

The final showdown

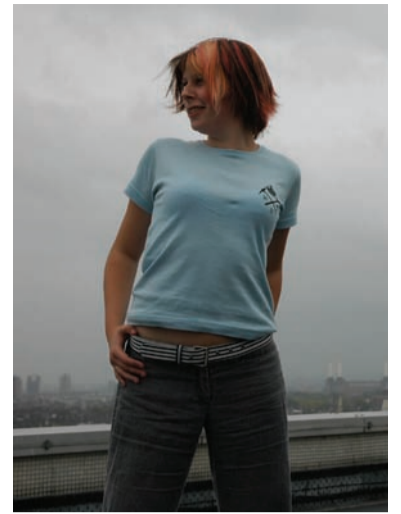
<p>OPTIMUS PRIME THE CONTENDER</p>	<p>DAVID 'THEHOFF' HASSELHOFF THE CHAMPION</p>
<p>PLACEYOURVOTENOW-COFFEE.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK</p>	<p>CHAMPION FOR A YEAR - BUT IS THE OLD MASTER UP TO ONE LAST CHALLENGE?</p>
<p>CAN THE PLUCKY YOUNG AUTOBOT FROM CYBERTRON REACH HIS ULTIMATE GOAL?</p>	<p>REACH HIS ULTIMATE GOAL?</p>
<p>3RDNOVEMBER2005-IMPERIALCOLLEGE,LONDON</p>	




From Marks and Spencer to Ralph Lauren, everyone's in the pink
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WARNING!
Look away now if you're scared of heights

page 3



FREE
No 1332
Thursday
27 OCTOBER 2005

The student newspaper of Imperial College
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felix



Extremists at Imperial?

Under the anti-racist name 'Stop Islamophobia' an Islamist group attempted to recruit students at Freshers Fayre



Some people weren't all they seemed at this year's Freshers Fayre

Daniela de Angel

Persons trying to secure UK students' signatures, in protest against the introduction of new anti-terror laws, have been shown to be linked to an extremist organisation.

An undercover reporter from *The Times* infiltrated into the group 'Stop Islamophobia', posing as a post graduate at UCL, to discover the misleading name is in fact part of Hizb ut-Tahrir, one of the Islamist parties facing a ban under terrorist laws.

Persons wearing T-shirts with the words and the palm of a hand held in the stop position were seen throughout campus during Freshers Fayre, October 4. They were predominately seen in the vicinity of the zebra crossing on Prince Consort Road between the main College campus and the Union. Students were asked to sign a petition against the introduction of the new anti-terror laws and were asked to sign-up to the 'Stop Islamophobia' mailing list.

'Stop Islamophobia' addresses western politics as 'McCarthyism',

claiming Bush and Blair are creating an alarmist "politics of fear" discrediting the entire Muslim community so they can fight their war without question. 'Radicals, subversives, conspiracies, infiltration, recruitment, treason, an enemy within, betrayal, ideologies, terror, torture, spying, deportation, protecting our way of life' are all words used by 'Stop Islamophobia', describing how the government is swaying society to portray the Islamic way of life. These terms were used during the Cold War Communist persecutions in America, in the McCarthy period.

An undercover investigator from *The Times* established that students are being recruited under the deceptive and politically correct name 'Stop Islamophobia'. Allegedly, the group campaigns to, "fight anti-Muslim prejudice in the wake of London's bombings", asking students to sign a petition against anti-terrorist legislations. The undercover reporter showed interest in the group and was subsequently introduced to members of Hizb ut-Tahrir.

Hassan Choudhury, national co-

ordinator of Stop Islamophobia, denied links with Hizb ut-Tahrir. However according to *The Times*, Thaqib Razaq, an active member, claims to have joined Hizb ut-Tahrir with Choudhury. In one of the meetings Razaq stated Stop Islamophobia, "is set up by us, but we don't actually push it like that, the moment they link us with Hizb ut-Tahrir they'll bring the whole campaign down." The reporter was told the party method demanded complete dislocation from democracy and British secular values, but is non violent. However, *The Times* states that one member said suicide bombers in Israel would go "straight to heaven".

Earlier this year, Professor Anthony Glees from Brunel University released a report on Colleges being "breeding grounds for extremists". He affirms extremist parties have "issued a number of anti-Semitic statements, anti-Hindu, anti-Sikh, homophobic, anti-feminist, and resentful of Western influence on Islam". Soon after the statement the NUS appealed to student unions to ban Hizb ut-Tahrir

from campuses, accusing the party of "supporting terrorism and publishing material which incites racial hatred".

Despite the appeal from NUS, Imperial College Union (ICU) does not have any specific ban on members of Hizb ut-Tahrir. Samenna Misbahuddin, President of ICU, said, "The Union does not support in any way nor allow any group to incite hatred on any group of people. The Union has an equal opportunities policy which clearly upholds this, and this policy will be enforced. It is important that at all times we students unite in ensuring that any incitement of hatred is not tolerated on our campuses".

Imperial College expressed concern when informed, by *Felix*, of the presence of this group on campus. Deputy Rector, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, told *Felix*; "everyone at Imperial is responsible for security. If anyone has any suspicions of unauthorised persons they should contact security, who will

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Still praying in the rain

Rupert Neate
Editor

Last Friday, 21 October, Islamic prayers were once again held on Queens Lawn. In last week's *Felix*, 1331, we reported how Muslim students were forced to pray outside as there is no available space on campus.

Imperial College state that as a secular institution they will not provide space for communal worship. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Deputy Rector, told *Felix* that, "The College position remains... we have made it quite clear the College does not support congregated worship". However he did state that, "the Islamic Society can book space like any other club and society, but there will be no creation of space... no earmarking of space".

The only suitable space in College is the Great Hall, which was booked out last Friday for a rehearsal of the graduation ceremony that took place in the Royal Albert Hall yesterday. *Felix* received claims that the College deliberately booked the Great Hall at this time to prevent the Islamic Society using it for prayer. Upon investigation *Felix* has been shown evidence to refute this claims the Great Hall was booked months in advance.

Andrew Wilson, College Chaplain told *Felix*, "Friday prayer is clearly a vital element of the faith of Muslims and as a Christian I can respect that. The Chaplaincy explored the possibility of the Islamic Society using large meeting rooms owned by St Augustine's Church (unfortunately this wasn't possible). Imperial is an academic community made up of many different view, beliefs and faiths. I hope that a practical solution can be found".

Next week the Great Hall is booked out for an external event, so Prayers maybe held on Queen's Lawn for the third week running. The Deputy Rector has confirm that once built the new sports centre will not be available for Friday Prayers.

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Thursday 27.10.05



Bird Flu
“the inexorable westward advance of avian flu and how we are preparing to tackle the potential pandemic”
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A change of pace
“This week, live d’n’b and an awe-inspiring set from the legendary Laurent Garnier fill these hallowed pages, as well as gobblets of praise for Oceansize’s live show”
Page 8 ▶



The Constant Gardener
“There were beautiful landscape shots of Africa and it should come as no surprise that the acting was superb. After all, Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz do have the experience to carry this film to the Oscars. Nevertheless, good acting or otherwise, it doesn’t save the plot cliché. The days when we were inclined to believe in ‘X-Files’ conspiracy theories are over. What can I say except better luck next time!”
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This Week

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Sudoku No 1332

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. Email your solution to felix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 28 October 4pm. When I will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. Last week’s winner was Ben Schneider.

	1			8			6
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	4	6			5	9	
	7		9			1	
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9			8				7

NEWS

Engineering a good career

Anne Winberg Baarup
Internship Centre Coordinator

The Tanaka building and the Mechanical Engineering Foyer were bustling with engineering students on Wednesday 19 October, when the annual Engineering Careers Fair was held. The fair was organised by the City and Guilds College Union’s Internship Centre together with the Careers Advisory Service. The aim was to give engineering undergraduates a greater exposure to engineering companies, and give them the opportunity to discuss possible career options.

Thirty companies, including Arup, Network Rail, Procter & Gamble, Rolls Royce, Shell and BP, attended the fair and many stands were manned by alumni of the College. Over 1500 students from the various engineering departments came to speak to the company representatives, and there was a general consensus amongst the students that it was fantastic to have an “engineering-only” event, where financial



institutions weren’t dominant.

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, and the Principal of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Julia King, were also in attendance for part of the afternoon.

Professor Julia King said, “We think the careers fair will be a great success and we hope it will encourage lots of our students to consider careers in engineering when they leave Imperial. Our graduates are much in demand. So many companies wanted to take part in this

Careers Fair that we have had to put some on a waiting list.

“We’re really pleased to see some of our alumni on the stands. It gives the current students a glimpse of the exciting future ahead of them when they see what our previous students have gone on to do” she added.

If you enjoyed attending the fair and are interested in helping with the organisation next year, please email: internships@cgeu.net

Funeral congestion



South Ken locals aren’t happy about the congestion charge extension

Matthew Hartfield & Louisa Evans

Last Friday, 21 October, patrons of the almost legendary Sandwich Shop on Gloucester Road were treated to an unusual sight as a mock funeral procession, complete with three hearses and a New Orleans Jazz Band, walked by. Organized by the Forum of Private Business (FPB), it was held in protest to the extension of the congestion charging zone, due to happen in February 2007.

The ‘mourners’ staged the event in a bid to demonstrate the anticipated ‘death’ of their trade, particularly as the charge was raised from £5 to £8 per day this July. Despite the event being well publicized, it wasn’t particularly well attended, with an approximate 1:1 ratio of press and police to protestors, presumably because, rightly or wrongly, there is little sympathy for the plight of the richest borough in London.

FPB chief Nick Goulding said, “visitors and shoppers need to be encouraged to come into London” and called on the mayor to suspend the congestion charge until January. Ken Livingstone has yet to respond.

Local residents associations and politicians are concerned that the congestion charge is “a new poll tax” and that it would “kill local business”.

The protest started with a mock funeral parade up the Gloucester Road. After dismantling at the top of Gloucester Road, local represent-

atives made speeches to the present crowd, starting off with the president of the National Society, Alan Smith, denouncing the new charge on hearses as “no more than a tax on death and grief”, and he was here to “represent local businesses that will be affected by the congestion charge extension”.

Local politicians also gave speeches, with one local councillor claiming that “out of 60,000 residents questioned...70% or residents and 80% of businesses opposed the extension”. Newly elected MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, Greg Hands, stated that his borough was fully behind the campaign, “We would be worse affected, as our borough would get the displaced traffic...it would be a catastrophe”. Kensington and Chelsea MP Sir Malcom Rifkin was also planning to speak but was absent due to the vote for the Conservative leader that day.

The crowd were in a frenzied mood, with constant chanting of “Ken out!” after every speech. One protester, speaking to Felix, said “Is this a man fit to be Mayor of London with his ‘Alice in Wonderland’ policies?”

The Mayor announced the extension of the London Congestion Charge last month, saying that it “will bring considerable benefits to this area of London”.

Extremists

continued from page 1

take the appropriate action including escorting people off-site”.

Problems have arisen at other universities. *The Guardian* reported that at Middlesex University the president of the Student Union was suspended for refusing to cancel a debate he had previously organised with Hizb ut-Tahrir. Furthermore, six students at Lancaster University faced up to 3 months in jail after being prosecuted for demonstrating on their campus. They interrupting a speech by Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, and had to be removed by university staff.

Boris Johnson, editor of *The Spectator*, once wrote an article for *The Telegraph* about a religious confrontation between the Anglo-Catholics and the evangelical Protestants that promised to explosive. Nothing much happened in the end but he received many complaints about his article (perhaps due to the use of some slightly inconsiderate language). However, retrospectively he says, “The remarkable thing is not how much fuss they made, but how little, especially if you think what we have come to expect from some Muslims. I have in mind not just the murders of Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh, but the trembling refusal of a noted Koranic scholar to write an article for *The Spectator*.” He then quoted him as saying, “You don’t understand. These people will kill me if I say what I really think. I mean kill me.”

What politicians argue makes Islam so politically and socially hazardous is that some Muslims react to an insult to Islam and its followers with a very deep personal sense of indignation. This stimulates young men to become disenchanted with British society and politics. This can further result in a minority of cases becoming extremists and even suicide bombers. Due to this minority, western governments, as Mr Johnson puts it, “are now so desperately using new laws to decide what Muslims can say about their own religion.”

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Forget physics, geology
makes your bedrock!



Think you're better looking?

Pose here. We would like to feature page 3 every week. All you have to do is email us at page3.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Girls and Boys please. We believe in equal rights.

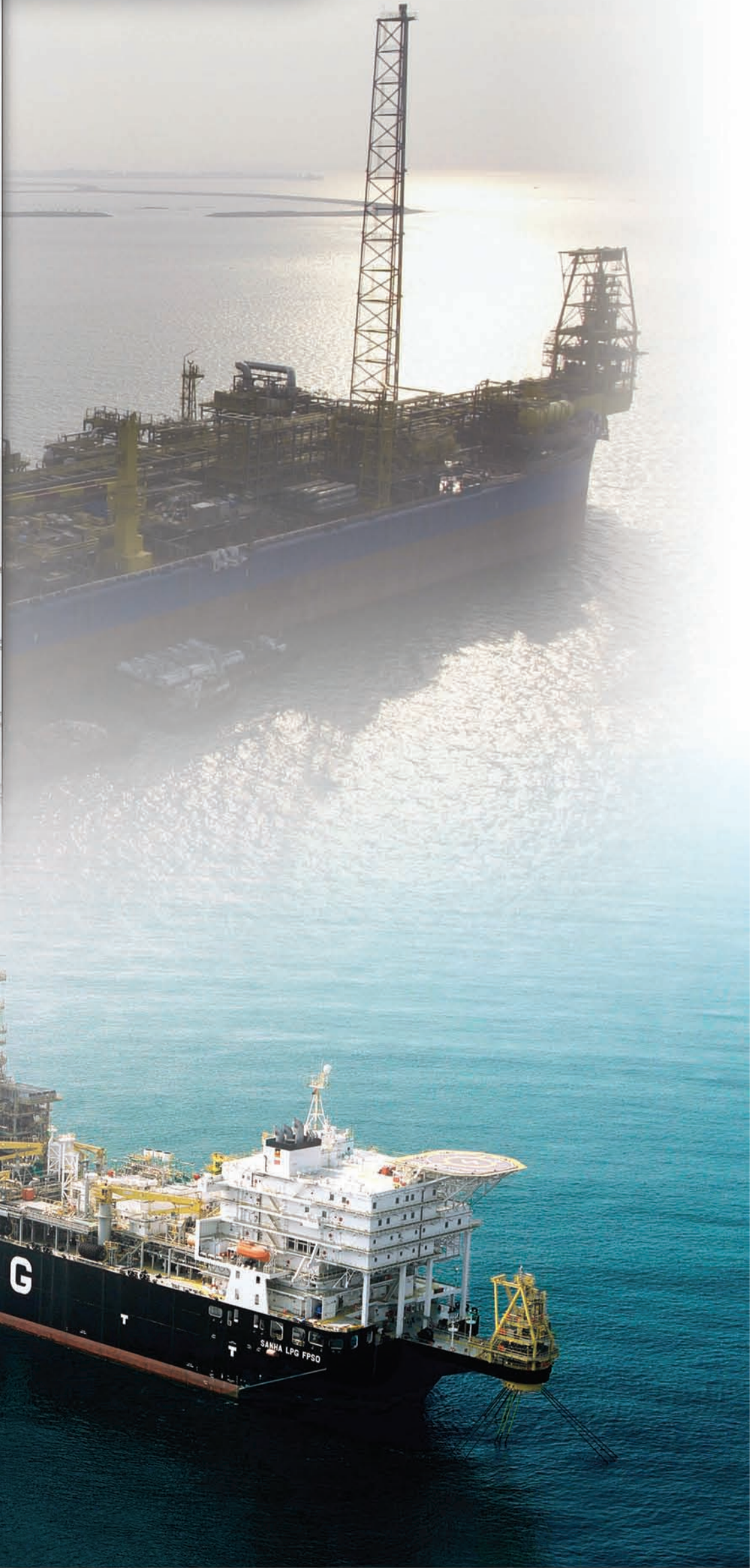
Photo: Will Turner

On November 3rd at 18.30 **Single Buoy Moorings Inc (SBM)** will make a presentation at Imperial College (Civil Engineering Lecture Theatre 208) to tell you what Floating Production is all about and what career opportunities it presents for you.

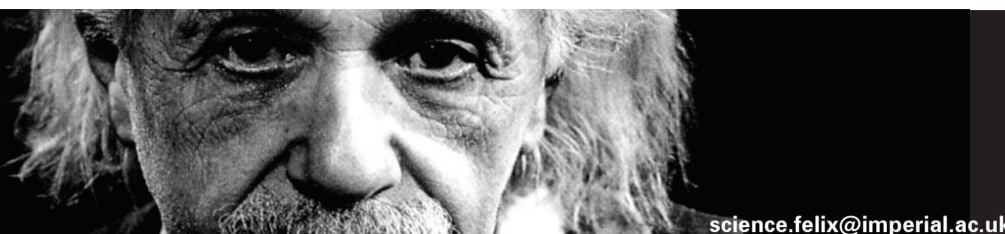
SBM is one of the major players in this field operating 17 FPSO and FSO vessels around the world. If you are interested in starting a career or making a graduate internship with us, please attend this meeting. We are interested in talking to Chemical, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Hydrodynamic and Naval Architecture students.

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science



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On a wing and a prayer

Will Gates reports on the inexorable westward advance of avian flu and how we are preparing to tackle the potential pandemic.

Already in October, outbreaks of a strain of influenza in migratory and farmed birds have sent shock waves through Europe. The H5N1 flu viral strain from South-East Asia, which has killed over sixty people since the first cases in 2004, has now reached the borders of Europe.

The passage of the disease from its South-East Asian stronghold has been marked by outbreaks in Russia and Kazakhstan and, most recently, in a poultry farm in Balıkesir, Turkey, on 1 October. A further outbreak in the Danube wetlands in Romania has also turned out to be a case of the H5N1 strain. In both cases, all birds deemed to have been exposed to the virus were destroyed. Now Greece has become the first EU nation to confirm an outbreak of

virus, which killed 40 million people in 1918-19. It has been shown that the Spanish flu was a form of avian flu similar to the H5N1 strain, which mutated in order to adapt to the conditions within the human system. What set the 1918 strain apart from the 1957 and 1968 strains, which both killed several million people worldwide, is that the 1918 strain was a direct adaptation of avian flu to be virulent in humans, whereas the others combined with existing human virus strains. The H5N1 virus appears to be adapting to be lethal in humans without having to combine like the 1957 and 1968 strains, following the legacy of Spanish flu.

The similarity between the evolu-

tion of H5N1 and Spanish flu lies in the mutations of the three-gene sequencing for RNA-polymerase, a three-protein complex. This was the key for the Spanish flu's murderous success – it mimicked the RNA-polymerase structure found in other human influenza viruses. H5N1 hasn't so far exhibited mutations that would make its RNA-polymerase structurally similar to the Spanish flu one, but it is showing some of them in some cases.

When the pandemic arrives – and the general consensus is that it is not if, but when the virus mutates to be capable of human to human transmission – what defences will we have? The virus's relentless westward surge has the government pulling out all the stops in an

effort to be prepared for the numerous expected mortalities. Sir Liam Donaldson, the chief medical officer, has estimated 50,000 fatalities in the UK. Other, more inflated estimates, predict as many as three quarters of a million. Stockpiling of antiviral drugs, such as Tamiflu, has begun. The Department of Health has publicised plans to buy 120 million vaccines against the virus, enough to protect the entire population.

This has raised eyebrows, however, as no such vaccine exists yet. Scientists around the world have been working on the vaccine for some time without the major breakthrough so desperately craved. One problem is that the structure of the H5N1 virus, which causes

hideous to contemplate. Yet little more can be done, other than a ruthless policy of destroying any fowl deemed to be infected. Remember the foot-and-mouth epidemic? We could also follow the example of the Netherlands and keep our poultry indoors. This could be seen as an overreaction at this stage, but it is something, which should be considered if Britain faced a more imminent risk of contamination.

H5N1 will be a pandemic which spreads rapidly across the world. Improved transportation of humans, not to mention the prodigious distances travelled by migrating birds, will scatter the virus across the world. A human infected in London could be in New York by the time

“Yet why the hysteria? This seemingly innocuous virus has taken the world by metaphorical storm.”

bird flu, although it is not yet clear whether it is of the deadly strain.

Yet why the hysteria? This seemingly innocuous influenza virus has taken the world by metaphorical storm. It's big news in the Far East: in Thailand's daily *Bangkok Post* a day without a story on bird flu is exceptional. The World Health Organisation (WHO) is desperately trying to investigate the potential this virus has for causing a global pandemic. The Netherlands, a country thousands of miles from the nearest bird flu outbreak, has ordered all poultry to be kept indoors to avoid potential contact with infected wild-fowl. All over the world scientists are frantically trying to create a vaccine and understand the organism itself. A lot of people are very worried.

Essentially, the worry is caused by the perceived ease with which the H5N1 virus could mutate into something far more dangerous. The sixty or so people who have already died of the virus had direct, prolonged contact with infected birds, and the virus could have been transmitted from the birds to the victim through saliva, nasal secretions and faeces. Once successfully within a human body, it is deadly – about half of those infected die. While the virus can currently only be contracted from contact with birds, it is thought that it could mutate into a form that could easily transmit from human to human. Once this happens, it could spread like wildfire through the human population.

Much of the hypotheses surrounding bird flu have been vindicated by recent research, which has resurrected the notorious Spanish flu



Since the outbreak in South-East Asia in 2004, which caused a mass cull of birds in China, the H5N1 strain of avian flu has killed over sixty people. Bird flu has reached the borders of Europe this month with possible cases being reported in Turkey, Romania and Greece. It is not yet clear whether it is of the deadly strain.

the pandemic, cannot be accurately forecasted. We cannot say precisely what its defining genetic attributes are. A vaccine against a generic strain of H5N1 would not prevent infection and may have limited

capabilities to counter the effects. Even the antiviral drugs are scarce, due to the difficult manufacturing processes. A pandemic that hit this winter would be a nightmare too

“A human infected in London could be in New York by the time they started developing the first symptoms.”

they started developing the first symptoms. In many ways, though, the fact that H5N1 has now reached Europe does little to increase the risk to the British people. The virus still needs to mutate, and this is more likely to happen in the unsanitary conditions of poverty-stricken South-East Asia, where humans and poultry share a roof and are in a more direct contact. It is true that the more people that are exposed to H5N1, the more favourable the circumstances would be for it to mutate and spread; yet the risk is lower in Europe. This is no reason to be complacent; rather, we should see European H5N1 as a herald of what might come, and strive to be prepared for the storm when it breaks.

News in Brief

“Venus Express” space probe launch delayed
The launch of the European Space Agency's “Venus Express” spacecraft has been delayed after technicians discovered contamination in the Russian-made launcher. Europe's first mission to Venus was scheduled for Wednesday but will be delayed for several days while tests are carried out on the Soyuz-Fregat launcher.



Fourth bird flu victim in Indonesia, disease spreads
Indonesia confirmed on Tuesday a fourth person in the country had succumbed to bird flu while China said hundreds of farm geese had died, the latest outbreak of a disease that seems to defy efforts to halt its spread. The deadly H5N1 virus first surfaced in Asia but appears to be spreading quickly to the West. Russia confirmed more bird flu cases in poultry on Monday, further raising fears the disease could spread across Europe on the wings of migratory birds.



Scientists draft blueprint to protect world oceans
Scientists are mapping out a plan for a network of marine parks to save the world's oceans from fish stock depletion and growing pollution. Achim Steiner, director-general of the World Conservation Union, said a conservation plan for the unregulated high seas would be produced by 2008.



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Issue 3 released on
1 December 2005

Vague science

Kath Nightingale and Christine Dimech have dinner at the Dana Centre with Prof Brian J Ford

Apparently monkeys like to throw snowballs and bears enjoy tobogganing. These were just a couple of the stories that Professor Brian J Ford used to try to convince his audience that animals experience a range of feelings, just like us. His talk, 'Do Fish Fall in Love?', took place last Wednesday, 19 October, at the Dana Centre – an informal forum for discussing science without getting baffled by technical jargon. There was also the added bonus of a drink and a meal.

Carrot and coriander soup was swiftly followed by Prof Ford's informal lecture. Drawing on his book *Sensitive Souls*, Prof Ford used examples of animal behaviour to explain how we, humans, should not set ourselves apart from other animals on the basis of language, consciousness or self-awareness. Indeed, some animals and even single-cell organisms were communicating long before we managed so much as a grunt. The behavioural adaptations that some species demonstrate, such as crows dropping walnuts onto concrete, or blue tits opening milk bottles to get at the reward inside, show that they might not necessarily react purely on instinct but are also capable of

cognitive thought processes. These new skills are also passed between individuals, showing an awareness of fellow members and groups.

Prof Ford encouraged us to question the anthropocentric view of life, as many animals were here long before us and have been thinking, learning, communicating and, in the case of amoebas, even flirting, long before we had worked it out. So perhaps we humans, with our oversized brains (or 'cerebral cancer'

as Prof Ford charmingly put it), should learn to show some humility. However, it seems natural for us to look for human characteristics in nature – we only really have one frame of reference. And Ford himself, by using a title like 'Do Fish Fall in Love?', was clearly inviting comparison and applying a 'human' construct, love, to fish.

Following a serving of lasagne, we moved on to a question and answer session, where the audience thoroughly tested Ford's arguments. Although we all seemed to agree with his ideas and the motivation behind them (expressing superiority over a tobogganing bear would probably have invited boos from the audience), it became clear that there was very little experimental evidence behind Prof Ford's assertions. Call us old-fashioned, but isn't science based on interpretations of experimental observation rather than anecdotal references?

At times we veered off the subject with talk of bird flu, robotic dogs, the colour of egg yolks and a bizarre diatribe against supermarkets, which while unrelated was nonetheless interesting and entertaining. Altogether, a thought-provoking and enjoyable evening, as long as you ordered the vegetarian option.



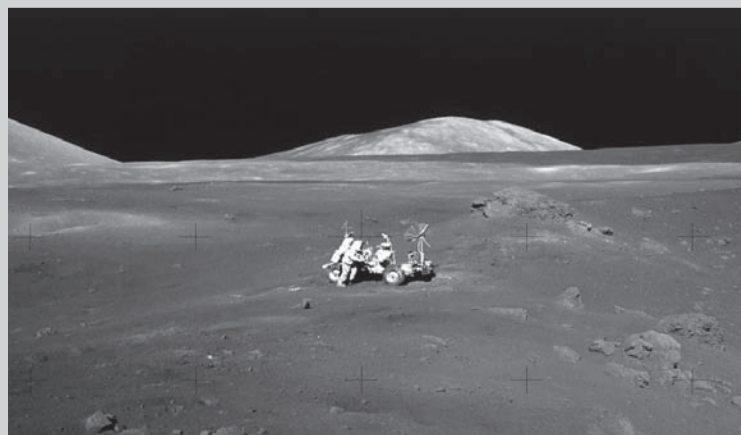
Prof Brian J Ford – does he enjoy tobogganing too?

Magnificent Desolation Competition

And the winners are:

Alexander Haupt
Simon Overell
Tevong
Hyowon Kim
Joseph Jezicvongesseneck

Thanks to everyone who entered. The answer to 'How many people have walked on the moon?' is '12'. Please come by the *Felix* office to arrange for picking up your tickets.



A persistent force of habit

Amber Bauer on the latest habit-breaking research.

There's a saying that it takes 21 days to make or break a habit. However, according to a study published in the 20 October edition of *Nature*, habits may be gone but not forgotten. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have released data that suggests that habits are hardwired into a specific region of the brain. This wiring is changed when habits are broken but will re-emerge when something triggers the old pattern of behavior.

"It is as though somehow the brain retains a memory of the habit context, and this pattern can be triggered if the right habit cues come back," said Ann Graybiel, the Walter A Rosenblith Professor of Neuroscience in MIT's Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, in a statement released by the MIT news office. "This situation is familiar to anyone who is trying to lose weight or to control a well-engrained habit. Just the sight of a piece of chocolate cake can reset all those good intentions."

The basal ganglia is the region of the brain linked to habits, as well as addiction and procedural learning. Researchers in Graybiel's laboratory studied the neural outputs from this region in rats.

In these experiments, rats were put through a T-maze. At the end of a long corridor, rats had to decide whether to turn right or left

in response to auditory cues. The correct choice led to a chocolate reward.

During the process of trial-and-error learning, researchers observed that neurons were active throughout the maze run, the rat's brain being on high alert because anything might be important for achieving a positive outcome. While the rats learned which cues indicated the correct arm of the maze to take to find the chocolate, the neurons in the basal ganglia were being trained too.

"This is familiar to anyone trying to lose weight. Just the sight of a chocolate resets all those good intentions"

Once the cues had been learned thoroughly, the neurons attached to the task only fired intensely at the beginning and end of the maze. In the rest of the maze, the rats appeared to work on autopilot, their neurons becoming quiet. It was also observed that other 'disinterested' neurons were silent during the maze run, seemingly in order not to hinder the critical neural signals.

Researchers then removed the reward, rendering the cues mean-

ingless. This change made everything in the maze relevant again, causing the neurons to revert to high activity during the run. The rats eventually stopped running the maze because of the lack of reward, breaking their habit and changing the new habit signaling pattern in their brain cells. However, as soon as the reward was returned, the learned neural pattern, with the beginning and ending spikes, reappeared.

Graybiel speculates that the spikes in neural activity at the beginning and end of the maze reflect the nature of routine behavior. Once we get started, like the rats, we run on autopilot until we stop. Specific neurological disorders also seem to be linked to these spikes in neural activity in the basal ganglia. Parkinson's patients, for example, have difficulty starting to walk, and people with obsessive-compulsive disorder have problems stopping an incessant activity.

"We are hopeful that this may be a key to understanding how to treat bad habits like addiction, and also how to encourage good habits that benefit health and happiness," Graybiel said. "We think that these patterns will also help researchers understand the fundamental problems in disorders such as Parkinson's disease, OCD and Tourette syndrome."

A summer of science in America



Benjamin (far right), along with Chi Hui Lim, Steven Johnson, Julia Li (left to right), and Elena Phoka (missing), was lucky to be selected for a two-month research placement at the University of Delaware.

Every summer Imperial sends five or so students across the Atlantic to the University of Delaware on the east coast of the United States, as part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). I was one of the fortunate few to have this experience – a chance to have a stab at some real-world scientific research while having a lot of fun.

The University of Delaware is situated on a beautiful, green campus a short drive away from New York City, Philadelphia, Washington, DC and the seaside. Even though the exchange takes place over 8 to 9 weeks during the summer months, there is never a lack of activity, and trips are organised to all of the above places. To complement this, campus life is lively – there are hundreds of American students still on campus, carrying out similar research placements, so there are always parties to go to, and plenty of poker to play.

The campus surrounds Main Street, the place to be when in Newark, DE, and is home to a variety of bars and eateries. It's also a short drive away from the malls, providing ample opportunity to rake in the benefits of the 'strength' of the US dollar.

During the first seven weeks, I stayed on campus in student dorms and got to meet a variety of strange but extremely friendly people, including my American roommate, Alfred Gordon Smith III. Despite his remarkably silly name, AGSIII did have a beach house in New Jersey,

water-skis, and a family connected to government, so there were a few things to benefit from (in addition to just meeting a nice person!).

Don't forget that there is some exciting project work to be done as well. There is a wide variety of projects available, with work varying depending on your choice. You may work closely with a research group or have your own project. I chose to do mine in a condensed matter physics group, playing around with some helium theory. Whatever placement you choose, there will always be plenty of help and advice available and a chance to carry out some quality research.

Perhaps the best cultural experience was the two-week homestay, where I got room and board with a local American family. The worst was possibly the distinct lack of my mate, Marmite; I strongly advise that you take a jar with you. Personal issues aside, the exchange is an excellent opportunity for extra travel, as the placement takes up only the first two months of the summer, leaving you free to explore on the cheap.

The experience is highly recommended by each and every one of us who went!

Benjamin Withers

To find out more, come to the presentation in Lecture Theatre 3 on Level 1 of the Blackett Laboratory (Physics) at 13.10pm, Tuesday 8 November.

SSETI-Express Launch Today

By the time you read this, we will already have put a satellite into orbit.

Today, 27 October, at 07:52:26 (BST), SSETI-Express has been launched into orbit by a Cosmos rocket from Plesetsk, Russia, in the DMC-3 flight of Surrey Satellite Technology.

SSETI-Express is a low Earth orbit (LEO) spacecraft, which weighs 62 kg and has the approximate shape and size of a washing machine. It is the first satellite in orbit, which has been designed, built and tested entirely by university students across Europe.

SSETI-Express is an educational mission. Beyond its technological developments, its most important purpose belongs down on Earth: the students behind it. It has encouraged, motivated and trained students across Europe in a real aerospace project. How many of you will have put a satellite in orbit before you graduate?

Besides this, SSETI-Express also has physical payloads and objectives. It will deploy CubeSat picosatellites developed by three different universities (in Norway, Canada and Japan), take pictures of the Earth and test hardware and technology that will be used in our next satellites. It also involves the radio amateur community in the downlink of the data and, once its nominal mission is over, it will act as a transponder for them.

SSETI-Express is a rarity in the space field, not only because it has

been entirely done by students. It has had a record development time of only 18 months from kick-off to flight readiness review, which probably makes it the fastest spacecraft design and construction project ever, hence the name "Express". Its cost contributes to its rarity: by using donated materials, equipment and expertise (from ESA, universities and industry), the total hardware expenditure by ESA's Education Department has been kept below 100,000 euros.

As with all space projects, ours hasn't followed an easy path to launch. The first launch was scheduled for 25 August. It suffered a month delay due to minor problems with the main passenger of the flight. After a 3 day delay in September, it was delayed again for another month, only 5 days before launch, due to compatibility problems. Finally, the launch was set for today, and all looks good as I'm writing this, D-day minus 5. If the weather turns out to be horrible, the launch will be postponed until tomorrow. But a good thing about launching with Russia is that their rockets are tougher, and the weather has to be truly horrible to postpone the launch for one day.

The launch of SSETI-Express has only been our first milestone. Our second project, the European Student Earth Orbiter (ESEO) is currently in its design phase. The Imperial College team is an active member, being in charge of the Assembly, Integration and

Verification (AIV) of the satellite. Our third project, the European Student Moon Orbiter (ESMO) is undergoing feasibility studies now, and we have thoughts of a fourth mission, a Moon Rover.

We hope the launch today will give our project a boost in terms of not only students interested in the project, but also opinions on our work. The scientific community and the public have been watching us for some time now and are not yet sure how we manage to do it. We astonish space professionals by continuing a project with no funding to speak of, no recognized expertise and almost never meeting the other members face to face. Indeed, we do this *and* a degree at the same time, while the professionals keep up with us because it's their full time job.

If you are lucky enough to have picked this issue today in the morning (or, even better, Wednesday night as you leave the Union), you are still in time to come see our launch! The live transmission starts at 7.30am in the Blackett Laboratory, Level 8 Common Room, and there will be repeats of the launch at 10.00am and 12.00am in the Union building (Beit Quad), Seminar Room 1.

Cristina Rodriguez Trobajo
SSETI Team Coordinator

For more information about SSETI, visit www.sseti.net or e-mail sseti@imperial.ac.uk



Washing machine or satellite? The SSETI-Express launched today.

music

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A change of pace

This week, live d'n'b and an awe-inspiring set from the legendary Laurent Garnier fill these hallowed pages, as well as gobbits of praise for Oceansize's live show

LIVE REVIEWS

Laurent Garnier
The End
★★★★★

Laurent Garnier has been a serious DJ before I was out of nappies. He was the forerunner in the acid house explosion as well as leading the world in the exploration of the outer limits of electronic music, earning the respect of the earliest 'godfathers of techno' in Detroit.

Being the first Ambassador for the French house/techno style, entering the scene well before the Daft Punk duo from Paris, his music touched an ever-expanding fan base throughout Europe, creating a whole new French electronic scene. In the late 80's he was the only Frenchman to be playing sets at the legendary Hacienda superclub in Manchester, earning himself the title 'Flying DJ', while also spending many years playing Europe-wide sets in some of the hottest clubs and festivals, including 'Wake Up' in Paris' Rex Club and also making appearances on radio shows including his special project at Pedro recordings. His efforts have been revered by critics, earning himself the title 'Best International DJ' on many occasions.

Laurent was up for a mammoth 8 hour set on Saturday. This was no problem for the legendary Frenchman; his relentless programming and red-hot mixes provided perpetual electric shocks to the dance floor and crazy bass lines, turning sober one o'clockers into debauched dance-floor fillers. Playing up to his mythical sta-

tus among admirers he played a mash up of every sound around. With appearances from heavy D&B tunes, warm old school bass lines from Common Factor, bouncy electronica *Da Beep*, menacing and dangerous subliminal bleeps with a huge bass drive from *The Angry Ghost* by Hug and even the hot new dance track *Day Break* from the indie rocker Daso. During the whole set, Laurent never stopped acting like a demented monkey on speed but held a clear connection with the crowd. This was a truly mad set, and absolutely deserves a top rating from Le Ros Bif.

George X

London Elektricitiy
Bristol Fiddlers
★★★★☆

More preview than review this, with the live drum'n'bass act storming back to London later this month to launch their second album - *Power Ballads*. Powerful they certainly are, pulling the crowd with them in all directions from the first beat to the last; getting the crowd to sing along, and huddle up, and perform countless silly finger movements, all the while grinning away as if truly electrified. This is a unique live drum'n'bass experience. The live drumming of the exceptionally furious Jungle Drummer overwhelmed the venue and feet of the crowd, while Andy Waterson's live double bass somehow kept the beat and kept it loud. London Elektricitiy perform without laptops or pre-recorded material on stage, preferring the unpredictability of a group who at times seem on the verge of explod-



Oceansize - you'd cross the street if you saw them coming.

ing out of their own energy, or being engulfed by their own lunacy. There are moments that make you think you are watching the result of locking up the school remedial class for ten years in the music room. No natural light, just speed. This tour, like the new record, features BBC Jazz Vocalist Of The Year Liane Carroll, with MC Wrek and Tony Carroll taking other vocal duties and any ranting opportunities. The result is sometimes beautiful, as on *The Strangest Secret In The World*, and frequently chaotic and confusing, as on *Different Drum*. However, the atmosphere generated is insistent, a lightning storm, transforming the drum'n'bass sound into an experience that flows up and down as erratically as the umbrellas they wave around. 'Wired up' doesn't even begin to describe it.

Simon Bennett

Oceansize
Islington Academy
★★★★★

Oceansize are a band with nothing to prove. They already have a loyal fanbase, devotees of the rarer kind, who have turned out in force tonight. However, an eventful summer with several festival appearances, of a higher profile than they were previously used to, added to the fact that their new album *Everyone Into Position* contains several potential indie radio-friendly hits means this could be their chance to break into the bigger leagues. And don't they just know it.

Singer/guitarist Mike Vennart

flings himself about the stage with reckless abandon, his 'cooler-than-thou' haircut thrown in hitherto unknown directions as he feels the full force of his bands multi-layered explosive force tearing through flesh and concrete like a wrecking ball cut loose from its chain: "I wanna cut you to the bone" - *Meredith*. The band tear through such a variety of musical genres - prog rock through to hardcore via gospel - that it sometimes becomes hard to find a discernable pattern amongst the noises. As the singer notes of their wide ranging appeal - "This one's for the metalheads" - but beneath the theatrics of his performance and the bands sometimes seemingly random mish-mash of styles, they seem so confident in themselves that it almost seems like they are asking us to trust them on this one. What really impresses about the band's performance tonight is their ability to never lose the crowds interest. Sure, some of the older punters standing at the back, enjoying the refreshing air-con, over-priced pint in hand, may take time during the quieter moments of the show to discuss how Oceansize are the best thing since sliced bread, but those of us here to appreciate the music remain entranced throughout.

Love, joy, pain, fear, hope. These are the emotions that the band and the crowd experience as one, bound together by the music, which as much as I would like it not to be, can't help but feel slightly familiar. Watching Mike wrestle with his guitar behind his head as though it were a venomous snake inches away from striking, while entertaining enough, seems a little too

like the onstage antics of one (Sir) Matt Bellamy. While he may not have reached the Queen's ears yet, there is not doubt in mine that Muse have been crucial in defining Oceansize's sound, which comes across as a more human and less 'space opera' Muse. This impression is not helped one bit by the presence of one Dominic Howard, the drummer with the aforementioned space-rock gods, who hangs around after the show willingly signing autographs and having his picture taken with fans. Let's hope he spreads the word to Sir Bellamy about the exciting new avenues down which Oceansize have taken the familiar Muse sound so that their currently-in-development fourth LP can be all the better for it.

Verbal communication by the band is kept to a minimum (although frontman Mike Vennart does invite the crowd to come and get pissed with them at a local boozier), but this doesn't seem to bother anyone as the music speaks so personally to everyone there. The band end with finale to end all finales, building a song up for what seems like an eternity until they are all on the point of collapse, then each taking a bow and leaving to a rapturous applause one by one until finally all that is left is a pulsating whine of high pitched static. Upon leaving the venue, and realising the whine is still going - in my ears - we are left with a feeling that tonight we witnessed something oh-so-special, but somehow indescribable, so I urge to seek these musical masters out for yourselves and discover the joys which lie within.

Toby Prudden



London Elektricitiy - Tony Carroll.

Beards, bad reggae, and anti-folk

My Morning Jacket branch out, The Dead 60s prove worthless, and the Lewis brothers rock

ALBUM REVIEWS

My Morning Jacket
Z
(BMG)
★★★★☆

Allegedly, Tennessee's long-haired country rockers My Morning Jacket have gone weird. This is not strictly true, but they have certainly veered away from their standard, tried and tested song writing method.

MMJ's previous three albums have been full of a mixture of sparse and haunting songs, and a few full blown stompin' rock outs, full of guitar solo's and whatnot. Believe me, it's better than it sounds, especially with front man Jim James' plaintive voice, always wreathed in reverb (they used to record in corn silos!).

From the moment you pop simply monikered Z in your hi-fi you can tell that something has changed. Opener *Wordless Chorus* starts with throbbing bass synth, short sharp mellow organ stabs and a simple drum pattern. As the song breaks into its, um, wordless chorus you think you are back to the familiar, with aahs and oohs over heavy cymbals, but underneath it clicks and warbles away oddly. And at the end it mimics Prince, as Jim James tries goes all falsetto and white-man funk on us! Experimental.

What A Wonderful Man and *Lay Low* are extensions on their classic formula, being upbeat and fun, with the tune carried by a guitar riff and bright piano. As per usual with the band the drums sound like they were recorded in a big hollow room (because they probably were), and the vocals echo around for a second after Jim stops singing. This is pretty much where the comfort zone ends.

Gideon could be Mercury Rev, and if there was one band MMJ never used to sound like it was Mercury Rev. But they pull it off and it sounds very impressive, making it one of the

standout tracks from Z. It's proving hard to describe *Off The Record*, so bare with me. The opening riff is stolen from *Hawaii Five-O*, the verse is a bit like snotty SoCal punk slowed down until it's very, very slow, and the chorus is a little reggae, as Jim sings "Off da rekkid, off da rekkid" in an oddly childish voice. And at the end it sounds like Zero 7. Seriously.

Into The Woods is in stilted waltz-time, like a fairground ride. There are lyrics about kittens on fire and babies in blenders. Children giggle in the background, and things pop and whistle around your head. As it builds it sounds like they have employed a drunk one-man-band on percussion, and sloppily played Theremin scoots along merrily, before they are hi-jacked by finger-picking gypsies.

As the album closes on the 8 minute *Dondante*, Mr James tests his falsetto again, as well as a good scream as they break into one of their trademark huge prog-country freak outs. While Z is certainly not weird by some peoples standards, it marks a startling evolution in sound for the band. A brave and bold album for which My Morning Jacket should be applauded.

James Millen

The Dead 60s
Dead 60s
(Deltasonic)
★★★★☆

Having been branded with the 'popular in America' label and securing the opening slot on the Other stage at Glastonbury, things are currently looking rather rosy for the Dead 60s. Having said that, they were on tour with the Bravery in the US, who found out the hard way how fickle fame can be, and they didn't actually get to perform at Glastonbury, due to the stage being struck by lightning during the torrential downpours prior to their set.



My Morning Jacket - all real men have beards.

Riot Radio was released as a single a week prior to the self-titled album; however it has had months of extensive radio play and has been filling indie dance floors for months, making the Dead 60s a house-hold name within the NME crowd. Hailing from Liverpool, the Dead 60s are refreshingly different from the Coral/Zutons clones that you expect to come out of the city and their album was one of the most promising and anticipated of the summer.

The album wisely starts with *Riot Radio*, and due to putting such a strong track first, you can't help but expect more of the good stuff to follow. The fast and furious *A Different Age* will undoubtedly continue the mainstream success of the Dead 60s

with the heavy bassline and catchy vocals making you nod your head and dance in your seat without you even noticing. The rest of the album is startlingly unimpressive. The album has strong reggae influences, giving it a chilled, mellow feel, which unfortunately, I found quite bland. *Ghost-Faced Killer* stands out in that its ska-punk nature is strikingly similar to Madness, however unlike Madness the repetitively results in its skankability plummeting sharply.

The latter half of this album appears to be an extended jamming/experimental studio session. Many of the songs are amazingly similar to Hard-Fi, and you would be forgiven for thinking that that was the band you were listening to. Due to the spouting of opinionated, semi-political based babble, Hard-Fi somehow managed to slip through the net that filters the good from the rubbish and achieve mainstream success, whilst being labelled the voice of the youth of Britain today. The Dead 60s have no such label, and as a result, have to depend on the strength of their songs alone.

This album has no continuity, resulting in the feeling that this is a band who doesn't know who they are yet and are still experimenting in order to discover their identity. Perhaps like Hard-Fi, they'll get lucky, however a couple of good songs is unlikely to compensate for this, a collection of dull drivel.

Jenny Gibson

Jack & Jeffrey Lewis
City & Eastern Songs
(Rough Trade)
★★★★☆

Having released a selection of solo material on Rough Trade Records, Jeffrey Lewis decided to team up with his brother to form the Jack & Jeffrey Lewis 'band.' Having toured extensively around Europe and America, on both headline tours and bills shared with bands

such as British Sea Power, Radio 4, Cornershop and the Fiery Furnaces, Jack & Jeffrey Lewis are hoping to reach a wider audience with *City & Eastern Songs*.

Brought up in New York listening to both folk and punk, it is no surprise that their music encompasses a wide variety of genres, with seemingly no connection in style from one song to the next, apart from Jeffrey Lewis's distinctive croaky voice. The songs on *City & Eastern Songs* take you on an emotional journey through Lewis's life and experiences, feeling so intimate and personal that you want to carry on listening and find out more.

Don't Be Upset is a heart-wrenching, tear-jerking folky tale of loving someone so much that you just want them to feel better, and whatever is upsetting them to just go away. This song will make anyone who is in love grateful that they are, and anyone who isn't wish that they were, simply so that somebody was there to make everything better for them.

Williamsburg Will Oldham Horror deals with the self-doubt and insecurities that Lewis feels with regards to his own artistic ability. This tells a story about how an encounter with somebody unexpected can lead you to questioning whether what you are doing is worth it, and looking back at your achievements and asking whether they are as credible as you would have liked.

Other stand-out tracks on this album are the reflective *Anxiety Attack*, punk-driven *They Always Knew* and the escapist and bizarre *Time Machine*, a reflection on Jeffrey's alternative creative outlet as a comic artist and author. This is an album that everybody can relate to, dealing with the trials and tribulations of life, drawing you in more and more with every listen; a must for anybody, which is everybody, that has felt any element of self-doubt and worthlessness during their life. Great stuff.

Jenny Gibson



Jack & Jeffrey Lewis - pretty boys they ain't.

film

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Disappointing start for LFF

The Constant Gardener fails to impress on opening night

The Constant Gardener

Director: Fernando Meirelles
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz and Hubert Kounde.
Length: 129 minutes
Certificate: U
Released: 17 September 2005
★★★★☆

Lady Luck must be shining down on Ralph Fiennes because he is none other than the lead in the opening film for the London Film Festival, *The Constant Gardener*. I have to admit I was a bit baffled by the title (especially since I have yet to read John le Carre's works). The title indicates a film similar to stories such as *Tuesdays with Morrie*, and as meaningful as that might be, it's not my cup of tea. To my surprise, *The Constant Gardener* was very far from a philosophical textbook.

Justin Quayle (Ralph Fiennes) is a passive, reserved diplomat for the British High Commission with a passion for gardening. Before he sets off for Kenya, he chances upon Tessa Abbott (Rachel Weisz). Unlike him, Tessa is loud, wild, passionate and outspoken. Perhaps it is the old adage of opposites attract. Regardless, Justin and Tessa fall madly in love, get married and move to Kenya.

However, it's not a simple movie of 'happily-ever-after' because things go downhill after the wedding. Unfortunately for Justin, his wife becomes increasingly estranged

upon setting foot in Kenya. The situation is further compounded by the death of their baby boy. Heartbroken, Tessa throws herself into investigating the pharmaceutical companies operating in Kenya.

Perhaps some things are better left alone because not long after, Tessa is found brutally murdered. Justin's usual peaceful equilibrium is knocked off balance and he sets out to discover the reasons behind his wife's death. Holding on to his faith in Tessa, he overcomes all obstacles (death threats and multiple beatings) to find out what Tessa had given her life for.

Firstly, the storyline was good. However, conspiracies are getting a little old. It surprises me that a film with such a plot was used as the opening one. There were some uniquely beautiful scenes that must be mentioned though. The director did a fantastic job in the development of the love affair between Justin and Tessa. To put it simply (without gushing), it was intimate, poignant and beautiful.

There were beautiful landscape shots of Africa and the movie did help highlight the plight faced by the people in Africa. And it should come as no surprise that the acting was superb. After all, Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz do have enough experience to carry this film to the Oscars. Nevertheless, good acting or otherwise, it doesn't save the plot cliché. The days when we were inclined to believe in 'X-Files' conspiracy theories are over. What can I say except- better luck next time!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor



The couple that plants together, stays together...or not?

Kinky boots on the silver screen?

Shoe fan Noora investigates the crime scene

The title itself is a big attention grabber. *Kinky Boots* does not just refer to a slightly perverted sexual pleasure but also to the shoe fetishism common among women today. After having spotted the Selfridges window display that further illustrated this grand fantasy, I just had to go watch the movie.

Without a clue to what the movie entails, I expected to be enchanted by millions of shoes that you only get to see on the catwalk of haute couture fashion shows. Little did I know that it was a film about transvestites singing and dancing amidst the setting of a glum shoe factory.

The presence of a plot was surprising despite its predictability. Father owns shoe factory, father dies and son takes over factory. The difference here is a transvestite named

Lola, also a show-girl, rescues the shoe factory from bankruptcy. Lola helps save Price & Sons, a company known for making quality men's shoes that last a lifetime, by convincing Charlie, the son, to tailor women's shoes for men.

The shoes in this movie are tacky and gaudy to the max (that explains the presence of Elton John at the premiere). The highlight was perhaps the pair of plastic, red, snake-skin, thigh-high boots (sounds like a good idea for Halloween? Not).

Strange enough, this duo (an extroverted transvestite and a conservative gentleman) is so successful that they are soon showcasing their collection in Milan (the land of fashion gods and goddesses)!

Although the film has a classic Hollywood storyline (with a happy ending), transexuality was not a

theme they explored thoroughly. Nevertheless, I found answers to questions I had had about men who liked to dress as women (I'm not telling you the questions or the answers - go see the movie yourself). I also learnt that "the sex is in the heel", something which I will keep in mind the next time I need to dress to impress.

This is definitely a movie to see if you like shoes and are in need of a few laughs. There have been several complaints that *Kinky Boots* should highlight the plight of the company that is about to fold instead of kidding about cross-dressing. Like I said, don't expect a soul-searching movie. Just don your highest heels, (which by the way is in this season) and sing your heart away this Halloween!

Noora Hussein



It's time to kick in some changes around here.

FILM

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Breakfast at Sofitels

Felix catches up with the directors at the London Film Festival

I stood at a corner of the Tube car, watching the people around me. It's the London Film Festival and I just got back from breakfasting with the directors at Sofitels. Last Friday, I had the opportunity of meeting Yvan Le Moine. Acclaimed director of the eccentric *The Red Dwarf*, he's back this festival with a shocking version of Robinson Crusoe titled *Friday or Another Day* that includes cabaret singing (yes, cabaret).

According to him, what he does as a director (as he points to a glass of sparkling water) is to show the world the story of one bubble's life as it fizzes to the end of its life at the top of the glass (right...). Maybe he meant to imply that our lives are short just like the bubbles and he's simply telling the story of one human being. At that point, I started to wonder, what makes one human being's life so interesting that it's worth telling the world about?

There's a cute little girl standing next to me. She has a stuffed raccoon in one hand while the other holds on the blue railing for dear life. I look at her (and hopefully, she didn't notice) and saw her smile at her mother. Her mother is perhaps 40 years of age with smile wrinkles around her eyes. I loved her smile wrinkles and if I were to ever make a movie, it'll be a collage of moments just like that one.

Last Sunday, I joined the directors for breakfast and met up with Liu

Jia Yun, the director of *Ox Hide*. One look at the title and it makes you think about cowboys and extremely cold weather. However, the truth is far from it. It's a documentary of her family and the problems they are going through. Family problems are one and a dozen but her family's constant optimism was what shone through and she received an award in the Vancouver Film Festival.

Unfortunately for her, due to some organisation mess-up, there was no one to show her around London. It was a Sunday and I had nothing better to do. Hence, I got to spend the afternoon with her. She's not much older than most of us and she carries a toy bunny with her. However, I was pleasantly awed by her story of how her personality has changed since she entered the film competition.

The Film Festival has its share of foreign romantic comedies too. One of them is the film *Uttarayan* from India. *Uttarayan* is a film about a widow and a widower finding love for the second time. What makes this film so unique that it made it into an international film festival? During my short chat with the director, Bipin Nadkarni, and the producer. They told me that the story appealed to them because of how laid-back and relaxed it was.

I was a bit surprised by the word "relaxed". It was partially because in a conservative society like India, a remarriage should be a little close to

taboo. However, according to Bipin, Indian society is changing and the critics are anxious not to be branded as narrow-minded buffoons. Hence, they are now more than willing to embrace anything new and shocking. That probably explains why the film received an award from the President of India.

Dreaming of Space is another one of those films that some might find perplexing. It's a film about a man in transition. Set in the 1950's when the Soviet Union still existed, this man Viktor tries to break free from his dead-end life as a waiter by imitating his worldly and out-going new-found friend, Gherman. Director Alexey Uchitel said he would like the film to motivate people so that they can make positive changes in their lives.

It's a film rich in symbology that might strike a strong chord among the Russians. "It's not a film about politics" he says. "It's just a story about a man who wants to achieve his dreams."

The London Film Festival is a collage of films about people. Hence, it wouldn't be too far off to say that it's a film festival that celebrates life. As producer of *Uttarayan* said, "Once you stop falling in love with anything, you stop living." Therefore, be prepared to fall in love with the films in the London Film Festival. Oops-here's my stop! Ciao!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor



THE TIMES
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49th annual
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19th Oct-
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Dive 'Into the Blue'

With the beautiful Jessica Alba....

Into the Blue

Director: John Stockwell
Starring: Jessica Alba, Paul Walker and Scott Caan.
Length: 110 minutes
Certificate: U
Released: 19 October 2005

★★★★☆

It's a simple story. Jared (Paul Walker) and Sam (Jessica Alba) are a lovely couple who live a simple life by the sea. Sam is happy but Jared isn't and he dreams of discovering a fantastic wreck one day (all for Sam, of course).

Enter the cunning, greedy and malicious Bryce (Scott Caan) and his current lady-of-the-week Amanda (Ashley Scott). Bryce is Jared's older brother but they couldn't be more different (yes, that includes their height.).

On a leisure diving trip, the four of them discover a shipwreck and a plane wreck crammed full of A-grade cocaine. Jared and Sam (being the typical couple they are) want to leave the cocaine alone but Bryce and Amanda are not about to walk away from millions of dollars' worth of cocaine.

To begin with *Into the Blue* is a late summer flick. Nobody should expect a life-changing experience. The storyline is simple and easy to follow. The soundtrack is not inspir-



Would you give up wealth for her?

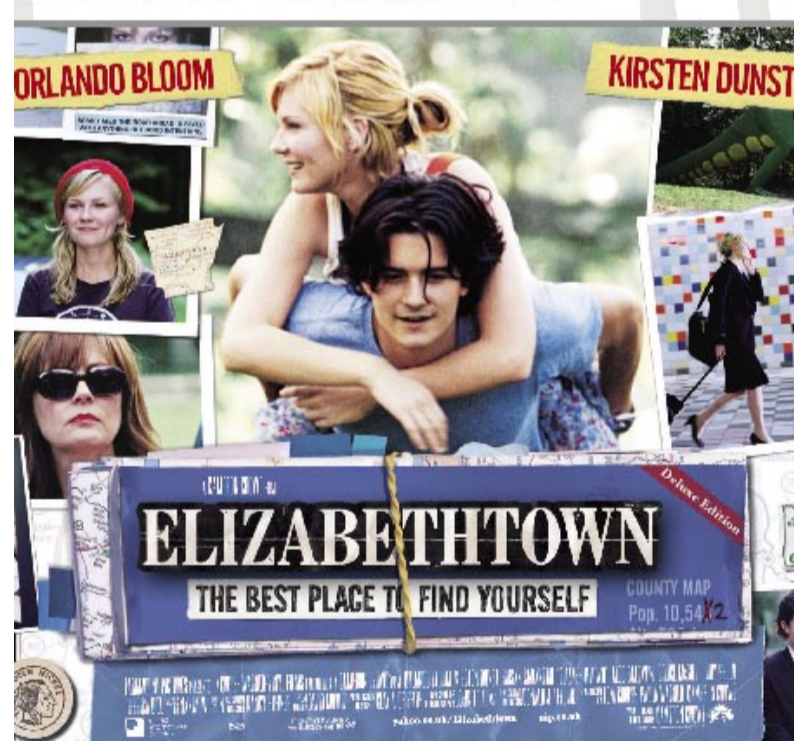
ing but it is fitting for its targeted demographic. The costumes...what can I say? Less is definitely more for their target audience.

Form your own opinion about *Into the Blue*. I wouldn't lie and say it's something new or special

from Hollywood because it's based on a commonly used principle (that is, beautiful people sell movies). However, *The Times* Movie Mania gave out free tickets to it. How bad can it be?

Yuen Ai Lee

Free tickets!



The *Times* Movie Mania is at it again! Thanks to them, *Felix* has two free tickets to give away to *Elizabethtown* (the latest Orlando Bloom film)! I know you girls must be drooling but don't drool just yet! Find out how you can get your hands on these tickets!

Elizabethtown is Orlando Bloom's first foray into romantic comedy. Playing an anally uptight Drew Baylor, he is forced to return home

to Kentucky when his father passes away. Who could have guessed that on his flight back, he meets and falls in love with the quirky but oh-so-lovable Cate Colborn.

Be the first person to tell *Felix* what Cate Colborn works as in the film (guys - it's Kirsten Dunst!). Email *Felix* at film.felix@ic.ac.uk with your answer, name and department!

Stop drooling and start emailing!

An Apology

Film Felix would like to apologize for the act of plagiarism committed last week for the review on *Howl's Moving Castle*. The person in question will be temporarily suspended from reviewing films due to their misjudgment.

arts

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The Turner Prize 2005

Sorting the worthwhile from the downright weird

Art
The Turner Prize 2005
 Tate Britain
 Millbank
 Admission £5
 Until 22 January 2006
 10am-5.50pm

When you think about the Turner Prize what comes to mind? The forefront of young, exciting British art? Pointless piles of bricks? Something high-brow and conceptual that no-one seems to understand? Well, its back, and this year its full of black squares, shiny junk-shop birds, sheds and bottom portraits, although lacking the controversy that has become all-too inevitable with this competition.

However, ignoring my prejudices about it, I went down to the Tate Britain to form an objective opinion on the exhibition. The first artist, **Simon Starling**, has presented three works, each with narratives behind them. The first is *Shedboatshed*, a shed which is apparently a work of art because it started life as a shed, became a boat, and was then a shed again. Who is he trying to kid? He attempts in *Tabernas Desert Run* and *One Ton, II* to create an environmental message, but misses an opportunity to make a real comment, instead attempting to get more involved in the process of creation of objects. He may have learnt how to make an electric bicycle, but that doesn't make it a piece of art, and I was disappointed by his inclusion in the exhibition.

Below Left: Darren Almond, *If I Had You* 2003, Four-screen video installation, Melody by Richard James

Below Right: Gillian Carnegie, *Red* 2004, Oil on board, 22.8 x 33 cm Cranford Collection, London



Above: Simon Starling, *Shedboatshed* (Mobile Architecture No.2) 2005, Mixed media



The next work, a video-audio installation by **Darren Almond**, is much more impressive. *If I Had You*, consists of four screens placed around the room playing looped videos with a soundtrack of piano music and dancing feet. It celebrates his grandmother's memories of honeymooning in Blackpool, with images of her watching a couple dancing in the tower, an illuminated windmill, and a fountain. Moving about the room, you are captivated by the combination of the images, completely immersed in the observation and reflection mirrored in the grandmother's face. Almond is sensitive and attentive, yet somehow manages to avoid an all-too easy descent into an emotional agenda, instead leaving the viewer to reflect on this objective documentation of a temptingly personal subject. This was, in my opinion, the most impressive single work in the exhibition, and truly deserves to be here.

Next is **Gillian Carnegie**, the only woman in the shortlist (the prize has been won by just 2 women in its 21-year history). Famous for her 'bottom portraits', she is an artist of extraordinary observational skills, and has developed a distinctive and impressive relief-style of painting. Her strokes are well-considered and developed, and although her palette is generally rather dingy and her subjects completely lacking in spontaneity, they bring fire and drama to her paintings. These are more than subjective studies; these are attacks on accepted formats for academic painting. From her portraits of bottoms to her superb black paintings of forest landscapes, Carnegie successfully challenges and subverts how we look at classical subjects. Her paintings are absorbing, and the volume on display proves her abilities and expertise in a wider mix than any of the other artists here.



Below: Jim Lambie, Installation view, *Mental Oyster* Anton Kern Gallery New York, 2004, Courtesy of The Artist



Finally we are presented by the installation *The Kinks* by **Jim Lambie**. Named for an ill-fitting and rather pointless silhouette of the band on one wall, it resonates in the psychedelic black-and-white flooring, created with vinyl tape. At once organic and clinically modern, it confuses the eyes and, although flowing into the imposing figure of *Black Kestrel* (*Six Rorschach*) by the black paint splattered over the floor, it clashes with the other works on display. The three sculptures here are oversized junk-shop models of birds. The others are colourful and shiny to the point of vulgarity, although comical in their general cheapness, and the whole installation seems bitty and unimpressive. As you may have noticed, I was not exactly dazzled.

So, are Simon Starling, Darren Almond, Gillian Carnegie and Jim Lambie really the best young contemporary artists in Britain today? They do provide immense variety—many aspects of modern art are represented here. They are all adept at their chosen craft, and present us with complex and well-thought out images. However, I leave the exhibition feeling less than affected.

None of the artists has truly moved me, nor have I seen great originality in many of the works. Perhaps commenting on the world is out of fashion in artistic circles. They seem not to be innovating, merely repeating and improving. I have come to expect more than this from the Turner Prize, but maybe with all art has been through in the last 20 years, it has become near impossible to surprise. I sincerely hope not.

The winner of the Turner Prize 2005 will be announced by the panel of judges on 5 December.

ARTS

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Whose head is safe if a queen's is not?

Theatre
Mary Stuart
Apollo Theatre
Shaftesbury Avenue
Until 23 December
Tickets £10-£40
Student Standby £17.50

The Donmar Warehouse, famous for its outstanding and daring productions, has moved its show *Mary Stuart* into the West End. People have been queuing around the block at its 250-seater theatre in Covent Garden to get tickets, and critics have been raving. So is it really that

great? Or is it all just hype? I went along to find out.

Mary Stuart is an 18th century play by Fredrich Schiller, and was revived for the Donmar by Peter Oswald. Schiller's portrayal of the extraordinary relationship between Mary, Queen of Scots and Elizabeth I is not entirely historically accurate, but it is a fascinating and compelling story of power, passion, faith and honour.

Centring on Mary, Elizabeth, Elizabeth's lover Leicester and the fictional English noble, Mortimer, who is sympathetic to Mary, the play charts Mary's last few days locked up in prison. The excellent Janet

McTeer shows us her frivolous, emotional side in the company of her nurse, and her strong and noble front to her enemies, the English.

Elizabeth, played by the equally brilliant Harriet Walter, holds the power to decide whether Mary lives or dies. However, as the play progresses and Elizabeth's advisors pull her harder and harder in each direction, she displays less and less the strength of character that the situation demands of a queen and which is so amply shown by Mary. At their single meeting in the gardens of Mary's prison, Elizabeth attempts to crush her and make her humble, but she is thwarted by Mary's high-

ly emotive and articulate speech. Elizabeth simply cannot match the passion of the Scot, who now has nothing left to lose. At the end of

"Why does the sight of her make me ashamed?"

the play it is Mary, not Elizabeth, who is able to overcome the scheming Leicester and rise up to what is asked of her. Elizabeth is left alone, trusting no one and ashamed by her actions.

The production is flawless. Largely minimalist in style, it uses colour, costume and effects only when they produce the most impressive effects. Tudor dresses for the two women highlight their stark contrast in the eyes of the world with the sharp-suited men who surround and advise them. They merge into the background, a grey wall of advisors for the two queens, with only Leicester wearing any distinguishable colour.

This is theatre at its best. It will make you laugh, it will make you think, it will involve you and enlighten you. Go and see it.

Jeff Wall: Art imitates life

Photography
Jeff Wall: Photographs 1978-2004
Tate Modern
Until 8 January 2006
Tickets £7/£5.50 Students

The exhibition of work spanning the entire career of Jeff Wall (b. 1946, Canada) reinforces the role he has played in establishing photography as a contemporary art form.

When Wall first started experimenting with photography, he wished to avoid the obvious truth-telling dimension of this medium and use technology that had not been previously exploited. He was inspired by brightly illuminated billboards similar to those found at bus shelters and started using colour transparencies mounted in wall-hung light boxes. These are often scaled to life size so it feels like you are able to step inside the frame and stand on the fringes of the action, being physically and almost voyeuristically involved in the images.

Adding to his originality as a photographer, spontaneity does not interest Wall. If he sees an image he wishes to capture, instead of taking a photograph there and then, he

recreates the moment in his studio using amateur actors, costumes and digital technology. Some of these staged compositions have taken more than a year to perfect and one of his most well known pictures, *A Sudden Gust of Wind* (1993), is composed of more than 100 photographs, blurring the line between document and fabrication. He has described his own work as being either 'cinematographic' or 'documentary,' using techniques normally associated with film production.

The multiple layers and elaborate detail of his pictures add depth, encouraging the viewer to closely inspect an image thus allowing hidden elements to reveal themselves. For example, at first glance there seems only to be one person in *Forest* (2001), but as you look between the branches it is possible to make out the figure of a man. There are also shadowy corners that recede into the background and half-open doors that let the viewer use their imagination to explore what is beyond.

Despite his images being manipulated snapshots, they appear realistic. Wall wished to create characters that do not embody his point of view, but are based on situations he has witnessed and represent



Above: *A Sudden Gust of Wind* (after Hokusai) 1993, Photographic transparency and illuminated display case, 2500 x 3970 mm, Tate.

Left: After the book *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, *The Prologue* 1999 - 2000, Transparency in lightbox, 1740 x 2505 mm, Emmanuel Hoffmann Foundation



people of modern life. He conveys social observations, for example, in *Mimic* (1982) where the simple racist gesture reveals the meaning of the photograph, but he tries to avoid a moralistic attitude. Many of his everyday life pictures seem bleak, such as the street scenes and his panoramic landscapes of suburbia, where he has used locations around Vancouver that he knows well.

My personal favourites include *Dead Troops Talk* (1992), a purely imaginary vision where soldiers that have been killed in the battlefield engage in conversation, each responding differently to their death. *The Flooded Grave* (1998 - 2000) depicts a cemetery and a close-up of sea-life submerged in an open grave, the brightly coloured starfish and anemones a stark contrast to what you expect to see in such a place. His most recent work, *A view*

from an apartment (2004 - 2005) is a domestic scene that was set in an apartment especially rented for the purpose, where one of the women in the picture was asked to furnish it and live in it as if it were her own. The scene is heightened through its meticulous composition and the documentary material is transformed to that of a cinematographic image, creating an interface between truth and fiction.

All photography contains an element of reportage, but Wall has developed this and uses references to film, literature and the history of art. His elaborate, staged creations as well as his more traditional photographic projects deserve recognition and make him one of the most influential artists working today.

Helene Myrvang

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R.O.A.R Student ID required

The Union advises you to drink responsibly

food & drink

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A quickie before college?

This week Ping and Paul investigate SW7's finest greasy spoons



For some of us, the situation is all too familiar: it's Sunday morning, your head's hurting and you turn over to find an unrecognisable girl (or guy) lying in your bed. There's no milk in the fridge and the bread's turned mouldy. Where the hell are you going to take them for breakfast? Relax, Ping & Paul have the answer.

Seasons, 24 Thurloe Street, SW7 2LT (5/10)

£3.00: Sausage, 2 bacon, egg, beans, chips, toast, tea.

Seasons, for those of you who don't know, is the fish n' chip shop near South Ken tube. Despite being in the centre of South Ken, the food here could have been served on Brick Lane to some down-and-out art students cruising the retro markets. Inside it's dark, gloomy and full of builders which is normally a good sign since builders tend to like their greasy breakfasts. Unfortunately, the builders in South Ken must be a little out of the ordinary as well.

The breakfast had many good features, mainly the cheap prices, the

well cooked bacon and eggs and the good old-fashioned thick chips. However, the sausage was German and watery, so if you're a fan of continental breakfasts then you'll probably like this place more than us.

La Brioche, 40 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3DY (8/10)

£3.50: Sausage, 3 bacon, fried egg, mushrooms, beans, 2 toast, (tea, optional £1 extra) *pictured on left*

We arrived bright and early Sunday morning (i.e. noon) to be greeted by a friendly Spanish lady who promptly took our order and started making us tea. The café was quiet but the food was turned out very quickly. The toast arrived first and was devoured instantly; breakfast followed shortly and was definitely less greasy than other more typical English breakfasts. The highlight of Brioche's breakfast has to be the mushrooms – something a little different from the ordinary and nicely flavoured, they were definitely the magic ingredient in this breakfast. Couple this with freshly fried bacon and a meaty Lincolnshire sausage

and we're talking a satisfying fryup.

We have to complain about the eggs however; thick white and a runny yolk. As for the additional £1 charge for tea! The tea consumption of this reviewer vastly increased the cost of an otherwise good value breakfast.

JCR, Main Walkway (7/10)

Sausages, bacon, egg (fried & scrambled), hash browns, beans, tomato, mushrooms, toast, black pudding, kippers, porridge, cereals, fruit, tea

Why not start the day with a quick brekkie before lectures. The JCR is known to all on campus, although its food has a reputation for being pretty unhealthy – it's only unhealthy if you eat it *everyday*...

The JCR breakfast is a lot better than most students who buy expensive French pain au chocolat from the JCR shop tend to think. It's a great place to hang out with your mates, so why not munch on breakfast at the same time. The prices are all student friendly, but don't forget to bring change in the morning oth-

erwise the cashier dude won't be too pleased.

The hash browns and sausages are tasty, although sizes and varieties vary from day to day. The bacon is not recommended due to its lack of crispness and its comparatively expensive price. The kippers make the JCR stand out, injecting some English pride into our college – but only if you're awake early enough to get them.

If you like a little bit of grease on your sausages, hot baked beans and have a fetish for hash browns, then the JCR is for you.

Next time with Ping and Paul:

On our way to La Brioche, we saw this new place near Organic Pizza in South Ken, so we popped in to look at the menu. When the waitress walked over and asked if she could help, I looked up and my jaw dropped. It took me a minute to engage first gear, by which time she had gathered I wasn't just looking at the menu. Embarrassed I promptly left, but I'll be back – look out for it in a future edition.

Whilst I like to think I'm the bee's knees when it comes to cooking, I accept that my attitude towards food may lean precariously close to pretentious. Though in the morning I prefer my eggs delicately poached with a sprinkling of herbs on granary bread and a side of fried tomatoes, other people have very different ideas. The charming Ping and Paul have risked coronaries and grease stains by sampling some of K&C's best breakfast spots. Enjoy with a strong cup of builder's tea, something even I can appreciate.....
Hannah Theodorou, Food Editor



ml.com/careers/europe

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Staff are required to help out during the Careers Fair 2005. The fair takes place on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th November.

You need to be available for a minimum of 4 continuous hours on either day of the fair. Assistance will also be required on Tuesday 8th November.

If you are available for these dates, please email an appropriate CV and covering note, along with the hours you're available to kristine@ic.ac.uk

Reply by Wednesday 2nd November 2005.

fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

This month show some TLC

From Marks and Spencer to Ralph Lauren, everyone's in the pink



Dolly Delaney
Fashion editor

I started working at Marks and Spencer when I was 16 and left for university 3 years later, returning once again this summer to earn more money. So naturally I was a dab hand at fitting bras, talking to the elderly and date rotating. Over the past few years M&S have been going breast cancer mad, with various pink items in the lingerie department, selling pink pins at every till point and doing sponsored walks. This Saturday sees the staff at Brighton's M&S doing a sponsored walk along the seafront, which will hopefully raise £2000 for Breakthrough Breast

Cancer. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and many cancer charities have seen their profile increase dramatically since Kylie announced she was suffering from breast cancer. Apparently she has been cheering herself up by mimicking Catherine Tate's famous catchphrase, saying "I have cancer-am I bovvered?"

I was lucky enough to see Kylie at Earl's Court, where she dazzled the audience with her fabulous outfits and stage sets (however my view was obscured by 2 lovely boys in cowboy hats). No doubt many were sad to hear of her illness, but it is wonderful to see how she's refused to hide away and her courage has given many sufferers hope.

So this season pink seems to be in, with pink GHD's (£11 goes to Breakthrough for every one bought) and Ralph Lauren's Pink Collection. M&S have a lovely vest and short set in their lingerie department for Breast Cancer Month (£10+£8).

Madame Tussauds and a host of celebrities will be showing their sup-



"I have cancer- am I bovvered?"

port by adorning their waxworks with Cancer Research UK's pinkie rings. "The Pinkie", the new must have accessory for the season, is a pink ring engraved with the message "All Women Together". London's glitterati have been bringing Wellington boots into vogue and stomping all around town in theirs. For those lady rowers, give your usual wellies a kick and step out in Asda's 'Tickled Pink' variety. All of the profit from the £10 boots is split equally between Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Campaign. Visit www.cancerresearch.uk.org for more information. Keep it pink!

Think you're fabulous?

Do you think you're more fashionable than me? Send me a picture and with your name and department. If I agree then you could be in the next issue of *Felix*! fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Pucker up!

Benefit are opening a new shop in Westbourne Grove, W11, and to celebrate they are giving away free cosmetics to readers of the *Evening Standard*. If only readers of *Felix* could get the same. In the meantime, amble into the closest counter for your free make over and dinky sample pots- perfect for travelling and slipping into your handbag.



Benefit's Winter Pink Lipsticks, £12 available at selected department stores this Season. Alternatively, pop into Boots for their great own range, from £4.

72% of ideas turn up when you least expect them. It makes you think.

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Location: Senior Common Room, Sherfield Building, South Kensington campus

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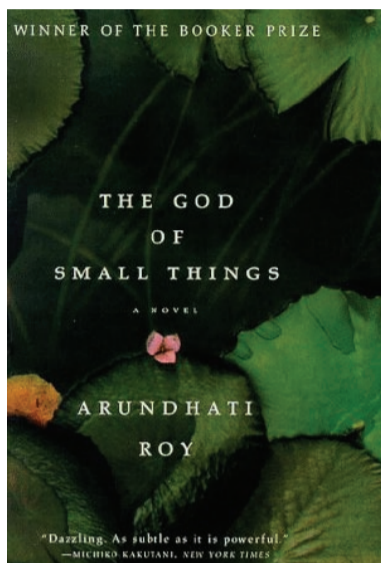
Powerful and shocking - a work of brilliance

The God of Small Things
by Arundhati Roy

Retesh Bajaj

My two pence: this is powerful and shocking; a work of brilliance that will leave you in awe at the depths of thought that could possibly have crafted such a novel full of laughter and tears. A very original style of writing – stick with it, it is definitely worth it. Told from the perspective of a small girl, one of a pair of “two-egg” twins separated at a young age. This is a story of the destruction of a small happy family, the society that smiled and nodded in approval at the pain it saw as right and a victim who inevitably became more useful to the world dead than he ever was alive. Winner of the Booker Prize 1997 it is, in a word, different.

Ms Roy has done something quite extraordinary in the writing of this novel. She has attempted to ruthlessly open our eyes to the hypocrisy that exists in society, in an uncompromising and brutal manner, with no sense of hope or silver lining to her dark cloud, while, at the same time, endeavouring to tell us a story. No, this novel is not political rhetoric about social justice or freedom, in its blatant sense, nor is it the kind superimposed onto a story to oh-so-subtly put the author's political ideology into the reader's head. No, something of that nature would



have been expected and ‘normal’, in the literary world. What Ms Roy has actually given us is a piece of literature (and I certainly mean literature in every sense of the word) that puts forward an incredibly human story, brimming with sad humour and gut wrenching tragedy, told through the most innocent of voices. In telling us this simple and incredible story, she brings to life every single injustice and pain she rages against. This is the real power of the narrative. It never attempts to anchor the reader down to a particular theme, be it personal tragedy or political angst. It combines so many things and under Ms Roy's masterful hand it succeeds and leaves the reader with a tapestry of what it is to be human and what it means to love.

This book is certainly centred on a tragedy, but it is by no means

depressing. It will make you laugh, that I can guarantee to every reader who knows how to laugh, but it will be the kind of laughter that can only be accompanied by tears. Ms Roy's viewpoint demands a completely new style of writing to portray the innocence of the young girl and how she views the world, and she delivers marvellously. Ms Roy allows the reader to be fully aware of the loss to come very early on. She gets rid of the ‘standard’ cliff-hanger that is used by so many authors to drop the ‘bad news’ as a proverbial bombshell and make emotional capital out of the reader's unsuspecting mind as it reels to the sudden pain inflicted upon the story's characters. Stepping out of this trend with an obvious flair, she daringly flaunts every secret to the reader, in what may be considered a risky step sure to lose the reader's interest, instead of keeping them guessing. However, the effect is quite the opposite; with the tragedy already revealed, every happy moment viewed in hindsight is tinged with the pain of what is to come. As we get to know our characters better, the pain becomes all the more real. Laughter and tears indeed.

Comparable in passion and narrative to *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee but on a wider scope of themes and issues, this beautiful novel left this reader reeling. The refreshing pace, writing style and comfortable, oblivious bliss of the central character all add to the overall power of a simple story which leave the reader questioning the meaning of love and the value of life.

Reviews in brief

A Shite History of Nearly Everything

by A Parody

Gross Britain

by Taffy St George McScot

Hugh Stickley Mansfield

In recent years it has become de rigeur for any cinematic or literary phenomenon to have a parody knocked off and published as soon as possible in order to cash in as effectively as possible.

As such, it is somewhat bemusing to encounter a recently published “parody” of Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, itself published some two and a half years ago, and although selling well, hardly a publishing phenomenon even at the time.

It soon becomes clear, however, that this is not a parody in the truest sense – beyond sending up the title, this book bears no resemblance to that which it is, apparently, lampooning. Where its predecessor is an in-depth tome detailing physics, chemistry, geology and the like, this is a collection of inane, pointless trivia about stuff, things and other such weighty matters.

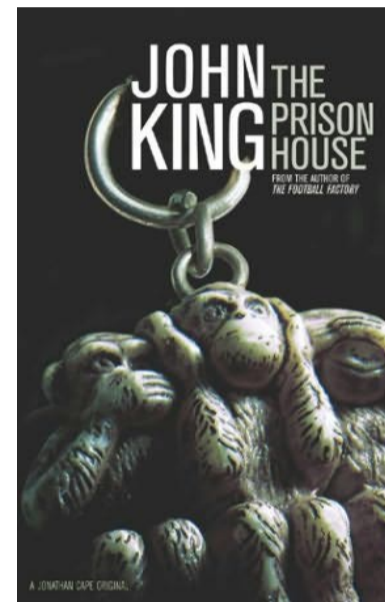
Inside are found the same collection of poorly chosen facts, although this time the subject matter is more constrained focusing, as the title suggests, on Britain.

It is quite inconceivable that anyone would buy this sort of novelty tat for themselves, so the target market would appear to be those panic-buying presents for unpopular relations and vague acquaintances in the last few seconds before Christmas.

Worth giving a miss, on the whole.

The Prison House
by John King

Hugh Stickley Mansfield



The Prison House centres around Jimmy, a convict held for reasons left unspecified until the end, and recounts both his incarceration in the hellish Seven Towers prison and events from his past.

Understandably, those who do not appreciate distressing or unpleasant subject matter would best be advised to avoid John King's works. *The Prison House* in particular starts off bleak, dark and nasty then continues in this vein until the end.

Yet nonetheless it is not an especially depressing read (if you can get past the various acts of sadism and the like that occur throughout) given that a central theme of the novel is hope there are moments of levity and a sense of humour prevails that is not always as bleak as one might expect.

King makes few concessions toward accessibility. The reader is somewhat thrown in at the deep end with regards to the story, beginning as it does with a none too pleasant rape scene.

But if one can cope with such obstacles, there is a rewarding, edifying read at its heart.

Westwood

Rbk joined forces with Radio 1 DJ Tim Westwood on 7 October at our students Union to promote the latest range of Rbk trainers, known as the DJ collection. Rbk has created a great looking trainer and turned it into a DJ's must have shoe, complete with a record on the sole, decks on the inner sole and headphones woven on the heel. Shoes available at your local Schuh store.

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News from the Union...

Sameena Misbahuddin - President



Union Website

So what do you think of the Union Website? Ever visited it? Think that it needs improving? More user-friendly? More eye-catching? Think that it could be more suitable to giving you the information you want, when you want it?

Well last term communications was discovered as a problem through the strategic review survey that we did www.union.ic.ac.uk/strategicreview and the website is seen as a key tool to improving this.

This year we are undergoing a complete overhaul of the website. Not just changing the way it looks, but completely redesigning the functionality of it, bringing it inline with the 21st century.

This term we are gathering feedback to what students want from the website...what info is not on there that you would find useful? Do you want more info about who your reps are? And what your reps are actually doing for you? What events are going on at the Union? Help for clubs and societies? Discussion forum? More eye-catching design?

Next term will see the actual production of the website after all the user requirements have been collated.

If you have any ideas or want to get involved there are various ways you can:

Email yoursay@imperial.ac.uk

Focus groups: Get involved in a focus groups that are happening in early November. Email to volunteer yourself.

Online: Check out updates on the website www.union.imperial.ac.uk (the website we currently have).

Or simply come and chat to me or one of your other Union representatives.

Yoursay

If you have any comments about anything the Union does at all, then use the Yoursay feedback system to get your opinions heard. Feedback and replies are online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/yoursay and email yoursay@ic.ac.uk or fill out one of the forms in the Union.

If you have any questions about this service, contact Tim Aplin, Deputy President (Finance and Services) on ddfs@ic.ac.uk, who administers this service.

University of London

A reminder that if you have any views on the issue of Imperial leaving University of London, come along to the first Union Council meeting of the term tonight – Thursday 27th 7pm Mech Eng 220

Surgery hours: if you have any questions or want to chat to me about anything, pop along to the Union building anytime. However at the following times I will definitely be around to answer queries:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays 12pm-1pm in the Union offices.

president@imperial.ac.uk



RISE WEEK 7-11 Nov 2005

A week of events including:

- Overseas Societies Football World Cup (OSC)
- Debate on cultural diversity in London (Debating Society)
- Civil Liberties Talk

LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS IN NEXT WEEK'S FELIX & ON POSTERS AROUND CAMPUS.



What's happening at the ICSMSU?

Danny McGuinness - ICSMSU President

All of a sudden it seems inherently wrong that I'm not waking up every day with a stinking hangover and a sense of impending doom. Now that freshers' fortnight is well and truly over there seems to be a void in my life. Not feeling rubbish is unsurprisingly a wonderful feeling. With a heavy heart I've had to stop living the dream that is event organising and start living up to the reality that is running the medics' union properly.

As I sit at the desk trying to create helpful responses to the four thousand emails I get each day (90% being for porn and Viagra that I can only imagine my predecessors signed up to) I can't help but think that being president before the advent of emails was a truly wonderful thing. Honestly, what must they have done with their time? I can only imagine that meeting manifesto pledges was much more attainable in the olden days.

Speaking of manifestos, I did enjoy reading all those in last weeks issue. It's amazing that there are so many people determined to make council 'Representative, democratic and efficient'. It's also nice to see the pledges for 'increased clubs and society budgets and greater sabbatical accountability'. I do indeed hope that all these things do happen this year and that council doesn't turn into a bitch-fest and ego-stroking debacle it has been in the past.

Here's to the future of democracy!

Not happy with the Union website? Got views on how we can improve?

We are currently re-designing it and want and need your input. You can volunteer to be part of a focus group or just tell us what you think. Either way just E-mail:

yoursay@imperial.ac.uk

www.union.imperial.ac.uk



Irene Lahde

No wet T-shirt contest = empty soul

I saw *Pride and Prejudice* last Sunday, and my flatmate and I were getting annoyed with all the lovey-dovey couples around us. They were all cuddling in that gentle darkness that invites people to do very naughty things, as all is allowed in the dark (except mobile phones). Naughty things like what? Well, loud handjobs for instance, and pissing on the back of the necks of the people in front of you and then pretending you had an accident with your Fanta, which just happened to be very warm.

However, these sad, sad people were more annoyed with us than we with them, and just because we spent the entire movie discussing, quite loudly, the differences between the film and the BBC adaptation, and trying to estimate the distance from Keira Knightley's lips to her

chin. We came to the conclusion that it's approximately three feet.

When the film ended we were in low spirits. The director had evidently wanted to avoid clichés and make the film as realistic and fresh as possible, but did this creative ambition justify the lack of Colin Firth and kissing in the film? Also, the film ended, not with a scene of the wedding, but with that of an old fart mumbling something to himself. The most anti-climactic ending in the history of cinema, *ever!*

Nevertheless, the film made me think; think about how relationships between sexes have changed. They have improved in a way, as there is more equality and freedom nowadays, but wouldn't you prefer to hear "I ardently love and admire you" to "How's about a shag"? Wouldn't it be better, girls, if we got more respect, and

men used poetry instead of alcohol as a method to get into our pants? Romance, guys, romance; that is what women truly want: a 21st century Mr Darcy. Oh, and he was rich too.

In some ways, however, I am glad I don't live in the 19th century. The truth is that women were objects then, in different and more diverse ways than they are objects now. Austen portrayed powerful and intelligent women who were, to an extent, in charge of their own destinies, but what happened to the weak ones, the ugly ones, the ones that didn't care for marriage or housekeeping? They were simply outcast. The position of a woman was determined by the man whom she stood by (or behind). This still happens, but I believe (I want to believe) that we have come a long way since Lizzie Bennett's times.



Iain Heaton

I should write for the *Daily Mail*

Firstly this week, I would just like to say that the new Darkness single is really growing on me! I really tried hard not to like it, I really did! I decided a long time ago that The Darkness were going to be a one album wonder, well not even a whole album, a couple of songs really, because everything apart from 'I believe in a thing called Love!' and 'Growing on me' was, frankly, crap!

Their Christmas single, 'Don't let the bells end' was one of the worst ever. It wasn't even funny! So on hearing they were releasing a new album I was resolute; it would be appalling. At first this seemed to be the case. I heard 'One way ticket' and I laughed, how I laughed, because I really didn't like it, I thought it sounded like a tortured cat! Then I heard it again, then again, then again and before long I decided it was okay, not great, but it certainly didn't involve subjecting felines to various cruel devices! Since then I have heard it quite a few times more and now I am forced to admit that it is actually very good, probably right up there with 'Growing on me', which means I was wrong, The Darkness were not a two hit wonder, they have at least three good songs!

This week I was going to write you a light

hearted article about my plans to take the idea of no win-no fee from lawyers and introduce it into football but unfortunately due to a story I saw in *The Times* the other day I have instead decided to get all heavy and political. The story concerned two Albanian men and a Lithuanian woman who had been convicted of tricking Eastern European girls into coming to Britain and then selling them to people who forced them to work as prostitutes. They were all sent to prison. The woman, Vilma Kizlaite, got 11 years and the two men, Tasim Axhami and Emiljan Beqirat, got 16 and 21 years respectively. What annoys me though is the fact that both men had previously been granted asylum in this country! Now I want to make it clear that I have no problem with genuine asylum seekers but it seems to me that if they are convicted of crimes (especially crimes as serious as these ones) they should be sent back to their own country, which is not, as far as I can make out what is going to happen. Instead, they will sit in a British prison for the next 10-15 years costing the taxpayer many thousands of pounds (more about taxpayers next week when I discuss work paydays).

If asylum seekers knew that they would be

deported automatically if they committed a crime, then I don't think many of them would be so willing to risk it, especially if they really have sought asylum because they fear for their lives in their own countries. I'm not saying this would solve the crime problem. Most crimes are committed by British people and unfortunately we can't get rid of them so easily (unless Australia agree to accept them again which I doubt they will, although they are, apparently, desperate for hairdressers).

We can, however, send foreigners back to their own countries for their own governments to deal with as they see fit. That might help reduce the crime level a bit. It would also make it look like the Government is actually trying to do something about the numbers of asylum seekers and illegal immigrants, whereas at present they seem willing to let the system carry on until the country is actually full to bursting point.

I suppose the only good thing is that with the Government's new early release scheme (put in place because of prison overcrowding), the two Albanian gentlemen will be out within about two weeks, so they won't actually cost the British taxpayer much at all.



Michael Pittoni

The joys of enlightenment

A response to Omar Hashmi's "Can anyone lead the Tories" in *Felix* 1331

In Omar's column he questioned the accepted truths and values of the European Enlightenment and contrasted them with other models of society in which religion is more prevalent. Much as I agree with a lot of what he says, my views (which are by no means conclusive) differ crucially on some aspects.

Though first envisaged by the philosophers who inspired the French revolution, the ideals and values of the Enlightenment are not "European" or "Western". They should not be viewed as the product of a particular historical period or situation but rather as the common heritage of humanity as a whole, as something everyone across the world should (and sometimes does) cherish and aspire to. It is monstrous to suggest that human beings should be denied the right to self-determination or that anything other than human conscience should be at the centre of decision-making and legislation.

A community/society should be able to opt for a more religious life-style but these decisions should nevertheless be taken democratically and self-determination in religious and other matters should remain paramount. Thus Enlightenment principles can and must be upheld even in a society with a religious majority. Spirituality and belief is not within the domain of the state. Religion should not be imposed or discouraged

by the powers that be.

It is simply not true that Enlightenment itself becomes a religion just as intolerant as other religions can be. Nor is it true that it is hostile to, or incompatible with, other religions. In fact some of the advocates of this once revolutionary philosophy were themselves intensely religious in their own way. The "marginalisation" of religion which Hashmi observes in our society has less to do with the imposition of secular values and more to do with the dominance of capitalism – a system that glorifies materialism.

What the politicians in power are doing in this country and across the world in the name of pursuing 'our values' is sheer hypocrisy. It is, in my view, in direct contrast to the doctrines espoused by philosophers from Voltaire to Rousseau. Sadly most of the political, economic and social changes we have witnessed over the past few years – wars, erosion of civil liberties, removal of protection for those left behind by society etc. – are actually taking us back to the bad old days of "the Raj, Africa and Slavery" as Hashmi puts it, rather than pursuing a more progressive model of society.

It would be very desirable if the world's only superpower, aided by its servile, bribed allies (no names), was attempting in good faith to spread freedom, democracy and human rights across the world. Unfortunately, any scrutiny reveals

that the US (and to a lesser extent Europe) is selfishly pursuing its interests with a total disregard for these principles as it has done continuously since World War 2.

I wasn't intending to engage in the routine (fully justified) practise of Bush bashing but at this point I can't resist. While George Bush (Tony Blair and other 'free world' leaders are far from exempt) is sanctimoniously preaching human rights, freedom and democracy his actions all point in a diametrically opposite direction: indefinite imprisonment without trial, torture and humiliation inflicted on prisoners of war, pre-emptive war, attempts to undermine democratically elected institutions and governments, the list is endless. They are hardly examples of a doctrine of democracy, self-determination and the rule of law. Thus George Bush is a champion of Enlightenment secularism one moment and a fanatical bigot when it suits him better. Such, it pains me to say, is the opportunistic nature of modern 'democratic' politics.

The pursuit of the ideals of the Enlightenment should not be left in the hands of the selfish, corrupt and narrow-minded politicians to use for their own ends. It is we the people who should tirelessly invoke and aspire to the legacy of the French revolution and of all progressive thinkers and societies that have come since. The alternatives are too dreadful to contemplate.



felix

No 1332
Thursday
27 October 2005
felix@imperial.ac.uk

“
I don't understand why our union does not have a specific ban on Hizub ut-Tahir
”

This is the Leader

Apparently it isn't clear that this is the leader column of *Felix*. Well it is. For those of you that don't know a leader is where the newspaper expresses its views on the news. So its also an editorial.

Extremists at Imperial

Its quite worrying that such persons were at our Freshers Fayre. The fact they were posing as something else is even scarier, one of them actually stopped me asked if I wanted to sign their petition. I don't normally sign petitions as a rule (journalists should try not to have strong views), but people could have been signing what they thought to be a harmless petition only to discover later that in fact they were putting their name to something else entirely.

It seems that Imperial is no the only university with this problem, the issue made the front page of *The Beaver*, LSE's student newspaper, last week. But it is a problem we should be working on.

I don't understand why our Union does not have a specific ban on Hizub ut-Tahir. If the NUS view them as such a problem to place

a specific ban why does our Union not see fit to apply such a ban. I know ICU feel they are above the NUS, but surely in this case they should follow the NUS's example. A specific ban on the group would surely send them a stronger message than a blanket equal opportunities policy.

Although they were present at Freshers' Fayre there is nothing to suggest that there is an active presence at College. So please don't worry unnecessarily, although if you do have any specific concerns contact College authorities or the police.

Congestion charge

The western extension of the congestion charge to include the area surrounding Imperial's South Ken campus must surely be a good thing for both students and staff.

Nearly all students use public transport to get to College, a large number of those using buses. Since the introduction of congestion charging in central London, bus journey times have decreased dramatically. As a result we should all be able to spend a few more precious minutes in bed.

Dear Freshers and Sharks



Stormy Woods

I am utterly disappointed to see not a single one of you wanting to pay the good Mr Wright a visit; I thought Imperial students were opinionated and energetic creatures. Clearly, I've caught you on a bad week - I'm aware fresher's flu and glandular fever are doing the rounds. The kissing disease can be a very distressing thing if you're anywhere near as capricious as I am! *sigh*

Those were the days.. my gregariousness is very much a thing of the past. A bout of the abovementioned flu put paid to my sex drive, and as a result, I've not been able to spread myself around town as liberally as I'm known to be capable of ;)

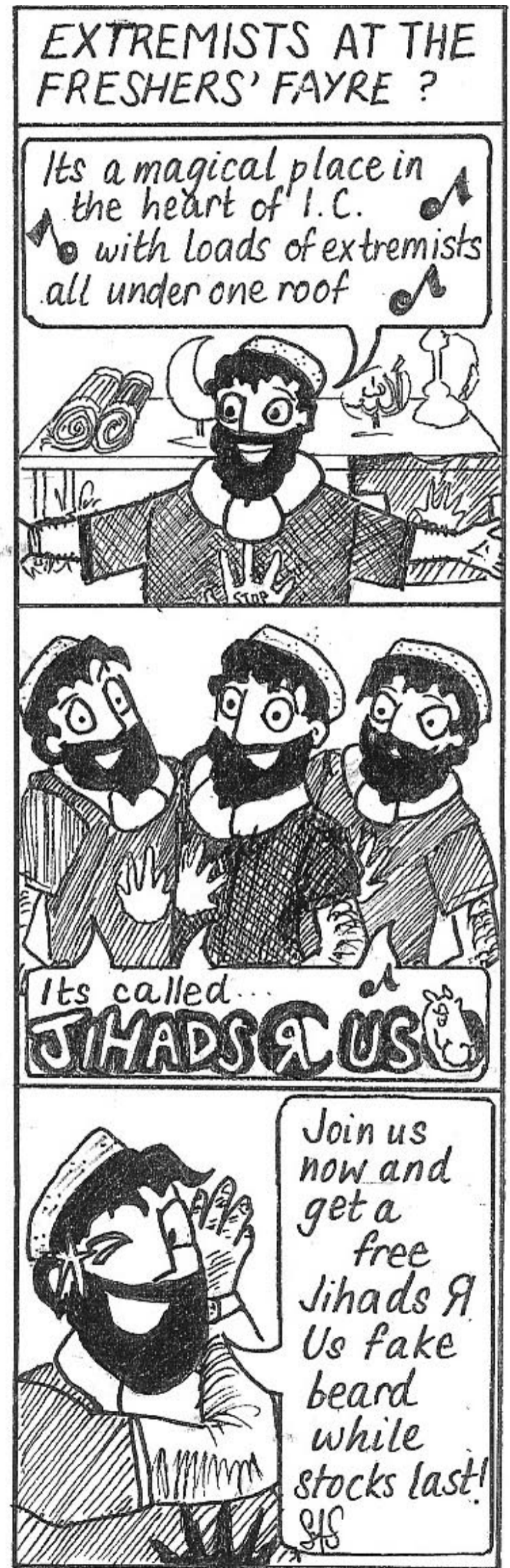
However, not baring my Brazilian has led to adventures of another kind. No, not the romantic kind - just the flirtatious; romance is dead, as Lisa Simpson let us know on Valentine's. It's been homogenised and commercialised by Hallmark, the way in which two thousand years of Indian culture has been compacted into one bite-sized Walkers' tikka masala crisp.

My adventures began when I got allocated an extremely attractive placement partner. Mr T, as he shall be known, has indie hotness oozing out of every pore. His tight pinstriped drainpipes do wonders for his slender (convex) buttocks, and his dark curly mop and cheeky dimples make my world go round. All very well, until I discover that Mr T has got a girlfriend. A long distance one of three years and counting. What's a lady got to do when her pride is at stake?

Take the high road and walk it, that's what - I'm not going to be branded a homewrecker when just sweetness and light are at stake. I'd think twice if better grades, in the case of a course examiner were the goods on offer. Or a fully-funded black Amex card, come to think of it.

Material concerns aside, I unexpectedly ran into mystery man II. He came in the shape of a Sagittarian sex-god renowned for playing drums in one of the world's best metal bands. His rhythm was intact, and his Atlantan drawl got me all flustered. When hearing that he wanted to hang out with me come his next visit to the UK, I wet my pants. Supposedly my accent had got him in a spot of bother! I'd rather not wonder what sort of tizz his wife would be in if she heard of my dulcet tones - she's one of my personal heroes, I'll have you know, so I'd hate to be the one to break her life when she inspired me greatly into making mine.

Fallen idols aside, there's little keeping my hands busy. I've got the Travel Channel's Zay Harding to think of when I close my eyes and go to sleep. *Felix* and IC Radio haven't produced the goods this year - there's only one member of the music team I'd like to get my hands on! To my dismay, everybody else would like to get their hands on him too, so I've got a funny feeling that a certain trumpet-playing third-year medic at Chelsea is going to have to play lust object for me once again. Life goes in circles, and circles make the world go round.



room for a view

We will be running a series of events on Wednesday 2nd November and Thursday 3rd November in London for you to meet our people from around the world, learn more about McKinsey and give you some experience of the way we help clients solve complex business problems.

We have places available for people to come and participate in workshops, discussions and informal conversations.

If you are interested in registering for a place, please apply online at www.mckinsey.com/mckinseyoncampus by **Friday 28th October**.

For further information on McKinsey & Company please visit our websites www.mckinsey.com for information about all our offices or www.mckinsey.co.uk for London specific information.

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TV reviewer/previewer required for new section

Next week

- New politics Section
politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk
- The return of Nightlife
nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk
- Great new crosswords & sudoku



Letters to the editor

The author of the 'star' letter
received each week will win
£10
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Star Letter

Students still UNITED in worry

Dear Felix,
Re: your story in issue 1328 regarding the new UNITE halls: 'Students UNITED in worry'. It seems that you have missed out on half of the issue: Orient House, over in Fulham. While it is considerably closer to the South Kensington campus than Picadilly Court, it is so far from any convenient transport routes that regardless of whether one takes the bus, tube or merely walks, it is likely to take over forty minutes during rush hour.

In short, it is as inconvenient to reach college from Orient House as it is from Picadilly Court, and considerably less so to reach anywhere else in central London.

Add to this that the amenities in the hall itself are pitiful in the extreme: there are three washing machines and driers amongst nearly two hundred students, the showers flood the bathrooms (and, often, the carpet outside them) as a matter of course. One of the lifts has been out of service since the first day and the other is slow and frequently makes disconcerting noises and there is only a small common area which doubles as the entrance hall, which makes it an unpleasant place to spend much time.

Worse still, the kitchens have been cleaned only once so far, despite assurances that they would be every day, and vermin have been spotted in some.

Yet nonetheless there is no budget allowed for any improvements that have been suggested, although Picadilly Court has been granted an expensive swathe of improvements. They are given precedence, being so far from South Kensington despite, as I say, Orient House being as lengthy a journey away, and a higher rent.

The wardening team and hall manager are doing an admirable job in coping with this situation but at the end of the day the residents are still left in a very unfortunate position.

Hugh Stickley Mansfield
Re-app, Orient House

How things change

Dear Editor,

I take a year out to do a placement and boy have things changed! New buildings, new buildings in the process of being built, no Southside (I repeat no *friggin Southside bar!*), new entrance desk stuck under the stairs in the Sherfield building and a brand spanking new printing service involving just the swipe card.

Waterstones don't do the free year planners anymore. You should have seen my face when they told me. I was too shocked to slap the shop assistant.

Some of the funnier things that

have happened in the past five days at uni have included getting my IC login password changed without being told about it, being able to get in but not *out* of the biochemistry building and oh, the new printing system that did not recognise me.

You see, when you go away for a year people forget you. They assume that because you are not in uni for the academic year, you'll somehow disappear and never come back or have probably graduated or failed. But I haven't! I'm still registered and get full use of my card you twits! I have another gruelling year to go thank you very much. But you know, there are some places that never forget you. They never forget you because you owe them £10 on book fines. I love the library.

When I was told I was an unrecognised user, the kind library help desk person told me to ring the ICT on 49000 and ask them about the new printing system and to get me activated to use it. The accented voice didn't answer my request and instead said to, "come to the ICT room 348 and I'll sort you out".

Do you know how terrifying the Mech eng building is? He's gonna sort me out?! What the f***? so I went up there and the guy (the third guy I got shuttled to, I don't know if he was the 'sort you out guy') said, "Right, well the new printing system involves using just your swipe card" and I had to cut him short before I kicked his shin, "I know how it works, it's just I'm not a recognised user". "Riiiiight". He then asked me to email them the exact wording of the error message. Well after a while of faffing about, I became an officially recognised user of the new printing system at 5.45pm. Whilst topping up, the librarian told me that the ICT printing service wouldn't be working from 6pm until the following morning. Run little lady before I pull your wig off.

After pouring my heart to a dear friend I was not any happier. No, you see, this friend was a management year student from last year who got 1000 *free* printing units *per term*. My swipe card had £5 worth of printing units but low and behold, I found out that this was in fact a *loan* that would be repayed, by me, from the 1st of November at a rate of £1 per week. Great, add that to my over draft and student loan why don't ya. The perks of the department are limited. Sorry I meant *non-existent!*

Oh I did miss IC. I really did.
BB

Sport Felix

Dear Stephen (*Felix's* sport Editor),

I wanted to say that I really enjoy reading your column every week. Your column is short and sharp, and a damnsight better than those ghastly columnists on the opinions pages.

Keep up the good work,
Manny Bennett

Ramadhan

Dear Editor,

Have you ever passed the JCR at around sunset and seen a large mass of people eating food together or praying? Ever wondered who they were and what exactly it is that they are up to? Ever seen your friend Aliya or Hasan get some dates out of their bag and eat them during a late lecture and think to yourself "Boy, he/she must be hungry"!

Well never fear your ICU islamic society is here to fill you in on all those mind-boggling questions!

For over one billion Muslims throughout the world, Ramadhan is a special month of the year, much loved and anticipated by all. During the month of Ramadhan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset every day. We as Muslims believe that Ramadhan was the month in which the first verses of the holy Qur'an (Words of God) were revealed to the final messenger of God, Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him-pbuh). The sighting of the new moon at the end of Ramadhan heralds the celebration of Eid ul-Fitr.

Fasting is nothing new to Islam. It is indeed the practice and tradition of many pious predecessors who attained piety through fasting. For example: the Qur'an mentions that Prophet Moses used to fast for 40 days and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said that Prophet David used to fast for half of the year. Also Prophet Jesus used to fast for 40 days. So we find that both Christians and Jews recognize fasting as part of their worship (Christians primarily during Lent, and Jews during Yom Kippur).

For Muslims fasting is not only abstaining from eating and drinking, but also from vain speech and foul language. Also, by cutting oneself off from worldly comforts, even for a short time, a fasting person gains true sympathy with those who go hungry as well as growth in one's spiritual life. Not to mention the various health benefits from fasting! It is therefore a time for inner reflection, devotion to God and self-control.

So next time you walk pass the JCR you will know that this mass of

people is in fact a group of Muslims opening their fast in each-others' company! This is where *you* come in.

We, your Islamic Society, invite you to come and join us when we open our fast to eat. Come and pop in, buy some food (yummy chicken and rice) and have a feel of the atmosphere, or if you have any questions about fasting why not come down and we'll be more than happy to share with you our experiences.

If you are interested in joining us in opening our fast during this special month of ours please do contact me on nadia.khalid@imperial.ac.uk

Nadia Khalid
ICU Islamic Society Vice President
05/06

Student Opportunities Fund

Dear Felix,

The Student Opportunities Fund (SOF) has started another Fund-raising Telethon. For those who are not aware of the SOF, its aim is to give money to students from underprivileged families who are extremely academically able. This, I'm sure you will agree, is a very laudable cause. However, the Fund only supports a very small number of students (around 20, although this varies from year to year). Each of the UG's gets £5K a year and each PG gets £10K, for the duration of their course.

I'm all for getting as many able people, from whatever background into IC, and the fewer posh people that come here the better, as far as I'm concerned. However, I would suggest that the amount of money given to each student is unfair. Presuming that each of these students will get the maximum student loan, possibly a government bursary of around 2K, and no fees to pay (under the current system anyway), £5K seems more than enough to get by. There are plenty of IC students who are practically financially independent from their parents; working every day they're not in college.

I feel that the money raised

could be put to better use; half the amount of the bursary and give it to twice as many people for example. Possibly use some of it to further subsidise rent for first years in halls. As a side issue, would it not be fairer for the College to means test for the amount of rent a student pays. I would readily leave my finances open to scrutiny if it meant I would have to pay less rent than some Tory rich kid.

I throw my full weight behind raising money to balance out the class disparity here at IC, but I feel the money could be spent in a manner that would benefit a wider number of students, and as a result, the College as a whole.

Yours truly,
Carl Nash
3rd Year

Swimming

So now that the complete chaos of fresher's week has calmed to the chaos of term I thought I'd go for a nice swim (or as nice as St Mary's gets). I went on the internet before I left to check it would be open, and sure enough it said,

"Casual Swimming Opening

Times:
Monday - Friday
7:00am - 9:00am
12:00pm - 2:00pm
3:00pm - 7:00pm
Weekends
9:00am - 6:00pm"

Excellent, so off I went. Sadly when I got there I found that the security guard, while knowing the pool was closed, had no idea about opening times for this term, and when I found a timetable it turns out the pool is closed all weekend. This is a real annoyance. I have lectures from 9am until 5pm or 6pm most days so I can't get to the morning, lunchtime or evening swims and the only day I would be able to make would be thursday for the late night swimming, but I have meetings then. I appreciated being able to spend the afternoon swimming on Saturdays last year and it seems ridiculous to stop us using the pool at weekends especially while the sports centre is still closed. When it reopens with the free swimming will we still be restricted to during the week?

Name and Department Supplied

Technician Required

Glendower Prep School in South Kensington is looking for an IT technician for a part time vacancy (approx 8 hours a week). Responsibilities will include maintaining the school network, file and mail servers as well as ongoing maintenance of the 30 computers used throughout the school. Knowledge of active directory, Exchange server and Windows XP essential. For further details, please email the school at the following address, including a CV and any other relevant information:
Dominict@glendower.kensington.sch.uk

Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys. I'm back again, and I've got good news, the best letter I receive next week will win a copy of PC computer game Blitzkrieg or a CD album of their choice from the Felix pile-o-crap. agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Miss C.

Attack of the Killer Telephone.

Hey Miss C, I just don't know what to do. I've made loads of new friends at uni, one of whom is great, only problem is that she won't leave me alone. I spend all day with her, during and in-between lectures, but she'll still call me every night and just won't stop chatting for hours. She's now even taking to msn-ing me just after we've hung up. It's not that I don't like her but I'm running low on things to talk about and she's just beginning to wear me down. What do you suggest??
Stalked Scientist

Dear Stalked Scientist, Oh dear what have you got yourself into?? Well there are several explanations for the way that she is acting: 1) she's just being overly friendly and doesn't realise that her constant phone calling can be taken as harassment; 2) She's got no friends and she's you as her last chance to join the world of socialising; 3) She has a crush on

you and has never heard of subtlety; 4) She's obsessed by you and you may soon see her following your every move, asking where you shop and turning into your clone. In any case, the solution is the same, talk to her!!! I mean if she's taken to harassing you via msn mere minutes after hanging up there is a slight problem, there is also only so much you can say to one person especially if you see them all the time. This is almost as near to stalking without stalking as you can get. There is that solution, or you can go for the drastic option which is to have plastic surgery, change your name, phone number and put on a French accent...it's up to you!

Should I Stay or Should I Go?

Dear Miss C, I've been kinda seeing someone for a few weeks now. Due to medical circumstances we've been unable to have sex for the last month and she just wants to be "friends". In another few weeks she'll be able to have sex again and well, when we were doing it, it was amazing. I mean, she screamed the house down and came five or six times on each occasion. She says it's really tough for her right now to make physical contact with me without wanting it to lead to sex, which is frustrating. So I'm staying non-physical and we just hang out instead. The thing is she doesn't want me "waiting around" for her to be able to get physical again, but I'm not interested in chasing other women. I've found one I really like and would prefer to stick with her, whatever's going on. I'm pretty sure she's not looking at anyone else, as we spend a lot of time together. My question is: if I just stick with her and be there until she's ready, will she think I'm a pussy?
CoolNCaring

Dear CoolNCaring, No! Oh my god, I didn't even think that people like you existed! You have completely managed to take my cynical nature by surprise, which is no easy task!! No she won't think you're a pussy. Mate she

obviously cares about you and had the same previous impression of men that I did, that you're all out for one thing. As you've said that due to medical circumstances (just slightly curious.....) she can't really oblige you in that sense, so she's giving you an easy out. This is your chance to stand up and be a man and show you care by staying put!! Maybe it'll work out, maybe it won't, but at least you're giving it a chance. Oh by the way nice comment about your sexual prowess, just what the entire of IC need to know!! Honestly! Men!

To Screw or Not to Screw

Dear Miss C, What should I do... The guy I'm in love with - I don't think he wants a relationship with me, but he definitely wants to screw me. I've been holding out because I want something more with him but now I feel it's becoming clear that will never happen. Should I just fuck the shit out of him in order to move on OR maintain my pride and dignity and let us walk away from each other? It's not like I don't think about sex with him a lot!
Torn Apart

Dear Torn apart, You said its' becoming clear that's all he wants from you?? How do you know?? First and foremost you need to talk to him and find out what he actually does want from you. If it ends up that all he wants is a shag buddy then you need to walk away. Sleeping with him is just asking for trouble but hey maybe that's what you're looking for. Be warned though, going down that track has every chance of you ending up as a psycho obsessive stalker. If you've really built up that much sexual frustration then a one night stand is an option, but I wouldn't advise going into any relationships until you are defiantly over him or else this could end up as a long term problem. My main advice is talk to him, you never know, men can surprise you. Maybe he's sitting there pinning for you.....waiting for you to make the first move.

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Mystic stars

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



Someone or something giving you the creeps this week? My suggestion is this, carry plenty of sweets and loose change in preparation for confrontation with a knee high pumpkin bearing a lightsaber.

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



Trick or treating will release your inner child, and you'll be on such a high. However your're attentions will be focused on a certain mysterious stranger as you find yourself relishing this piece of eye candy, and I'm not talking about the sweets.

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Who says Michael Myers was dead, you will embrace the Halloween season as your're mind opens up and you become less cynical about the world.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



This week may be your chance to prove to all that you are not the evil witch they all think you are. If anyone mentions the wart you can always turn them into a toad.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



Be warned this week you may find eerie strangers testing your resolve. Avoid dark lecture theatres and keep your wits about you

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Ah. Was it just the wind....? If your feeling a little more than spooked this week, don't take any chances.

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



It may be a good idea to keep a low profile this weekend, as there are some creatures of the night, baying for blood. Hopefully with a hefty frying pan and a bulb of garlic you can stop it from being yours.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



I know how you love this time of year, although I rather think you enjoy tricking more than treating. Enjoy all in moderation thou, as if you laugh too hard your head may fall off.

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



You'll find yourself in unfamiliar surroundings this week, scared and alone. But all is well, the library will be the one place you are truly safe. Strange but true...

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



Hubble bubble, toil and trouble....watch your step or you'll see double. Keep your wits about you, as the time is right....for you to have a terrible fright!

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)



The spirits have an interesting plan for you this week, but destiny cannot be fulfilled by staying indoors. A dark stranger sporting a devilish mask is just what the ghosts had in mind for you, so be sure to go tricking or you won't get your treat.

Libra (Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd)




Fair is foul and foul is fair...hover through fog and misty air. Keep your broomstick close to hand; you never know when you may need to fight more than dust.



coffee break

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OPTIMUS PRIME VS 'THEHOFF' HASSELHOFF

THE CONTENDER vs THE CHAMPION

PLACEYOURVOTENOW-COFFEE.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK

CAN THE PLUCKY YOUNG AUTOBOT FROM CYBERTRON REACH HIS ULTIMATE GOAL? CHAMPION FOR A YEAR - BUT IS THE OLD MASTER UP TO ONE LAST CHALLENGE?

3RDNOVEMBER2005-IMPERIALCOLLEGE,LONDON



You've been voting for the past fortnight... and we can reveal the result - A Draw. Balls.



Well thanks for all your votes. Over the past few weeks we've received literally tens votes, and spent far too much time counting them.

Unfortunately, all this time has been wasted, as the vote finished with a dead heat. So, to make things fair we're run-

ning the competition for another few days. You've got until next monday to choose between The Hoff and Optimus Prime. Good Luck.



Vote Now - coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Monster Mash

It's Halloween soon, and to celebrate with thrown together this hastily compiled quiz.

We're going to test your knowledge of films this week. We've given you pictures and you have to tell us the name of the bad guy (or girl, or thing) and what film or series they appeared in. There's **two points** for each correct answer. Send your emails to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



1



2



3



4

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



5



6



7



8

Write For Coffee Break!

Girls!

Booze!

Typing!

Are you 'funny'?

Do you have far too much free time?

Want to spend it working on *Felix's* most popular section?*

Coffee Break is looking for extra writers. If you'd like to help, send an email to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk, and we'll get back to you.

*(maybe a lie)

Answers 1330

And now, the end is near...

1. New Scotland Yard
2. 1983-87
3. GlaxoSmithKline
4. Mitch
5. Richard Whitely
6. La Sagrada Família
7. 70,000
8. £1.90

Smarty Pants

1. 12
2. Army
3. Oscar Wilde
4. Yep
5. Tails
6. One in 200
7. 53

FUCWIT League 2005-2006

Darkshines	54
The Fantastic Four	52
Insert Name Here	49
Cupid Stunts	48
Bernard Scumley Porno Queen	47
Cockroach On Coke	47
Me, Myself & John Sargent	47
Norfolk 'n' Chance	47
Forever Throwing Doubles	45
The Schist Ones	17

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Sport

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Sixths take QM from behind

Andrea Faggiani

Imperial College 6ths	3
Queen Mary 4ths	1

The day began with something of an exodus to Chislehurst. Frodo Baggins himself could not have imagined a dirtier trek, to a more barren wasteland, where lay in wait a hoard of marauding minions, yearning for your dark ring. And it was with the same unease felt by Wayne Rooney's grandma, and through previous encounters of the absurd kind that compelled captain Andrea to deploy the diamond formation.

"The game grew tenser than Jordan's bra strap"

The match began crisply with both sides sharing possession until when 10 minutes in, QM took the lead through a goal as dubious as they all are when scored against us. A throw-in, played back to keeper Andriy, led

to confusion when he handled the ball, gifting QM with a free kick in our box. The quickly taken set piece was swiftly converted, but it was through their premature climax that we were left unsatisfied, and like a non-sixth team player's girlfriend, got us digging deep inside ourselves to grind out the result. As the pressure mounted exponentially against them, our midfield trio of Hamish, Ben and Yong began working the midfield like beer working a student's bank account.

"Skeen delivered the ball into the G-spot"

The second half saw the introduction of Jack "and his beanstalk" Yip and Choy "the Duracell Bunny" Yong, who was eager to maintain his record of having covered more grass than Rizla. Our first goal came via a corner minutes from the restart. James "and his giant peaches" Skeen delivered the ball into the G-spot allowing McNelly "the elephant dater" to rise like a binge drinker's stomach content to glance the ball inside the far post. With the score line level, the game grew tenser

than Jordan's bra strap, but the momentum remained one sided. Our second came in similar fashion when keen Mr. Skeen whipped in another cross for the hustling Hasted to swoop like a vulture on a Redbull overdose to nod the ball home and double our lead.

Despite our obvious aerial prowess from corners, their defensive approach changed little. Our abuse of their naivety would have made MJ proud as James delivered the ball from the corner flag towards the lurking McNelly. The keeper's attempts to claim the ball led to his 'packet-of-crisps-like' hands (probably 'Skips' since they seemed to melt in the goal mouth) spilling the ball. It eventually fell to the head of the Mook, who nonchalantly lofted the ball over the stranded defence to seal the victory. QM rallied on in the closing stages of the game but like a pair of silicon enhanced shoulder boulders, our centre backs, Ricky and Tom, stood firm.

At times our movement was fluid, our passing crisp, our flair so down right sexy, ours weren't the only long balls climbing skyward. Such was our pornographic display that QM left the pitch with precious little Viagra to last them their communal showers. All in all, an encouraging team performance.

Why oh Wye?

Jessica Bird

RVC Ladies XV	83
Wye Ladies XV	0

We arrived in lovely Hertfordshire to find out that our forward fresher had got stuck.....in London, Finsbury Park. Great!! Of course somebody had to go and pick her up, so off went our fly half and scrum half... wait a sec aren't they quite important players? Who allowed them to leave? After arriving at the bus depot and realising that this wasn't the bus stop they found themselves panicking as kick off was now ten minutes away. After a few detours they eventually managed to find the fresher.

Scrum half and fly half reassured the fresher after her apologies, that the game wouldn't start without these two essentially important players. However nothing could be further from the truth. A panicking Vets team and referee who was worrying about it getting dark had somehow managed to persuade the Wye College team to start the match with only 12 players. The missing players arrived to find a rather nasty scene greeting them , a 6 v 8 player scrum. This made us all later question in the pub whether the rules were less like actual rules and more like guidelines?

Anyway, after all the panicking

and rather sketchy beginning the 80 minutes of Rugby that followed was enjoyed by all our players. Although we never managed to break through there tough line of defense to score a try we battled hard and never gave up. Some tough performances were given by all, especially by the late arriving scrum half, Suzanne Horn, who kept the team together in a hard first match of the season, as well as putting some awesome tackles in and making some fantastic decisions. She was given Woman of the match by her own team. Lucy Le Cocq was given Woman of the Match by the Vets because of her amazing ability to accelerate away from the opposition with the ball and her ducking skills. We took four new freshers with us, of which three played. They all did a fantastic job after attending only three practices and it became apparent that they would become important dedicated members of the team. Mary and Hetty, both members of the Scrum found themselves taking on the Vets and each other as they fell over our try line leaving our two members slightly dazed after hitting eachs heads and sadly not the opposition, whilst the rest our team stood around chatting. It is felt that no more detail is needed on the match as we embarrassingly lost 83-0 despite of all our valiant efforts but we may yet appeal due to the unfairness at the beginning of the match.



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Sport

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A star is born!

Eoin O Colgain

Wednesday 19th October brought us back to Parliament Hill; a sweeping panorama of London, shower dodging in changeable weather, fond nostalgia for a seasoned few, especially the soon to be anointed Dr. Daisley, and wide-eyed looks from the intrepid but nameless Freshmen. It was the first race of the London Colleges' League series: a team event spun out over 6 events with several colleges battling it out for second place after St. Mary's, not unlike boring Chelsea, have usually taken the laurels. Not surprising for an institution that offers degrees in running quickly, perspiring, calorie counted diets and stretching! The landscape of last season looks as follows: top three teams for males, St. Mary's, IC, UCL and for females St. Mary's, UCL and IC. As you may guess, we have a particular soft spot for University College.

Cross-country is a team sport with the first 6 to score in the men's and 3 in the women's (luckily few for us). The league takes us to exciting wildernesses such as Richmond, Reading and Victoria Park to compete on trails, hills, woodlands and roads. Spikes or fell-shoes are the accessories of choice, though races are also good for getting trainers muddy and thus upping the wearer's street credentials. Men are usually expected to run 5 miles while women escape with 2.5 miles. Somewhere between ten and twelve colleges are represented by both

male and female teams in different divisions. Numbers are usually good with Parliament Hill this year attracting 99 males and 44 females of an assortment shapes, sizes and abilities.

In the women's race a Harriet-Angharad-Harrietsandwichensured that IC finished 4th in the race standings. Harriet Scott, the star of our title, had a very composed race and led the race from start to finish in a very uncompromisingly strong display of grit. Unfortunately Harriet was such an undiscovered gem that we didn't even get a photo of her and people in the club are still standing about scratching their heads mouthing "Harriet who?". Hopefully we'll be able to bring you a picture of photogenic Harriet in action in the next race at Richmond Park. Angharad Care, a veteran from previous seasons, also had a fine race and seems to have discovered some extra gears to finish a very impressive 7th. Harriet Kirk and Anjali Chakraborty also had very fine first outings for IC bringing the total number of women to 4. Without them we would have been looking at the disappointing prospect of not being able to field a women's team. We applaud them. On a serious note, I would like to use this opportunity to ask all women with a low resting pulse rate to consider competing. The endorphins can be most rewarding and there are many fit blokes about who would be delighted to receive a little of their attention over post-race drinks. With one

of our friendly alcohol fuelled groppers away in Germany and the other one keeping a rather low profile I can vouch for their safety. At the moment, we are just a few women short of a very competitive x-country team and a new golden era of women's running at Imperial. It must be stressed that x-country at Imperial is a very sociable, inclusive and friendly experience. Nowhere is this more in evidence than with the jovial greetings of Chris Mullington. Chris, bronzed and just back from a Hawaiian triathlon was far from shy in treating everyone to a glimpse of his tan-lines by pulling down his shorts. If it wasn't for a girl called Lisa and her vodka-fuelled drunken, and indeed lewd accounts of bedroom antics with Chris, we may well be worried sharing the same changing room. A little effeminate peacock though he may be, Chris is an athlete of the finest caliber and was first IC man home in a very commendable 13th, helped in no small way by the enigmatic Dave X selflessly pacing him through the first lap and a half. Although Dave's mate Will was trying to get us to buy that the "X" was actually short for x-rated necrophilia in the pub later that evening, it turned out on race day that the only "X" we could consider was the eXorcism of the ghost of one Sebastian Venus from Dave. Seb spent much of last season taunting Dave for his race impotency. Although Dave finished well up the race order, unfortunately Seb has become an automaton at one of the

City banks and won't be coming back to play in the mud with us again.

Of the 25 men who donned a singlet (or a vest as the natives call them) for IC, there were many solid performances and hectic sprint finishes. Too many to mention but particularly noteworthy was new club helmsman Tarik Amer, who skipped around the course wearing headphones while holding hands with his fellow competitor and girlfriend Anjali. Final mention goes to Pete Dickenson, who gets his name in ink for a recapture of the coveted "King of the Hill" title. Uncontested to the summit, Pete graciously accepted the plaudits of the St. Mary's runners before gentlemanly stepping aside to allow them and 72 other runners by in a very charitable display. Dave X had a closer shave last year, when young Irishman Vinnie O'Sullivan almost collapsed a lung in an effort to shadow Dave to the top, duped into thinking that Dave was some running machine.

So just to recap: Imperial were 3rd in the men's and 4th in the women's. All in all, a concrete start but much work to be done! I promise that we'll have our cameramen trailing Harriet Scott next time for our next report. Hopefully she'll be a motivation for other women to come and compete. Finally I look forward to the next race and the subsequent report when the pen will be passed, and those who have had their toes trampled can exact some revenge.

Brown on Sport

Stephen Brown
Sports Editor

I ask you before reading this weeks' column to forgive me for indulging in a topic very close to my heart. As a member of the esteemed IC Football Club since the start of term I have been regularly attending training at Harlington on Monday nights. "Good for you son. So what?" I hear you murmur. The College website proudly boasts of the floodlit astro turf of which our hockey teams takes full advantage. This is fantastic; if you happen to play hockey. For those sportsmen and women who are in either a football or rugby squad Monday night training sessions fail to reach their full potential owing to the lack of floodlights. Both groups have to share two semi-lit grass pitches, some of which only owe the light they do get to their adjacency to the astro turf.

More floodlights at Harlington would prevent attendance at training dropping off as players become disenchanted with giving up an evening for little or no benefit to their game. This would benefit teams as they would have a fitter, more technically proficient squad and would also help clubs ailing finances as we would have more paying passengers to offset the cost of coach hire. I will be pressing this issue with our Union representatives in the hope that one day all teams may train under glorious artificial golden beams!

Polyversity punished!

Andy Wright

ICURFC 3rd XV	10
Canterbury Christ Church College XV	7

Having been sent to the wrong pitches by the boys from the aforementioned polytechnic we started play 15 minutes late. The match started well with IC dominating their obese excuse for a pack at the break down and some great breaks from Matt le Bang, Johnny the Jock and Rob 'Odd Job' Gaskell led to us being camped in their '22. A lucky interception try by their off side centre meant that they took the lead. At this point Sachin 'Brown Bullet' Amin came on and the dominance continued but we lacked the precision to convert this into points meaning that the first half ended 7-0 to them.

The second half saw Sam, Ben and Chrissy G come on. A change in the game plan led to excellent pick and goes, particularly from James Davies, Sam the fresher and the Brown Bullet. This allowed Paul Tench to beat his man and score under the posts which was converted James 'Wilko' Fletcher. More pressure led to their hooker being sin binned for being an off-side dick-head and the resulting penalty was slotted home by 'Wilko' to make the final score 10-7 to ICURFC Trees.

Netball ladies snatch narrow victory

Helen Gill

King's College 1sts	44
Imperial College 1sts	45

On the afternoon of Wednesday 19th October the netball club 1st team made their way to King's College sports ground in Berrylands. I don't know exactly where it is; only that it's a long way from South Kensington!

After warming up and having a team talk we were ready to "win" as according to Jen we had to win as she'd told her friends we were really good (no pressure)!

"We were all very tired – but we energised our game and put a few in the net"

The whistle blew and the first quarter began. After a few minutes, with goals on both sides, we started settling into the game, getting accustomed to King's style of play. There were times when the passing was a bit erratic and we

threw passes away unnecessarily but we slowed down and got a few goals back. When the whistle blew for quarter time we were one goal down but had the next centre pass to regain a level score.

During the second quarter we raised our game and started communicating better on court. We played more like a team, our passing became stronger and there were some good interceptions from the defence, some of which we converted into goals. We were ahead as we went into half time.

On Tuesday at training we started zoning/zone marking for the first time but hadn't put it into our game so far. However it was decided we would try it on King's first backline pass. Out on court again for the third quarter and we used the first available opportunity to try out our zoning. It was quite interesting but not too successful – something I'm sure we will work on at training! Unfortunately we seemed to lose our concentration for a period, throwing the ball away unnecessarily and we weren't converting enough of our interceptions into goals. So we finished the third quarter several goals down.

Pep talk time! We knew that we

weren't far behind, and also realised we could win and should win as we were playing very well.

"The main thing is that we won and are developing as a team"

The 4th quarter had a bit of a lethargic start (we were all very tired) but we energised our game and put a few in the net. The last quarter was quite intense and none of us knew what the score was until the final whistle was blown. It was 45-44 at the end and I think most of the team thought King's had won, so it was amazing when we found out that the win was ours!

The main thing is that we won and are developing as a team. We certainly have a few things we need to practice at in training (including not running into the same space – Jen and Thea, who we thought might pass out in the 4th quarter after a spectacular head-on collision!) but the team looks very promising. Watch this space!

Medic Win!

Katie Gossage

ICSM Netball 1sts	38
Hertfordshire 1sts	30

The first BUSA match of the season for ICSM's first team. New faces Machine, Goldilocks and The Wall joined our squad as we trekked up to Hatfield for a match we did not think we would win. Captain MRSA however, got us there an hour early and we looked a lot more professional than we felt. Hertfordshire were looking small and dumpy after the summer and our spirits began to rise. We won the first quarter and it became clear to all that Machine was unbeatable scoring every goal. She doesn't even waste time blinking! Second quarter we drew, probably due to the conditions. Indoor netball is not a pretty sight: sweaty, smelly and claustrophobic. Our Chav switched from attack to defence and we took the third quarter. Cheeks made some fantastic moves linking with Goldilocks and Optimus Prime. By this time Chimney, as ever, was getting aggressive and providing plenty of physical abuse – certainly not a ladies game when she's around! Into the final quarter we went hungry for a victory. Optimus Prime stepped up, more active than we have ever seen her before. MRSA near exhaustion pushed on and Gobby fouled her way to the end. The lead was ours and the final whistle went. Well done ladies...bring on Reading.

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



Eastern Promise

Sevenths victory march continues

Adrian Doyle

Imperial College 7ths	5
SSEES 1sts	1

With the sun barely having set on our majestic 5-2 friendly victory over UCL 7s last week, IC 7's went with renewed vigour to Harlington for our opening league match against SSEES 1st's. SSEES were relegated last season, so it fell to us to remind them just how harsh and unforgiving football can be at this level. Team captain Sam made some changes to the team from the friendly victory to ensure we started the season with our strongest possible line-up. AD was brought back into the defence having previously scored in the 6's friendly loss to UCL 6's last week, a slightly strange feat given that he had never previously scored at 7th team level.

IC were playing at a level not seen since last year. We were dominating central midfield and creating chances while SSEES were reduced to lofting balls over the top, which the speedy centre backs AD and Paul were dealing with easily. With Sam and Sandy in central midfield and two forceful wingers Jack and Matt, pressure was applied in endless quantities on the SSEES goal and after less than 10 minutes the inevitable happened. Jarlath was sent clear by a beautifully weighted pass from Sam. He controlled the ball and opened the scoring with a powerful drive into the bottom corner leaving their keeper helpless. Still our appetite for goal remained undiminished and five minutes later it was Jarlath again who heaped



misery on the SSEES defence as he picked the ball up in midfield, spied the keeper off his line and produced an excellent lob from twenty yards to put distance between the teams. With ten minutes left in the half, AD latched onto a long throw-in near the SSEES corner flag by Matt and produced a powerful low cross which Jack was left to tap in easily at the far post for 3-0. Even with all the action going on at a frightening pace there was still time for Pas, our speedy striker, to round the keeper and hit a shot at the lonely defender who was standing on the line not once, but twice when it was easier just to roll the ball either side of him

and add to the first half goal fest.

At half time changes were made with Ian coming in to pair AD at centre back and Paul being shifted to left back. Tuan, last year's captain, was brought on for Pas, who was still wondering how he managed to miss two of the easiest chances he's probably ever had. However it is clear that Pas has many a goal lurking inside of him ready to be unleashed, so future opponents beware!

The second half seemed to be starting in much the same fashion as the first with IC playing the better football and controlling the game, however a routine ball over the top of the defence left AD in a race with

the SSEES striker. It looked an easy win for the IC man who is normally faster than a speeding bullet over half a pitch until, in his eagerness to win the contest, he pushed himself just a little too far and his ankle twisted, leaving the SSEES striker to poke the ball over the onrushing Ario, who had so far had an excellent game in the IC goal. Soon after, Tuan thought he'd try and score the own-goal of the season by slicing the ball from outside the penalty area onto his own crossbar. He claims it was a brilliant tactic to play the ball out of danger but few believed him and every time after when he touched the ball the entire team

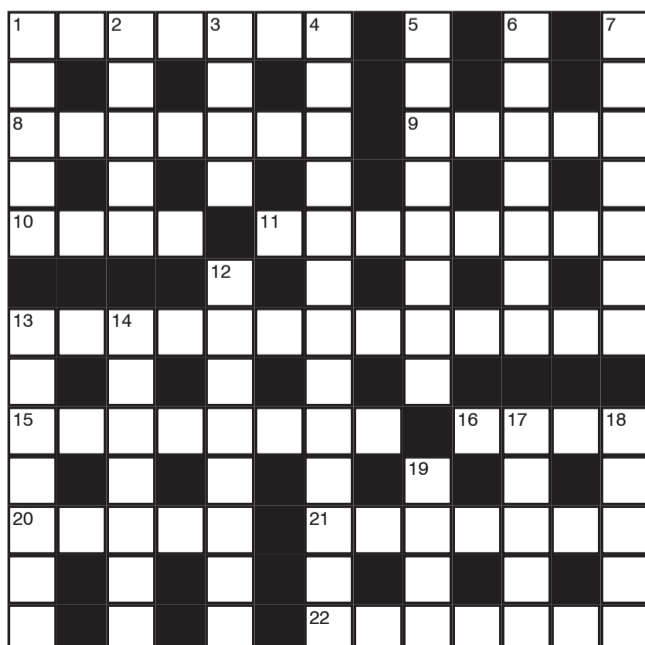
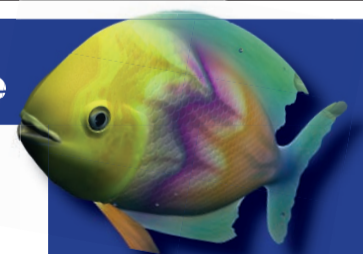
held their breath in trepidation.

A captain's goal by Sam was then scored to put the result beyond doubt when a loose ball from a corner was allowed to bounce around in the box without being properly cleared. It was then cannoned into the goal on the volley, leaving the SSEES keeper wondering where his defence had gone. With 20 minutes to play, no subs and an injured defender, Sam decided to put the injured AD upfront, in what SSEES must have thought to be a damage limitation exercise. How wrong they were! After a couple of runs were rightly given offside against AD, he decided to punish the opposition by scoring a fantastic goal. Captain Sam won the ball in the left of midfield, spied Matt on the wing and passed to him in space. Matt then saw the run into the box by AD and crossed the ball just over the one defender in the box. AD was then left in a dangerous predicament. The ball looked too low to head when it came to him, and with an injured right ankle he risked a lengthy lay-off if he tried to volley it and injured himself further. In a split second he decided to launch himself at the ball with a diving header. From the penalty spot he connected beautifully and somehow managed to lob the keeper with a diving header from the penalty spot to score his first league goal for IC.

A brilliant start to the season and an encouraging performance against a competent side, there will be tougher challenges ahead this year, but with more performances as polished as this and a few more spectacular goals, the sky's the limit for IC 7's this year.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

- At the top of a car (7)
- In the open air (7)
- 180 degree rotation (1-4)
- Repeat (4)
- European country (8)
- Naughtily (13)
- Doubtful (8)
- Incite (4)
- Beggar (5)
- Large ferocious cat (7)
- Athletes (7)

Down

- Fumes (5)
- Indentation (5)
- Woodwind instrument (4)
- One who predicts your future (7,6)
- Large fish (8)
- One, four, nine, sixteen... (7)
- Dream (7)
- Mathematical statements (8)
- On horseback (7)
- Female voice (7)
- Stage of development (5)
- Travels (5)
- Thug (4)

Watch
this
space

Big
changes
next week