

Smack my... well, you know what

Oil - new business section
page 17

NUDITY WARNING
Wouldn't that have been a cool picture. But lack of light forced us to the library!

page 3



FREE
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of Imperial College
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felix



Students outraged as faculties reshuffled

"Its appalling that students and the student's Union were not consulted in advance" Sameena Misbahuddin, Union President



Can Life scientists and Physicists live in harmony? We're about to find out

Tristan Sherliker, Kilian Frensch & Mariko Tavernier

Imperial College have announced plans to merge the faculties of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences, to create a new Faculty of Natural Sciences. The Rector announced the decision, which takes immediate effect, in an email to selected College staff on Tuesday 1 October. No students were consulted or even informed of the decision.

The new faculty will come under the directorship of Sir Peter Knight FRS, the current head of the Department of Physics. Professor Michael Duff, Principal of the Faculty of Physical Sciences, and Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Acting Principal of the Faculty of Life Sciences (and Deputy Rector), will step down from

their Faculty roles on 31 December. Prof Duff will move on to take the Abdus Salaam Chair of Theoretical Physics, Professor Borysiewicz will remain Deputy Rector, a position in which he is well established.

In the announcement, the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, pointed out that it is becoming "increasingly apparent that discipline areas within the two Faculties [have become] more closely aligned" since the last Faculty structure assessment in 2001". He draws attention to the vital statistics: "The new combined Faculty will employ over 1,100 staff, teach over 2,700 undergraduates, train over 680 PhD students, and have a research income totalling £56.5 million". He also described the merger as "compelling and exciting".

However, students don't seem

to be sharing Sir Richard's excitement. Sameena Misbahuddin, Imperial College Union President, expressed the general upset students are feeling due to the lack of consultation: "After everything that happened last year with students not being informed about the future of the Wye Campus, this is another example of College not informing us of what is happening and the effects that it could have on students."

One second year Biochemistry student said, "Now there'll be a load more really ugly gimps in our faculty!" Some students dislike the perceived loss of individuality among departments, which is important for a community feeling within courses; other objections were raised in response to the similarity to universities such as Cambridge, which they consider to have a weaker course

structure than Imperial College. They fear that the change in Faculty structure may lead to blurring of discipline boundaries rather than broadening of scope predicted by College. Students are also doubtful that the handover will be as smooth as the Rector predicts.

When approached by *Felix*, College said that the decision was "made exclusively by the Management Board", the College's "senior decision-making body". A body on which only a select members of College staff sit, so there is the possibility that the majority of College staff were also kept in the dark until recently.

At the time of going to print *Felix* was unable to secure comment from the principal members of staff in the faculties concerned.

Leader, page 17

Travelcard debacle

Adam Rae

Imperial students are being charged £5 a time to take a chance at getting a student discount travelcard, with no guarantee of success – because Transport for London (TfL) can't recognise a Registry stamp.

TfL currently runs a scheme whereby students in London can receive travel discounts through a successful application for a student Oyster card. Applications are made with forms only available through Imperial College Registry, which are stamped with the official Imperial College seal, and the Registrar's signature.

One Imperial student, having had his application rejected, enquired about the reason and was told that signature on record didn't quite match up with that provided by the Registry. He was told that nothing could be done until the Registry had sorted out the problem with TfL, replacing the signature used for comparison – meaning he would have to make another application, costing another five pounds, and would have no travel discounts in the mean time. Again, no guarantee could be made that his second application would be successful. Further investigation revealed that other students were in similar predicaments.

What about a refund for students? The official line is that the money covers the processing of the form, and is entirely non-refundable – even for failed applications, regardless of reason.

Unofficially, Registry staff have mentioned that it appears that approximately half of the applications made recently have been refused on the same grounds, which implies that half have been accepted. Yet all the applications made through College have been stamped with exactly the same seal and signature.

Both the Union and Registry have taken the matter in hand, and are contacting TfL to try and resolve the situation and provide feedback

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Thursday 3.11.05



Columnists attack
Omar Hashmi and Alex Guite give *Felix* both barrels
"It seems that it is not just *The Sunday Times* that stoops to the lowest levels of sensationalist journalism, with no regard for consequences for those actually trying to change circumstances for the better"
Page 16 ▶



Art on your doorstep
The Wildlife Photographer of the year: and you don't need to make an effort to see it!
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Imperial - world leader
"Toby Ferenczi talks to Professor Barnham of the Experimental Solid State Group about the potential of third-generation solar cells"
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Sudoku No 1333

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 Adam Sykulski.

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

NEWS

ULU in chaos

ULU President resigns whilst ULU Council Chair is likely to face no confidence motion over homophobic comments

Rupert Neate
Editor

Stewart Halferty, the President of the University of London Union resigned this week citing insurmountable differences with the way ULU is managed.

Halferty told *Felix*; he "didn't want to waste a year being a figurehead unable to change anything... I've got a degree to finish". He dislikes the fact that "the manager of ULU is controlled by the University of London, not the President of the Union. I've ended up as just a figurehead"

He doesn't think ULU "can continue in its present state, it has to be managed by the elected officers". He decided to resign as it would be "the best way to get his message across".

Halferty will not be replaced, instead the role will be split between the three remaining Deputy Presidents. He will now return to his studies at Goldsmiths, after a two and a bit year Hiatus (he has already held sabbatical positions at Goldsmiths, including President).

"I would shoot my gay son"

Meanwhile, in a separate matter, Luca Manfredi, ULU Council Chair, faces the threat of a no confidence motion as a result of homophobic remarks. Manfredi, who is also the General Secretary of UCL, posted his view of homosexuality and gay marriage on a UCL Union web-notice board last November.

Most notably he said that if a future son introduced him to his boyfriend he would "take out a big gun and make sure he [would] not dishonour my family".

At a recent ULU Council meeting, Manfredi was asked to answer for his previous comments. Manfredi twice interrupted Jason Peachy, of the ULU LGBT, who read out some of Manfredi's comments.

Manfredi has since issued an apology in which he states "The comments do not reflect my opinion in any way. I distance myself from them totally and unconditionally. The comments were intended for use against one very restricted group of people."

Although the comments were

made before he took up his current position speculation abounds that a motion of no confidence will be brought against him at the next ULU Council meeting. In the interim Manfredi will not chair any ULU meetings.

Manfredi also personally apologised to James Peachy for interrupting "I pushed the 'override' button inappropriately at Council by muting Jason. I regretted the matter of extreme importance and therefore thought it should be discussed at length [after council]. However, I acted in an entirely inappropriate way"

Stewart Halferty, ULU president told *Felix*, "He should apologise profusely and prostrate himself in front of Council". Sarah Khatib, ICU Deputy President (Education and Welfare) told *Felix* she thought "it was inappropriate to publish. He should have apologised at the time, but he has apologised now and that should be fine. We can't dwell too much on the past". She did not comment as to how she would vote if a no confidence motion were brought at the next ULU council.

Students betrayed over 'Southside bar'

The Real Ale Society

On 7 November, the new 'Southside Bar' will open in the ground floor of Linstead Hall. The new name has not been confirmed. Ordinarily, this would be an occasion to rejoice - a victory for the small people! However, what has not gone unnoticed is that somewhere the plans have been changed. Anybody who cares to look inside the building site will see the plans dictate not a bar, but a licensed cafe with shop kiosk. This suggests that the College has, once again, gone behind the back of the students.

In a meeting last term which included Tobias Dalton (Real Ale society chairman), former union president Mustafa Arif, and College representatives, it was agreed that the ground floor of Linstead Hall be the new home for what was the Southside Bar. Plans were produced at the meeting, which clearly showed a bar with the possibility of some food services, but no shop. At the end of this meeting, College and student representatives were in unanimous agreement regarding these changes. Yet now, what is being built is far removed from the bar that was originally agreed. The College has gone back on its agreement between the end of last term and now, clearly when the students, either ensconced in exams or away for the holidays, were unable to respond.

Despite the Real Ale Society having campaigned tirelessly for 'a quiet alternative to the Union,' it seems that the college has ordered a replica of da Vinci's. The whole purpose of the "Save Our Southside" campaign was to gain a replacement bar

unlike those already provided - this the petition clearly stated, and this was therefore clearly demanded by the members of Imperial College who signed it. Once again, the College seems to think it knows us better than we do.

Felix made enquiries regarding this discrepancy and received numerous responses from a representative. However, in one response, a mention is made of 'student representatives' having been at this meeting, at which it is claimed plans for the licensed cafe were agreed - If this alludes to the meeting involving Tobias Dalton et al, this is quite simply not true. In a later response, mention is made of the single 'elected student representative,' ie Mustafa Arif. This suggests two things - either that the College wishes to deny the agreement that was made in the first meeting, or that further meetings were held after the agreement was made.

It should be noted that Mr Dalton was called into this first meeting as an auxiliary student representative, since certain College representatives said they did not trust Mr Arif to remain true to what he had said in a meeting held previously. In this earlier meeting, which included four members of the Real Ale Society and Mr Arif, it was agreed that there was a need to replace the Southside Bar, and that Mr Arif was to go forward with this to the College.

A petition, signed by 4,000 members of Imperial College who made the effort to sign during the exam period proves that a second bar was wanted.

TfL

continued from page 1

to students involved.

When the question of the possibility of TfL's summary rejection of applications as a money making scheme was put to the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, at the London Assembly, he assured us that "TfL is not using the processing fee as a means of generating income ... [upon rejection of an application] references are always given to that part of the application which is defective". He also mentioned that specific complaints would be given careful attention.

Mel Chapman (Tickets Initiatives Manager for TfL) mentioned that "over 300,000 applications are processed per annum" and "the application process must be as quick and streamlined as possible", before mentioning that "the stamped signature differs quite significantly from the sample supplied". However, after complaints from the Registry Office, he conceded that the applications had been wrongly refused, and agreed to issue Student Oyster/Photocards against the rejected applications, adding the caveat that TfL "would not be liable for any adult rate fares paid by students in the interim".



Leader, page 17

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Physics (1st Year)

First time in the library!
Normally found in
Pembroke garden Halls

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 felix@imperial.ac.uk. Girls and Boys please. We believe in equal rights.

science



science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial to become world leader in solar energy

Toby Ferenczi talks to Professor Barnham of the Experimental Solid State Group and reports on the potential of third-generation solar cells.

I'm not the only one concerned about global warming. As Tony Blair warned last year, global warming poses "a challenge so far-reaching in its impact and irreversible in its destructive power, that it alters radically human existence".

Whether you think human existence will be altered or not, there is now a consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are changing our climate, and with this summer's hurricanes, melting ice, floods and more hurricanes, there is greater urgency in the question, 'What can be done?'

Encouragingly, for many scientists the question is not so much 'What can be done?' but 'Why aren't we doing it?'

"The radiation falling on buildings in this country is seven times greater than the electricity used within them."

Professor Keith Barnham of the Experimental Solid State Group at Imperial is a leading advocate of solar energy. He thinks that technologies capable of satisfying our energy needs without polluting the atmosphere already exist.

The sun is a power station of unimaginable scale. "The radiation which falls on buildings in this country is seven times greater than the electricity used within them." Therefore, covering just a fraction of buildings in reasonably efficient solar cells would remove entirely the need for conventional energy sources.

While Professor Barnham believes that other alternatives such as wind and wave power will all play a role in the energy budget, solar energy presents several key advantages. Firstly, as the sun shines everywhere, electricity can be produced in ample supply at the location where it is required, reducing the need for inefficient power lines stretching hundreds of miles. Secondly, solar panels can be incorporated into building design, and so do not require large scale infrastructure of their own. And thirdly, because our energy consumption is greatest during the day, solar energy production matches our usage patterns, so storage is less of a problem.

Thus we may well ask: if solar panels are the solution to global warming, why are they not everywhere already? Why are we still talking about nuclear power and natural gas? Crucially, the cost of installing solar panels puts them out of

reach of the average homeowner, despite potential savings in the long run. But then, if the leader of our country believes this issue to be so important, where are the billions of pounds of investment?

Professor Barnham believes there are several possible reasons for this, but pinning them down is difficult and speculative. Investment is split

on third-generation solar cells. This design is expected to become prevalent as the world's everyday solar panel. Third-generation solar cells, or Quantum Well Solar Cells (QWSCs), have the potential to be cheaper, more versatile and, as Tibbits is preparing to demonstrate, more efficient than any other single-junction solar cell in existence.



Blue-sky thinking: Tom Tibbits is attempting to create the world's best single-junction solar cell. *Inset:* a single cell, pictured with a 5 pence piece. Arrays of these could meet future energy needs.

between a wide range of technologies vying for attention. That's why he is overseeing research designed to make solar the obvious choice.

Tom Tibbits, a former student of Professor Barnham and now a consultant at the Centre for Integrated Photonics, is currently working

The basic principle of solar cells is that when radiation hits a particular class of material known as a semiconductor, electrons in this material are excited and released from their normal position, or 'hole'. If you can trap these electrons before they fall down again, it is possible to store

charge and thus create a voltage, which generates electrical current. Third-generation solar cells have several advantages over earlier designs. They use semiconductor material that allows the use of a wider range of radiation from the sun, reducing wasted energy. Also, because the active, light-absorbing region is just 3 millionths of a metre thick, they can be manufactured into very thin, and therefore cheap, layers.

QWSCs are formed by combining the semiconducting layer with other layers that provide the electrical contacts and anti-reflective coatings. A concentrator is then used to focus light from a wide area onto the active region of the cell.

The efficiency of solar cells is measured by the ratio of energy that hits the cell to the energy it generates. At present, the efficiency world record is 27.6%, achieved by the Spire Corporation back in 1991. Tibbits is preparing to test his devices over the next few months and is confident of breaking the 28% mark. The danger is the ever-present threat of being overtaken by competitors in Japan and the United States, who are working on similar projects with bigger budgets.

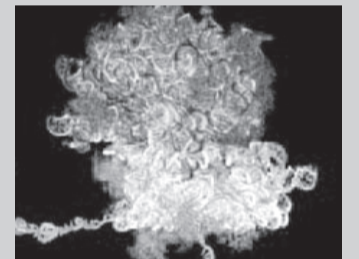
"While we still have light years to travel before we can ban fossil fuels, at least we have a direction."

On a wider scale, however, this kind of competition is good news. Many ideas are around to develop these devices into marketable products. One possibility is the 'smart-windows', mentioned by Tony Blair. Windows incorporating material that is capable of both shielding us from sunlight and generating electricity from it will provide clean energy and reduce our need for it and stop the insane practise of drawing the blinds to turn on the lights.

While we still have light years to travel before we can ban fossil fuels, at least we have a direction. It appears that burning fossil fuels is not a necessity in an industrialised society. There is a growing sentiment that we can and should keep hold of the freedoms that technology has given us, but the habitability of our planet must obviously be a priority. If we are prepared to invest both financially and politically, it should be possible to live in a developed world without changing the make-up of our planet.

News in Brief

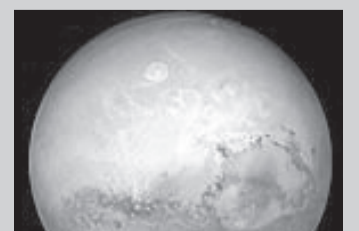
Tracing tRNA's dance
Scientists have employed the sixth fastest computer in the world to simulate how the ribosome accurately constructs proteins. Although the technical achievement has shattered the previous record for biological simulation, ribosome specialists are wary of the study's conclusions. Because of limitations in computing power, the simulation had to occur tens of millions of times faster than it occurs naturally within the cell.



Birds v. windmills battle heads to California courts
Two environmental groups have gone to court with the aim of shutting down the farm at Altamont Pass, CA for three months during the migration season to help protect red-tail hawks, golden eagles, and other raptors killed by the mills. The nearly 6,000 windmills on the rolling hills of Altamont Pass, 60 miles east of San Francisco, make up one of the largest wind farms in the country.



Red Planet comes close to Earth
Mars had a close encounter with Earth, approaching to within 69.4 million km of our planet in the early hours of Sunday. Conditions were cloudy over most of the UK, meaning amateur astronomers had difficulty seeing the planet. Mars will not swing this close to Earth for another 13 years.



SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Have you been stolen?

Meera Senthilingam reviews the dangers of cyber-space.

A afraid to buy things online? Wonder who's watching you at an ATM? The cosy yet modern setting of the Dana Centre was the place to be this week if you wanted to protect yourself from the new wave of crime that has hit us hard this decade: cyber-crime.

On Tuesday 25 October, the Centre hosted one of its usual evening events – but with a twist. It was not a single speaker dictating to you but instead a panel of experts from the field combined with interactive remote controls for audience participation.

The panel included Detective Chief Inspector of the economic and specialist crime unit for the Metropolitan Police, Stuart Dark, crime researchers Emily Finch and Stefan Falinski from UEA and the University of Leeds, and McAfee representatives Greg Day and Jack Clark. The panel gave a comprehensive view of just how many ways criminals can get to you without you having the slightest clue!

The night started with a selection of questions geared at the audience: Have you been affected by cyber-crime? Which do you think is safest out of telephones, internet and Switch cards? Which of these do you feel is least safe? This was where the 'ask the audience'-style remotes came in use.

Over 60% of the audience said they felt the internet was not safe

to make purchases over or do their banking with. What do you think? Over 30% of the audience had also been affected by cyber-crime or identity theft in the past.

“Over 60% of the audience thought shopping and banking on the internet were not safe.”

Approximately £1.3 billion pounds a year is lost through cyber-crime. Did you know it is not illegal to have more than one identity in the UK? It only becomes illegal when you use false identities to commit crime. Did you also know that the way a large proportion of thieves get your details is via internet cha-



Cyber-crime: beware of what your computer knows about you.

rooms? They see what rooms you use and pretend they want to know you. When is your birthday? How old are you? I'm in London, how about you? All normal questions, but they now know your date of birth and area you live in. This was the kind of insight given at the event.

The university researchers explained how they had stepped into the shoes of these criminals and even spoken to current criminals to get an insight. They have used each other's credit cards many times and have easily been able to look and learn other people's pins at check-outs and cashpoints. If you have worked in a shop before, I'm sure you know that most sales assistants never really look at the signatures on peoples cards – criminals thrive on this; they pretend not to know their pin and ask to sign for the goods they buy.

So what was the message sent out at the event? Watch your back! Make sure no one is within viewing distance when you enter your pin anywhere. Shred your bank statement and receipts before binning them – these scum are happy to rifle through your garbage. Check your accounts regularly for any unusual transactions and, last but not least, always check the full identity of callers if they ask you for any personal information or passwords. Basically, they are everywhere – on the streets, on the phone and online!

Risky business

Amber Bauer attends a debate on the portrayal of risk.

BSE, foot-and-mouth disease, SARS and, most recently, bird flu. Every year there is a new lead story in the newspapers that makes the world seem as though it were becoming a riskier place to live. On the evening of 27 October, a panel at the Royal Institution of Great Britain led a discussion on the issue of how risk should be assessed and interpolated, especially by the government and the media.

“We now live in a culture that has a proclivity to exaggerate everything,” said Bill Durodié, professor at Cranfield University.

The remainder of the panel consisted of Elliot Morley MP, Minister of State for Climate Change and Environment; Mary Riddell, a columnist for *The Observer*; and Matthew Wright, a Channel 5 presenter. Sheena McDonald, an award-winning broadcast journalist and presenter, chaired the discussion.

Most of the panel agreed that both the media and the government had probably exaggerated the risk of bird flu. According to these journalists and politicians, there was no guarantee that the virus would mutate to become capable of person-to-person infection.

“I'm more worried about dying in a car crash to tell you the truth,”

“We now live in a culture that has a proclivity to exaggerate everything,” according to Prof Bill Durodié

Wright said.

Morley was quick to point out, however, that as a government official you have to “think the unthinkable” in order to protect the people. The government has to pay attention to the ‘what-ifs’ – making contingency plans and informing the public of the danger – because, as shown with BSE, there is more danger in not taking the risk seriously enough.

But why does fear seem to be more prevalent now than in the past? “Why does the world seem like a riskier place to live?” an audience member asked.

According to Durodié, people now live in a state of isolation. Traditional networks are breaking down, leaving people to face the world on their own. It's the difference between the feelings you have walking down a dark street in the middle of the night with a group of friends and the feelings you have in the same situation when you are by yourself, Durodié said.

Riddell said that a declining belief in God and an afterlife was partially responsible. Many people's focus has shifted to the here and now. Life has become even more precious because many believe that there is nothing after death.

Riddell also said that people have begun to place more trust in reason and knowledge. Fear builds up where there is a lack of facts.

In the old days religion offered the answers, Wright said. Now, scientists are seen as being able to provide the answers to the big questions. However, they don't always have the answers, as in the case of bird flu.

The lack of substantial facts surrounding the possible bird flu pandemic has caused a problem in the media, according to Riddell. There is really no “objective truth” to report. Most of the stories are based on guesswork.

Thus, according to Durodié, the government, the media and the public have been lulled into “worst-case speculation,” the majority of debates centering on vaccines and government preparedness.

No consensus was reached on how risk should be communicated by both the media and the government. However, Riddell said that in her experience, “The greater the fuss, the smaller the risk – eventually.”

Letters

Dear Felix,

After reading your article “Intestinal Worm Medicine” I was rather disheartened by the flippant attitude towards allergies. Allergies are not just a case of sneezing in the pollen season or around animals, I suffer from asthma, eczema and hay fever and, as with me, often these allergies are a way of life. For instance, I must be careful which soap powders I use as they can cause my skin to itch uncontrollably, certain shower crèmes make my skin unbearably tight (so much so that I need to shower again with different soap), some soaps and moisturisers make the skin on my hands so dry it can crack and bleed. As I am sure you can see this is more extreme than the perceived ‘sniffles’ associated with allergies! The article only further served to highlight how little most people truly know about conditions such as asthma.

Most people's idea of asthma is little children wheezing after running around too much in the playground however as a severe asthmatic I can assure you this is not the case. There are reasons as to why the NHS categorises asthma in the chronic illness bracket along with illnesses such as diabetes. For example, not only are asthmatics more prone to illnesses such as flu but asthma has its own inherent dangers; one person dies every seven hours of asthma in the UK and the Asthma Campaign estimates that 90% of these deaths are preventable. What most people don't realise is that the majority of asthmatics that die are in fact often not chronic but young students (often at university) who only hold a blue inhaler and take no preventative medicine. This is because mild asthmatics often underestimate the severity of an attack and do not call an ambulance in time (most deaths occur within 2 hours of an attack beginning!).

Personally, as a sufferer of chronic asthma, I find my life severely restricted and not just from being unable to go deep sea diving! My main ‘trigger’ is cigarette smoke, hence I must hold my breath every time I pass a smoker in the street and cannot enjoy entertainment at the union, go to bars, clubs or restaurants (something I'm not convinced the Equal Opportunities Officer will dare attempt to rectify). If I should brave a smoky environment I run the risk of ending the night with a trip to hospital followed by a week off uni and at the very least will be in severe agony and unable to breathe. So

in answer to the question ‘What would it take for you to deliberately infect yourself with a dose of intestinal worm eggs?’ I would say that I would love to be part of that trial if it meant that I could, even for one week, spend an evening in the union with my friends or walk down the road unafraid of it inadvertently leading to a hospital; small liberties that so many students here take for granted.

Nicola Hopkins

Kathryn Loughheed replies:

I am extremely sorry for any offence my article on intestinal worms and allergy may have caused to serious allergy sufferers. I can assure you that my intention was never to ridicule those who find their day to day life affected by allergy. I completely understand how serious allergic conditions including asthma can be. The aim of the article, however, was not to educate the readers of the paper about allergic disease, although I do agree that most of us, me included, know very little about these conditions.

Instead I attempted to provide a light-hearted look at how the initially shocking suggestion of infecting yourself with intestinal worms could in fact have some serious benefits to allergy sufferers. While some of the readers of this article, like you, will undoubtedly find their lives hampered by allergic disease, most will consider hay fever and other minor allergies little more than an annoyance. Although this opinion is obviously not shared by you, the point of the article was not to rectify the common misconceptions about allergy explained in your letter. I had hoped that the article would instead make readers think about intestinal worms in a new light, while at the same time letting allergy sufferers know about some research that may soon be of benefit to them.

The more serious allergy sufferers among the Felix readers should take the fact that this research is underway as an indication that many scientists take their conditions very seriously indeed even if the majority of the public do not fully understand the severity of the problem. At the time of writing the original article, the Nottingham based group of scientists were still trying to recruit hay fever and asthma sufferers for their trial. I can provide anyone interested in volunteering with their phone number.

Any views or comments on the articles in the science section?

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

business

Big oil weathers Katrina with record profits

Simon Jones

Exxon Mobil corp. – the world's largest listed energy company – last week unveiled record-breaking third quarter net profit of \$9.9bn (£6.6bn). The figure, which represents a 75 per cent increase on the same period last year is the highest ever in US corporate history. Despite closures at Gulf coast refining facilities as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the company fared better than its peers, putting the cost of the hurricane at \$45m; equivalent to 50,000 bopd (barrels of oil per day).

Oil reached a record nominal high of \$70.85 per barrel after Hurricane Katrina crippled oil production in the Gulf of Mexico. OPEC released an extra 2 million barrels of oil per day onto world markets in September, but with refiners in need of high quality, easy to refine crude, the markets took little notice of the extra supplies of low quality crude, and prices have remained above \$60 per barrel since. The price of gasoline rose 34 per cent in one day, as the effect of the hurricane became clear, yet some oil companies made losses on petrol as they were unable to pass the price rise on to consumers for fears of being

accused of profiting from others' misfortunes. However, the combined profits of BP, Shell and Exxon Mobil reached \$21bn – exceeding the GDP of Sri Lanka – and the three companies' combined revenue of \$291.9bn exceeded the GDP of Austria.

"...(third quarter) net profit of \$9.9bn...the highest ever in US corporate history"

Other oil majors to release third-quarter figures include Shell, who as a result of hurricane Katrina is currently producing less than half of its normal oil production from the Gulf of Mexico. The Anglo-Dutch group's profits increased 30% to \$5.8bn (£3.3bn).

Profits at BP increased 27 per cent to \$5.3bn (£3.9bn). The company has had a mixed year so far, after the explosion at the Texas City oil refinery that killed 15 employees the company has signed deals opening up key emerging markets in both China and India, and remains the only major oil company to have significant operations in Russia.



Oil majors incurred hurricane damage costs of hundreds of millions of dollars, but still posted record profits on the back of high oil prices

Katrina hit BP particularly hard, reducing profits by \$700m. BP has hinted at possible job cuts in recent days, in its refining, marketing and lubricants divisions in an effort to cut costs.

The biggest problem for the oil majors is where to spend the cash. The obvious option is to invest in new oil fields, but profit margins need to be protected in case the oil price falls dramatically. Option two is investing in renewables, such as wind and solar; but these lack the returns provided by oil and gas.

Option three is acquisitions – using the cash to purchase smaller rivals,

but the target companies will be very expensive in the high oil price environment.

The fourth and most probable option is for companies to "buy-back" their own shares, and increasing the value of remaining shares, because profits are divided between fewer shares.

The Treasury may have another idea however, as it considers raising royalties on North Sea oil revenues from the current 40%, in order to bolster public finances

Back in Business

Welcome to the latest addition to *Felix* – the Business section. By way of an introduction my name is Simon Jones, I have worked for Shell Exploration and for BP, and I am currently in my second year of Geology in the RSM, and my interests, or rather my expertise are in the oil and mining sectors.

Legend has it that "half of Imperial end up working down the road in the city", and although this may not be entirely true, the business section is the perfect place for all you millionaires-to-be to kick-off your career in finance.

Many people simply don't have time to read the Financial Times on a regular basis, or are baffled by all the jargon and phrases such as "credit derivative swaps". My intention is not to compete with the FT, but is to pick the most significant stories that have developed throughout the week, and present them in a form that is concise, and the average reader is able to understand.

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Bush selects successor to Greenspan

Simon Jones

US President George W Bush last week nominated Ben Bernanke as his preferred candidate for the role of chairman of the US Federal Reserve, when the current chairman – Alan Greenspan – retires in February.

The role of the "Fed" chairman involves setting interest rates, which determine the cost of borrowing on both a domestic level (e.g. mortgages) and at a corporate level. Interest rates are a key tool, allowing central bankers to control economic growth and consumer inflation. Alan Greenspan has held the post of Fed chairman since 1987, and his is seen as somewhat of a legend on Wall Street for his ability to control the markets.

On the US current account deficit, which has reached \$800bn or 6per cent of GDP, Mr Bernanke suggested that US economic policy had a limited role and that the deficit was the result of too little investment and too much saving on a global scale – and that it would correct itself in due course. Others disagree however, arguing than by raising interest rates more aggressively;

consumer demand would fall and rein in the deficit. Low cost goods from China have kept prices of consumer goods low in recent years, but if China's growth was to slow, this supply of cheap imports would fall, pushing up inflation.

Bernanke is currently chairman of the president's council of economic advisers, was previously a Professor of Economics at Princeton University. Like Mr Greenspan, Mr Bernanke favours focusing efforts on controlling consumer price inflation, rather than assets bubbles – such as the dotcom boom, and potentially the current US house price bubble. In recent years the Fed has become more transparent – releasing minutes of its meetings and revealing its preferred inflation range of 1-2 per cent.

Where Mr Greenspan and Mr Bernanke differ on policy, is whether or not to commit to specific targets for managing inflation, such as the Eurozone and UK where inflation is targeted a less than 2 per cent. By offering specific targets Bernanke would offer the markets a greater degree of transparency and reduce the volatility that is associated with the uncertainty of interest rate movements. The downside of giving

specific targets however, is that they can leave little room to maneuver if other factors emerge

If US economic growth were to fall, Mr Bernanke's biggest problem could be the phenomenon of "stagflation" where interest rate policy is torn between low interest rates to stimulate a stagnant economy, and higher interest rates to control inflationary pressures. Whatever the global economy holds for Mr Bernanke in the next few years, Mr Greenspan has set a tough precedent that will be hard to follow.

The price of gold has rallied this year, over concerns that record oil prices will fuel inflation. Gold is used by investors as a store of wealth to beat inflation. The yellow metal is tipped to reach \$500 per troy oz in 2006 and reached an 18 year high of \$480.25 per troy oz earlier this month. The bond market however has shown no signs of worries over inflation, as core and consumer inflation approach 2.5 and 3 per cent respectively.

At the time of going to press the markets are anticipating the fed to raise interest rates for the 12 successive time, bringing them to 4 per cent

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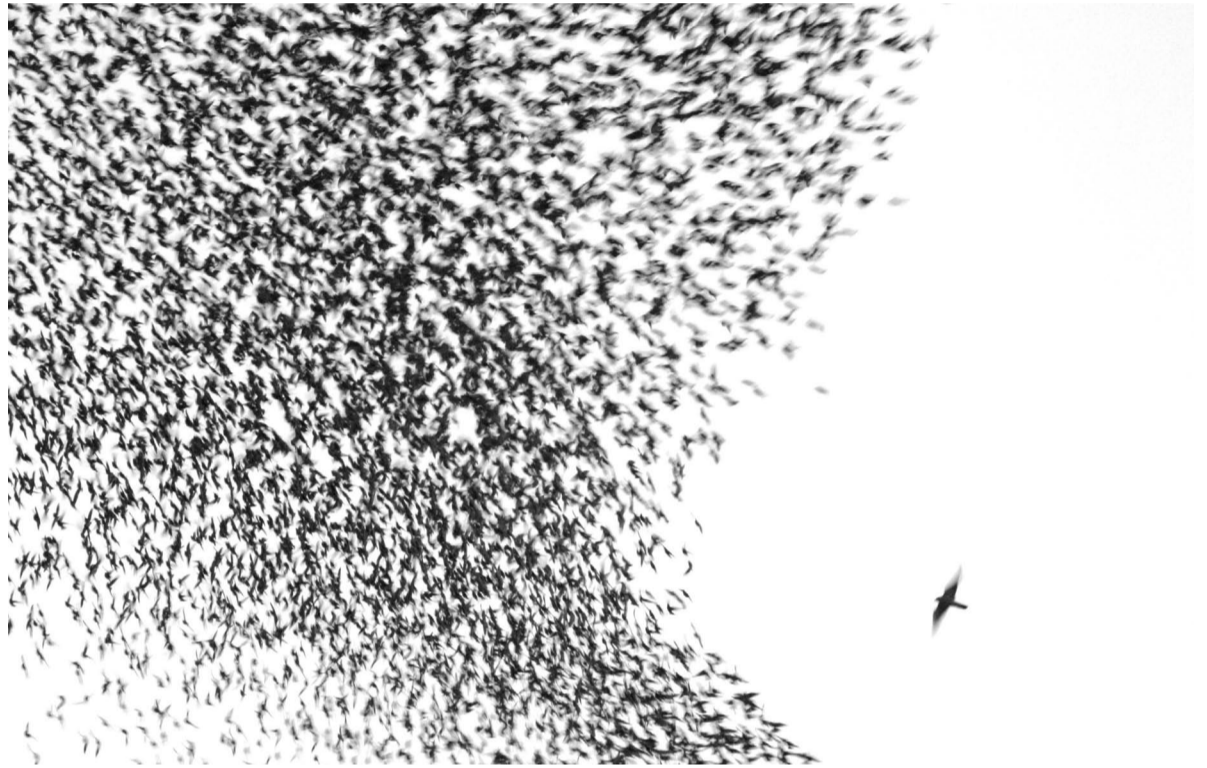
"As the sun rose, the air became filled with the song of birds and gibbons, but the very first noise I heard was a distinct chainsaw."

Thomas Endlein

I hate to say it, but despite the astonishing artistic diversity that London offers the student, every now and then I still do wish that I lived in the countryside. Call me idealistic, but for me the charm of waking up to the sound of the Heathrow flight path over my house pales in comparison to the charm of waking up to the sound of birds singing outside my window. If you too miss the countryside, fresh air and the occasional chirp or squeak of wildlife, then this is the perfect exhibition for you.

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is the cream of wildlife photography from around the globe. It has been running for 40 years, and this year received nearly 17,000 entries. This isn't a collection of clichéd images of rabbits next to flowerpots. These are works of art.

15 categories, including the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year, with winners chosen for both the aesthetic appeal of the photograph and its ability to affect the viewer. The exhibition contains all the winners plus runner up and highly commended entries, and the standard is high throughout.



Overall Winner: *Sky Chase* by Manuel Presti (Italy)



Great grey owl pounce by Jari Peltomäki (Finland)

Each of the images absorbs the viewer in their own way, but especially impressive were the entries in the 'Composition and Form' category. My personal favourite was Alessandro Bee's *Dusk Flight*. The abstract motion of the bird is mesmerising, and his clever use of speeds enables him to describe the essence of the form and the flight whilst avoiding the irrelevant details that would only detract from the effect.

Another eye-catching piece is Thomas Endlein's *Rainforest Dawn*. A beautifully shot serene piece; it is memorable for the heart-breaking caption which accompanies: "As the sun rose, the air became filled with the song of birds and gibbons, but the very first noise I heard was a distinct chainsaw."

The overall winner, Manuel Presti's *Sky Chase*, is a powerful and beautiful work. It is a graphical piece, simple and peaceful yet energetic, and it alone is reason enough to visit the exhibition. Presti's stated

aim, "to move emotions and so lead people towards a greater sensitivity to the natural world" is perfectly accomplished in this piece and, unlike many of the other pictures, is wholly spontaneous. The ripple effect of the presence of the peregrine falcon amongst the starlings has perfect symmetrical beauty: their dynamics are hypnotic. Presti says of it, "I really felt the fear and the need to survive of the starlings" and that's exactly what comes across from the images.

If you think all this arty stuff is far removed from Imperial life, then take comfort in the fact that Manuel Presti is an engineer and takes photos in his spare time. The competition is open to amateurs and professionals alike and if you're inspired then the closing date for next year's entries is 31 March 2006.

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition is organised by the Natural History Museum and BBC Wildlife Magazine

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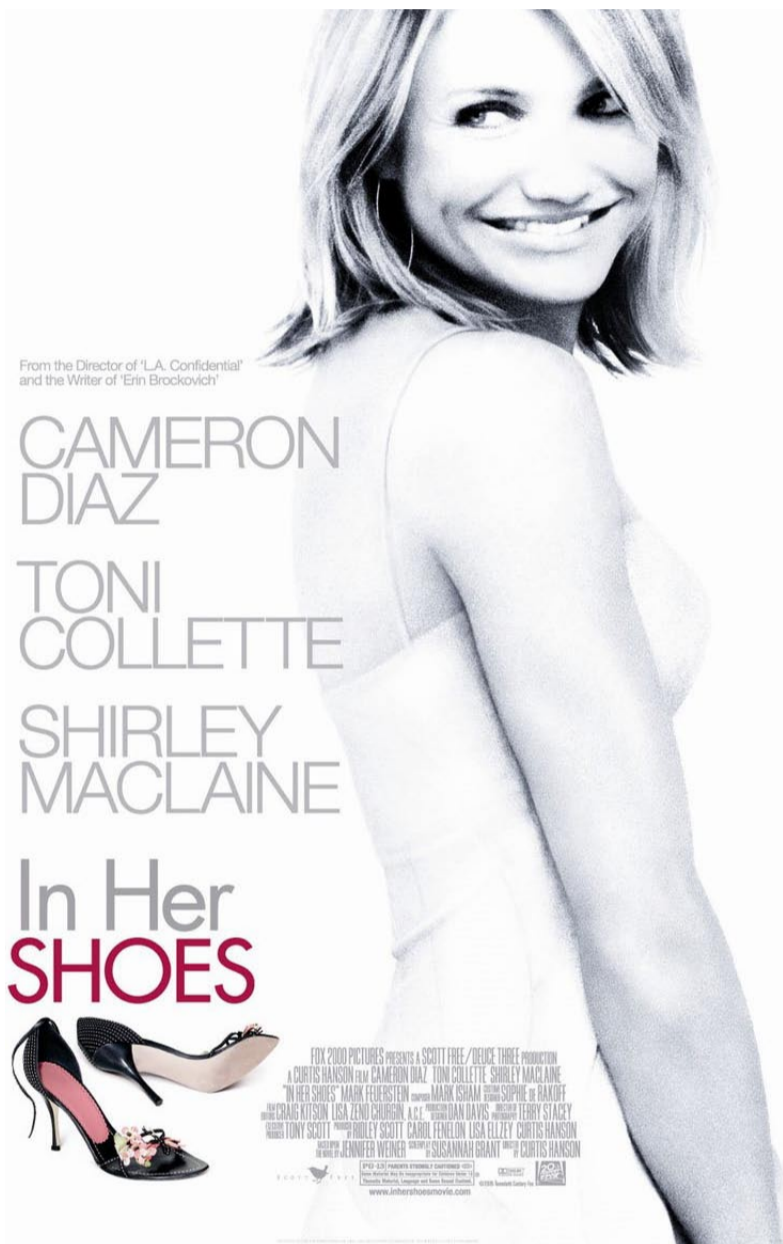
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Catch *In Her Shoes* for free!!

Love romantic comedies? Read on to find out how you can get free tickets...



Can 'In Her Shoes' live up to 'There's something about Mary?'...

Classic Romantic Comedies

- 1. Before Sunrise**
Starring Ethan Hawke, in his much better days (before he started sporting the oh-so-ugly heroine addict look), this movie is both romantic, sexy and realistic. It's been a while since the movie was released, but they still have it on DVD.
- 2. Bridget Jones's Diary**
Alright, I admit I hate her stupid-desperado lifestyle but you have to give the movie credit for the really cute Hugh Grant and Colin Firth. Plus, it's really funny and it's a classic watch-or-die movie.
- 3. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days**
Seriously, the title is such a joke, but it's one of Kate Hudson's best - at least before she ventured into *L'Affaire* (tres horrible!). It stars the oh-so-cute Matthew McCoughney and that by itself is reason enough to watch the silly film!
- 4. My Big Fat Greek Wedding**
Perhaps people might consider this more of a family movie than a girly romantic comedy. However, it's still a feel-good film and who wouldn't love the whole ugly-duckling and swan idea!
- 5. Boys & Girls**
Seriously, I am such a teen flick addict! But this is one of the best... Starring the likes of Freddie Prinze Jr. (who is Adonis in my book) it's funny and it's sweet. And it's actually based on students in college, so how close to home can you get?!

Stay or sway, don't come and go like you do... I remember the first romantic comedy I ever laid eyes upon. It was *While you were sleeping*, starring the funny girl-next-door Sandra Bullock and the sensitive Mr. Nice guy, Bill Pullman. It's one of my favourites, despite the fact that it is just a story of a girl who meets a boy, girl likes boy, girl screws it up but love (as usual) proves itself to be invincible and they live happily ever after. How original - right?

Romantic comedies are a funny sort of thing, don't you think? They're predictable and it's difficult to tell one from the other. Nevertheless, if the lines at the cinema for *Elizabethtown* are any indication, romantic comedies is still the talk-of-the-town. Perhaps it's the feel-good factor, or it might just be the amazingly cute lead actor. There are numerous reasons why romantic comedies still dominate the DVD rentals charts. However, in this sea of infinite choices, how do we tell the bad from the good?

Let's start off by listing the real-

"...There is Sandra Bullock telling her in-laws the story of her one-testicled fiancé in *While You Were Sleeping* and then there was Kate Hudson with her Photoshop-assembled album of her future children in *How to get rid of a guy in 10 days...*"

ly bad romantic comedies. The first that comes to mind must be *Intolerable Cruelty*. Surprised? How can anyone mess up a combination of George Clooney and Catherine Zeta Jones? Apparently, they can and they did. I don't know if it's *Zorro's* leading lady's complete lack of emotion or the horribly un-engaging script, but basically, at the end of it, *Intolerable Cruelty* simply did not make it to my must-buy-DVDs list.

And let's not forget *Sweet November!* Having starred together in the thriller *The Devil's Advocate*, I was appalled by the complete lack of chemistry between Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron. It's a pitiful story of a boy who meets a girl, falls for girl but girl meets an unfair and early demise. Boohoo - but the script itself is the real sob story. Keanu Reeves is just not a man for romantic comedies (*A walk in the clouds* should have been a good indication) and if there's one thing that makes

a bad romantic comedy, it's a leading man with less than one facial expression.

What makes *Love Actually* better than the infamous ones listed above? Firstly, it's filmed in London and that might appeal to the minority of us who love the dreary grey-skied mornings. I mean, *Bridget Jones's Diary* was a real success too! Secondly, it has an engaging script and it makes the audience care about the people in the story. I mean, if the romantic comedy doesn't make you cry when they break up and smile when they get together again, what's the point behind it?

And then there are the minuscule gags that give the story its cute and quirky edge. There is Sandra Bullock telling her in-laws the story of her one-testicled fiancé in *While You Were Sleeping* and then there was Kate Hudson with her Photoshop-assembled album of her future children in *How to get rid of a guy in 10 days*. These gags help us to see the human-aspect of the characters and endear them to us. It might seem easy but then again,

there are some movies that overdo it and end up as a comedy instead of a romantic comedy. Must love dogs was one of them.

This time around, Twentieth-Century Fox is at it again with the new romantic comedy *In Her Shoes*. Starring Cameron Diaz, this movie is entertainment-guaranteed. In line with its release on 11 November, thanks to Twentieth-Century Fox, Felix is giving one lucky reader four tickets to watch *In Her Shoes* and a bloody fantastic goodie bag (including *In Her Shoes* bag and beanies)! Like it? If you do, just write to me at film.felix@ic.ac.uk and tell me the author of the book which *In Her Shoes* was based upon.

Anyway, that's my take on romantic comedies. I believe guys hate them (but I've been proven wrong on many occasions) and girls love them. Nevertheless, it's not going to die out soon and who cares, it's a good way to unwind on a rainy Saturday evening. Now, it's my time to go. Ciao!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

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01/11/05	- 18:00 -	40 Year Old Virgin
01/11/05	- 20:45 -	Red Eye
03/11/05	- 18:00 -	Red Eye
03/11/05	- 20:10 -	40 Year Old Virgin
15/11/05	- 18:00 -	Crash
15/11/05	- 20:30 -	The Aristocrats
17/11/05	- 18:00 -	The Aristocrats
17/11/05	- 20:15 -	Crash
06/12/05	- 18:00 -	A History Of Violence
06/12/05	- 20:30 -	Four Brothers
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politics



A week is a long time in politics

After weeks of voting, the Conservative leader race has boiled down to David Davis and David Cameron, with Davis already panning massive tax cuts for families. The vote will now go to all registered members of the Conservative party, with a final result expected on December 6th.

A US Senate committee have reiterated claims that Respect MP George Galloway (below) benefited financially from the UN's "Oil-for-food" programme after a report was released containing new evidence. Mr. Galloway has denied any wrongdoing claiming, "This is all a tissue of lies and a lie doesn't become a truth through repetition".



The United Kingdom is gearing up for a general election to be in place for 2007, with Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt outlining a ban in all public places in the government's new health bill. All workplaces will be covered by the ban, but pubs which do not serve food and private members clubs will be exempt from the ban. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will introduce tougher bans which will not include these exemptions.

A fair deal for asylum?

New plans for immigration reveal some unfair changes to the system

Analysis

Matthew Hartfield
Politics Editor

In recent years the issue of asylum and immigration has become something of a hot potato in politics; a topic which is constantly brought up and argued about, especially in the light of the war on terror and the more recent terrorist attacks on London.

As has been regularly reported, the Labour government have introduced a raft of measures to try and tighten immigration into the UK and to reduce the number of asylum seekers entering the country; measures spurred on by various right wing newspapers. However, at a recent House of Commons meeting discussing the Government's new Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill 2005, a number of the recent and new plans were discussed, some of which do raise a few alarms.

One of the main points that was raised was a new section that was introduced in the Treatment of Claimants Bill of last year, in which the government were given powers to stop the benefits of failed asylum seekers, and there were even reports of threatening to remove the children from their families, in order to encourage their departure. Tim Finch, a speaker for the refugee council present at the meeting, described these measures as, "cruel and ineffective" and criticized the Government for their feeling that, "asylum has to be legislated non-stop".

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Bill will also outline new guidelines on employment of asylum seekers, introducing new penalties for those who employ those

without official immigration status for whatever reason; whether their status has expired or they haven't been given permission to work. Alex Gask, a legal officer for the civil rights group Liberty, expressed his concerns that this would worry prospective employers and lead to discrimination in an effort to keep

"One of the more unsettling amendments enables immigration officers to get biometric information from passengers"

within the law; although in this same bill the Government stated they will issue guidelines to prevent such discrimination when employing people.

The new asylum proposals will also have an effect on students who wish to study in the UK. The new immigration bill will abolish the right for students to appeal if their visa is rejected. Since it was announced at the meeting that around a third of students who study in this country are from overseas (mainly in areas such as science, engineering and technology), this measure has the potential to affect a significant fraction of the student population. Diana Warwick, the chief executive of Universities UK, discussed the point that students who have their visas rejected for trivial reasons (such as doubts over passing their course) will find themselves stranded, and cited the case of Sheffield University, where nine out of ten refusals are overturned before the official appeal process.



Home Secretary Charles Clarke has claimed the new measures are compatible with human rights legislation

One of the more unsettling amendments to the original 1971 act though is the provision to ena-

"Powers were given to stop their benefits and there were even reports of threatening to remove their children"

ble immigration officers to require passengers on travel transport to provide biometric information, such as fingerprints and eye readings. This seems to suggest that the

Government are getting ready to roll out their identity card scheme before it's even cleared. Considering the current kerfuffle over its current cost (the LSE produced a report stating that each ID card will cost £300 each to create) and the potential to create an Orwellian state (hysterically, it has been announced that the planned ID cards are a bit like your supermarket reward cards, except that they'll be able to have information on which countries you've been to, where you've had a health check up and what your current criminal record is, as well as that your cat prefers Whiskers) this seems an almost underhand method to get the ID plan started.

The stagnant Cameron bandwagon

Opinion

Ammar Waraich

When someone says, "I'm looking forward to taking my message right round the country", it is natural to assume that the message must be loud and clear, isn't it? Why is it then that when David Cameron utters these words, people buy it?

There really seems to be no clear cut message to take around, apart from a fresh faced smile, some sharp suited charisma and random banter about hopes and dreams. A recent *Guardian*/ICM poll showed that he even has a 15 point lead over Gordon Brown for being favoured as Prime Minister by floating voters.

Do experience and actual policies not count for anything?

The Tories are desperate for power; desperate enough to try anything; desperate enough in fact to favour a main man who is being openly described by the media (and who can blame them) as nothing more than Tony Blair in a blue disguise. If Cameron's message is merely an ambiguous Blair imitation, forgive me for not getting excited.

Admittedly though, putting the wooden David Davis (or even Liam Fox) as head would only have successfully elected the loser of the next general election. The only real option that the Conservatives had was Ken Clarke, a heavyweight political beast, and the only one who could challenge New Labour. Some suggested that it was slightly too late for him and that he would have been the ideal choice instead of Hague,

Iain Duncan-Smith or even Michael Howard, who was given a free run. In my opinion though his One Nation, pro European take on Conservatism would have been healthy for the political world, stirring it enough to take it in a fresh and constructive direction. He was also the only man who had the popularity and experience needed to modernise his party credibly and effectively. The Tories, however, in their desperation blew their chances.

What does that leave the country with? It leaves us with a stagnant political scene with options that will result in conditions not much different to what we have witnessed for the past decade. There is a reason why voters are more apathetic than ever before! Gordon Brown may now be by far our best shot at the next elections but in all honesty even that prospect is not one

"A recent *Guardian* poll shows that Cameron has a 15 point lead over Gordon Brown for being favoured as Prime Minister"

to rejoice over; unless he can really take hold of his party and steer it in a totally new direction, where initiatives like the so-called "Big Conversation" or "Tough on Crime" actually equate to something. Even if Cameron is someone who can instigate this change, then all the hype and expectation will be justified. However, chances of this happening are slim.

Politics
Felix

Have you got an opinion?
If you fancy seeing your name in print, email us at:

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music

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Smack my... well, you know what

It's high time for a Prodigy retrospective, and it arrives as a singles collection, reminding us how fear-inducing they used to be

ALBUM REVIEWS

The Prodigy

Their Law: The Singles 1990-2005
(XL Recordings)

★★★★☆

Fifteen years and countless raves later, Britain's best-known munters return to the nation's conscience with *Their Law*, a singles collection to showcase their best-loved moments.

Liam and the boys don't waste any time in kicking things off. They're unafraid to make their presence felt, using the full throttle sonic assault more commonly known as *Firestarter* to do so. This track is mind-blowing from the first to the fifteenth listen. It's contemporary; the pugilistic *Breathe* is equally infectious and danceable, as is *Smack My Bitch Up* with its rhythmic turns and menacing vocals driving the track with aplomb. So far so good – where's my variety meal?

Cue *The Law* and *Out Of Space*, two disparate and diverse tracks showcasing the spirit of the Prodigy. Experimentalism. Where else can you find an Arabic-inspired tribal beat in the midst of robotic noise and guitar licks on the same track? *Out Of Space* is especially likeable, with its laidback reggae tune and ska-shuffle beats. One for the dippier moments with the Xbox, I tell you.

Other tracks of note include *Poison*, which sees the band on a ragga tip, grizzly vocals and orchestral backing intact, before Aphex Twin gets paraphrasing in its vortex sound. *Girls* is equally potent, with 80's inspired electropop replete with synths and vocoders knocking

Studio B over and out.

So far so good – what about the obligatory trip back in time? Liam can't neglect us the way his hairy Mancunian brother-in-law can – he's got talent for chrissakes! (His taste, on the other hand, upon picking the trashier Appleton sister is more questionable.)

Well. It's here, in fully glow-sticked glory. Tripping on acid and ecstasy is the only way one can convince themselves that the likes of *Charly*, *Jericho* and *No Good* are decent tracks in any way, shape or form. They're techno-dirge in its worst, ear-splitting form. *Spitfire* and *One Love* are equally turgid. *Voodoo People* fares slightly better, since it's got a grimy yet seductive side to it, much in the way the orientally-inspired *Hot Rice* ends up closing the show.

That's the way I'd like to see it. Closed, over and out – a memorable listen that's not quite my cup of tea; I'd stick to *Fat Of The Land* and *Always Outnumbered, Never Outgunned* if experimentalism and techno-wizardry floats your boat. Age before beauty can be a wonderful thing; I'm so glad XL Records are aware that experience breeds masterpieces.

Sajini Wijetilleka

El Presidente

El Presidente
(BMG)

★★★★☆

Oh yes, oh yes. It's finally here! The quintet from Glasgow that is El Presidente are releasing their self-titled debut album. I must say that I have been anticipating this for some time now, and as those



The Prodigy - the original munters, apparently.

of you who have been associated with the AMS in any shape or form will know, is where the president's t-shirt comes from, so we'd expect him to be a fan also... maybe (I'm not so sure – ed.). Since becoming aware of their (increasing) presence at the start of this year, my interest has grown and became cemented when I had the surprise pleasure of seeing them play live; I can testify that they sounded unstoppable.

If there is one thing about the songs on this album, that is their catchiness and familiarity. Each one was easily recognised after only one hearing five months prior. I guarantee that the majority of readers will know at least one of their songs without being aware of it. How to describe their sound? It's difficult. As you go through the album, you'll encounter pop, rock, funk and disco in all kinds of glorious combinations.

It opens thunderously with not less than four of El Pres's singles, the first of which is *Without You*, a song very reminiscent of Catatonia's better known stuff, but with cheesier vocals and stronger bassline. This is a general feature of the album; the bassline pounds relentlessly throughout, and is anything but monotone, while the vocals are doubled up on most of the songs and sing some of the cheesiest stuff you will hear this year. It is all so well put together though, that you won't be ashamed to listen or even sing along to them; despite the most unlikely combinations of elements, everything works!

The real treats on the album only include one of the opening singles: *Rocket*, as well as being hilariously titled (I have always found something funny about guys and their love of rockets ever since that Simpsons episode where Homer 'rides' one at the US Air Force base) has a tune that I can't quite guarantee I've put my finger on, but you know goddamnit, it reminds me of the soundtrack to earlier Tekken games. The vocals

are again doubled up, and the chorus is wonderfully simple "aaaa-aaa-aa-aa-aaaa-aaa-aa-aa I'm gonna block it, fly like a rocket". Marvellous!

Old Times also has an addictive chorus with plenty of la-la-las, and is slightly cleaner than the other songs (except again, the bassline).

For me, however, now, the real killer on the album is *Keep On Walking*. It starts with one of those eerie synthetic chords straight out of a Technicolor movie, before instantly giving way to an incredibly crisp sounding distorted guitar. The progression of the song is very obvious; it is the most rock-like sounding of the lot I reckon, but again the singing comes through and makes it that little bit different.

All in all I've ended up getting the impression that the singer has the ability to contort his voice to suit any style he'd like to do, when it doesn't come naturally to him.

What can I say to sum up? The songs here demand attention; don't try doing any intellectual activity while listening to these (not that most of us do any of that anyway). On the other hand, if you have any tidying/cleaning to do around all your disgracefully messy domiciles, just stick this on and time will fly. You just can't sit still while this stuff is on!

It's out this Monday guys and girls, and far be it from me to say that this album is a must-have, but it will put a big smile on your face for at least the rest of the week.

Slobodan Radosavljevic



El Presidente - man, this line-up looks like the front of a Next catalogue.

Hooligan hip hop

Audio Bullys bring the noize, and Morning Runner prove they can live up to their comparisons

LIVE REVIEWS

Audio Bullys
University of London Union
★★★★☆

I've had enough American music shoved down my throat that if I hear another 25 year old mother's boy 'punk rocker' crying about how he used to be bullied at school I might seriously consider moving to Iceland, where I can enjoy Björk all on my own with a couple of fish. Sadly the lumbering chains of oppression (or student loans if you want to get all 'technical') keep me walking in this green and pleasant land. So I'm gonna have to stick with the Audio Bullys, who are so English they make Pete Doherty look like an American tourist trying to come to grips with the Underground.

So what better why to start off an Audio Bully's concert than to stand in the rain? This is not recommended if you are currently trying to recover from Fresher's Flu, which you caught during a necking session with one of those weird and particularly ugly engineers during a hazy evening down the Union. So special guest and first on the decks, John Vick, had a tough job for himself. His mix was somewhat minimalist and hard-hitting but got people moving early on. His continual use of interruptions of the perpetuum mobile was arousing but a good use of variation on beat and melody made for the right effect.

Now for the juicy bit. Simon Franks quickly forged an electric connection with the audience with a once-over of the summer smash 'Shot You Down' and set off into a trip through their new album 'Generation' with an extremely dynamic take on every track provided by the mysterious new programmer due to the absence of Tom Dinsdale.

Simon's lyrics punched home the most English aspects of life; getting stoned, taking pills and nicking shit, during *All Sing Along*. Combined with his speaking-not-singing style, this makes for a real contrast. With such a wide range of voices, surely he could use more than one in a song?

The set also provided a few gems in the form of The Prodigy's *Out Of*

Space and a mash up of *Generation* with Grandmaster Flash's classic *White Lines*. He finally ended the set with version of *Shot You Down* that sounded as if Simon had contracted the largest stutter know to mankind.

True to form the Bullys created killer hooks and riffs that kept me scaring people on the tube all week. However, their heavy use of glissando (build ups) became expected and by the end was no longer special. The clever use of silent interruptions built a tower of climax so grand I swear I had an orgasm.

Sick of American gunk? Well, the Audio Bullys are back and ready to get down, right dirty and British. Drop your steak and kidney pie and have a listen or watch, if you're feeling flush.

George X

Morning Runner
King's College Union
★★★★☆

I found myself last night in a packed-out King's College Union waiting for one of the most hyped bands since The Kaiser Chiefs. Having only heard one or two Morning Runner songs, like many others I was waiting to be impressed - with the rumors circulating about the band and their huge supporting roles for Coldplay and Athlete, how could you not be?

After a good warm-up by supporting acts The Holloways and The Race, the crowd were ready for a great show and surged towards the stage as Morning Runner came on to a round of applause so huge it probably burst a few ear drums. They then spent their opening ten minutes whipping the crowd into a frenzy with three songs so pleasing everyone was soon dancing along, including one girl in the front row who seemed to be having some kind of fit. The frenzied fast paced music fitted perfectly with the almost seizure inducing light show that really got everyone into the gig.

The decision to slow things down for a few songs was well received as they played their first song ever released on Faith And Hope, entitled *Oceans*. The song is slow and almost entirely vocal - a definite



Death Cab For Cutie - I adore this band, but that new single is utter tripe.

winner, with the whole crowd swaying along. Again with a light show that really set the mood, King's seemed to turn into a perfect blue ocean. They kept the crowd happy by retaining the chilled mood with the first song they wrote together, in a scout hut nonetheless.

Pleasing a crowd is clearly a breeze for Morning Runner as they move into flawless renditions of their singles, *Be All You Want To Be* and *Gone Up In Flames*, with huge cheers from the entire crowd. These being practically the only released Morning Runner songs around, they induced big sing-alongs and the whole crowd seemed to be chanting lyrics back at Matthew Greener.

Morning Runner clearly have learned a great deal on their supporting tours, pulling off this show with effortless ease. They know exactly what to play, keeping the crowd entertained and show that they would be at home playing any venue, large or small. Their upcoming album will certainly be one to watch out for.

Tom Whitson

SINGLE REVIEWS

Mendeed
Beneath A Burning Sky
(Rising)
★★★★☆

There are some things you just shouldn't listen to when you've got a headache: pneumatic drills, Decapitated, Celine Dion. Now, I'm not saying that Mendeed inflict that kind of pain, but they do their best: and, throbbing temples aside, it's a good thing.

Taken from their forthcoming second album, *Beneath A Burning Sky* combines high-speed thrash guitars and manic drumming with piercing death-metal growling and the occasional widdling guitar solo that wouldn't look out of place on a Metallica album. On the evidence of this single, they have stepped away from the more classical elements of their first album into a harder style less tailored to the cross-over crowd, which will raise their profile no end among the elitist, trOO metal set. Inventive, tight and hungry, Mendeed have the potential to go far. Now, where did I put that ibuprofen?

Anna Novitzky

Disturbed
Stricken
(WEA)
★★★★☆

Nu-metal is dead. As dead as Dave Williams of Drowning Pool, or Wes Borland's participation in Limp Bizkit. If only it would stop walking around and trying pathetically to terrify us, like a zombie puppy, we could all rest easily. Sadly, Disturbed don't seem to understand this.

You've probably heard Disturbed's most famous single, *Down With The Sickness*. This is that, but less enjoyably stumpy. It's even got that irritating "wa-a-a-a" thing they do,

only they've managed to subdue it until it sounds like a suicidal play-boy's last attempt to convince people he's enjoying the party. Stricken is dull and pointless, recycling the tired old conventions of its tired old genre with complete complacency; the shouted, mock-profound lyrics, world-weary dirty guitars and self-righteous bile have all been done before, and no one wants to listen to it. The only really positive thing I can say about this is that I'd rather listen to *Stricken* than to anything by, say, Good Charlotte. Don't even get me started on Good Charlotte.

Anna Novitzky

Death Cab For Cutie
Soul Meets Body
(Atlantic)
★★★★☆

Apparently, I'm supposed to have heard of Death Cab For Cutie (yes, yes you should! - ed.). After five albums, that's probably not a tall order, but I have to confess that I haven't. So I apologise if I get them wrong, or 'misunderstand' them - they strike me as the kind of band whose fans make that kind of accusation. Here goes.

Soul Meets Body is taken from DCF's first major-label album, *Plans*. It's a tuneful ballad with a simple melody, cheerful in a gentle sort of way and completely unremarkable.

The vocalist sounds as if his voice hasn't broken yet, the lyrics sound as if they would probably sound very deep if you were half-asleep and it's bland to the point of nausea, but it's faintly catchy in a Simon and Garfunkel sort of way. I can tell the refrain will be stuck in my head for hours, but I'm not sure whether I'm happy about that. I really can't tell whether I like this or not; it's really that lacklustre.

I'm sure it will be an enormous hit.

Anna Novitzky



Morning Runner - the new Coldplay. Or is it the new Arcade Fire? I forget. Damn you, NME!

media



A still view of our dynamic world

There's more to Media Group than radio, television and newspapers. This week Peter Huthwaite tells us more about Photosoc, Imperial's photographic society.

Few things, to me, can capture emotion better than photography. A thin wisp of cigarette smoke backlit by the sun against a black industrial background; a child's face, captured in a moment of pure careless joy – perhaps a reflection on the innocent happiness left behind as we move into adulthood; a barkless tree, exposed by wind, rain, sea spray and sand, side lit by a late afternoon sun against a dark sky.

Black and white, colour, digital, medium format, even camera phones nowadays, each one has an opportunity to capture these photos. What becomes important, whatever the method used, is the photo itself.

Wednesday afternoon was a mixture of sun, blue sky and cloud. Photosoc's trip along the Thames provided a great chance to capture some dramatic images, perhaps combining picture-postcard shots of the famous landmarks with more individual, unique elements and compositions. The weather couldn't have been any better for high contrast, dramatic photography. The



Thames River by Raymond Ng

following Saturday, on to Borough Market to experience a completely different flavour of photography.

You can see just a couple of the results above and more can be found on our website - click on the

Gallery link.

Photosoc runs regular trips like these throughout the year - both to take photos and visit exhibitions, as well as running lessons and providing a great place to meet other peo-



Borough Market by Herwig Peters

ple with the same interests.

To find out more, visit our website: www.union.ic.ac.uk/photosoc or come to one of our meetings (12-1pm on Thursdays in the Media Common Room, West Basement, Beit Quad).

We'll be organising a Photoshop lesson on 12th November, so do look at our website for more details.

On the Red Carpet

Matt Cunningham tells us what happened when Media Group went to the National Television Awards.

Last week saw one of the biggest television events of the calendar drop into the neighbourhood. The National Television Awards landed in the Royal Albert Hall and both stoic tv and IC Radio were there to cover the star-studded event.

stoic tv had several crews positioned along the red carpet to capture all of those drunken moments the celebs would rather forget. Dave, formerly of *The Matt & Dave Show*,

got to interview the cast of *The Bill* – for the third year running (they must be desperate for publicity!). Meanwhile Greg and Francesca, from stoic tv's brand new light entertainment show *Foot and Mouth*, got to interview a wide range of stars including Chris Tarrant, Sir Trevor McDonald and in a national first, the only interview in existence of Ant without Dec! They even got a sneak peak inside Billie Piper's limo.

Whilst *Doctor Who* was the big winner inside the Hall, stoic tv's crew seemed to be winners on the carpet, with Greg getting his bum pinched by Vernon Kay and one of his crew getting a kiss from *EastEnders*' Nigel Harman.

A crack team from stoic tv also got to go inside the Royal Albert Hall as part of the event's wild audience. Here they saw awards presented by couples as varied as Peter Andre with Jordan and Tory leadership hopefuls David Cameron and David Davies – only one of these pairs was booed by the audience, I leave you to guess which! From here they were able to pass out all the winner's names to the red carpet teams to avoid any embarrassing questions being asked.

IC Radio also graced the red carpet with the presence of the unstoppable (and god knows we've tried) Martin Archer from the station's lunchtime show *Liquid Lunch*. Martin got interviews with stars from all the most popular soaps, plus X Factor gossip from judge Louis Walsh.

The interviews from the National Television Awards can be seen on stoic tv's *Foot and Mouth* very soon - check the website at stoictv.com for details. And you can hear Martin every weekday at midday by logging onto the *Liquid Lunch* website at icradio.com/shows/liquidlunch.

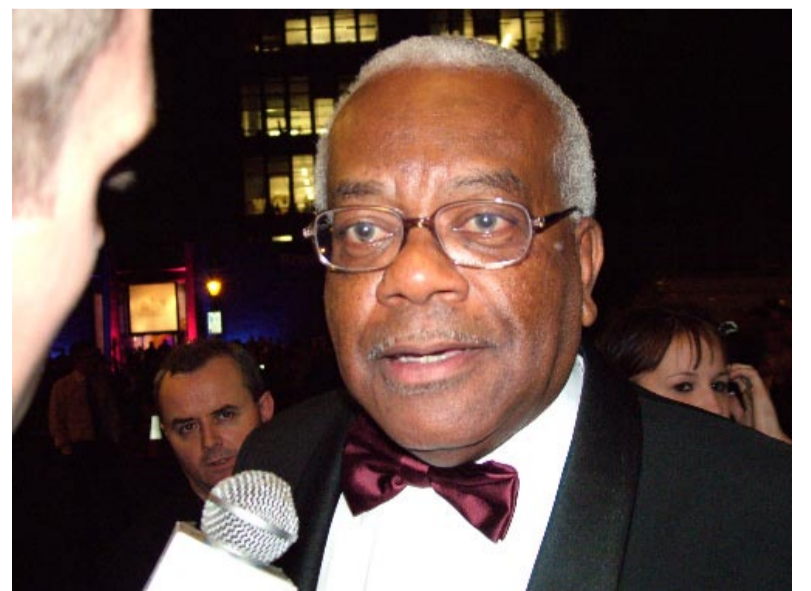


Jamie Oliver received two awards for his *School Dinners* series

Photos by Louisa Evans



EastEnders' Barbara Windsor clutching the soap's award



Even host Sir Trevor McDonald could not escape our reporters

fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Vouchers, designing and parties

All you'll possibly need when you're poor, have a party to go to and your skin's a drag



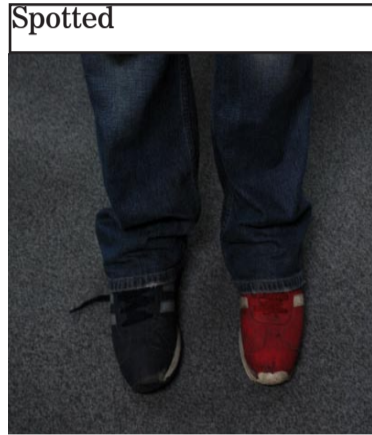
An eye on Fashion
Dolly Delaney
Fashion editor

This week's article is on party fashion. With Bonfire Night and several Christmas parties coming up, I think it's essential to have a standard party wardrobe that you can throw on but still look fabulous. Last week I went to a friend's 21st birthday at their house. The party contained a surprising amount of fashionably dressed girls and boys (finally people have been taking heed of my pearls of wisdom), which impressed me greatly. However, there were some who had clearly worn their clothes for a week. So, for girls to look great instantly I've found some great dresses at Topshop, from the Minkie range

(priced from £27.00 with student discount). The dresses come in a variety of patterns and materials, from silk sixties flowers to cotton paisley prints with sequins. The dresses are surprisingly good value considering that it's a whole outfit and once they're on, all you need is some great party make-up and a good pair of stilettos.

“... think McQueen meets Brandon Flowers”

As for the daring and uber fashionable guy, think Alexander McQueen meets Brandon Flowers; lots of eyeliner, suits and indie chic. But alas, I fear many of you are quiet IC boys who like nothing more than a good physics equation, so for minimal effort and maximal effect: wash yourselves, comb that mop of curls and throw on a clean t-shirt (which



A young medic who appears to be colourblind!

doesn't have anything to do with Imperial sports clubs), and pair with some low slung jeans.

On Sunday there's a great market in Brick Lane (nearest tube Aldgate East or Mile End). On the 4, 11 and 18 December you can get upto 20% off if you give in the voucher opposite or present a valid student ID. Happy Shopping!

Designers selling direct to the public with a wide range of high-quality, stylish and handmade goods

Sunday Up Market

10-20% discount off fashion, accessories, art & food at Sunday UpMarket this Christmas

www.sundayupmarket.co.uk every sunday 10am-5pm brick lane/hanbury st e1

ICU FASHION Design Class

Teacher: Susan Backhouse

Design
Styling
Beauty

Fashion Show in December!

Fee: 3.50pounds

Things to bring with you: A magazine that you like

Contact us: Arg03@ic.ac.uk
http://www.geocities.com/theworldisroundbutiamsquare/ICU_Fashion.html

Don't worry if you missed the first 2 classes in ICU's Fashion Design Class, as there are still plenty more to go: Classes 4/5: Beauty Class: Here you can learn some trendy ways to apply your make-up, and new styles!
Classes 5/6: Styling Class; now it's time to use old skills you've learned. You can be either a model or a stylist.
Class 7 - Using deconstructive methods to make new outfits from old garments. All clothes made are to be used in Fashion Show!
December 2005: FASHION SHOW in collaboration with OSC. You can be either a model or a stylist.
email : arg03@ic.ac.uk

Beauty

Last week, while in Natwest, the bank assistant commented on what lovely skin I had. This brightened my otherwise dull day and I feel it's not time to spill the secrets of good skin. I swear by drinking hot water and lemon before bed. Not only does this keep your skin crystal clear, but it also helps me sleep well at night (alas, many morning lectures have been missed due to this concoction!)

If you wake up after a week long bender and your skin is caked in make-up and feels dry and unloved, try Lush's Brazen Honey face mask. It stings a little, but after the treatment your skin feels gloriously soft and kissable! Alternatively, if you have a least a week between one party and the next, then try:

- Dolly's 5-day Detox
Days 1 and 2: Drink the required 8 glasses of water and moisturise in the morning and evening.
- Day 3: Your skin should have adequate protection now, so use the Brazen Honey face mask in the evening and thoroughly moisturise after use.
- Day 4: Pluck eyebrows, wax legs (and other parts if required!). Use Lush's Dream Cream (£7.95) for an all-over glow.
- Day 5: Plan outfit, drink more water, get out those heels - and remember to swing those hips!



What's going on in Dolly's World?

Today: *Saving the World* at 12:45-13:30 in Seminar Room 3

Friday: Facial and massage.

Saturday: Portobello and Camden Markets

Sunday: Sunday Up Market on Brick Lane. Retro Chic items for less!

Monday: Popcorn at Heaven, with fashionable men by the hundreds.

Tuesday: Write more inspiring words to the masses, and go shopping after a hard day's work.

Wednesday : Looking at all the fitties in the IC Sports teams. The utterly brilliant Trinnie and Tranny's "What Not To Wear"

Thursday - Dolly's article!

Think you're fabulous?

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

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Stormy Woods

Another day, another life...

It could be so different; wise words there from the prophets of the Lost. Not the *Lost* filmed in Hawaii with the delicious Matthew Fox, mind you. I quote their lesser relatives from the land of the dead, more commonly known as the Welsh valleys, where shops don't open on Saturdays since their takings are too minimal to support the wage bills of the Helens that work there.

In the pre-internet days I'd have felt for my Welsh counterparts. Thankfully Ebay, Net-a-porter and Topshop Online do a sterling job and Howells' is open on weekends, so fellow Dior Addicts need not feel the pinch. A good job too, since an epidemic of sleazy security guards and construction workers happened to befall my path this week – meaning that shopping outside Zone One in our fair city, is a no-go area for me. It's a crime against the fashion police to do so

anyway. Did you ever meet a Russian oligarch in Hammersmith? I rest my case.

I should really rest my head too, since receiving, "I like your shape" as a chat-up line from a fifty-year old Snoop Dogg analogy is the last thing you want when you're just about to buy your Kotex for the month. Looking after sickly babies at Northwick Park had put paid to the pink sword of my tongue, so a haughty glare was given, and off I went, running straight into sleaze number two on the 72 bus. Balding, overweight and distinctly prawn-like in shape and size, this South African sweaty made me wretch. He grinned at me in hope before opening with, "Do we know each other?" I replied in the negative and turned to edge away from him. He put a hand on my shoulder and came perilously close to my ear, before I leaped off at the next stop to the hollered strains of, "Fancy a fuck?"

The whole bus turned to look at him, utterly flabbergasted that his desperation had not paid off. He should take heed of our film columnist's advice – matters of the pants are to be dealt with delicacy and tact. At least the geriatric lecturer had the good sense to ask me to play tennis with him first! Sugar daddies are an avenue I'm yet to exploit since pure vanity prevents me from doing so. What self-respecting third year wants to take the Rector's assistant's leftovers? Or that of the security guard in the library for that matter? A good friend of mine ended up at the Ivy with her newly-retired GP tutor and his wife. Who knows where that ménage-a-trois will take her, since he declared he'd do, "anything for such a sweet face"? A fertile imagination knows no bounds, and as responsible scientists, we are duty bound to develop and exercise our thinking muscles every now and again.



Alex quite

Things can be worse than missing Neighbours

A response to Iain Heaton's "I should write for the *Daily Mail*" in *Felix* 1332

Foreigners should be sent back to their own countries for their own governments to deal with them as they fit' urged Iain Heaton on these pages last week as he took a break from his characteristic whinge that he had not been able to watch *Neighbours* since graduating. His column started innocently and inanely enough before taking an inexplicable right turn into a full on collision with the rights of asylum seekers.

Heaton highlighted the case of two Albanians and a Lithuanian convicted of trafficking Eastern European girls into Britain and forcing them to work as prostitutes. Expressing more outrage that previously two of the men had been granted asylum from persecution than at the crime itself, he went on to outline his solution to crime in Britain: deport all asylum seekers who have committed a crime.

Never mind that only a tiny fraction of crime is committed by asylum seekers, a fact that even Heaton grudgingly admitted later in his column, his remedy is dangerous and prejudiced. The right to asylum from torture, unjust imprisonment and execution is an inalienable

human right common to all people. As with every other nation, we have an international responsibility to welcome asylum seekers, not to greet them with Heaton's contempt. The choice they had to make was between staying in their own country, facing persecution and possibly even death, or leaving everything they had to seek asylum.

Disturbingly, Heaton swapped loosely between writing about asylum seekers, immigrants and foreigners as if the terms were interchangeable. The reality is that they refer to very different things. There is a huge difference between the political activist seeking asylum from persecution and someone seeking to immigrate for economic reasons. Whether Heaton would deport 'foreign' tourists he didn't make clear.

When Heaton argued that asylum seekers should be sent back to their own governments to be dealt with as they see fit he conveniently glossed over any consequences. In countries from which asylum has been granted, being dealt with as the 'government sees fit' means being sent back to torture, persecution, unexplained disappearances and death.

Glibly repeating that old calling card of hysterical journalism; that Britain is somehow 'at bursting point', unable to accept anymore asylum seekers; Heaton demonstrated a remarkably loose grip on the facts. In Britain we take fewer asylum seekers per head of population than our European neighbours; and although we cannot hope to welcome unlimited numbers, the reality is that we are not being swamped or inundated. In truth it is developing countries, close to the world's flashpoints, which host the greatest share of asylum seekers; 8 million alone in Africa with uncounted numbers internally displaced.

Asylum seekers do not come to Britain out of choice, indeed many desperately want to be repatriated to their country as soon as it is safe to do so. South Africans and Chileans who fled to Britain during the 1970s left to return home as soon as they were able.

For Heaton a bad day might be missing *Neighbours*, but Iain, out there around the world things can be a lot worse than not getting your daily fix of the classic Australian soap.



Omar Hashmi

Muslims don't bite

Front page coverage can never be bad. At least now everyone has heard about the 'Stop Islamophobia' campaign at Imperial. Of course, what started off as a good deed has turned into accusations of foul play. What amazes me is that after talking to so many people at Freshers' Fayre, wearing such a goofy shirt and getting so many signatures that nobody had the kind decency to ask me what I thought. It is not like I've had limited exposure while writing weekly columns for the *Felix* or running for Union Council too. It seems that it is not just *The Sunday Times* that stoops to the lowest levels of sensationalist journalism, with no regard for consequences for those actually trying to change circumstances for the better. The notion of turning a petition against anti-terror legislation, against curtailing legitimate political expression (especially against foreign policy) and against the atmosphere of fear against the Muslim community into a form of "terrorist recruiting" is laughable.

Unfortunately it is all expected in the current Islamophobic climate. 'Stop Islamophobia' is an independent campaign, founded to increase awareness of baseless prejudices against the Muslim community and to enhance understanding in British society. I am the campaign's National Convenor. I don't actually care if you go to our website, read our material or agree with us, but if anything related to the campaign enables you to talk to a Muslim or non-Muslim about today's climate of fear, then I will have succeeded. All I hope for is candid dialogue. You don't need to be scared. Muslims don't bite.

Unfortunately, any attempt by any Muslim on

the face of the earth to voice their legitimate concerns is met with hostility. Prejudices have surfaced yet again, amounting to a smear campaign, even though many organisations agree with the points on the petition. Lord Steyn, a former Law Lord, ruled a three month detention as unlawful, while Law Lord Lloyd of Berwick called the offence of glorifying terrorism "a very odd provision". But of course, it doesn't even matter if there were two million Law Lords against this Bill, for the government wants to silence any possible criticism at home of their formerly 'ethical' foreign policy. The Iraq war though based on the dodgy dossier; though opposed by swathes of Iraqis; though a new constitution was ratified under occupation; is a matter of pride for the Government and British Military heads. Yet it is dubiously unpatriotic of me to question the higher order; to even question the nature of the War on Terror or even dare to raise pertinent issues such as Palestine.

Michael Pittoni responded to me last week on the viability of post Enlightenment joys. Unfortunately the theoretical discussion on how society should be is over. At a near religiously segregated Imperial, it is too idealistic to hope for any sincere discussion, the bigots have made their minds up. What is happening now is that the values of Voltaire are being swept aside, and the Ancien Régime has dominated all discourse. Keith Shilson, President of Middlesex University, was suspended for even trying to engage in open and fair discussion with the controversial and (even according to the Home Office) non-violent Islamic political group Hizb ut Tahrir. Surprisingly in Britain it has the largest follow-

ing and attendance at conferences of any Muslim organization – almost by definition making it mainstream. How can we debate on banning parties when all we know about them is lies? Surprisingly the National Executive Committee of the NUS is also opposed to the ban on these "near fascist" organisations, citing that dialogue is better than state repression. Anything less is hysteria, bad journalism and itself bigoted when one does not even want to talk to those on the opposite side due to previous prejudices.

The right wing Professor Glee of Brunel would have my kind under constant surveillance. His schoolboy research has gained widespread acclaim as incompetence incarnate. In the words of NUS National President Kat Fletcher it is, "inflaming a climate of racism, fear and hostility" yet it's backed by no evidence, except that some individuals involved in previous terror incidents have been to college. It is tantamount to me saying we must nuke Manchester, for there are four murderers there. Even academics and professors have their knives out to stab the Muslim Community. My dismay ever increases.

To Sir Richard Sykes, I know that you will have pressure surmounting from Education Secretary Ruth Kelly, and perhaps even higher, to clamp down on those who wish to destroy and murder. No one disagrees with this. I simply ask you to help the good, law-abiding and productive one point six million strong Muslim community of the UK, some of whom are enormously happy here at Imperial, and to not let their lives become ruined.



felix

No 1333
Thursday
3 November 2005
felix@imperial.ac.uk

“

Sir Richard next time let us know ahead of time. We are not pawns in your uber-game of chess

”

Faculties reshuffled

How can College just up and do this without any consultation with the students? We are told all the time that 'Imperial is first and foremost about giving the students the best possible education'.

Surely then College should take the views of the students into account when planning something as drastic as a reorganisation of the faculty system.

I'm glad to see Sameena Misbahuddin, Union President, is taking such an active stance on this issue and look forward to what she might report back from the Rector.

Kilian Frensch, President of ICU Physical Sciences would like to send a plea to Sir Richard - next time let us know ahead of time. We are not pawns in your uber-game of chess.

Travelcards

TfL seem to have upped the stakes in the 'which Government department can be the most bureaucratic competition'. The signature stamp which the registry has been using is apparently significantly different to that which

TfL have on record. Even though registry have used the same stamp for all students only some students have experienced problems, how does that work?

The issue does, now, seem to have been resolved so hopefully all student can now take advantage of the reduced student fares.

Southside

All at Felix are severely disappointed with the change of plans for Southside bar. It is upsetting to have to retract our very positive comments in 'Southside bar' saved (Felix 1330). In the leader of that issue we stated "it is another indication that College do in fact listen to the students" well, it looks like they don't after all. One wonders when Mustafa Arif's influence at Imperial will finally end.

ULU in chaos

It looks highly probable that Imperial won't remain part of UL for that much longer. However, we could remain part of ULU, but given their current chaotic state, do we really want to?



Halt the tyranny of the do-gooders!



Stephen Brown

"First they came for people who smack their kids and I did not speak out because I did not smack my kids (due to myself not having any). Then they came for foxhunters and I did not speak out because I was not a foxhunter. Then they came for the smokers and I did not speak out because I was not a smoker. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me."

The above is a rather crude adaptation of a poem by Pastor Martin Niemöller about the complicity of German intellectuals with the Nazi's during their rise to power. An early supporter of Hitler, by 1934 he had come to oppose the Nazis and by 1939 he was imprisoned by the state. This week saw the proposal of a partial ban on smoking in public houses, excluding private members clubs and pubs which do not serve food. As a non-smoker and with no intention of working for a big tobacco conglomerate some people may find it surprising that I am opposed to this measure. In common with supporters of the ban, I too find tobacco smoke utterly repulsive. No-one likes breathing in second hand smoke or coming home from the pub and noticing that you smell like an ashtray. Despite all these unpleasantities there is one group of people I have even greater disdain for, the anti-smoking fascists.

Most people don't like smoke but this legislation is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Smokers throughout the country

take great pleasure relaxing over a pint accompanied by their obligatory weed. Lets put this problem into perspective. Smokers are a mildly irritating group, not a threat to national security. If people dislike smoke-filled rooms that much then they are free to take themselves and their cash to an establishment which chooses to have a no-smoking policy. With an exodus of customers, publicans would be forced by the market into changing their ways. Seems sensible doesn't it? Unfortunately not to some. Led by Nanny-in-Chief Patricia Hewitt, they have summoned the courage to enforce yet another health fatwa on the poor, unlearned masses who are clearly too stupid and downtrodden to make their own decisions regarding their well-being.

Such illiberal methods against ordinary people seem to be accepted by the country without proper discussion. Those who are against the new anti-terror measures always seem to have the benefit of a nice, well-spoken man in a suit to make some obtuse point about civil liberties every time the government passes new laws in an attempt to combat Islamic extremism. There is at least a debate over the anti-terror laws with opponents claiming that they persecute British Muslims. When the same arguments are made against the smoking and hunting bans such concerns don't even merit a grown-up response and in some cases only serves to induce smug triumphalism from

proponents of the ban. This is one of those tricky situations where we are left with a choice between individual freedom and the banning of activities that the majority of right-thinking people find repellent.

Some people try and square this circle by saying "yes I am in favour of personal freedom, but if peoples actions harm the health of innocent bystanders then they must be stopped." Evidence to illustrate the damage caused by passive smoking is far from conclusive and most of it has been over embellished by the anti-smoking lobby. For example, they are not so keen to preach to us the results of research published by Swedish toxicologist Robert Nilsson who concluded that breathing in passive smoke for a year is equivalent to smoking between one and two cigarettes annually, hardly a lung-threatening amount. Instead they hysterically shriek that our nations smokers are selfishly pushing us all in to an early grave, in order to further their own holier-than-thou agenda.

On a more personal level, smokers aren't really a bad bunch. I'd rather go to the pub with my smoker-friends and enjoy their company despite their foul habit. It detracts from a good night out if several of your cohorts are constantly having to leave the building to feed their addiction. Inhaling a few noxious fumes is far more preferable than having the group dynamics of my evening continuously upset by this or worse still, spend time in the company of some goody two-shoes who's life

been spent either in the gym or munching on organic rice cakes. I'd choose an evening with the considerably more interesting, albeit addicted and afflicted group of smokers anytime. Why should a bunch of out of touch, politically correct Guardianistas who probably wake up every morning to a yoga session and go to bed with 3 feet of water tubing jammed up their arse affect how I socialise with a much valued minority of my friends?

When faced with the choice between serving food or allowing smoking many establishments will choose the latter which is what advocates of the ban hope. Our own union offers a far more sensible policy by prohibiting smoking in certain areas when food is served. In my view this means that everyone wins. People like myself can enjoy their food in a smoke-free environment and those who fancy a puff are not inconvenienced too much. This is admirable as being a private members club, under the new proposals we are still free to do whatever the hell we like with regards to allowing/prohibiting smoking in union bars. Lets make sure the on campus health nazis don't have another opportunity to impose draconian restrictions on our smoking friends. If they succeed in this they'll only resurface later to try and prohibit something else they don't like about those of us who muddle through life without the assistance of a high horse.



Union Building Redevelopment

Sameena Misbahuddin - President



Think the Union Building needs a facelift?

Think that the building has potential that it just isn't meeting?

Well you'll be pleased to know that the Union Building will be redeveloped with work starting towards the end of this academic year....

In response to the need to refurbish parts of the Union Building, make better use of the space we already have and improve the facilities to a standard students can be proud of, the Union started plans to redevelop the building last year. Flexibility is key in the design, as there are so many needs from the building, which we will aim to meet.

Some of the proposed improvements to the building are refurbishments of the bar and café areas (dBs and DaVincis), improved lift facilities, games room area, improved facilities for clubs & societies (e.g. storage, changing rooms, student activity centre) and the introduction of a coffee bar/social area.

The process started early last year, with a firm of architects being chosen and the surveys and focus groups that were held last term. The architects gave preliminary ideas which were then published in Felix and on the Union website and students were asked to give their feedback to the proposals.

At the end of the summer term the architects proposed 3 options, which varied in cost, and over the summer business plans were written to gain the support of College for this project and pleasingly, College are supporting us in this project. It is a key improvement that needs to be made to the campus facilities and we are working with them in this project.

Currently the next stage of design is underway. This goes into further details of what has already been proposed at Union Council (as mentioned above). Users of specific areas are being contacted for this stage, at the end of which there will be more information and designs for all students to give feedback on, which can then be incorporated into the final design stage.

At the moment usage of the ground and first floors are being discussed in greater detail to get a combination of facilities in these areas which will give maximum benefit to students. Some ideas being considered are whether the coffee bar area proposed for the first floor should also sell some alcohol or whether it should remain an alcohol free social area. Other ideas are whether the public should be allowed into these areas as well or perhaps only during the holidays..? When considering these, both the service for the students as well as the need to generate income to subsidise the rest of the Union's activities are being considered and we invite any feedback you have.

If you have any feedback, want to get involved or have any questions, email: yoursay@ic.ac.uk. We are also intending to give a presentation of the Building plans and designs in the Union Foyer, so watch out for more information about this...In the mean time, check www.union.ic.ac.uk.

Faculties of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences Merger

Tuesday morning I hear that the Faculties of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences are merging to form a Faculty of Natural Sciences. Whilst I can see some reasons for College doing this, the issue is that they did not inform the students before the decision was made. They didn't inform the Union who, had we known about it, would've informed students and the reps affected and raised any concerns expressed.

Over the coming days myself and the officers for the Physical Sciences' and Life Sciences' Union will be working to find out how this has happened and moreover what affect this may have on students and ensure that the affect is not negative. There is already talk about work to help relationships between the 2 Faculties so that when the Faculty is fully merged next year, students feel united in the Faculty.



A Week to Rise...

Sarah Khatib - Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Coming to university is not only about studying, reading and solving problems. It's a whole process where students develop skills, find their niches and most importantly gain confidence with their abilities. This is not possible if they don't feel comfortable with their surroundings and proud of their roots. Almost a third of our students are overseas or from an ethnic background. We have given this cohort a considerable thought here at the Union and have realised that the diversity these students bring to the College needs to be celebrated.

The Union has finally got its act together and is taking part in London's most widespread student campaign, RISE Student Week. Previously titled "Respect", this campaign aims to raise awareness of the cultural diversity among students in London universities. With a predominant anti-racism aspect, this campaign celebrates multiculturalism with the support of the Mayor of London. This year, with the unfortunate events of July 7th, we have included an Islam awareness gist to it, to extend this celebration to another aspect of discrimination.

RISE Student Week is happening from 7 – 11 November 2005

During that week, we have organised various events from film showings with the Afro-Caribbean Society, an Islam awareness talk with the Islamic Society, a RAG fundraiser, and a debate about Imperial's multiculturalism with the Debating Society, and an Imperial Football World Cup happening on **Saturday 12 November** organised by the Overseas Societies Committee.

Other events will also follow such as a Model United Nations debate, an International Food Fair and a Fashion Show organised by the Overseas Societies Committee. Other London universities will also be having interesting events also publicised.

Look out for posters around campus and a JCR stall to get more information, dates and times and do take part in these events to commemorate this rising multiculturalism we have a privilege to revel in.



What's happening at the ICSMSU?

Danny McGuinness - ICSMSU President

I've started to wonder how far people get into this publication before going, 'no, that's enough'. Does anyone get as far as the union section?? In fact, has anyone ever read it? If nobody does I wonder quite how controversial I can be. Not that I have anything particularly controversial to say but I'm just a little curious that's all.

Something I do want to talk about is last weeks commemoration day. That truly was a spectacle. It was my first visit to Albert's Hall and hopefully not my last. One day I'll graduate too, honest! The medics graduated alongside the Physical Scientists (or should that be 'Natural Scientists'?) and I imagine some of those got a little upset. There appeared to be a rule that people can't clap unless you win some award, now the new doctors didn't seem to stick to this rule and every single MBBS graduate got applauded.

Now there will be those of you that think this is 'typical medic arrogance, not sticking to the rules, blah, blah, blah' but I see it a little differently. These people have been with each other for six years, through all the highs and all the lows. They have been there for each other when times have been hard, when consultants have bullied, when shifts have gone on for twenty four hours, when they had to endure PBL, PCC and St Peter's Hospital and when it seemed the constant cramming of books into their grey matter would never end. Wednesday afternoon saw the hugest achievement and test of stamina so rightly recognised by the family they've grown up with over the past six years and at times like that it makes you truly proud to be an Imperial Medic.



Letters to the editor

The author of the 'star' letter
received each week will win
£10
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Star Letter

Offensive Cartoon

Dear Editor,

I found the cartoon printed next to editorial in the last issue of *Felix* (issue 1332) rather offensive.

If there's anything worse than a racist taunt to an ordinary Muslim, it's being associated with terrorism and extremism.

What you may not realise is that religious Muslims, particularly those living in Arab states, have long been subject to state-orchestrated terror: in Iraq under Saddam, in Syria under Hafez Al-Assad and in Egypt under Nasser, to mention but a few.

I'm not particularly against *Felix* turning into a tabloid, but let's not adopt *The Sun's* poor journalistic standards. The beard is often worn by religious Muslims: it is not a sign of extremism. And just to note, the 9/11 hijacker Atta was clean-shaven.

Yours Faithfully,

Habib Abdur-Rahman

SAS, *Felix's* editorial cartoonist,
responds:

It has been brought to my attention that some students have found the cartoon I drew in last week's issue of *Felix* offensive. Firstly, I would like to apologise since that was not my intention. Being a Muslim student myself, I drew it with the intention of ridiculing the idea that Muslim students at Imperial could ever be considered as having extremist beliefs. In retrospect, I could have expressed my ideas more clearly so as to avoid such misunderstandings. I would like to apologise again, and will endeavour to make sure any future cartoons are clearly structured so as to avoid causing offence.

That said, all ethnic groups are stereotyped whether it be Muslims with beards or the French with striped shirts and rings of garlic. Cartoons are exaggerated and they play on the stereotype because that is what people associate the relevant ethnic group with. While I understand that many Muslims wish to change the image of Islam in wake of recent events, I somehow doubt a cartoon wearing a sign saying 'non-stereotyped Muslim' would be appreciated either.

Yours Faithfully,
SAS

Praying for a space

Dear *Felix*,

Friday 21 October saw the Islamic society once again forced to hold "Jumah" or Friday Prayers on Queen's Lawn due to the fact that all the places, such as the Great Hall, that could hold the approximately 300 students and staff of the Islamic society were booked. This situation has arisen as previously explained in *Felix* (issue 1331) due to the closure of Southside, where prayers had been held for the past 20 years in the Union controlled gym.

Many have asked about using nearby mosques. Unfortunately the closest mosques that conduct Friday congregational prayers are thirty minutes away from college. It would be impossible for students or staff to attend without missing valuable lecture time or work. Along with this, the closest mosques are already at full capacity and cannot absorb the 300 students and staff.

What also must be remembered is that the Friday congregational prayers are an obligation on all Muslims. It is performed by all Muslims whether they consider themselves devout or rarely identify themselves as Muslims. It is the 'lowest common denominator' of all prayers.

As the situation stands now the Islamic society are allowed to book rooms (such as the Great Hall) as any other club or society. This means that the venue may have to change from week to week. Anyone who is part of or helps to run any society would know that it is hard enough to tell members of a change of venue without the added difficulty of having around 300 people to inform. Also as the past two weeks have shown there may not be any available space to conduct communal prayers.

The request is a simple one to college: a permanent room of sufficient size to hold the Friday congregational prayers during the lunch time. This is not a request for a new service but rather a continuation of a previously established one.

There may be complaints about the prayers being held on Queen's Lawn but the Islamic society are just trying to find a place to pray.

Kian Sing Low
Welfare Campaigns Officer

Dear *Felix*,

Last Friday, I picked up a flyer from the Islamic society during their open air prayers on Queen's

Lawn. They claim that they are forced to cause inconvenience for fellow students and staff because ICL would not provide them with a room for their obligations as Muslims. I completely agree with ICL's position that the College is secular and should therefore not provide space for communal worship. Religion has nothing to do with ICL, irrespective of whether Muslim, Christian or Hindu.

The flyer claimed that the closest mosque would be too far away to be convenient and instead gather on Queen's Lawn. Well if it is so important to them, Hyde Park is just minutes walk away with plenty of public space to hold a congregation. I assume the Queen's Lawn gathering is designed to elbow College into providing a room (free of charge?) thereby breaking the secular tradition of the College. As an atheist, I am happy not to be bombarded with religious beliefs during my lunch break around Queen's Lawn.

J Schumacher
Dep of Biological sciences SAF

Dear Editor,

Imperial College should give full support to the Muslims that want to pray on Queen's lawn. This is because any decision forced by mob action can't fail to be better than a reasoned, rational one.

To house the Muslim prayer crowds, a dedicated prayer platform pointing directly at Mecca should be commissioned.

The people praying on Queen's Lawn are doing their best when they align their bowing towards the Sir Alexander Fleming building. Their best is not good enough.

The Earth is not flat. A sloping platform to angle their prayers straight towards the Ka'bah should be constructed. According to my calculations, it should point down from the horizontal in London at an angle of 21 degrees 28 minutes to compensate for the sphericity of the Earth.

Without such a slope, their prayer rays just leave the globe at a tangent and uselessly drift off into space. Plans should be drawn up straight away.

Name and Department supplied

Felix

Dear *Felix*,

Just taking this opportunity to say that *Felix* is much better this year. Grabbing headlines, fab photos, colour, information on a wide range of issues at your finger tips. Very well done to all involved, you have created a very dynamic read.

State of the medical school

Dear *Felix*,

I feel that Imperial's position as the best medical school in Britain (followed by the delightful Hull) is not so much a testament to the scientific calibre of its students but their linguistic calibre.

I'm sitting here procrastinating in the medic computer room (with half my year) as the lecture I'm supposed to be in goes on next door. This has nothing to do with not wanting to learn, it's simply because the level of English required to lecture at Imperial is equivalent to the standard expected in a McDonald's

entrance exam. I strongly feel that the study of medicine should not be made even more complicated by the additional requirement of deciphering the incomprehensible piffle that dribbles out of their mouth.

In many schools there is outrage when the ratio of teachers to students exceeds 1:30. In our medical school the ratio of lecturers to students is 1:360 - too many, in fact, to be held in our lecture theatre. This makes learning harder than it need be, so to have lecturers who speak very poor English is a further problem that really should be avoided.

Concerned 2nd year student,
Faculty of medicine.

blind date



Looking
for Love?
Or just a
free
dinner?

email blinddate.felix@imperial.ac.uk with
some info about you, and we'll set you up
on a date to remember.

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

Get your views heard
send *Felix* a letter

felix@imperial.ac.uk

Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys. The star letter winner this week is a girl and doesn't want Blitzkrieg so its still up for grabs. If your a girl or just not a nerd then you could also win a CD album of your choice: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Miss C.

Star Letter

Attack of the Killer Telephone

Dear Miss Confidentiality, I am a medic who's currently on a psychiatry firm, and I'm really worried 'cause I'm every bit as crazy as the patients on the wards! I don't think I'll ever be a doctor if I get admitted for being nuts. What can I do?
Yours,
Angst

Dear Angst, Well you can start by breaking into the hospital pharmacy and taking a couple of sedatives: diazepam should do it, to calm yourself down. Feeling better? Good; then listen: you 'think' you're every bit as crazy as the patients - or did someone tell you? Now, I have a couple of medic mates and they may not be the most normal of people, but they aren't insane and they managed to fail the mini mental psychiatry tests. They all also tend to be total hypochondriacs (constantly self diagnosing). It seems that you also suffer from the same problem. I

mean, come on - unless you don't tend to binge drink and you've recently found yourself waking up in strange places with no recollection of the night before and covered in mud, or have developed a habit of standing above your sleeping flatmates with a knife waiting for them to wake up (or similar Norman Bates-like things), I really don't think you have a problem. Here's what Miss C. orders: finish your rotation; remember to take a breather; and try avoid spending more time than necessary in the psychiatry ward and I think you'll be just fine.

Fatty Fat Fat

Dear Miss C., I've managed to put on 4Kg in the past 3 weeks. Not too sure whether it's the daily curries, general takeaway meals or the boozy nights. Thing is, I didn't really mind - but now the other guys in hockey have started to mock me! What do you suggest?
Hugh Mongous

Dear Hugh Mongous, Well, your question isn't really the hardest thing in the world to answer! I'm pretty sure that all of the above are the cause of your increased weight. Although to be fair, if all you've been living off is takeaway meals and alcohol, then I'm impressed its only 4kg! My advice: try and eat more healthily and lay off the lard. Did you not watch super-size me? Cut down a bit on the booze as well, and that'll probably help. However if neither of these are really the solution that you're looking for then I'd just exercise a bit more. A couple more workout sessions etc. and the weight will be flying off and you'll be back to your normal size. As for your mates? Just challenge them to a drinking contest, it sounds like you've definitely had enough practice to drink them under the table. If you choose the exercise option, then you'll soon be running laps round them and then they'll be the ones with red faced.

I've Got the Munchies

Dear Miss C, The past two Fridays I've eaten lunch with a girl I've recently

met. I'm pretty sure that she has a boyfriend, but she never talks about him around me. If I'm interested in dating her should I bring the subject of her boyfriend up? Is she not talking about him because she doesn't want to scare off a potential friend or because she is interested in me? I'd just like to know what's on her mind. Is it ok to ask or will that make her uncomfortable?
Feeling Hungry

Dear Feeling Hungry, You want to know what's on her mind? Well the only way to do that is to ask her, I'm afraid. I'm an advice columnist sweetie, not a mind reader. Now normally it's the girls that over-think the situation, but in this case you've managed to top that chart. You're eating lunch with a friend, not planning a marriage. Have you thought that maybe as you don't know her boyfriend there's no real reason for her to talk to you about it? The best thing is to stay friends and get to know her better, I'm sorry but two lunches don't count for anything! If she likes you it will be more obvious! Girls really aren't that complicated. If you want to test the water, ask her out to another gathering with a group of mates, and just get to know her better on a personal level. Flirt with her, see if you get a reaction and work from there! Just take it one step at a time.

One Orgasm Too Far

Dear Miss C., I had such a strong orgasm when having sex with my boyfriend that I pooped myself. Frankly, it was disgusting. My boyfriend didn't say a word, but he must be disgusted, musn't he? What should I do?
Ashamed

Dear Ashamed, Don't worry, we all have moments when we let the moment take over. If he really loves you he should realise that you were just giving your all to the moment. However, if this happens again I would advice refraining from anal sex. It could be due to a medical condition, semi-latus rectum, but I suggest you go see your doctor ASAP.

Mystic stars

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



head as well?

What is that I spy in the heavens? Is it Venus? Or cupid! The arrow has struck your heart, but will love's poison infect your

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



innocent may in fact be the spider that's been hunting you.

A web of mystery has spun itself around your life! Beware of being the fly that has been caught. Something that looks

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Keep your wits about you though.

Look who's on top of the world this week, and why not! Fate's got its eye on you and has luck and love heading your way.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



nightlife! Get out there and shake that arse!!

There's a bright light shining down on you. No its not the mystic heavens sending you their blessings.... its London's neon

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



for the dentist.

Sugar and spice and all things nice. We all know what happens when we give into out sweet tooth. I'd schedule an appointment

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



week, instead concentrate on long term priorities.

What goes around comes around and this has been brewing for a while. Try not to be put off by the bad luck you have this

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



in!

Well, well, well...look whose been caught with their hand in the cookie jar. Well there's no shame when they are yours to eat! Dig

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



of you.

Slugs and snails and puppy dogs tails. Become one with nature this week, but don't be too surprised if canines seem wary

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



stomach it?

Who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? This rare delight is yours for the scoffing this week. The food may be fit for a king, but the company is like yesterday's leftovers. Can you

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



It's time to relax a little, after all life shouldn't be taken so seriously... you'll never escape it alive anyway!

You are about to embark on an interesting chapter in your life which you will embrace perhaps a little too cautiously.

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)



You'll have loads of people following in your footsteps.

It's about time you started acting like YOU! The turning point is coming.... it's time you go where there is no path and leave a trail for others to follow.

Libra (Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd)



attitude... I'm so jealous.

You're stuck in a rut, but I spy a gorgeous Leo who will elevate you out of your misery this week. You will begin to relish in your new 'Do I look like I care?!'



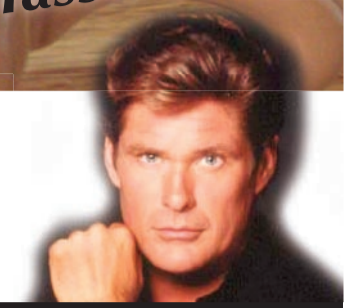
coffee break

with David Hasselhoff

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Return of The Hoff

The people have spoken - Hasselhoff is back, and hairier than ever.



Over the past few weeks we've been running a vote on who should be Coffee Break's new mascot, what

with us being bored of staring at The Hoff's inane grin and chiselled abs all day. Unfortunately I hadn't reck-

oned on the staggeringly immense popularity of The Hoff, and you've decided that you want him to stay.

Personally, I was looking forward to sexy ladies adorning the page, but as it is, there's another year of

the hairy freak to look forward to. Thanks guys.

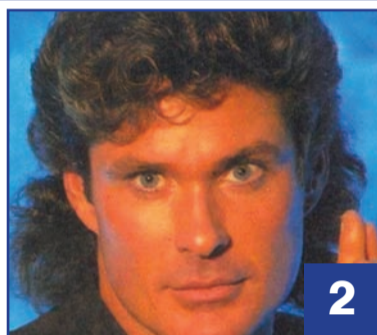
Hoff... Hoff... HOFF!

Well, we had to really. In celebration of the unending well of talent that is Senor Hasselhoff, it's a Hoff-fest this week.

Answer the questions, get two points. We know it's not a lot this week, so here's a Dot-to-Hoff to do while you're bored. Anyone who sends a completed Hoff to the Felix office gets ten points, and loses at life. Emails to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



1



2



3



4

David Hasselhoff is a singing sensation, with chart success all over the globe. But mostly Germany. How many albums has The Hoff released?

Drinking puts hairs on your chest, and also your head too from the look of this picture. The Hoff is all-too-fond of a drink, but can you tell us his favourite tippel?

Baywatch: Softcore porn for sand fetishists. Despite Hoff's slightly dodgy claims that the show saved lives, we all know how poo it was. Who's Hoff's co-star here?

No Hasselhoff feature is complete without his crotch. One for the ladies I think. The question practically writes itself. How big is Hoff's penis?



Dot-to-Hoff



5

Knight Rider was the pinnacle of Dave's career in my opinion. What was the name of Micheal Knight's 'boss' in the show?



6

The Hoff's finest hour: Knocking down the Berlin Wall. His lowest: Moaning about not getting enough credit. What's Hoff's full name?

- Answers 1331**
I Think We're Alone Now
 1. Wham! - Freedom
 2. Tiffany - I think we're alone now
 3. Bryan Adams - Summer of '69
 4. Queen - Don't stop me now
 5. Jackson 5 - Want you back
 6. The Proclaimers - 500 miles
 7. Kylie + Jason - Especially for you
 8. MC Hammer - Can't touch this
 9. The Monkees - Daydream Believer
 10. Chesney Hawkes - The one and only
 11. Adam Ant - Stand and Deliver
 12. The Hoff - Looking for Freedom

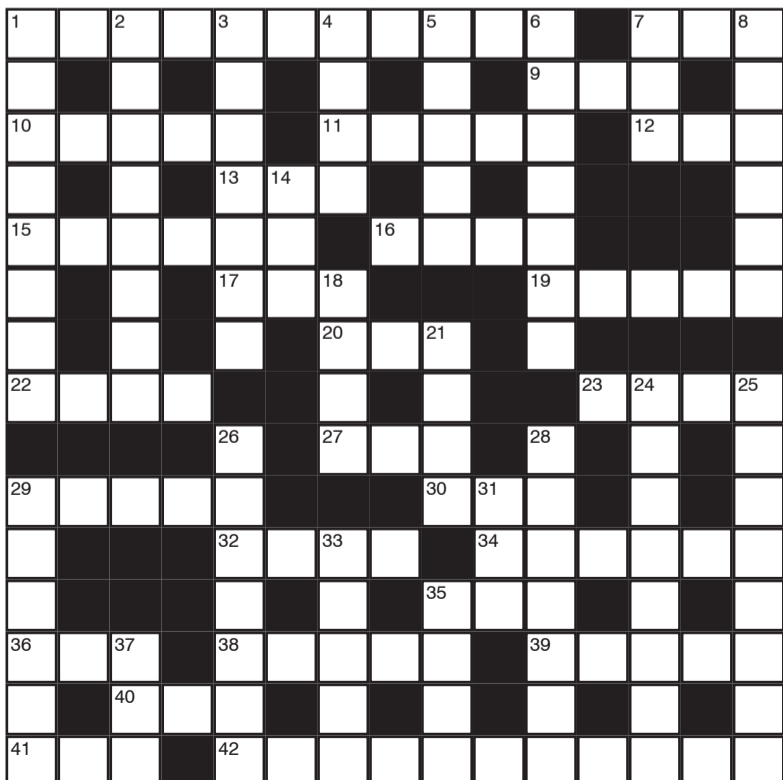
FUCWIT League 2005-2006

Darkshines	78
The Fantastic Four	75
Insert Name Here	73
Me, Myself & John Sargent	73
Cupid Stunts	72
Cockroach On Coke	71
Bernard Scumley Porno Queen	70
Norfolk 'n' Chance	69
Forever Throwing Doubles	68
The Schist Ones	39
Disgruntled Virgin	24
Caledonian Conspiracy	23

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Crossword 1333

by Luke Gibson



Across

1. First man on moon with hard substance for singer (4,7)
7. ATP provides energy for dance form (3)
9. Hearing Device stirred for time (3)
10. Rude gestures orbiting (5)
11. Enamel whisk loses its backing - a wash out (5)
12. Heavenly body loses its head (3)
13. Confusing an owl is below the belt (3)
15. Beginnings of European Community with a dwelling, what a treat (6)
16. School friends, harvests with reversed PR (4)
17. Beer well contained in this (3)
19. Concerning a confused U-boat (5)
20. Central American Noughts and Crosses gives muddled performance (3)
22. Deities shook up concerning how to make canines (4)
23. Prickly fish (4)
27. Uncouth mouth made from bog (3)
29. Scrambled a pint to cover a can-vas (5)

30. Squat starts Statistical Information Technology (3)
32. University has plenty of them, slab with a wayward direction (4)
34. Church of England joins Madrid team to start the day. (6)
35. Letter golfers need to start (3)
36. In public drinks can be bought here (3)
38. Uplift, artificial intelligence in rear seat entertainment (5)
39. Post Offices front Queen, what a show-off! (5)
40. Goad him into laying (3)
41. Not, we hear, occurring in formal dress (3)
42. Science of machine meeting wrong with out right (11)

Down

1. Digits lost feeling around emergency room (8)
2. Metal breather (4, 4)
3. Hate mixed silk in die (7)
4. A dying moon's recreation - start afresh? (4)
5. Good Queen comes to sudden end in Old Etonian embrace - heavy man! (5)

6. Expressionless college leader eats shuffle pad (4-3)
7. Rubbish which ever way you look at it (3)
8. Bird is made of average mould (6)
14. Either metal mineral (3)
18. Fierce group, retch around compass point (4)
21. Intoxicated bats open accounts at club (4)
24. After French have been on the slopes (5, 3)
25. Amphibian, male cow amphibian (8)
26. Fifty surrounded in rodent uprising, protected by their years, escaped! (2, 5)
28. French the following: high... (7)
29. Stroke young dog, but strings attached! (6)
31. Frost begins in cold England (3)
33. Second class finger decoration is fetching (5)
35. Next opportunity for a seabird, I hear (4)
37. Heard to exist, but bumbling (3)

SPORTS NIGHT

Every Wednesday

Free entry b4 9pm



£1.25 A pint!

Tetley, Carlsberg & Cider



In the UDH...

Bar Shisha



Entry £1 R.O.A.R
Student ID required

The Union advises you to drink responsibly

ROCK CITY

4th Nov 20.00-02.00

(bar shuts at 01.00)

Live music from:

TRAP 2



THE SLIDES



the SPIDER HOUSE



5 Pint jug of Snake bite and black for £5

(Dbs only) The Union advises responsible drinking.

ROAR
£3 Union £3.50 guest
£2 Ents card



Cheating medic scum humiliated!

Sam Styles



Mens Football

ICSM 4ths	1
Imperial College 7ths	7

Massacres have been a regrettably regular occurrence throughout the history of mankind, but few have been quite so ruthless and cold-blooded as the Sevenths brutal demolition of our home grown medic scum. If it had not been for the obligatory medic cheating, the score could easily have reached double, perhaps even treble figures.

In now traditional Sevenths fashion, we shot out of the blocks and for the third game in a row found ourselves in the fortunate position of being 3-0 up within 20 minutes. The first came within seconds of the kick off as Ian's corner was tapped in at the back post by a mystifyingly unmarked Jarlath. The second goal provided an answer to the eternal question: what happens when comedy defending meets comedy attacking? Answer: A comedy goal of course! Jack was played in from the right wing. A goal seemed a certainty until he produced a complete air-shot (a dummy? Whatever you say Jack...) the medics failed

to clear, however, and tiny, tiny Pas was on hand to belt the ball over the flailing keeper and into the goal. Inspirational leader Sam was on hand to score his third in as many games with a powerful drive from the edge of the box after more good work by Ian to make it 3-0 to the 7's.

At about this stage the clearly jealous medics realised that they had no chance of winning the game and started trying to break the sevenths players' wonderfully skilful legs (perhaps they wanted to perform some kind of leg transplant operation so that they could have a good football team aswell? Who knows...). These dirty tactics only proceeded to inspire the sevenths to new levels of absolute amazingsness and the score reached 5-0 before half time. First Pas won the ball in midfield and fed Jarlath, who having spotted that the goalie was sporting a pair of the very latest crisp-packet hands (all the rage in this year's ULU football leagues) proceeded to drill the ball straight through them. Jack assures me that he scored the 5th goal, which was bundled over the line after a goal mouth scramble. I, however, have decided that it was an own goal. Unlucky son.

The medics combination of being well rubbish and cheating made the half time team talk easy (just like the game, ha!) and the flow of goals continued after the break. Pas got his second after collecting a rebound from his own shot and then

completed his hat-trick with a beautiful left-footed finish from a wonderful through ball from Alan to make the score IC Sevenths 7 - Cheating medics 0. Easy! Easy! Easy! That is what the thousands of fans not present at Harlington would have been chanting if they both existed and had turned up.

Jack made the score 8-0 with a header from Paul's free kick but the cheating medics disallowed it for a "marginal offside"...Well... whatever, it was still 7-0. Somehow convinced that they hadn't already cheated enough, the medics then turned down the most blatant penalty ever after Ian beat 3 men and nutmegged a fourth before being kicked over in the box. I guess the medics thought 0-7 was a pretty respectable score, but 0-8 could not be allowed at any cost.

The focus now fell on the defence, who have been outstanding all season so far. Paul, Mo, Adie, Wongy and Alan wanted a clean sheet SO badly...but they didn't get one because they let the medics score after Ario got lobbed again. Was this the most miraculous comeback ever? Could the medics do it? 7 goals in 10 minutes? Don't be stupid. The game finished 7-1. IC were delighted with the win, the medics were delighted with the amount of cheating that they did. Everyone's a winner.

Easy victory for IC second XI

Andrew Kosinski

Mens Football

Imperial College 2nds	5
London Met 2nds	0

Can a team that plays in all purple be taken seriously? IC 2nds were about to find out, taking on the second team from a university that boasts 34,000 students. IC 2nds entered the game with their three previous matches featuring a mind-boggling total of 22 goals, lending the suggestion that goals were to be the order of the day. However, with over half of these goals in the 'Against' column the defence was beginning to get a reputation of being more like a colander than a sieve, perhaps even a net.

Barely five minutes had passed and it was already nil-nil, although IC 2nds were looking better value for their nil. Left-winger Chris Parrott was dribbling a lot and the opposition didn't like it - you could see it on their faces.

AK made a darting run and aided by a somewhat clumsy tack-

le, collapsed in the D like a pack of cards with acute angina. Up stepped Parrott who matter-of-factly curled the ball into the bottom-left corner of the goal. It was well executed, on the contrary to the London Met's shoot-to-score policy. Commendably, they were hitting the target but unfortunately for them, they had come across the wrong man. James Haugh in the IC nets was impregnable.

The fan didn't have much longer to wait until the second goal, which uncannily saw centre back Milad Toolabi running with the ball near the opposition corner flag and whipping in a superb cross. It was stylishly converted by Gready who wheeled away in obvious delight.

The start of the final 45 saw IC camped in their own half defending an almost endless succession of boring throw-ins, but the back four stayed awake, held firm and conceded nothing. The London Met captain may have pulled off one of his players at half time but even this could not serve to inspire his defenders to rise to the occasion and be more solid in the second half. London Met needed a cutting

edge as badly as Bill Oddie, whereas IC looked threatening with lots of possession in Met's half. This was rewarded when IC were awarded a penalty for a handball, and it was Gready who coolly slotted the ball into the bottom-left. Gready was the obvious choice for the pen once AK had ruled himself out of the running having just been nobbled by his opposite number, who may or may not have been deaf. By this stage Gready's ankle injury was starting to cause problems and AK still had a fresh pair of legs up his sleeve in the way of Perry, so the obvious straight-swap was made. The third goal caused Met to collapse like Paul Robinson's stock in Ramsay Street when it was revealed that he was a master embezzler and was knobbing everybody's missuses. Their heads had dropped and their knuckles had really begun to drag. It wasn't long before D.A.L. slotted home the fourth and Perry completed the rout with a well finished run on goal.

So to answer the question: London Met 2nds can be treated as seriously as well...Harchester United.

Encouraging start!

Celina Rughani

Netball

Royal Vets 3rds	16
Imperial College 3rds	19

After being disappointed on not getting to play the first scheduled match of the season due to a much delayed forfeit by Goldsmiths College, the Thirds went on to play their first ULU match last Wednesday. Making an extra effort to meet early, ensuring we reached Potters Bar on time...due to our somewhat sh*tte orienteering skills.

“Snatching a quick lead within the first few centres, the match got off to a great start”

On arriving at Potters Bar station the Royal Vet's were there waiting, and after a long drive through the country roads in a car that felt

like it was about to break-down any minute we made it to the courts in good time. Snatching a quick lead within the first few centres, the match got off to a great start...all the girls were in the zone and had the determination to prove to Jade we could win (a smart motivational tactic from the captain after a declaration that she thought we'd lose).

After the first half we were still holding onto a fab 8-6 lead, and still had the energy to keep the game in our hands. With the Vets looking tired and getting sloppy Imperial shot in there keeping possession of the ball and playing out the game at our own pace. Despite a few disputable calls from the Ref, Imperial still managed to keep the lead while commendably keeping the team spirit high!

Finishing the match with a win of 19-16, we endeavoured another dodgy car journey back to the station and on reaching home...made a well deserved visit to the union for a celebratory drink! Special congratulations to Tombo for winning player of the match and praiseworthy play from the rest of the girls!

We're Sailing Away!

Tom Sibley

Sailing

The Imperial College Sailing Club attended a competition at the Welsh Harp reservoir at Wembley last weekend. It was not a sort of competition that the Club are used to as it was an 'open', meaning that in addition to the usual student contingent, anyone and everyone could compete for the first prize. We had not attended this competition for the last two years but the last time we entered we managed 3 entries in the top ten. This year's team included 2 new members and only one member of last year's team, but despite the lack of experience of the Welsh Harp's quirky conditions, we were confident it wouldn't show.

“the team have to be congratulated for their efforts”

The competition comprised of four races, two either side of lunch. The wind conditions were light meaning that mistakes that were made were punished more severely than usual. The slow speed of the racing, allowed the least experienced of the team time to take in the intricacies of competitive racing and as the day went on, the performances lifted. The wind also lifted as the day went on and this change of conditions allowed the team a bit of variety in their sailing. The day finished with the Imperial College teams in 9th, 10th, and 12th. While not as impressive as our last visit, the team have to be congratulated for their efforts when you consider the lack of training we have had since the start of term.

As a club we will next be competing at Loughborough on the 3rd/4th December. The sailing is not the only fun part, as the competition has a reputation for its impressive post-sailing social events. If you are interested in sailing, from competitive racing to learning to sail, you can email us at sailing@imperial.ac.uk.



Imperial College Lodge

Interested in Freemasonry?

Contact: felix-ad@iclodge.org

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



sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Unlucky boys and girls

Samuel Phillips

RSM Hockey	2
London Strollers	5

A big thank you goes out to the London Strollers, our victorious opponents who showed that sportsmanship is far from dead. They're a great bunch of people and a really good club to play, so any other hockey people looking for mixed games should certainly look them up on the web. Thank you London Strollers. Firstly, the score was a little harsh I thought. Man of the Match was Tim. Special mentions go to Tom and Rachel.

It's never nice to lose 5-2 but everyone enjoyed playing and it was great to see so many people turn up, it was a great social event. The game started well with the teams trading goals and keeping level with each other. Some fast runs from the Strollers' right forward kept Man of the Match Tim very busy. In fact if you looked at the game you'd be hard pushed to put him in one position, as he was basically playing the entire left hand side. Charles Purshouse made a brilliant debut for the RSM in a holding centre mid role giving Mike and Tom the freedom to cause problems for the strollers' defence (how many goals was it you missed Tom?). This being a mixed event the ladies deserve a mention, Sarah and Susie putting in their usual high class performances gave the whole team a boost.



Ho-Yee put in another gritty showing for the RSM but unfortunately couldn't shake her marker. With our goalkeeper Kiran out for the next few months for surgery (we all wish him well and a speedy return) vice captain Rachel Kershaw stepped into the keepers kickers at the last minute and was faced with a difficult challenge from the Strollers' attack, and had to deal with an extremely well executed p-flick. Not to mention getting injured by her own captain in warm up, so thanks very much Rach. Tom should also be thanked for choosing to play for the RSM rather than one of the many other teams hankering after his skills. The second half was where the dam-

age was done and the fitness levels were laid bare, three goals in relatively quick succession saw the game change very quickly. Chances a plenty were had to even and turn the score line around but a lack of match sharpness (and maybe certain hangovers) meant we couldn't capitalise on them.

The post match festivities were every bit as enjoyable as the match and involved many a downed pint (with extras of course) and much alcohol was imbibed. Tip for our man of the match: your bed will be much more comfortable than the floor of the disabled toilets at the union the next time you want a nap after the game.

Brown on Sport

Stephen Brown
Sports Editor

Further to last weeks column for all those interested in the development of the facilities at Harlington I have some progress to report. Sport and Leisure as you all know have worked tremendously hard over the past few years to improve sports facilities for staff and students. You only have to look as far as our new sports centre to see this. The money secured by them for the new centre and the refurbishment of off-campus gyms means that Imperial is one of the leading British Universities when it comes to investment in sport. Not bad for an inner city campus!

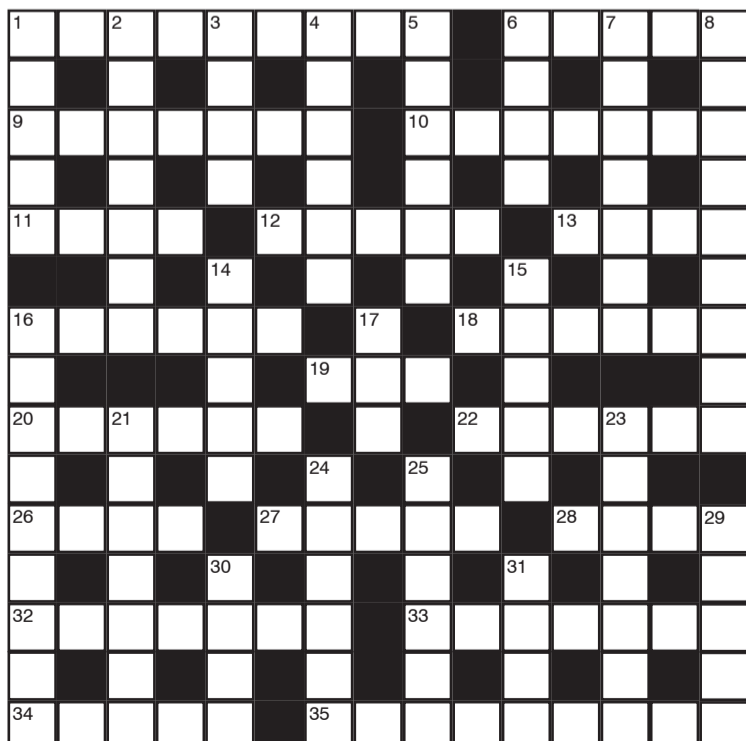
Having spoken to the staff at Sport and Leisure it turns out that a major stumbling block when it comes to erecting new floodlights is not just obtaining College funding but gaining planning permission from Hillingdon Council. The ground at first sight appears that it is in the middle of nowhere, it's only claim to fame being that it is smack bang in the middle of a flight path out of Heathrow. It turns out that there are a few houses from nearby Harlington village close to the east boundary. Obviously the concerns of residents must be taken in to account but a commonly held view is that surely a few additional pylons aren't that much of an eyesore? Floodlights occasionally used before bedtime shouldn't even register when you have planes flying overhead every few minutes seven days a week? Perhaps our pragmatism is someone else's tyranny so this would need to be examined in greater depth.

Not surprisingly support amongst students is unanimous. An unholy alliance of rugby, football and hockey clubs has formed over this issue. IC Hockey Captain Richard Bacon sums our position up very well, "If Imperial is going to try to establish itself much more prominently in the sports department, it's going to have to invest some money in facilities like better flood lights for everyone to encourage sports." Sport and Leisure again indicate that funding may be available for such a project. The College take great pride in the success of our sports teams and their investment in our indoor facilities shows their commitment to our athletes. Harlington is an excellent facility and it is important that we work with College to ensure that it reaches its full potential. This will not just be for our own benefit, but also for subsequent generations of IC sportspeople.

Now to close on a different matter. We are now a month into term and I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to *Sports Felix*. As ever we are always looking for new writers, especially amongst the niche sports who are neglected by mainstream coverage. Even just a piece telling readers more about your sport we want to know. I feel urged to make this plea as I recognise that football match reports seem to be dominating this term. Perhaps I'm a little too good at haranguing my fellow footballers in to churning out match reports. I've got no desire to turn our sports section into a fanzine for my own club and really would appreciate contributors from a far wider variety of sports.

Quick Crossword

by Cactus



Across

- 1. Night before All Saints Day (9)
- 6. Hand in Adams Family (5)
- 9. Fun exercise (7)
- 10. Festive vegetable (7)
- 11. African tree making butter (4)
- 12. Festive bush (5)
- 13. Play bricks (4)
- 16. Australian airline (5)
- 18. Whitish face (6)
- 19. Energy (3)
- 20. An embodiment (6)
- 22. Rot (6)
- 26. Amphibian (4)
- 27. Wood nymph (5)
- 28. Square area (4)
- 32. Uncontrolled (7)
- 33. Festive blaze (7)
- 34. Distraction (5)
- 35. Festival (9)

Down

- 1. Pluto (5)
- 2. Caged light (7)
- 3. Of the ear (4)
- 4. Festive drink (6)
- 5. Slippery cocktail (6)
- 6. Burial place (4)
- 7. Special reservoir (7)
- 8. Explosive (9)
- 14. Measure of mass (5)
- 15. BBC killer robot (5)
- 16. In four pieces (9)
- 17. Unit (3)
- 21. Pale (7)
- 23. Atomic number 69 (7)
- 24. Sexy (6)
- 25. Keep (a secret) (6)
- 29. Robe (5)
- 30. Broad (4)
- 31. Opening of alimentary canal (4)



Continue watching this space!

Big changes next week