two keyboards. In an animal mask"

have speculated over what the next step would be; more tripped out shoegaze? More sixties references? Hip-hop beats? The answer, I can now tell you, is all of these.

*The Milk Of Human Kindness* buzzes with the same sunny, trippy feel that made *Up In Flames* so appealing. The opener, *Yeti*, jogs

along on a wall of distorted acoustic guitars (a previous trademark), with Snaith's vocals higher in the mix than they've ever been before. His voice, shorn of warping and delay, is childlike and inviting: "His greasy fingers strum together / and stretching 'cross the sky". Utterly nonsensical, but the vocal line is so

catchy you'll find yourself singing it for days afterwards. A sublimely funky Rhodes line brings in a set of cymbal-heavy jazz fills that'll have the inner drummer in you pounding the desk with pencils, pens, mugs, and anything nearby. I'm not kidding – live, two drummers at the front of the stage pretty much destroyed their kits with complex breaks and fills.

*Brahminy Kite* demonstrates how superb Snaith's production has become. Whereas on *Up In Flames*, certain components of the mix would sound like they were clipping in his effort to create such an engrossing wall of sound, now he knows exactly how and where to place the instruments within the mix for maximum effect. The shuffling, jazzy beats that open the track are joined by a sumptuous flute harmony that makes a huge grin spread across my face.

*Bees* showcases the additional sixties influence – the laidback cool of its opening riff is completely familiar, like it's been plucked out of that ether that the best pop songs seem to exist in. Snaith builds a shell of warm horn sounds, tremolo violins and police sirens over an ascending melody, before bringing out his trademark jazz breaks. Rather than allow the song to explode into a melodic cacophony, the drums are

reigned in and a gentle horn swell brings the song to an unusually restrained ending.

After the brief noise-attack of *Hands First*, *Hello Hammerheads* comes out of the blue, completely unheralded by anything Snaith has done before. Over a pair of gently picked acoustic guitars and Simon & Garfunkel vocals, he produces a spectrally pretty tale of girl trouble, humming a lilting melody over the beautiful chorus.

Oh yes, the hip-hop beats. *Lord Leopard*, with its shout-sampling, tight snare beats and sinister piano sound, sounds almost like something RZA would turn out. *Pelican Narrows*, the other instru-hop track, sounds like an RJD2 outtake – the filmic piano line and tense strings ride a big, fat, vintage-sounding drum loop. The breakdown even features a harpsichord.

I know I always try to pick out a high point from a record, but in this case it's almost impossible. I haven't even mentioned the continually shifting *A Final Warning* and its "ahhhhhh" guitars, or the effortlessly superb freakout that is *Barnowl* (well, OK, I have now). Put simply, this is the perfect soundtrack to the summer – play it loud and outdoors.

Andrew Sykes  
Music Editor

# From the ashes

Buffseeds, one of the least-appreciated indie bands England ever produced, sadly dissolved last year, but singer Keiran Scragg wasn't ready to quit

## FEATURE

### Iko

(ex-Buffseeds)  
*I Am Zero*

It wasn't the easiest of times for singer songwriter Keiran Scragg, aka Iko, when his old band Buffseeds dissolved at Christmas time. He went from playing gigs in New York to working in a factory during six months of intense writer's block. Luckily for us, inspiration struck and he headed back to the studio with Buffseeds keyboardist Neil and guitarist Rob to start recording the songs he had lovingly penned on an acoustic guitar in his bedroom.

The title of the album, *I Am Zero*, is the title of a painting by his father that tries to capture a perfect, emotionless state. This spoke loudly to his, at the time, depressed son, and the songs started to flow. The album itself is musically uplifting, but lyrically often mournful and longing, the combined effect painting a picture of the hope on the other side of love and loss.

All of the songs are obviously extremely personal, yet Keiran was adverse to the idea of the album becoming like an autobiography. "I was looking on the net a lot, and became fascinated with the idea that Artificial Intelligence could develop feelings of love", he says.

"Yet this love would be extremely detached".

This idea of emotional detachment is used in several ways throughout *I Am Zero*. Many of the songs are sung in character, so he is talking about himself in the third person. Also, the idea of Iko is that it is a singer songwriter with a band, so Keiran is Iko (compare to say Aqualung, the name he personally records under and the name of his band). This alternative persona allows him to remove himself from personal memories of loss and sadness.

The first track, *Lovestruck*, gives you a good feel for the rest of the album. Built up from light drums, acoustic guitar, synth strings and cello, it is extremely upbeat. The song deals with the idea of impending disaster: "Iceberg ahead / look away, look away". Keiran admits it also references the Christmas Tsunami disaster, and of "life slipping away from under you".

In a similar vein, *Hologram* is inspired by September 11th ("Building fall down") and the breaching of America's supreme confidence ("Does anyone here know a Superman?"). A trip to Ground Zero had a profound effect on the band: "it's just such a large space, and completely silent. Nobody makes a noise, or beeps a horn. *Hologram* is about the confusion and anger surrounding that event".

*Nova* has a different sound to the rest of the album, in the fact that it has much more of a whole-band feel, with electric guitar and screaming organ. In two of the verses Keiran's voice is distorted to great effect (think of Matt Bellamy from Muse screaming through a megaphone in *Feeling Good*). It highlights the theme of love and loss, with lyrics like "Don't shut me down / keep me alive" mixed with "You're the one my soul craves".

Musically *I Am Zero* tends to swing between feel-good, upbeat tracks (*Lovestruck*, *All Time Low*) and touching, ethereal love songs. *Numbers* is ghostly and tender, with simple picked guitar and Keiran's vocals layered on top of themselves. It breaks to just his voice at one point, and the use of that often-overlooked musical device: silence, is spine-tingling. *Damage Report (Hymn at Deaths Door)* is possibly the most beautiful moment on the album. Consisting of lightly strummed guitar and soft electric organ, it does indeed almost sound like a hymn. Keiran's vocals are at their best. It really tugs at you when he sings, "The final curtain has fallen on me," and just lets his voice crack and fade out.

Iko are planning to release the album as soon as they can on the internet, and to press, hopefully securing a record deal. This process will involve touring, which you



Buffseeds: now sadly defunct

can initially expect to be in London and Exeter (where they are based). Friend Justin will join them on bass, and Rob will take on drum duties. They may even take a cellist! These

are gigs well worth your money, since this kind of honest and emotive song writing can never go out of fashion. A soundtrack to your life.

James Millen

## MUSIC

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

# Live and amplified

Queen Adreena make a rare live appearance, System Of A Down bring their insane live show (and beards) to London, and Rooster fail to impress

## LIVE REVIEWS

**System Of A Down**

Brixton Academy

★★★★☆

System Of A Down were one of the stronger acts that emerged during the turn of the century nu-metal craze, although they don't really deserve having that moniker round their necks. Their latest album, *Mezmerize*, shows if anything that they haven't lost any of that originality or energy in their recordings, though of course the biggest question I had when I turned up in Brixton was whether this still translated into the ability to pull off a great live show.

Look away now, because the short answer is yes! An honourable mention must go beforehand to their gig-mates *Eighties Matchbox B-Line Disaster*. Having only listened to them occasionally on the radio, I wasn't sure if they would be playing any better than the current wave of retro indie plaguing the airwaves. In fact they rocked. L-O-U-D. Nothing compared to electro-grindcore, but not really for the faint of heart either. It would've been nice if there was slightly less feedback in their half-hour slot, as they actually weren't a bad opener for a group like System, which is never an easy thing.

When the world's best (and probably only) Armenian-folk-metal-fusion act walked on an hour later, more or less on time, they began with the first three songs off their latest effort, including the new single *B.Y.O.B.* This stands for Bring

Your Own Bombs, apparently, which proves that they haven't lost that topical edge. Of course, attacking the Bush administration has been a popular pastime for the past five years, but for a band whose previous songs have dealt with such issues as drug rehabilitation programs and recognition of the Armenian genocide, they have a political agenda that is actually far more mature than that of the band-wagon jumping celebrities who have been all too visible in the news of recent weeks.

Cutting to the chase, these three songs actually did little to stir up emotions of the audience. It didn't help that bassist Shavo was the only band member who was moving around at this point, somewhat damping the onstage lunacy they're renowned for. I wasn't thinking the band would go on to play for a further ninety minutes, but then this was System Of A Down live, where the unexpected really is expected. And every one of those minutes was worth it! The point at which it became obvious that *Needles* was being played, the show shifted up a few gears and everyone was treated to a truly awesome experience.

Of the 25 or so songs played, the biggest share was taken from *Toxicity*, with the boys getting a few from their self-titled as well, which was nice to see. Adding a couple of obscure covers and maybe a song or two off the next album *Hypnotize*, due in the Autumn, their talents weren't wasted purely on the new album, even though in hindsight it would've been nice to see a couple more of the new songs. Either way, it was an entertaining night for all



Queen Adreena: not averse to a bit of mild nudity

concerned, and proof that System are a band marching on and continuing to draw hordes of support for their own flavour of WTF-inducing rock music.

Alex McKittrick

**Queen Adreena**

Islington Academy

★★★★☆

With a series of cancellations, intermittent releases and band instability episodes to their good name, the actual appearance of Queen Adreena after three very average support bands kept the punters rapt from the word go. Famous for their legendary live shows, performed by an alternately drunk or high Katie Jane Garside, Queen Adreena's act juxtaposed ethereal art rock with a car crash, with Katie Jane's impression of a more approachable Kate Bush on crack providing endless mind-bending entertainment for the crowds that amassed.

Sympathy for the poster-girl for anorexia and her ridiculous gingham loincloth aside, the band worked their way through a very short, albeit tight set, comprising of highlights from *Taxidermy* and *Drink Me*. Very few songs from the recently released *Butcher And The Butterfly* release were previewed, those that were played melding seamlessly into the fore. The audience were taken into a world of demons and daisies, whilst being

spat at by every howl, rasp and yelp emitted by one of the most spell-binding performers ever to walk the London stage. Being taken into the void by a stage-diving work of art is one thing; being taken that bit deeper by someone wearing everyone's heart on their sleeve is absolutely compelling. *Kitty Collar*, *Pretty Polly* and *Pretty Like Drugs* are all great songs, but losing yourself in the midst of such an expressive performance is another experience.

Queen Adreena are competent and passionate, but not quite as furious as I had come to expect from their records. Highly recommended.

Sajini Wijetilleka

**Rooster**

The Astoria

★★☆☆☆

Selling out the Astoria within a matter of hours is the way forward when it comes to ensuring that your gig goes down a treat. (See NIN and the wonderful Avenged Sevenfold for further reference.)

It means your fans are fanatical. Whether they're less discerning is a different matter; this variable being heavily hormone-dependent in the case of bands with evident aesthetic appeal.

Case in point? Rooster. Supported ably by the Weezer-lite Famous Last Words, the band took to the stage with visibly little fervour for a home-

coming gig. The three instrumentalists stood comparatively still, with only Luke on lead guitar providing adequate foil to the nimbly-hipped Nick Atkinson. The songs melded seamlessly into the midst of screaming and swooning, the bulk of them being taken from the band's eponymous debut album. Two new songs, *Home* and *Standing In Line*, stand out from the almost predictable set from a band so capable of doing so much better. Luke's improvisation on Free's *Alright Now* and the instrument swapping on *Angels* were substantial evidence that the only way is up.

With solid pop-rock stompers being belted out in quick succession, a little more variation and a couple more covers wouldn't have gone amiss. The band appear to have reached a comfort zone where the onus is left to Atkinson to make the show.

Boy, he tries. Swaggering, posturing, posing – this guy can sing, dance, look hot and move! But the ennui sets in so it's a tired man leading the two-single encore, lightening up during the rousing renditions of *You're So Right For Me* and *Come Get Some*. Pleasing as these tunes are, the observer comes away feeling the set-up is a little contrived, where Nick taking to the stage to recite the intricacies of his bowel habit would have garnered the same effect.

Ultimately, unsatisfying.

Sajini Wijetilleka



SOAD: were these the Armenian metalheads you saw, madam?

## This is the end; the end, my friend, the end



ANDREW SYKES  
MUSIC EDITOR

So, the academic year is over. You're all finishing your projects, presenting presentations or killing your neurons with excessive alcohol intake.

I think most of you will agree that this year has been a great one for *Felix*. We've seen a huge expansion in the content of the sections, and the move to newspaper format has made the paper look way more professional and given you more words to skip over while you look for the crossword. I think most of the credit for this should go to Mr David Edwards, who has worked many late

hours and sweated buckets of, well, sweat over printing, layouts, editing my badly written prose, and actually making *Felix* make money.

On a personal note I'd like to thank Dave for putting up with my inability to understand the concept of deadlines, promising six pages of high quality features and delivering two and half sides of spelling mistakes and factual errors (sorry to those writers whose work I inadvertently credited to myself, you know who you are because I don't). I hope the incoming editor, Mr Rupert Neate

(he of fourth-floor library guy insulting fame), can continue with the high standards Dave has set.

I'd like to sound off with a quick rundown of my personal favourites from this year. First up, taking the award for best new band, The Arcade Fire. I know the backlash has begun, but despite all that *Funeral* is a superb record, and their live show is one of the best I've ever seen. Stars take the award for best pop album – *Set Yourself On Fire* is a bittersweet classic. In hip-hop, Busdriver's *A Fear Of A Black*

*Tangent* was astonishing; honorary mention goes to 13&God for making my Notwist/Themselves collaboration fantasy come true. Folkwise, Harris Newman's *Accidents With Nature And Each Other* was in my ears for weeks. The guilty pleasure award goes to Architecture In Helsinki for *In Case We Die*, proving tweeness doesn't make you bad. I could list some more, but these are the ones that really stuck out.

Have a good summer, kids, and don't touch those mushrooms, no matter what NME says.

# Nightlife

clubs.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Homelands: festival season arrives

Homelands is just about the first festival of the summer. Given that they'd booked just about every DJ in the world, it would have been rude not to go...

### FESTIVAL REVIEW

**We Love... Homelands 2005**  
Matterley Bowl, Hampshire  
★★★★★

Homelands, or in full, 'We Love... Homelands', has been running for over five years, and in that time has built up a reputation for being one of the best dance festivals and the opener of the season.

The deal with dance festivals is slightly different to the rest, being held over one (very long) day and through the night until the next morning. That said, some promoters do run weekenders at holiday camps, and Godskitchen's 'Global Gathering' event at the end of July is this year spreading the mayhem across two days.

When I first saw the lineup for Homelands 2005, with around 80 acts and DJs across ten separate areas, I was literally drooling. It was as if the organisers had been watching me to find out all the DJs I rate or have enjoyed over the past couple of years so they could book them all. I couldn't have forgiven myself for missing out on this, so booked up my ticket nice and early to avoid disappointment and provide me with some light at the end of the cold, dank tunnel that is final year



In front: Homelands. To the right: the police tent for strip searches

exams.

The event started at 12.30pm, with live acts such as Babyshambles, Audio Bullys and even the likes of The Bravery and Beck there to provide early entertainment before the onslaught into the night. We tried to get there as early as we could, we really did, but events conspired against us - engineering works on the trains, and a bus replacement driven by a proper chump who took us past the

site and on into Winchester.

From the road we had trek up a hill and then past Operation Cheesefoot. Operation Cheesefoot? Allow me to elaborate. Hampshire Constabulary were having a day out as well, and they'd brought their sniffer dogs with them. Before even getting to the entrance to the arena, we all had to file past this lot. There were a lot of very nervous clubbers, and rightly so - the police were pull-

ing so many people that there was a queue of delinquents outside the police tent, all waiting to be 'examined'.

At events like this, drugs are almost inevitable, but the police clearly didn't want to give that impression. I read later that they made about a dozen arrests, but from what I heard from fellow revelers most people got away with having their stashes and tickets confiscated (though more were on sale) and an informal caution.

The location, the Matterley Bowl (a natural dip in the Hampshire countryside), was perfect. All you can see around you are hills and trees, and I doubt any noise from the site gets very far. By the time we'd got inside, it was actually pretty late. The sun was dipping, and I just caught the gruff tones of Roots Mavuna finishing his set in the live arena with *Witness*.

Having got some cider down my neck and done a bit of exploring, it was time to assess the situation. Sadly I'd already missed a few good acts, but the night was still young. We enjoyed some of Steve Lawler's chug-chug beats at the outdoor stage, before heading into Arena 1 to catch Digweed. Playing a typically stalwart set, he picked us all up.

One strange thing to note about the layout of the arena is that, since

it's in a bowl, there's a slope up towards the stages. Whilst this did keep the crowds from getting packed, it made it a little difficult to keep an even footing. After Digweed, we hung around to check out Richie Hawtin (aka Plastikman). His style of minimal techno is tight, subtle and deep. Next generation technology give this man a very special edge. One of my mates tried to drag me elsewhere, but I was staying put.

By midnight, things were on a roll and we spent the rest of the night moving between the different arenas (some of which looked way too similar, despite being totally different sizes), losing then finding each other, and talking to other party people.

By 5.30, when Danny Howells was rounding up the event, we had all over-exerted ourselves somewhat and made a start on getting back.

The train was a sight to behold - all the seats and passageways were full of messed-up, danced-out ravers, snuggling, sleeping and drooling on one another. Bless.

Despite taking ages to get to, and a fair bit more than the usual amount of random shit occurring, Homelands was most definitely a cracker.

Summer is here, and if Homelands was anything to go by, it's going to be great.

**Simon Clark**  
Nightlife Editor

## Purple pleasure

### CLUB REVIEW

**Thursdays**  
Purple, Fulham Road  
£5  
★★★★☆

Purple is a stylishly decorated venue located in or around the Chelsea Village complex. I say in or around, since as a non-football fan I'm not sure. It's close by anyway, and as such easy to find.

This really isn't the kind of place I go to very often. To me it's not a club, it's a drinking house. Usually I resent being charged entrance to a place with an overcrowded bar, overpriced drinks and uninspiring music, but tonight I was with friends so got dragged along. Actually it isn't as bad as all that.

Inside it does look pretty classy, with a video screen, drapes and floors on different levels. The place boasts an 'exclusive VIP area' (read: 'roped off part of the club'), as well as podiums, a DJ box tucked right out of the way, a fair amount of seating and only one bar (that I saw).

I'm told that at the weekends



Barney: big, purple, throbbing

you can't get in, presumably unless you're a footballer or a wannabe footballer's wife/plaything. The crowd tonight was pretty young, since it was student (cheaper) night, and generally pretty. A mate advised me that most of the ladies were looking to pull rich guys, but on that I really couldn't comment.

The solitary bar was really rammed - about ten deep - and it took quite a while to get served,

during which time I had to put up with drunken dahlings squeezing, rubbing and grinding against me. It sounds much more pleasant than it was. I have to give credit to the bar staff - fair, efficient and friendly, and on their advice I got four drinks which sorted me out for the night (only until about 1.30am). And four vodka red bulls for a tenner isn't too bad.

Usually at these types of clubs, the music depresses the hell out of me, but tonight I really was pleasantly surprised. It was mostly a mixture of hip hop and R&B, including some Jurassic 5, and there was nothing I heard that'd I'd really call shit. I have to give the DJ large amounts of respect for dropping about half a dozen tracks that I really like (and actually sang along to), plus the fact that he could mix and he did mash it up a bit.

Given what this place is (and my usual disinclination for such establishments) I was genuinely impressed. I'm surprising even myself here by saying that I'd come back to Purple - I reckon it'd be a good place to go post-pub on a Thursday, to warm up for a 'real' club later.

**Simon Clark**

## Farewell

The End is my favourite club. That's only really relevant here because we've come to the end. This is the last Nightlife of the year, and my last as editor of this page.

Whilst I'm not really sure how many of you read this stuff (the poor fools, they really don't know what they're missing), I hope you've enjoyed reading as much as I've enjoyed writing. It's really been quite a giggle partying down in the name of good journalism - hopefully I've helped you plan your nights out, entertained you a little, or at the very least helped you understand why so many of us (if not that many Imperial kids) like to spend our weekends bouncing around dark rooms listening to strange, repetitive electronic music.

I started the year with a festival - the sundrenched South West Four on Clapham Common - and I'm ending it with one. Homelands was wicked, even if there's some stuff I haven't printed (I'll tell you when you're old enough).

The passing of Homelands means it's festival time again. Woo! As usual, there's tons going on over the summer. If I could make it I'd be well up for Godskitchen's Global Gathering - they're doing it over two nights this year. If you're anything like me, you'll be thinking "God, that's going to be messy..."

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the few reviewers who've made my life easier and made these pages less of a personal journal by going out and telling us about it. I also want to give a shout out to my mate Hasan, who's been my clubbing buddy since first year, without whom I wouldn't have been to half the places I have, and I wouldn't have got so trashed. And we couldn't have that, now could we?

Aside from that, I don't really have much to say. At the time of writing there is no Nightlife editor for next year, so if you fancy filling some pages with whatever happens to be floating through your head at the time... I mean, if you want to become a serious and respected journalist, drop us a line at felix@ic.ac.uk and you could be sitting here writing this next year. It's well worth it - having media power means that virtually every club in the capital will gladly put you on their VIP list so you can splurge about them. Also, with the power comes fame, fortune and fine women falling at your feet\*.

So that's it. Piss off now, leave me alone. Enjoy your summer. Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like no-one's watching. See you in front of the speakers.

**Simon Clark**  
(soon to be former) Nightlife Editor

\* None of these things are true. Especially the women, this is Imperial dammit.

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,

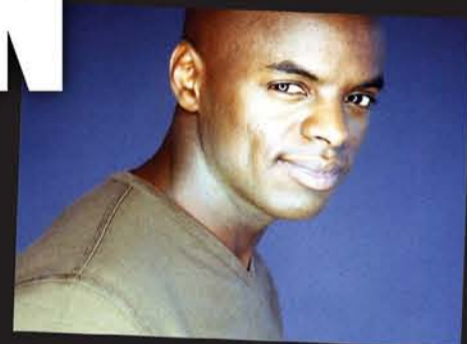
Funfair, Formal dinner

(halal and vegetarian option)

Sparkling wine / Pimms reception

and breakfast in the morning

for every ticket holder!



Deloitte.

ZEN  
MICRO



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

# Arts



arts.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Raising an eyebrow

Cult icon Frida Kahlo is back in town

### EXHIBITION

#### Frida Kahlo

Tate Modern  
Bankside, SE1  
Ends 9 October

Tickets: £8 students, £10 full price

You would have to try exceptionally hard to miss the hype around the new Frida Kahlo exhibition at the Tate Modern. It's everywhere – newspapers, glossy magazines, television and posters around town.

The thing is, after the period a few years ago when Mexico was the 'fashionable' country to visit, and then the Salma Hayek biopic, Frida has come back with vengeance. She's a quirky fashion-pack favourite, feminist and left wing activists adopt her as their own (she did after all belong to the Communist Party and was a very independent woman given the standards of the time). Her paintings fetch the highest prices by any female artist and her work is collected by celebrities.

The show at the Tate Modern collects an impressive array of Kahlo's



*Autorretrato con mono*, Frida Kahlo (1940), loaned by Madonna

work – there are 62 paintings and numerous sketches. There are paintings loaned from numerous museums in Mexico as well as from private collectors such as Madonna. Also included are sketches and pencil drawings as well as some watercolours which show yet another facet of the artist's style – her watercolours are almost unrecognisable as the work of the same woman.

The contents are arranged primarily in chronological order but with some rooms dedicated to a certain theme, such as self-portraiture and still-life paintings. The exhibition's curators have done well in adopting this scheme as it allows for a good examination of the development of the artist's style. However, much of the explanatory tags and so forth accompanying the exhibits often reek of over-analysis of the works by parties not having a proper understanding of the culture that influenced the artist so strongly.

The general spouting of rubbish regarding Kahlo's art, life and influences is regrettably not limited to the official gallery blurbs – both *The Times* and *The Independent* have carried sadly pretentious articles and the coverage given by the BBC was laughably inaccurate, showcasing the corporation's employees' inability to even read a press release.

The impact on Kahlo's art of being mixed race is over-emphasised (pretty much every Mexican is part European and part indigenous), where in fact more focus should really be placed on her passion for her country and its culture. She is criticised for being narcissistic, using herself as the subject many of her paintings; she was, after all, often bedridden and the wife of a brilliant, though womanising, fellow artist, she spent most of her time alone. She painted what she knew best and what was at hand – herself.

Kahlo (1907-1954) began painting

after suffering a hideous road accident in 1925 (I'd rather not go into the specifics, as just thinking about it makes me nauseous), to allay terminal boredom. The second room of the exhibition is dedicated to the paintings of this early period of exploration and development of style and themes – the works of the 1920s are remarkably different from those of the more mature Kahlo.

Her painting style, particularly in oils, changed dramatically after she met and later married the already larger than life muralist legend Diego Rivera. Her experiences as his wife and his influence and guidance on her work are clearly visible. The period spent with her husband in the United States led her to become 'more Mexican' as she felt homesick and out of place, and also added to her list of personal tragedies as she suffered a miscarriage.

Kahlo's art is essentially a reflection of her life and her feelings towards herself and those in her life; her art is not complicated, as many would encourage you to believe, it is raw. She paints of her happy moments, *Frida Kahlo y Diego Rivera* (1931) on the event of her wedding, and her almost constant sadness and pain, *La columna rota* (1944).

The work collected for the show is very wide ranging and does allow for a real insight into the life of Frida Kahlo. Most interesting to see are her changing attitudes to herself and Rivera. These are clearly documented by the numerous names she uses when signing her paintings; they reflect periods of love and loathing and of finally coming to terms with herself as a person. Her issues are not so much of an identity crisis arising from a mixed heritage – she chooses to call herself by her more Germanic name, Frida, instead of Carmen while her dressing reflected the regional costume of different parts of Mexico – but more from problems she had



*La columna rota*, Frida Kahlo (1944), Museo Dolores Olmedo Patiño

in accepting herself as an individual in a physically damaged state.

The exhibition is thoroughly interesting and is also a unique chance to see so much of Kahlo's work collected in one place. She remains an iconic figure within Mexico and her family home, La Casa Azul in Coyoacán, as well as the home she shared with Diego Rivera in San

Angel, (both are suburbs of Mexico City these days), are preserved and open to the public.

A parting word: please avoid buying any of the Mexican handicrafts on sale at the Tate Modern. You will be royally ripped off and a trip to Mexico would be far more rewarding anyway.

**Paola Smith**  
Arts Editor

## Parklife

Emily Lines lounges around on the grass

### Summer in the parks

Around London

If, like me, you've finished your exams and recovered from the hangover enough to brave the summer sun outside, you may have some time on your hands and the inclination to get out and do something a bit different. Well, London's parks offer the perfect solution, and I don't just mean taking a crate and lying around in Battersea all day. There are events all summer long, many of them free, all over the capital, and it seems a shame not to take advan-

tage really...

Hyde Park has by far the fullest calendar, with something going on at least once a week until the middle of September. There are concerts from REM, Queen and Paul Rodgers, Live8 as well as the O2 Wireless Music Festival on 24, 25, 29 and 30 June. Later on in September there will be Proms in the Park, including a last night hosted by Terry Wogan with the tenor Andreas Bocelli and the violinist Nicola Benedetti.

Continuing on a musical note, Kensington Gardens is hosting classical wind and brass ensem-

bles every Sunday from 19 June on its bandstand, whilst Bushy Park (near Teddington) is holding an afternoon of jazz on the 26th. St James's Park, Battersea Park and Regent's Park also have extensive bandstand programmes, including the National Youth Jazz Orchestra on 14 July.

Regent's Park is hosting the free festival Fruitstock on 6 and 7 August, which promises to be a weekend of "music, smoothies and maybe even love" and was voted the Best Live Event of 2004 (according to its website). There will also be 2 performances of Rossini's *Cinderella* (*La*

*Cenerentola*) by the Garden Opera Company on 3 and 17 July, with tickets at a very reasonable £18.

Then, of course, there is the famous Regent's Park Open Air Theatre Season, running from now until the 11 September. Tickets start from £10 and the programme includes *Twelfth Night* and *Cymbeline*, as well as Gilbert and Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, and Sunday night comedy including Harry Hill, Jimmy Carr and the Comedy Store Players. Greenwich Park is also hosting Shakespeare this summer, with *Hamlet* showing at the end of July, and *As You Like It* at the beginning

of August.

Finally, there are several visual arts shows running in Regent's Park, Battersea Park and Kensington Gardens, and for those wishing to really get their creative juices flowing, there are drawing masterclasses in Greenwich Park with the artist Frances Treanor.

On another note, the Royal Opera House is putting up big screens in Canada Square, Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square and Victoria Park showing the operas *Rigoletto* and *La Bohème*, as well as a collection of short ballet pieces called *Stars of the Royal Ballet*.



# Film

film.felix@ic.ac.uk

**vue**  
cinemas  
www.myvue.com/students

Listings: page 18

## Not Brad, but not Jolie

Gary Lee finds the Smiths distinctly common

### Mr and Mrs Smith

Director: Doug Liman

Starring: Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie,  
Vince Vaughn, Adam Brody

Length: 120 minutes

Certificate: 15

★★★★☆

A recent poll suggested that the name Smith is deemed the most common surname in the world. Thus we could easily assume that a couple with that surname would be as common a couple as you can get. Add some glamour to that and you

have two suave, rich, good looking and articulate individuals who are presented as the ultimate dream couple. Or so it seems.

For a start, you wouldn't want these particular Smiths inviting you over for dinner, since Mrs Smith keeps a stash of lethal weapons in a secret compartment in the oven. Getting caught in the crossfire of their domestic arguments can actually be life threatening.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie star as *Mr and Mrs Smith*, assassins leading double lives as a quiet suburban couple married for "five or

six years". However, their marriage seems to be heading for trouble, as they refuse to communicate with one another about their lives. Their visits to the marriage counsellor, which appear in snapshots throughout the film, give us an idea of the lack of trust they have for each other.

In a twist of fate, the pair discover that their next targets are each other. Thus begins a high octane adventure.

Jolie and Pitt carry the film very well. Most of the attention and focus are directed on them, and rightly so, as their on-screen chemistry

sizzles. Both are funny and sexy, so it is never boring seeing them exchange comments and even gunfire. The movie goes to great length to show off the two gorgeous heroes in action with a final showdown that is so reminiscent of other films of this nature.

However, there does not seem to be any development of the organisations that they work for, and the film seemed to end on quite an abrupt note without knowing how these mysterious groups might interfere with the couple's lives again. Perhaps it would have been a lot

more interesting to see how both John and Jane Smith execute their jobs on a daily basis.

The support cast did not seem to have a lot of screen time and so the viewer might find it hard to get to know the characters.

In summary, there wasn't anything unexpected from this film but it was still an entertaining watch. The plot, although somewhat predictable, still manage to deliver, due to both Pitt and Jolie being so suited to their roles. There is actually very little substance to the film, but it still serves up a good night out.



Angelina Jolie as Mrs Smith: get back in the kitchen, love



Brad Pitt takes aim... at the woman he loves

## Fantastic for you?

### Fantastic Four

Director: Tim Story

Starring: Ioan Gruffudd, Michael  
Chiklis, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans,  
Julian McMahon

Running time: 123 minutes

Certificate: PG

Released: 22 July

This summer marks the release of what's said to be the most visually stunning comic book movie yet, as *Fantastic Four* takes to the big screen.

Whilst in outer space on an experimental voyage, four astronauts get bombarded with cosmic rays, granting them superpowers and changing them forever. Scientific genius Reed Richards (Ioan Gruffudd) gains the ability to stretch and manipulate his body and takes the name Mr Fantastic. Reed's girlfriend Sue Storm (Jessica Alba) is granted the power to become invisible and create force fields, aptly naming herself The Invisible Woman. Sue's hot-head brother Johnny (Chris Evans) becomes The Human Torch, able to control fire and cover his entire body with roaring flames. Reed's best friend Ben Grimm (Michael Chiklis) is transformed into a rock-like crea-

ture, gaining incredible strength as a result and calling himself The Thing. Together, they use their powers to try and foil the evil plans of Dr Doom (Julian McMahon).

As a fan of movies in the comic book genre, I have been anticipating the release of *Fantastic Four* for a while now and am sure I won't be disappointed with the results. The movie promises to be eye candy, with the attention to detail being phenomenal. The Thing was created using prosthetics rather than CGI and achieves a unique look instead of the incredibly fake Hulk. A lot of time was also spent on making Mr Fantastic's stretching ability seem real and giving it an awesome elastic appearance.

As always with this type of film, it is everybody's wish that it stays true to the comics. *Fantastic Four* promises just that. Both as a group and individually, the character development and relationships are being kept just how they should be.

I'm predicting that *Fantastic Four* will be one of this summer's big films. If this article hasn't made you want to see it then I've got four more words for you: Jessica Alba in lycra.

Stephen Smith



'The Human Torch' - he's hot

## OUT THIS WEEK

Released on Thursday 16 June at  
Vue Fulham Broadway:

### ● Batman Begins

Booking for Thursday 30 June at  
Vue Fulham Broadway:

### ● The War of the Worlds

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

Vue Fulham Broadway are giving you the opportunity to win a **Batman Begins** poster. Just answer this question: **Who is Batman's alter-ego?**

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, Zheng Wu, Marco Visentini Scarzanella.

**Alan Ng**  
Film Editor



# Batman Begins competition

As part of the release of *Batman Begins*, Warner Bros have generously provided you with the opportunity to win one of ten sets of T-shirts, caps and light key chains.

To win, just answer this: where does Batman work?

- (a) New York
- (b) Metropolis
- (c) Gotham City

Email your answer to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk). Usual *Felix* rules apply.

**Alan Ng**  
Film Editor



# Books

[books.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:books.felix@ic.ac.uk)

## It's like warm apple $\pi$

**Martin Smith** investigates the  $x$  factor

### Mathematics and Sex

by Clio Creswell  
(Allen & Unwin)

★★★★☆

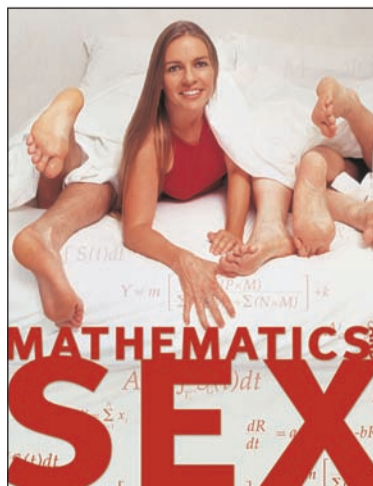
I'd love to be able to say that mathematics and sex have been the key features of my degree here at Imperial, but sadly my recent exams proved I've spent more time thinking about one than the other. To complement this, I'd like to recommend to you all Clio Creswell's book, which provides a rationale for the number crunching I've been avoiding for the last three years.

Funnily enough, the word 'sex' is printed around five times larger than the word 'mathematics' on the front cover, and despite the old saying this is a fairly good judge of its content. Whilst I'm not normally

much of a fan of 'popular' science books, I must admit this one did tickle my fancy.

A fairly sedate start sees Clio toying with the ideas of describing the patterns of love with differential equations. Some of you may be familiar with these ideas in the context of population dynamics or epidemiology: in this case, 'love is the drug'. Finally you can map your fear of commitment or your desire to be loved with a few extra terms in an equation – ecstasy for any Imperial geek.

Perhaps not so relevant is the discussion of how to know when to stop hunting for a lifelong partner: is she the one? Fortunately an answer is at hand if you can reduce your mate-finding situation to a string of letters, and Clio explains why you should road-test 12 people before



picking the next best one after that to settle down with. Chat-up lines are not included.

It's not all just about humping though. For me, the climax of the book was the chapter that uses another meaning of 'sex' and describes in detail some reasons why there isn't a 'third gender', but that there might conceivably have been one in the past.

The style is very light-hearted, and the maths isn't really derived in the strict sense: it just tends to be 'here's an impressive looking equation for anyone looking over your shoulder', rather than expecting you to understand it yourself. Some of you will recognise parts of it, but it's all explained with sexual abandon and includes snippets of graph theory, game theory and matching problems to whet your appetite. The author seems intent on seducing you to mathematics with the promise of an understand-

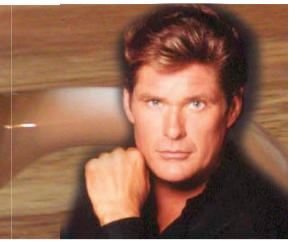
ing of the female orgasm, but at times her informal, chatty style just equates to using multiple punctuation marks (!?) and an ellipsis to end each paragraph...

As one might expect, the final chapter is entitled 'Orgasm', but it's by no means the highlight and just seems to be a nod towards the real reason why you picked up this book.

As a general guide though, for an entertaining book about sex, relationship advice and tactics for who to hit on at a celebrity party, all with a light dusting of equations on top, look no further than *Mathematics and Sex*. If you were hoping for more diagrams, check out *Housewives Love Mechanics*; but if carefully defined Greek letters do it for you then stick with Berkshire's *Classical Mechanics*.

# Coffee Break

With David Hasselhoff



Okay, it's over. It's the last *Felix* of the year this week, but far more importantly, it's Coffee Break's last appearance. Though some of you may think it's about time, huge thanks go to everybody who entered, read, or even ignored our little page. We love you all



## FUCWIT Results 2004-5 (the year of the Hoff)

The last Coffee Break of the year signals an end to our annual Felix Unforgettable Coffee Break Weekly Issued Tournament (FUCWIT). We've had plenty of teams enter this year, all of which we're sure are eagerly awaiting the final table. So here it is...

First thing's first, thank you to all the teams who entered the FUCWIT competition, you're superstars, one and all. Even the rubbish teams too.

Honourable mentions go to any teams who decided to clog our inbox with random Hoff-themed crap. Though slightly disturbing, it's all good.

Also, if you're wondering what happened to Coffee Break these past two weeks, the Hoff, like so many of you, had coursework to hand in.

Before we get on with the very important issue of prizes, here are the answers to issues 1323 and 1324.

### Issue 1323 answers

#### Hoff's Long Weekend

(Thanks to The House Of Earthly Delights)

The Hoff kicked off his weekend by desperately trying to convert a few computer geeks to the lost cause of the psychotic penguin (aka Linux). What better place to start than at a world-renowned, research-led scientific institution like Imperial? The dearth of the fair sex, however, spelt disaster for his commendable plans...

Breathless, he got on a conventional plane (his beloved Concorde having recently been 'retired') and made it across the pond with a two-week pregnant 21 year-old acquaintance. He somehow found his way to Texas, where the local abortion clinic had off proven its use to this most fertile of males. Unfortunately, a lack of money didn't allow him to proceed as planned...

Next stop, Miami, and, in a rare departure from his blonde-American-dream style bimbos, the Hoff this time decided to see how far his charms would get him in attempting to seduce a nice looking, Cuba-exiled young girl (he must have heard the rumours entwining thick Cuban cigars, slim, underage female thighs and something else I'm forgetting at the moment); unfortunately, a distinct lack of alcohol (along with them seducing pills) and an overtly jealous uncle meant he had to swim all the 140km to Cuba, board a military helicopter at the Guantanamo Bay Army Base, and hastily make his way across half the globe to...

The New Model Republic of Iraq! Hoping to play his part in spreading freedom (not to mention his superior genes) to this part of the world, he aligned himself with the American authorities in bringing about Iraqi Freedom. The GI rush to secure

1st



Here are our winners, the all-conquering **Araldite Sniffers**, a team so efficient they make Germans look lazy. Armed with calculators, dandruff and Google, for these guys no challenge is too hard, no subject too obscure and no anti-perspirant, ever. Without girlfriends around to distract them, they can devote maximum time to their twin passions, Coffee Break and internet porn. What more could you want? Guys you're worthy winners and The Hoff salutes you.

For their efforts, the team wins a shiny new iPod Shuffle and some music to play on it. What music? *The Very Best Of David Hasselhoff*. Oh, we spoil you.

an autograph from The Man, however, spelt disaster for the efforts underway (which was interpreted in the rest of the world as a lack of plan). Thus, the only nuclear power in the region had yet to be made to feel comprehensively safe and secure...

#### Real Men

1. Rick Moranis, legendary star of *Scarface*, *Citizen Kane* and *Anchorman*, also played Wayne Szalinski in the hard-hitting fact-based drama *Honey, I Shrank The Kids*.

2. Chuck Norris, while he's not busy killing foreigners, blowing up foreigners or shagging attractive foreigners, likes to take time out to do a little bit of acting. As well as cropping up in *Dodgeball* he also plays a transvestite hooker in the feel-good hit of 1991, *Walker, Texas Ranger*.

3. Robocop is Alex Murphy, not Peter Weller. Peter Weller is a fucking actor, Robocop is the shit. That said, my only memories of the film are of him eating baby food.

4. The Chuckle Brothers, who are brothers as their name suggests, not father and son like some idiots would have you believe, originate

2nd



In second place we have the warriors of Coffee Break, **Smith & Wesson**. They might look meek and mild-mannered, but Dragons Beware! With Smith's +5 Fire Lance and Wesson's mastery of the Dark Arts (Pokemon Cards), there is no puzzle they cannot defeat. As well as an encyclopaedic knowledge of Advanced D&D rules, they hold the Holy Grail of Coffee Break teams: premium membership at imdb.com. Lucky guys.

For coming second, the team wins a very cool pair of Battling Tanks, which look pretty awesome to be honest. They also get a soundtrack to the carnage: *The Very Best Of David Hasselhoff*.

from lovely Rotherham. You can catch them almost every day on CBBC. Laughter is the best medicine, and there is no better hangover cure than watching Paul and Barry trying to carry a grand piano up some stairs. It's comedy genius.

5. Hulk Hogan has been in several films, but the most well known are *Mr Nanny*, *Suburban Commando* and my personal favourite, *Three Ninjas: High Noon at Mega Mountain*, an emotive tale of one narcoleptic fighter pilot's mission for equality.

6. Homer's middle name is Jay. Duh.

7. The A-Team are great, and always will be. As well as being Grade A Soldiers of Fortune, their ability to create cars, jet planes and rockets from the contents of a simple locked barn is a talent we can all envy. Face was the missing guy.

### Issue 1324 answers

#### Six Degrees of Whoever

It's a bit long to go through this in detail, so here are our answers: *Dodgeball*, Jeff Goldblum, *Independence Day*, Chevy Chase, Mel Brooks, Gene Wilder,

3rd



Our third placed team are the 'wacky' **Forever Throwing Doubles** guys and gals. Kind of like the Addams Family, but with more polyester, they like nothing more than a crazy evening drinking Ribena, eating cookies and listening to Micheal Jackson songs. Losers. That said, any team whose collective DVD collection includes *Mr Nanny*, *Beverly Hills Ninja* and *Flubber* will always be welcome here.

As the third placed team, these guys win a fantastic electric shock lie detector machine. No longer will arguments descent into shenanigans at their house. They also get *The Very Best Of David Hasselhoff*.

*Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex (But Were Afraid To Ask)*, Annie Hall, Diane Keaton.

*Withnail & I*, *Alien 3*, Bill Murray, *Kingpin*, Woody Harrelson.

*Coming to America*, James Earl Jones, Harrison Ford, William H Macy, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, *Boogie Nights*.

Kiefer 'I'm a federal agent, and I will kill you' Sutherland, *Phone Booth*, *Alexander*, Angelina Jolie, Nicholas Cage, *Face/Off*.

*Battle Royale*, Chiaki Kuriyama, *Kill Bill*, Steve Buscemi, *The Big Lebowski*, John Goodman.

#### Hair of the Gods

1. Samuel L Jackson's delightful Jerry Curl wig from *Pulp Fiction*.

2. It's George Michael from his Wham! heyday. Remember kids, choose life.

3. It's Dusty Hill from ZZ Top. Nice Beard.

4. It's the People's Princess, Lady Di.

5. The Godfather of Soul, and a living legend, Mr James Brown.

6. Bloody Beckham innit.

7. It's not Elvis like some thought, instead it's famous weirdo emo-boy, Morrissey.

## FUCWIT LEAGUE 2004-5

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 1. Araldite Sniffers                                | 310 points |
| 2. Smith & Wesson                                   | 249 points |
| 3. Forever Throwing Doubles                         | 232 points |
| 4. Tinkerbell                                       | 197 points |
| 5. Caledonian Conspiracy                            | 143 points |
| 6. The Illegitimate Bionic Progeny of Jeremy Beadle | 134 points |
| 7. Management Slackers                              | 127 points |
| 8. Eastbound and Down                               | 116 points |
| 9. Kings of Kensington                              | 110 points |
| 10. Schoolboy Error                                 | 108 points |
| 11. Team Willy J                                    | 93 points  |
| 12. Team Robin                                      | 81 points  |
| 13. KPN <sup>2</sup>                                | 73 points  |
| 14. House of Earthly Delights                       | 69 points  |
| 15. Team Bulwer                                     | 42 points  |
| 16. The Schist Ones                                 | 38 points  |
| 17. Withnail and I Society                          | 31 points  |
| 18. Rod Watson's Super Army                         | 29 points  |
| 18. Oliver Carson                                   | 29 points  |
| 20. Natasha Kundi                                   | 10 points  |
| 21. Shatner's Bassoon                               | 9 points   |
| 22. Minzy's Special Needs Corporation               | 6 points   |

### Prizes!

Huge thanks to all our teams, you've earned some great prizes. The top three have all won copies of *The Very Best Of David Hasselhoff* and some cool stuff besides (see above). The rest of you have a choice of a four-pack of lovely bottled lager, some non-alcoholic equivalent, or a copy of *The Very Best Of David Hasselhoff*. I know what I'd pick.

If you're interested in writing for Coffee Break next year, email the editor at felix@ic.ac.uk.

So thank you all for reading and have a great summer, as next year is going to be yet another bad one at Imperial. The Hoff may or may not be back, it all depends on whether he's passed his software engineering exam. See you and remember, viva la revolution, save Southside!


**Shaun Stanworth**  
Coffee Break Editor

COFFEE BREAK

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

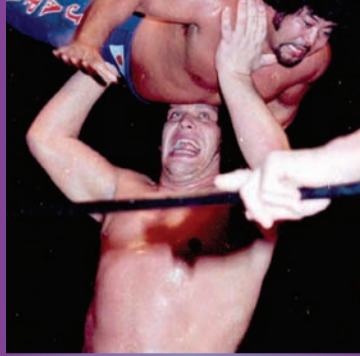
Coffee Break Top Trumps

It's a little pointless doing any quizzes this week, as any sane person will be going home for the summer. So to entertain you over your break, we've got a little game for you. Cut out and enjoy.



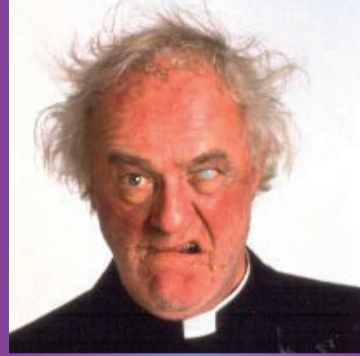
**Mr 'Toot-Toot' Toad**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 4 |
| DIY        | 7 |
| Sport      | 5 |
| Comedy     | 3 |
| Drinking   | 2 |
| BBQ        | 6 |
| Parking    | 8 |
| Fisticuffs | 1 |




**Andre 'The' Giant**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 6 |
| DIY        | 4 |
| Sport      | 7 |
| Comedy     | 2 |
| Drinking   | 1 |
| BBQ        | 5 |
| Parking    | 3 |
| Fisticuffs | 8 |




**Father 'Feckin' Jack**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 2 |
| DIY        | 5 |
| Sport      | 4 |
| Comedy     | 7 |
| Drinking   | 8 |
| BBQ        | 1 |
| Parking    | 6 |
| Fisticuffs | 3 |



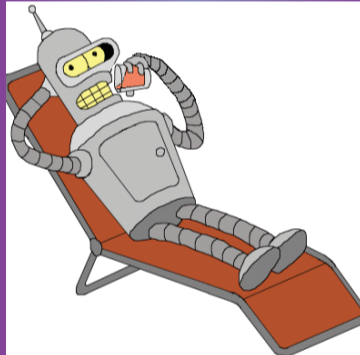
**George 'Grill' Foreman**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 5 |
| DIY        | 2 |
| Sport      | 6 |
| Comedy     | 4 |
| Drinking   | 3 |
| BBQ        | 8 |
| Parking    | 1 |
| Fisticuffs | 7 |



**David 'The Hoff' Hasselhoff**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 8 |
| DIY        | 1 |
| Sport      | 2 |
| Comedy     | 5 |
| Drinking   | 4 |
| BBQ        | 3 |
| Parking    | 7 |
| Fisticuffs | 6 |




**'Bender'**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 1 |
| DIY        | 8 |
| Sport      | 3 |
| Comedy     | 6 |
| Drinking   | 7 |
| BBQ        | 2 |
| Parking    | 5 |
| Fisticuffs | 4 |



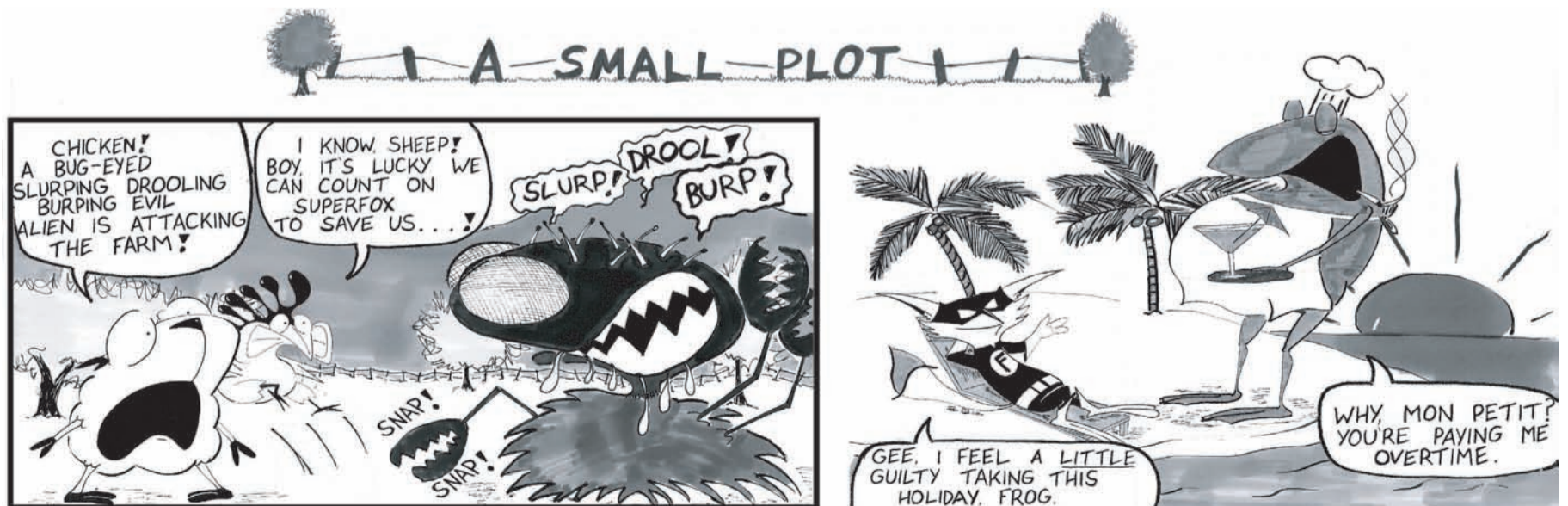
**George 'Drunk' Best**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 3 |
| DIY        | 4 |
| Sport      | 8 |
| Comedy     | 1 |
| Drinking   | 6 |
| BBQ        | 7 |
| Parking    | 2 |
| Fisticuffs | 5 |



**Richard 'Mutha Fucka' Pryor**

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Action     | 7 |
| DIY        | 3 |
| Sport      | 1 |
| Comedy     | 8 |
| Drinking   | 5 |
| BBQ        | 6 |
| Parking    | 4 |
| Fisticuffs | 2 |



# Felix staff 2004-5



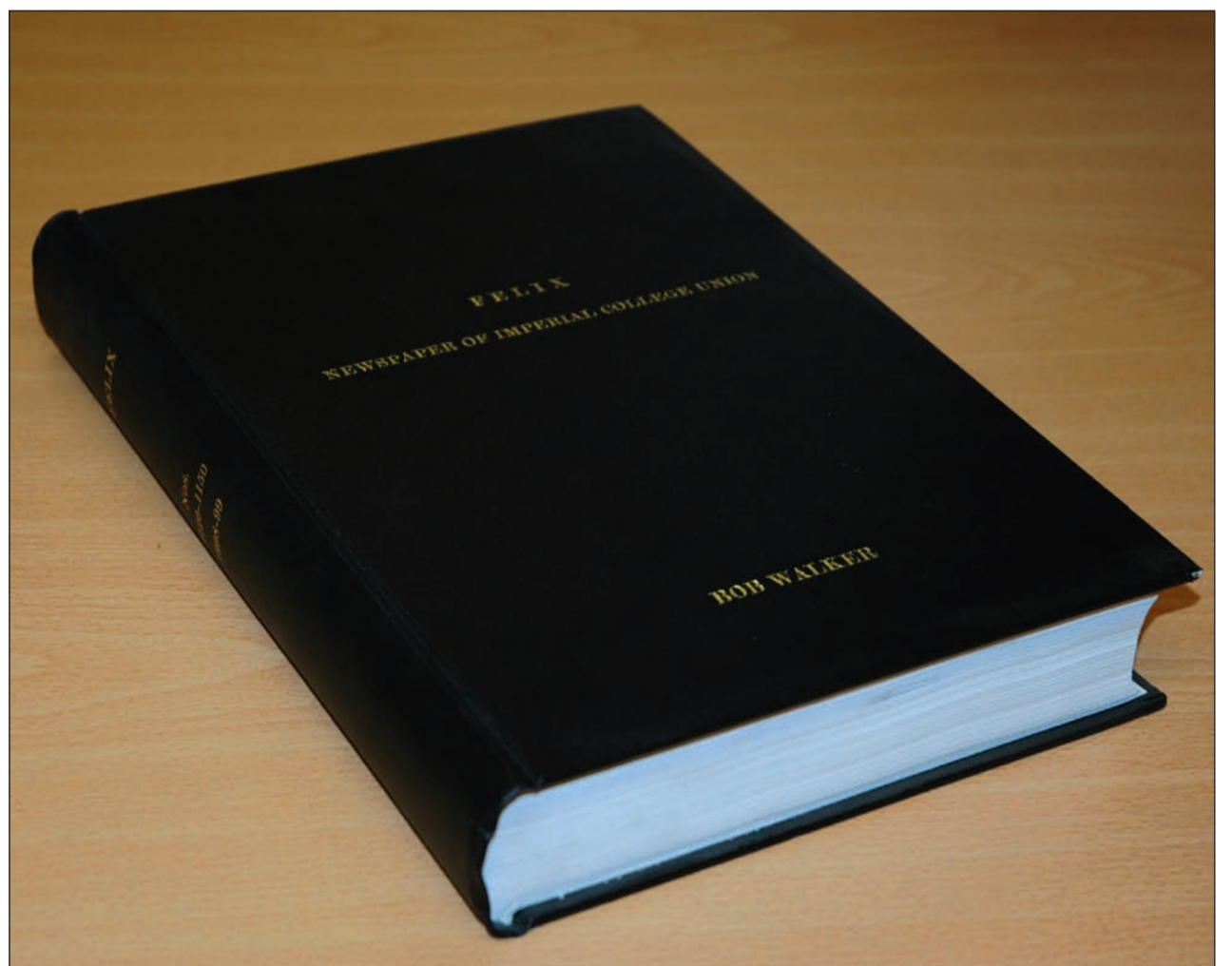
Back row (left to right): Martin Smith (Books Editor), Darius Nikbin (Science Editor), Andrew Sykes (Music Editor).  
Middle row (left to right): Gabriella Silvestri (Careers Editor), Alan Ng (Film Editor), Numaan Chaudhry (Business Editor), Alexander Antonov (Crossword Setter).  
Front row (left to right): Cassandra Aldrich (Careers Editor), Paola Smith (Arts Editor), Dave Edwards (Editor), Simon Clark (Nightlife Editor).

## Felix bound editions 2004-5

### Your personal souvenir of the Imperial year

**Bound editions are large black hardback books containing all 29 of this year's issues of Felix. Each bound edition is specially personalised with your name on the front in gold lettering.**

**This year's bound editions will be sold at cost price (in the region of £60 each) and will be ordered from our printers soon. If you are interested in buying one or would like more information, just email [felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:felix@ic.ac.uk) with **BOUND EDITION** in the subject line.**

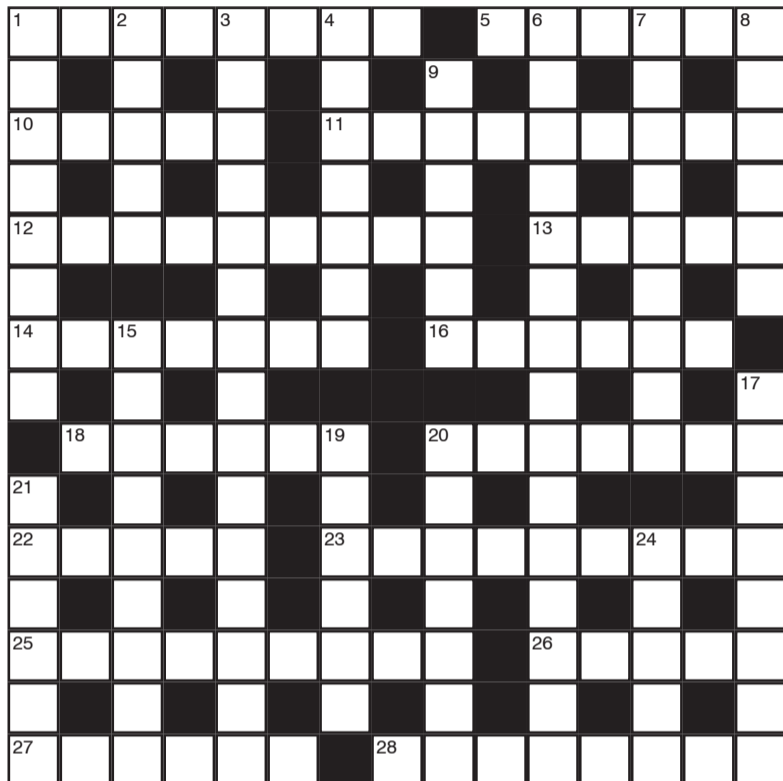


# Puzzles

coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Felix Crossword 1327

by Snufkin



### Across

1. Assembly hall, perhaps (8)
5. Give the go-ahead for redistribution of prime time (6)
10. Sing ballads about man involving love (5)
11. Converted realist to philosopher (9)
12. One attacking idiot found with promiscuous Latina (9)
13. Sex offender's not from our church (5)
14. Light-headed, having drink with early evening meal (4,3)
16. Dull sermon read out (6)
18. Trailblazer came across friend of Pooh, it's said (6)
20. Aspen serves as shelter for poet (7)
22. Football crowd following a gem (5)
23. Wanton and utterly worthless? (9)
25. Flirt with royal couple? (9)
26. Route deviates beyond the pale (5)
27. Foresaw end of hostilities, and wept (6)
28. In a nasty way - like a beer? (8)

### Down

1. Lumbar trouble returned to one outside hospital (8)
2. Straightens out clubs (5)
3. Potter - the one to captivate people in comic strip (6,3,6)
4. Falls over again and starts to regret alcohol (7)
6. Be consumed to the quick with envy? (3,4,5,3)
7. Bounty captured by these men - sure it's lost? (9)
8. Angry after match, so rowed (6)
9. Gun for companion of Falstaff (6)
15. Soldier handing out explosives? (9)
17. Dickensian character stuck in boring menial job (8)
19. Explosive material found in chambers (6)
20. Old city surrounded by unruly Masai warriors (7)
21. University grounds effeminate American (6)
24. Teach about trout (5)

Hello, solvers one and all. I'm afraid after two weeks of solid essay-writing I have few words left in me. The amateur psychologists amongst you might like to muse on the answers to 11, 23, and 28 across, and 1, 6, 7, 9, 17, 19, 21, and 24 down; I can only try to assure you of their innocence. Now I must get back to revision. Good luck!

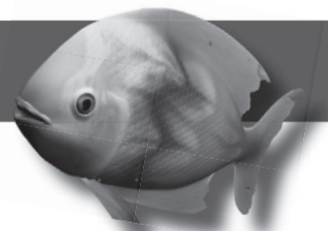
**Snufkin**

### Issue 1326 solution

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

## Giant Sudoku

by Fishface



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | O | N | I | F | K | G | M | J |   |
| I | K | L | P |   |   | D | G | N |   |
| C | G | E | A | M |   | F | J | I |   |
| F | P | D |   | J | N | E | K | B | L |
| K | P | D | H | C | L | N |   |   | M |
| H | M | P | E |   | G | J | N | O | C |
| E | J | K | D | O | H | P | B |   |   |
| O | I | G | E | M | P | A | H | K |   |
| L | F | I | J | N | E | M | A |   | D |
| G | M | D | H | F | E | N | J |   |   |
| D | O | E | A | F | J | C | M | L |   |
| N | P | I | D | O | F | E | G |   |   |
| M | G | L | C | I | A | N | D | J |   |
| O | E | F | G | C | P | H |   | B |   |
| B | N | A | D | O | C | P |   |   |   |
| P | C | D | L | N | B | M | A | E |   |

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 square (bounded by bold lines) contains the letters A to P.

Email your solution to coffee.felix@ic.ac.uk by Tuesday 21 June. No attachments please. The first correct solution randomly drawn wins your choice of a 128MB USB storage device or a crate of beer.

### Issue 1326 solution

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

Thanks to everyone who entered. Last week's winner is medical student **Rose Strickland-Constable**.

## Felix Unforgettable Cryptic Crossword Awards 2005

Ladies and gentlemen, as we've been promising all year, there are prizes for solving our cryptic crosswords! Yes, every correct cryptic crossword you sent in got you an entry into the prize draw for the third annual *Felix* Unforgettable Cryptic Crossword Awards (FUCCAs).

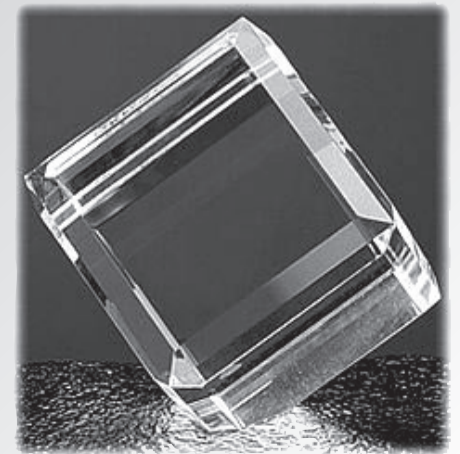
**And the winners are...**

**Karen Osmond, Computing IV (Digital camera)**

**Simon Overell, Computing IV (MP3 player)**

**Matthew Pott, EE III (USB storage device)**

Congratulations to them, and thanks to everyone who sent in solutions. We hope you've enjoyed *Felix* crosswords this year.



# Sport

sport.felix@ic.ac.uk

## Hockey successes in Essex

### HOCKEY

#### Mixed tournament

#### By Pikey

On Saturday 28 May, Imperial's finest hockey players (well those who didn't have exams, projects or the sense to say no to getting up early) travelled to Chigwell to play in an inter-club mixed tournament at Old Loughtonians hockey club.

For those of you who didn't do A-level geography or have never been outside the Circle Line, Chigwell is in Essex, "mate". Luckily we had our own Essex Wideboy to see that we safely made our way from Black Horse Road tube to the pitches in a fleet of taxis without getting run over by boy racers in their modified Ford Escorts.

We arrived in true Imperial fashion just before push-back for our first game, thus negating the need for a warm-up as has become traditional. However, I was reliably informed by the Old Loughts groundsman that Brandon Lee (who had made his own way there) had been at the gates at 7.30am to practice his drag-flicks from shot corners. Didn't anyone tell him that girls have to have the first strike in mixed? Oh well.

More importantly we only had 10 players, which doesn't make a team. Fortunately Pikey's skills at chatting up young girls and Essex Wideboy's charm in being at his home club meant that we managed to get two girls from Old Loughts to play for us throughout the day. Thanks to Vicki and Laura!

The first match was un-



Imperial's mixed hockey team

ventful, largely because we were all sluggish and they were rubbish. We scored first as Moony, our very own lady in pink, coolly slotted home from the tightest of

angles. We weathered their comeback storm with Sieve impressive in goal and Sarah C, Spanner and the Italian Job forming a solid defence. However, a short period

of sloppy play lead to the Redbridge Redskins equalising. (Sounds like something out of a Budweiser ad doesn't it.) Unfortunately there was no added-time multi-ball,

much to our disappointment, so the game ended 1-1. One point to start.

The second game was against a team calling themselves Welcome. We played

this game on the water-based pitch rather than the usual sand. We won 2-0 with goals from Pikey and Essex Wideboy who, along with Stoner Tom, dominated the midfield. Too Keen kept us all fresh by subbing on and off, showing some nice touches.

Our final game was against one of the Old Lought's teams. The less said about the game the better. It ended in a 0-0 stalemate though not for a lack of trying and the fact that the Old Lought's team had an awesome goalkeeper who turned out to be a bit of stunner when she took her helmet off, according to Sieve.

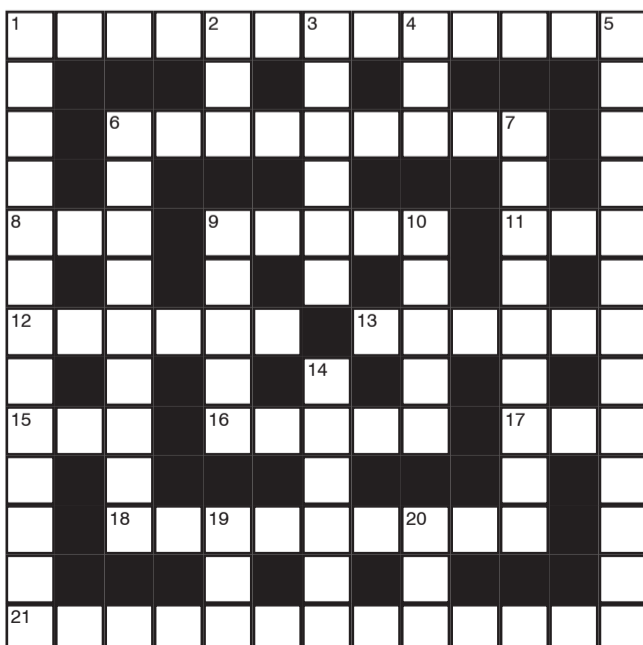
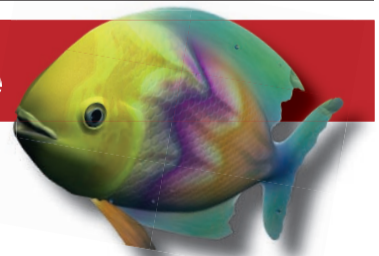
So we had five points at the end of the group games, which put us in second place in the table, meaning that we progressed through to the Cup playoffs. As a result, in our minds we were already winners. Just as well, because the team we drew in the semis was Mill Hill who had thrashed all the teams in their group.

The game was excellent, although our efforts were somewhat thwarted by Essex Wideboy who decided to slice a free hit into Pikey's knee and the fact that they had a 'supposed' national league player in their team. The final score was a 2-0 defeat, though in true Imperial fashion we never gave up fighting, especially Moony who had an awesome bitch at the rather large female umpire. Mill Hill went on to win the tournament so we lost to the best team, obviously!

For lots more on Imperial's Hockey Club, including loads of pictures, check out [www.imperialhockey.co.uk](http://www.imperialhockey.co.uk).

## Quick Crossword

by Fishface



### Across

- County in southern England (13)
- Pile of waste (9)
- Vase (3)
- Grievance (5)
- Rowing implement (3)
- Continent (6)
- Fleet (6)
- Unit of resistance (3)
- Young dog (5)
- Charged particle (3)
- An officer who keeps records and takes minutes (9)
- The most popular song in a particular week (3,2,3,5)

### Down

- Belgian detective (7,6)
- Hair (3)
- Type of popular musician (6)
- View (3)
- Fun (13)
- Ailments (9)
- Swear word (9)
- Appear suddenly (3-2)
- Ahead of time (5)
- Talking (6)
- International standard country code for Central African Republic (3)
- Curved line (3)

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

### Issue 1326 solution

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