

Prof Lord Robert Winston talks to *Felix***WARNING!**
Nakedness at
Freshers' Fair

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Mirah brings her
show to the Buzzard

page 10



FREE
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The student newspaper
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felix



Free sports centre



Tubbies beware! The new sports centre as it stands and [insert] an artists impression of the finished centre.

Rupert Neate
Editor

When Imperial's new 'state-of-the-art' sports complex opens in January 2006 students will be able to certain services free.

According to Neil Mosley, Head of Sport and Leisure, Imperial is spending more on sport than any other British university.

Imperial staff and students will be able to use the gym and swim for free for the remainder of this academic year. Imperial is the only University in the country to offer these services for free.

However, it is as yet uncertain whether the centre will remain free after the first trial year. Also the centre may open to local residents, who would no doubt be very keen to use this excellent facility.

The new Ethos centre will cost £17.5m, although some of the

expense is not sport related, the total spend on sport is £12m. No expense is being spared in the construction of the centre and the equipment it will house.

Neil Mosley believes that the new centre "will rival, if not out-compete all sports centres in the area - public and private". The centre will be equipped with Fitlinxx personal computerised fitness equipment. This equipment will recognise you every time you come to work-out and set your individual program.

The centre will also house a multi-purpose sports hall, climbing hall, squash courts, dance studio, sports injury clinic and juice bar. The sports hall will be the size of five badminton courts and will come the National Centre of Excellence for Badminton.

These additional facilities will not be free to use, but will be "competitively priced to encourage involvement in sport". The centre will also

offer many sport classes, such as martial arts and aerobics.

Every user, no matter how experienced, will have to undergo an induction session before they are allowed to use the equipment. Mosley does recognise that it will take along time to induct all students and staff and will be drafting in extra staff to quell anticipated frustrations. Induction will also cost £7.

The centre was initially scheduled to open at the start of this academic year, but was delayed as piling into the existing foundations of the old 1960s centre took longer than expected. This was compounded by ground water flooding of the squash courts.

Simon Matthews, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) said: "This stunning building with fantastic facilities will be well worth waiting for".

Leader, page 19

Imperial – third
academically, 15th
for entertainment?

Yu Lun Tang
News Editor

New University ratings place Imperial third academically and fifteen for entertainment. What do Imperial, Oxford, Cambridge and LSE all have in common? According to *The Times* Good University Guide, academically they are the top four UK Universities.

Oxford topped the league, with Cambridge in second place, Imperial came a close third, with 958 points compared to Cambridge's 983.

Surprisingly, in a separate entertainment league Imperial has been ranked fifteenth. LSE tops the league, followed by King's College and Bath.

The league table is based on the social services available to students. Factors include the proximity of shops, pubs, off-licences, night clubs, discos, fancy dress hire, pizza delivery and takeaway outlets.

These criteria may explain why Imperial rates more highly than most Imperial students would expect. Imperial is in London, and as such is close to a plethora of entertainment services. The league, compiled by Yell.com, rates all London Universities highly

due to ease of transportation and access to round-the-clock amenities.

Finalist not Satisfied

A *Sunday Times* survey judging the satisfaction of final-year students has rated Imperial in the bottom ten.

The survey found that students at campus-based Universities were more satisfied, including the University of East Anglia and Loughborough.

However, the validity of the 22-question survey is brought into question as many students boycotted the survey. Students from Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick and Scottish universities did not participate.

In stark contrast to the results of the entertainment survey eight of the bottom ten are in London. Students widely agree that the extortionate rent, high crime rates, long commutes and the need to take part-time jobs affected their retrospective view of university life.

One student, who owes £15,000 but admits the course was excellent stated that; "if I were starting again next September, when students pay £3,000 fees a year, I might go elsewhere".

Cracking start to Freshers' week

Rupert Neate

A new cohort of freshers' started at Imperial this week, and the "biggest piss-up of your life" got off to a great start at the union on Saturday night.

Anxious young freshers started arriving at halls of residence at 7am Saturday morning. Saturday was doubtless spent in nervous conversation with other freshers. Everyone must be sick and tired of asking/answering the standard

boring questions 'which course are you doing', 'which hall are you in' and 'what did you get in your A-levels'.

Saturday night was the Union's first opportunity to wow freshers with the 'amazing' nights it has planned. The experience freshers' have this week 'make-or-break' for the Union. If the Union makes a good impression this week it will doubtless affect their decisions on where to go out in the future.

Comment, pages 14-15

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Thursday 06.10.05

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Muslim are soft targets

"What is an extremist? Am I an extremist? I'm Muslim. Everyone is telling me that this is fine. If I were old and wise I would remember the early 1950s, a time when every loyal member of the United States would execute their patriotism by making sure that no slither of socialism was present in their family, friends, neighbours and in fact anyone they knew." **Page 14** ▶

Demo Reviews: New music – we love it

"Are you sick and tired of hearing that the only things that Imperial guys can hold onto are their calculators? And that our sense of humour leaves a lot to be desired? I am." **Page 11** ▶

How frogs could help with diabetes treatment

"Most people know diabetes stems from the body's inability to produce insulin. Less well-known is that insulin is a key stimulator of cell growth" **Page 6** ▶



This Week

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Sudoku No 1329

E-mail your solution to *coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk* by Monday 10 October. The first correct solution wins either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. Apologies about last week's Sudoku, which was impossible to complete.

We need puzzle setters – please e-mail *felix@imperial.ac.uk*

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

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NEWS

Global warming could unleash virus epidemic

Yu Lun Tang
News Editor

Rising sea levels and unpredictable weather are not the only dangers posed by global warming. Scientists this week warn that viruses frozen in ice for thousands of years may thaw and be released into a community unequipped to combat them.

Few, apart from American politicians deny the potential environmental problems posed by global warming. The research, including the increasing snowless season are indisputable.

Now this new fear, of release of age-old viruses against which we will have no natural defences, adds increased emphasis to the global

warming issue.

Scientists believe that during the freezing process, organisms such as fungi, bacteria and viruses may have been incorporated into the ice sheets. As ancient glaciers and ice sheets melt, illnesses and viruses could potentially be unleashed. Not only humans, but other animals, plants and marine creatures are susceptible to the release of such organisms.

Geoffrey Smith, head of the virology department at Imperial College London routinely "keeps viruses at minus 80°C, when we want to store them... so viruses can certainly survive freezing". However, he explains that not all viruses are functional on freezing, as they are "often fragile to processes such as freeze-thaw".



Rising sea levels might not be all we have to worry about.

TV license: Pay up or get done

How do you know that an Imperial student is turned on? You use detection equipment!

TV Licensing tells students there's nothing funny about being caught without a licence. It is the beginning of the University year, and for many students starting at Imperial, the start of a whole range of new experiences; including organising their finances and paying their own bills.

However, TV Licensing is offering students some good(ish) news: if they buy their TV licence before the end of October, they may be eligible for a refund of over £30 at the end of the year. Students could use the cash to buy a budget airline round-trip ticket for that end of studies break.

All students who use or install television equipment, such as PCs with broadcast cards, set-top boxes, DVD or video-recorders, to receive or record television programme services, are legally required to have a TV licence.

Nicky Barrett, Student Campaign Manager for TV Licensing said: "Being caught without a TV licence is no joke, which is why we're urging Imperial students to get a licence now". She told Felix that "Enquiry Officers and detector vans are going to be checking up on student university accommodation throughout the UK, so students should seriously think about getting a TV licence now so they can avoid a fine."

Last year, TV Licensing caught

an average of over 1,000 licence fee evaders each day. If caught, students could risk a trip to court and a fine of up to £1,000, plus court costs. They will also still have to get a licence if they need one. A colour TV licence currently costs £126.50.

Students can easily purchase their licence online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/students and choose from a number of ways to pay, including Direct Debit. Currently, over 12 million customers pay for their colour TV licence by Direct Debit.

If you purchase your TV licence in October 2005, and you don't need it for July, August and September 2006, you could be eligible for a refund of £31.62. Veronica King, NUS Vice-President Welfare said: "Students have never been poorer and every little helps. Call TV Licensing as soon as possible to make sure you will be able to apply for your refund." **For further information on the many easy ways to pay and concessions available visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk/students or call 0870 242 1417.**



Watch Out – They are about.

NZ University takes student newspaper to court

Victoria University has won a court order stopping publication of *Salient*, the university's student magazine. Wellington High Court issued an injunction on Friday in an attempt to prevent the publication of a proposed article on student fees next year. The matter arose when *Salient* contacted the university to discuss documents it had received detailing student fees for the coming year.

Emily Braunstein, *Salient* Editor, described the move as "ridiculous and absurdly extreme measure. The university is making decisions that affect students enormously and is trying to sweep it under the carpet. We just don't think that's fair. The stupid thing is all they're doing is creating (more) hype."

A university spokesperson said the university was forced to take out the injunction as *Salient* "had documents they were not entitled to have in their possession".

Braunstein is said to be planning to stick posters up around the campus telling students that *Salient* hadn't been printed because "the Vice-Chancellor doesn't want you to read what's in it".

Careers advisers launch new service

The Careers Advisory Service has introduced two new initiatives for the coming year.

JobLive is a new web based searchable database of vacancies aimed specifically at Imperial students and graduates. Registering with the system allows you to input a profile of the type of vacancy you are interested in, industry sector, type of job and geographical area.

You will then receive email alerts every time a new vacancy is added to the database. Opportunities include full time graduate jobs, placements, internships, work experience, voluntary work and casual/part time jobs. In addition there is a searchable employer directory allowing you to research details of potential employers. Go to www.imperial.ac.uk/careers to find out more.

Engineering Career Fair

On 19 October Imperial College will hold its first ever Engineering Career Fair. It will be held from 11.00am to 15.00pm in the Tanaka Business School Foyer and the Mechanical Engineering Foyer.

With 30 stands taken this is a great way to find out more about opportunities in engineering across a wide variety of engineering disciplines. Students from all year groups are welcome to attend.

Correction

In last week's *Felix*, No 1328, in 'Students UNITED in worry' we stated that Holloway Prison was a stone's throw from Piccadilly Court. In fact, the prison is Pentonville.

Prof. Lord Robert Winston



Imperial's own TV star talks to *Felix* about why he wants to get more involved with undergraduate teaching, the role of the media in science and how his trousers falling down launched his TV career.

ROBERT WINSTON has revolutionised the way science is portrayed on television. No longer is science restricted to Channel 4 Learning or late night BBC2: his recent collaboration with *Casualty* attracted 7.3 million viewers at prime time on BBC1.

Just one of the many highly complimentary comments on the show's website said: "I was expecting this to be a quite tedious episode, but the fluidity of his performance and interactivity was quite impressive to say the least."

Professor Winston has produced numerous highly successful TV series, including *The Human Body*, *The Secret Life of Twins*, *Superhuman* and *Child of Our Time*. His cheerful demeanour and trademark moustache are now well recognised across Britain. But he says his success is due to luck, at least in part: "I feel very privileged. The biggest thing I've had in my career is luck; I've been in the right places at the right times and I've had the right people to help." His 'big break' occurred through a bit of a 'Judy Finnigan at the BAFTAs' episode: "My trousers fell down while I was doing a televised caesarean section; I've been hooked with TV ever since."

Winston is one of a select number of scientists that have succeeded in conveying complex scientific ideas to the public in an engaging manner. But he does not agree with the "grumbling within the scientific community" over the lack of quality coverage of science issues in the media. In fact, he used his recent presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science to "argue that we actually have a pretty good, fairly scientifically-literate press." He continues "we have some of the best science journalists in the world".

He agrees with the view that the media does to some extent heighten public mistrust of technology. But he also believes that "we should be more aware that there is actually a very good reason that people should mistrust technology: it is quite threatening. What we haven't recognised as scientists is that mistrust is a natural aspect of our society."

Surprisingly, given that most scientists yearn for more and more science on TV, Winston believes that in fact "we don't do too badly, we probably do proportionately better than other countries. And the quality isn't bad either."

He has found it "more difficult to work with the *Discovery Channel* recently, as they are looking more and more to dumb-down the science we want to produce. We want to be much more challenging with the science. They don't want to challenge their audience."

He complains that audiences in America, where he "might get one or two million" viewers, are much smaller proportionately compared to the UK where he "generally gets more than 5m viewers".

Radical Scientists

When I asked him his view of radical scientists, such as

Gunther Von Hagens the plastination professor, he shot back "do you regard him as a scientist?" Winston himself has his reservations: he regards him more as a "travelling showman – quite a good travelling showman". Prof Winston questions whether people really "watch him because they want to learn about anatomy" and wonders "if they learn anything about how their bodies work".

Lord Winston regards it as "hugely voyeuristic", but wonders "what makes him tick: his facial expressions are bizarre and he wears a hat while he's doing dissections."

While other scientists regard Von Hagens' work as morally reprehensible, Winston is not quite so damning. However, although he "wouldn't want to do it, I expect I would do a better job if I did". He believes there is a place for anatomy on TV and cites Jonathan Miller's *A Body in Question* dissection as "powerful, non-voyeuristic, highly engaging TV".

"My trousers fell down while I was I doing a televised Caesarean section"

"Women can't have it all" – *British Medical Journal*

A recent report in the *BMJ* stated that women should not wait until their late thirties to have children. It said that the availability of IVF may encourage women to postpone pregnancy.

Winston thought that the "authors were trying to have it both ways. I thought the authors were a bit poorly focussed. They were trying to say they weren't preaching, but they were telling people to have babies earlier. I don't think that is an acceptable approach: we need to be much more subtle."

I don't think you can tell women when they're in their late thirties that they need to have a baby now as they might regret it later. It's wrong. It's not actually how life works. I feel our colleagues at another university south of the river are peddling rather simplistic arguments.

Teaching at Imperial

Winston bemoans the fact that he rarely has the opportunity to teach undergraduate students: "they [Imperial College] don't wheel me out to teach undergraduates, and I'd like to, really. I give the odd talk, but don't do a lot of undergraduate teaching."

He does regularly tour schools and universities, and finds it "funny that when I go to other universities around the country I talk to absolutely full lecture theatres. I get bigger audiences in places like Exeter, Warwick or Aberdeen than I do at Imperial in London. I suppose when you're at home people

reckon they can see you all the time."

He is very keen to take up a new chair in science and society at Imperial. "In my view one of the problems with this modern science university is that it doesn't teach communication enough. I don't think it teaches a whole lot of things I think we should be teaching – the nature of science, ethics, and risk."

"I would like to see the university doing much more in [terms of] having ethics inbuilt into undergrad teaching...communication is an essential role for the scientist today."

"The irony of Imperial is that it's got some really good courses in science and the media, but they're mostly postgraduate not undergraduate. I think there's a need for more undergraduate involvement. Course organisers will always say that it means extending the course or that they can't teach the curriculum. I would argue that communication is too vital a part of being a scientist today for it to be ignored. The implications for society and the risks and advantages of commercial development – it's all very important."

"It's a hard thing to introduce, but it gives you more wisdom about the science. It gives you the notion of the university being responsible for thinking about the role of science in society. The science we do doesn't belong to us; it's all funded through the public, so the public own the science. People are reluctant to accept that but it's true."

Winston has "missed not having more contact with the undergraduate body. Undergrads are in many ways much more interesting." So it appears that if Prof. Winston has his way Imperial undergrads may be lucky enough to have him as a lecturer.

While talking about the rumours that Imperial may stop teaching undergraduates he said: "it would be a terribly negative step...I think it would be a very impoverished university without them. You could argue that it would no longer be a university, more a research institute." But he does not believe the rumours are true.

What next for Lord Winston?

Although Prof. Winston has just officially announced his retirement he is currently conducting research into transgenic pigs. The goal of the work, which involves modifying pig genes using novel methods, is to eventually produce organs that might be used in human transplantation.

He has a new book and television series coming out soon called *The Story of God*. He believes that God and science can coexist, as explained in his book.

"There's a place for a story of creation. Evolution is as close to being proved as we can have it. But that doesn't necessarily nullify the biblical account of things."

Rupert Neate

The Story of God is published 17 October
The TV series begins in December on the BBC

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&

Luke Taylor, 21
Aeronautics (2nd Year)

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to all the freshers
from Roxy and Luke
on behalf of the IC
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page 3 every week. All you have to
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stoic tv - be a part of it ...

Loisa Evans explains what being a part of Imperial's tv station is all about



Two years ago I knew nothing about television broadcasting, except that it helped having a television set if you wanted to see anything. Last year, I was involved in creating a short documentary that was broadcast on national television. And there is no denying it, it was awesome-the feeling of achievement that is!

If this takes your fancy, have a wander down to stoic tv in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Don't worry if you have no idea about the business - you don't have to be a film buff to get the most out of this society. And need we mention the potential career opportunities you'd have with some hands on experience? But that isn't the only point of stoic tv- mostly we're seeing how much we can get away with and how many celeb' parties we can gatecrash just because we're holding a tv camera!

Whatever happens, there is loads on throughout the year and we're holding a few workshops to introduce you to our kit (which is pretty hot), our studio, and show you some of the stuff we have done- from films to news- or more importantly, what you can do. All of us are approachable and some of us aren't even technical wizards- me, for example!

There is a place here for everyone- we need 'front-of-camera' people as much as technical staff. It's a really good conduit for an ego that needs a little massaging (we LOVE it) or a creative writer with a crazy idea for the next 'Blair Witch Project' (we LOVE it even more). Alternatively, if you like lots of attention because you're holding a large piece of shiny, technical material in your hand then this is the place for you.

Its loads of fun, its all tongue in cheek- and we have a national awards ceremony we get to attend every year, just like real TV!

The first step to getting involved is attending a freshers workshop (whether you're a fresher or not!). If you like what you see then become a member, sign-up to a few programmes or start one of your own. There will also be more formal training sessions so that you can use our kit to its fullest potential.

Don't forget to check out our new, revamped website at stoictv.com



The stoic tv gallery: it has lots of screens and flashing lights which we all pretend to understand.

Get Involved: Workshop Details

The workshops consist of three sessions, each lasting about an hour. The first two involve producing a short light entertainment programme - it tends to be quite chaotic but it's always good fun. We're not trying to produce a BAFTA award-winning entertainment show, just give you an idea of how things work at stoic tv.

Studio

In the studio you'll be able to have a go at being a presenter. Confidence is a must as somehow you need to talk to a camera as if it's a huge group of people watching on a screen somewhere. The ability to talk non-stop is helpful, but you are largely at the mercy of the rest of the crew to feed you the information you need and do what you are expecting. There's nothing quite like introducing a segment and then looking in horror into the camera as you realise there is no VT to play.

For the more reserved among us, why not have a go at controlling a camera, as instructed by the programme's director. Or you could be the floor manager - this person is essentially in charge of the studio and is responsible for making sure everyone knows what they are

doing, from telling the presenters which camera to look at to counting into and out of video segments so that the presenters know when to stop and start talking.

Gallery

The gallery is the nerve centre of any recording. It's here that you'll find the boss, or the director. The director's job is to keep the whole show on track - from deciding what the cameras should do to cueing in video segments, or just telling the presenters to wrap it up because they're being dull. If you like shouting and bossing people around then this is the job for you, but at the same time you need a cool head as you have to be thinking not just about what is happening now, but also about what is happening next.

The director works closely with the vision mixer, who controls which pictures go to tape (or to broadcast if it's a live show). There's also a sound mixer who does a similar thing for audio, and VT operators who play in video footage such as music videos and interviews. They also need to press record at the start of the show, otherwise people will get very upset when you tell them that they have to it all again.

Editing

Most programmes need to go through post-production after being recorded before they make it to the screen. At its simplest, editing is simply rearranging bits of video into the right order and length. Then you add captions, music, graphics, special effects.... The list is endless. It can take a very long time but the results can be spectacular.

To give you a taster, we'll produce a trailer for a film or TV show from a set of clips we've prepared. You'll get to call the shots, deciding what goes where and how to make it look perfect.

If editing is your chosen art, then we'll give you dedicated training on the use of our suites so you know how to do all the basics. All you need is creativity and imagination.

Interested?

If all that sounds like fun, then come and get involved. We'll be running two workshops: on Sunday 9th October and again on Wednesday 12th October, both from 2pm. And because we all know that bribery works, there'll be free food, beer and soft drinks.

IC Radio This Week

Liquid Lunch - Weekdays 12-2pm

This week on Liquid Lunch it's all about dogs and dates.

Dogs because Martin was at the premiere to Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit. You'll be able to hear the interviews he got with the likes of Nick Park (director), Peter Sallis (the voice of Wallace) and Ralph Fiennes (the villain of the movie) on air. Plus there are photos available on the Liquid Lunch micro-site (www.icradio.com/shows/liquidlunch) showing the giant blowup Gromit and the green carpet in all its splendour.

Dates because our dating feature called Liquid Love begins on Tuesday. So if there's someone that you've taken a fancy to over Freshers' Week, why not get in contact with us. We'll ask the object of your affections out on that crucial first date on your behalf. The both of you could be going for a night out to Revolution Soho for a meal and drinks on us. So give it a go, you might have the time of your life and not have to spend a penny.

We've got all the usual features too, including TV Titbits with wannabe TV star Matt Cunningham and Movie Mondays with Duncan Pearse where you could win cinema tickets courtesy of our friends at Odeon Kensington.

(Instru)Mental - Thursdays 9-11pm

Don't fancy another night of cheese at the union? Check out (Instru)Mental. Now in its third year, we bring you the best in hard house, hard trance and hard techno.

The first hour includes features, chat and the latest on what's happening in the hard dance world, while in the second expect a back to back mix taking you through the latest music for the harder generation, as well as some of the classics that got the hard scene going. Expect tracks from the likes of Riot!, Tidy Trax and the mighty Vicious Circle.

Next week: Beer & Biscuits

If you want to get involved in IC Radio, presenting your own show or helping out behind the scenes, we'll be holding our annual Beer and Biscuits evening on Thursday 13th October.

Look out for more details in next week's Felix.

Listen to IC Radio online at icradio.com or on 1134AM across the Wye campus.

Contact us

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music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

C'mon, Mirah!

Lo-fi female with a back catalogue that involves work with Phil Elvrum's The Microphones brings her show to the intimate surroundings of the Buzzard

LIVE REVIEWS

Mirah
The Buzzard
★★★★☆

"Are there drums?" he asks hopefully. I shake my head ruefully remembering our last musical outing to see The Engineers (he fell asleep, dressed in his tux from the night before). Perhaps in retrospect, Mirah's acoustic "lo-fi indie pop" gig, might not be the place to take one's Rock and Roll Drummer.

It seems these days that the growing nomenclature of the music world seems to make things harder and harder to classify. "Lo-fi indie pop?" Mirah, Mirah Yom Tov Zeitlyn. Kingdom: Indie, Phylum: folk, Species: Acoustic female. Coming from an "artistic" (hippy) Jewish Philadelphia background, Mirah started with a jazz band and then went solo. Having worked with The Microphones, she released her first album in 2000, followed by another four solo album/collaborations with *C'mon Miracle* being the latest that she is here to promote. Busy girl.

She arrives onstage, regrettably drummerless but accompanied by an accordion player with a beard on the run from ZZTop and plunges into *Jerusalem*, a sweet, if slightly naive track from the new album. With two guitars backing up the accordion, she's high-pitched, sweet and breathless; "I let you have it," she laments during *Cold Cold Water*. With the pure guitar songmanship of Suzanne Vega, Mirah's voice is more youthful, without the sultry purr, more sensitive than sexual. A few more lyrically based songs and she finishes with *Dogs Of Buenos Aires*, another one off *C'mon Miracle*, an upbeat ballad of heart break "under

this Argentina sky."

Simple and pleasant, Mirah's live performance was a stark contrast to the two bands (Hands On Heads & Les Georges Leningrad) that came on afterwards. Thankfully we'd had a few bottles of wine by then and most of what I wrote about them is illegible, the general theme seeming to be art school bollocks of fashion and noise over talent, beautifully exposed by Mirah's honest poignant craft.

Harriet Tennant

The Offspring
Brixton Academy
★★★★☆

Bearing in mind that mere hours before setting off to see The Offspring – the band to whom I lost my CD-buying virginity back in 1994 – I had both managed to permanently delete my entire dissertation from the heap of junk I call a computer and also witnessed a nasty incident involving a man, a wallet, and a thief on my bus, I was needless to say less than in the party mood. But immediately upon entering the Academy, greeted by chanting and general teenage overexcitement, I found myself getting that "nervous yet thrilled yet pretty sure this is gonna hurt" feeling I haven't had in a long while; disappointment was not on the cards.

In a re-working of the classic opening to the album *Smash*, that slow American drawl came over the speakers this time not telling us to relax but to "Tear s**t up," and what could provide the perfect soundtrack for such an activity? Why, *Bad Habit* of course. But it was only after the near perfect succession of epics *All I Want*, *Come Out And Play* and *Gone Away*, each getting an approv-



Mirah - exceptionally talented as well as beautiful.

ing roar upon their distinctive openings, that I remembered that this is a band touring for a greatest hits album. Tonight there was no self-indulgence, no songs you had to struggle to remember, no messing around; just an hour and a half of finger-pointing-maniac-jumping-voice-wrecking-exhausting-massive fun.

In addition to this The Offspring is a band that knows how to make a fan feel special. Dexter and Noodles' promise that we are the best crowd they've ever had is almost believable and we're rewarded with golden oldies like *Smash* and a sprinkling of the less offensive newer offerings in the shape of *Americana* and *Staring At The Sun*. By the time the predictable encore of *Self Esteem* rolls round it is not only the icing but

the hundreds and thousands, cherries and whipped cream on the cake of a wholeheartedly energetic, dare I say it, polished-been-in-this-business-for-years-so-we've-cracked-the-formula performance.

No trendy a**holes here, just for me (please excuse the gushing), the most fantastic gig of this decade.

Harriet Tennant

Foo Fighters
Astoria
★★★★☆

What can you do in 15 minutes? Watch half an episode of Friends? Listen to a third of your favourite album? Read this week's edition of Felix? Well if you're the Foo Fighters you can sell out a gig at the Astoria, virtually melting down the ticket booking system in the process. It's rare for a band as big as the Foes to play a venue as small as the Astoria, especially when they can sell out arenas like Earls Court (where they'll be playing two nights this December) without breaking sweat. Then again, this is no ordinary gig. Not part of a scheduled tour, it's been billed as a "secret" warm-up gig for their appearances at the Carling Weekend, which is why the two thousand fans crammed into the venue anticipate something truly special.

After a distinctly unimpressive support set from Death From Above 1979, Dave Grohl & Co. stride on to a rapturous welcome. Then the official "nicest guy in rock" tells the excitable crowd that they will play some of the songs that they don't normally play before the band rip through album track *Hell* off their latest album, *In Your Honour*. It's a performance of real power and passion and really shows that the band

aren't going to treat this as simply a "warm-up" gig.

The next 105 minutes is a lesson in how rock gigs should be done. While the band are a tight and finely tuned unit clearly at the top of their game musically, Grohl gives a master class in how to work an audience. He constantly professes his love for Reading Festival claiming it to be the best in the world. A few songs into the set, after the epic *My Hero*, Grohl jokes to the audience that during the last song he sang so hard he threw up in his mouth and urges the sweaty audience to do the same for the next song. They may be well worn crowd pleasing tactics but Grohl has the ability to make you believe him anyway with his disarming charm. Highlights from the set which took songs from all five of the bands albums included a short rendition of recent Oasis single *Lyla* which the Foes covered earlier in the week for BBC Radio 1 and a brilliant solo version of *Everlong*, but arguably the best was saved for last. The three song encore featured album track *Cold Day In The Sun* which features drummer Taylor Hawkins on vocals. The song saw him move to the front of the stage and pick up a guitar with Grohl taking up residence behind the drums. It was a moment which made you remember how awe inspiring Grohl is with drum sticks in his hands instead of a guitar. More surprisingly though, it made you realise that Hawkins has been learning a few tricks from Grohl and actually does convince as a guitar playing front man despite a rather awkward stance.

After closer *All My Life* the Foes leave the stage with Grohl grinning from ear to ear, and why shouldn't he? Clearly not all nice guys finish last.

Dom Wong



Foo Fighters - people only want to see ol' Dave, anyway.

New music: you know we love it

DEMO REVIEWS

usedtobecool
Demo
(self released)
★★★★☆

Are you sick and tired of hearing that the only things that Imperial guys can hold onto are their calculators? And that our sense of humour leaves a lot to be desired? I am. Fortunately, this evil stereotype is about to be shattered, thanks to the dirty, noisy and breaky sound from Dan and Ross of usedtobecool, (who, believe it or not, used to piss about in the Blackett and the Huxley, respectively and spin fire in the quad just like the rest of you munters do).

Think Daft Punk and Roni Size before they got fat and became friends with the politically-correct lobby, give it the precise firing of Tel Aviv's nuclear weapons programme, imagine glass shattering due to an orgasm being that good and then you've just about got it. Intelligent dance music at its best: Squarepusher in a word.

The breakcore kicks off atmospherically, with the futuristic *Just The Thing* before descending further into a depraved world with the industrial breakbeats of the intrinsically sexy *Classically Trained Groupie*. Robotik noises take you to the next level on *Magical Love Adventure* before forcing you to dance, frantically, to *It's Not You, It's Your Face*. The beats are shit hot, grindingly insistent; Nellee Hooper would retreat back across the Severn into the valleys and end his days in a Caerphilly cave if he could get hold of this stunner. Hell yes.

The sampling is irreverent to say the least, cracking the listener up no end so that when you're dancing, moshing, moving, you're bound to have a smile on your face, especially with the Paedofinder General and his machine guns on *Perversion For Profit*. Parentally explicit, probably not.

Vogue Says sees the guys getting perilously close to social commentary, screeching its way to oblivion before giving way to the hypnotic *Visions Of Custard*. This compels you once more to the dancefloor, with snare breaks taking care to deconstruct a SouthWestNine vortex to keep you rapt. *N00b* tinkles its way into your consciousness and fails to leave. So too does the deliciously bassy *Grind Meh* which keeps you dancing the way a good Asian Dub Foundation track should, with its rhythmic noise captivating you to stick around for more. The compelling beats, dirty snares and humorous samples of yore are present in droves on the distorted jungle of *Closet Bedwetter*, but I somehow can't force myself to like this one. *Canine Devotion* and *I Like You* fare much better before the junglistic *Domination* comes in to finish off a fantastic party with verve and vigour. The room gets cleared with a break-ridden remix of Blink 182's *Fuck A Dog* and all is calm once more.

Sajini Wijetilleka

Crapture/Re:leaves

Silly pun headline introduces a thorough trashing of scene favourites The Rakes, and a praising of Iceland's finest, Leaves

ALBUM REVIEWS

The Rakes
Capture/Release
(V2)
★★☆☆☆

Hello students, and welcome to a new year at Imperial College! Did you have a good holiday? You look great with that tan! Ok, so today we're going to start you off on a new activity to practice for the new year. I call this one "How to form your own trendy rock band." It's simple! Everyone's doing it these days, such as recent London beat combo The Rakes, with their debut album *Capture/Release*.

First off, get your band together and write a handful of good, catchy numbers so as to attract enthusiasm. Make sure they are genuinely interesting, filling them with unusual turns of tune to make attractive to the ear and brain, such as the breakdown in *Retreat* or the sudden monologue in *Work, Work, Work (Pub, Club, Sleep)*. Write the lyrics full of observations on modern life, such as the work/life balance in the aforementioned *Retreat*, or the cold war divide in the opener *Strasbourg*, so you make sure the songs actually mean something.

Got enough attention now? Good, time to write the full album. But hang on there; writing enough songs, especially to a good standard, just takes too long these days doesn't it? No no no, what you need to do is rush out an unchallenging, derivative album, which is quick and easy to produce. Besides, with all the hype you've produced, who's to know or care?

If you're stuck for material, fill the album up with pointless guitar noodling with slapdash references to money to make it sound slightly relevant. The Rakes have a fine example in the form of *22 Grand Job*, the confused thuggery on show in *T-Bone*, or, when all else fails, just shout randomly for five minutes: listen to *The Guilt* if for some mad reason you're unsure on how to do this. Be sure to include some reggae influences in there, everyone likes those now (*Violent*).

Scruples are a lot like talking to your neighbours; everyone gave that up ages ago. But if you still have some, you might like to make the effort to include a few other catchy tunes; why not pen a heartfelt track called *Open Book* about the embar-

assment of breaking-up complete with a rocking pseudo glam-rock riff? If it goes well you can reuse it throughout the entire album. Maybe you can experiment with some electronica and turn it into an atmospheric piece called (with distinct punnage) *Binary Love*?

So now your album is competed. Congratulations! Now all you have to do is sit back, enjoy the praise from the music press, and eat up the one year of comfort until people realize you've released an album lacking in substance or real meatiness and then attempt to burn out with dignity.

Matty Hartfield

Leaves
The Angela Test
(Island)
★★★★☆

It is a real shame that Coldplay, our greatest British hope for worldwide "indie" success, have failed to push any boundaries with their latest album. Though people who don't encounter anything more challenging than the Sugababes won't have ever heard anything like *Fix You*, others will realise that it is a very old and used formula. When Chris Martin said, "people won't realise how much we have stolen until they listen to the album," I didn't realise how literally he was using the word "stolen."

Luckily Leaves have come along and produced the album Coldplay should have made. In its entirety, *The Angela Test* is epic sounding and anthemic, yet imbued with majesty and ethereal qualities more common to fellow Icelanders Sigur Ros. Instead of taking the "one man at a piano straining his bollocks off" approach to song writing, Leaves go for rich orchestration, soulful vocals and spine-tingling chordality.

Bizarrely, the album starts with their most epic song, the jaw-dropping *Shakma*. It starts off melodic and yearning, with warm piano and soft brass, yet explodes into snare-powered abandon, with more than a slight hint of post-rock. Last single *The Spell* employs the same kind of motivation as the end of *Shakma*, yet continued throughout and punctuated by cymbal heavy build-ups and choruses. The title track *Angela Test* is possibly the best song on the album; synths shimmer softly and tense silences are left as the band adds very Icelandic backing vocals. It builds with percussion that



The Rakes - they've been naughty boys.

sounds like a whole marching band, giving the whole track a feeling of magnificence.

Unfortunately there are a few tracks that lack any sense of identity. *Silver Night* is based around one guitar riff, leaving it sounding very unremarkable, and *The Transparent* is similarly unexceptional. *As We Walk* goes nowhere in particular and could be from their debut album *Breathe*. On the contrary, *Good Enough* and *Whatever* are a lot more rock than you would find in their back-catalogue, utilising the kind of pounding drums indie heavyweights Doves would. *Killing Flies* is actually quite a strange song, with very simple piano, roiling time signatures, those pounding drums again and staccato strings. Still, it all sits together perfectly.

Our country isn't quite ready to embrace a band from Iceland as their own, which means that this release will largely go unnoticed by all except the critics. If you're just starting uni and want to get into something a bit different, you could do worse than using *The Angela Test* as your starting point.

James Millen

Guillemots
I Saw Such Things In My Sleep EP
(Fantastic Plastic)
★★★★☆

I will apologise in advance. Getting hold of a copy of the *I Saw Such Things In My Sleep EP* by new Fantastic Plastic signings Guillemots is going to be tricky: limited to a run of 1000 CDs, it sold out in two weeks.

James Millen

Another year, another huge stack of records to shift



ANDREW SYKES
MUSIC EDITOR

Welcome, or welcome back, depending on whether you've just started Imperial or if you're one of the grizzled old hands like myself.

As you can see, Music is back in full swing, and we're looking for writers to fill these hallowed pages with their rantings. It doesn't matter if you've not written before; we'll give you a chance. Although the vast majority of music we are sent is "indie" and we're always in need of indie writers, there's still a substantial amount of chart and pop that

we receive and do not have writers willing to review, so if you think you could redress this balance, drop us a line (the email is at the end).

This year, there will be a few changes to Music's format. We plan to start introducing writer's charts, so you can see what's currently floating our respective boats, debates around topical news from the music world, and more demo reviews. Hopefully, this should make Music less like a collection of reviews, and more personal.

Lastly, this summer has been an excellent few months for new records. Here's a short guide to my summer listening: *Dust From 1000 Years - Self Titled* (sinister, extremely lo-fi folk on cassette), *Why? - Elephant Eyelash* (Anticon's brightest star's new album), *Aoki Takamasura & Tujiko Noriko - 28* (thoughtful, reflective electronica on Fat Cat), *Honey For Petzi - Man's Rage For The Black Ham* (insanely good mathrock from Switzerland). Email: music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

film

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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Guy Ritchie is back! (Or not...)

It's nothing like Barrels or Snatch. Don't revolve... just avoid

Revolver

Director: Guy Ritchie
Starring: Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Andre '3000' Benjamin
Length: 115 minutes
Certificate: 15
Released: 22 September 2005
★★★★☆

Original writer and director Guy Ritchie and charismatic everyman Jason Statham really had something going on with *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels* (1998) and *Snatch* (2000). Pair the two up again, add the sneering and intimidating Ray Liotta, mob essential Vincent Pastore, and serious new talent Andre Benjamin (the half of *Ouskast* who acquitted himself respectably in *Four Brothers* this year), and *Revolver* should be an ace in the hole, right?

Not at all. Perhaps the fact that Jason Statham has hair is the first indication of Ritchie's departure from the formula that we enjoyed so much in his previous films. Or maybe it's the opening quotes from

Caesar and Machiavelli. However, something is lost in *Revolver* – and it isn't just the plot.

Con man and gambling extraordinaire Jack Green (Jason Statham – does it even matter what his characters are named anymore?) gets out of prison after being screwed by his previous boss, Macha (Ray Liotta), and quickly screws him back at Macha's casino in a game of flip-the-coin. Macha quickly dispatches a couple of hit men (one of whom later provides the only entertaining scene in the whole movie) to remove the insult, but Green is saved by two mysterious characters, Avi and Zach (played by Benjamin and Pastore), who pull Green along in a bizarre, confusing plot that doesn't seem to culminate in anything.

It's difficult to pin down why *Revolver* is a terrible film. The movie is long, and the plot is pointless and confusing, but Ritchie's previous hits were arguably similar. The directing is still original and stylish – though noticeably more experimental and less sure of itself. The acting talent is in abundance and all of the main characters give a strong showing. Even the music is great. However, there must be some concept of reverse-synergy

where the combination of acting, directing, cinematography, and writing is monumentally less than the sum of its parts. In fact the theme of the movie seems to be talent and creativity put to waste. The scene in which Green fights his inner self inside an elevator is a microcosm for the whole movie: it's artistically and originally done, yet it's boring and drags on tortuously.

Perhaps that's because the film makes the audience wonder whether they've missed something, or whether the scene they saw last has nothing to do with anything. Perhaps that's because the film delves too deeply into the mind of the main character for the audience to relate or attach to him. Maybe it's because the character interaction is actually very limited, unlike *Barrels* and *Snatch*, denying us the humorous and enjoyable back-and-forth dialogue. It might even be because the film attempts to be dark, pensive, introspective, spiritual, complicated, original, and creative, but forgets to make an attempt to be entertaining. In that case, the best word to describe it is pretentious. Or boring. And I know I'm not alone in thinking this – I could see the disgust and disbelief on everybody's



Jake Green: Dazed and very much confusing...

face at the end of the movie.

One of the Machiavelli quotes at the beginning of the film reads: "There is no avoiding war; it can only be postponed to the advantage

of [your enemy]". Well, you can avoid *Revolver*, and that certainly would be to your own advantage.

Matthew Fung

FANCY BEING A STAR/ DIRECTOR?

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO BETTER THAN GUY RITCHIE?

PROVE IT HOTSHOT, IN FELIX'S FIRST VIDEOCLIP COMPETITION!



Do you think you could do a better job than Guy Ritchie? Can you come up with a videoclip that's way more entertaining than *Revolver*? If you could, you are just in time to take part in Felix's first videoclip competition!

In conjunction with the London Film Festival, Felix is giving you a chance to be a star or a director yourself. The rules are simple.

All we need from you is a videoclip no longer than 10 minutes. You can enter as an individual, a group or a club. (Frankly, my dears, we don't give a damn...)

What makes things even more interesting is the fact that there's no limitation on videoclip content. Except of course, we draw the line on nudity, porn and excessive violence. Simply put, kids should be able to watch your videoclip.

It doesn't have to be artsy. It doesn't even have to be about Imperial! It's all in the spirit of good fun!

Now, what do you stand to gain from this? Well, you could get your 10 minutes of fame, some prize money (handy for your first week at IC) and some free movie tickets!

Therefore, take part, exhibit your talents! Show us what you are made of. All you have to do is entertain us and you'll get all of those sweet prizes.

Sounds interesting? Send in your name (or names) to film.felix@imperial.ac.uk by September 14 and you could be on your way to a little taste of stardom!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

film

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A 'Revolving' discussion

Guy Ritchie attempts to explain himself

Revolver has been dissed left and right by critics everywhere (even Felix). What does Guy Ritchie have to say to about his disaster of a movie?

Where did the inspiration for Revolver come from?

It was a culmination of concepts really, but a germ got stuck in my mind about one particular concept: the con of all cons. I'm fascinated by how you can trick the mind and the individual, and this concept was so audacious, so radical, that I was attracted to say the least. The formula of the con is quite simple – you seduce people by their own greed. We can all be conned but at what point do we realize that we're being conned, and to what extent do we actually allow ourselves to be conned? There was a famous book called *The Big Con*, which works on the formula that it is impossible to con an honest man. I was attracted to that idea too. The great challenge then was to take an intellectual concept and clothe it in an exciting, action-packed narrative because concepts are not necessarily interesting to look at. It's important that the film delivers on an entertaining level. What you want in the cinema is entertainment but I like to be intellectually titillated while being sensorially stimulated. It took me three years to write this film whereas *Snatch* took me three months. Fundamentally, it's not a very complicated film – it's actually quite simple – but to clothe it within a narrative was quite complicated.

The film opens with Jake Green getting out of jail. Would you say that it ends with him enjoying another kind of liberation?

The film starts off with a jailbreak and ends with a jailbreak because all the skulduggery going on inside his head didn't allow him to know he was still incarcerated. That's what the film is about: the ultimate jailbreak and the radical actions one needs to undertake to liberate oneself from this jail. It tells the story of the skulduggery and head-trickery that accompanies Jake on his journey, and the seemingly unlikely actions our hero has to undertake to break out of his jail.

Why did you call it Revolver?

I've always been surprised that no other movie has ever been called *Revolver* because it just sounds cool. So I like the name but I also like the concept that, if you're in a game, it keeps revolving until you realize that you are in a game and then maybe you can start evolving. The film is based on the formula of a game: where does the game start, where does it stop and who's conning who.

Is it a film with a message?

A central idea is that there is no such thing as an external enemy. Jake Green is playing against Jake Green. That's quite a hard concept to get your head around initially: of course, if there is only an internal enemy, he wouldn't want you to get your head around it. So it's based on the formula that you can only get smarter by playing a smarter opponent. Who is the ultimate opponent? Yourself. Then comes the principle that your enemy will always hide in the last place that you would ever look. The last place you would look is inside your head and the last place you would look inside your head is behind fear. I'm not saying that formula's correct, it's just a formula and I'm interested in formulas. In this particular instance, the only opponent Jake Green has to challenge is himself by doing exactly what he doesn't want to do.

To that extent, are his experiences an allegory for life?

It's strange: I never expected as a writer-director to end up talking about high-falutin' concepts. I got into film production because I was interested in making entertaining movies, which I felt there was a lack of. Jake Green isn't just Jake Green. Jake represents all of us. The colour green is the central column of the spectrum and the name Jake has all sorts of numerical values. All things come back to him within the film's world of cons and games. Jake's on a journey of how to play the game. He's very good at playing games and he's done very well out of playing by a certain formula but he didn't realize how big and consistent that formula is. He only saw the formula in its microscopic form and didn't realize that it could be macroscopic.

Of the various formulas that make up the rules of the game, do you have a favorite?

I suspect my favorite line is, "You can only get smarter by playing a smarter opponent." My next one would be, "The greatest enemy will hide in the last place you would ever look." The third one would be, "The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory." My fourth would be, "Always protect your investment" which would become, "Always protect your investment whether it's in your interest or not."

Chess is a prime example...

The rules in chess are consistent with the rules of all cons. I like the idea that the characters could all be different pieces on a chess board. I think we all embody the attributes of pawns, bishops, knights and castles, kings and queens. It's just a question of, do we decide to be a pawn, or do we decide to be a queen? I didn't

choose to be the latter particularly, but there are different aspects to our personality and nature that the chess board represents, which is maybe why chess is such a popular and ancient game. I'm a very bad chess player, by the way. Jason Statham has probably been blowing his own trumpet about what a qualified chess player he is. In fact, he's an appalling chess player.

And the fact that the face-off between Jake and himself, his internal enemy, takes place on the 13th floor?

The elevator starts at 32 and stops between 14 and 12. In America, buildings still don't have a 13th floor. 13's a curious number. Quite how it got its unpopular reputation is a mystery and one I would quite like to have solved. Mythologically, it's the luckiest number; it's the number of liberation. From a point of view of Jake's incarceration, what better place to liberate yourself than floor 13, which doesn't even exist in an elevator? It just seemed like the perfect environment in which to meet your demon. A number that doesn't exist that is also the number of liberation.

That scene is one of the most impressive in the whole movie...

It's my favorite scene in the film and I actually shot it three times. It initially had four lines written for it. When we got in there, we spent two hours messing around, trying to draw as much as I could out of Jason. I realised we'd got into something that was very interesting and in the end I could probably have filmed 45 minutes of him screaming at himself in there.

How did you create that transatlantic atmosphere? Did you use a lot of special effects?

Unlike my previous movies, there's quite a lot of studio work on this one because of the very nature of the fact that I wanted an environment that's transcontinental. Because of that we had to revert to green screen. I don't care whether I use special effects or not. My principal job is to make interesting and entertaining films, and I'm not proud of which format or which particular technique I use. I just wanted the film to look good and that was about the only request I had of my DP. We wanted it to be slightly over the top in terms of photography. What I liked about American movies when I was a kid was that they're sort of larger than life, and I think I'm still suffering from that reaction. Tim, the DP, was completely unbridled by me. The cheekier he got, the more I applauded him. He's his own boss in that department.



Guy Ritchie and his 'Revolv-ing' mistake...

So you don't fit the stereotype of the dictatorial filmmaker?

If somebody has a better idea than me, I'll take it if it surpasses what we have on the page because at the end of the day, it's me that takes the credit anyway! I've been working with lots of these guys for ten years now and I've become very aware of how much the team has to do with the creative process. I'm not under too much of an illusion of how smart or un-smart I am because filmmaking ultimately is about teamwork. I enjoy the process and I've usually done quite a lot of preparation before I arrive on set so I'm not a touchy filmmaker and I'm not an anxiety-ridden filmmaker, at least while I'm shooting the film. If you enjoy things, it tends to quell your negative traits.

You've also worked with Jason Statham on almost all your films...

Apart from the fact that I don't

like him, don't trust him and have no respect for him as a chess player, Jason and I work quite well together. Actually, Jason forced me into using him. He threatened me with violence. The rest of the cast I have more affection for. André was a pleasure to work with. In fact, 95% of the people in my films have been nothing less than a pleasure to work with. That goes for Jason, too. I like him and because I like him, it's much easier to work with him. He's a very capable actor and he embodies what I want to see when I go to the cinema. I've been a big fan of Ray Liotta's for a long time and been desperate to use him in something. He wasn't very keen about being put into spandex pants and Speedos but once he got into the spirit of things it was hard to get him out of them.

Hmm...and I thought his internal enemy scene was lame but oh well, judge it yourself if you must!

Redbus Film Distribution



Iain Heaton

A Neighbours omnibus is not an option

Oh no, my friends, it is not an option, it is essential! It was my good friend and *Felix* Editor, Mr R Neate, who first suggested this idea to me. At first, I did not see the necessity, but that was when I was a student!

Since then I have started working, and I have not seen an episode of *Neighbours* for three weeks! Today is the first day I have had a chance to, and that is only because I am off work sick and trust me, even *Neighbours* is not worth staying up all night vomiting for (occasionally, maybe, but not regularly!) Plus, if I do it too much, I may get the sack, which would be a shame because I actually do enjoy my work.

Nowadays, I don't get to watch much TV at all during the week except for late night TV, and I can't stay up too late because I have to be at work by 8.45am (God, I'm old!) On weekends, however, I do lounge around on my sofa and watch quite a lot of Channel Four (I'm really into *Lost* and *The O.C.*). The only soaps I can watch are *Hollyoaks*, *Home & Away* and *Eastenders*. Now *Hollyoaks* is brilliant, attractive people and some wonderful storylines; *Home & Away* has

even more attractive people (Oh Tasha, you shall be mine), and what it lacks in storylines it makes up for by the pure number of beauties who appear to live in the tiny village of Summerbay. The *Home & Away* omnibus is on Saturdays and *Hollyoaks* on Sundays, so it works well, (obviously the people at Channels 4 and 5 had a chat).

I do, however, have a problem with the BBC bothering to screen an omnibus of *Eastenders*. *Enders* is crap and no one is talking about it! Add on to that the fact that is on at 7.30pm or 8.00pm, so even I could watch it during the week if I wanted to! So why do we need an omnibus? Oh why, oh why, oh why? I think its because its a British soap and the BBC feel they should use British TV. Personally I would dispose of the remaining Mitchells and the Slaters and dear old Dot Cotton and put *Neighbours* in their Sunday afternoon slot. Even if they insist on keeping *Eastenders* on then, why not put *Neighbours* on Saturday?

They could even pit it against *Home & Away* to discover which is the true Ozzie giant! Personally I would bet on Ramsay Street, the people aren't as hot (not since Holly Valance

and Delta Goodrum left), but the storylines are so much better! Actually, now I come to think about it, we should take the actors from *Home & Away* and make them perform *Neighbours* storylines, that would be brilliant. Of course, we can't replace Harold, Lou, Susan, Karl, Paul or Toadie, but, let's face it, I would much rather see Rebecca Cartwright performing the role of Janae Timmins.

Anyway, enough of that, it's not going to happen. What can, and must, happen is a *Neighbours* omnibus! So please, for me, for yourselves in the future when you have jobs, campaign for a *Neighbours* omnibus. Just pick up a pen and write to the Director General of the BBC, (it's not like you have much else to do in lectures!).

Mark Thompson
BBC Director-General
White City
201 Wood Lane
London
W12 7TS
mark.thompson@bbc.co.uk



Anushri Patel

Why can't a rapist win The Lottery?

When I heard the news reports last year, recounting how a prisoner serving time for rape had won £7m on the Lottery, my psychic radar went into overdrive. I had visions of mass tabloid headlines exclaiming exaggerated hostility towards perpetrator Iorworth Hoare. *The Sun* never fails to disappoint me when it comes to predictability, and I expect media hype once more now that Hoare has been released back into society, where he's now free to spend his money as he pleases. Apparently it is also costing the public purse thousands each week to keep his new identity a secret.

I can see the headlines now: 'We caught the bastard! Then let him go. And now he's spending his millions. He just bought himself a pair of pants.' *Shocking Stuff!*

Unfortunately, luck and fairness aren't synonyms. My friends in Math Soc will probably argue that luck doesn't even exist. I once stayed up all night working on my GCSE coursework, and my teacher was sick the next day, hence the deadline was extended. As you can imagine, I wasn't particularly happy and extremely envious of everyone who didn't bother and still got

a better grade than me. Its a childish jealousy parallel to this which is plaguing the minds of those shouting: 'Dirty rapist! How dare he win the Lottery? I deserve to win, damn it!'. Incidentally, a woman undergoing cancer treatment won the highest Lottery jackpot ever, just around the same time as Hoare.

The lottery is just that - a lottery. It doesn't care if a rich person gets richer, so why care when a convicted criminal wins? Does the lottery need a new set of rules to decide who is worthy? If so, I think poor students need priority!

Victim support groups have already expressed anger at the win. One feminist writer even went as far to say that Hoare "should give every single penny of that money to rape crisis organisations".

Why? Hoare broke the law, and was consequently punished by imprisonment, not confiscation of earnings. He has paid his metaphorical debt to society; why are people hell bent on suing him/cajoling him into giving the money away? He paid for his ticket, and he contravened neither the rules of the National Lottery nor the terms of his punishment. He didn't even

have access to the money until he had finished serving his sentence in full. Fair enough, eh?

Unfortunately, our puritanical society just can't hack it, and would prefer that High Court judgements be arbitrarily altered to divert such winnings to a criminal's victims.

Exactly how do they envisage the precise definitions of such a law? And where do they draw the line? What if Hoare had bought his ticket before he had been convicted? What if he hadn't won? Is he only held responsible for all the crimes of his past once he starts getting some dosh? Is prison not enough? Will financially depriving criminals reduce crime rates? Precisely how much compensation will make victims feel better?

As a student, I can see why he doesn't want to give the money away, even if he is sorry for his crimes. Good luck to him, I say. I optimistically hope he's realised the error of his ways and manages to avoid the paparazzi as he buys his morning paper.

It's all very well being self-righteous when one's never had such large amounts of mind-corrupting cash, but £7m is a lot of money to give away. How many of you would?



Omar Hashmi

Muslims are today's soft targets

After viewing the ever-sickening devastation in Bali, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono stated at a news conference that: "The terrorists are still looking for soft targets". The potential for fear to overcome the usually rational minds of humanity is starkly obvious. Many deny it, but a global climate of fear has been created. We feel it here in London. Muslims feel it when they are told that MI5 has agents in every mosque in the country. Imperial Students feel it when Education Secretary Ruth Kelly tells our Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, to "identify and confront unacceptable behaviour" right here on campus, and Muslim community leaders are asked to help "identify and isolate" potential extremists.

What is an extremist? Am I an extremist? I'm Muslim. Everyone is telling me that this is fine. If I were old and wise, I would remember the early 1950s, a time when every loyal member of the United States would affirm their patriotism by making sure that no slither of socialism was present in their family, friends, neighbours and in fact anyone they knew. The 'Red Scare' pushed society to pressure individuals from 'deviant' political or social views towards the popular view, even by suspending some civil liberties, with the poor excuse of preserving

national security. The pertinent question one must ask is whether this is an example of history starting to repeat itself.

On Friday 5 August 2005, Prime Minister Blair made a speech announcing proposals for new anti-terror legislation. The measures were disproportionately aimed at the Muslim community in Britain, as they included plans to shut down mosques, proscribe Hizb ut-Tahrir despite them being a non violent political party, to draw up a list of unsuitable Muslim clerics who would be excluded from Britain and also to establish an 'Extremism Taskforce' to set standards for Imams that remain.

There was also the alarming move to extend the maximum period of detention without trial from fourteen days to three months. Personally, I do not believe the Government has the public support to pass measures that would isolate a British citizen for a three month detention. It infringes on human dignity and is ultimately a rather reactionary move.

What concerns me most is the notion that "glorifying terrorism" or "preaching hatred" will be considered a crime. The point of discussion and debate is to overcome differences and to understand those of different points of view. In these strange times, we must endeavour to remain as open-minded and frank as possible to genuinely

comprehend others. One example could be the State of Israel. This issue encompasses religion, politics, human tragedy and misconceptions on all sides. Many actively support it, others make themselves deal with it, yet others oppose it.

What is inappropriate is to forbid debate. The nightmare is this: if these measures are adopted, thoughts will be considered a crime. The fear of being caught by proposals against "indirect incitement to terrorism", "glorification of terror acts" or "unacceptable behaviour" could only curtail the freedom of thought. Opposition and political dissent will effectively be outlawed.

The idealism that I subscribe to will not sit well with some. I've been told by many to stay quiet, to not "rock the boat". I would like to see this attitude dispelled. Even though studying at a science institute gives us ample opportunity to ignore the wider world, I hope that we can remember the plight of minorities who were dehumanised for draconian legislation to become law. Muslims can feel the spotlight on them now, but we all realise that the oppressed minority tomorrow could be another defenceless minority. Mr Blair, I will not let you change the rules of the game (a copy of this week's *Felix* has been sent to the Prime Minister). A society, which recognises and adapts to meet the changes of our time, is a challenge that I would relish.



felix

No 1329
Thursday
6 October 2005
felix@imperial.ac.uk

“
Sports facilities at Imperial had been little better than those you'd expect at sixth-form college.
”

Free sport

It's about time sport was regarded with some importance by Imperial. Up until now the sports facilities at Imperial have been little better than you would expect at a half-decent sixth-form college, not the third best University in the country.

The old sports centre was simply disgusting and even when I felt like being active I was soon persuaded against it by the smell. Seriously, though the new centre does look excellent, and it makes us feel a little more loved by College.

The decision to make gym and swim free is particularly welcome at a time when being a student is becoming more and more expensive.

However, I am a little worried that the centre will be full to burst-

ing all the time. When something is offered for free everyone wants to get their 'money's worth' from it.

Neil Mosley, has stated that they will constantly review usage patterns and there is the possibility that we will have to book just to use the gym.

What about sport centres at other campuses? It seems strange to me to continue to charge for the gyms at Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Silwood.

The students at these campuses do not have access to the new 'state-of-the-art' equipment, and they will have to pay to use inferior equipment.

One could be cynical and suggest that Imperial's sudden interest in sport is a result of the inclusion of BUSA points in university league tables.



Diogo Geraldles

Well, well we finally meet again. You might be cursing London buses for not running me over or nature for not completely destroying Portugal while I was there. After a three month break from torturing Imperial's brilliant minds, I've decided to continue with my annoying task by presenting you with another masterpiece of literature. Diogo's back and more sarcastic than ever!

But, dont worry this year I'll try not to stereotype everyone and I'll raise matters of extreme impor-

tance such as international politics, health and social welfare or religion!

Almost got you! Unfortunately, my IQ isn't up to the task, so I'll stick to sarcasm and irony.

The top five things I hate about London.

1. Alcohol - How do you guys get drunk in this country! I went to the pub the other day for a Barcardi and coke. 25ml of a 20%ABV drink! I would need two litres of vodka to get even slightly tipsy!

2. Timetables - how on earth can you have lunch between 11.30 and 12.15, have dinner at 6pm, go out at 9pm and come back at 2am? Looks like you have shifted your daily schedule by 4 hours!

3. Prices! - I pay more per week for a room than my government spends yearly on healthcare. Everytime I go shopping I try not to burst out crying like a baby while thinking about my future as beggar on Oxford Street.

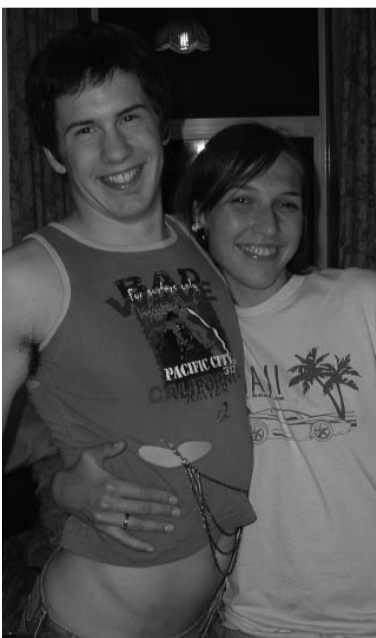
4. Imperial Measures - Miles, pints, feet, inches, driving on the left! Thanks to your gigantic British ego I saw my life flashing before my eyes while crossing the road last week. It's hard to go to uni while dodging double-decker buses.

5. Handshakes - What's wrong with kissing someone on the cheek? You can't get malaria or typhoid by being affectionate! Why do you shake hands with fit girls/guys when you could rub your face next to their perfect skin and think at least for a moment: I am the biggest pimp in the world!

Letters

Despite last week's plea for letters none have been received. Once again the author of the star letter will receive £10. Write to felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Blue Book Diaries



Rob Robinson

So no one took my advice! The Saturday night 'Mingle' was a prime example of Imperial's downfall. The event had all the right settings for a fantastic time, but as always everyone got over excited and ridiculously drunk and crowded round the closest female present. Again the intake of women was poor, but we were not really expecting anything else! This is Imperial College of Science and Technology!

However one attractive female was spotted sporting a rather eye-catching yellow top (first year medic). But, The Union was rather dark at the time. I am keeping my fingers crossed...I should have your number by the time this article is printed so guys don't bother.

It is not often that you get told that you are biggest, but it actually happened to me recently. I met an extremely attractive girl and one thing led to another, and being in a whirlwind of attraction we ended up in bed together. Everything

was going well, and we woke up entangled in each others arms, she looked angelic in the morning sunlight. We lay there exchanging words, and then out of the blue came those words everyman wants to hear.

"You're the biggest I have ever slept with"

Wow! I almost exploded! I queried her big headedly....

"No seriously I'm not that big"

"Yeah you are the biggest guy I have ever slept with"

I was grinning like a Cheshire cat, compliments are always great and I had to hear it again!

"But am I really that big?"

"Seriously your the fattest guy I have ever slept with"

My jaw dropped, it was not what I was expecting. I gathered her clothes and chucked her out. We have not spoken since.

The only way to solve this problem...shag fat chicks!
Any questions or queries?
robinson@loveable.com



Stormy Woods

The past week has been a hectic one in the wonderful world of Stormy. Not only did I win Ebay tickets to see my second favourite boy band of all time (nobody beats Take That), but I also got to spend time with my newest crush (and no, it's not the drummer from Hoochie Co, that's old news!), the lovely Miss A.

Another girl(!), you say? Indeedly, as the good Mr Flanders

would say. Girlie crushes are a feature of my life I don't often discuss. After all is said and done, I can't treat them with the respect I'd like. Who would want to sign the lady she loves up to life in a hostile family environment? Mummy and Daddy Woods would not be impressed, as they are acutely homophobic when it comes to their own kids. What would the elders at temple think?

Culturally conservative efforts do not impress me; a tradition may have worked for the past 6,000 years, but it shouldn't be immune to questioning/alteration to make it relevant in this enlightened age. The whole thing smacks of hypocrisy when my religion itself is supportive of all committed loving relationships between consenting adults!

Unfortunately, due a Nine West habit thats left me in financial hell, I can't afford not to live under my parent's roof if I'm going to have any hope of completing my degree (those thoughts of Dr Stormy molesting fit patients do keep me going!). So I'll keep to their rules for the time being.

Either way, my crashee is going to be around for a good few years. We've already got the obligatory friends in common and have many shared interests so should get to know each other more intimately. Seeing her around totally makes my day - considerably more so than the district nurses *Gulix* mistakenly accused me of fancying! Fit nurses don't exist for starters; a good looking woman can earn better money hyping upcoming pop-stars or selling over-priced property for the dickheads in green graffiti-stricken Mini's. A good-looking woman on an NHS ward tends to be a doctor or, maybe, an occupational therapist.

coffee break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

David Hasselhoff wants you...

FUCWITs rejoice: Coffee Break is back, and so is The Hoff



So... What the FUC is FUCWIT?

So, unless you've happened to have been living in a cave for the past year, or you're a fresher, you can't fail to be unaware of the sexual phenomenon that is David Hasselhoff's Coffee Break.

However, for those of you who're unaware, or maybe a little slow, here's a recap of what's going on.

FUCWIT stands for Felix Ultimate Coffee break Weekly Issued Tournament, and is our weekly quiz section. Let's explain what you need to do:

1. Find some friends, preferably ones with an in-depth knowledge of late eighties WWF and the films of Rick Moranis.
2. Think of a hilarious team name, the

more pun-tastic the better.

3. Get a Felix. Not hard, they're everywhere.

4. Work out the answers to our 'hilarious' questions.

5. Send your answers to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

6. Receive points for your correct answers, and earn your place in the incredible league of FUCWITs.

7. Do the same again next week

8. And the week after that...

9. And after that too...

10. Eventually, collect your amazing prize Sounds easy yeah? Well it is, so send those emails now!

Hoff has twice as many friends as you ever will

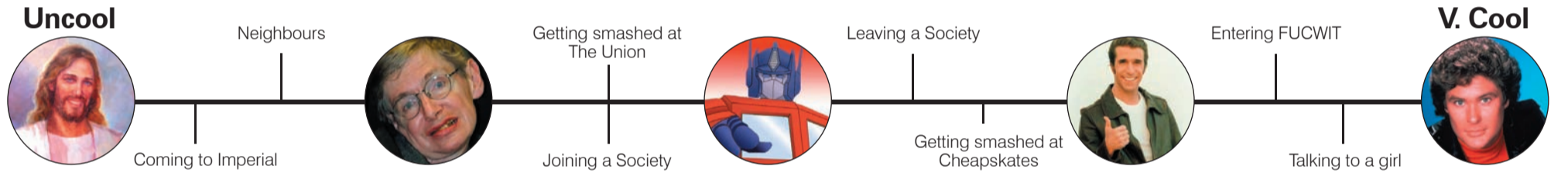
So, you're about to finish Freshers Week and beginning to settle down into normal university life. No longer will your evenings be spent exploring the uncharted territories of London's seedy underbelly. No, instead you'll be spending far too much time in halls.

Living in halls will be a new experience for a lot of you, and is one of the defining aspects of your time at university. Therefore, it's pretty important to make the most of it.

If you're unlucky you'll have been thrown together with

your roommate, especially when there's another hundred or so people to piss off instead. Unless you're boring, staying in halls should be about having a good time with people who in real life you would never have anything to do with. By now you should be past the initial ice-breaker stage ("What were your A-Levels again?") and onto actual terrifying conversation and socialising. Now's the time for proving just how cool you are, and as everybody knows, the ultimate barometer of cool is The Hoff.

But of course, you don't have to spend all your time with



Guess Who

The first FUCWIT quiz of the year is **Guess Who**, which is basically a retardedly simple guessing game.

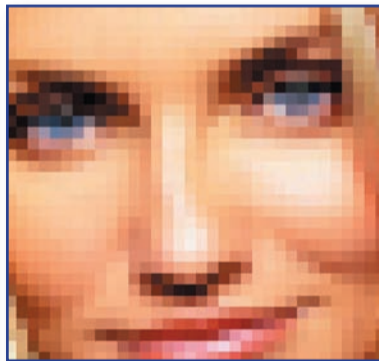
All you have to do is tell us who these nine celebrities (who've been cunningly disguised) are. There's three points on offer for each correct answer.

If you're struggling, here's a clue. We have two VIPs, four actors, a sportsman, a musician, and one which can only be described as 'Other'.

As always, the answers and scores will be revealed in a couple of week's time. Emails, with answers and hilarious team names, should be sent to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



1 Hail to The Chief, Our first picture is a VIP, but not the sharpest knife in the drawer.



2 There's something about this girl, that we just can't quite put our finger on.



3 It's a mirror image of what was one of the most popular royals. Not hard.



4 Despite living on a diet of babyfood, this hero managed to keep law and order in Detroit.



5 Hear we have an ex-boxer / kitchen innovator in disguise. Can you guess who?



6 A bit easy maybe...here's an 'innocent' musician, and allround freak.



7 The Hoff's arch rival, ex-Bouncer, Mercenary, Boxer and Wrestler. Well it's not hard is it?



8 A cuddly old uncle on one of Britains best loved sitcoms. During the war...



9 Even though he almost single-handedly killed Batman, he's still acting today.

Do you hate Coffee Break? You think you can do better? Well, I'd like to see you try...

We're always looking for writers and Contributors here at Felix, and Coffee Break is no exception. If you think you can do better (and it's not hard) send us an email at coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk. If you'd prefer to just send us insults and complaints, they're welcome too.



News from the Union...

Sameena Misbahuddin - President



Elections, Elections, Elections

This month sees a number of elections to Union Committees. So if you want to get involved and actually make a difference, then why not stand for election...

Council

Governance to many may seem boring,.....but if the Union is to work well then it is vital that we make it work effectively.

Council is the governing body of the Union and is responsible for policy making and ensuring the Union is serving its students well. A variety of issues are dealt with at Council, from Fairtrade policy to student accommodation - dealing with issues concerning the whole of the student body. Council is vital to everything we do - it tackles all the crucial issues and if we're to have any chance in challenging College decisions that we dislike, then we must be able to present a united front.

Council meets monthly and is open to all to attend. There are 16 remaining positions to be filled on this committee, of which at least two must be first years and two postgraduates, and for the rest a quota for each faculty.

Equal Opportunities Officer

This officer will be responsible for ensuring that the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy is upheld, and sits on Council and Welfare committee.

Trading & Retail Committee

Oversees commercial activities of the Union and is the place to go to represent student views to ensure the bars, catering, shops and entertainments meet the needs of the students. 4 positions up are for grabs on this committee and it meets once a month.

Services Committee

Oversees non-commercial services such as the Welfare service and services provided for Clubs and Societies. 4 positions are up for grabs and it meets once a month.

ULU

There are up to 3 delegates for the University of London Union council to be voted for. Delegates need to attend the monthly meetings and ensure that Imperial's needs are being met by its parent university's Union and to work with other London Unions.

Faculty elections

Some Faculty Unions are also having elections for a variety of positions. Look out for posters relevant for your faculty. The elections timetable for Faculty elections is the same as central Union elections and all works on the same electronic voting system (accessible through the Imperial College Union website). However, you can not vote in other faculty's elections than your own (so don't try ;-).

Why not get involved?

Thinking of standing then?

Nominations for all these positions are open now and close on Friday October 14th. To find out more information about how to stand for these positions See www.union.ic.ac.uk/elections.

Nominations to Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is the management board of the Union, meeting fortnightly and overseeing the Union operations. The committee consists of the Union President, Deputy Presidents, Faculty Union Presidents and Overseas students' committee chair. The Committee will also have 2 representatives nominated from Student Activities committee (SAC), 1 from Welfare committee and 1 from Academic Affairs - these latter four are to be nominated at the beginning of term, at and by the first meeting of each of the committees - to find the dates of these first meetings check www.union.ic.ac.uk/meetings.

Freshers' Fair

Tuesday saw another successful Imperial College Union Freshers' Fair. A big thank you goes out to all those who helped make it a success; all the CSC and Faculty Union committee members, the Sabbatical officers and Union staff members who helped throughout the day and all the Clubs and Societies who organised stalls and demonstrations welcoming students to a new term. And a special thank you goes to Simon Matthews - Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) for organising the day.



What's happening at the ICSMSU?

Danny McGuinness - ICSMSU President

We'd had our little fingers crossed for several months and it appears that all that crossing as worked. We have an amazing new intake! I've seen nothing like it. We've only had two days of events so far and their enthusiasm would be very hard to rival (apologies to other years, we love you too). Things kicked off with the BBQ on Sunday afternoon where it was lovely to see 300 freshers' eating to the point of vomit. Not content with eating 37 burgers in one sitting, one chap took a whole tray of left overs to see him through the week. Looks like he's learnt the art of student life already.

Now as for the Boat Party, not really sure where to start. One young lady managed to seduce the captain of the boat, much to the horror of all around them. Fortunately there were no fatalities and no acute poisoning. Monday night saw the Freshers' Roadshow,

the annual induction to the medical school. If asked to describe it I'd probably say it was a mix between Fun House and the sinking of the Titanic. Think Cupid may have paid a visit, as I've never seen so many people smooching in the Reynolds in my life. A very randy bunch these young freshers!

Anyhow, we've still got another 10 events to go at the time of writing and we're hoping the newbies continue to represent as well as they have. You guys are awesome, I love you all.

Danny. x



DON'T HIDE FROM DISABILITY

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE AT IMPERIAL TO HELP STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES PICK UP A LEAFLET OR CONTACT THE INFORMATION & ADVICE SERVICE.

T: 020 7594 8067 E:ADVICE@IMPERIAL.AC.UK

Imperial College Union, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. T: 020 7594 8060 www.union.imperial.ac.uk

Dear Miss Confidentiality...



Hi kids, I'm here to help you with all the worries you might have about life at uni and beyond. Please don't hesitate to email me, agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk. I look forward to hearing from you!

Miss Confidentiality X

Dear miss Con,

I am very confused, and I don't know what to do. Last week I was in a happy relationship with my girlfriend from home. Now I've come to uni and I've met someone else. I really like this person but I still love my girlfriend, but she's not here. Kissing doesn't count as infidelity does it??

Torn up tom

Dear torn up tom,

Does kissing count as infidelity?? Umm how about a big fat whopping yes! Cheating is cheating whether it's a full blown orgy on a drunken night out, or a tame kiss behind the bike shed. You're still being unfaithful. If you're really considering being with this other girl, you obviously don't care as much for your girlfriend as you say. Unless of course you have an open relationship, which by the way isn't really a relationship, but I won't get into that one right now.

I think the best thing is to firstly sit down and talk to your girlfriend and see what she's really expecting. Maybe the best thing for you both is to take a break, yes I know that ended in disaster for Ross and Rachel, but I'm sure you'll manage. Coming to uni already being part of a relationship is never easy, as you're both going to be experiencing new things and growing apart, maybe these new feelings are the first sign of that.

Dear miss C,

I've just moved into halls, and all is going great, but I'm finding it very hard to get any sleep. The person in the room below me plays R&B from dusk till dawn every night. The base is driving me crazy. I'm really little and he's really big and I just have no idea what to do. I'm

afraid he'll just ignore me and everyone will think I'm a killjoy. What do you suggest?

Sleepless in South ken.

Dear Sleepless in South ken,

Well at least if you have to kept up all night its good music, that has to count for something right!? Now you mentioned that you're really little and this guy is huge, but I'm sure that he isn't going to be a brute and yell at you and be mean. I'm sure that if you ask him he'll be decent and at least turn off the subwoofers. Halls is all about learning to live with each other, but if you really are that scared you could always try talking to your sub-warden or re-apps. Trust me though, it will be so much better coming from you, at least this way he won't have to call out the crew from back home to have you beaten up(not that he would).

You're not being a killjoy; everyone knows that a girl needs her beauty sleep, hours of relaxation guaranteed to stop you from biting people's heads off. If you talk to them and ask, they'll most probably thank you for it in the long run, anything is better than having to put up with a girl on the warpath due to lack of sleep. Another way to show you're not a killjoy is to start a prank war, but be warned you may end up with more than you bargained for.

Dear miss Con,

Oh my god! I'm in a panic. My roommate has discovered my awful secret, and so soon after we met! She's found my collection of..... Mills and Boon books! And I think she's shown it to her boyfriend. I haven't spoken to her about it yet, but I just don't know what to say. I need to stop her telling people. I hope she doesn't think I'm a weirdo.
Fearful fresher

Dear Fearful fresher,

The words 'slightly too much information' come to mind. Now I can see how this incident rates highly on the cringe factor, but at least it was just a soppy romance book, it could have been so much worse. Hey it's not an awful secret, so you like to curl up and disappear into a fantasy world with tall, dark, impossibly romantic men, who make women swoon at first glance.

At least you're not some psychopathic killer or part of a nudist cult, which would be so much worse for your roommate. They are just books, unless of course you're writing Mills and Boons as code for a battery operated tool!? In which case it's natural and I'm sure that you're not the first and you won't be the last. Now I understand that you're embarrassed, but the fastest way for this to blow over is to act like there is no problem, just don't make a big deal out of it! If she makes a big deal out of it, just raid

her side of the room for incriminating evidence.

Dear Miss Confidentiality,

There's this girl, I think she likes me but I'm not sure. She's dropped her books on my feet six times already this week. I can't figure out if she's just really clumsy or trying to get my attention. I often catch her looking my way during lectures, but I can't tell, my friends tell me she may just have a squint. Its not that I'm not interested, I just don't want to make a fool out of myself. Shall I ask her out?

Harvey

Dear Hopeful Harvey,

Mate are you serious!? Does she like you? Umm that would be a yes! No questions! Do you need your feet to be anymore bruised? Come on, I mean how many hints can a girl drop, she could always wonder round wearing a sandwich board with the words 'Harvey I like you, ask me out' printed on it, but that would be taking it a bit too far. The poor girl has lost her grip on subtlety and you're being the standard clueless guy. Let me clear this up once and for all, she likes you, she really really likes you! No she doesn't have a squint; she just doesn't seem to be able to tear her eyes away from you. Your friends are either winding you up or are as hopelessly confused and clueless as you are. If you don't like her, I'd think about investing in a pair of thick shoes as I can't see the book dropping ending anytime soon. If you do like her, there is no way asking her out will backfire, and please do it soon and save her before she hurts herself!!

Dear miss confidentiality,

My friend is in a long distance relationship, and he talks to his girlfriend on the phone a lot. Last time he spoke to her, she said she was on the toilet, he said it freaked him out, is this natural?
Pee-ed off

Dear Pee-ed off,

Umm, not exactly sure what you're asking. Well please tell 'your friend' that people, no matter how gorgeous they are, do occasionally need to visit the bathroom and not just to have a shower. It is only natural. I understand that he may have been slightly grossed out but the answer to that is simple; ask her to call you after she's finished her business, be it number one or number two. I can understand how, to you, your girlfriend is the most perfect thing in the world. I'm sure you do love her but, unfortunately you do have to come to terms with the fact that she is human. Unless she is a robot in which case why is she in the bathroom she may short-circuit!

Mystic stars

Libra (Sept 23rd – Oct 22nd)



I'm surprised you haven't auditioned for big brother yet, you love to be the centre of attention but the patience of people around you is wearing thin. Time to get the façade and be yourself.

Phrase for the week: Do it upright. **Most compatible signs this week:** Aries, Leo and other Libras. **Lucky item:** sellotaped glasses

Scorpio (Oct 23rd – Nov 21st)



Temptation to blow your student loan on booze may seem hard to resist this week but priorities need to be assessed. What are you waiting for? Get down to the union! Its freshers.

Phrase for the week: Fix it and move on. **Most compatible sign this week:** Taurus **Lucky Item:** IC swipe card, and gum!

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd – Dec 21st)



Want to become more than just lab partners? Well this is your week as the relationship elevator is going up. Make the most of that Bunsen before the flame burns out.

Phrase for the week: Tolerate and then say nothing 'at this time'. **Most compatible sign this week:** Aries **Lucky item:** goggles

Capricorn (Dec 22nd – Jan 19th)



You've never been one to give much attention to karma, preferring to rely on fact, well fate blind eye has opened, and its focused right on you, expect the unexpected.

Phrase for the week: Caution has its place but balance is always welcomed. **Most compatible sign this week:** Leo **Lucky Item:** Anything Irish

Aquarius (Jan 20th – Feb 18th)



Now is the perfect time to fall in love. If you're single, put yourself out there. If you're not, things could be getting hotter as the cosmic forces have cooked up a spicy recipe guaranteed to increase the heat.

Phrase for the week: Avoid 'gullible' energies **Most compatible sign this week:** Cancer **Lucky Item:** red jumper

Pisces (Feb 19th – Mar 20th)



Things may seem hectic, especially having to fend for yourself, reacquainting yourself with the washing machine. Simplicity is the key, so remember to separate your colours from your whites

Phrase for the week: Take it 'day by day'. **Most compatible sign this week:** Aries **Lucky Item:** key ring

Aries (Mar 21st – Apr 20th)



Flatmate been acting a little strangely recently? Its' probably a love affair gone awry. Set your sights further, think adventurous thoughts. Be spontaneous.

Phrase for the week: finish what you start and start big things with optimism. **Most compatible sign this week:** Gemini **Lucky Item:** fluffy kangaroo

Taurus (Apr 21st – May 21st)



This week is a great week to expose yourself (steady on!) to others points of view. Think before you speak and all will go well. Otherwise you may end up getting more than you bargained for.

Phrase for the week: Plan it now. **Most compatible sign this week:** Aquarius **Lucky item:** scissors

Gemini (May 22nd – Jun 21st)



This week is a chance for you to shine. Do what it takes to show off the assets that make you special, and make the most of freshers'. Who are we to judge? Go get 'em!

Phrase for the week: Contribute and then say nothing **Most compatible sign this week:** Libra **Lucky Item:** a mirror

Cancer (Jun 22nd – Jul 22nd)



You want to make the final decisions in your life. Should you reveal your true feelings to the hottie across the way? The stars urge you to prise yourself away from the computer and take some action.

Phrase for the week: Do it 'by the numbers'. **Most compatible sign this week:** Virgo **Lucky Item:** drumsticks

Leo (Jul 23rd – Aug 22nd)



I spy with my lil eye an eventful week coming your way. Romances, drunken antics, new friendships and the like. Be warned though, it may not last as the cards show a stormy time ahead. Will it rock the love boat?

Phrase for the week: If you don't ask, you'll never know for sure. **Most compatible sign this week:** Aries, Libra, Virgo and Leo. **Lucky Item:** whitening toothpaste.

Virgo (Aug 23rd – Sep 22nd)



You feel as if you're on an emotional roller-coaster this week, don't try and jump off halfway through the ride. Enjoy it for what it is who cares if freshers' flu is the result, you only live once.

Phrase for the week: Respect carries weight. **Most compatible sign this week:** Taurus **Lucky Item:** paracetamol

Next week Uncle Will is standing in for Miss Confidentiality. You can contact him at the same e-mail address – agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Henley Royal Regatta 2005

Mike Walsh

Henley, the 'Royal Regatta', an event steeped in traditions and old-fashioned etiquette, a genuine event on the social calendar and a chance to get dressed up in top hats and tails. However, and many people seem to forget this, it is also the pinnacle of the rowing season, and the main target for the Imperial College Boat Club.

The club went into the regatta on a high, buoyed by the double success of the girls' squad at Women's Henley a fortnight beforehand, and a cheeky novice sculls win at Richmond for the Tron.

However, all was not well, with a complication with the entries resulting in one of our eights missing out. Despite this, though, there was still a strong IC contingent looking to bring back some silverware. This year most of the club's top athletes were competing in fours: A coxless four in the Visitors' Challenge Cup, and two crews in the Men's Student Coxed Fours – an event which the club won last year, along with the remaining eight.

First up on the Wednesday morning was the 'A' four, entered as a composite with Goldsmith's College (due to Ben's perhaps misguided fondness for arty stuff), who comfortably disposed of Durham Uni 'B'. Next came some disappointment for the eight, who were never really in their race and consequentially lost out to a crew from the holders Nereus. After a spot of lunch it was the turn of the second coxed four, who had drawn old rivals Oxford Brookes' 'B' crew.



As they passed our vantage point, just before halfway, our boys were over a length down and appeared to be struggling. However, it's just not the IC way to give up, so back they came and in the space of the last 500 metres rowed through Brookes to take the race by 1 length! So, a good day all told, and with the fours off to get some well deserved rest, various members of the eight hit the town for some alcohol induced shenanigans...

Thursday morning came easier for some than others, and with just the one IC crew competing (the coxed fours had a day off), this turned out to be the quietest day of the regatta.

Anyhow, the Visitors' four, a crew made up of three of last year's winning four along with ex-IC man Tom Gale, didn't disappoint with a comfortable victory over a crew from Lake Victoria, South Africa.

With three crews still in the regatta on Friday, this was looking like a pretty good year for the club. However the day didn't start off that well, with the second coxed four coming up against a formidable crew from Durham Uni (the eventual winners of the event) who looked in control throughout and took the win by one length. There was better news for the first four, who went through with an 'easily' verdict

at the expense of Okeanos, from Holland. Unfortunately, though, the coxless four, crippled by the loss of Ed through illness, struggled to match a strong crew (also the eventual winners) from the National University of Ireland. So, one crew left going into the weekend, and the rest of us headed for the pub, and then onto the glorious Latinos nightclub, where I don't even think anyone managed to get into a fight!

On Saturday the focus was on two things: Firstly cheering on the coxed four, and secondly drinking lots (of other peoples') Pimms. So first things first – they faced a determined Nat Uni of Ireland crew (a dif-

ferent one), who were always going to fight all the way to the line. As the crews passed our (slightly illegal) gazebo, we were ahead and all looked rosy, however the commentary told the story as NUI gradually closed the gap, from _ of a length to _ a length, to _ of a length... But could they hold on? The wait for the final verdict was agonising, but eventually it came: Victory for NUI by 1 foot! Yes, that's 1 foot in a 2,112 metre long course. Gutted.

Anyway, on with the drinking, and when all our Pimms had gone, it was on to the Barn Bar – an outdoor bar with horrendous queues and extortionate prices – but hey, it's Henley. What followed was general drunkenness, cavorting and revelry. Oh, and Charlie fell in the river.

After the regatta most of the Boat Club went their separate ways, but enough stuck together to put in a decent showing at the National Championships in Nottingham a couple of weeks later. A haul of 3 silver medals, in the mens Pairs, Coxed Fours and Eights representing a good end to the competitive season for ICBC.

Anyone interested in joining the Boat Club, whether you're male, female, big, small, and no matter how much or little experience you have of the sport, should get in touch or keep an eye out for posters around college. For more information contact the club captain at captain@imperialboatclub.co.uk, or the women's captain at womenscaptain@imperialboatclub.co.uk

We hope to see as many of you as possible over the coming weeks and months.

Tales from Two Cities!

Hockey on tour

Hannah Marshall

Ten days in Barcelona and Valencia sounds like a good holiday to most people, but add to that the thought of ten days with 26 IC hockey players, and you're pretty much in heaven, right?! Well, I'm not sure what the Spaniards thought, but we had a pretty good time.

Our first stop was Barcelona: home of Gothic, Gaudi and Human Statues.

With such a rich offering of culture, Barcelona easily absorbed five days of our time, as we took in sites such as La Sagrada Familia, Park Guell, the Olympic Village, the Noucamp Stadium. We also managed to spend a bit of time at the beach, where English cricket's summer of success really began, as ICHC managed to get even the Spanish people interested in their enthralling beach-style simulation of the Ashes!

It should also be noted that Barcelona also boasts a world famous Communications Tower, which delighted the more physics-orientated hockey players amongst us, giving them a chance to revel in their engineering roots amidst an otherwise sports and culture orientated trip!

Barcelona's nightlife also deserve a mention. I think the words Sangria,

San Miguel, and Sangria pretty much sum it up! There was, however, also the small matter of a fancy dress night, which produced some interesting pictures, captured the hearts of Spanish Grandmothers and led to a universal conclusion that men should not wear hot pants!!

On this note, we thought it best to escape to Valencia, where we focused our mind on the task ahead; which was to wow the Spanish hockey players with our supreme on-pitch skills. Unfortunately, despite acclimatisation training one June evening in Putney, nothing could prepare us for running around mid-afternoon in 35° heat! The Spanish proved to be better adapted for these conditions and despite some brilliant play by all the IC Tour Teams, the Valencians emerged victorious.

In spite of the sun stroke and not winning the matches, a couple of good days of hockey were had by all, and most of us left the pitch content and in search of an evening of refreshment. JLo on the other hand, left with a school girl's mobile number and Shiv Henn left with a hole in her leg. But it was all good! Honest!!

When we weren't playing hockey in Valencia, we occupied ourselves with more beach action, mini tours of the old town, market, and walks along the river bed, as well as once

again relishing the opportunity to expand our scientific selves... The City of Science managed to draw us in and make us think about Genetics and aeronautics again! There was, however, the added bonus of a rather nice aquarium, complete with Dolphin Show to capture our attention and prove that learning really can be fun!

The nightlife of Valencia also turned out to provide its fair share of entertainment; once again Sangria, San Miguel and Sangria applied, with the addition of a bit of Zambucca, and what started off as some pretty good nights out turned into excellent nights out, with the realisation that there were no hot-pants on men in Valencia, and that dancing on bars is a near-mandatory night-time activity!

It was certainly a sad moment when this year's Spain Tour had to end, and the Tour Family disbanded, but 26 IC hockey players started their summer hols on a high and only need to glance at the photos on the website to burst into fits of giggles, which is a sure sign that next year's tour has a lot to live up to!! For more tour highlights and incriminating photos, take a look at www.imperialhockey.co.uk

WANTED

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sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Brown on sport

Stephen Brown
Sports Editor

As the Premiership season progresses the cries in the national media seem to have deviated from claims made in previous years about it being the best league in the world to performing some sort of long drawn out funeral sermon. Most of these premature obituaries cover a variety of the games alleged ills from falling attendance levels to the dominance of Chelsea via the view that the game is now just plain boring. Some commentators were even prepared to back up their claims with their own cash. In the sports speculators bible *The Racing Post* tipster Tony Cascarino advised readers to bet Liverpool and Chelsea to play out another scoreless draw. Hopefully the resulting 4-1 scoreline didn't hurt too many pockets. Here now is a brief outline of some of the recent whinges about the beautiful game and why they should not be listened to.

A common complaint this season is that matchday attendance figures have suffered due to a combination of excessive TV coverage and high ticket prices. Increased prices are just an inevitable consequence of the games immense popularity so tough cheese. It could be argued that high prices actually allow more fans to see their team at some point in the season as it reduces demand for "regular" tickets. Sympathy must be felt for the fans who have to travel long distances in time for a midday Saturday kick-off but at the same time we must accept that the days of the entire fixture card kicking off at 3pm are consigned to history and that the game is better off because of it. Schedules have

been changed so that Sky may show four or five games in one weekend. "Why should Rupert Murdoch get to specify when my beloved team plays?" I hear you cry. Well this is why. You want to watch megastars on mega-salaries? Then the game has to have the ability to generate the funds to assemble your dream team. Apart from the occasional oligarch the vast majority of clubs rely on their supporters for cash flow. Increased media coverage makes clubs far more marketable and hence more profitable. Any loss on matchday ticket sales to television will be dwarfed by the sums of additional revenue teams have enjoyed over the past ten years from the satellite companies and also by indirect income via the extra fans drawn to the game by all this new publicity. In particular this rings true with regards to the overseas markets.

Some lament the fact that the game is now in thrall to big money. When people mention big money the team that springs to mind is Abramovich's Chelsea. To an extent money does buy success in terms of the personnel you can afford but no amount of cash can buy team spirit or tactical genius both of which Chelsea have by the bucketload. It was only a few years ago that Man Utd supposedly had an unassailable position at the top of the game. Not even the most diehard red would make that claim now. Best of luck to Chelsea I hope they enjoy their purple patch but it is by no means a permanent arrangement. The finances of football are merely an example of the free market system that is responsible for our great society in its purest form. Astronomical salaries for the outrageously talented ensure that only the best make it onto the pitch

and onto our television screens. Wage caps? No chance! Socialism is a doctrine that has been tested to destruction across the world. We'd have to be fairly stupid to allow it to poison our Premiership

So self-righteous whingers please leave our game alone. We know you are probably part of the brigade who declared cricket the "new" football following England's magnificent triumph over Australia. Whilst it is always good to see (dare I say it) the less well followed sports have their day at the same time it is delusional to think that any sport will overtake football as our chief sporta franca in terms of revenue and viewing figures. Who has the gall to present fans with these false dichotomies? I mean following football and cricket, rugby or whatever else you are interested in are not mutually exclusive pursuits. Lastly to those of you who now believe the game is now just boring due to the tactical conservatism of some managers. This is a perfectly valid opinion but before expressing it so vehemently I urge you to consider following Mr Cascarino's example and putting your money where your mouth is. It would be churlish to criticise the game otherwise.

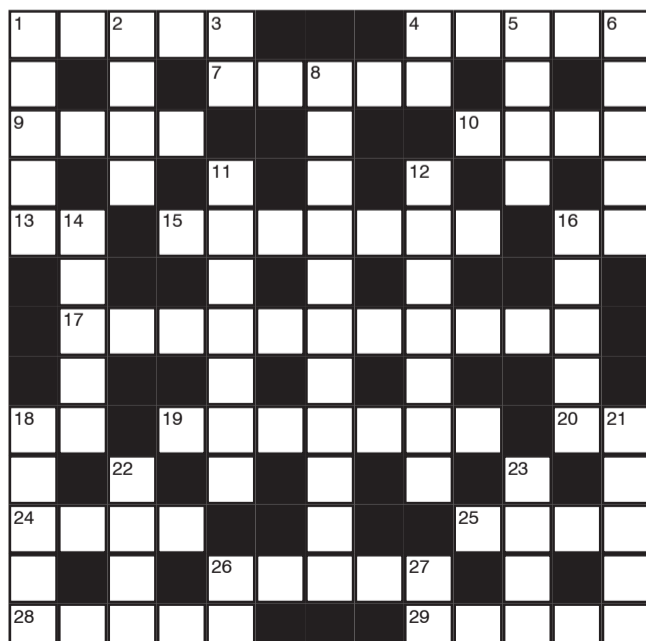
For those of you who really want to affirm your loyalty to the game what could be a better tribute than playing yourself? IC Football Club are currently recruiting for the new season with trials taking place this Saturday. With seven teams all standards of player are welcomed in to the fold so come along. If your missed signing up at freshers fair but still want to get involved contact the club captain at mark.shatwell@imperial.ac.uk.

**EAT FOOTBALL.
SLEEP FOOTBALL.
DRINK... BEER.**

Please send your sports reviews and reports to sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Quick Crossword

by Turnip Henry



Across

- Uneasiness (5)
- Style of column (5)
- Precise (5)
- Highest point (of achievement) (4)
- Opposite of prose (4)
- In the event that (2)
- Rope or similar for executing (7)
- To function properly (2)
- Capital of Burkina Faso (11)
- Operating room (2)
- Pistol holder (7)
- Alien film star (1,1)
- Woodwind instrument (4)
- Male deer (4)
- Cut of pork (5)
- Male duck (5)
- Drug (5)

Down

- Seemingly, but not so (5)
- Armed forces (4)
- Chronic fatigue (1,1)
- Psanmead (2)
- Midday (4)
- Celebrity feature role (5)
- Substance stimulating sexual desire (11)
- Pale zircon (7)
- Fruit and pastry roll (7)
- Ground wheat (5)
- Width of film (5)
- Egg-shaped (5)
- Native American symbol or badge (5)
- State of unconsciousness (4)
- The three wise men (4)
- To exist (2)
- Negative response (2)