



100% record intact,
Imperial overcomes
their frustrations with
a 3-1 win
page 26

Post-rock champions,
*Explosion In The
Sky* and beatmaker
extradordinaire
Four Tet
page 24



page 8
Harry returns to Hogwarts, complete with
dragons, mermaids and teenage angst



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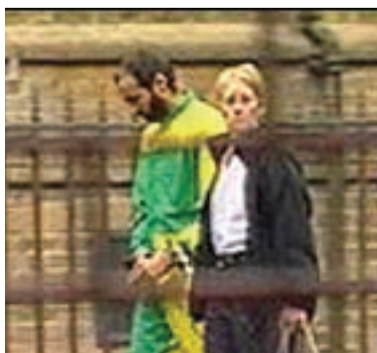
Clarke orders Babar Ahmad extradition

Former Imperial student and staff member to face US trial on alleged terrorism offences

Rupert Neate
Editor

Charles Clarke, Home secretary has order the extradition of Babar Ahmad. The 31 year old former Imperial College computer technician is accused of running terrorist-supporting websites and recruiting new members for terrorist organisations in Chechnya and Afghanistan. The US Department of State has claimed that websites run by Mr Ahmad urged Muslims to use "every means at their disposal" to train for jihad, or holy war.

The home office said it had "given full consideration" to representations made on Mr Ahmad's behalf. Mr Ahmad, speaking from Woodhill prison in Milton Keynes said: "This decision should only come as a surprise to those who thought that there was still justice for Muslims in Britain. I entrust my affairs to Allah and His Words from the Quran". His family have said they will be appealing the extradition at the



Britain extradites Babar Ahmad to the U.S despite possibility he could face the death penalty



Imperial College Union has supported a fair trial of Mr Ahmad in the UK

High Court.

On 17 May magistrates ruled Ahmad should be extradited, but the decision was only approved by Charles Clarke, the Home Secretary, on Tuesday 15 November. The extradition order comes under new anti-terror legislation, which came into force in January 2004. The new legislation is designed to speed up extradition of terror suspects and the laws do not require US prosecutors to present a prima facie case.

Mr Ahmad supporters, including a large contingent from Imperial, are dismayed at the decision. Sameena Misbahuddin, Union President said: "Union Council set policy to support Babar having a fair trial in the UK and it's disappointing that after our students' efforts, which were

most prominent last year, it hasn't prevented the Home Secretary's decision. Our policy still stands, so he continues to be supported by the Union."

The Muslim Council of Britain said, "If our government has any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Babar Ahmad then he should be charged in this country and put on trial here".

The Labour MP for Tooting, Sadiq Khan, believes Mr Ahmad should face trial in the UK: "The allegations are that Babar Ahmad committed these criminal offences whilst in the UK, whilst a British citizen and whilst in London - if that is the case, the obvious question is why can't and why shouldn't he be tried in the UK?"

Lawyers acting for Mr Ahmad are concerned that he could face the death penalty if he is sent to the US and then transferred to military jurisdiction. At the extradition hearing in May, Senior district judge, Timothy Workman, said that the risks of the death penalty were "negligible".

Imperial College Union has been campaigning for Mr Ahmad's release since December 2004. On the day of the extradition hearing, Colin Smith, former Welfare Campaigns Officer said, "The fight isn't over until the last protester lets go of the wheels of the aeroplane that takes Babar off to the US."

Leader, page 19

ULU Council chair sent packing

Rupert Neate

On 15 November ULU (University of London Union) council passed a Motion of No Confidence in the council chair, Luca Manfredi, as a result of homophobic remarks.

As previously reported in *Felix* (1333) Manfredi posted homophobic messages on a UCL internet message board. Comments he made included, "I would take out a big gun and shoot my gay son".

Nicky Grant, (ULU Vice President of Welfare and Student Affairs) who proposed the motion made an impassioned speech: "ULU believes that every student has the right to study in an environment free from prejudice, no one should have to study in fear. There is no justification for threats of violence to other individuals... The strength of feeling expressed by students leads us to resolve that we have no confidence in the chair".

Luca Manfredi admitted a great deal of "stupidity" on his part and said "if I could turn back time, I would and stop myself saying what I said."

In a rather bizarre speech Jason Peachy, ULU LGBT Officer, compared Manfredi's delayed expression of remorse to that of Hitler in Mein Kampf. He said that "if my father had took these views I wouldn't be here now". He implied that the issue maybe of extra relevance to council delegates as "at least 25% of the people present are gay".

While no delegates condoned Manfredi's comments, some thought that the Motion was inap-

Continued on page 2

felix 1,335

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NEWS

No confidence in homophobe

continued from page 1

appropriate as he made the comments before he came into office. Musatafa Arif, former President of ICU said, "it would set a dangerous precedent to no confidence people on stuff that happened before they came into office". However, other delegates suggested that someone with such extreme views is not suitable to represent a diverse body of students.

Many delegates questioned why it had taken Manfredi so long to issue an apology. Chris Heathcoat from LSE asked whether he was "doing it to keep your job, or do you mean it?". Manfredi said he was not doing it "just to hang onto my job", but later in the Malet street bar he admitted his apology was "all bullshit".

The motion was passed with 27 votes in favour of the motion, 5 delegates voted against, one of whom was Mustafa Arif. Sarah Khatib, ICU Deputy President (Education & Welfare) was among 5 delegates who abstained from voting. For the motion to pass a two-thirds majority was required so in effect an abstention is a vote against as each abstention reduces the fraction of votes in favour of the motion.

Alon Orbach, of Imperial, expressed dismay at Khatib's



Council have No Confidence in Luca 'I would kill my gay son' Manfredi

decision to abstain, "We elect our Welfare Officers to take a stand against discrimination in all its forms. Abstaining from a vote of no confidence in the ULU Chair who has made homophobic remarks, making it easier for the motion to be defeated, is a neglect of duty. Our Welfare Officers should be passionate advocates of equality in our universities; we don't expect them to

stand back and plead impartiality." Sameena Misbahuddin, Imperial College Union President, who was not present and therefore could not vote on the issue told Felix, "to make such comments as he did against any part of community is unacceptable, - especially for someone holding a position like he does."

Leader, page 19

Is the end nigh for the University of London?

Ryan Dee

If Imperial's intentions to leave the University of London weren't enough to precipitate its break-up then the Quality Assurance Agency's (QAA) concerns about the University's degree awarding powers should certainly help. The QAA, the organisation responsible for improving standards in higher education, seems to have doubts as to how UL can award degrees when it has nothing to do with teaching or setting the standards for them. These doubts have led to the QAA refusing to give the university a vote of broad confidence.

The University of London's vice-chancellor, Sir Graeme Davies, has entered into talks with the QAA to try and convince them to give the university a vote of confidence. If the QAA decide not to, the UL's international reputation would be badly damaged, which may cause many of the colleges that make up the UL to breakaway.

The QAA, while approving of the quality of degrees awarded by the constituent colleges of UL, is unsure of the university's precise role in awarding degrees. Sir Graeme believes that the QAA has not understood how the university is structured: "There has been a misunderstanding of how the federal university works. The university is the colleges and the colleges are the university" is how Sir Graeme explains it. He argues that if the QAA are satisfied with the colleges then that should extend to the rest of the university. He believes that it is immaterial who awards the degree as long as the degree is of a high standard.

Proponents of Imperial's separa-



The QAA has refused to give ULU a vote of broad confidence.

tion from UL might disagree. It could be argued that a degree from Imperial will be better recognised by potential employers than a UL degree. It is unlikely that Imperial's reputation as an institution would be affected by the change.

Imperial's most senior committee meets on December 9th to decide whether Imperial will award its own degrees; the future of the University of London is in the balance. If QAA does not give a vote of confidence to UL and Imperial decides to effectively leave the university, it's unlikely that UL will live to see out 170 years.

Wye update

In last week's *Felix* (1334) we stated that the University of Kent was taking over at Imperial's Wye campus. However, Professor Leszek Borysiewicz, Deputy Rector of Imperial College, has told *Felix* that "Wye continues to be an important part of the College and we remain committed to it for the long-term."

While the Faculty of Life Sciences closed down land-based courses there due to financial necessity, a separate review is examining other ways in which the campus can be best used".

Imperial is currently in discussion with the University of Kent over the delivery of Applied Business Management (ABM), the only undergraduate course currently recruiting at Wye. The proposal, which is subject to ratification by the governing bodies of both institutions, states that the 2007 student intake on this course would be taught by Kent and Imperial staff on the Wye campus, under appropriate financial agreements.

New students enrolling from 2007 would receive a University of Kent degree and, in recognition of Imperial's ongoing involvement, Associateship of Wye College.

Existing ABM students - and those accepted for a place in 2006 - would continue to receive a University of London degree and Associateship of the Royal College of Science from Imperial. ABM academic staff based at Wye would transfer to University of Kent, but retain honorary links with Imperial. This agreement covers only the ABM degree and does not alter Imperial's continued presence at the Wye campus.

Contrary to Wye students complaints of poor communication from College, Sir Leszek said, "Student union representatives have been consulted by the Faculty of Life Sciences."



Strewth!

"That mongrel Paul Robinson. Some real monkey business going on with him and Izzie. I really wish she would rack off and give the old doc some space to get things on with Susan."

Page 23 ►



Forbidden treasures at the RA

Fungus, scrolls and moon worship? No, this isn't Harry Potter.

Page 12 ►

This Week

Science	4	Arts	12
Film	8	Music	14
Nightlife	16	Comment	18
Environment	10	Leader & Letters	19

Sudoku No 1,335

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. Email your solution to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 11 November 4pm. When we will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. Last week's winner was Jason Kilmach.

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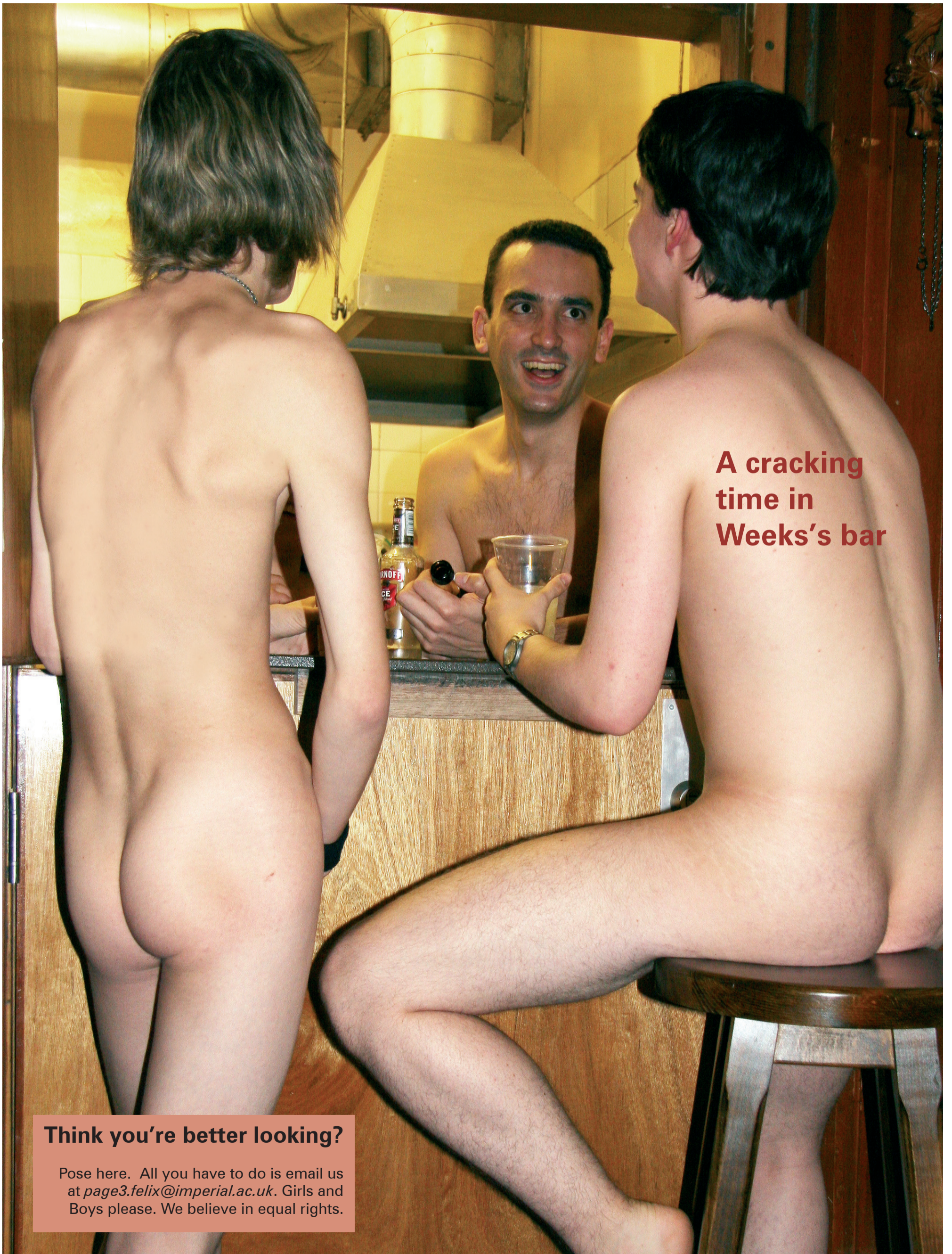


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science

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Astronomers to start listening to the universe

João Medeiros reports on advances in the quest for gravitational waves.

Although they work in the night hours, astronomers crave for a little light from distant stars to learn about the universe. That dependency is coming to an end. "For centuries we have been building better telescopes to look at the sky, but it's time we listen to it as well," says Karsten Danzmann, director of the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Hannover. He believes the discovery of a new form of radiation – gravitational waves – is imminent.

Gravitational waves are a prediction of Einstein's 90-year-old theory of gravity. Unlike electromagnetic waves, which travel through the medium of space-time, gravitational waves are a distortion of space-time itself, a possibility that even Einstein didn't believe.

"For centuries we have been building better telescopes to look at the sky, but it's time we listen to it as well," says Karsten Danzmann.

Astronomers are more trustful of Einstein's equations these days. "Although there is still no direct evidence, no one really doubts that gravitational waves exist," says Danzmann. The first indirect evidence for gravitational waves came in 1973 from two astronomers in Princeton, Russell Hulse and Joseph Taylor. They made observations of a pair of neutron stars revolving around each other in short and fast orbits and were able to confirm that they were losing energy at exactly the same rate as predicted from gravitational waves. The significance of their discovery was awarded with a Nobel prize 20 years later.

However, direct evidence will require more than just telescopes. "If you look at a massive star exploding somewhere in our vicinity, not too far away but also not too close, the resulting gravitational waves will squeeze space by one part in 1,000,000,000,000,000,000. This means that our detector of 1 km would be squeezed by 1/1000 of the proton diameter. And that unfortunately only takes a few milliseconds. So you really have to listen rather closely," says Danzmann.

The stringent requirement for sensitivity explains why scientists are only just now getting optimistic about the possibility of detecting this novel type of radiation. The enterprise started in the sixties with

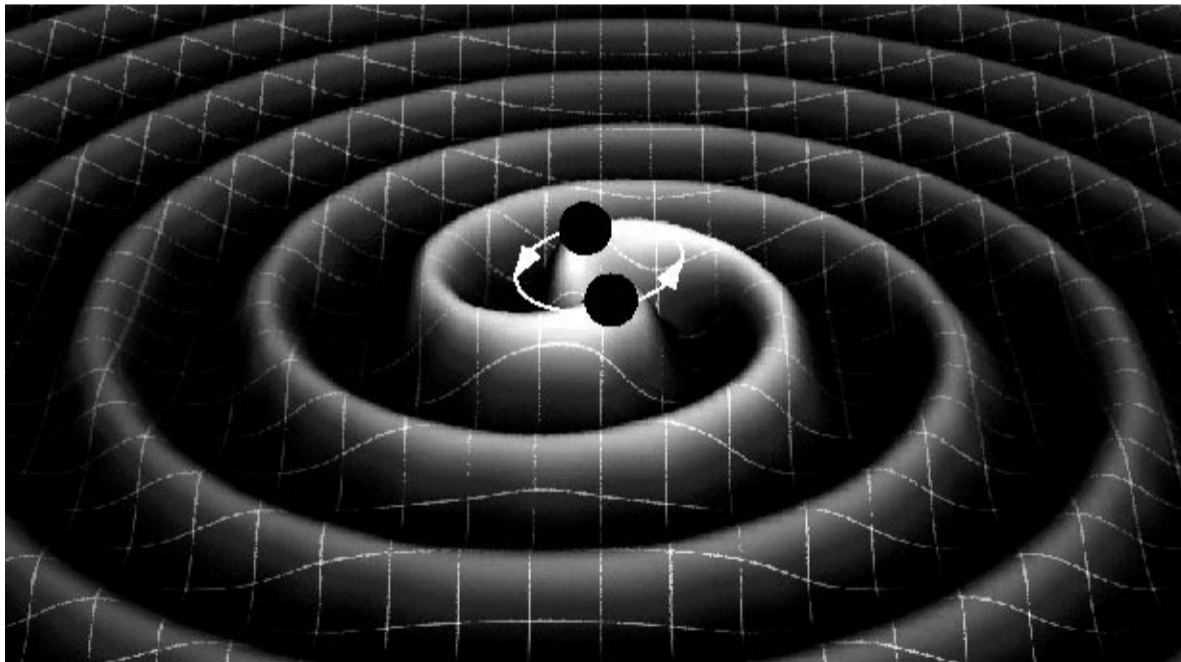
Joseph Weber, at the University of Maryland. He developed a detector essentially consisting of a large aluminium bar suspended in a vacuum, which a gravitational wave would cause to oscillate almost imperceptibly. The method was crude, and the sensitivity was a few notches below the target. Although Weber did publish results claiming detections, they were never confirmed later on by more sensitive instruments. Nevertheless, his work opened up the whole new possibility of listening to the sky. "The analogy works rather well. Our ears are able to capture sounds coming from all directions

Recently, a flurry of activity was reported in the Louisiana LIGO detector, but the hurricane Katrina is not exactly a gravitational wave. Two events within a short period of time on different facilities either in the USA or Europe will be required to confirm a clear detection because of spurious local effects that can affect the detectors such as tornadoes or earthquakes.

Once these waves are detected astronomers hope to be listening to a part of the universe they know very little about. "The part of the universe that is radiating gravitational waves is complementary to

ous emitters of gravitational waves. Also, gravitational waves have the advantage of not being absorbed like electromagnetic radiation. That will allow astronomers to look further into the past, beyond an era when the universe was so dense that no light from back then ever reached us. "With gravitational waves the universe is completely transparent, so in principle we will be able to look straight into the Big Bang", says Danzmann.

And of course, there's the stuff we don't know about. "We will really only know about sources of gravitational waves from gravitational



Gravitational waves are distortions of the fabric of space-time that will allow astronomers to study a previously unexplored part of the universe. Image credit: K Thorne (Caltech), T Carnahan (NASA GSFC)

without having to turn our heads, and so does a gravitational wave detector", says Danzmann.

Today, state-of-the-art detectors use high precision lasers to monitor minute shifts in the distance between two weights located perpendicular to each other and free to move horizontally. An incoming gravitational wave will cause them to move a subatomic distance with respect to one another. They are kept in rooms whose atmosphere is cleaner than in hospital surgeries and inside the world's largest vacuum systems to ensure that stray gas molecules will not affect the measurements.

The USA spent \$365m over the last six years building two kilometre-sized detectors in Louisiana and Washington called LIGO (Laser Interferometry Gravitational Wave Observatory). They have been looking for gravitational waves since 1999 and will soon be joined by two other detectors in Europe: GEO600 (Germany) and VIRGO (Italy).

the one that is emitting light. All we know about the universe we know from light, electromagnetic waves, where matter is diluted and moving slowly. Gravitational waves are emitted in regions where matter is extremely dense and moving at near-light speeds, and that's a part of the universe that is not emitting light," says Danzmann.

"Recently, a flurry of activity was reported in the Louisiana detector, but the hurricane Katrina is not exactly a gravitational wave."

The confirmation of one of Einstein's predictions may well lead to the discovery of another. Black holes haven't been detected yet because they emit no light; however, they can be rather boister-

ous, so who knows?"

The optimism is such that scientists have already set their eyes, or better ears, on the future. The US Presidential budget to congress for 2008 has already commissioned an update of the LIGO facilities for 15 times more sensitivity – a fit that not even the Hubble telescope achieved – in a project called Advanced LIGO. And then in 2013 the gravitational wave detectors will be taken off to space on a mission called LISA. LISA's sensitivity will be so large that the problem then will be discerning gravitational wave sources from each other.

By then, no matter what the outcome, there will be a detection. "By the time we reach Advanced LIGO, if we don't detect anything, then we'll start wondering whether there's something wrong with our ideas. And if LISA doesn't detect gravitational waves, that's a detection in itself. It will clearly mean there's something wrong with our models of the universe," says Danzmann.

Imperial News

New TB test scoops top prize at Medical Futures competition

The launch of the European An inexpensive and rapid test for tuberculosis (TB) which could be used in developing countries has won first place in the Best Innovation to Improve Global Healthcare category of the Medical Futures Innovation Awards. It also scooped the overall prize at the awards ceremony held last week in London.

Dr David Moore, from Imperial College London, and the winner of the Award said: "This test can be carried out using cheap and readily available tools and requires relatively little training or expertise. This is particularly important in developing countries which may not have the infrastructure we take for granted in the developed world."

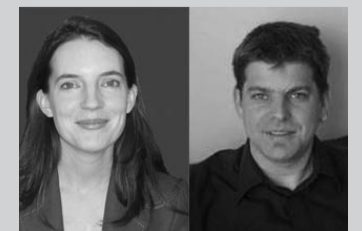


Imperial academics win Leverhulme prizes

Dr Molly Stevens, a Reader in the Department of Materials, and Dr Sebastian Uchitel, a Lecturer in the Department of Computing, have each been awarded Philip Leverhulme prizes worth £50,000.

Dr Stevens's team has been able to engineer large quantities of bone, using a novel approach which uses the body as a "bioreactor". The researchers hope this method could be used to generate new bone for transplantation into patients.

Dr Uchitel's work addresses the problems associated with designing large-scale complex software systems. His approach to the problem uses automated techniques for both building and analysing models in an incremental manner, to provide a powerful design tool.



SCIENCE

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Why are we who we are?

Amber Bauer reports on Dana's latest nature versus nurture debate.

A child's IQ is tested and is found to be at genius levels, while another child in the same classroom struggles, exhibiting inattention and hyperactivity. Later in life, one of these children develops Alzheimer's and slowly begins to forget who she is.

It has been said that 'the mind works in mysterious ways'. But how much of this mystery can be solved by looking at the genes that we inherit from our parents and how much by looking at the environment that we were raised in?

"Mothers send messages to their growing child that allow the baby to predict the environment it is likely to live in after birth."

On 8 November at the Dana Centre, three psychologists attempted to clarify to what extent the genes we inherit impact the development of our brains, our behaviour and our susceptibility to disease, and to what extent the environment influences our development.

Bruce Hood, a professor of developmental psychology at the University of Bristol, researches social atten-

tion in infants. According to him, both genes and environment play a large role in development. Genes operate within environments, he said. Neurons in the brain come relatively pre-configured in their function at birth, but they are designed to respond to stimuli in the baby's environment. It's almost as though nature has built in an expectancy to these environmental stimuli, Hood said.

Mark Hanson, director of the Centre for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease at the University of Southampton, researches the influence of our past on our health, behaviour and risk of disease. According to him, there are numerous 'pasts' to study. The path of human evolution illustrates our distant past, while our more recent past relates to our neo-natal environment.

According to Hanson, a mismatch between pre-natal and adult environmental conditions leads to greater risk of disease. Therefore, if the foetus receives poor nutrition in the womb and grows up to eat a very high-calorie diet, for example, then the person has a much greater risk of becoming obese, having heart disease, etc.

In a paper published in *Science* in September 2004, Hanson contended that mothers send messages to their growing child that allow the baby to predict the environment it is likely

to live in after birth. The foetus then adapts its physiological development to ensure it has the best chance of survival in that expected future environment. For example, if a mother is extremely stressed during pregnancy, she conveys the message that it's a dangerous world to her unborn child, influencing the child's stress responses later in life.



An artistic interpretation of nature versus nurture. Image: © David Ho

Sir Michael Rutter, a professor of developmental psychopathology at King's College London, is doing a

long-term study on children adopted from Romania by UK families. These children were brought up in deprived conditions in the institutional system in Romania and were adopted by "slightly better than average" British families, he said.

Rutter's research is looking into how these deprived conditions after birth affect these children's development. The most significant finding is that children who were in these deprived conditions for less than six months showed no more impairments than children in the general population. These impairments included autistic-like patterns, intellectual impairments, inattention and hyperactivity. After living for six months in these conditions, however, children exhibited higher than normal levels of multiple impairments.

These findings show that it takes a bit for these conditions to register, Rutter said. But once they do, their effects are significant and hard to reverse.

Overall, the psychologists agreed that both nature and nurture play a large role in the development of the brain. So it seems that in most cases we are who we are because of our parents, no matter which way we look at it.

The next Dana Centre program is "Einstein's greatest theory" on 22 November at 7pm.

News in Brief

Link lost with asteroid robot
Japan's space agency has lost contact with a robotic probe that it dispatched to explore the surface of an asteroid, according to reports. The small probe called Minerva was released from its mothership Hayabusa on Saturday, but officials say its "current status is still unknown". Hayabusa is hovering near asteroid Itokawa, in preparation to collect surface samples for return to Earth. It should begin its return voyage to Earth next month to arrive in 2007.



Technical hitch delays Ariane 5
The launch of Europe's Ariane 5 rocket - initially due on Saturday in French Guyana - has been delayed by several days following a technical hitch. Operator Arianespace says it will move the rocket from its launch pad to work on the unspecified problem. A spokeswoman says a new launch date is unlikely before Tuesday. The heavy-lift vehicle was set to blast-off carrying its largest payload yet of two telecoms satellites weighing more than eight tonnes.



UK sites in acid rain 'recovery'
Some of the UK's most environmentally sensitive upland lakes and streams are recovering from the impact of acid rain, the government has said. Acidic sulphur in Britain's water has generally halved in the last 15 years, according to new research showed.



NASA astronaut at Imperial

On 19 December 1999, under clear and starry skies at the Kennedy Space Centre, the space shuttle Discovery lifted off at 18:50 CST, lighting up the central Florida coastline, to send Commander Curt Brown, Pilot Scott Kelly, and 5 mission specialists on a two-day chase to catch and retrieve the 12-tonne Hubble Telescope. At the time of launch Hubble was sailing over Eastern Africa and had been in hibernation since the loss of a gyroscope in November that year. Hubble's need for precise orientation to carry out its scientific work requires at least three out of the six on-board gyroscopes to be in order. After the failure in November that year it only had two and, although safely sleeping in orbit, was inoperative.

Two days later, when Discovery reached a point about half a mile away and directly beneath the telescope, Scott Kelly and Commander Brown took manual control of the Shuttle to gently manoeuvre the 110-tonne orbiter to within feet of Hubble and capture it with a robotic arm. Once the telescope had been secured in the payload bay, the crew released the arm and used it to perform a television survey of Hubble's exterior. After three servicing spacewalks the telescope's redeployment took place at an altitude of 370 statute miles. As the two spacecraft flew over the South Pacific's Coral Sea, Hubble's aper-

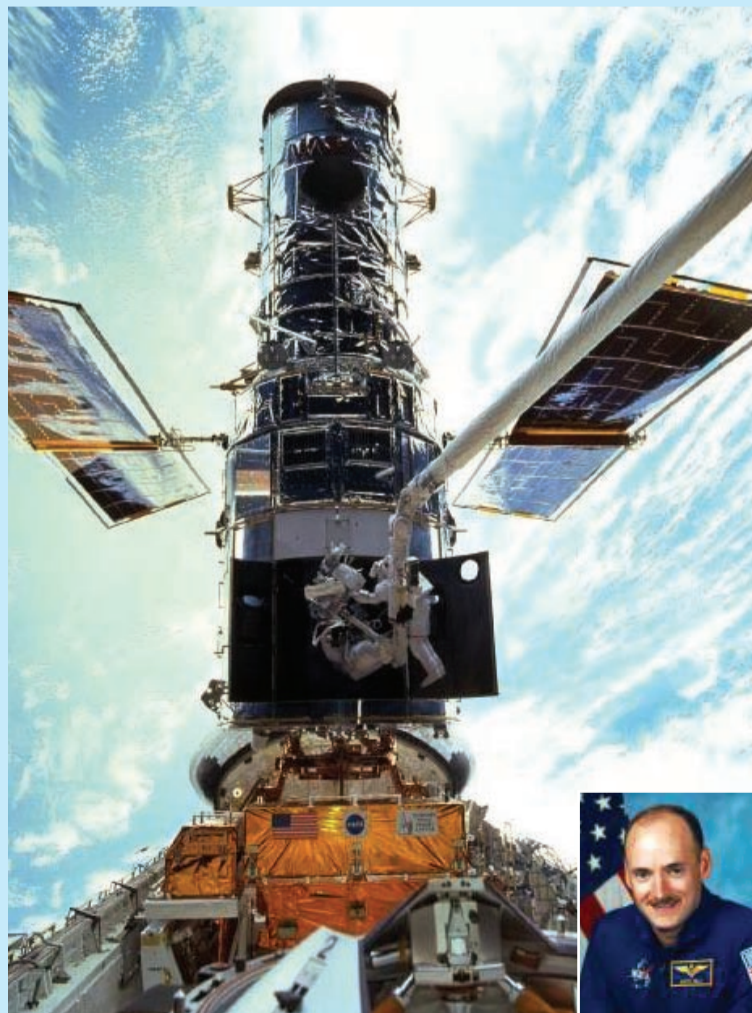
ture door opened to the heavens once more. That night the crew went to bed just before midnight shuttle time and woke to a day of preparations for landing. After seven days in space Discovery was in a 363 by 380 statute mile orbit with all systems on board performing well.

Six years later we have the pleasure of welcoming Scott Kelly to Imperial to give a talk about his experience in space and the future of NASA's space programme. He will also try to persuade us that we have made the right decision by choosing to study science, and that society needs scientists and engineers like us. Astronaut Kelly is assigned to be the commander of the STS-118 mission to the International Space Station to install solar power arrays when the Shuttle fleet returns to flight in the near future.

The event is organised with the help of the International Space School Educational Trust (www.issset.org), who are Scott's hosts in the UK, the Imperial College Astronomy Society and Imperial's Outreach Office.

Ivan Minev
IC Astronomy Society President

The lecture will take place on Monday 21 November in the Sir Alexander Fleming building, Lecture Theatre 1 at 5pm. Everyone is welcome.



Above: the STS-103 space shuttle mission aircraft. Inset: Scott Kelly.

SCIENCE

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Those who con, teach?

A revolutionary approach to science education is being trialled in West Midlands schools, prompted by the upsurge of interest in 'teaching the controversy' by some American education board officials.

In October 2004 a decision was made by US education board officials in the Dover district of Pennsylvania to provide more balance to curriculum coverage of the origins of life. Classroom time formerly devoted to the theory of evolution would have to be shared with studies of Intelligent Design – a rival explanation of the origins of life, fast gaining proponents within the scientific community. The move has since created waves within the more forward-thinking science departments on this side of the Pond.

"Frankly, we were wondering why we'd never thought of it ourselves," says Gideon Lightbody, Telford County Council Secondary Schools science coordinator. "They started by teaching the controversy over the theory of Evolution, but why take any of the so-called 'truths' of science for granted, when we can give our children more rounded educations. 'Teach The Controversy' – TTC – it's our new slogan."

To this end, the slogan has been assiduously applied to Litchfield's secondary schools' science curricula. Evolution was the obvious starting point, but their new educational maxim has been taken further by the likes of Karen Roe, Deputy Head-Teacher at Fairfield Comprehensive:

"We now teach the controversy over the outdated sun-centred view of the solar system, and we're currently revising the chemistry and first-aid curricula. Alchemy, for the first time in three centuries, has finally made a return to the classroom." Ms Roe admits, however, that putting the new system into practice hasn't been plain sailing: "The lab sessions on capturing Phlogiston didn't go that well, to be honest, and we had complaints from parents when a boy passed out after the school nurse used bloodletting to treat his ADHD."

In spite of these difficulties, and the recent decision in Dover county to vote out many of the Intelligent Design-friendly school board members, Ms Roe is bullish. "The State of Kansas recently decided to redefine science as not limited exclusively to natural explanations. We've taken one step back and two steps forward." As Gideon Lightbody puts it, "If we crack those duff ideas about gravity, there'll be no stopping us."

Duncan Mcmillan

Pills to make you normal?

Natalie Heng reviews the Dana Centre's debate on drugs and the brain.

I arrived at the Dana Centre five minutes before 7pm at the front end of the building to find that I had no seat booked. "No problem, go through," the lady at the ticket desk said smiling, so I descended down some stairs to an area small enough to have an involved debate between all the people in the room, but large enough to be comfortable. A bar behind me, selling drinks and snacks, promoted the idea of a more social, engaging environment. People sat at round

one who is an expert in the field.

The discussions got off to a rather subdued start as the first expert, Clare Stanford, a Psychopharmacologist from University of London was introduced and began speaking about her views on drugs and the brain. She seemed to feel on the whole quite positive about the future of drugs in solving mental health issues: if women can take "the pill" all their lives, and be quite happy

halfway house between the two, and spoke with a calm, contemplative observation of his opinions on the matter.

The evening's audience was interesting. A nurse who works with the NHS questioned the cost-effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy, to which Peter Kinderman replied that even if such therapies were more time-consuming in the beginning, compared to popping a

pill. Peter Tyrer commented on the pharmaceutical industry's talent for picking up on what may come in more extreme forms, for example, severe cases of social anxiety disorder, and then turning it into a lucrative business opportunity where dozens of people who just happen to be quite shy can now go out and buy 'medication' to cure their 'disorders'.

The evening ended up involving some good discussion: there were two people who confessed to suffering from depression and said that medication had been a great help to them despite its side effects. It was brought up by Peter Kinderman that 50% of people apparently say that the side effects are just as bad as the having the disorder itself. However, mixed opinion seemed to be present about the use of drugs if they could help induce a 'normal', or more comfortable state.

At the beginning of the night, the audience was asked to vote on whether drugs are beneficial to the individual suffering from a disorder, and also if they are beneficial to society. Originally, most people said 'agree a little bit' on both questions, with a second majority going with 'agree', and a third with 'neither agree nor disagree'. At the end of the night, a second chance to vote varied the statistics only slightly, with the overall opinions being maintained.

All in all, it was a well worthy night. Anyone who wants a stimulating evening and loves a good debate, or is interested in the topic, or simply wants an 'alternative' night out with friends, should check out future events at the Dana Centre. Places do need to be booked, but if you can't get a space, there's always the opportunity of watching it live on their website, www.danacentre.org.uk.

"If women can take 'the pill' and be quite happy about its side effect, why not change your brain chemistry with drugs if they alleviate illness?"

tables where they could meet other people and presumably, by the end of the night, end up having enthusiastic discussions, maybe over some wine and some ammo from the actual panel of experts. The whole ambience of the room set off a funky, new-age type feel with modern décor. A large glass wall looking onto the outside of the building with bits of writing on it loomed just behind the panel of speakers, and the interior was painted a bright yellow to give it a far from outdated aura.

The event, "Drugs and the brain: pills to make you normal", is part of a series exploring the future of brain research, sponsored by the Wellcome Trust. Any layperson can come, and the discussions would undoubtedly attract not just people who are already interested or involved in the topics discussed, but also students and people who want to get a first-hand opinion of some-



Your brain on drugs – do we need pills to keep us normal?

about the various side effects it has, then why not change your brain chemistry with drugs if they alleviate or help the symptoms of a mental illness? The next speaker, Peter Kinderman, Clinical Psychologist at the University of Liverpool, spoke lively about his belief that a more hands-on psychological approach involving working through possible social factors causing the issue may yield more lasting results in certain situations where the diagnosis is not completely physical, for example, depression. The third speaker, Peter Tyrer, Psychiatrist from Imperial College London, seemed to be at a

pill of Prozac, they could have longer-lasting effects and take away the dependence on pills with all their nasty side effects. He suggested that perhaps it wouldn't be so expensive if there were more people trained to do it, and that perhaps this was an option for the government to address.

There was also a bunch of shy men who came as a group, apparently encouraged by their friend (or so he said) to come out and overcome their shyness with a combination of drugs and cognitive therapy (in other words, alcohol and the fascinating content of the discus-

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politics



Judgement day for Tony Blair

Nearly 50 Labour MPs rebel to force the first Labour defeat in a 'whipped vote'. Despite controversy, other terror proposals still pass. In the Lords, a quiet U-turn as Imperial student's campaign passes through.

Matthew Hartfield
Politics Editor

The 9th of November saw a mass of debate and argument that saw the age old House of Commons as a witness to one of the most passionate battles to have occurred in recent times, namely the argument over the government's new terrorism bill and more specifically whether to pass the amendment to allow terrorist suspects to be detained for 90 days without charge. Unless you've been living under a rock for the past week you would have undoubtedly known that this was rejected; the first time the Government has lost a 'whipped vote', where Labour ministers were told how they should vote. Although this has been pounced on as a moment where Tony Blair has lost power, this is not the complete story, or far from the end of the matter.

Although some civil right campaigners might be popping champagne corks over the government's defeat, there are still many points of the new bill to boil their blood. Outside the Houses of Parliament there was a rally by various civil rights groups, including CND, Liberty and Amnesty amongst many others, lobbying against several aspects of the bill. CND themselves were concerned that the new bill would be used to clamp down on peaceful protest on nuclear facilities, as a clause in the new terrorism bill will make trespass on a nuclear site an offence, "including the area around the...fences and bounda-

ries". "We welcome the recognition of nuclear facilities as a terrorist target. However the bill has implications for peaceful protestors," stated CND in a press statement.

There were also concerns about the vagueness of the new penalty outlawing the 'glorification' of terrorism, which was passed last week

Debate came to a head when "We are not a police state" was shouted at Tony Blair

with a majority of one. As well as the concerns that "One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist" (and as a result, supporters of Nelson Mandela would be arrested for glorifying his 'terrorist activities'), more concerned MP's, such as Lembit Öpik, tabled an early day motion pointing out that the celebration of Guy Fawkes night would be 'glorifying' terrorism, and as a result would be banned (a point made all the more ironic by the fact that the house is holding an exhibition about Guy Fawkes this month), and the danger of preaching double standards. Lembit has been particularly scathing of the new bill, claiming that the 'internment' plans of the government damaged attempts at creating a peace agreement during the troubles in Northern Ireland, and that it would create the same trouble if applied now.

These points, along with the 90-day detention plan, caused some feverish debate in the house, which came to a head during the prime minister's questions as Conservative MP Charles Walker shouted "We are not a police state" towards Tony Blair. "We are not living in a police state, but we are living in a country that faces a real and serious threat of terrorism; terrorism that wants to destroy our way of life; terrorism that wants to inflict casualties on us without limit" replied an obviously seething prime minister.

When you consider all these hurdles, the fact that only the 90-day detention amendment was rejected by the government, with the 28-day detention amendment passed straight afterwards (which gives the UK some of the longest detention time in the world; the US can only hold suspects for 7 days before charging or releasing them) makes this appear (albeit not obviously) as an overall success for the Labour government, with the bare bones of their bill passing through the commons successfully. With the first defeat in their eight-year reign occurring though, it is clear Tony Blair no longer has the stranglehold over the commons he once had, and indeed this will cause problems when passing through the raft of reforms he has got lined up on education and other public services. It looks as if, however, he still has enough power to run the government for now, with it looking likely that he will still serve out a full third term without facing a major revolt, with a vote of no confidence looking extremely unlikely.



After his defeat last Wednesday, Tony Blair labelled some of his MP's as being "out of touch"

Imperial student's victory on gay rights

Whilst all this feverish discussion was taking place, over in the House of Lords Imperial student Alon Orbach was celebrating after "one of the quietest government U-turns" was passed due to campaigning from the Labour campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights (LCLGR).

Alon, who is the co-chair of the LCLGR, helped campaign during the Labour party conference earlier this year to make discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation an offence, which attained a 100% vote at the conference in favour of amending the Equality Bill.

As the amendment was being discussed in the Lords, it was overwhelmingly supported, with the only concerns raised being over silly matters, such as whether gay people will sue the NHS for discrimination if they are refused treatment.

After the amendment was passed Alon told *Felix*, "I am delighted that the government has come around to support amending the Equality Bill. This is a big victory for everyone who campaigned to outlaw this discrimination. Together with pressure from trade unions, Stonewall and many other groups and individuals, we have managed to get the government to see sense and outlaw homophobic discrimination now."

The fight against the HIV epidemic

Flora Ogilvie
Medsin-UK Secretary

Described by the UN Security Council as the fastest growing threat to human development, responsible for 8000 deaths each day and currently infecting 40 million people worldwide, the global AIDS pandemic is not something we can choose to ignore. Nor can it be argued that it is being ignored; on the contrary, the past twenty years have seen phenomenal advances in pharmaceuticals such that HIV sufferers in the West are now living longer than could ever have been expected.

The area in which we have not seen advances is that of universal access to treatment.

95% of those living with HIV live in the developing world. Only 15% of those in need of treatment have access to antiretroviral drugs. With the vast majority of new infections occurring in those of working age, HIV is having a dramatic impact on the economic productivity and social structure of many nations. It is predicted that the pandemic will be responsible for the reversal of many of the development gains that have been made over the past 50 years in some of the worst affected countries.

So what is being done? The pandemic has not escaped the attention of the global community. In

fact, it has led to the formation of a number of high profile initiatives. The Millennium Development Goals include "the halt and reversal of the spread of HIV by 2015", as one of their targets; the WHO has been pushing for greater access to drugs through its '3 by 5' campaign, aiming to get 3 million people onto treatment by the year 2005. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria has been set up as a financing mechanism to offer financial support to the fight, and President Bush has sent up his own body, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Most recently we have seen the pledge made by G8 leaders to ensure universal access to treatment by the year 2010.

What must however be questioned

is what impact these initiatives can have. Criticised from the outset for targeting the easy to reach rather than those who were in greatest need, the '3 by 5' initiative is almost certain to fail by the end of the year, as by June 2005 only one third of its target was receiving treatment. President Bush's pledge to fight HIV and AIDS may win him votes, but the reality is that the restrictions placed on spending are likely to negate much of the perceived good. One third must be used to promote abstinence and condoms can only be offered to groups considered 'high risk'. This blind approach ignores important details, such as that a huge proportion of new infections are occurring amongst married women, for whom 'being faithful' is clearly not sufficient protection. Furthermore, PEPFAR funding can only be used to buy patented drugs, which results in four times fewer

people being treated than if generic drugs were purchased.

In addition, it must be acknowledged that irrespective of the failures of individual initiatives, the HIV pandemic is not something that can be tackled independently of other development issues. While many countries' debt repayments continue to be more than double that which they receive in aid; while there are no effective measures to help prevent the continuous migration of health care workers to the north; and while the global trading system continues to unfairly discriminate against poorer nations, the formation of new initiatives are unlikely to truly halt the HIV pandemic.

Medsin-Imperial is holding a week of events looking at HIV/AIDS both in the UK and abroad: union.imperial.ac.uk/medics/medsin. Contact: oliver.todd@imperial.ac.uk for more details.

film

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Dark times lie ahead, Harry...

Harry returns to Hogwarts, complete with dragons, mermaids and teenage angst

Harry Potter & the Goblet of Fire

Director: Mike Newell

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint.

Length: 157 minutes

Certificate: 12

Released: 18 November 2005

★★★★★

Harry Potter is back with another blockbuster hit: *The Goblet Of Fire*. Some of you will love it but the rest may loathe it. However, if you make the effort to see this one, your opinion of *Harry Potter* might be changed forever. During the two and a half hours we are taken through the highs and lows of Harry Potter's fourth year in Hogwarts. Intense moments are broken up by humour and breathtaking special effects are interspersed with poignant scenes. The children are growing up and things are changing for the worse in the wizarding world.

When I first heard that I was going to the National Press Screening of *Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire*, I screamed (yes, I love Harry Potter and I'm not ashamed of it). Although I appreciated the entertainment value of the first two films, film three was what brought the books alive for me for the first time. It was deep, dark and moving. *Goblet of Fire* has taken it once step further than the rest, being a film lovers of the books and novices alike can appreciate.

After a summer of haunting night-

mares, Harry (Daniel Radcliff) is all too happy to escape to the pulse-racing Quidditch World Cup with his friends Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson). However, something sinister lies in wait for them: the Dark Mark, the sign of the evil Lord Voldemort, is ignited for the first time since Voldemort's disappearance.

Shaken by their experience at the Quidditch World Cup, the famous trio returns to Hogwarts: a place kept safe by the talents and talons of Professor Dumbledore. However, peace is definitely not in the bag for them this year as Hogwarts is about to host the Triwizard Championships. Unfortunately for Harry, despite his age definitely being below 16, he is about to participate in the deadliest game of the season.

For those who have read *Harry Potter*, you'll notice the increasing presence of a dark forces with each book. Mike Newell, of *Four Weddings* fame and director of this film, has perfectly created a movie that captures the essence of the Dark Lord Voldemort (played superbly by Ralph Fiennes) and his effect on the wizarding community.

Newell's film may surprise some of you who thought that the previous films weren't up to much. *Goblet of Fire* made me shriek, laugh and cry. The scriptwriters have added a few humorous scenes with Ron (Rupert Grint) swearing even more (he never did that in the books) and Hermione (Emma Watson) implying that Victor Krum (Stanislav Ianevski) would have liked a "more physical" relationship with her; the horror!



It's another year for Harry and whilst most Imperial students would ace Potions, Harry's still struggling

If you decide to go you'll be thoroughly entertained, but go with an open mind. For those hardened *Harry Potter* fans, you may have high expectations but Newell misses out Winky, most of the Quidditch World Cup and the audience never

finds out how Rita Skeeter gets all the gossip. At first this annoyed me, as Hermione's S.P.E.W campaign in the books stemmed from Winky's mistreatment at the hands of Barty Crouch (played by Trigger, sorry Roger Lloyd Pack), but *Goblet of*

Fire is too bloody long. Any longer and there will be bladder-bursting!

For a bit of fun, discover your wizard name at www.acciofirebolt.com/wizard. Now-back to Hogwarts!

Bathilda Figg and Pansy Crabbe

The Wizarding quiz

Here's your chance to show off your fabulous wizarding knowledge. The person or persons who get the most questions right will win a pair of tickets to see *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* at any Vue Cinema. Email answers to film.felix@imperial.ac.uk before Monday.



- What is a boggart?
 - An evil shape shifter that takes the form of whatever you most fear
 - A goblin masseur who attends to tired Quidditch players at Hogwarts
 - Sort of like a Dementor, but smaller, balder and more even-tempered
 - A pixie assistant who helps with the homework at Hogwarts
- Which type of animal represents Hufflepuff?
 - A lion
 - A snake
 - A raven
 - A badger
- What does Draco dormiens nunquam titillandus mean?
 - Draco is of pure blood
 - Never tickle a sleeping dragon
 - Keep your eyes peeled
 - Dark times lie ahead
- Due to the death of Richard Harris, who now plays the role of Dumbledore?
 - Peter O'Toole
 - Sir Ian McKellan
 - Michael Gambon
 - Sir Richard Attenborough
- What does the potion felix felices do?
 - Forces the drinker to tell the

- truth
- Brings the drinker good luck
- Causes the drinker to age 10 years
- Turns the drinker into a cat



- Which type of dragon, pictured above, does Harry Potter have to face in the first task of the Triwizard Tournament?
 - Ron Weasley
 - Hermione Granger
 - Pansy Parkinson
 - Cho Chang
- Who does Viktor Krum have to save in the second task of the Triwizard Tournament?
 - Ron Weasley
 - Hermione Granger
 - Pansy Parkinson
 - Cho Chang
- Which Triwizard Contestant devastatingly dies during the last task of the Tournament?
 - Cedric Diggory
 - Harry Potter
 - Fleur Delacour
 - Viktor Krum
- Which noise drowned out cast interviews at the International Premiere of Harry Potter?
 - Robbie Coltrane's laugh
 - A giant, flame-breathing dragon
 - Madonna's impromptu singing
 - Rupert Grint's Thunderpants
- What does Dumbledore store his spare thoughts in?
 - A remembrall
 - A sealed jar
 - A Beauxbaton
 - A pensieve

- Who does Harry kiss in book 6?
 - Ginny Weasley
 - Parvati Patil
 - Lavender Brown
 - Cho Chang
- Which of the following cast members is 18 years of age?
 - Hermione Granger played by Emma Watson
 - Harry Potter played by Daniel Radcliffe
 - Draco Malfoy played by Tom Felton
 - Ron Weasley played by Rupert Grint
- Who is the first on the scene after Harry Potter's parents are murdered?
 - Wormtail
 - Dumbledore
 - Sirius Black
 - Cornelius Fudge

Tiebreaker question:

How many Horcruxes are there left to be recovered and destroyed? (Only true avid readers of Harry Potter will know what we mean)

This winter: Brokeback Mountain

Felix meets up with director Ang Lee to chat about his film this winter

Brokeback Mountain

Director: Ang Lee
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger and Anne Hathaway.
Length: 134 minutes
Certificate: U
Released: 30 December 2005
★★★★☆

It starts off with quiet, serene shots of the green plains in Wyoming. Two cowboys, Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) meet for the first time while they line up for a summer job with local rancher, Joe Aguirre. Ennis is quiet, cautious and reserved while Jack is emotional, loud and reckless. An impossible match, they are stuck with one another as they spend the summer sheep-herding on Brokeback Mountain.

Hidden from the judgmental eyes of society on the quiet cloud-fringed top of Brokeback Mountain, Ennis and Jack gradually gravitate from camaraderie into deeper intimacy. When summer comes to an end, the surreal connection they have shared is put on a standstill as they both leave Brokeback Mountain to lead separate lives. Ennis remains in Wyoming and starts a family with Alma (Michelle Williams) while Jack bumps around Texas and catches the eye of aggressive rodeo queen Lureen Newsome (Anne Hathaway).

Four years later, a postcard arrives for Ennis. Jack and Ennis meet up again and in that one moment, it is clear that the passage of time has had no effect on the men's attachment. In the following years, Ennis and Jack struggle to keep their bond alive and a secret from their wives. Ennis becomes increasingly estranged from Alma and Lureen and Jack's wedding loses out to Lureen's obsession with her father's company.

Will they or won't they? Jack is tired of living a lie. He wants to start up a ranch with Ennis far away from the narrow-minded perspectives of society. However, scarred from a childhood memory, Ennis refuses to allow their connection to develop into anything more than a series of annual camping trips.

From a critique's perspective, the starting is a little slow but once the story picks up, you feel like you are caught in the spiralling of the emotions between the two leads. The acting is superb and the narrative riveting. The background is extremely picturesque and the movie relaxing. The shots are raw, emotional and the film is very richly textured.

It is perhaps the only film I've seen this year that comes close to bringing me to tears (and I never cry at movies).

Felix was lucky enough to meet up with Ang Lee, the director of *Brokeback Mountain* and here is what he has to say about his shocker-of-a-film:

Q: This is a diverse breakaway from your last array of films such as *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.



Can you survive a sham marriage?

Is this more of an Ang Lee film? In fact, is there such a thing as an Ang Lee film?

A: I don't think there is a typical Ang Lee film. As long as I like the story, I will make a film about it. From what I know, when James first showed me Annie Proulx's short story in *The New Yorker* four years ago, the story spoke to me and I had tears in my eyes after reading it. It was a peculiar and realistic version of American life, never-before-captured on film. The story was really refreshing and it was great material for a film. I guess most of the films I've made point to repression, the Chinese society going through westernization, family drama and how there is nothing constant in life except change.

"Reality is sometimes more forgiving than film"

Q: What is more challenging in making the show? Was the terrain more of an obstacle or was it more difficult to capture the emotional bonds between the two leads?

A: The terrain was the only real difficulty in the show. It was easy to capture the emotions of the two leads because they were both very good actors. Heath Ledger is a really adaptable actor and I decided to cast him as the lead after I saw him in *Monster's Ball*. I met him in person and he really struck me as someone who could bring out the Western, brooding disposition much required in *Brokeback*

Mountain.

Heath Ledger is a really individual person and hence he carried the story and was the anchor behind *Brokeback Mountain*. Heath and Jake both had to go to horse-riding camp as Jake needed to learn how to ride horses and they needed to learn to be at ease with one another. During the filming, we had to repeat the scenes several times to make sure that we nail each character. However, Heath broke Jake's nose as I told them to kiss each other harder than they would kiss a woman, to ensure that the film can be as authentic as possible.

Q: What made you decide to cast Anne Hathaway as Lureen Jackson?

A: It's quite funny because she came in to do a reading while she was filming *Princess Diaries 2*. She apologised for all her ridiculous makeup and she just blew her princess image away by doing the best reading I've heard among all the others who came for the auditions. Lureen Jackson was a really important supporting female character in *Brokeback Mountain*. As there is no internal narrative in the film, Lureen had to provide the feedback on the struggles the main characters were going through.

Q: What is it like being a director from Taiwan in the States?

A: As a foreigner, I am more likely to appreciate the subtext of the film. I am also able to look at a story with fresh eyes. In my opinion, American movies shout out at you while Chinese movies are more subtle and rely more

on subtext. The films I make are less likely to be typical American movies and they are more of how I see things in life. My dad never encouraged me to be a movie director, even after I got an Oscar. However, he was the one who told me to make a film, after a few years of hiatus. Although I am sure he never meant that I should make a film about gay cowboys. I felt a certain peace in making this film. It was a healing experience for me.

And what does Felix have to say about the film?

In a nutshell, you have to watch it. Some of you might be a bit deterred by the fact that it is set in cowboy-land (trust me, I don't like cowboys that much.), but its the story that makes it great and the cowboy setting created the much-needed obstacles for the two men. Some of you (especially the straight men) might also be put off the fact that it is a gay love story but I believe true love is a universal emotion that defies all sexual preferences.

Love it or hate it if you must but you must watch it. There isn't another film this year that is as good at capturing the eternal struggle of misfortunate lovers as *Brokeback Mountain*.

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor



Director Ang Lee

environment

Rethink Rubbish: Reuse and Recycle

Every 8 days, London produces enough rubbish to fill Canary Wharf. With worldwide carbon emissions soaring, it's time for Imperial to rethink its Environmental Policy.

Andrew McConville
Student, Centre of Environmental Policy

I apologise in advance for having to say this, but there's no other way. Imperial College has turned out to be a major disappointment. Coming from a small college in the west of Ireland, where progress on environmental issues was slow, I had great expectations that this college, as such a major university in the international scene, would be in a completely different league. Sadly, it did not take me long to realise that things here are no better. Despite its reputation as one of the foremost colleges in engineering, medicine and sciences, it fails miserably in its most simple and domestic of duties; its disposal of waste, and its dependence on energy. Its hosting of an Environmental MSc of international renown and its support of numerous initiatives focused on improving environmental standards in the outside world, only serve to make its own lack of regard to its environmental duties all the more inexplicable, if not ironic.

Walking around the campus, one can't help but notice the wastage. Bins are full of plastic drink bottles, aluminium cans and newspapers, all good recycling material. Indeed, it was calculated last year that 73% of the current waste stream is recyclable, with a further 16% of material being compostable. But very little so far has actually been done.

At present, practically all of the waste is taken off-site by Westminster City Council and incinerated, at South East London Combined Heat and Power plant. Incineration has its advantages over landfilling in many aspects, including the recov-

ery of energy and the reduction of volume of waste to 10%. However, the South East London plant has issues of its own. Recently, concerns about air pollution and poor human health have prompted the local health authority (at Lewisham) to carry out a health assessment study, which is still due to be published. Imperial have a duty of care under the Environmental Protection Act to give due consideration to where their waste is going and if it is being treated properly.

Some efforts have been made to promote recycling but have not been met with much success. An attempt was made to initiate paper recycling in administration offices around the college has largely been unsuccessful, due to poor participation rates often because of the lack of recycling points in appropriate locations. Another scheme to recycle glass in the Sheffield canteen again is only a partial success due to a misunderstanding by staff of what was required by them.

These highlight some of the difficulties of bringing in recycling schemes. That even when the infrastructure is in place, how do you ensure that people will use them properly? The answer is culture change. And it is not as difficult as it seems. The college provides excellent training to all people starting college on how to use the various facilities from the library to sports facilities. Therefore, it is not too much more of a step to include training on the practice of good recycling habits at the beginning of the year. This has to be supported by the ubiquitous presence of recycling stations with comprehensive labelling of bins. Such a change was brought into Norwich University

only a short time ago, and it has been recently identified as a leader in ground management programs. The key to success was educating students as soon as they entered the college, and providing the facilities for them to recycle. Once people realise it is the norm, they will not be long in participating.

The college also has to ask itself why so much waste is created. Why is it that every canteen on campus only gives disposable drinking glasses and that plates in the union after a certain time are all paper. It is not just a case of logistics, as numerous other institutions and colleges do not have the same issue. It is to do

“Change can't always be left only on the square shoulders of our Rector, nor on a bunch of 'lefties' in Esoc”

with policy. The absence of a clear commitment from management towards environmental sustainability is providing the wrong signals to every sector within the college, including the catering sector, as well as staff and students.

The other major area for concern is energy use. Imperial recently became subject to the carbon emission scheme which means it has been granted a certain cap of energy usage that emits carbon. This figure is due to diminish in the future years in line with Kyoto Agreements to reduce carbon emissions. If the college does not decrease its carbon emissions in line with these reduc-

tions, it will have to make up the short fall by buying carbon credits from institutions that have credits to spare. At this early stage of the scheme, there is no saying how much these credits will cost; they will be subject to normal market forces. Thus the college may well find itself having to spend large amounts of money, money which comes from students amongst other places, as a penalty for not being energy efficient. This could damage its ability to pay and entice the highest quality of staff for which the college is known, and reduce the service given to students in return for their custom.

But here I will stop. I did not intend this to be the habitual college-bashing, mud-slinging routine. The college has been and continues to be involved in numerous laudable schemes dedicated to promoting better environmental performance. Last week the college launched the Energy Futures Lab based at Imperial which is to support major research into future energy options, which should be seen as a very positive development. A part of this is will look into how much a city could benefit if it were to optimise its use of resources such as power, heating, transport and water. It gave the example of “heating homes with the heat from waste water.” This is precisely the type of thinking and attitude that is needed to face the environmental challenges ahead of us, and it is encouraging to see our management being so supportive. And the college, I'm sure, has it within itself to go even further. By looking inwards to its own practices, Imperial can demonstrate the practicalities of its initiatives, by showcasing them on its own campus,

restoring itself to position of one of the world leaders in technology matters.

The college needs to formulate a clear environmental policy that will dictate the strategy and approach to be taken over the coming years. Within this would be the commitment to reduce waste production and to establish recycling schemes for key materials and thus reducing its dependence on landfill. This would all be part of a college-wide culture change brought in at the start of the next academic year.

The college could follow its close rivals at Oxford and Cambridge in renegotiating its next energy contract to reduce its use of fossil fuels and obtain its energy from ‘green’ sources such as solar, wind and hydro-electric. Though this may not necessarily affect its carbon emissions trading, it would send out the right signals and provide some small impetus for those industries.

And it can't just all be down to management. We all, as students, have a duty to communicate our concerns to our own representatives, through the Student Union, and our various academic departments. Change can't be always left only on the square shoulders of our Rector, nor on a bunch of ‘lefties’ in Esoc and the Environmental Department. We all stand to benefit from a change in our practices. If there were to be at least change in attitude towards environmental practice in the short year I have here, brought about by a serious effort by students and staff to communicate the problem, this will have been a major step forward. And you never know, if that were to happen, I might not even feel this college has been such a disappointment.

What you can do: recycling in your borough

www.recyclenow.com



Kensington and Chelsea Council provides a twice weekly kerbside recycling service for all residents who put their rubbish out in orange bags. Orange Recycling Bags are available from various outlets including libraries and the town hall. To encourage more recycling, the bags have been reduced to easily portable rolls of 25 bags at only £1.50 per roll. Alternatively, supermarket carrier bags can be filled with recyclables and labelled by using an orange “Bag Tag”. The Council provides these Bag Tags free of charge at local libraries.

For more info visit: www.rbkc.gov.uk/EnvironmentalServices/RubbishRecyclingLitter/recycling.asp



Westminster's doorstep service provides once weekly recycling collections from your doorstep, covering those doorstep properties with sufficient adjoining space for the safe storage of a recycling container. You no longer need to separate materials out - all your recyclables can go into the one recycling basket or bag.

There are also 127 micro-recycling centres conveniently located throughout Westminster for use by local residents.

To check out whether your street is covered by the doorstep recycling scheme visit: www.westminster.gov.uk/environment/rubbishwasteandrecycling/recyclingfacilities/

If you are you can call the Recycling Hotline on 020 7641 2000 to request a recycle basket one and it should be delivered within 10 working days.



All households in Hammersmith with roadside access receive a weekly Smart Sack recycling collection. You can recycle paper, card, cans, glass, aerosols and plastic bottles using the co-mingled orange sacks which are provided free of charge.

Further rolls of 30 the orange smart sacks will be delivered to all households participating in the Smart Sack Kerbside Recycling Collections, however residents needing additional sacks outside of these scheduled deliveries can collect them from various collection points.

Again, for more info visit : www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Environment/Rubbish_waste_and_recycling/



If you are a resident in Wandsworth and have your rubbish collected from outside your property in a normal dustbin or black sack you can also have your recycling collected in an orange sack.

30 Orange sacks are delivered every three months free of charge. If you need more sacks, they can be collected from the Waste Management Office at the Town Hall or your local library. range sacks are collected every week on your normal rubbish and recycling collection day. Please tie the sacks and leave them just inside your front garden, where they can be clearly seen by the collection crew.

For more info on what you can recycle visit: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/Home/EnvironmentandTransport/WasteManagement/Recycling/

Want more answers? On Monday 21 November at 12.45pm in Meeting Room 2 (union building) there will be a chance to grill Imperial's current Energy Manager about potential recycling solutions on campus.

For details of any progress or to help with our campaign for an effective environmental policy, email ic.esoc@gmail.com and you will added to our mailing list.

In addition, if you live in halls and want to help recycling take off there, please email the same address and state which hall you are in.

food & drink

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The morning after the night before

This week we tackle a monstrous hangover with fry-ups, cups of tea and muesli

Hannah Theodorou
Food & Drink Editor

Whilst nursing the inevitably fierce hangover that followed a particularly debauched *Felix* bar night, I decided to dedicate the entire food section to hangover cures, particularly the ubiquitous fry-up. Ping and Paul have once again been sent off to various greasy spoons to assault their waist-lines for valuable ratings that will, hopefully, save some of you spending money needlessly on a poor fry-up. In the meantime I stuck to good old home cooking.

For most students at Imperial, mornings involve a last-minute dash to college with breakfast being a luxury for only the best of timekeepers or those that favour it over a shower. Cereal and toast are the norm for most, although in halls a friendly German student would happily munch away on German sausage and kripfbread every morning. Many of us just tolerate our grumbling stomachs until we get a chance to grab a pastry in the break.

On the weekend, however, everything changes. You can leisurely tumble out of bed at midday with a throbbing head and stumble to the kitchen whilst trying to avoid any mirrors for a strong cup of tea and a good rummage in the fridge.

All-in-one fry up

A full fry up is the most impressive item to be presented with in the morning, though it can be a hassle to organise; yolks go hard while you save the toast from burning and bacon gets left under the grill by accident. Jamie Oliver came up with the perfect solution: frying it all in the same pan. Not only does it make cooking easier, washing up is a doddle too.

sausages
sliced mushrooms
eggs
tomatoes, cut in half
salt and pepper
bacon
drizzle of vegetable oil

1. Heat a large frying pan. Cut however many sausages you want in half lengthways and cook for a few minutes until they lose some of their pinkness. Place to the side of the pan.

2. Drizzle a bit of oil on the other side of the pan and fry the mushrooms for a few minutes. Push them to the side of the pan with the sausage.

3. Place a few strips of bacon and some tomato halves in the pan and fry until the bacon gets crispy. Turn and repeat until the other side crisps up as well. By this stage the tomatoes should have softened.

4. Shuffle round the contents of the frying pan so everything is evenly arranged and then crack 3 or 4 eggs around the pan so they dribble out between all the other items and help everything stick together. Leave on a low heat for a few minutes until the eggs are done to your liking - you may want to place the pan under a hot grill to finish off the yolks.

5. Slide out onto a plate, cut into portions and serve with buttered toast.



Perfect poached eggs

I've never been a big fan of fried eggs for breakfast, although I'll happily dip my chips in one at dinner

time. I think everyone should try poached eggs at least once. They taste great from an egg poacher, but because they're expensive and a pain to clean not even I own one. A large frying pan or wok will always suffice.

1 or more fresh eggs
salt and pepper to season

1. Pour boiling water into a frying pan or wok placed over a high heat until it is about 3 inches deep.

2. When bubbles start appearing on the bottom of the pan it is ready for the eggs. Crack them into the water carefully, or alternatively crack them into a cup and pour into the water. The white should turn opaque instantly if the water is hot enough.

3. Leave for 3 minutes if you like a soft yolk, or 5 if you prefer a harder yolk. Dish out with a slice or a fork and either serve straight away on toast or pat dry on kitchen towel if you're worried it's too watery. Season with salt and pepper and eat instantly on toast.

Yoghurt with muesli

If you really don't think your stomach can handle eggs or sausage when you have a hangover, I have found a suitable non-nauseating yet filling alternative perfect for weekdays as well.

1 portion muesli,
4 tablespoons greek yoghurt
splash of orange juice (optional)

1. Add the yoghurt to the muesli, stirring until it is all mixed. If you feel it's too thick for you add a few splashes of orange juice which also perks up the flavour. Add any other fruit you fancy: chopped banana or apples, blueberries, strawberries... the list goes on. A teaspoon of honey is always a nice addition.

Hair of the dog

Eating to raise your blood sugar levels is all very well, but even doctors will admit the best way to get rid of a hangover is to turn to 'the hair of the dog that bit you'. What drinking more alcohol the next day does is effectively get you pissed again, numbing the pain of the hangover in the process. Try alcohol with fruit juice; Bloody Marys (vodka, tomato juice, Worcestershire sauce, tabasco) are perfect although anything with orange juice will boost your vitamin C levels to boot.

Above all though, avoidance is always better than cure. Make sure your friends pour a gallon of water down your throat before you pass out. Failing that get a medic friend to hook you up to an IV line the next day. CD-UK often helps too.

The Breakfast Club with Ping and Paul

You're probably all too familiar with waking up on a Sunday morning alone, cold and hung-over. In need of a proven hangover cure and some eye candy to raise the old body temperature? Then Ping & Paul have the answer...

Café Milan, 23 Old Brompton Road, London, SW7 3HZ

Bacon, Sausage, Beans, Scrambled egg, Mushrooms, Toast, Tea
Rating 7/10

Opens really late on Sundays for some strange reason... it took us a while to figure this out, but being right next to the Lamborghini show-

room, the food should have racing pedigree.

And indeed the food service here was quick and the food looked appealing. I'm not sure that the whole thing wasn't microwaved, the sausages lacked any tell-tale frying burns and were a worrying shade of pink. The rest of the breakfast was pretty standard, but they don't do fried eggs, making us think the scrambled eggs probably come from powder. The toast here though, was the best of any of the café's we've reviewed. Toasted in a panini machine and buttered rather than margarined, I would go back just to order extra toast.

Again the waitresses grumble at you in some foreign language, but what the hell, 2/3 of all communication is via body language.

Benjys, 157 Earls Court Road, London, SW5 9RQ

Builder's Breakfast £3.70 - 2 bacon, 2 sausages, egg, beans, toast, chips, unlimited tea or coffee
Rating 9.5/10

The food here is not of the highest quality, nor is the restaurant as fancy as some of its South Ken counterparts but Benjys is the pure definition of a greasy spoon café. It can be smoky, and full of randomers, but if you appreciate a proper breakfast then this is the only place for you. Likewise, the waitresses here aren't leggy blondes, are liable to grumble at you in some eastern European language, but first thing in the morning, there is no prettier sight. The waitresses are friendly, petite, eager to serve (food) and believers of quick service. Go there for an entire year ordering no beans and an extra egg and eventually even the fittest (worst) waitress will recognise you and remember your order.

Having lived in Earl's Court last year, once we had found this place there was never the need to eat anywhere else. They cater to all sizes of appetite, from 'standard' breakfast to the house speciality and my personal favourite, the 'builders' breakfast - the only meal you will need to last you about a week. Two rashers of bacon, two sausages, fried egg, beans, 2 slices of toast, chips and unlimited tea.

Can you feel the love?

Café Primo, Old Brompton Road, South Kensington

£4.50 - Spanish Omelette
Rating 5.5/10

I admit it - this café shouldn't qualify for direct comparison because it doesn't offer full breakfasts, but this is the one with the incredibly perfect waitress, so I just couldn't walk on by this time.

Its prices are definitely SW7,



as is the swanky modern decor. The outside decking area would be nice in summer, but on a cold November morning I was wishing I was indoors. I'm pretty sure that Spanish omelette normally means a big thick omelette with potato in it, rather than an eggy mush of peppers and ham... but it was nice, and was served with a side salad, which is certainly a healthier alternative than my usual fry-up.

On the down side, the service was slow (there was even time to go buy Ben's Cookies from across the street to stop our stomachs digesting themselves) and we managed to get a new waitress on her second



day who was confused the whole time. The pain au chocolat could have been Tesco value, and wasn't even warm. I wished I had gone to the JCR for that instead.

We didn't get to see that J-Lo look-alike waitress until we were just about to leave. But it made our day, and improved the café's rating.

In light of our deteriorating health, and shape.... we're taking a break from fry-ups, and the next review will be exploring more healthier cuisines.

Think you could Jamie or Delia a run for their money?

We're looking for new and exciting recipes and reviews of restaurants. Email food.felix@imperial.ac.uk if you want to get involved. There may even be a free dinner or two thrown into the deal.....



Toast at Café Milan: griddled and buttered to perfection

arts

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Forbidden treasures at the RA

Fungus, scrolls and moon worship? No, this isn't *Harry Potter*...

Exhibition

China: The Three Emperors

The Royal Academy of Arts
Sponsored by Goldman Sachs
Piccadilly
Tickets £11/£7 Students
Until 17 April 2006

Culture, glory, and imperialism are all integral to the Three Emperors exhibition at the Royal Academy. This exhibition, at London's most prestigious home of arts from around the world, gives a unique insight into the three most famous and powerful emperors of the prosperous Qing dynasty. The dynasty was the last to rule China, and existed between 1644 and 1911.

The Chinese believed the emperor to be the only direct link between heaven and earth, and their prosperity was celebrated in the art of the period. You can gauge the importance and power of these emperors just by passing by the 5m portraits and the huge ornate robes of gold and dark blue. These are startlingly intricate textiles and definitely large enough to swamp any Chinese emperor!

This exhibition is astonishingly diverse, having everything from 10m long scrolls (some merely sections taken from 60m originals) to olive shaped snuffboxes the size of a fingernail. There are traditional portraits and calligraphy as well as

strange ritualistic objects, for example from the strong Chinese belief in cosmology worshipping of the time. The exhibition has costumes and objects for moon worship including 'moon white' glazed vessels of curious symmetrical shapes each believed to be part of the sacred moon and an engulfing 'moon white' robe for the emperor to wear during the ceremony.

These foreign rulers from Manchu supported the Buddhist ideals of Tibetans and Mongolians as well as expressing an interest in science and European culture. These influences can be seen through the hybrid style of painting which depicts European influence on traditional Chinese styles, the European style of perspective and highlighting contrasting with the Chinese style of flat planes and ornate surface patterns.

Many of the pieces in the exhibition also feature some interesting symbols that we still see around us today, like the five clawed red dragon reflecting prosperity and protection, or the white rabbit which is supposed to be lucky.

But there are also a few more obscure images, like the fungus representing immortality—the Chinese do seem obsessed with their fungus! Some of you might think that fungus would be more in its place in the mud outside, but the Chinese kept huge screens with fungus made out of wood, and had ornate fun-

gus shaped sceptres known as 'ruyi' carved from coral and rare wood encrusted with jewels, both of which are shown in this exhibition

One of the most astounding pieces includes a metre tall jade boulder that was transported 1000 miles across China in the 18th century before being carved into a model of a holy mountain.

A lot of the artwork on show is in the form of scrolls. Some scrolls depict battle or hunting scenes which show a multitude of tiny soldiers-trekking through hilly landscape, sailing down treacherous rivers, or wrestling tigers, whilst others like the 'Emperor's 60th birthday celebration' have a more relaxed attitude. There is even a series of scrolls which shows, as the audio guide put so nicely, 'rather seductive idealised women partaking in leisure activities!'

If searching for criticism, the only fault I could pick is that perhaps the exhibition was too long, however over all it was really interesting and unique. Also, as many of the exhibits have never left China before, this is a unique opportunity to see artefacts that are rarely available to the public. I would definitely recommend it to anyone even vaguely interested in Chinese culture—after all how can you go wrong with beautiful women, fungus, and a small amount of moon worship?

Natasha Ehsanullah



The Nine Elders of Huichang, 1787, Nephrite (green jade) boulder, 114.5 x 90 cm, The Palace Museum, Beijing

ROH opens its doors to students

Opera

The Midsummer Marriage

Royal Opera House
Covent Garden
Ticket £4-£85/£10 Student Standby
Until 18 November 2005

The Royal Opera House is quite possibly the last stronghold of upper class snobbery left in the public entertainment world today. However, the new **Traveler £10 Student Standby** scheme is set to change all that. The scheme works by texting or emailing students with details of available seats which can then be booked online for just £10.

So, to celebrate this new and wonderful student offer, Felix went along to review the Royal Opera's current production of Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*.

The Midsummer Marriage is a story of the spiritual development of two couples, Jenifer and Mark, and Bella and Jack. Set on a pagan backdrop of ritual and seasonal celebration, the opera is full of undertones of mythology and religion combining to bring about Jenifer and Mark's spiritual reawakening, and the inevitable demise of Jenifer's capitalistic



The Midsummer Marriage, © Bill Cooper October 2005

father King Fisher.

The impressively bizarre set represents a magical glade in a wood, laid out like a games board and enclosed by a wall. On the board sits a globe or womb-like object from which Mark's spiritual advisors, the Ancients, emerge to deliver advice.

The production lacks continuity in

the first act, but the fantastic dancing of the second and the imagery of the third bring it together to create a real lasting impression. Flawlessly performed, this is not one for newcomers to the genre, but this is an untraditional piece that pushes perceptions of what opera should be.

EL

Love hurts: Cleansed

Theatre

Cleansed by Sarah Kane

Arcola Theatre
E8 2DJ
Tickets £12/ £8 Students
Until 3 December 2005

Cleansed is a very unsatisfying play. With its major themes of humiliation and physical agony, seeing *Cleansed* is a torturous experience that I would recommend to few.

The play is composed of 20 extreme scenes, each either an episode of violence or some full-frontal nudity. The language is minimal, spoken as weighty poetry by a talented bunch of actors who supplement it with stylistic and demanding physical theatre. One memorable scene, illustrating the artistic indulgence of *Cleansed*, was 10 minutes of watching a man with a learning disability, in great sobbing distress, being forced to eat a whole box of chocolates, one by one.

Kane, who committed suicide in 1999, was influenced by proponents of the genre known as Theatre of Cruelty. As Antonin Artaud extolled back in the 1930s/40s, the aim of this type of theatre is to shock its audi-

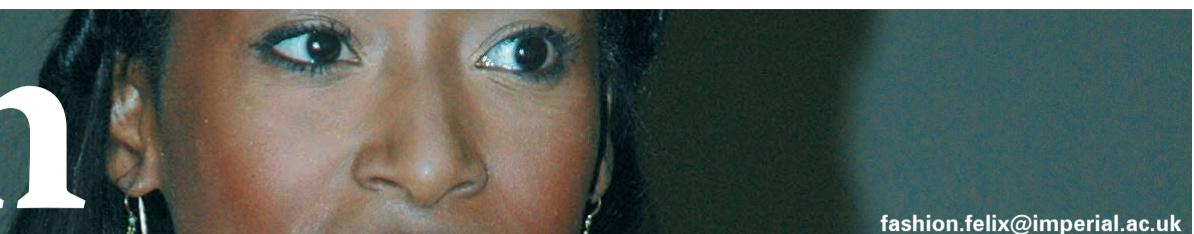
ence into such a state of terror that they lose their capacity for rational thought and are receptive to truths that are usually suppressed.

The assaults *Cleansed* delivers are not thematically progressive, or arranged in order of severity: it seems clear that Kane's aim is simply to shock every viewer, whatever their personal standards of offence. I have seen plenty of horrible, shocking content on stage before: Euripides' Medea murdering her own sons; rape and mutilation in Titus Andronicus; the abuse of asylum-inmates in Marat/Sade; the list goes on. But Kane failed to shock me, because her play completely lacks relevance to the real world.

In different scenes the characters appear to be in different places – for example a lunatic asylum, a private mental hell, a strip club, on a train-track; but the production style renders these environments hopelessly vague. The play has an air of flighty disregard towards concrete practicalities, but what it fails to take into account is that shock resides on a background of specifics: familiar situations being perverted in an unthinkable manner, normal people being driven to terrible things.

Emma Rose Mcglone

fashion



fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

War breaks out at top fashion retailer

Stella's H&M success and one girl's plight to remain fashionable in the eyes of the law



Dolly Delaney
Fashion editor

Stella McCartney's one-off collection for H&M went on sale at the Oxford Circus branch at 9am this morning and already it is looking somewhat sparse in there. The one-off collection comprises of around 40 different pieces. The clothes are based on the designer's favourites from her previous collections.

"It's like a food mountain for hungry people," said one onlooker as the queue of Stella fans, who had been lining up outside the store

since just after 7am, surged inside and started grabbing everything in sight. "Or feeding time in the hyena cage," added one hopeful shopper who decided it was a battle she couldn't face this early. The collection of skinny jeans, sparkly jackets, playsuits and chiffon dresses

"it's like a food mountain for hungry people"

has caused even more of a stir than Karl Lagerfeld's H&M collection last year and is bound to sell out by the end of the day. So who's next? "Our head office in Sweden hasn't confirmed which designer they will approach next year, or even if they are planning another collaboration," said Zoe Nicholls,

the London-based PR for the high street label. "I can't believe the reaction to this one".

I admit it would have been nice to be the first to buy the Stella outfits, however I feel the clothes are too popular for my liking. As a true

Stella es! McCartney's collection is a little pricey, but each piece can be worn as a separate.

**Blazer £59.99
Camisole £34.99
Denim Jeans £39.99**



"18 year old wins bid not to wear electronic tag as it didn't go with outfit"

fashion snob I believe individuality cannot be attained from popularity. However, there are some circumstances when I could happily wear chav-tracksuits and scrape back my hair, such as prison.

An 18-year-old girl has won her bid not to wear an electronic tag because it didn't go with her outfits. Prosecutor Douglas Marshall suggested that Natasha Hughes, described by Worcester Magistrates Court as a woman who likes to dress in a feminine way, should be forced

to wear a tag as she had breached the terms of her bail curfew. But the judge let her off, according to Metro. "I didn't want to wear a tag because they are bulky and embarrassing. I like to wear skirts which means people can see it, and it looks stupid." Whatever next? Alexander McQueen designing prison outfits?

There are times when Dolly can be a bitch. I must eat humble pie and tell you all that Crispin is a true gentleman and that his socks are great!

Think you're fabulous?

Do you think you're fashionable? Send me a picture with your name and department. If I agree then your picture could be in the next

books



books.felix@imperial.ac.uk

His Dark Materials investigated

Pullman's masterpiece dazzled the world and caused outrage in the Church. Here *Retesh Bajaj* explains why it's such a phenomenon.

Northern Lights, The Subtle Knife and The Amble Spyglass
by Phillip Pullman

My 2 Pence: Perfect. Story, characterisation, readability, quality of writing, pace – everything. I can come up with no criticism of this incredible story; it is one of the most enjoyable reads I've ever come



The West End production sold out within days

across and probably the most original story by far – this NEEDS to be read.

Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy exploded onto the scene to a monumental reception several years ago. After a seemingly endless list of rave reviews from every major reviewer and publication around at the time, it scooped up a huge string of awards as well, and gained Mr Pullman tremendous international acclaim. It has successfully endured its fair share of controversy as well – with a story that takes a blatant stab at Catholicism and several of its teachings. I should stress that Philip Pullman's message is not one of hatred towards the Church or of atheism but one that most people accept without giving voice to – that a person can live a good life without an institution 'guiding' their steps and dictating what is right and wrong.

Mr Pullman's story is a remarkable achievement – it manages to condemn the Church as an institution created to control people's lives, while still telling a powerful story that is undeniably tragic and memorable. The story revolves around Lyra and Will, two adolescents from parallel worlds similar to each other

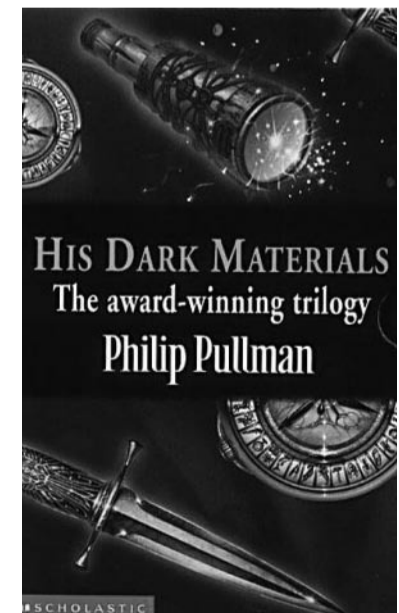
"this creation epitomises what good storytelling is all about..."

that get caught up in a war of biblical proportions. Without revealing too much, it is impossible to truly give an idea of just how deep and complex this story is, not least how wide-ranging its subject matter – from the nature of angels and God, the oppressiveness of the Church to quantum physics. As if such ancient conundrums were not difficult enough to juggle, the author also manages to delve into the meaning and nature of love, friendship and sacrifice, tingeing his story with humour, wit and bitter irony.

This creation epitomises what good storytelling is all about – the right pace, tension, multidimensional characters and the perfect ending. Include a narrative that is very readable and incredibly compulsive, and you have the perfect novel. The author has the rare abil-

ity to make the reader keep turning pages, as well as a real gift for prose – neither patronising in its simplicity nor daunting in its complexity. As to the characters, the author has made a very difficult, but very commendable move to make them all anything but cliché – there is no 'good' or 'bad' character, every one of them does what seems right in the situation they are confronted with. This level of realism seen in each character only adds more to the reader's fondness of the protagonists – making the tragic ending all the more powerful.

One aspect of this piece of writing that merits comment is the fact that this is a Fantasy book – set in a universe with different possibilities and clearly one sprung from the author's amazing imagination. Not outlandish enough to be considered escapist, it is neither a cheap carbon-copy of Lord of the Rings nor is it simple enough to be standard fiction. No, a great level of thought can clearly be seen in the universe Mr Pullman presents to us – with a great deal of charm and originality that is still so congruent with our everyday lives that the book remains with the reader long after it ends.



This is a story that needs to be told and is presented in a piece of writing that deserves to be read. It is magical yet real, with a sense of warmth that can only be accompanied by tears and a satisfaction that will ensure the reader returns to it over and over again, to relish in the brilliance of a true masterpiece.

music

music.felix@ic.ac.uk

Pretentious, moi?

The excellent Eat Your Own Ears put on another of their genre-hopping nights, this time featuring post-rock champions, Explosions In The Sky, and beatmaker extraordinaire Four Tet

LIVE REVIEWS

Four Tet / Explosions In The Sky
Hammersmith Palais
★★★★★

The Hammersmith Palais truly has outdone itself tonight, with such a varied line-up that there really is something for everyone, as long as you like electronica or heavy rock that is! Ageing German industrial rockers Faust kick the show off tonight with their unique blend of prog and experimental "kraut" rock - whatever that means. Taking the music 180 degrees in the other direction is turntablist Kid Koala who brings his energetic scratched-up tunes and livens the mood in the expansive but packed venue.

A good portion of the crowd are primarily here to see the main support act tonight, Austin, Texas' own Explosions In The Sky, who arrive onstage to a rapturous applause. They begin with a firm fan favourite, but even though I'm a fan myself, I sure as hell can't remember any of the track names. You see, EITS aren't your average indie band, rather creators of epic post-rock masterpieces which seem to transcend time, but usually last about 8 minutes. At times the band, which is a standard two guitars, drums and bass, stand almost motionless onstage (apart from the main guitarist who sways gently), concentrating intensely on the delicate, more reflective moments of their songs. It is during these contemplative periods of shimmering beauty that I wish the crowd would show these guys a bit of respect and not talk quite so loudly during the performance. They don't talk for long though, or at least I can't hear them any more, as my eardrums are being assaulted by the sprawling climax to the previously sombre song. While before they stood still, they

now throw themselves across the stage lifting their guitars high above their heads then bringing them crashing back down with the beat. It is impossible not to admire the confidence of these guys, not only for creating such passionate music without words to accompany it, but for taking the time in between the "loud bits" to fully explore the more reflective elements to their songs. On leaving the stage to what would have been a standing ovation if we weren't already standing the band are visibly overwhelmed at the level of enthusiasm shown by their fans, who are then equally disappointed at the lack of an encore.

Another £4 pint and it's now that it becomes clear to me why EITS couldn't just have carried on all night; tonight is Kieran Hebden's night as the only member of his experimental electronica project, Four Tet. It's a shame then that about a third of the audience for EITS have already left by then, either thinking that was the end of the show, or having a snobbish dislike for all things electronic, as they are really missing out. He arrives onstage to a warm applause bashfully, and seems almost unsure of what to do to begin with. The audience, myself included, are initially unimpressed by the almost unlistenable cut-ups and samples that he gives us, but he soon reaches his stride and leaps into a golden oldie, *Hands* from the always brilliant album *Rounds*. He then seamlessly mixes this into another playful piece from the same album, and the Palais remembers, as one, why we all loved Four Tet so much in the first place. Gone are the more laid-back tracks tonight, as Kieran seems determined to get the crowd moving and puts out some dancier mixes of his best works which the beered-up punters lap up appreciatingly. Half an hour of samples looped over each other and pasted onto tribal rhythms later, and the man



Explosions In The Sky - Texas! Thank you so much for so many great bands.

known as Four Tet re-emerges from the depths of backstage after a triumphant set to appease our needs for more with a select few extras in an all-too-brief encore. Something a little different then, which can surely only be a good thing.

Toby Prudden

The Brakes
The Borderline
★★★★☆

The Brakes are an amalgamation of British Sea Power and The Electric Soft Parade (and the Tenderfoot); supposedly a cutting edge musical experiment, but frankly, probably just a vehicle for inert 'Dull Parade'

members to get laid riding precariously on the crest of BSP's wave. However, The Brakes may (and probably should) excite you to your very core; unless of course you are presently touching yourself while pondering those cherubic scamps, The Arctic Monkeys.

Firstly, a word about the venue: the Borderline is a place to detest and despise. Unless your name is Tarquin, you enjoy the work of dead peasant and own a gold plated top-hat, drinks are unaffordable. Furthermore, there is, for no apparent reason, a huge obelisk-like structure in the middle of the venue; so, while at the bar desperately trying to exchange an innocent companion for a pint of stale Fosters, you can see nothing other than a mass of bobbing gold plated top-hats. A truly sickening, wretched hovel of a venue.

To The Brakes then. I refuse to mention either of the support bands, as the very thought of them makes me want to lick the tongue of a bird flu ridden turkey. Twice. The Brakes started with aplomb, playing almost the entirety of Public Enemy's *Fear Of A Black Planet* while setting up. This was fabulous as I too enjoy fighting the power; and, have a cocker spaniel called Chuck D who recently took a slug in Compton. It made me nostalgic for times past. Tears were shed. So thank you, The Brakes!

Musically, they are astounding. Tight like an innocent man during his first shower in prison. It all seems to be based around the guitarist, who, inexplicably is from Electric Soft Parade. It is his crushing guitar riffs - somehow played while flailing and

hopping around like a leper - which give the songs depth and draw you in. The singer (Eamon from BSP) seems to have attempted to lift the best parts from the voices of both Neil Young and Frank Black: obviously he's not a patch on either, but one must respect his courage to attempt to wail and screech melodically. From the pulsing, sing-along single *All Night Disco Party*, they launch straight into one of their 8 second thudding rants, *Cheney*. These miniscule songs show off the band's musical talent proudly, they also offer a stark, bracing jolt, arresting the attention of any apathetic crowd members. However, the band tended to repeat these songs and others which are essentially identical, and, after the fourth or fifth time, they stop being a novelty and become an irritation, to all other than the amorphous scenesters littering the venue and whooping and hollering throughout. The Brakes work though, they write inventive songs and, judging by the effort they've put in making their set airtight, they genuinely seem to enjoy playing them. Even to Londoners.

The Brakes are a breathe of fresh air in a scene wholly starved of talent and inventiveness. Unfortunately for them and us, they will always be playing in places like the Borderline because the lead singer is bald and the rest of them don't look like movie stars or drug fiends. It's a shame that success is no longer based on the attributes it should be: talent no longer counts. Any old tune, a dangling cigarette and high cheekbones are all that's necessary. Just ask those monkey scamps.

Peter Dominiczak



Four Tet - Keiran Hebden, the ever-changing chameleon of the electronica scene.

Take off your pants.. wait, this isn't page 3

Those kraazy pop-punk nuthouses Blink-182 remind us why we laughed at them the first time

ALBUM REVIEWS

The Crimea
Tragedy Rocks
(Warner)
☆☆☆☆☆

So November is here, the clocks have turned back, the days draw shorter and the wind blows colder. Every foreign student is now asking themselves why they chose to study on such a cold barren island as Britain when they could be in sunny Greece or wherever they've come from. What better music to capture the mood then, or so I thought when I picked up a copy of The Crimea's latest album. With the title, *Tragedy Rocks* and track titles such as *Bad Vibrations*, *Miserablism Tango* and *Someone's Crying*, I was sure that it would be great accompaniment to the season's melancholy. But oh how wrong I was, this album is tragic, but for all the wrong reasons.

The album starts of promisingly enough, with a delicate minor-key waltzlike piano solo opening up the first track, *White Russian Galaxy*. It pulls you into a trap of thinking this album is going to be something different. But 30 seconds on, and it fades, only to be replaced by the most boring pedestrian indie riff, and a lead singer with a bland and yet annoying voice. This shift from piano waltz to anodyne indie pop is probably the worst thing on this album, god knows why they thought it would be good idea to put it as the first track or indeed, on the album at all.

Although the rest of this album is better than that ground zero moment, that really does not say a lot. The rest of the album carries on with the boring indie pop theme, which fails totally in trying to convey the images associated with its bleak track titles and lyrics, and remains about as adventurous as an Adam Sandler movie. Still, it's not all bad, there are a few relatively good tracks on the album, the best of which is

probably *Gazillions Of Miniature Violins*. Unlike most of the other tracks on the album, it takes on a more expansive sound, creating a lush soundscape and breaking the monotony which seems to permeate throughout the album. It's a shame then, that the lead singer tries his hardest to wreck it, with his stupid voice, as with every other track on the album.

In conclusion, there is really no point in getting this album, or any real point to the album itself. There is absolutely nothing special about this album, the vast majority of tracks are plain, pedestrian, uninteresting, and can be found ad infinitum throughout the history of music. Nothing separates this band from the sea of mediocrity which can be found in any provincial town's local band scene. The only good points on this album is when the band try something different, but these moments too rare and far between. Sure, there are a few decent tracks on this album, but it really isn't worth your time, money or effort in finding them. Tragic indeed.

Han Yip

Blink-182
Greatest Hits
(MCA)
☆☆☆☆☆

Before you read this, I feel obliged to let you know that I love, no adore Blink-182. I grew up with them, listened to little but them when I was young and naïve, and as a result the following may be a little biased and non-objective, but never mind.

So, Blink-182 have a Greatest Hits album, one last money making opportunity since their hiatus turned split. This album, with its chronological order is perfect for those who only jumped on the Blink bandwagon post-*All The Small Things* and shows what a transformation this band made lyrically, musically and most noticeably the level of maturity throughout their career.



Blink-182 - No longer funny. As if they ever were.

Carousel is the perfect opening track, and along with *M+M*, are representative of how raw and simple the band were when they were starting out, and approximately the correct age for the songs they were singing. *By Enema Of The State* and *Take Off Your Pants And Jacket*, there was something slightly strange about a nearly 30 year-old man singing about being a teenager, however that is how Blink-182 had such a devout teenage following-songs you could relate to and songs that planted the appealing thought in your mind that you too could be young forever.

Then they came along with their eponymous album, got married and had kids, and started singing about things that weren't funny any more.

That's where they lost it for me, however, seemed to gain a new set of fans with their mature stance on pop-punk. As a result, most of the material included on this album is from their latest album, with noticeable absences of *Mutt*, *Rich Lips* and *Going Away To College*. Additionally, there is no secret or surprise 'new' track, just one last fresh taste of a mediocre radio version of *Go*.

Before Blink-182, there was Green Day. Now we have Green Day again and don't really need Blink-182 anymore. It's no loss, their Greatest Hits is a lovely way to say goodbye

Jenny Gibson

Depeche Mode
Playing The Angel
(Mute)
☆☆☆☆☆

I waited four years for this album so it was pretty likely that the actual songs would constitute an anticlimax rather than a feast of the senses. This is the type of album that grows on you, though. It is also a historic Depeche album as it is the first one to contain songs written by vocalist Dave Gahan. The dictatorial Martin Gore (writer of all DM songs after Vince Clarke's departure following the release of the first album, *Speak & Spell*) has evidently softened down a bit and given up some creative space for other people.

The music is not soft, though. This is not a logical follow-up to the extremely chilled-out, velvety *Exciter* (2001), it is more that to Gahan's moody solo LP *Paper Monsters*. The general atmosphere created by the songs in the listener's mind is definitely dark, almost anguished. It is a return to the classic Depeche sound of *Music For The Masses* and *Violator*, where Kraftwerk meets Sarah Bernhardt, where angels and demons fight

for eternity; austere but polished sounds full of drama and layered depth.

This album is very in-your-face compared to the emotional but subtle, even light-hearted at points, *Exciter*. The music is very inorganic, Bauhaus-like at times, other times more like New Order. None of the songs have much hit potential (but who cares about that), except maybe the first single, *Precious*, a very typical DM track, reminiscent of the eighties sound. The gem of the album is *Suffer Well*, written by Gahan. This is surprising as Gahan is still a relatively inexperienced songwriter. Perhaps this is indicative of the trio's future sound, influenced progressively more by the singer's aesthetic views. Also, it is clear Gahan has gained a lot of confidence in terms of his role in the band: he has never sung better. The same cannot be said of Mr Gore: the worst songs in the album, *Macro* and *Damaged People*, are sung by him, and he is whinier than ever.

Gore's lyric-writing has lost some of its freshness; his main obsessions (faith, sin, the fragility of love, despair) are once again the recurrent themes of the album. However, he dealt with these themes much better in *Songs Of Faith And Devotion* in 1993. The imagery is not very original: it's devils, and dark angels, and painfully sexy women (as described in *Lilian*, track number 11) once again. Anton Corbijn, a visual artist who has worked with the band (as responsible for the videos and stage design) since the eighties, has done a great job with the album sleeve design. The angel in the cover is a hybrid between a chicken and Robert Smith. In summary, not a bad Depeche Mode album, especially considering that they have re-invented their sound once again. The band has returned to the Dark Side, but through new paths.

Irene Ladhe



The Crimea - the lighting in the Brixton Windmill does one's image no favours.

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Iain Heaton

Football revolution

I've been meaning to write this column for weeks but unfortunately things like work and extreme right wing tendencies got in the way. I have briefly overcome both these things to give you my idea on how we could improve football. Well, not so much football itself. I'm not going to try to sell you a Budweiser advert but rather improve football players. Nearly everyone thinks that football players are grossly overpaid and this was particularly brought home to me when I heard that the Kettering town club, which Paul Gascoigne and some of his mates have just bought, might go from semi-professional to fully professional! They are in the conference, for God's sake. Most of them probably can't play better than a member of the IC first team (who always used to be quite good but I still wouldn't pay them). Therefore, I feel we should switch to a system of no win-no fee. This system is very popular with solicitors and I think it works something like this (I admit I have done no real research so someone called Alex might tell me all my facts are

wrong and I'm a Nazi but I'm willing to take the risk). If the solicitor doesn't win their case they don't collect any fees (or only a very small percentage of it). However, if they do win, they can charge up to double their normal fee.

This strikes me as the perfect solution for football. If footballers weren't so sure that they would collect thousands of pounds, win or lose, they might be a lot more motivated and passionate. There has been a lot said about the lack of dedication of players. Liverpool's chief executive recently said, "We have never paid our players more and never been less sure that they would die for the cause." I think that sums up present day football brilliantly. I'm not saying that all players are lazy and uncommitted. Players like Wayne Rooney strike me as very passionate. The fact he expresses his passion by being a complete twat is a different matter.

So I reckon footballers should only get their big, fat, pay cheques if they win. Then each week only half the clubs would have to pay out wages (this would also stop the clubs getting

into so much debt). I think that after a few weeks of defeat and a lack of new cars and velour tracksuits for their girlfriends (or boyfriends), we must stop this homophobia in football, players in underperforming teams would be so riled up that they give everything they've got for the full 90 minutes. This might mean that tempers boil over a bit more often but, after all, football is a man's game! Maybe we could adopt the ice hockey approach where, I believe, you are allowed three fights a match. Alternatively we could adopt the rugby approach where players actually listen to the referee. Either way I think that this could turn football into a much more life or death sport, making matches as tense and as exciting as gladiatorial battle.

Alternatively we could pay them a few hundred pounds a week, like everyone else earns, and stop worshipping them because, at the end of the day, they are simply kicking a ball around a field. A sealion can do much better juggling than most footballers and yet they only get paid fish. Is that really fair?



Omar Hashmi

What does it mean to incite hatred?

It seems the legislation is coming though pretty soon, so I better say this now as I may not be able to later. The boundaries of what is considered appropriate discourse on violent actions need to be explored. In his struggle for African independence, Nelson Mandela was deemed an extremist by the Apartheid government of his day. Today he is a hero, yet ironically the group he co-founded (Spear of the Nation) was principally involved in a sabotage campaign against military, government and civilian targets. Today it is not violence but views and language that are being deemed illegal. Similarly, Mahatma Ghandi led 300 million Indians in a struggle for independence from the British Empire. Are such acts today to be considered as terrorism? Are we to conveniently brush aside examples of history and apply a new set of rules for the injustices of the day?

There has been a deliberate marginalization of this discussion, due not only to the climate of fear but to the vast spectrum and polarity of views. A student in the Officer Training Corps will have hugely different views to the nature of a just war compared to a Palestinian activist. To the activist, the Palestinian people who are

under a most brutal occupation, with massacres like Jenin or the Ghettoization of Gaza and West Bank, military resistance to state sponsored terrorism is justified. To the Chechnyan, the recent scene of the Prime Minister yet again shaking hands with President Putin, after most of Groznyy has been smashed and 250,000 of its people killed, will be sickening. At almost every Friday Prayer comes the same supplication from even the most apolitical and pro-government Imams, "Oh Allah, help the Mujahideen in Iraq, in Palestine, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Chechnya..." There are crises that some would rather be imprisoned for than not to speak up.

Yet to the soldier, British or Israeli, the idea of calling their work as state sponsored terrorism is offensive, as is the terrorist who is coming to try and destroy the civilization they hold dear. In their view, they sincerely hold up their lives for the protection of others, even at the behest of governments with doggy dossiers. No one should be allowed to hold the view of Bin Laden, that a civilian anywhere can be deliberately targeted. This is taken as granted, but what about military targets? Nobody wants to see death or really talk about it, yet it is happening, and it is unreason-

able to expect someone who thinks that they have been so horribly wronged to roll over and just die because they happen to be on the wrong side of the argument or in the less fortunate civilization.

This is a philosophical argument as to when murder is permitted. If the new laws are applied as they 'should' be, then there is nothing to worry about. Nobody wishes to see political debate stifled. Yet if the Government wishes to see no opposition to its policies or the policies of other states that they have good diplomatic relations with, then there is a problem. It is an obligation upon all decent and good citizens to speak up against injustices wherever they are. There will be mistakes made, but what is worse is leaving the situation to rot along with oppressed people. If we are silent then we are complicit in the crimes against them. Speak up, come to campus events, and help your fellow human beings. This generation has been vested with the authority and privilege that no other generation in the past has had, that is to actually enact global change for the better.



Meherzad Pahlan

On suffering beliefs

A response to Joel Holdsworth's "On belief and suffering" in *Felix* 1334

Joel, you put forward some very interesting points in your response to Anushri's column "A Good God Would Not Kill People", the most offensive of which is your view that "we are all in a desperate state". As a non-Christian I find it arrogant of you to decree that I "deserve a punishment" for my life. Unless I repent to Jesus I am, in your eyes, morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Now of course I know you don't actually believe that and you would wish me all the happiness in my life no matter what my religious leanings, if any, but your three columns worth of Bible quotes struck a nerve in me that I wish to fiddle with some more.

Aside from the fact that your response totally missed the point of Anushri's original column, I was very interested to hear your views on suffering as an inevitable consequence of "God's justice". In my opinion a God who is just and fair and eternally loving would not inflict pain and suffering unto the innocent just because a few miscreants defy his will. To me it sounds like pure evil. Would you want to endorse a God that punished innocents for the wrongs of others? That doesn't sound very loving to me.

Allow me to quote from one of your favourite books, Revelations 13:8: "All people living on earth will worship [the devil] except those whose names were written before the creation of the world in the book of the living which belongs to [Jesus]"

Do I take it that because my name is not in that book belonging to Jesus, that I worship the devil and will face an eternal struggle in hell cavorting with Satan's bum pokers; that no matter what my decisions in life are; to be good and honest, kind and loving to everyone to the best of my ability; I shall still go to hell? Did God specifically choose me to be punished? How delightfully evil!

Dante said in his *Divine Comedy*, "The greatest gift which God in his bounty bestowed in creating humans, and the most conformed to his own goodness, and that which he prizes the most, was the freedom of the will." That's nice - it really is. The idea that with all his omnipotence and infinite wisdom, God still chose us to be his special children and gave us free will (not even his angels had that). I like that, I really do. However, when you suggest that we are "lost in sin with no future" unless we accept Jesus

"as [our] substitute [for punishment]" it seems to stick two fingers up in the face of God's gift of free will.

Bad things do happen, without a doubt, but instead of blaming god, I believe we need to be more introspective. The problems in the world aren't caused by him at all; they're merely a consequence of our actions. And natural disasters? Well, it just so happens that the forces we need to keep our planet alive are the same forces which will kill people, whether that is God's will or not. I would rather imagine God as a helpless God than a God who is vengeful and destructive. I perceive evil as being vengeful and destructive, and I certainly don't want to worship an evil God.

I believe it was Bertrand Russell who said, "There is one very serious defect in Christ's moral character, and that is that he believed in hell. I do not myself feel that any person who is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment." If Jesus Christ really did believe in hell as everlasting punishment, then there was a serious defect in his character, and Christians have nothing less than a crisis on their hands.



felix

No 1335
Thursday
17 November 2005
felix@imperial.ac.uk

“
Surely our
judicial system
should be
making the
case against
one of our
citizens

”

Babar Ahmad

Mr Ahmad, a British citizen, is alleged to have committed terrorist offences in the UK. For what reason then is he being extradited from his home nation.

Surely our judicial system should be making the case against one of our own citizens. The alleged acts were committed here so therefore the majority of the evidence (if there is any) will be here.

The extradition of a suspected terrorist to a foreign power, without the need for a sufficient dossier of evidence, has grave consequences. Once extradited and tried Mr Ahmad could face the death penalty. We in Britain should stand up for our values and not send a fellow citizen to a country where he may pay the ultimate price.

The US are the only superpower, but that does not mean we should allow them to run the world in a slipshod manner.

Although, the new extradition legislation allows British citizens to be extradited to the US without presenting a prima facie, there is no reciprocal arrangement. How can such double standards be allowed?

Luca Manfredi

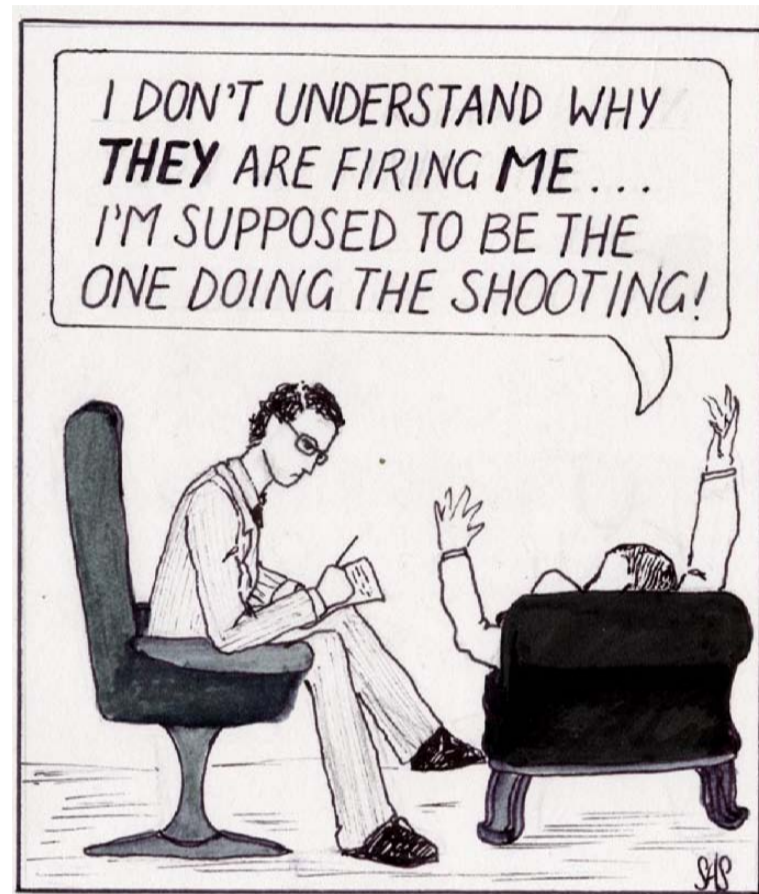
Incitement of violence and hatred against any person is completely unacceptable. The decision of whether to pass the No Confidence Motion against Luca Manfredi was complicated by the fact that the comments were made before he took office.

But, how can anyone who expresses such extreme views represent such a diverse group of students? If he were kept in office due to a technicality what sort of message would ULU be sending to the students?

Manfredi said, “I distance myself from those comments [I would shot my gay son, etc], they are not my views”. How can he state they are not his views when he made the comments.

It is disgusting that Manfredi, made impassioned speeches to ULU council declaring his “deep regret”, but then admitted afterwards that it was all “bullshit”. Can you commit a lower act of deceit?

It is worrying that Sarah Khatib, did not Vote for the Motion. One would imagine that the students she represents would have wanted her to support the motion against someone so bigoted



Letters to the editor

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



Star Letter

Dress code

Dear Mr Mitcheson (College Secretary)

I am writing in regards to the policy of removing old style Imperial swipe cards (ones with crests on) from students.

I was walking out of college from the Prince Consort Road exit yesterday (Wednesday 9th) at about 11:15 in order to go to the careers fair in the union building. I was challenged by a security guard and upon inspecting my card he told me I could not have it back as it was now being recalled. Upon me asking him what I should now do without a card his response was that I had to go and be reissued with a new card. The office to do this only opened at 12:00. I am the Imperial 1st XI captain for hockey and so was playing yesterday representing the college. I have to organise a squad of 12 players and ensure that people meet at correct times and get to the match as we have to use public transport thanks to the lack of funding provided for sports at this university. I had no opportunity to go and collect a new card and would not be able that day, which I explained to the security

guard. I asked if I could keep the card so that I would be able to go at my own convenience to replace the card. The response was that the card was Imperial's property and was being taken off of me and I would not be having it back. I have no grievance with the manner of the security guard-he told me he was following your policy and to contact you if I had complaint.

This policy of taking the old card off me is a complete contradiction to the policy of me having to have my identity on show at all times. Also due to the amalgamation of print cards, photocopy cards, union card and swipe card into one 'master' card I was left without being able to do anything in terms of being at college. This was a great inconvenience. Had I known previously that I had to have the card changed (and that failure to do so would have resulted in removal of my card) I would have done so. I would therefore like to make a suggestion that if this is the correct policy and the security guard was following this that you make an immediate change. Perhaps it would be more sensible to give all students with the old card two weeks 'amnesty' to go and get the card changed at their own convenience. Then after that implement the current policy of removal.

Yours sincerely,

David Williams
Aeronautics 4th Year

Ceri Davies (Head of Security) replies;

Dear David,
I'm sorry that you have been the victim of what appears to be some overzealous security work. There are only two reasons why a card should be withdrawn; 1. the card does not belong to the person carrying it, 2. the card is out of date. The old style I/D cards are only replaced on a needs only basis, i.e. if they are damaged or stop working. Security Officers are instructed that they should only advise Staff/Students to get a replacement if they fall into this category, but not to confiscate the pass. It would appear that there has been a breakdown in communications with the security briefing for the implementation of the new College dress code, I have addressed this and there should not be a recurrence of your unfortunate experience.

Kind regards, Ceri.
Ceri Davies MSyI

Dear Editor,

Appalled as I was by the College's announcement of a new 'dress code' and ID cards policy, I was delighted to see on Monday that virtually all students and staff around campus are doing exactly the right thing and ignoring the new rules completely. Rules like this can only ever be enforced if the majority go along with them, as the college will be rather embarrassed if it

has to bar all 10,000 students and staff from entering campus! Apart from introducing these rules without any consultation, Sir Richard has ignored a few obvious flaws in the scheme, such as the fact that Imperial College blatantly isn't on al-Qaeda's Top Ten Infidel Targets list, and no one can actually access any rooms in any department (or the library) without having a college swipe card anyway. The most any 'intruder' might manage would be to wander aimlessly around Queens Lawn - clearly a critical threat to each and every one of us! As long as both staff and students refuse to cooperate with these rules, the college will find itself forced to think again. Sir Richard, you're not at GlaxoSmithKline any more - and we're not at school!

Chris Mark
2nd year, Earth Science

Facilities merger

Dear Felix,

I was as shocked and angered that the planned merger of the faculties of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences was decided upon without any consultation of the students. However some good can come of it, why not let it be called the Royal College of Science once again. Imperial is a university with very little sense of community, pride and passion. My department alone has had three titles in my year and a bit here when I started last year it

was "The Department of Biological Science", then we became "The Faculty of Life Science" and now we will be "The Faculty of Natural Science".

As a life scientist I feel no sense of departmental loyalty. However I look upon the RSM with envy, they all seem to be proud of their tradition. They treasure it and it gives them a great departmental feel. Both RSM and C&G still exist and very proactive in events and activities, however RCS is hardly mentioned. It seems to have been wiped from the face of Imperial. If the RCS was re-formed then we too could have this sense of community, with a tradition to be proud of, to rival and surpass that of the RSM and C&G.

Why not let us go back to the RCS? We can bring back the tradition and the sense of belonging that the old Imperial used to have. When Imperial was founded it contained the RSM, C&G and the RCS. There was intense competition and rivalry between the three parts of Imperial, be it on the sports field or in the pub!

I feel that recreating the RCS and bringing back the traditions and practices that Imperial was founded on will greatly improve our sense of community and belonging. We can once again be proud to not only be part of Imperial (probably the best university in the world) but can also be proud of our department "The Royal College of Science".
Chris Stuart
2nd Year Biochemistry Rep



Diogo Geraldès

Freshers' Survival Guide

So, I assume that you must be a poor lonely fresher crying in your room because you left an amazing country, village or cardboard box, have no friends and drowning in coursework.

First of all I would like to tell you that I don't feel sorry for you and that I also had my depressive moments (not!). But the least that I can do to make your life easier is to write your survival guide for the next 4 years (I know it comes a bit late, but I spent 3 months in deep focusing in Tibet to write it). That's it, like the pope, Diogo's heart is generous and he wants to spread his love (and genes) all around the world!

So, if you want to have a good time chillaxing in London read section A. If, on the other hand, all you want to do is to get a 95% and spend the rest of your life in a boring routine with no friends please jump to section B.

SECTION A

- Make friends. People don't bite, you know? It's not hard to be nice and smile for 5 minutes

and, perhaps, gain a mate or a sex buddy (after all, we are in England!)

- Party. University is not all about studying! You can easily kill your liver and still manage to have a decent or excellent degree. All you have to do is plan your weeks and leave some mornings off for the hangovers.

- Join a sports team. Playing sports it's not only about rubbing your nose in some 100kg and 2m tall dude's armpit. It's about team spirit, making friends, breaking your body into three different pieces and getting wasted.

- Release your hormones. No one survives exam time with his hormones on fire and trying to shag everything that moves! Having a girlfriend/boyfriend, pulling and getting laid are not capital sins; they are good for your body and for your mental stability.

- Step by Wilson House, the best halls of residence in London. Fun and good nights are guaranteed.

SECTION B

- Catch up with all your work. Run to the library straight after the first, pick up 5 books on the subjects you were taught and learn them all by heart! After a few weeks your lecturers are going to love you and offer you their jobs.

- Don't waste time with all that making friends bullshit, playing sports, going out or the opposite sex. All these really vain and superfluous things aren't going to get you £50,000 a year! Do 5 hours of research a day and who knows, you might fall in love with a test tube (I reckon it has the perfect size for you).

- Become an asexual being (if you're not one yet). Who needs the opposite sex? It's just a waste of space in your brain that could be filled with Fourier Transforms or more C++ commands! Having your right hand, a hole in a wall and/or a pair of slippers as sexual partners is not a crime: it's the way forward for an existence of complete work focusing!

- Never leave College. You might lose your best seat because you arrived only 15 minutes early!



Brown Couch

Crackin' cheese gets stamp of approval

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has announced that he "quite likes the new Wallace and Gromit film." The shock revelation was announced only to the Rector's close friends in an informal chat two days ago. News of the decision finally filtered down to college staff and students yesterday and there has been widespread outrage. So why do Sir Richard's film preferences have any relevance to the average IC student? The Brown Couch team tried to find out.

The new film "Wallace and Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit" took audiences by storm after its release in October. Widely said to be "as good as" or "slightly better than" the earlier films, the Rector's position seems entirely tenable. Since the announcement was made, there has been a furious outcry from the great unconsulted.

The staff and students argue that since the

Rector is part of College, any decision, from trivial merging of faculties to "what's hot and what's not" at the local cinema should be made with full consultation. One member of the Union suggested "Every student should have a say in every decision the Rector makes - especially big ones like this. Imperial is a very diverse college and not everyone will like the comic antics of a dog and man double act."

Sameena Misbahuiddinn, Imperial College Union President said recently: "After everything that happened last year with students not being informed" ... "this is another example of College not informing us of what is happening and the effects that it could have on students."

The mad fuss that welled up yesterday forced the college administration to host a press conference. Here the Rector attempted to justify his position. He first pointed out that many Imperial students and staff have seen the film and are in

agreement with his views. He drew attention to the vital statistics: "over 1,100 staff, 2,700 undergraduates, and over 680 PhD students [have seen the film]". He also said he found it "compelling and exciting". We can only speculate that he is referring to the plane chase towards the end of the movie.

A statement was read out: "The opening of the film [in which Wallace uses an assortment of gadgetry to get ready for work] shows such innovation that it will surely serve as an inspiration to all our engineers and scientists. It is partly for this reason that we fully support the Rector's view that 'the film is quite good'."

Maybe not *apocalypse now*, nor *the day after tomorrow*, but perhaps by the time Sir Richard oversees a merger of Wallace and Gromit, we'll be a little closer to a democratic system.



Anushri Patel

Bullying: name and shame

Sometimes I feel like I'm turning into my mother; patronising the "times of today" as though my era were so much better. I'm not that old, but I have to deplore today's society when 15-year-olds are being stabbed in school. For no reason other than for a few kicks, pardon the pun.

The school's principal had this to say: "The school has a very clear, well established anti-bullying policy. It is a shocking and appalling incident and it has shocked the whole college community." Of course it's an awful incident! Why don't you focus on that as opposed to defending something that so evidently happens? The anti-bullying policy is clearly not being implemented very well, is it? I doubt the first port of call for the bullies was to stab this poor girl; they must have been after her for a while.

Every time a child in this country is stabbed or beaten to death by his 'schoolmates', all they can do is a bit of 'soul searching' as opposed to confronting the problem. "How could it have happened here?" they ask. Because it's been going on forever, that's how! It's almost as if they have no memory of their own schooldays and are completely blind to the cruelty around them.

Children are no more angels than the rest of us. Like most other human-beings, they're not even on the same level as animals. An animal will hurt you for survival, a human-being will hurt you for fun. What remarkable role models we all are to the youth of today. I wonder how many children have seen fox hunters parading their silly selves on television, out rightly undermining the authority of the Government, thinking that antisocial behaviour is OK in the name of sport.

Many, if not most, British schools (fee-paying, or not) are host to chronic, petty violence. If you

are a parent or a teacher with the necessary time and patience you can really love, educate and discipline children out of their inherent evil, but it's much easier to pretend that it isn't there, or to temporarily suppress its worst manifestations.

I've seen generations of bullying in action. I only have to walk up and down Caledonian Road a few times to see the local chavs pick on anybody not dressed as ridiculously as them. I, myself, got rather Biblically stoned at primary school, once upon a time. Of course, my wonderfully supportive school imparted only the best of punishments: they put the perpetrators' names in the infamous "black book". This cycle of inane bullying and punishment continued for a few months, until my parents eventually conceded and told me I could fight back. Needless to say, after I bit the little fiends, they never touched me again. Typically, I was punished for my actions whilst the bullies continued their reign of terror on the playground.

I still get the feeling that nobody knows how to handle such a senseless crime. Perhaps they don't know how to handle it because they continuously deny that it happens. In the same vein that parents who will readily believe their child is a gem yet refuse to believe they're capable of stealing, schools want to believe they are the epitome of perfection and bullying isn't an issue.

Most schools don't even provide somebody that a child can turn to. Teachers will either refuse to take anything said seriously ("just ignore it" and "stop being so silly" are common deterring, patronising phrases that they come out with) or, if they happen to see bullying in action, fear of being attacked themselves or losing their jobs stops them from intervening. Parents of the victim can only do so much about an environment

that they aren't in on a day to day basis, and parents of the bully refuse to believe their child is flawed. Then, finally, when a child is attacked on school grounds, schools will seek to blame everything but themselves: television, video games, music, parents and even Marilyn Manson, to name a few.

Why is bullying turned into such a non-issue? Is it because it's conducted by children, the world's little angels? It's time to wake up to the fact that kids are growing up much faster these days, taking on both the good and bad points of adulthood. If schools are going to be handing out condoms to 12-year-olds, they shouldn't need to worry about holding those same 12-year-olds accountable for their actions. They want to grow up faster? Fine, let them grow up and face the rules and laws of the society we live in. If they do something wrong, then they need to be brought to trial and punished for their actions. That'll teach them to have underage sex and stab people in the eye.

Stop hiding from bullying and face up to it. The more something is taboo, the worse it'll get behind those annoying closed doors. Bring everything out into the open. Children who bully should be named and shamed within the school. Let them face the embarrassment that all other, more grown-up, criminals face. Let them face the same trials and punishments, and give their victims some justice. Give teachers a safe working environment by allowing them to defend themselves and their pupils without fear of prosecution. If children want to act like adults, by all means, just let them. They'll soon go back to playing with their toys when they learn the bad isn't as fun as the good.



Union News...

Sameena Misbahuddin - President



Union Newsletter & Email

In last week's issue of Felix you will have found the first Union newsletter. It's designed to give you more information about the Union; what's going on in the Union, what the Union is doing for you and how you can get involved. The idea is in response to the large amounts of feedback we received last year about the Union and the need to improve its communications.

This is something I feel passionately about, so I hope this will be a few steps to improving the situation. The newsletter will come out every 2 weeks (but a different size so that it doesn't fall out!) and along with the Union Website, which is being revamped this year, and the all new redesigned Union Email, going out this week, I hope that it will allow those who wish to you know more about the Union, the opportunities to do so.

Smoking & the Union Building

With smoking seeming to be in the news a lot lately, I thought it would be good to give an explanation of the provisions in the Union. There have often been requests for a non-smoking venue to be provided amongst the Union bars. In response, last term saw a 3 month no-smoking trial in DaVincis (the middle of the 3 bars). A lot of feedback was received and the outcome was very mixed – a lot of people were in favour of the ban, but this being balanced by the many people against it. In response a compromise was found – DaVinci's "9am-9pm" non-smoking during the week, but with smoking allowed after 9pm during the week and all day during the weekend and vacations. This was the arrangements at the end of last term and are the current arrangements.

Natural Sciences

Despite the merging of the 2 faculties of Life Sciences and Physical Sciences into Natural Sciences, I've been assured by College that this will have no affect of the students academically. The division system of Life Sciences and department system of Physical Sciences will remain, at least for the foreseeable future. If you do feel there are problems or have concerns, please contact me or one of your Faculty representatives.

Wye

As mentioned in an article last week, changes are happening to Wye College and its course – Applied Business Management. The Deputy Rector went to speak to the students 2 weeks ago and then the proposals were approved by College as the way forward.

The ABM course will be an Imperial College course for all current students and those entering in 2006, through to the completion of their studies (~2009). All these students will continue to receive the same degree and associateship of the as present. The staff (AEBM) will transfer to the University of Kent, retaining an honorary association with Imperial, and will continue to deliver the course to Imperial students under formal agreement with Kent. In addition there will continue to be a component of the course delivered by Imperial academic staff who do not transfer to Kent.

From the 2007 entry, the course will become a University of Kent degree, delivered by staff of the University of Kent (but there will continue to be a component taught by Imperial staff) and will remain at the Wye campus. Students enrolling after 2007 will receive a University of Kent degree (not a joint degree with Imperial), but there'll be a formal recognition of Imperial's continued involvement. It's proposed that this would be through establishing of an Associateship of Wye College awarded to those receiving a University of Kent degree.

There'll be a review of these arrangements in 2011, allowing two full years of graduates of Kent to have come through the course, so that both institutions can assess the value of the current arrangements.

I will be in Wye on **Friday 18th November**, so if you do have any questions about this or anything else, feel free to come and see me then.

Email: president@imperial.ac.uk

Or pop into the Union building, South Ken, first floor.



Rise to S.H.A.G...

Sarah Khatib - Deputy President (Education & Welfare)



At the beginning of November was Riseweek, an anti-racism and anti-islamophobia campaign. The Union organised events from debates to world cup football to celebrate diversity in Imperial with the support of the OSC, RAG, Debating, Model United Nations, Islamic and the Afro-Caribbean Societies. Thanks to all of you who contributed.

Coming up at the end of November is S.H.A.G week, a week to raise awareness for Sexual Health and Guidance leading to World AIDS Day on December 1st. Look out for the red ribbons, for getting S.H.A.G. approved and for the very many events organised for this massive week.

Clubs & Societies Review

James Yearsley - Media Group Chair

Take a look at the union today, and what is the most important element you will find?

The answer is Clubs and Societies, and it's not just me who thinks so. The Union Strategic Review from last year records that 96% of you believe that 'The Unions Clubs and Societies are an essential part of student life.'

Given then its worth, we should firstly congratulate ourselves that we have 260 odd active clubs, and the structures in place to support them. After all we have a deputy president whose sole responsibility is to manage clubs and societies.

Secondly, it is worth taking a look at how we do manage our student activities, and consider whether there is any room for improvement.

This may bring groans from some of you, but the aim of the exercise is not to spend months throwing around buzz words only to come out at the end with a structure. (And one which might bear a striking resemblance to the one we have now). Yes, we've all seen these things go wrong before.

Instead the idea is to step back and think about why we do the things we do with clubs and societies, and try and turn a history of generally successful precedents into a concrete policy that we can move forward with, as well as to identify, and adjust, things that run contrary to the aims and objectives of the Union as a whole. To this end, a working group has been set up consisting of members of the Student Ac-

tivities Committee (SAC), the body in charge of overseeing student activities. This group is in fact directly accountable to you, the club member, as SAC is made up of the chairs of clubs and society committees (CSC), as well as the Faculty Union presidents, and the RAG and CAG chairs.

The point of this is that everyone can have a say in this review, we will shortly be having an official consultation with all union members. However, of course, the best way to get your voice heard, as always, is to talk to your nearest union representative (be it club chair, CSC chair or Sabb).

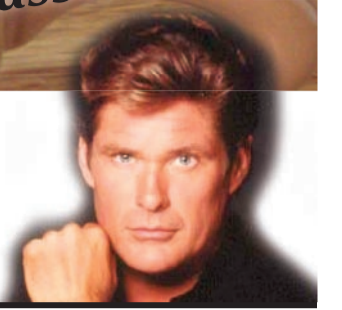
As for official consultation, we expect to distribute questionnaires, hold focus groups, and conduct interviews with some members of college staff and union officers, aiming to get as big a range of opinion as possible. The aim is simply to get as many opinions as possible. Thus we will know what you want student activities to be. So far nothing has been ruled out, and nothing ruled in, so there's plenty of opportunity to make a difference.

Look out for more details on specific ways to get involved in the next few weeks, notices will be posted in Felix and on the monitors in the JCR, as well as on notice boards. Until then, if you have any suggestions, please either contact your nearest union representative or email suggestions to dpcs@imperial.ac.uk. We look forward to hearing your opinions.

coffee break

with David Hasselhoff

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Whatever I said, Whatever I did, I didn't mean it. I just want you back for good. Coffee Break time!

Mirror Mirror

Lots of pretty pictures for you to gawp at this week. We've been titting about in Photoshop (always good when ideas are in short supply) and have cleverly disguised some 'celebrities' via the magic of mirrors.

All you have to do is tell us who they are, and in return we'll give you two juicy FUCWIT points. Seems like a fair deal.

Emails, as always, to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



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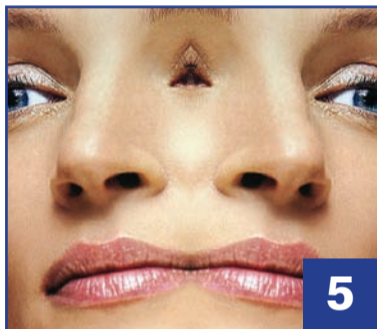
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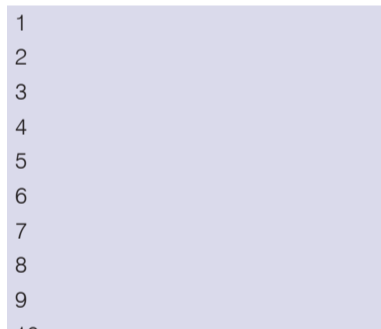
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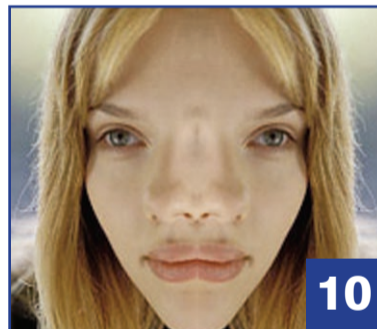
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10

Answers 1333

Hoff... Hoff... HOFF!

- 13, but if you were close, that's okay.
- It was Vodka, but now water after one DUI too many.
- Pamela Anderson
- The Hoff's penis is what happens when you're making other plans.
- Devon Miles
- David Micheal Hasselhoff

As for anyone who sent in a Dot-to-Hoff, I've been deeply shocked by just how sad some of you are. Well done. There's still time to enter last weeks CB, and to put in your bid for our lovely Gay Porn. You know you want it.

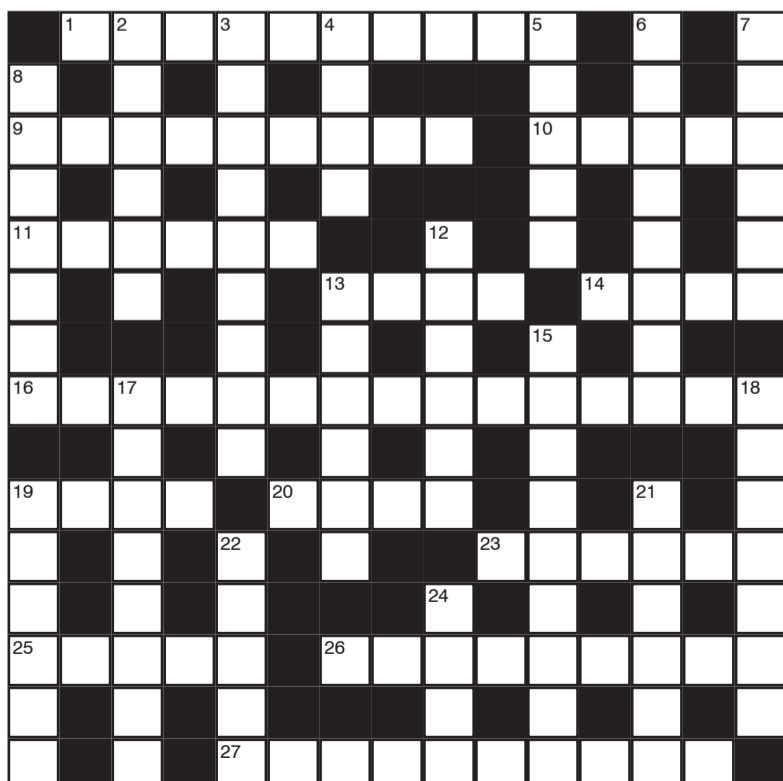
FUCWIT League 2005-2006

The Fantastic Four	115
Darkshines	114
Cupid Stunts	110
Me, Myself & John Sargent	109
Bernard Scumley Porno Queen	109
Cockroach On Coke	109
Insert Name Here	108
Norfolk 'n' Chance	94
Forever Throwing Doubles	91
The Schist Ones	69
Disgruntled Virgin	24
Caledonian Conspiracy	23
Citizen Erased	15
House of Earthly Delights	13

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix Crossword 1333

by Luke Gibson



Across

1. Dan's confused over female wizards, we hear, light snacks (10)
9. Durham University on rations for periods of time (9)
10. Alas, one missing, the weigh of the world on my shoulders (5)
11. Scarer caused fast competitors (6)
13. The drain, for example, utility conduit (4)
14. Remove saint and Extra Terrestrial from print (4)
16. Gavin's intoxication fronts South Bank records (6, 9)
19. Alex puzzled by car support (4)
20. Greek top man like wild animal parks, we hear (4)
23. Discard loses its direction to

- show its real identity (2, 4)
25. ...therefore a chicken heads the Church of England (5)
26. A French name and a louse without a tail were unexpected results (9)
27. Southern wine can cause pigs illness (5, 5)

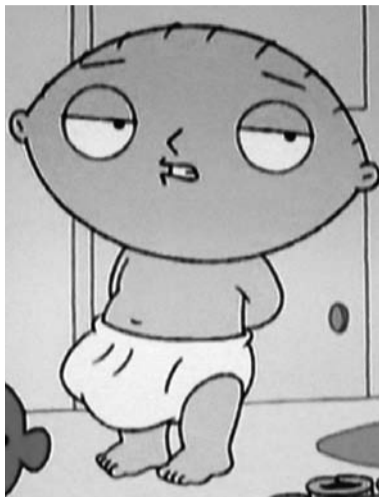
Down

2. CIA and RAF work together for a continent (5)
3. Inhibit bloke, cleaning is his thing (9)
4. I lie concerning idol (4)
5. Boat trip around North Pole in search of mollusc (5)
6. Libel nut scrambled new report (7)
7. Wager around question concerning a container (6)

8. Latin with dress makes formal speech (7)
12. A Greek god of wine, we hear, creates a counting device (6)
13. The Latin in Ted, it has been examined (6)
15. Pass time after bored, we hear (5, 4)
17. Vocal Nic when perplexed can be powerfully explosive (8)
18. Stud was forced to make cutting waste (7)
19. Gold fronted thunder god, that's a writer isn't it? (6)
21. Al Gore is bewildered he thinks he has it all (6)
22. Predict Guss to eat Eastern food (5)
24. Globe loses its head, but forms a new appendage (4)



Last weeks TV



This week we have more from me. Oi, I heard that at the back! We are also joined by the genius that is Joe Mangle. Oops, slight typo. Let's hope Joe doesn't notice, otherwise I'm going to be pressed flatter and wrung more than his checked shirts! Badoom-tish! Anyway, enough of the spiel.

Can I get a round of applause for David & Co on Saturday! That game was amazing! Shrek stole the show in the first half. Then, the second half was even more brilliant. England battled and after Argentina took the lead again you might have expected us to quiver like a child after accepting one of Michael Jackson's lollipops. Nope, we kept going and then dear little Mikey, leapt twice and headed us to victory. Excellent!

Before I start properly I'd just like to inform you all: **Rome** saw a 20% decrease in audience figures last week. This still equates to 4.7m viewers, which is pretty epic for BBC2, but soon my ranting will conquer **Rome**!

Now, **Shakespeare Retold - Much Ado About Nothing**. Starring Damian Lewis, the one from *Band of Brothers*, and Billie Piper, the one who liked tongue-twisters so much she gave herself a new surname dedicated to them, *Much Ado* was a modern retelling set on a tel-

evision news program. It followed two couples as their relationships went from one extreme to the other. Piper played a ditsy weather girl and Lewis was an comical, arrogant news presenter. I thought he might be in no-man's land, but he was very funny and suited the character well. As the episode progressed, it became more and more serious, ending with Piper cracking her head open. The doctors tried the best they could, but unfortunately, there was nothing they could do. Piper was pronounced alive in order to satisfy Shakespeare's original. Well worth watching the others in the series, people.

Next up, Jonathan Goodwin in **The Seven Stupidest Things to Escape From**. Goodwin came up with situations of increasing hilarity that he had to escape from. One memorable example, that should have been issued mind rubbers, saw a naked Goodwin tied up in a lift. His family waited at the bottom. He had eleven floors to escape and get dressed. He failed; and flailed! Blimey. Very funny, but I've got one for you baldy! How about: I lock you up naked in a shed, set fire to it, seal your Peter in a vice; tie you up except for one free hand and finally place a meat cleaver within reach! Ha! That's harsh...I liked Goodwin. He was nice, placid and I empathised when he broke his leg coming off a zip line. An absolute fruit-loop though. Mind you, his father was pretty crazy too. Dad calmly tied Goodwin up every time, rarely showing an emotion before unleashing a whole world of hurt on his son.

Lastly, **Lost**. Not a great episode, to be honest. Basically, Ethan was lured into a trap. But, the plan went wrong after Charlie shot him. It was dramatic, but I felt annoyed. Yet another chance to find out about the mysterious island from Ethan and the creators decide to kill him off. It's suspenseful, but it's getting pretty drawn out. 24, this is not.

Anyway, get those caps on, hoods up, scarves wrapped. Till next time brethren.

Tomo Roberts

Strewth!



It's all been going on since I got back from the bush. My little chook is courting some galah from over the road. That kid's not so bad though. I made a blue by saying he had never done the naughty with a gal before, then the drongo goes and shows my Sky a list of ex-girlfriends. He may not be the full quid, but if my Sky likes him he's alright by me.

And how about that mongrel Paul Robinson. Some real monkey business going on with him and Izzie. I really wish she would rack off and give the old doc some space to get things on with Susan. You should have seen the sight on his dial when she came up with the whole 'I was raped' thingo. Spewin' like I've never seen.

Bloody Sheilas, eh! That Janelle Timmins is another one. Cunning as a dunny rat. Really stirred things up between me and Linnie. She claimed I pashed her at our Sky's eighteenth. Of course I had a gutful of piss so I had to tell Lyn, but she straightened things there and then.

With the blonde one over the road gone troppo and Yellow-belly Hazer's new found wowsler salvo attitude, I reckon everyone's trippin'. But nah! Here'll do for me. Just grab a tinny and veg out.

Hooroo till the next time!

Joe Mangel

DVD Reviews

Punk: Attitude

Certificate: E

★★★★☆

I felt a little daunted when the *Felix* editor handed me the *Punk: Attitude* DVD to review. My thoughts were: "I hate punk music; he has given this to the wrong guy."

Punk: Attitude is a documentary chronicling the origins of punk music, starting with bands such as *The Ramones* and *New York Dolls* and finishing with present day artists such as *Blink 182* and *Limp Bizkit*. Thankfully, an anarchy adoration and love of loud noises is not a requirement to enjoy this DVD. There are a multitude of music clips for fans to mosh along to, or whatever you crazy-cats do these days but the documentary is more concerned with the evolution of punk ideologies and what bands attempted to convey through their music.

Punk music was conceived in the early '70s but it wasn't born and named until *Punk* magazine was created in 1976. Music from bands such as *New York Dolls* was not defined until the tabloids coined the phrase "punk", borrowing from this magazines title. There was a point behind this clamorous, abrasive noise that soiled, afro or mullet wearing weirdoes blared out as they shouted down the microphone. Artists challenged politics and went against the system, or so they argued. Listening to most past masters being interviewed in *Punk: Attitude*, their intentions sounded entirely reasonable. However, one interviewee comments that violence was acceptable as long as their opinions were getting heard. How can this be taken seriously? For me, this totally undermines what punk musicians were striving for. It is no



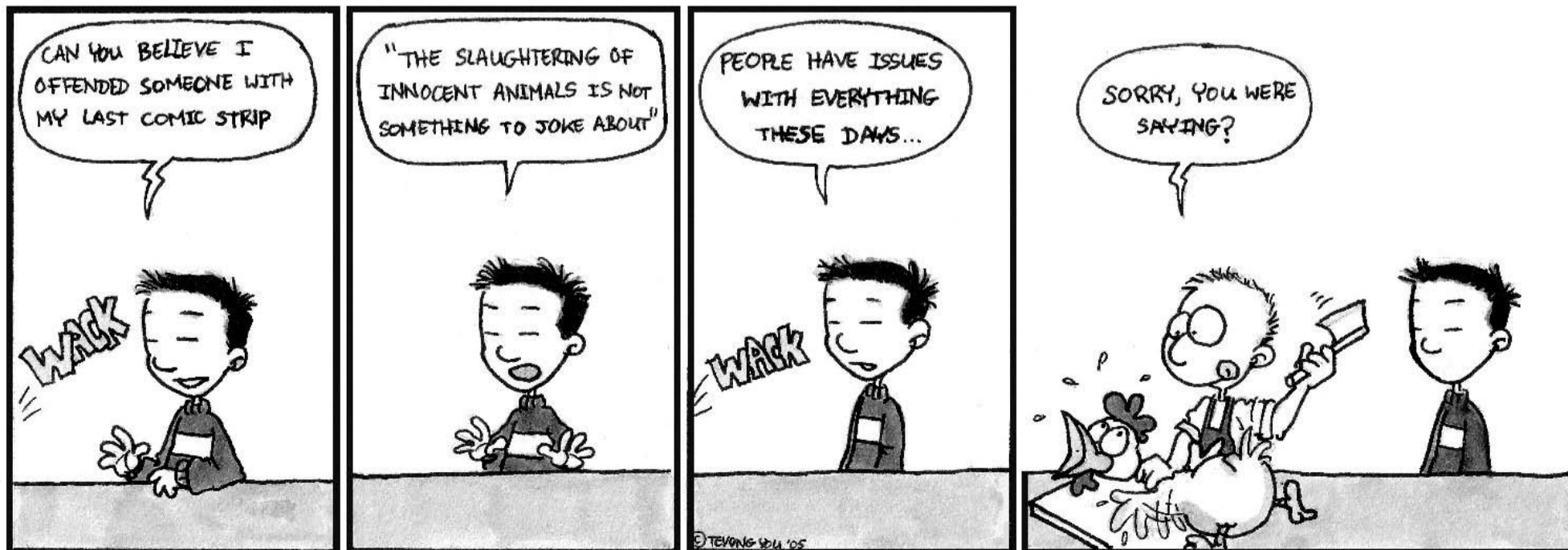
wonder I view these people as ruffians, scallywags, rapscallions! It's a shame really. Many of the old band members appear to be very intelligent. Whilst their intentions were understandable, their methods of conveying their ideas were far too extreme.

Ironically, unlike these punk miscreants, *Punk: Attitude* is very well presented. Packaged in a sleeve with the glossy image of someone "flipping a bird", it contains 2 DVDs with plenty of extras and even replicas of two *Sniffin' Glue* fanzines. It is definitely something that any punk fan should have on their shelf alongside their green hairspray, metal studs and face chains. *Punk: Attitude* is difficult to recommend to anyone else other than middle-aged men going through a mid-life crisis, looking for inspiration on how to be "hip" and "down with the kids".

Overall, I must say, I was pleasantly surprised by the documentary. Shockingly so, it pointed out that even I have some punk attitude in me, such as using computers to burn CDs against record companies' wishes. Yeah. Yeah! Fuck you sonny! Ahem, excuse me. I don't know what came over me.

Tomo Roberts

Watch TV? You have enough qualifications.
tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys. I had to let the man with a rant win this week!! The pain!!! Save me from the same fate and get thinking! Film tickets up for grabs again! I'm here to answer all you can throw at me! agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk!

Miss C.



Star Letter

Man with a rant, what a surprise

Dear Miss C, I'm a maths student, and sometimes I feel that is all I have. My girlfriend left me for a one eyed shoe salesman, and recently I find myself imagining I'm Neo from the Matrix and I can see maths formulas and pink elephants everywhere. My room mate says I'm crazy but he doesn't know how stupid he looks when he sleeps. I've kept a log for over 5 hours a night of all his facial expressions. I wish to be the first to derive a formula for this.

I was wondering if any of the drizzle you claim is actual text, worthy of aiding lost and morbid angel souls like mine, could possibly be applicable! Or maybe I should turn to the expertise of the fashion columnist and wear make-up. I am now able to save valuable money on toilet paper and I feel

honoured to use your words of wisdom for such essential acts of life. In fact my intestinal flora, and in fact certain fauna graces your coll[0](um)n.

I thank you for your solution, could you please give me the working out so that I may learn more! Hail unto thee Captain Kirk, I would of course give my name but it is Nobody, and further more to pronounce it properly I would have to pull out your tounge and nail it your big toe.

Dear Nobody, Ummm..... Firstly I can't believe you even took the time to write that e-mail. Secondly, though I never thought it possible, I feel I have to say that you are without a doubt beyond my help, and I have alerted the nearest insane asylum to come take you way before you cause yourself or anyone else any harm. Thirdly, next time you're hunting for toilet paper, I hope this page, specifically your letter comes to mind as it is surely the most deserving. Lets hope Scottie beams you up soon!!

Wanted: An Apology!!

Dear Miss Confidentiality, I have been friends with this girl for a year and we are close. The thing is I got stressed with her about something. I got stressed with her because of the amount of homework I had to do and also the bullying I faced at College. I don't want to lose her because of what happened. What should I say to her to make things right and to win her friendship back? Foot-In-Mouth

Dear Foot-In-Mouth, Why is it that when a guy has a problem they just bottle it up and then take it out on some poor unsuspecting female who just happens to be in close range? We never have to do anything, you'll just blow. Maybe it's a time to actually take a page out of the girls' handbook and learn to talk about you feelings instead of just exploding! We won't assume you're gay if you have an emotional moment! Now, as I feel a bit sorry for you (which doesn't happen often!) I'll help! I'm not going to

give you a list of magic phrases guaranteed to bring any girl to her knees, as one doesn't exist: it's a pile of utter crap (I'll save that rant for another time though). What I will say is, surprisingly, you need to apologise. Yes, that's right, get down on those knees!! Talk to the girl. Ranting at her without cause is seriously not going to do you any favours. If you guys are really close, try confiding in her and tell her that you've got stuff on your mind! We're girls, we have that problem daily, trust me we'll understand!

Moment on the lips...

Dear Miss C, I feel awful today. I was getting ready to go out for some girlie shopping, and my 'friend' said, "You needn't wear that. You can't hide the weight you've gained recently anyway!" I'm a bit chubby anyway but that comment ruined the whole morning for me. I'm fed up of people singling me out as the fattest one in my group. They're all really skinny but I can't ditch my friends. I don't wanna hear any crap like that, ok? Feeling Chubby.

Dear Feeling Chubby, Chill woman!! Just tell your mates not to comments on your weight; instead ask for help finding flattering clothes! Any excuse to shop! If you think that you're overweight, then do something about it, watch Mr. Motivator every morning! If you are happy with yourself and just feel that the world is being harsh, well welcome to my world!! Everyone has an impression of the way they think people should look, and the only view that matters is your own! Stop reading Cosmo and Elle etc. The pics are all air brushed anyway! To the Hollywood world, a size 6 is big, that's scary and totally unrealistic! There are the guys who prefer a girl with a bit of meat on her as they don't want an anorexic stick who'll break if you try and hug her! It's better to hear the truth from your friends, but there's a way for it to be said! Just tell your mates they crossed a line, and had better shut it or you'll attack, and lets face it, with the weight advantage, you'll win!

Mystic stars

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



You'll find yourself in a pickle this week as you are jealously coveting something of your neighbours. Beware of risking friendships in the name of kleptomania.

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



Your ego has taken a battering recently so it's understandable that you may be after some TLC. Beware, fishing for compliments might reel in a shark.

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Why oh why do these things happen to you? Don't fret!! The fates will ultimately smile upon you, even though they may be laughing right now.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



Your humanitarian impulses will come to the aid of several people this week. Rejoice in the satisfaction this gives you and reap in the rewards.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



Ok, so things aren't going as planned but remember, everything happens for a reason and very soon you'll see why. Just be patient and all will be revealed.

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Emotions are in turmoil and threaten to explode. Just remember too many cooks spoil the broth. It's much better to leave them to fight. Don't worry, walk away and relax!

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



Feeling glum are we? Its a passing phase, nothing to worry about. Friends make a great support network. A stitch in time, saves nine.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



Tension is rife this week as you struggle in your social relationships. Don't worry though it's not how much you say it, it's what you say that counts!

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



You may bump into someone from your past towards the end of you week. Be warned as appearances can be deceiving!

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



You're the man about town, keep it up!! You may want to slow things down on Tuesday though. Stay calm, and relax. Why rock the boat!

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)

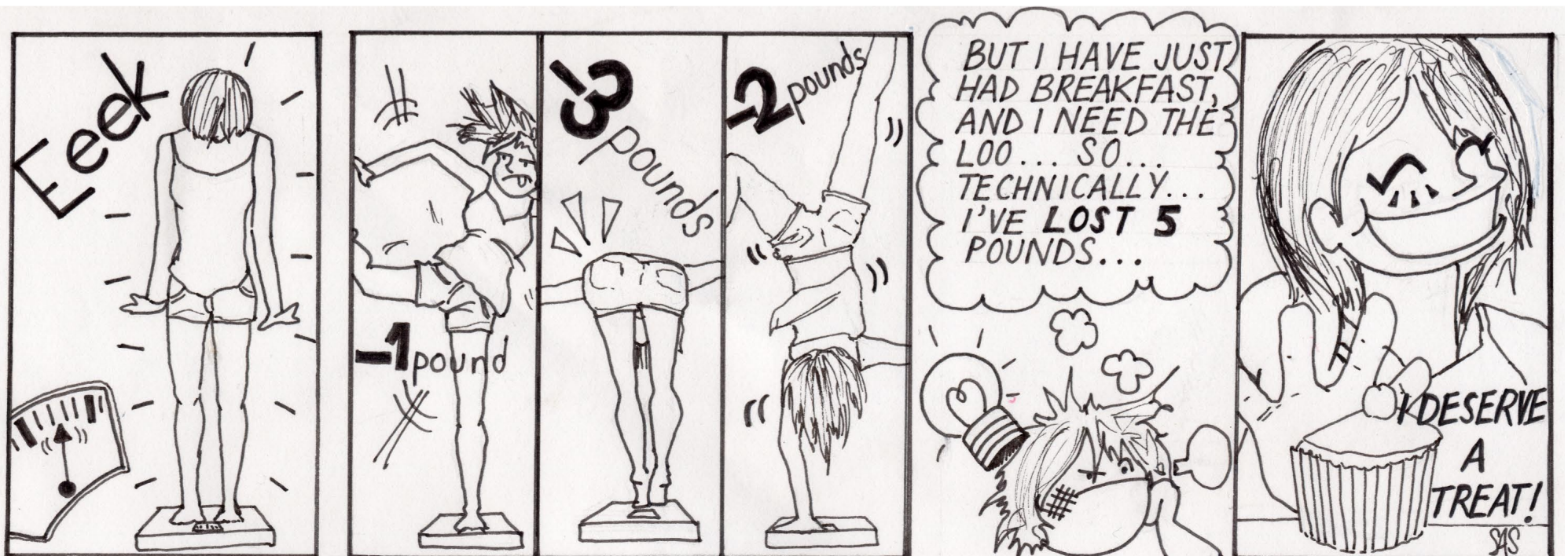


Shit happens!! Deal with it!! Pick yourself up and keep going. Worse things could and have happened before!! It'll all blow over soon, just keep smiling.

Libra (Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd)



It may seem as though everything is going wrong, but don't forget, every cloud has a silver lining! Yours is just beginning to reveal itself! Hold on just that little bit longer.



6th XI Dominate Kings College!

Andrea Faggiani

Mens Football

Imperial College 6th XI	3
Kings College 6th XI	1

The mighty IC 6ths turned up at Harlington for their first home game of the season. Things were not looking too good following Wednesdays defeat away to LSE. Today was the turn of Kings 6ths, who before this were in top spot in the league with 4 games and 4 wins, having conceded just 2 goals and scored 17. That was soon going to change though. Captain Andrea, still out due to the horrendous knee injury sustained at Queen Marys in the last game of the last season back in March decided to opt for a radically different formation. It was going to be a dynamic 3 5 2. Andriy "Shevchenko" Gelman was in goal, with Adrien Doyle acting as a sweeper behind Ricky Verra and Tom Crockatt, whose job was to mark the Kings strikers. Any Li and Callum Little were acting as wing backs, with Hamish McNelly, Xiyong Huang, and Ben Hasted in the centre of the park. Up front Ian Mirandah and Simon "batman"

Parker were looking for the goals.

The game started off and Andrea's tactical awareness was soon apparent. The Kings front two could get nothing off us, and Andy and Callum were controlling their wingers and going forwards at just the right times. Our centre mid trio was in complete control and Ian and Simon always looked dangerous.

About 30 minutes in the game a quick move down the right saw Simon centre the ball into the box, with Andy screaming down the left hand side and knocking the ball powerfully past the keeper. 1-0!!! Kings tried to get them selves together and did play some good football, but we were careful and focused until the break. They had one shot on goal, but Shev flew to the top right hand corner and palmed the ball away for a cracking save. We went close on a couple of corners but were happy to end the half with just a slender lead. Rob Yates replaced Callum at right wing back, and Nam replaced Andy on the left. They had run so much in the first half that they could barely breathe!!!

The second half started with Kings again on the front foot, trying to attack us, but they were frustrated by our constant breaks as soon as we would get possession. It was one of these breaks that led to our sec-

ond. As swift move on the right let do a lightning quick one two between Hamish and Ben, who then release Xiyong in open space just outside the Kings box. He unleashed a furious drive with the outside of his right boot which curled into the top left corner almost breaking the net. Amazing goal and we went mental!!!!

Kings really started piling up some pressure after this, and managed to pull one back about 15 minutes from time, with a long range effort by one of their strikers. Not to worry. We bounced back and didn't let them try to equalize. We went forwards in numbers just like at the beginning of the match, and a great through ball found Ian one on one with the keeper. Just like in previous games the outcome of that is just one: goal. 3-1 and we were cruising!

And that's how it ended. An awesome team performance all round. Our defence was flawless, with AD even making some surging runs forwards and causing havoc in the Kings defence. The midfield trio was working wonders and the two strikers always caused problems. Callum, Nam, Andy and Rob ran their socks off in their newly-discovered wing back positions and all played really well. Lets keep it going lads! Bring it on!

2nd team demolition squad ensure win for hockey ladies

Fiona Jamieson

Ladies Hockey

GKT 4th XI	0
Imperial College 2nd XI	7

For once the team managed to get off to a remarkable start; there was a full team of players, semi-competent umpires and Fanny Pants even remembered the VAT receipt for our trek to Kennington Park. Were these omens for the match ahead?

The game started well with Top Heavy managing to intercept the push back and driving up into the attacking half. However it took about 15 minutes before Ghostbuster managed to get a quick pass to Grandma who scored her first goal for IC. GKT tried to pressure IC into giving them the ball but they weren't having any of it. 1 Under, J.D., 3 Times a Lady and India all worked hard to make sure those medics didn't get hold of the ball which lead to some great play by IC which was swiftly followed by Grandma scoring her second of the day. The half time whistle went and after the usual praise for ourselves, Fanny Pants gave an inspirational half time talk.

It was time for more goal pie and to beat the medic scum. We instantly got to work with Porno, Butt-F**cker and Laura working hard in the middle to aid Grandma to her hat-trick. The quick passing continued and Grandma got two more. Play switched and after a few unsuccessful short corners IC got their sixth goal. No it wasn't Grandma that scored this but Top Heavy from a sensational strike at the top of the D. This was followed by a lapse in concentration by India who deservedly gained 'Twat of the Match' for hitting the ball backwards between her legs because she didn't know who to pass to! IC quickly got back to form and gained a short corner just as the final whistle blew. It was a tense moment but was aided by some inspiring team play. Grandma pushed out, struck by Top Heavy, kept in the D by Butt-F**cker, off the back line by Porno finally before Dominator scored her first IC goal. This along with some great tackling earned Dominator 'Man of the Match'. A special mention goes to Fanny Pants who didn't touch the ball throughout the entire match. The game was ended in the usual way with team spirit, fantastic teas and the usual frenzy at the union!

Valiant sevenths snatch defeat from the jaws of victory

Sam Styles

Mens Football

Imperial College 7th XI	2
SOAS 2nd XI	3

Tottenham lost to Grimsby in September. Manchester United were destroyed by York City in 1995. Hereford famously dumped Newcastle out of the FA Cup in 1972. Sugar Ray Robinson, the most complete boxer of all time even managed to lose to "The Leamington Licker", Randy Turpin all the way back in 1951. The end of the Mighty Mighty Sevens 100% start to the season, however, is surely a sporting upset to top them all.

"Several SOAS half-chances were snuffed out by Wongy and Paul "the shark" Schaack"

SOAS began the game brightly and were clearly eager to have a

pop at the Sevens, who had up until this point dominated ULU Division 4 ruthlessly. The absence of Coach Duncan and his steel drum backing band was clearly having a detrimental effect on the Sevens, who were struggling to get into their usual Brazilian-style samba rhythm. Several SOAS half-chances were snuffed out by Wongy and Paul "the shark" Schaack at the back as IC spent the majority of the first half camped in their own, er, half and were limited to trying to sneak a goal on the break. Super Rich McSherry went closest with a left footed drive across goal after a great run down the left wing. A SOAS goal had been on the cards for a while when a rare defensive lapse left their striker one on one with our top secret tri-allist goalkeeper (let's call him M Banger...actually, no, that's too easy let's say Matty B - well come on, if Family Guy can steal so blatantly off the Simpsons then so can I) and the striker made no mistake to give SOAS the lead. The goal helped to wake the sleeping Sevens from their slumbers, and IC ended the half with the first stirrings of Brazilian fire in their loins.

Sam's improved half-time team talk fired the Sevens up, and the equaliser came shortly after the restart. I now have to deviate slightly off-topic to explain the subject of

IC's Fantasy Football league - you pick a team made up of IC players and score points according to who scores, and, more importantly, who gets the assists. IC football club takes on a whole new level of importance when Fantasy Football begins. Anyway, the reason I am

"The 7's sat too deep, SOAS scored 2 goals. 'Balls', as they say in Bolton"

telling you this is because I got the assist, and that gets me points. Oh the goal was pretty good as well, Pas poking the ball past the keeper after running onto Sam's lobbed through ball (a.k.a: long ball). This was more like it, and IC pressed hard for a second. A chance came with a free-kick on the corner of the SOAS area and Sam's beautiful curling cross was nodded in by Sandy at the back stick to make the score Sam Styles 2 assists - SOAS 1.

2-1 up with 10 minutes to play and everything is looking "muito bem" as they say in Rio...maybe. Well, you know the rest. The 7's sat too deep, SOAS scored 2 goals. "Balls", as they say in Bolton.

RSM Strolled over!

Rachel Kershaw

Mixed Hockey

RSM Mixed	0
London Strollers	1

"I don't see the point in going to sleep when you are drunk" has got to be the quote of the day courtesy of Tim and also summarised the state of some of our players on a cold Sunday afternoon down in Raynes Park. The last minute fill in for another team meant the RSM turned up with an impressive 11 at the end of reading week. The game started at a pace and continued so throughout the first half. It was an especially close half, with both teams matched in possession and shots on goal. It ran into injury time as Pikey took a particularly bad hit to his foot from a well hit ball just outside the D. This was after Rach got confused as to which team she was playing for and passed to a Strollers player (note - playing for the opposition the week before obviously is too confusing...)

After a relaxed interlude the game got underway for the second half with Tim running all over the left wing with excellent support upfront by Leon and Dasha. Despite Susie's many chances to score unfortunate-

ly the RSM could not convert them into goals.

Tom and Mike played to their usual high standards running through the centre causing problems for the Strollers midfield. It was all even to 3 minutes before the end when as the RSM were pushing up, the Strollers got a quick break and despite our goalie, Sam, playing a great game with some brilliant saves up to this point, was unable to close down a well hit shot.

"RSM will be looking for a reversal of the score when they play them again in a couple of week's time"

The end came soon afterwards. It was a fun game with Man of the Match going to the much improved John for covering the right wing superbly and preventing many balls going through to the defence and a special mention going to Alice for turning up very hung over and taking every opportunity to disappear off to the toilets..... The RSM will be looking for a reversal of the score when they play them again in a couple of week's time.

Sport

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

100% record intact!

Chloé Joyeux

Ladies Football

City University XI	1
Imperial College XI	3

The ladies football travelled to what seemed the most isolated part of London on this wintry Sunday. The opponent's grounds were public grounds with rather dodgy showers and changing rooms. Despite this unwelcoming arrival, the ladies walked out onto the pitch desperate to keep up their 100% record in ULU.

The weather proved to be typically English and was awful. Rain, backed up by wind, affected visibility throughout the match. After about 25 minutes of hard play from both sides the IC ladies stamped their superiority on the match. Lizzie made an amazing cross from the side line, which caused confusion in the City defence, and an own goal was scored by the opposition, confirming the advantage to the IC side. Many other goal opportunities were missed as the opposition's keeper, the biggest girl of their team, proved to be worthy of her position. With this first goal however, although not



entirely deserved, confidence was gained and a strong shot from within the keeper's box was soon delivered by Chin, the team captain in person, which lobbed the City keeper and ended up in a second goal.

The City ladies, however, did not surrender this easily and gave the defence some difficulty with their counter attack. A certain number 8, in particular, proved hard to control, and despite Chloé (dame of the

game) and Jools' efforts at taming her, she managed to score the third goal of the match, bringing the score to 2-1. Half time was blown and the IC ladies welcomed the rest.

The start of the second half was more tense, as the IC side missed many goal opportunities and started becoming frustrated by their absence of luck. Poppy, second dame of the game, had many efforts on goal as well as very good controls

but the score remained static. The defence continued to be strong, carried by Dill and Kathy letting the ball through on rare occasions, most often created by the number eight, their star player and captain. Ten minutes into the second half changes were made on the IC side. Vanee then took on the job of marking number eight; she stuck to her like glue for the remaining time, giving her great difficulty,

although ending up socializing with her afterwards.

Fifteen minutes into the second half one City defender passed back to her goalie, who was caught by surprise and barely escaped a second own goal. Lizzie took this opportunity to tap the ball into the back of the net, bringing the score to 3-1. The game ended with another win for the IC ladies, who remain unbeaten this season in ULU.

Centenary countdown begins



Imperial College London will celebrate the centenary of the signing of its charter on 8 July 2007, commemorating one hundred years since the drawing together of the Royal School of Mines, the Royal College of Science and the City and Guilds College to form Imperial College.

The Centenary Programme, whilst celebrating the College's distinguished past, will focus on the impact of our academic enterprise on the future and aims to:

- Accelerate and enhance the effectiveness of the fundraising campaign
- Promote the reputation of Imperial
- Help to develop the sense of community at the College

Send us your ideas to help shape the year long programme of events and activities.

- Design a centenary logo
- Suggest a strapline
- Propose an event or activity

Email your suggestions to centenary@imperial.ac.uk

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/spectrum/centenary.htm>

21 November 17:00

SAF Lecture Theatre 1

Astronaut Scott Kelly

This Guest Lecture is organised with the help of:

International Space School Educational Trust
Imperial College Outreach
IC Astronomy Society

Sport

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

My first run – Race Day!

Simon Nagle

Cross Country

A five mile run in a South-West London park; seems easy enough but add in the factors of heavy rain, uneven terrain and a hundred or so keen runners from all the other London universities it became anything but! Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Cross Country club!

My first session coinciding with race day (every other Wednesdays) – was hosted by Imperial in Richmond park. Typical with most outdoor sporting events in England, the weather started closing in and with less than an hour to the start of the race it began to rain – the signs weren't good.

A brief warm up and a bit of social banter between the universities and it was time to race. The rain was heavy by now. As a keen, social runner myself, I hoped to do well, prove my worth to the club and of course beat some of the guys from LSE. Unfortunately all hopes quickly evaporated as half the runners streamed by in the first 200m.

The course lived up to its name as it was very much cross country. In fact some parts were like running in a river! I use the word 'running' loosely here because it was more like a careful balancing act when sliding down some slopes of the course – and that's when I was going up the hills! I sometimes felt as though I was on a "Cross-Country Travelator" as for every 3 strides forward, I'd slide one back! This



along with the constant stream of girls overtaking me did not make for an easy start to the race.

Determined to still do well and to at least get back some lost confidence (or may be it's just from being at Imperial too long) I decided to follow the girls. With the increased pace I started passing male runners from each club, whom I presumed were the less fit ones. How naïve was I? My escalating confidence was quickly shattered when the girls finished and I was directed around for another lap. No one told me the ladies only did one lap and the men two did they? It suddenly dawned on me that everyone else was pacing themselves! Knackered, it was

not really surprising that the next lap was not as fast and the track was in an even worse state than before after so many fine athletes had trampled over it. I did however finish and managed to beat a few people from the Imperial club.

After the race came some more banter with the other universities, team photo and a quick change into relatively dry clothes. Again with most sporting events in England it was off to the pub for a couple of post run beers and a chance to dry off by a warm fire.

Now those of you who were in the Union Wednesday night, you might have been aware of some new faces – especially female ones! This was

because Imperial Cross Country also hosted the race social with a few friendly beers and some gloating to the competition. Our men's first team are currently leading the UL universities and our women are second after some solid performances.

Me, well I had a few well earned drinks – but not too many, I'm in training for the next two laps of the next race! For those of you who enjoy running, whether it be competitively or just to keep fit I recommend the training sessions in Hyde Park and also the races which are challenging but great fun. Contact run@ic.ac.uk for more information.

Growing confidence!

Chris Gosden

Mens Rugby

ICURFC 3rd XV	21
UCL 2nd XV	12

Barclays Capital

So we returned to our home pitch at fortress Harlington, Having tasted defeat the previous week we were definitely gunning for victory in this match. UCL 2nd XV started the match top of the league but under the guidance of Andy Wright we were quick to show these jokers who the daddies of London were. Within the first 10 mins, James 'Deep Throat' Fletcher made a fantastic break, offloading it to George Watkins to run it in under the posts. Deep throat slotted home the conversion and after some quality work from the forwards we found ourselves on their '22, where Deep Throat took a quick pass from Penfold and crashed through for the second try.

This was followed by Alex "the pain train" Fergusson breaking the UCL centre. The poor lad was bleeding from his head."

UCL, slightly offended by the pornstar rugby that was being played, decided to try to mount a comeback. After some fantastic defence from Andy, Theo and the Brown Bullet they finally broke our defence and scored a try just before half time but failed to convert. After a quick word from Davey G things got underway in the second half.

UCL still fired up scored and converted, although that was the last thing that they could muster. IC stepped up a gear with some fantastic recycling of the ball and flowing moves led to more points. Johnny 'I've lost my wallet' the Jock, not happy with reaching the try line, battled like a warrior of Rhohan just so he could score under the posts. This was followed by Alex "the pain train" Fergusson breaking the UCL centre. The poor lad was bleeding from his head anyway.

Some fantastic jumping from James 'Donkey Dick' Davies meant that the match was secured and the fellowship of Silvia continues. Next match we will mostly be beating Cantebury and Christchurch – Again.

6th XI pump two up GKT!

Nam Nguyen

Mens Football

Imperial College 6th XI	2
GKT 4th XI	1

Andrea's 6th team cartel arrived on the turf in buoyant mood after a convincing win against the Kingpin of our division to keep us within a drive-by's distance of the leaders. We started off well enough, enjoying a good spell of possession for the opening half hour, which we able to capitalise on via a Hamish "I will not date thou unless thou's percentage body fat is comparable to that of a pork scratching" Mooknaley goal. A deft cross into the erogenous zone by Andriy from the right flank was met by the Crouchy-esque stature of the Mook, who took the ball onto his left before slotting a ball possessing the pace of a maths lecture past the static goalkeeper. Shev continued to dazzle with several winding manoeuvres whilst producing longer runs than Jabba the Hut on a laxative diet. The game soon fell into a state of awkwardness when inform Callum left the field injured and we were forced to reshape. Like a group of Karma Sutra novices, we lacked the flexibility to adapt to our new positions and consequent-

A Passion to Perform.

Deutsche Bank



ly allowed the rest of the half to slip silently into the rather solemn atmosphere.

Having refreshed over the interval, we returned to the pitch hoping to play as smooth as we all think we are when it comes to wooing the ladies. Unfortunately we ended up playing almost as rough as the girls who actually believed us as we struggled to find any true rhythm. GKT inevitably resorted to their beaver lever strumming ways as their second half ref began his reign of cheese churning. They maintained their consistently bad form into the final "45" and we probably would have ran more rings around them than George Michaels's been in were it not for their unsporting use of ringers, and the fact that bestiality has lost its chic upon hearing Mirandah's tales of fingering decapitated poultry.

The game remained out of sorts until we eventually delivered the final blow about 20 minutes from time. The ball was scrambled out from a corner before falling to Nam "The Lyrical G" Nguyen, who poked the ball to a bemused "Big" Ben Hasted whose "intentional" scuff/wannabe strike found its way to Mooknaley to hit a well taken volley

into the back of the net. Now despite scoring twice on the playing field, for the benefit of McNelly, I feel it necessary to quote a great general/slave/gladiator, who once said: "Who we do in life, echoes in fraternity," since scoring with spherical objects should be restricted purely to the green.

"GKT inevitably resorted to their beaver lever strumming ways"

GKT finally decided to have a go at us and somehow managed to hit the woodwork twice before pulling one back through a long range effort which flew into the top corner. Despite these minor incidents our keeper Shaz played an impressive game and our tight defensive formation consisting of Ricky, AD and Yong acting in a sweeper role meant were we able to block more canals than a Big Mac.

Captain Andrea continued to pimp us bee-hutches from the sideline throughout the match, although his

immense oral support left us confused as to who should be doing the pimping. (I think he charges £5 an hour anyway.) Simon "the Dark Knight" and Ian Mirandah worked tirelessly upfront to ensure they covered more ground than the frikin' congestion charge, whilst Amin and Robb "the nipple patch kid" Yates preyed on the flanks.

The game eventually ended after a 55 min half, but proved to be good preparation for our next match, which we played last Saturday. Having arrived an hour and a half late, GKT 5ths continued to be a complete bunch of spoons from which it was clear that their lives had experienced as much personal growth as an erection (although this is construed as a compliment if you consider IC 6th personnel). We drew that match 0-0 in what was a frustratingly disappointing match.

On a final note, our thoughts go out to Callum Little, who efforts in the GKT 4ths match were rewarded with a fractured ankle. Get well soon mate!

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

sport

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial rowing 101

Some myths debunked

Henri Ozarovsky

Boat Club

Imperial College Rowing has always been a bit of a mystery to many, but I hope that by the end of this article you'll come out thinking that it's much more than just a self-indulging group that hoard together and stick to themselves.

So let's start with a few facts. We all know that the top squad are good, but how good? Did you know that they have won at Henley Royal Regatta two dozen times, the last time being the coxed four in 2004. Why is this important? Well, Henley is a very prestigious regatta which each year attracts entries from as far afield as the USA and Australia along with the likes of Oxford, Cambridge and member of the GB national squad. Need I say more? However, that's just the start of our success. You may remember the Sydney Olympics in 2000, when the British eight won gold for the first time in almost 90 years. Well 3 of that crew, along with the coach who trained them, were from Imperial! So as you can see we aren't doing too badly. But how do we do it? By having two very experienced coaches: Simon Cox, the new head coach, whose track record at Molesey Boat Club speaks for itself, and who was also a lightweight gold medallist in 1994. Also who can forget Bill Mason, the director of rowing (and ex-head coach), who was GB women's coach for many years and was himself an Olympian in 1972.

So, do ordinary, not so athletic peo-

ple like you and I have a chance of making it? The answer is quite simply yes. One of the three guys on the Olympic squad was a novice to start with but quickly made his was up. Incredible? Yes. Understandable? No. But what I can tell you is that the 120 Members of the boat club aren't all out just to win gold, in fact most are here to have a laugh and to try something new.

Being a novice has its advantages: you get to race all around England and even in Europe. You pay once, a cheap amount, which takes care of all your race entries, your training and gives you free access to a very cool gym. Okay, so you need to buy kit and optional regalia, but who doesn't like the funky looking Imperial rowing regalia. Imagine working out and having a bland but sometimes coloured wall straight in front of you, well that's what you get if you go to David Lloyd for example. Now name me one person who wouldn't rather work out looking over the river Thames, and not having to pay between £75 and £150 a month for membership for a free towel (or two if you are lucky). Alright, so it's in Putney but that's only a quick bus or tube ride (30 mins, I do it nearly every day).

Five things you should know about rowing:

1. You always row backwards
2. Most novice rowers catch crabs (not the ones you want to eat)
3. Bowside's on the right, stroke-side's on the left, but bow can be a strokesider and stroke can be a bowsider
4. Rowing training makes drinking cheaper
5. Rowers like their Cox to be small



Now one of the best things are the parties that come with the training, and don't sweat it, the members club isn't closed off to non-rowers. Frequent parties are organised and by the time this article comes to print you would have missed our Halloween bash on the river where the only rule is drink and more drink! If you weren't one of the fortunate to hear about our fresher's parties, why not try our Christmas Dinner on the 10th December. You must be thinking, "Why should I go, I won't know anyone there?" Well why not?

The novice squad's first big competition of the year is the Cambridge Winter Head of the River, on the 19th of November, which is usually a chance for the Imperial crews to show the Cambridge colleges just

how good they are and record the first of a season of wins. You could read about it in the next issue of *Felix*, or better yet take a road trip to Cambridge to see the novices in action and shout "Go on IC!" at the top of your voices as we go by. We all like a good Cambridge beating, and of course the town is also pretty cool. Don't forget after every race no matter who wins there are always great parties going on.

If you want to join what should be a winning team, the novices will be back at the river every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon and new recruits are always welcome. I hope this has given you a bit of insight into the world of rowing and I think I speak for the whole squad when I say I look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Brown on Sport

Stephen Brown
Sports Editor

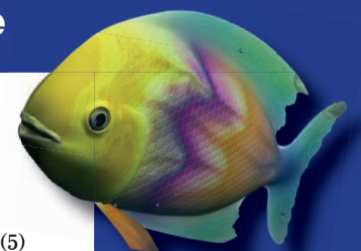
I came across a rather mind-boggling statistic. The national euphoria we all enjoyed when the English football team qualified for Germany 2006 has resulted in punters betting over £500 million on England lifting the trophy, roughly a £10 stake for every man, woman and child in the country. The stage is set. What could be better than being crowned world champions on the home turf of those bloody Germans roughly 40 years after the last triumph in 1966? Not very many things I'm sure. That is why investing at such paltry odds is ill-advised.

All these economic patriots surely deserve better odds than the 7/1 available? This brings me to my point. Betting on England to win represents poor value as the bookmakers odds are mainly influenced by the fact that bookmakers know that patriotic fans will part with their cash no matter what. This is to offset their potential for heavy losses. Before you accuse me of being another whinging-faced Jock talking down your chances, I'd like you to know that I want England to succeed. I just wouldn't put my money on it.

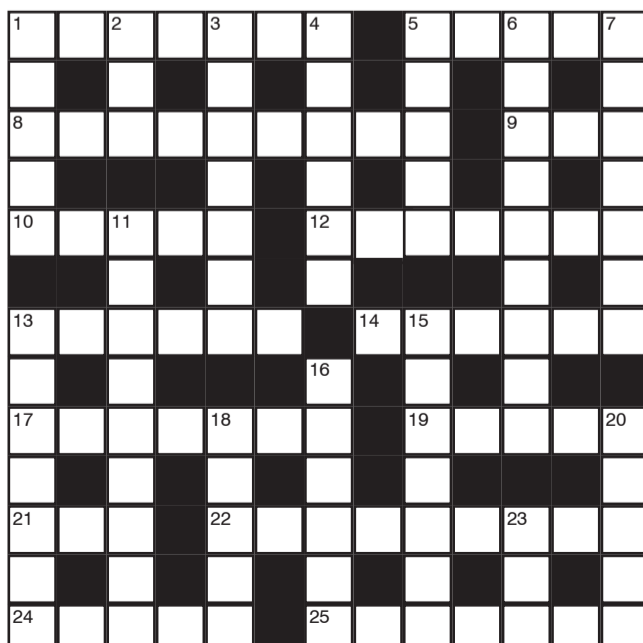
Betting should be a dispassionate transaction, uninfluenced by personal loyalty. This is why you won't find me backing my teams, Scotland and Rangers, with my own cash. I'd always be looking through blue tinted glasses, ripe for exploitation by bookmakers. Keep your money in your pocket and only try and profit from sports you can judge objectively. Enjoy the spectacle. Good luck!

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Crossword
Setters
Required
please!



Across

1. One who is united with another (7)
5. Shaped and dried dough (5)
8. Different from the rest (3,3,3)
9. Of the highest quality (3)
10. Surname of Dallas character who was shot; basketball player Patrick _____ (5)
12. Obvious (7)
13. Suffering from persistent mental disorder or derangement (6)
14. Relating to religious objects or practices (6)
17. Sign; indication of disease (7)
19. High building (5)
- 21 & 22. Jedi character in *Star Wars* (3,3,6)
22. See 21
24. Distinguish oneself (5)
25. Nuns (7)

Down

1. Explore (5)
2. Thin bar (3)
3. Nine-sided figure (7)
4. Take up again (6)
5. _____ dish, used to culture bacteria (5)
6. Image or model that frightens birds away (9)
7. Warded off; turned away (7)
11. One who cannot sleep (9)
13. Awaiting, forthcoming (2,5)
15. Female performer (7)
16. Improves (6)
18. Absorbent cloth (5)
20. Tall grasses (5)
23. Metal-bearing mineral (3)

felix@ic.ac.uk