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Disc Doctors get a
bird's eye view of
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Sports centre delayed

New year's resolution to get fit? Think again!

Rupert Neate
Editor

The opening of Imperial's new Ethos sports centre has been hit by further delays. The centre, which will be largely free for all students and staff, was originally scheduled to open in October 2005. Last spring, the Rector himself assured students and staff that the new centre would open on time and would not be subject to the building delays that have plagued other College projects.

However, over the summer the opening was postponed until Monday 9 January. *Felix* was told the Rector's estimate had been "too overambitious". Students were again assured that there would be no further set-backs and gym and swimming pool would be available at the start of this term.

Nevertheless, the opening has been put back an additional three weeks until 30 January. Paddy Jackman, Head of Commercial Services told *Felix* that the delays were the result of "problems in com-

missioning systems".

Students and staff were only given three days notice of the postponement in a college-wide email sent on Friday 6 January. It seems bizarre that students weren't given more than one working day's notice if there are three weeks worth of building work to be completed.

Sameena Misbahuddin, Union President, described the delay as "annoying, especially for students who've cancelled their gym memberships ready for the opening... With half the year already gone before it opens, College should extend the free gym and swim trial at the very least, better still - keep it free on a permanent basis. It is going to be an excellent facility, when it finally opens."

Disgruntled student, George Stephenson, told *Felix* "that at a prestigious university like Imperial, I expect honesty not lies and excuses". Jackman told *Felix* that the "severity of the problems was not apparent until a walkaround inspection last Friday." The centre will now fully open on 30 January, rather than in several stages as origin-

ally planned. However, the squash courts have suffered more serious problems and are not expected to open until mid-February.

A quick tour of the facility reveals a considerable amount of work still needing to be completed. It's hard to imagine how the centre could ever have opened early this week. Even the pavement outside has yet to be laid. Steve Howe, Assistant Director of Estates, said "the pavement is not essential for opening, and is the responsibility of Westminster council, who promised to complete the work before Christmas".

When it finally opens, Ethos will be the only University sports centre in the country to offer free workout and swimming to students. The £17.5m centre is part of Imperial's drive to reverse its reputation as "not a university you want to go to if you're sporting". The four-storey centre houses a 25-metre swimming pool, fitness gym, squash courts, spa, sauna, sports hall, climbing wall and a Costa Coffee shop.

Leader, page 19

IC Lacks British minorities

Chris Miles & Rupert Neate

The number of British minorities studying at Imperial has been called into question by Melanie Thody, Head of the College's Student Recruitment Office. Thody stated that there is a "lack of British minorities studying at Imperial", and told *Felix* that white middle class students are over-dominant at Imperial.

"Imperial select on ability. In some faculties there are concerns about how few white students there

are. Jane Gibbs, our (Imperial's) Widening Participation Officer, has said in some instances the white working class male is in the minority," said Thody.

The Guardian recently disclosed figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) which it stated "reveal a deeply worrying racial divide amongst British universities". The report singled out Imperial as having very few students of Afro-Caribbean origin. Imperial has one of the highest proportions of ethnic minorities (mostly international students), however

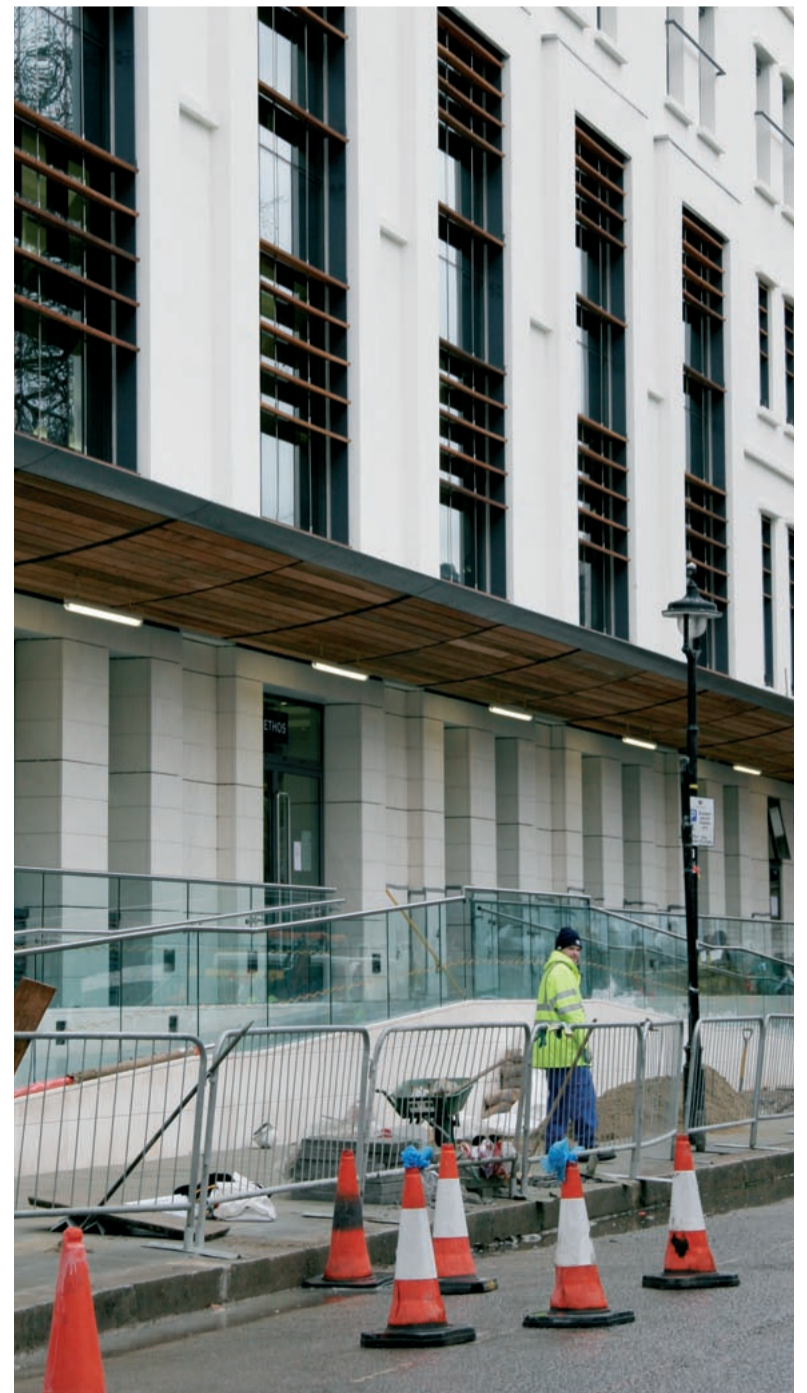
the HESA state that Imperial has only 15 Black Caribbean students (including British students of Black Caribbean descent).

Amongst the 19 Russell Group universities, nine have less than 30 Afro-Caribbean background. In contrast, the London Metropolitan University has more black Caribbean students than the entire Russell Group.

In an accompanying *Guardian* article, Trevor Phillips, Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality

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Leader, page 19



Despite repeated assurances, the opening of the Ethos sports centre has been delayed by another three weeks

felix 1,339

Thursday 12.01.06



Pushca: Making plans for Alice

New Year's Eve comes every year and sometimes it's rubbish. This year I was determined to have a good time...

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Revelations, public and private: Diane Arbus causes a stir at the V&A

"These are singular people who appear metaphors somewhere further out than we do"

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This Week

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Sudoku No 1,339

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 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 Alexandre Pamela

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

NEWS

Science Museum library saved



The Science Museum's important collections are now safe at Imperial

Alexander Antonov
Science Editor

Imperial and the Science Museum have resolved a long-running dispute over the Science Museum's collection in the central library. The future of the museum's collection had been uncertain since it transpired that College had raised the rent payable by the museum to affordable levels (*Felix* 1317).

Under the terms of a new agreement, announced on 16 December, the Science Museum Library's most important and frequently used items will remain within Imperial's Central Library in South Kensington. The less frequently used items, including some periodicals held jointly with Imperial, will move to a newly created library repository at the Science Museum's site in Wroughton, near Swindon, Wiltshire. The materials stored there will be made available to users in the Central Library within 24 hours using a "modern document delivery system".

Imperial College plans to redevelop

op a large part of the existing library building to provide upgraded student study facilities with improved access to digital library materials. There will also be a separate room within the Science Museum where researchers can consult specialist Science Museum archives and library material. The three locations will be electronically connected to ensure efficient management.

Implementation of the proposal begins this month and is likely to take around two years to complete. The process will include refurbishment of the library at Imperial, increasing study space for students and using digital and wireless technology to improve the learning environment. Parts of the Science Museum's Wroughton site will also be refurbished to meet its new role.

The agreement is supported by the Rector, the Chairman of the Science Museum and by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Science Museum's major funding body.

See the *Union President's* column on page 16 for further details.

Noisy students face eviction

Vitali Lazurenko

A new action plan to be passed by Tony Blair could result in excessively noisy students being evicted from their home for up to three months. Eviction can only be enforced with a court order, and would be reserved as a "last resort" for the more serious offenders, which includes drunk students shouting or listening to loud music, said the government.

Part of Tony Blair's "respect agenda", the action plan would also give police constables the power to fine lawbreakers on-the-spot, as prosecution is costly both in terms of

money as well as time. The new plan would mean offenders can be fined immediately without the need to waste resources on prosecution, thereby helping to curb small crimes that can often go unpunished.

Despite the fact that the action plan is not solely aimed at students, it seems the effect on us will be profound. Many-a-time fellow hall-mates have gotten off with warnings after a drunken night out. What fun is drinking without the customary ranting on the way home? Does this mean there is a chance we will wake up in the morning not only with a hangover, but also out in the cold with a fine to pay?



It's terrible what young people get up to these days!

Islamic Awareness Fortnight

Kamran Saleem

Imperial Islamic Society's 'Islam Awareness Fortnight' (IAF) begins on Monday 16 January. The Islamic Society believe that through awareness and understanding they can create better relations, develop tolerance, respect and harmony in our society as well as promote better cross-cultural understandings on the Imperial campus.

During the coming two weeks, the Islamic Society will host a series of seminars with opportunities for you to bring questions and have them answered.

It will kick off with an exhibition and a grand, festive bazaar presenting art, food and culture from various Muslim countries across the world. Where else can you pick up 'samosa' and 'falafel' for lunch at Imperial for free!?

Next, there will be a talk on 'What does it mean to be Muslim?' and 'What is Islam?' Hot topics with the Muslim perspectives are to follow in our talks on the medical ethics of cloning and the equality of men and women in Islam, which many of you have requested as a topic of discussion. Is it really the case that women in the Muslim world are oppressed? How are women viewed in Islam?

To all you scientists out there (practically all of you!), they will be addressing whether science supports the existence of God. Does science provide any evidence?

Last but certainly not least, the week will close with a discussion on 'sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll', and a general discussion on the social cultures that we find here in Britain.

Seminars will be held in the Sir Alexander Fleming building, Lecture Theatre 2 at 5:15pm. Also, please come and explore the exhibitions on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12 and 2pm on the walkway. Please contact us for further details (islam@imperial.ac.uk).

The coming fortnight will present a fantastic opportunity to learn some of the more questioned aspects of this rapidly growing way of life. Express yourself! Let Imperial know what's on your mind! Come and get your questions answered and see if it's all you expected it to be. It will be an excellent chance to meet new people. Hope to see you there!

ISLAM AWARENESS FORTNIGHT
16-26 JAN 2006

NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Rector's term extended

Chris Miles

The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has been awarded a two and a half year extension in his post. Imperial College Council is "unanimous in its appreciation of the Rector's achievements for the College during the past five years" and have agreed to extend his term until the Summer of 2008.

Sir Richard was initially appointed Rector in January 2001, retaining his famed chairmanship of GlaxoSmithKline until early 2002. Since starting at Imperial, his actions have brought considerable controversy, including the rebranding and streamlining of Imperial College, his stance on top-up fees and instigation of the College dress code. Throughout Sir Richard's term, Imperial has retained a position in the upper echelons of university league tables. Recently the Sutton Trust report placed Imperial above Oxford University as the second best UK institution.

Union President, Sameena Misbahuddin, told *Felix*, "In my opinion, with the College Centenary approaching, and new projects being embarked on in Wye, it's obvious College feel it's best to extend the Rector's contract."

Meurig Thomas, a third year



In the words of Bloc Party; "Two more years, there's only two more years".

Materials Engineering Student, told *Felix* "I think he's done a good job. Like anyone though, he's not perfect. Yes, there have been some controversies and he's geared Imperial to be acting more like a business than a traditional university - as far as research is concerned, the lecturers and academics act more like consultants.

For the students, gone are the days when you can go into a Lecturer's office and ask for advice. They seem to be bogged down in their own research and personal targets and the focus has shifted away from undergraduate to postgraduate students. Sir Richard is obviously a very ambitious person and he's got plans for the place but I think it's important for him not to lose sight of Imperial's traditional strengths."

Oliver Todd, a fourth year Medical Student, didn't have quite such a pleasant account of Sir Richard's achievements, "We've tasted the legacy - every penny sucked out of undergraduate teaching whilst cool pin-stripes in vacuuous glass houses scheme the new Imperialism and it's global domination. The dream goes on, Sykes' dream. And let's be frank, there was never any choice. Sykes will stay. Forever." It's apparent, at least to students such as Todd, that Sir Richard's success comes at a price.

Dress code rethink

Matthew Hartfield

Imperial College have decided to update and revise the controversial dress code after drawing complaints and protests from students, fearing it would violate their rights on campus.

The new revised dress code states that students are no longer required to have their College ID card on display around the neck at all times, and clarified its position on hoodies and Hijabs, explicitly pointing out that these are also not banned; however it has not reversed its decision against offensive dress.

Part of the revision of the college dress code states that "At all times while on campus staff, students and visitors must be able to present their ID card for inspection", whilst noting that it is no longer a requirement that the ID card should be worn around the neck, but instead suggesting that "In most circumstances it is recommended that the card is visibly on display, for example clipped to a waistband or breast pocket, or worn on a lanyard".

After the furore that erupted over misleading newspaper reports suggested that Hijabs and other religious dress was banned, the revised dress code goes to great pains to point out that this is not the case,

stating that "The wearing of items arising from particular cultural/religious norms (including...hijabs...) is seen as part of this welcome diversity".

The dress code continues to state that anything that covers a persons face (except for obvious health and safety reasons) is not allowable, but points out that hoodies and scarves can still be worn, but not in such a way so as to "not promote effective security".

The College's position on offensive dress remains, the wearing of "obscene, racist, sexist or sectarian" slogans "can result in a disciplinary offence".

The reversal has come as a shock to some students. "I'm surprised at the news, since [the original code] was never really enforced" said Owen Parsons, first year physicist.

felix

This isn't school, Sir Richard!

College announces draconian dress code

Felix's campaign against the dress code was a success!

Only 15 Afro-Caribbean students at IC

Continued from page 1

(CRE) and Imperial Alumnus, said "This survey gives new meaning to institutionalised racism" and it is "beyond doubt" that segregation is taking place between universities in Britain.

Thody referred to the comments made by Trevor Phillips as "naive" and said "it's a simple fact of life at the moment that some of these minorities who've been talked about are not making the grade at secondary school; it's not that we're refusing them."

Michael Bajomo, Vice President of the Imperial College Union's African Caribbean Society (ACS), criticised the figures provided by HESA. He

told *Felix* that the ACS had over 300 members; although they weren't all of Afro-Caribbean decent, he said he knew more than 15 students personally. He questioned the validity of the UCAS-derived statistics as students are under no obligation to declare their ethnic origin when applying to university.

He believes the real problem at Imperial is the "lack of British minorities" and believes there is a predominance of white middle class students. "The number of black British students at Imperial must be in single figures" he continued.

Imperial seriously considers widening participation, some staff are recruited with the sole purpose of raising aspirations and conduct-

ing mock interviews with under-represented groups. Lindi Galloway, Imperial's Director of Access, said, "Our strategy is to reach as many people as possible, particularly from non-traditional areas including people who are not used to applying, to show them what's on offer and help raise aspirations. It has been highly effective in terms of gaining applications from students who might never have come to Imperial. We've been working on it solidly for six years and are starting to see the first students come through the system."

Controversially, Cambridge University has introduced a positive discrimination quota system in an attempt to widen access to minority

groups. Thody told *Felix*, "Imperial College have not operated quotas, that was a very high level decision. It's quite a dangerous game to get into; Cambridge and LSE have been doing it. LSE have been secretly playing with quotas, in certain areas they've taken a lot of black students." She assured *Felix* that at Imperial, admissions are based solely on ability and are open to all.

There is some leeway at Imperial in the hands of admissions tutors, "Supposing you've got a straight 'A' student from Winchester and a student from a poorly performing school with ABB both going for the same place, then it's really up to the admissions tutor to make that decision. There's a very good chance

that the latter will be given a fair opportunity. But I don't think it's reasonable to say it will always go in favour of the poorly performing school," said Thody.

Galloway believes the "problem is in secondary education" and that "we can do nothing about it. We lose large amounts of particular groups because they give up on their own secondary education at a very early stage." The government have set targets for Careers Advisers in school, notably for low achievers, so there is no longer such a focus on widening participation.

The last word from Galloway, "unless the government increases funding, the Rector will increase international recruitment."

Imperial students organise 20,000 people AIDS concert

Shiv Chopra

Imperial's student executives have given the go-ahead to fund a charity concert organised by students at the College. The concert, known as MedXstock, hopes to raise public awareness and educate others on the issues of HIV and AIDS.

Two years ago, I came up with the concept to organise an annual outdoor concert to raise awareness and funds for HIV worldwide, in particular - Africa. It has taken this long to finally get the message out. Due to the recent LIVE 8 concerts staged around the world, when our voice was heavily muted, it felt that now is an appropriate time to restart the campaign. MedXstock is associated with the International Student



Imperial students aim to emulate Bob Geldof and Live8

Stop Aids campaign through our main charity, Student Partnership Worldwide (SPW).

SPW currently has more than 800 volunteer Peer Educators in the

field reaching 400,000 young people each year at an annual cost of just £5 per child. Communicating life saving information will bring about improved livelihoods for young people

including lower HIV infection rates and better health outcomes. The event will be headlined by several famous acts from around the world. The unsigned bands will be selected through a nationwide competition already under way called Rock Idols, set up by Imperial student Arjun Panesar. There will also be an opportunity, through our MedXstock representatives at all other associated universities, for bands to send their demo CD's and be in for a chance to play at the festival.

There will also be a comedy arena, a DJ tent and a chill out zone to add variety on the day. African and Asian acts will also be performing throughout the festival to emphasize which people the concert will be truly benefitting.

Currently, we have applied to several councils to host the concert in London for the summer. An update of the venue and date will be confirmed by the end of the month.

Through the concert and national media coverage, issues surrounding HIV and AIDS will be brought into the spotlight. Finally, MedXstock will illustrate the dynamic, versatile and high-achieving capability of Imperial's students in both an academic and organisational environment.

I am going to need a great committee and a massive support network working alongside me. If you agree with the concept behind the concert and are willing to help in any way then please contact me. Even if it is to tell me that I am not crazy, I need to know.

science

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Proteins made crystal clear

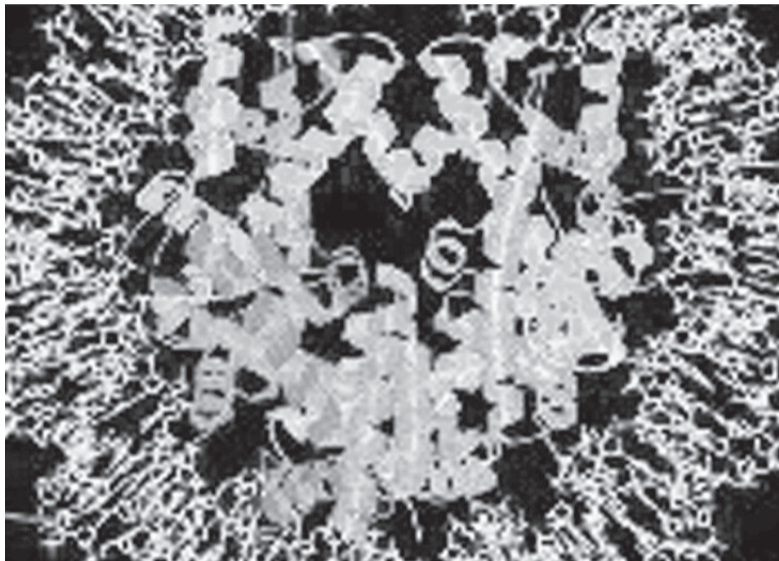
Advances towards the 'holy grail' of crystallography made by new research from Imperial and the University of Surrey

João Medeiros

A team of scientists in the UK has developed a new technique that is able to crystallize a wide range of different proteins. They claim that this method is possibly a major step towards the "holy grail" of crystallography – the development of a single technique that would be able to crystallize any given protein. The discovery could significantly speed up the development of new drugs and treatments.

Proteins are usually present in aqueous solutions, such as blood or the gem of an egg, which makes it impossible for scientists to probe their chemical structure due to their amorphous state. When crystallized the proteins assume a solid three-dimensional structure that can be probed by shining X-rays into them. By knowing their structure, biologist can tell what function the protein performs in the machinery of life.

However, the crystallization of proteins usually results in tiny and disordered crystals which perform badly with X-ray crystallography and techniques vary from protein to protein, depending on its characteristics such as electrical charge or size. Therefore, scientists have been



chasing up for years a single technique that produces single crystals of a good size and that will induce the crystallisation of any given protein.

Led by Professor Naomi Chayen, a team of scientists from Imperial College and the University of Surrey, developed and tested a new technique which consisted in the use of porous material to induce the crystallization of proteins. Their idea was to make the pores of the materi-

al with different sizes, so that different sized proteins could be trapped by an equally sized pore present in the material.

They tested the idea using BioGlass, a porous substance developed by material engineers at Imperial College, and were able to induce the crystallisation of the largest number of proteins ever crystallised using a single substance.

"So far we have got 100% on the trials with different proteins, 7 out

of 7. Of course, we can only say that we have an universal technique once we crystallised hundreds and hundreds of proteins using this technique. However, the fact is that these proteins are all very different – different charge, different size, different families of proteins – and that is a great indication for the future."

This discovery may have considerable implications to the pharmaceutical industry. Since the advent of the Genome Project that drug design is mainly aimed at the proteins encoded by the genes rather than the genes themselves, for instance trying to block the proteins responsible for AIDS, or engineer proteins in order to enhance their particular function in the body. To do that, scientists have been trying to determine the structure of all hundreds of thousands of proteins in the human body. The new method of protein crystallization may therefore prove to be the fast track solution to achieving this goal.

The developments are to be patented by Imperial Innovations, the College's technology-transfer spin-off company. The new method of crystallisation is likely to be very popular and faster structural elucidation will mean subsequent activities, such as drug development, can be performed sooner.

News in Brief

Scientist's embryo cloning faked

An investigation into the work of discredited South Korean cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk has found further fabrications in his research. Dr Hwang's landmark claim to have cloned human embryonic stem cells was false, a university panel concluded. But the panel, which last month rejected other research by Dr Hwang, has accepted that he did create the world's first cloned dog. Dr Hwang has admitted errors, but claims his work was sabotaged. State prosecutors are now expected to look into the case. [bbcNews](#)



Human bird flu spreads in Turkey

Five new human cases of bird flu have been confirmed in several Turkish provinces, pushing the number of people infected up to 14, officials say. The cases, identified as being of the deadly H5N1 strain, mean the virus is now present in the east, north and centre of the country. At least two Turkish children have died, and correspondents say fear is spreading rapidly across the country. Health experts say there is no sign the virus is passing from human to human.

The two siblings confirmed to have died of bird flu in the eastern town of Dogubeyazit had close contact with poultry. Tests are still being carried out on their 11-year-old sister, who also died, to see if she was infected with H5N1. [bbcNews](#)



Prize for Imperial mathematician

Professor Simon Donaldson gets the King Faisal International Prize

Alex Antonov

Imperial's Professor Simon Donaldson, known for his work in 'exotic' 4-dimensional spaces, has been awarded the King Faisal International Prize for science.

The prize recognised Professor Donaldson's contributions to pure mathematics which have been instrumental in strengthening the links between maths and physics and have helped to formulate better descriptions of the laws of matter at the sub-nuclear level.

Professor Donaldson shares the prize with fellow mathematician Professor M S Narasimhan, an honorary fellow at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, India. Each will be presented with a gold medal and will share prize money of USD200,000 at the ceremony in February in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Professor Donaldson said:

"I deeply appreciate the honour of this award and am humbled to join the company of outstanding scientists who have received it in previous years. It is a special pleasure to



Professor Simon Donaldson

share it with Professor Narasimhan, since much of my research career has been devoted to extending a line of work begun by him in the 1960s."

The King Faisal Foundation was established in 1976 by the eight sons of the late King Faisal ibn Abd Al Aziz, a son of Saudi Arabia's founder and the Kingdom's third monarch.

It is awarded annually to reward and encourage outstanding research. Other areas recognised by the Foundation include medicine and Arabic language and literature.

As the President of Imperial's Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Professor Donaldson is now focused on applying his mathematical expertise to understanding and tackling global scientific problems such as climate change and disease. He says:

"Mathematical ideas make a vital and fundamental contribution to all branches of science, and the input from other sciences continually enriches maths. The human genome project, the control of infectious diseases, the search for the unified theories in physics and countless other problems drive this many-fac-

eted interaction, and stimulate the research of hundreds of mathematical scientists."

Professor Donaldson is also the recipient of a Field's Medal (the equivalent of a Nobel Prize in mathematics). Already in his second year of graduate studies, he had proved a result which stunned the mathematical community.

This result, together with the work of Michael Freedman, implied that there exist 'exotic' 4-dimensional spaces which although equivalent to 'standard' 4-dimensional space in some fundamental way were nevertheless structurally different. In other words, 4-dimensional space had more than one such 'structure', a remarkable result which only holds for 4 dimensions.

Professor Donaldson's work is also remarkable in that it reverses the usual trend by using ideas from physics to solve problems in pure maths. He used instantons, special solutions to the Yang-Mills equations, which are generalisations of Maxwell's electromagnetic equations, in order to study general properties of 4-dimensional space.

SCIENCE

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'Tis the season to... Detox

Emma Turner looks at what the fuss is all about

Winter is a season of extremes. In December we stuff ourselves repeatedly with Christmas fare and drink ourselves silly, then come January we resolve to 'detox' and attempt to exist on celery. But is becoming a herbivore for a month really worth it?

A quick flick through Carol Vorderman's bestseller 'Detox for Life' reveals there is little you can eat on the diet that normally appears in the everyday diet. Fruit and vegetables are in abundance but you can't have meat, fish, dairy, bread, sugar, pasta, caffeine, alcohol or salt. Does the Sandwich Shop stock anything there that could be included in a detox diet? Not much, apart from the complimentary slimy apple. It comes across quite strongly that this diet requires military style preparation to avoid finding yourself abandoned in the middle of

a recent investigation by the charity 'Sense about science' who asked a panel of 11 dieticians and toxicologists about their scientific foundation. Detox products were slammed as a waste of time and money. One panelist comments that McKeith's rabbit food is unlikely to do what it says on the tin, 'I don't see how it can boost energy without carbohydrate or stimulants like caffeine'.

The body does not accumulate noxious chemicals over a stint of un-healthy eating as is commonly thought. Our very own Professor Alan Boobis OBE (Toxicologist at Imperial) exposes the myth that we are somehow poisoning ourselves. 'The body's own detoxification systems are remarkably sophisticated and versatile. They have to be, as the natural environment that we evolved in is hostile'. This is verified by the fact that 36 hours of drinking an almost lethal dose of alcohol the body will have expelled it naturally.

The reality is that people who start

Mediterranean countries does not breed such problems, 'we hardly ever drink without food. That is an English invention – all those bars with their happy hours.'

So is the real problem that while worrying about which detox diet or product to try we are avoiding the issue and not addressing how the toxins got there in the first place? If everyone ate a decent diet, took a bit of exercise and stopped using a pack of Marlboro Lights like a friend then no one would need to detox. But where's the fun in that? Granted at Imperial there are an unusually high proportion of people who do not give in to the cliché of student. They don't drink, (alcohol interferes with the ability to calculate) smoke and actually do eat a balanced diet. But for those that do occasionally have a half at the union why not soften the long term effects by trying a 'prettox' Try having a balanced meal before going out with an emphasis on protein and vegetables (you'll make up

If we ate a decent diet, exercised a bit and stopped using a pack of Marlboro like a friend, no one would need a detox



college at 6pm, starving with nothing to eat but the contents of the department's vending machine. One reviewer from Amazon sums it up as 'Great, if you have no social life'.

If the idea of preparing chickpea, coriander and lime salad for dinner doesn't take your fancy then why not try one of the range of detox products on the market? For just £19.99 you can buy Gillian McKeith's '24 hour detox programme' – a mix of seeds and dried vegetables that replaces food for a day. Or how about a detox juice, detox tea, detox massage oil or even detox socks? Crazy as it seems they all exist. But do they work? Not according to

on a detox program are doomed to fail due to an inherent lack of willpower. OK, some people might have a will of iron but after days of deprivation even the strongest will start lusting after a cream cake. And from there it's a slippery slope. Why do we put ourselves through it? It seems to be a phenomenon of the British. There aren't many other countries that flip-flop between the two states of bingeing and dieting. Could it be that we have not yet learnt to eat well here? French restaurateur Raymond Blanc, founder of the Le Petit Blanc restaurant chain blames our binge drinking culture. He claims that the lifestyle in

the carbohydrates in alcohol later) Don't forget to drink lots of water when you get home, get plenty of sleep and you should be fine.

The conclusion is transparent, eat a normal balanced diet that includes fruit and veg and there is nothing wrong with a little indulgence now and again. There is no doubt that all the foliage in Carol V's book is healthy and if you can eat it than good for you. You're a better person than me. But don't try to treat a non-existent illness with useless products that have no scientific basis, unless you want to loose the wrong sort of pounds. Anyone want a second hand Carol Vorderman book?

The newer scientist

Duncan McMillan



A new London-based consultancy has been created to help fill the funding gap that so often leaves promising university-based projects dead in the water.

The Advertising Through Science Bureau (ATSB) came into being on the 9th January with the aim of marrying under-funded science projects with cash-rich companies – they want the scientific paper to be a marketing outlet for the corporate sponsor.

Merry Kingston, a founding director, described the inspiration behind the ATSB:

"In late 2005 we read about a research group that had managed to create very detailed photographs using thin colonies of bacteria. The bacteria had been genetically modified to produce a dye on exposure to light and the group cunningly sugared the pill for the paper's publication by producing a bacteria-pic of the word 'Nature'. This got us thinking – "What if they had instead written 'Kodak'? They might have tapped a huge source of extra cash and taken their research much further."

The standard funding application process can prevent much research from getting off the ground and universities are reluctant to take on sponsors for fear of seeming in hock to corporate interests. The ATSB hopes to bring science and big business to the same table, but in a way that gives researchers independence from any corporate motive.

Larry Donaldson, another ATSB director, explained the fund-raising process:

"We match key features of the research proposal to certain corporate sponsors. We make suggestions as to how publicised aspects of the research could be modified to incorporate the sponsor's name, logo or slogan and then negotiate a fee with the sponsor. For instance, an immunology study could include images of lymphocytes arranged to spell out 'BUPA'. Or, instead of naming a new cloned animal 'Dolly' or 'Snuppy', the group could pledge to call it 'Asda'. This is simple but effective publicity."

Donaldson went on to suggest that a laboratory test of lab rat maze-running could be matched to Nike, who would provide Nike branded rat-wear. The researchers could shave swooshes into the rats' fur. According to Donaldson this would automatically lend 'brand awareness' to an otherwise obscure research paper and provide easy publicity for the sponsor. He went on:

"Steve Jones could have benefited from thousands of pounds of additional research money if only he'd maximised the cross-marketing potentials of his earlier research into snail shells. Capitalising the 'S' in every instance of the word 'shell' in his papers would have yielded a healthy per-word payment."

Merry Kingston then went on to reveal their plans for 'JargonBranding':

"Many existing scientific terms could be retroactively adjusted to incorporate company names. The Advertising Through Science Bureau would devise re-branded jargon and encourage the uptake of the new terminology with per-use payments for scientific authors who include the new terminology in any published paper. We've already started work on a campaign to brand-allocate parts of the electromagnetic spectrum. So far, we have Virgin Radio waves, InfraRed Bull and X-Factor rays, and we're negotiating our supplier for the micro-wave band."

Get involved in the next issue of I,Science.

E-mail i.science@ic.ac.uk

film

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

vue
 cinemas
 www.myvue.com/students

Looking forward to the New Year?

I know I am

Start the year right by making the right choices. Here's a list of films Film Felix pretty much can't wait to see (or have seen and think are fabulous):

1 *Memoirs of a Geisha* Okay, pardon my scepticism, but I usually refrain from recommending adaptations. It's usually a letdown. But 'Memoirs of a Geisha' is definitely the exception that disproves the rule. In this edgy film, Zhang Zhi Yi assumes the lead role as Sayuri, the geisha in the making. To help her along is Mameha, played by Michelle Yeoh. Mameha herself is one of the most sought-after geisha with a heart.

Unlike her, Hatsumomo, the most beautiful geisha in the district, (Gong Li) is determined to destroy Sayuri. With a stellar cast consisting of the three beauties of the east and a handsome lead actor, Ken Watanabe, could this movie even be a flop? *Into the Blue* was a letdown and it had the abs of Paul Walker and the Coke-bottle figure of Jessica Alba. Hence, this movie could still be a flop.

Fortunately, it wasn't. In fact, it was beautiful and poetic. Never had a movie used beauty to such efficiency to express the more intricate of human emotions i.e. desperation, jealousy, insanity, jadedness, resilience and falling in love. It's released tomorrow, guys! Don't miss it!

2 *Ice Age 2* Remember the poor ancient squirrel, Scrat? He's back and he's just as resilient as ever to get his nut! For some reason, I pretty much refused to watch *Ice Age* when it came out. But I was shocked to discover that a story of prehistoric animals trying to return a human baby to its parent was actually entertaining. I know, I know. And ever since then, I've been in love with Sid and his extreme lack of brain cells, which seems to work out for him somehow.

Surprise, surprise! Because *Ice Age* is back with a sequel entitled *Ice Age 2: The Meltdown*. Okay, I have to agree, the title lacks a wee bit of imagination. But then again, what an animation requires to succeed is a really cute but dumb character like Sid, a few humanized but comedic animals such as Manny the Mammoth (voiced by the hilarious Ray Romano) and a family-friendly script.

Okay, maybe not, but then again, let's stick to the story. In this sequel, the *Ice Age* is coming to an end, and, you've guessed it, (no prizes for guessing) – the glaciers are all going to melt and flood every other animal to kingdom come. Sounds dull? I don't think so. Because not only do they have to save the world with their hilarious antics, Manny starts to date as well. And it's a girl mammoth, voiced by the lively and vivacious Queen Latifah no less. Hence, *Ice Age 2* is the animation to watch out for this year. Kick ass, Sid!



Cherry blossoms, a geisha and a unifying bridge of harmony. Sometimes cliches can be beautiful too.

3 *Mission Impossible 3* What's with the sequels, you say? Two words, Tom Cruise. Special agent Ethan Hunt is back, with perhaps a very Photoshop-edited face or just a thick set of makeup. Because, from the trailers, he was pretty much wrinkle-free! Gasp. Don't you just want to know what anti-wrinkle cream he uses?

Anyway, back to the story. *Mission Impossible 3* is pretty much the only action film series that can garner as much attention as James Bond. Who's the babe this season you say? It's the lovable Keri Russell, who rose to fame with TV series *Felicity*. And apart from the babe, what reasons do we have for watching the show? Firstly, it's been 5 years since *Mission Impossible 2*. Hence, imagine the amount of technology that has been developed in this number of years.

The second reason is, of course, the lead actor, Tom Cruise. He might be getting on in years but he definitely knows how to stick around. What with the 'You complete me' in *Jerry Maguire* and the helicopter moment in *Mission Impossible 2*, any movie with him in it has got to be cool and worth a watch. The third reason is definitely the fact that we've been facing a serious lack of edgy and cool action thrillers. (Yes, we have.) It's coming out in May, so don't miss it!

4 *The Da Vinci Code* Yes, it's the movie that everyone who has read the book has been waiting for. And yes, they could definitely have used a smoulderingly-sexy man for the lead, such as Paul Walker. But no, they are using the most talented man in showbiz, Tom Hanks, instead.

Like I've said, I never like to recommend adaptations. But this isn't just any adaptation. Why? Seriously, if you do ask this question, you are either a) surrounded by people who don't read or b) you imbecile, why haven't you read the bloody book? To cut the long story short, it's controversial because it challenges the traditional opinion of Jesus Christ. Get this, Jesus Christ has a wife. Is that possible?

As with every movie and every story, I advise a little caution. Keep in mind that theories are really nothing but theories. Then again, I'll leave you space to form your own opinion. Why watch it, you say? Apart from the sensational storyline, there's the talent of Tom Hanks and the many beautiful views of Rome and the Vatican City to look out for. In a nutshell, it is definitely popcorn-worthy.

Say what? Only four films to look out for, no way! Of course not, more to look out for in the next issue of Felix. Until next week, people!

Yuen Ai Lee
 Film Editor



Ice Age returns with the faithful Diego, the dependable Manny and air-head Sid!

FILM

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Woody Allen:

From the silver screen to a stage near you. Huh?!

Woody Allen Murder Mysteries

Venue: Warehouse Theater
Price: £9-£11
Showing from: 9 Dec - 19 Feb
Box-office: 020 8680 4060
★★★★☆

Woody Allen? Heard of him? I'm sure you have. He has done it all, from directing, writing, to even acting. He did not just revolutionise the world of romantic comedy with Annie Hall, brought the world to its knees from laughter with Sleeper and created perhaps box-office defying beauty in Manhattan. He taught the world to find laughter in neuroticism.

Two-time Academy Award winner, and obviously millionaire (despite the slightly screwed-up family life), he obviously hasn't had enough victories yet. For the first time in theatre history, Woody Allen's short stories have been adapted into a play entitled 'Woody Allen's Murder Mysteries'. And no, you don't have to bleed out of your sockets to pay for the tickets (like you would have at the West End theatres). Being a student, you can get a ticket for less than 10 pounds at the Warehouse Theatre in East Croydon. Hooray!

Now, here's the scoop. The play is set in the 1940's New York state of mind, which is just rife with sex,

seduction and scandal. The lead of the story is Kaiser Lupowitz. The first mystery of the night is a search for proof of the existence of God. And in detective stories like these, there is always the busty, short-skirted blonde, Lucy. Oh god, such a bore isn't it? You go for a play and you expect a detective story but you get a religious diatribe.

Hold it right there. As with all Woody Allen stories, the key is to not take it too seriously. The play is hilarious and entertaining, to say the least. Led by a stellar cast, who do not just act, sing and dance, they play a multitude of musical instruments as well. Perfectly suited to a cosy theatre such as Warehouse Theatre, prepare to be touched by the nostalgic rendition of love between Kaiser and his secretary and to be tickled by the extreme shallowness of Mendel, who visits his dying friend in the hospital to meet the hot new nurse.

Being a big fan of jazz and the blues, I was absolutely wowed by the fantastic music and saxophone-playing. And if you are a fan of jazz, you'll fall in love with the raspy, husky voices and the almost-dull but captivating monologue of Kaiser Lupowitz. So was it a successful transition, you ask, from movie screen to real life acting? Put it this way, I've seen a lot of high-end musicals and plays but this was the only one that almost brought me to tears. Enjoy!

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor



Woody Allen: Murder Mysteries. A matter of great laughter rather than gore.

Jarhead: Touch down to reality

Jarhead

Director: Sam Mendes
Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Scott MacDonald and Lo Ming.
Length: 123minutes
Certificate: 15
Released: 13 January 2005
★★★★☆

It is rare to find a war movie aimed at depicting the realistic details of a soldier's life. Jarhead, an exception to the rule, aims to tell the real-life story of former U.S. marine Anthony Swofford ("Swoff"), based in Saudi Arabia in the days leading up to and including Operation Desert Storm. If you live with the idealistic notion that war is about honour and glory, this movie might just change your mind.

Unlike other war movies, there is no obvious political agenda as the movie neither supports war nor condemns it. Instead, Jarhead is just a story of a marine, not some super-soldier who manages to defy all laws of common sense to miraculously survive unscathed in a major battle. The movie starts off light with the minor trials Swoff endures in enlisting but the realism strikes



Jarhead: What's war really about?

you in the first 30 minutes after a recruit is shot and killed in a training accident.

However, there are some breathtaking scenes that give the viewers a break from the treacheries of Desert Storm, such as when Swoff takes a break from digging a grave for a deceased Kuwaiti amongst all the burning oil fields and has a chat with Staff Sgt Sykes (Jamie Foxx), and when Swoff meets an oil-drenched horse amidst the same oil fields.

Swoff and his fellow marines are initially excited when they are sent to Saudi Arabia. However, excitement quickly turns into boredom as they wait to enter Kuwait to fight the Iraqis. The marines even start to show signs of eccentricity and insanity, such as when Swoff threatens and almost shoots another marine when the latter gets Swoff into trouble, or when Troy, Swoff's sniper partner, almost loses his mind when an officer deprives him of a chance to assassinate an Iraqi high ranking

officer.

Though there are a couple of scenes where we see the marines cleaning and aiming their rifles, not a single shot was fired by the marines in the whole movie (until they celebrate the end of the war), which is another reason that makes this your atypical war movie. However, director Sam Mendes still manages to make Jarhead one of the best war movies around. Despite the eccentricities of the marines during their days in the desert, the foul language

used, and the less than subtle hint that the marines are obviously sexually deprived, Jarhead is definitely a movie worth watching, and it may even change your impression of soldiers in the armed forces.

Daryl and I have both gone through 2 years of military training in Singapore before we entered university. The movie was a realistic summary of our own experiences and we both felt for the characters.

Daryl Phua & Lin Hui Koh

food & drink

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G.I. look and feel great.....

The festive season has taken its toll on the nation's waistlines. Make a New Year's resolution you can keep – lose weight, banish tiredness and boost your energy with the G.I. diet.

Hannah Theodorou
Food & Drink Editor



increases in insulin have actually now been shown to encourage the body to burn fat.

Each plate of food you have should roughly be made up of 1/4 low GI carbs, 1/4 low GI protein and 1/2 vegetables or salad. You shouldn't feel hungry between each meal because hunger pangs should be curbed by steady blood glucose levels, but if you do feel peckish, tuck into some fruit or a low GI snack in the morning and afternoon.

Low Glycaemic Index (good)



soya and linseed bread
pumpernickel bread
fruit loaf
wholemeal pitta*
tortilla wraps*
pasta
pearl barley
bulgur wheat
noodles
basmati rice*
couscous*
all bran/ bran flakes
muesli (sugar-free)
oatmeal/ porridge
special K*
Weetabix*
oatmeal biscuits
crumpets*
digestives*

rich teas*
beans (all, including baked)
lentils
peas
sweetcorn
potatoes (boiled new)*
pumpkin*
broad beans*
parsnips*
aubergine
avocado
broccoli
carrots
courgettes
mushrooms
onions
peppers
salad
tomatoes
apples
citrus fruit
grapes
kiwis
pears
plums
yoghurt (sugar-free)
anchovies
chicken (skin removed)
eggs
fish
pork (lean)
quorn
turkey
cottage cheese

*eat in moderation - these foods have an average, rather than low, glycaemic index.

High Glycaemic Index (bad)

bagels
ciabatta
gnocchi
rice (all other)
cereals (sugar, puffed)
cakes
cereal bars
cornflakes
biscuits (all other)

cakes
cereal bars
flapjacks
rice cakes
waffles
potatoes (all except boiled new)
condensed milk
alcohol
fruit drinks (juice in moderation)
sugary or fizzy drinks
high-energy sports drinks
dates
popcorn
pretzels
bacon
burgers
hot dogs
lamb (fatty cuts)
minced beef
pies
pork
salami
butter
cheese (full fat)
mayonnaise



Drink plenty of water at the same time – coffee and tea are also fine but avoid any added sugar. Alcohol can be limited to one glass with a meal if not following the diet strictly.

Next week we'll focus on energy boosting foods and foods that help your concentration.

Fifteen



Westland Place,
London N1 7LP

Price: £50, meal for 2

★★★★☆

If, like me, you love your food, but would rather pay someone else to cook, then going out to restaurants is a must. But, have you ever wondered what it's like to dine out at a renowned restaurant?

After watching Jamie Oliver struggle to teach fifteen disillusioned youths to cook, get a life and work as a team, I decided that this was a place that had to be seen.

You have to book your table several months in advance, but, depending on what you have, the prices can be reasonable. For £25 you can have a 3-course set lunch menu.

The staff were very pleasant and Jamie had even signed some bottles of olive oil (£10 each) which you could buy - my mum was extremely impressed this Christmas!

The purpose of Fifteen is to inspire disadvantaged young people to believe that they can create for themselves a career in the restaurant business. The restaurant has had thirty-seven young people graduate and many of them are now working full-time in some of the world's best restaurants. It is now three years since Channel Four's show, 'Jamie's Kitchen', followed the trials and tribulations of Jamie's attempts to open a restaurant and create chances for young people. It has been thirty six months of tremendous ups and downs. Fifteen is now supporting their fourth group of young people - all of them unemployed when first recruited, many of them homeless or in care, others living with learning difficulties. All profits from Fifteen go to the Fifteen Foundation (the charity formerly known as Cheeky Chops), to provide these young people with the working environment in which to expand their knowledge and practical experience.

"Students at Fifteen do a 14 month course, which costs about £18,000 and includes work placement at restaurants and sourcing trips abroad. In the words of Vicky Sharpe, London PA Restaurant Review:

"A restaurant certainly worthy of a visit to sample simple but delicious food and service that is slick and unpretentious".

To make a reservation, ring:
0870 330 15 15.



Sample food plan

BREAKFAST: Scrambled eggs on toasted soya and linseed bread with grilled mushrooms and a glass of orange juice.

OR: Grapefruit, followed by a poached egg on sourdough toast with grilled mushrooms.

MID-MORNING SNACK: A pear OR 100g cherries.

LUNCH: Wholemeal pitta filled with 100g of extra-lean ham, cucumber, watercress and mustard; 100g of mixed berries for pudding.

OR: Pasta salad *al dente* with salmon and chopped peppers; a peach for pudding.

MID-AFTERNOON SNACK: 2 satsumas OR 4 dried apricots and 20g of dark chocolate.

OR: 100g mixed berries OR 2 slices fruit loaf with extra-light cream cheese.

SUPPER: Spaghetti with a simple tomato and herb sauce served with a large mixed salad; grilled banana for pudding.

OR: spice or herb coated chicken with ratatouille and boiled new potatoes; a poached pear and fromage frais for pudding.

fashion

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

MPs turn fashion editor into whale

Sales, magic creams and the eternal question



an eye on fashion

Dolly Delaney
Fashion Editor

As I write this article, I have just consumed three packets of mince pies. Consequently, I'm feeling decidedly fat and disgusting. My mother has a bad habit of buying in threes; now as there are three members in my household, a complete parental unit and myself, it seems logical that three packets of mince pies are adequate. However, my father is a Diabetic and my mother doesn't like sweet foods.

Question, "Who's Most Likely to Turn into a Whale?". Answers on a postcard please.

So with Britain's waistlines ever increasing due to MPs, I ask myself: what is there to do to make one feel slightly better about oneself. Sale Shopping of course!

I purposely brought home only a few nice clothes, in the hope that this would mean I couldn't go out

and would therefore stay at home and revise. Yes, Miss Delaney has been living in tracksuit bottoms for the first two weeks of the Christmas holidays. However, in the last week this changed when I emerged from my room to buy a few birthday presents for friends. After nearly 5 hours, I bought enough to clothe a small island (some items I don't think even the local charity shop would want) but failed to buy any

"Delaney has been living in tracksuit bottoms for two weeks"

presents. Alas, I may have to go back into town and go shopping again. At least I get some exercise.

Beauty for men has always been a taboo subject. Well, just in the company of straight men that is. But are men's moisturisers any different to women's? Although I frequently borrow my boyfriend's cream (it's Nivea for Men, nothing gay about it I'm told) I always wonder if my face will be covered in thick facial hair the next morning.

"Male hormones have a pro-



nounced effect on the skin," says Clinique dermatologist Dr David Orentreich. "They make it stronger by improving or enlarging the middle layer of the skin, the dermis, with collagen. Also, the epidermis tends to be thicker. Men's skin is oilier though, because male hormones turn on oil glands." But are men's moisturisers any different to women's? "The basic concept of cleansing, exfoliating and moisturising twice a day is just as

important for men. In fact most men will find that their shaving routine improves when they start cleansing and exfoliating regularly." So that's a no then.

Here's something that I thought would amuse you while sitting in lectures. No it's nothing to do with fashion.

The following was asked on a University of Washington chemistry mid-term:

Bonus question: Is Hell exothermic or endothermic?

Answer: First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate that souls are moving in and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave.

Some of the religions in the world today state, that if you are not a member, you will go to Hell. Since there are more than one of these and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls will go to Hell. With the current birth and death rates, we can expect the number to increase exponentially.

Boyle's law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are

added. This gives two possibilities:

1 If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2 Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by one Ms Teresa Banyan during my freshman year that "...it will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you", and take into the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then #2 cannot be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and will not freeze.

The student received the only A given.

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 issue of *Felix*!

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

books

Flights of Fancy

George R R Martin's early efforts in Windhaven show just how far a writer can go

Windhaven

by George R R Martin and Lisa Tuttle
Retesh Bajaj

My two pence: If you need to read something feel-good, you could do a lot worse - the world is an interesting idea and it is original. Any Martin fan should avoid this as it is nowhere near as good as his later works.

As I wander back into the sea of unremitting unpredictability and confusion that is Imperial College, I can't help but wonder where it was that I had last felt this way. Was it some drunk encounter left over from my scholarly days at IC or some other drunk encounter during my days of convalescence (from too much drinking). No, dear readers, this sense of déjà vu, elusive yet persistent, has a far more poignant origin. Fans of the Fantasy

genre amongst you will recognise the name George R R Martin as one of its heavyweights, and the majority of you will be familiar with his hard-hitting, explosive writing in *A Song of Ice and Fire*. This novel, then, penned by the same author, can be assumed to be the same mix of story, action and pace that has made Martin such a huge success - or so one may be forgiven for thinking.

This stand-alone novel shows us Martin flexing his creative muscle for the first time as he ventures into the realms of storytelling earlier on in his career. The simple story of a girl with a dream to rise above her station dictated by society is weaved into an epic battle of wills in a fictional world. Ultimately, a feel-good story in a Fantasy wrapper, this novel is quite blatantly a stab at writing from someone who is inexperienced and still feeling his way forward. Fans of Martin's other works will be dismayed to discover that the hard and fast pace of his

style is a mere shadow here and his characterisation and depth is non-existent, meaning also that he fails to make the reader care for his characters as he can in other books. Not for lack of trying, I might hasten to add, as it's quite obvious that Martin is attempting tricks to put across all these feelings - but to someone who's more accustomed to the polished style and poise of his later books, he fails miserably.

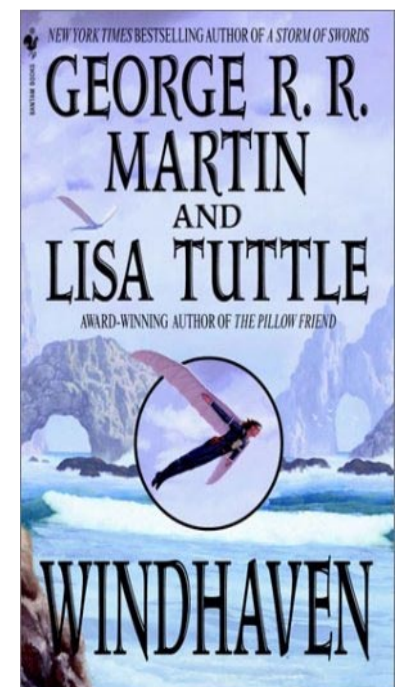
"If I had never heard of Martin before, I might have enjoyed this novel..."

There's nothing specifically poor or even sub-par about Martin's novel - the idea is very original, the plot is water tight, the writing is intelligent and the whole story plays together perfectly. So why am

I condemning it? Let me just put it this way - to someone who's tried Pralines and Cream, Vanilla will never be good enough. I have seen Martin at his best and to witness this piece of work next to them simply makes it pale in comparison.

Which brings me to my final point - if I had never heard of Martin before this novel came to me, I might well have enjoyed it. So I'm perfectly happy to recommend this to anyone who's never heard of Martin before. And, if you happen to be a fan, take this book out only if you wish to see Martin practising for the future, as there's very little else here for you.

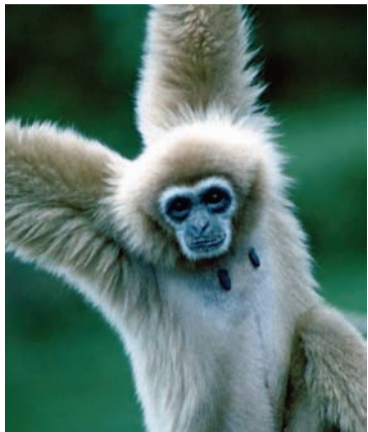
As this novel stands, it is far from perfect, and yet Martin's skill, talent and, above all, imagination are evident even early on in his career. And, stacked alongside other stand-alone novels by rival authors, this work still stands head and shoulders above the rest.



Nightlife

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Rabbit, rabbit



Well, the first term has gone and what a hoot that was. A few bits of information first: nightlife will be running every other week now, as I am being a bit wanky and have decided that evenings before exams should be spent revising and not going and getting minging. Don't quite know what the picture is about, but it seemed like a good idea at the time, along with biking around London. It is very easy to forget your bike helmet by the way, it's only when you realise your head is colder than usual that you notice it's missing.

Since last issue, we had the holiday period, and all I can say is: God bless Valium. I don't think I could have got through my time at home. The big thing was New Year's Eve, the focus of this weeks nonsensical ramblings.

"White rabbits, mad hatters and a giant toadstool"

Well, we have white rabbits, the mad hatter and a giant toadstool, Alice in Wonderland theme if you hadn't already guessed. I kid not; it was a very interesting evening. The review is my New Year's Eve at Pushca. More details in the review, but first I have to make a few comments about the general public's behaviour. At the time it seemed like a good idea to get public transport to King's Cross dressed as the white rabbit. I think it was the effect of a bottle of champagne and the fumes from the spray hair dye. That stuff is very potent, I don't recommend using it in a warm room – you get a little bizarre to say the least.

Oh yes, the public. Not only did we get heckled and shouted at, some random guy on the tube started taking pictures of us. I wouldn't have minded, but he didn't even ask and was trying to be sneaky about it. I suppose we did ask for it when I had white hair and white skin. Oh, and the ears as well. I had to keep those on, otherwise I just looked a big randomer.

I hope everyone had a good time during the festivities and hasn't turned to prescription medication at the thought of coming back to Imperial. If you have, I can recommend a few, just drop an e-mail and I will send you a list.

Pushca: Making plans for Alice

New Year's Eve comes every year and sometimes it's good, sometimes it's a bit rubbish. This year I was determined to have a good time. Having never spent it in London, I wasn't sure what to do. I had heard of Pushca through some randomer covered in bodypaint. The thing with Pushca is, it is essential to dress up and get into the theme. This time it was a dark take on Alice in Wonderland.

Having spent a long time deliberating about what to go as, I opted for the White Rabbit and my friend Trish decided on the Mad Hatter. When you buy your tickets, they are very adamant that you have to get into the theme. If you do not they will turn you away at the door, which would prove a very expensive and rubbish night. I apologise for my lack of vocabulary, I think I killed a few brain cells over the holiday period.

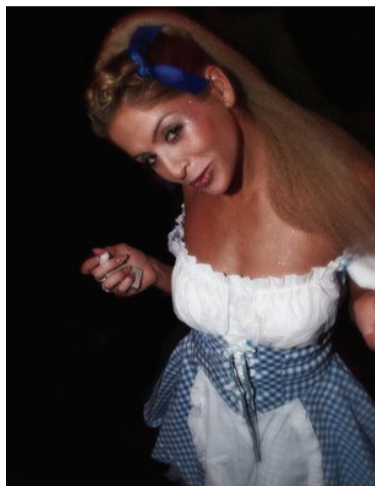
Now, the evening started with painting my whole upper body white and trying to drink a bottle of champagne. The really sad thing is that you couldn't tell the difference between the make up and my skin in some parts. I am that pale. I'll tell you something else I didn't know: that corsets are a lot harder to do up than I thought; feet were put into use as well.



I'm glad she was wearing pants

The location of every Pushca event is kept a secret until the last minute, we didn't find out until the night. Once ready, we then travelled by public transport to King's Cross. This was the one place where we didn't receive much heckling at all, I suppose they're used to all the hookers, so a pair of Alice in Wonderland characters doesn't even register with them. Trying to find the venue was a bit of a nightmare, it was round the back of Russel Square in Mary Ward House.

"Greeted by a caterpillar on a giant toadstool"



She ended up getting tied up

When we entered the venue, we were greeted by a caterpillar on a giant toadstool. She was a very nice lady, she gave me a little kiss on the cheek. The entrance hall was absolutely rammed. The coat check was stupidly in a tiny corridor. So, of course, when everyone arrived it was just a huge jam of people in various forms of undress, and that was just the start.

Attractive bar staff = high drink prices

Instead of buying drinks, we had to buy tokens from different characters near the bars. For New Year's Eve, the drink prices weren't too obscene, but they weren't cheap by any means, but when your bar staff are as hot as they were, you don't mind paying a little bit more. A rule for future nights out, attractive bar staff = high drink prices.



Where did she hide that balloon?

There were several rooms playing a huge range of music. I haven't been to a party where there was such a huge range. Each room was different but each DJ in each room played completely different sets. Each room also had a different theme; from a garden wonderland to a tea party.



I can't imagine those gloves stayed white all evening

What was nice to see was that all the crowd had made such an effort, there wasn't one person who had just turned up with no effort. Some had tried slightly harder than the others, to be fair. This one gentleman came dressed as the Cheshire cat, I had to keep running out of the room as soon as he entered as he looked so disturbing. It was like those evil cats you see in horror films.

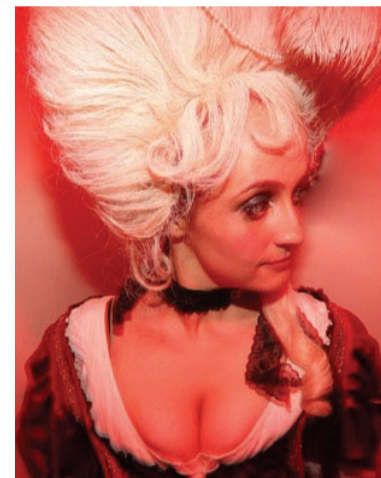


She was such a lovely lady

One of the best costumes, I have to say, was the woman in full 16th century garb including big wig. How she danced, I do not know, she must have been sweating her tits off. She was going for it though. In fact, there wasn't a single person who wasn't enjoying every minute of the evening. The amount of people I just found myself talking to was unbelievable, and everyone was so friendly. I guess this may have had something to do with the amount of chemicals in their systems but still, they were all great.



Come over all Donni Darko



Where is my pint for that shelf?

"She should get a doctor to take a look at that"



She came with attachments

At 11.30pm the most bizarre stage show started. It involved a naked woman covered in gold glitter and a woman with a rabbit head grinding metal on her crotch. It looked like one of the craziest STI's I've ever seen. She should get a doctor to take a look at that. The gold lady was a whole different ball game, she proceeded to finger herself on stage, bend over, pull a gold balloon out of her arse, matching darling, and blow it up. She then popped it over the crowd covering the first few rows with glitter. Nice.

Anyhow, that was my evening, I hope you enjoyed it.

Aaron Mason

arts



arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Revelations, public and private

Diane Arbus causes controversy at the V&A

Photography
Diane Arbus: Revelations
V&A
Until 15 January 2006
Tickets £6 Students

Next week, one of the most exciting photographic exhibitions of the year will close at the V&A. *Diane Arbus Revelations* contains nearly two hundred of her most important and iconic photographs, and is the biggest retrospective of her work ever presented and has raised many questions about the ethics of her photography.

Arbus' work is very unsettling to view and at times even disturbing. Obsessed with the idea of cataloguing the people of New York, she approached every social taboo unashamed and apparently unconcerned as to the effects of her photographs.

"A photograph is a secret about a secret. The more it tells you, the less you know."

Her photos, though in ordinary settings and of ordinary subjects, are stark, cold and harsh on the eye. Arbus somehow manages to make a normal scene seem sinister. From a young boy proudly displaying a 'Bomb Hanoi' badge to a peeping-Tom style photo of naked women sunbathing, each photo gives off the feeling of something being wrong, although it is not always easy to pinpoint why.

Her subjects are varied and interesting. The most interesting are of the normal people she captured out on the streets of New York.

These people are ordinary and unimportant, but Arbus picks up on the tiny details that make them

unique and exciting. She gives them in their fullness and asks us to view and judge what we see.

Apply for a grant, Arbus said of her aims, "I want to photograph the considerable ceremonies of our present, because we tend, while living here and now, to perceive only what is random and barren and formless about it..."

"These are our symptoms and our monuments. I want simply to save them, for what is ceremonious and curious and commonplace will be legendary."

These photographs tell as much about Arbus herself as they do about the subjects. Walking around the exhibition, you get the feeling that she was a very self-obsessed artist.

The one self-portrait in the collection, *Self-portrait pregnant* shows her attempt to scrutinise herself in the same way, but instead results in a soft and dream-like photograph.

"These are singular people who appear like metaphors somewhere further out than we do..."

Diane Arbus, 1961

Indeed, Arbus' obsession leads her to disregard all propriety in

search of 'freaks' of society to photograph. Starting innocently enough with oddities such as female impersonators and fat naked women, she progresses onto more controversial subjects, as in *The backwards man in his hotel room*, 1961.

The image is distressing, not only because of its freak-show qualities, and because it is such an intrusion of privacy, but also because of her patronising attitude. She photographs the man haggard and tired, facing away from the camera. In doing so she is asking us to feel his shame, and take pity on him.

Not stopping there, Arbus continued this trend by photographing a group of people with mental disabilities. Her *Untitled* series cap-

tures these people in such a grotesque way, that it is hard to look at them for a sustained period of time. Although the scenes are apparently of enjoyment, Arbus manages to put on such an air of blunt monstrosity that you cannot but help feel her subjects are unwilling victims of a pitiless mind.

However, it is certainly clear that Arbus shaped our attitudes towards photography drastically.

In her unrelenting attempt to record the fringes of American society, she has created a time warp; a flawless but delicately cruel collection of images that at once inspire and haunt the mind.

EL



Boy with a straw hat waiting to march in a pro-war parade
Copyright © 1969 The Estate of Diane Arbus, LLC



A young Brooklyn family going for a Sunday outing
Copyright © 1966 The Estate of Diane Arbus, LLC

Who killed the Chicken Guy? And is that even the question?

Theatre
Who Killed the Chicken Guy?
The Oval House Theatre
Kennington
www.ovalhouse.com

"Who killed the chicken guy?" is a truly contemporary and experimental play written by one angry Welshman, two angry black men and a black feminist. These are four of the ordinary writers from the Oval House Theatre, and with director Karena Johnson, have presented an incredibly intricate comedy.

The play is an ironic blend of passion, anger, tears and, above all laughter. A humorous and mad brew of death, politics, confused sexuality and disdained love, fermenting in the oppressive setting of a locked apartment. The result is explosive in every single sense of the word. The play reflects London's current cultural variety, scratches the surface, digs deeper, and tells us how the past can come back to kick you up the arse.

The action spins around the 15th floor of a flat in South London where a "bent" politician, an ambitious journalist, a hopeless dad, and a really disturbed bag lady find them-

selves trapped. This provides the right environment for the plot to develop, and the real nature of the protagonists to come out of the closet, and find out unimaginable things about each other.

"You Machiavellic metro-sexual motherf*er!!"**

The structural design of the Oval House Theatre provides an exceptionally close and cosy setting for the audience to get com-

pletely engulfed into the action. The emotional connections between the characters start as crazy separate stories. However, they start connecting together and making sense as the plot evolves, with a big twist at the end.

The deranged bag lady is one of the neighbours in the building. She speaks an utterly crazy African language and chants around the flat Raffiki-style.

The play takes place in the journalist's new flat, when her dad, a womaniser electrician, comes to install the electrical appliances. At the same time, her work colleague, who is actually her lover, is finding

major issues about the compatibility of his political career and his relationship with the journalist.

Father-daughter issues, an ambitious political career against relationship issues, sexual confusion, all full of guilt and puzzlement, get stirred revealing a very dark story behind it all, making you cackle throughout the entire play.

And in the end, who kills the chicken guy? The play is much more complex than that; it talks about so many different things. The question becomes much deeper.

Daniela de Angel

Disc Doctors take-off



Think you're better looking?

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travel

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Kuwait: is it all about oil?

This Christmas, nine British students swapped cold England for sunny Kuwait

To say people were surprised when I told them I was going to Kuwait this Christmas would be the understatement of the year. The general reaction I got was why? "Why on earth are you going there?", "Why would you want to go there?". When we were disembarking from the plane, the stewardess asked where we were going. "Kuwait" I replied. "Aren't you connecting to anywhere else?"

The Kuwaiti Government and Kuwait University wanted to send British students to foster relations between the two countries. Hundreds of Kuwaiti students come to study in Britain every year, but the travel has definitely been one-way until now.

I like to think of myself, perhaps without justification, as a somewhat knowledgeable kind of guy, but my knowledge of Kuwait was woefully inadequate. Jot down all the facts you know about Kuwait. I came up with the following;

- It has a lot of Oil
- It's small, in the desert and next door to Iraq

- The 1991 Gulf War was fought between Kuwait and Iraq
- It's quite a wealthy country

"My Gran said, "Well I guess it would be good to see it for yourself, they can't all be terrorists"

Family members I told about the trip seemed to have an even more limited knowledge than me. My Gran said, "Well I guess it would be good to see it for yourself, they can't all be terrorists". It's this sort of misinformed view that the Kuwait Government is desperate to reverse.

Recent events and the media's portrayal of them have tarred the whole of the Middle East (and Islam) with the same brush. Although there obviously are similarities between the Middle Eastern countries, there are also many stark differences.

Though I knew Kuwait was a mod-

ern Middle Eastern country and had been told to expect a "mini-Dubai", I was still shocked by the degree of Westernness. The first meal we had was KFC.

We were met at the airport by a fantastic group of Kuwait University students who were going to guide us around their country for the week. Before leaving, I had been contemplating what to wear. I wasn't really sure if the lazy-arse standard jeans and T-shirt (polo neck for somewhere smart) would be appropriate. At least I'm not a girl. Jenni, a geneticist from Cardiff Uni had specially gone shopping to buy long-sleeved and long-skirted "granny clothes" only to be met by our three guides Dalal, Shahad and Zamzam, who looked like they had just stepped out of the pages of a UK style magazine.

Zamzam, who chose to wear the khamir, still had a contemporary ahead-of-her-time Covent Garden fashionista style. The attitude of the girls was also a lot more Western-orientated than I had been expecting, they were a cool bunch. I guess all young people have the same



Yes, Prime Minister! - Whilst in the PM's chair I pressed a big red button on his phone, alarms went off. I hope I didn't declare war.

You will spend

87407.6 hours

at work during your life.

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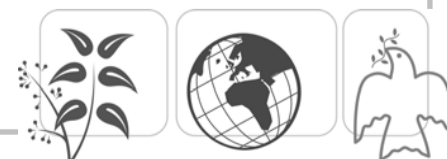
The **Ethical Careers Exhibition** will take place on **1st February** in the Great Hall. We'll be showcasing a huge range of viable, challenging careers like these in the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors, along with practical information and advice on how to get started on your ethical career. See the website for more details, and watch this space.

Ever thought about how you could **make them count?**

ethicalcareersexhibition

www.union.imperial.ac.uk/ethicalcareersexhibition

Great Hall, Imperial College London
Wednesday 1st February
11:30 - 16:00



TRAVEL

mentality regardless of geography. We dropped the British girls off at their University dorm and crossed to the other side of town, over two big motorway crossings to the boys' hall. Yes, it was designed this way specifically, there is to be no hanky-panky. In fact, some of the lectures in the university are carried out in parallel single-sex streams.

It wasn't always this way; the University, at the behest of the government, is tending toward segregation rather than integration. This seems to be a step backward, systemic of the increasing influence of more hardline Islamists in parliament.

Before I left, friends generally held the view that Kuwait was repressive in its attitudes towards women. This is far from the truth. At present, Kuwait has more registered women voters than men. Granting women the vote had been a contentious issue, with parliament first voting against, but the Amir (the leader of the royal family, who has ultimate power in how the country is run) pushed the motion through. Women haven't actually voted yet but they will in the forthcoming elections, in which a number of female candidates will be standing. Everywhere we went, from the Stock Exchange to National Science Centre, women held high positions of authority.

Contrary to the accepted wisdom that Kuwait just rose from the desert after oil was discovered, there is evidence suggesting Kuwait dates back more than 500 years. Kuwait came to fruition during British territorial rule as a trading post between Europe and India. Kuwaitis as a trading people date back further



The devastation of the oil fields brings to life the horror of war; bullet-riddled metal litters the desert. Left to Right: Anne (Imperial), Kuwait Oil Company executive, Dr Raouf Riad (Kuwait Embassy in London), Laura (SOAS), Justin (Liverpool), Jenni (Cardiff), Jonny (Leeds), Zamzam (Kuwait University), Glenn (Liverpool), Dan (Cambridge), Shahad (Kuwait), Rupert (Imperial), Dalal (Kuwait), Rebecca (SOAS).

still, to when dhows (traditional sail boats designed for calm waters) sailed between Kuwait, East Africa and the Indian subcontinent.

The next big boom was pearl diving, which ended when the Japanese invented the cultured pearl. Incredibly fortunately, oil was

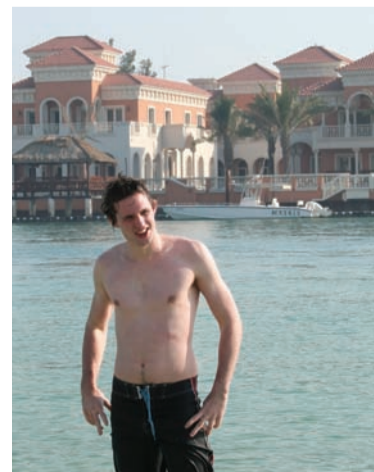
discovered at almost the same time. Oil really is what Kuwait is all about. The country just wouldn't exist if it wasn't for oil. Kuwait has to be one of the most inhospitable places in the world, its pure unadulterated desert stretching for mile after mile, one of those luna landscapes

with absolutely no elevation. The country has to import water, making crop production an impossibility; thousands of pounds alone must be spent on keeping ornamental flower gardens alive.

The 1991 Gulf War resulted from Saddam Hussein's thirst for wealth; Kuwait has one third of the World's oil reserves. The memories of the Gulf war are still vivid in the minds of Kuwaitis, who mostly tried to stir clear of the subject. But those who were probed a little further clearly held a deep resentment toward Saddam.

During the war, Kuwait's oil fields were a sea of flames as millions of dollars worth of oil was burned every day. Although there are few obvious signs of the ravages of war, the burnt out oil distribution centres are one stark reminder. Saddam's invasion had elements of the recent US military's shock and awe tactics: silver was stripped from the top of the iconic Kuwait towers.

Although Kuwait is said to have at least 100 years of oil left, they are looking to the future and other forms of income. The Kuwait Centre for the Advancement of Science is spending considerable funds on research, including a grant to the Kuwait Centre for Studies of Research into aquaculture. They have so far successfully bred Zubaidi, a popular species of fish in the Middle East,



Did I mention the beach!?

which had never been made to breed in captivity before.

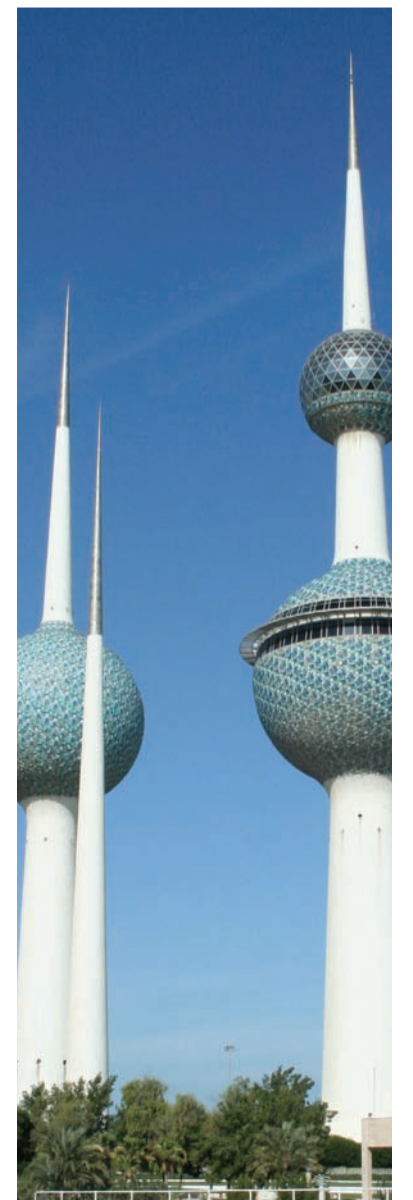
The Kuwaitis themselves will be my abiding memory of the country. You really couldn't ask for a kinder, more hospitable bunch. We were taken as friends into people's homes and were generally treated fantastically. Zamzam, one of our guides, even invited us to celebrate

"The people will be my abiding memory of Kuwait. You really couldn't ask for a kinder, more hospitable bunch"

her son teething with her extended family at the beach. Yes, that's right, while you were cold and miserable I was swimming in the sea and having a BBQ. The food throughout the trip was superb; shrimps bigger than your hand, succulent goat and kebabs that you don't need to be totally off your face to consider eating.

Which was fortunate, as there was no way of getting even slightly tipsy. After you collect your luggage at the airport, you have to pass it through another X-ray machine. We debated the pointlessness of this: what's the point in checking your luggage after you've been on the plane? It suddenly became clear when looking under the counter to see bottles of Whiskey. Kuwait is totally dry, its not like Dubai where you can get it if you pay through the nose for it. Isn't it convenient that there's a pub at Heathrow. Lovely.

Rupert Neate



Kuwait Towers - spiky

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Sameena Misbahuddin
President
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Central Library

This year will see the start of redevelopment of the Central Library, South Ken campus. The redevelopment aims to provide more study space - modern and with improved digital and wireless technology - as well as improving working conditions, such as the much needed air conditioning. It's likely to take around 2 to 3 years to complete, with the first phase starting in July, soon after term finishes.

Science Museum Collection

One of the ways of achieving more space will be through the relocation of infrequently used items from the Science Museum collection. These are currently kept in stores in the Central Library and will be moving to Science Museum premises in Wroughton, Wiltshire. The items will be available via a 24hr call-back service (accessed online, by phone or through the Library), so that anyone wanting to access these items can do so. Discussions with the Science Museum about the future of its Library have been ongoing over the past 2 years, resulting in this solution. The Science Museum Library's frequently used Science & Technology Studies collection (STS) will remain at the Central Library.

More info can be found at http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/libraryfuture/info_faqs.asp . If you have any feedback, be sure to raise it on <http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/libraryfuture/>

It's expected that items will start to be moved from the Central library during the Easter Holidays. This is clearly a time of high library usage for exam revision, so to begin with only items in stores in the basement and ground floors will be removed using the back exit, to keep any disturbance to the minimum. Items from any of the reading rooms will not be moved until after summer term's ended.

If there are problems, let us know asap so that we can ensure College address them adequately.

This summer

This summer will see work on Levels 4 & 5

Level 5

Level 5 will be renovated and the Humanities department will move in (currently this floor is also taken up by offices). The Business Studies collection from Level 5 will be relocated to Level 2, along with the study space.

Level 4

Work here will focus on improving the study environment and in particular on tackling temperature and ventilation problems. Whilst the work is going on, some of the collections from this area may need to be relocated, such as those for Life Sciences and Medicine. At the moment the Library is assessing how much of the 4th floor is actually going to be disturbed and what the relocation needs will be. However, all Level 4 stock will be back in it's location before the start of the new term.

Alternative Study Space during the Summer holidays

College are looking at options to provide alternative study space elsewhere on campus, but as close as possible to the library, so that anyone still needing to work can do so away from the worst of the building disruption. More information on this will be available in due course.

24hr Library

From the beginning of the Easter Holidays and throughout the Summer term, the Central Library will once again operate on a 24/7 basis.

If you have any comments and feedback on anything mentioned here, please let us know, so that we can work with College to minimise the disruption the renovations will cause students and ensure that the improvements do benefit the student body.

Union Entertainments

This term the Union is simplifying the price structure for it's Friday night entertainments. Most Friday nights will be FREE ENTRY before 10pm and only a quid a kid thereafter.

Then once a month the Union will offer a big name act for £4.50 entry. This month we have X-Factor stars Eskimo Blonde and all the great music from Fresh 40 not to mention Radio 1's DJ Dan Bailey. This event will take place on January 27th so mark it in your diary!

Keep checking the Union ents pages at www.union.imperial.ac.uk/ents for more upcoming events and in next week's Felix get hold of your latest Union Newsletter and term planner.

Sports Centre

This term's unfortunately started with a 3 week delay on the opening of the new Sports Centre.

To ease the effects of the delay, the Union are working with College Sport & Leisure to relocate Clubs affected and College are covering the extra costs that this is incurring. Due to the continuing delay over the opening of Ethos, Fitness First in South Kensington have kindly agreed to offer all Imperial students a one month only offer for January while we wait. Call 02075905000 or pop into Fitness First at:

Petersham house
29-37 Harrington Road
Greater London
SW7 3HD



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Ammar Waraich

Sharon and his recent pursuit of peace

Latest reports of Ariel Sharon indicate that he is being weaned off sedatives to bring him out of an induced coma. However, even if successfully revived, this incident marks the end of his political life. He has long been a leading figure in Middle Eastern politics, with a legacy most recently being associated with the pullout from Gaza and the formation of the "centrist" political party Kadima. This paints a picture of a man who is prepared to take risks in the interest of peace. Yet, if we scratch beneath the surface and recall his past actions, this political demise actually marks the end of an era of repression and terror.

With regards to the formation of Kadima, Sharon left the "right-wing" Likud party in order to do so - another party he helped establish. The reason he gave for this drastic step was in-fighting amongst Likud members caused by the Gaza pullout and their refusal to co-operate with the peace process. A more pressing and morose reason, though, was to counter the rising popularity of the leftist Labour party under the lead-

ership of Moroccan born Amir Peretz, a much more vocal supporter of peace and of a welfare-driven state in opposition to the war-mongering and neo-liberalism Sharon espoused.

By setting up Kadima, Sharon successfully appeared more left wing and so reduced the competition from Labour. However Kadima's ranks were full of recognised rightist figures, essentially making it a new Likud, with the same agenda but without the emotional baggage! Regarding the commendable issue of the Gaza pullout, it has been suggested that the main reason for this was the ratio of indigenous Arabs to Jews, which was too high and so was against the racist nature of the Jewish-only state of Israel. As the expected congratulations from world leaders flew in, unknown to the majority, the 19 square miles of Gaza given up were rapidly replaced by occupation of a further 23 square miles of West Bank within the next month with enlargements of other strategic settlements.

So what does Sharon's end as Prime Minister mean for the world as a whole? By leaving

both Likud and Kadima stranded, Sharon has left them unelectable chickens without heads, leaving Amir Peretz as his successor. But even if Peretz is successfully elected in around 80 days time, it will be a step in the right direction at most and will not lead to any fair deals for the Palestinians, e.g. the right of Palestinians to return from refugee camps to their seized homes and homelands that they were forced out of: a right which Peretz opposes.

Ultimately, the stability of the region may change in the short term but for long term peace, the international community urgently needs to get its act together and use this window of opportunity to change the status quo, resolving the illegal settlement building and denial of even the most basic rights to the Palestinians. Until these rights, homes and the livelihoods of Palestinians are not permanently restored to them, and the international community and superpowers do not take an unbiased view to Palestinian suffering, there will be neither peace nor an end to terrorism, whether it be Palestinian or Israeli.



Brown Couch

Killed'a Builder?

Today the Brown Couch can reveal the real reason for the Sports Centre opening delay. Two builders and 3 College Police were killed over New Year in an epic gun battle which ripped apart the Sports Centre interior. Extensive reworking is now required before it can be opened on 30 January 2006.

News of the failure was broken to college in an email on 6 January. "A series of unforeseen minor setbacks" were cited as the main cause for the delayed opening. In papers recently released under the College Free Information Bill, the Brown Couch has been able to piece together the events leading up to the term.

One paper, entitled "Ethos Executions", details the events of 1 January 2005. Two builders, referred to only as "Griff" and "Terry" had drunkenly decided to start work on the demolition of Southside at a party they attended for New Years Eve. At 4am, Griff and Terry started their mechanised cranes and began demolishing what they thought was Southside. At 4.30am, a routine security patrolman discovered Griff and

Terry at work knocking down key sections of the Ethos Sports Centre. The patrolman alerted security staff whose response was brutal.

12 security guards, 5 attack dogs and 10 armed College Police attended the scene at 4.45am. Verbal warnings were given to Griff and Terry who were still unaware of their situation. According to the Head of College Police, "After the warnings, the offenders still seemed in a state of blissful ignorance. Two warning shots seemed to sober them up though. They jumped from their bulldozers and sprinted inside the Sports Centre."

A team of 8 elite College Police were sent in pursuit while a call was placed to the Mayor of College for authorisation to kill. The Mayor was at a New Years Eve party when the call came through. When the situation was explained, he is said to have screamed "KILL!". Once that order was issued, Griff and Terry lasted only another 20 minutes, before being executed poolside.

It is now that the details become a little hazy. We shall now make use of the damage report to

give you a fuller picture of what happened inside. The damage list, as compiled on 2nd January, stated the facts as "blood everywhere", "shattered tiles in swimming pool and changing area", "rifle storeroom raided", "red pool water" and "cafe coffee cup slightly cracked".

Our sources have confirmed the following course of events. Griff and Terry ran inside the Sports Centre, desperate men. They broke into the rifle storeroom and armed themselves for what was to be their last stand. There then followed mild skirmishes that shot their way through the building until Griff and Terry were cornered in the changing room showers. They had managed to kill 3 of the 8 "elite" College Police who then decided to change tactics. Griff and Terry were flushed into the open using IC fire grenades. They dived into the pool to put out their burning bodies, where they were then minced by machine gun fire.

For College to suggest that all this is "minor" only highlights the terrible massacres that must occur with all other "major building projects".



Iain Heaton

PC and BB

Why is Michael Barrymore allowed to do Hitler impressions in the Big Brother (sorry 'Celebrity' Big brother house) when recently a hospital driver got sacked for doing them at his office christmas party and then in the hospital while at work? Can someone please explain that to me? Hitler impressions are not the cleverest thing to do in this day of age of political correctness so I was not entirely surprised when Stephan Marsham got fired from the Princess Alexandra hospital in Essex. I did not think it was right; but I was not suprised. However, then Mr Barrymore does them for the whole of the UK to see and there doesn't seem to be any call for him to be chucked out. Now, I am not sure how good Mr Marsham's impressions were - Michael's were not very good (his Frank Spencer impression, on the other hand, was excellent) - so maybe that is where the difference lies. Maybe it is fine to do impressions as long as they are not particularly good, and maybe no one but me realised it was meant to be Adolf, though I feel that is unlikely!

It is kind of fitting that two of the most ridiculous things in England should overlap; political correctness and Big Brother. Political correctness has gone far too far. Schools have had to cancel sports days because children are not allowed to win and lose anymore, because it makes the losers feel bad! That's brilliant, they won't now lose when they are young, they won't get used to disappointment and failure. Instead of simply growing up knowing they weren't the fastest in the school they will grow up as complete and utter losers unable to impress in

university or job interviews. We learn more from losing than from winning.

Also it is now pretty much wrong to make any kind of joke; can't joke about fat people, can't joke about foreigners (except perhaps the Irish), can't joke about the opposite sex! The only safe subjects are blondes and gingers and I bet they are preparing a movement to stop us picking on them! Just like losing, being picked on makes us stronger. I'm not saying kids should be bullied and physically beaten but everyone gets picked on! Also jokes are an essential part of our culture, it is one way we bond with each other and discover who has the same view on life as we do. If you don't like the way someone acts, don't hang around with them! If someone deliberately tells jokes to someone who they know finds them offensive then that is a different matter but people should be allowed to have a joke with a group of like minded people.

As for 'Celebrity' Big Brother it is probably only slight less ridiculous than rampaging political correctness. The word celebrity in itself is quite funny. Between Big Brother and "I'm a celebrity get me out of here!" they must have used up nearly every Z list celebrity there is. I am longing for the day that Craig, winner of BB 1, walks back into celebrity Big Brother and is hailed as a famous TV personality! Though maybe they are missing a trick there, how about a "BB Winners' BB"? Take all the winners from the first 6 series and put them in the house, then the nation really would have to choose between its favourites! And also chuck in Nasty Nick just for fun because he deserved to win it!

For all of you who didn't watch BB 1 then Nasty Nick was a very bad man who spent six weeks discussing nominations with other housemates and was never nominated once himself! The confrontation between himself and the other housemates was gripping TV and did wonders for Craig's (who eventually won) popularity rating as he was seen as the leader of the other housemates during the stormy meeting.

By now you will have all realised that I watch BB so I probably have no right to slag it off. In my defence I only watch it sometimes due to there being very little else on TV, and I am not an obsessive viewer. Also, I remember the original BB when it was nice and simple; ten housemates, one house, a lack of food and a task each week. Now there are so many extra bits that it just gets confusing and Celebrity BB is just as silly, after all when is someone actually going to get evicted? Aren't they only in there a week? Mind you some of them will probably want to stay in there longer because I don't see them having a very good life outside; Mr Galloway's constituents are asking what the hell he is doing in there and the police probably want to interview Barrymore again now he has admitted live on TV that he was high on dope the night someone drowned in his swimming pool (and he did Hitler impressions!)

Personally I hope that Chatelle wins; she isn't particularly clever, she isn't very good at singing, she isn't a lot of things but most of all she isn't some desperate, haggard old celebrity desperate for one last moment in the limelight.



felix

No 1339
Thursday
12 January 2006
felix@imperial.ac.uk

At face value
Imperial
looks very
multicultural,
but is it?

Imperial lacks minority students

At face value Imperial looks very multicultural, but a quick probe beneath the surface reveals a different story. At 41% Imperial has one of the highest proportion of ethnic minority students, Cambridge and Oxford have only 12% and 9% respectively. Although a high proportion of students are from ethnic minority groups, they are almost exclusively international students.

There is wide agreement amongst the students and the College that the vast majority of home students here are all white middle class. *Felix* believes that this is something that needs to be addressed with haste.

Places should be granted solely on academic merit, and Imperial should not introduce positive discriminatory measures. But College needs to work hard to discover why so few British students from ethnic minority backgrounds are not

studying here.

Michael Bajomo, Vice President of the Union's African Caribbean Society (ACS) told *Felix* that some black students tend to apply to Universities with a well established black community. If this is the case, Universities that have large minority populations will continue to strengthen in diversity while others, such as Imperial, may flounder.

The problem is not unique to Imperial, the situation is similar in all of the UK's more established universities.

Sports centre delayed

How long are we going to have to wait for the sports centre to open? This extra delay is extremely aggravating to all, but giving us one working day's notice is completely unacceptable!

Many students, including the editor of this newspaper, cancelled private gym memberships in the anticipation of the new centre opening and now have nowhere to train.

Letters to the editor

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

(The letter below was received in this form.)

Hello again.

One of my colleagues made me aware of your reply
To my previous email concerning the low profile page 3
Of the student magazine.
Firstly I am from math department and secondly I am quite sceptic
About the success of this page as you state in your reply.
I am pretty sure of something.

There are students that work hard for the prestige of this Institution

But there others, like you in this case, that lack of this feeling of bringing additional positive contribution

To Imperial College.
It's much easier filling 2 pages with naked girls or boys than write few more articles on science or social life or technology.

You could think about dedicate 1 or 2 pages on outstanding past or contemporary academics.

Reading about their lives and

achievements would be a better inspiration for your readers than Just looking at photos of naked students.

Thirdly people do not complain because they devote their time to more serious things.

Please try to appreciate the time I spent to write this email and most important

I look forward to see a different page 3 in the next future.

Regards

Antonio Dalessandro
Electrical Engineering PG



Omar Hashmi

The simplicity of fairness

Compromise is a dangerous notion, but so too is stubbornness. In today's ever changing world there are a myriad of solutions to an infinitude of differing problems, ponderings and "situations". One need not go into the details of world conflict, peace processes or devastated regions to realise this. Nor is it necessary to plunge into many of the complicated discourses concerning the (comparatively) mundane events of our lives that are beautifully small yet sweet, stable and happy. Ah, to be of the lucky few. Yet, what awaits ahead for our society is as frightening as that which has daunted our predecessors. It seems that although Utopia was in reach, with resources easily distributable and huge technological know-how, a world of uncertainty remains, and the visage of Utopia burns in ruin.

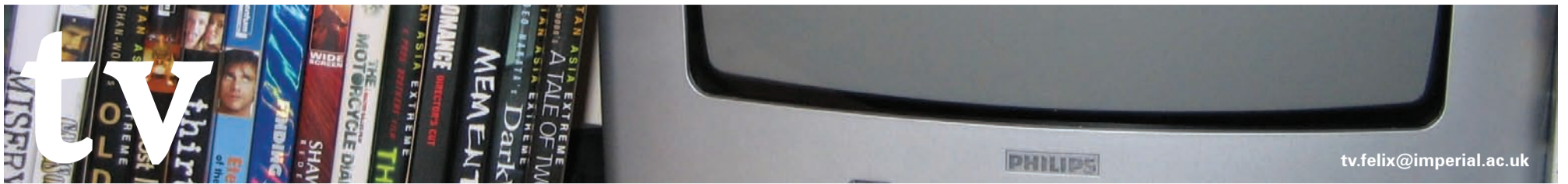
I am not being pessimistic, and I am not simply giving in, saying that "its too hard, no more, let me

out." But no matter the technology, knowledge or experiences of humans in their individual nation states, there will not be any mythological "Justice". Compromise is the sanctification of such a time. It is the product of lengthy discussions, whether over children's packed lunches being nicked by one runt or the other, or peace negotiations of any kind. Neither party involved in a disagreement has full acceptance over terms, yet both agree to "the best possibilities for now". To carry on with previous demands on either side is deemed foolish, costly and most uncertain. You could lose your lunch, look stupid in front of your mates, lose a war, lose a people. I am not a gambling man, but life is certainly not a game. Are there any decisions in life that are not debated between men to be diluted or forsaken for petty gains simply due to a power interplay between the concerned parties?

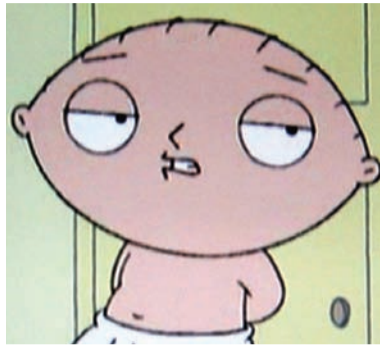
Compromise does not induce Justice, rather it can enshrine the opposite. It is compromise that shuts up someone of meagre stature in the hope that the mugger will be appeased, and it is compromise that allows forced marriages and consequent rape because the girl cannot adequately fend for herself. Whenever a new opinion presents itself, no matter how fair, solutions must be compromised. Yet there appears little else that we can do. A constantly shifting set of goal posts to accommodate ever changing interests, we are a people who think of the short term possibilities and not of fanciful ideals. And it is for us that we think, with the rest of humanity a blissfully distant second. Too right too, I do not want my provisions compromised. If Utopia cannot exist everywhere, then let it exist for us here for the privileged few. Has it not always existed somewhere in the world, at the expense of

the rest? It is the nature of man, his selfish gene, that leads me to think that there will always be the strong and the weak. His nature has not changed, and nor have our problems despite the advances in science. I'm not sure if there is any way to tell if we are a truly better off society globally than in the past, considering the potential that we have squandered in front of us.

Next week, see how much you have to compromise. Of course, my guess is that most of it is just politeness. But do go find a good cause, and see what you can effect. And don't be superficial, but see if the system works against you to thwart your little idea. Perhaps that would convince you of the impossibility of idealism. What would it take for a man to not compromise, to risk that little extra and not be bought off or sidelined? More than food or money I'm sure. I hope you all had good holidays. Welcome back to Imperial.



tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Christmas TV!

had a tough job on their hands. For these lucky, lucky people space was squeezed into an abandoned airbase in silent Suffolk. After some education, some bullshit, some training and a bit more bullshit, the cadets were sent to a shuttle simulator. Despite correct suspicions and near revelations, the mission was a success.

Channel 4 pitched the show perfectly; building suspense with every episode. So much effort was ploughed into it and the stooges were hilarious. Russian crew commander Yevgeny, a.k.a. Alex Humes should be given the Best Actor Oscar next month; one classic line: "If

it was false. I'd agree to some extent but the feeling of humiliation and disappointment would probably rule. £25k on the other hand - fair enough to me! However, *Space Cadets* was the next step towards more extreme reality TV; caution needs to be taken otherwise execution, not eviction, will be voted for. Blimey, 400 words gone, just like that. Excellent show though.

Christmas came and went, making way for 2006. New series *Balderdash and Piffle* began last week. The BBC asks viewers to find out the earliest origins of phrases and words. Some blonde woman also goes around investigating, correcting the stubborn dictionary writers that their "ploughman's lunch" definition is ten years out of date. Trust me though; it was more interesting than I do it justice!

Invasion started on Sunday; another American, mega-budget, 20-million episode long series. It was pretty good. Coming across as a less serious *X-Files*, a show I loved; it should fill the sci-fi void created when *Lost* finishes. Thankfully, *Invasion* doesn't trudge along stuck in the sand like *Lost* and the excitement is continued through the episodes! Huff. Huff! Save it for next week Tomo.

Finally, *Celebrity Big Brother* began last week. Another wonderful show set to consume the 9 to 10 slot. The lowdown: Jodie is a moron trying to prove she is not a slapper; unsuccessfully. She just confirms media speculation. Pete Burns: "I don't try to look like a woman, I just have no choice." Whatever, moron. Galloway is likeable by me. Rodman equals womaniser. Maggot to win!

Oh no! I just realised I forgot *Derren Brown: The Heist*. Quickly, before I'm dragged back into the cupboard! Another fantastic show but... please... forgive me master Derren, I'm not... worthy! Vote... Jo... die! Byeeeee!

Tomo Roberts

Wait for it! Wait for it...

When my girl Sky Mangel Gave her titties a little jangle I cracked my fat My load was spat And it ended in a court hearing, followed by a lifelong restraining order.

G'day you old bastards! I've been as busy as a one-legged bloke in an arse kicking contest, over the merry season. That show pony Paul Robinson knows what I'm on about. Any Joe Blow will tell you, if you're going to live with a Sheila on drugs, Rohypnol is the good oil. His daughter knows how to slip pills into a drink too.

Now, let's get to the duck's guts! Erinsborough's becoming a dangerous place, with the robbery at the bikini shop and some galah holding up the servo. I reckon some good old neighbourhood watch is in order; make the punks feel like pork chops at a bar mitzvah.

I bet that Timmons bunch is involved, seeing as they ain't got brass razoo. Janelle thinks she's in Playdays, bringing up a family on a

Strewth!



bus. Bloody gippos will be the ruin of the area.

Don't even mention the yellow belly duo. Stone the crows! Davey boy couldn't even tap along to the White Stripes. And turning down my \$800 Scotch, he's becoming a religious fairy like his old man. Although I see some tough times ahead for the bloke, so a bit of faith is grouse.

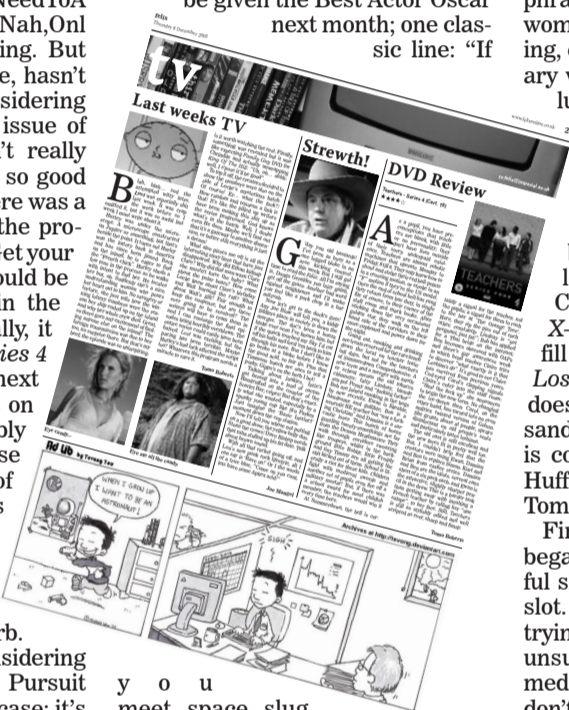
Now before I crash and burn, I'll leave you with the words of a true blue, "Come on you cunt, lets have some Apex acid!"

Joe Mangel

HappyNewYear!MyselfAndJoeHopeYouHadASplendidChristmasToo!ForgiveMe,ButThereHasBeenSoMuchTVGoodnessSinceTheLastIssue,INeedToAdoptACrammingApproach!Nah,OnlyJoshing!Ahem,onlykidding. But my, my, my, it's been a while, hasn't it friends? Especially considering the cock up with the final issue of 2005. Sigh. Nope, we didn't really think the Hicks review was so good you should read it again, there was a boo-boo somewhere along the production line; my apologies. Get your microscope out and you should be able to read it slap-bang in the middle of this page. Basically, it consisted of a *Teachers Series 4* review, which will be back next week, and an extreme rant on *Lost*, which will also probably be back next week because the finale is tomorrow! Er, of course I mean, the finale is yesterday! No, no, the finale w[Shut up - Editor].

The actual festive period was a bit crap for telly, but either side has been superb. Probably a good thing, considering we were all playing Trivial Pursuit or winning Monopoly in my case; it's all about the browns. *Space Cadets* landed shortly before the Christmas holidays. Taking reality TV to new extremes, Channel 4 conned a collection of people into believing they would be the first UK "space tourists". Johnny Vaughan was perfectly cast as presenter, with comedy improvisation harking back to his funniest days on *The Big Breakfast*. The cadets were carefully selected simpletons but still, the creators

you meet space slug, it will mate with you, you will make beautiful babies." Moral issues were called into question though. Was the hoax too unkind on the "cosmonauts"? Blasting into space is an adventure few experience. The illusion was meticulously and convincingly constructed. I felt part of the gang, in on the joke; then the cadets "saw" Earth and I felt very guilty indeed. Channel 4 argued they still felt the thrill of seeing Earth, even if



Last issues must-see gag.



Eye candy...



Eye ate all the candy.

AD-LIB BY TEVONG YOU

ARCHIVES AT TEVONG.DEVIANTART.COM



Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Happy new year! Hope you enjoyed your Christmas break, but just in case you didn't enjoy the family festive fun, remember I'm here to answer all your worries at agony.felix@ic.ac.uk. I came back slightly disturbed to find these 3 X-rated presents in my inbox. Methinks some of us defiantly enjoyed the festive season and felt the need to share, or, in some cases, gloat! Enjoy...
Miss C



Star Letter

Aw, bless...

Dear Miss C,

Two weeks ago I gave my boyfriend a blowjob and swallowed for the first time. Recently, my stomach has been feeling a bit strange and I have still not had my period. My boyfriend says there is nothing to worry about but I just have to know - could I be pregnant?
Ms Take

Dear Ms Take,

Ok! Let me clear this up for you once and for all! Having spoken to my medical student friends, I can confirm you *cannot*, let me repeat, cannot get pregnant from oral sex! Whether you're pregnant from

another night or a split condom or something, I dunno, but you are definitely not pregnant from swallowing! Now, it's possible that your stomach is feeling funny because you're allergic to semen and are hence feeling a bit sick. Doubtful, but if that's the case, then just spit next time - it's acceptable. Now, if you're still feeling the need for reassurance that you're not pregnant, go to the nearest Boots or visit a doctor or the NHS walk-in centre and get a pregnancy test, but please, for your own sake, stop telling people it's because you swallowed. People will laugh, in a cute bless-her kind of way, but laugh they will...

There goes another one...

Dear Miss C,

I lost my virginity not long ago but ever since my first time, every time I use a condom, it splits. I have tried using x-tra strong but it has made no difference. What could be causing this to happen? My friends say I have a funny shaped knob. Could this be true? Need Reassurance

Dear Needs Reassurance,

Ok, before this goes any further, I need to stress I *am* a girl, and obviously have no experience in this area, but I will try my best. Now, as I have never seen your package, I can't really comment on you having a weird shaped knob. You can send me a picture if you want, but I can't say I'm dying to have a look, although it may provide amusement for the *Felix* office. Now, as to your query, I don't think you having a weird shaped knob is the problem, unless of course it's the shape of a Christmas tree, in which case - get yourself down to the nearest urologist and see if they can fix you before you do some serious damage to one of your partners. Why your mates felt the need to look and analyse does scare me slightly. Don't give me any of that shit about having to look in the locker rooms, you really don't. Girls manage without, why can't you? My associates and I have discussed your problem in detail in order to find a possible explanation

and we suggest that you try a larger sized, higher quality condom, or search for alternative methods of contraception, i.e. warn your partner, as, if they are female, you may end up with more than you bargained for.

Where did all the balls go?

Dear Miss C,

A few nights ago I shagged a girl on the pool table in my halls. I noticed that there is a CCTV camera in there and I was wondering if you thought it would be acceptable to ask if I could get the recording? Ya Ma!!!

Dear Ya Ma!!!,

Mate, do you have a death wish? Sending me that question when there really is only one conceivable answer? Well, this is good for me, it lets me start off this new year with a fully deserved rant about the world of men! No, it is not acceptable for you to ask for that film and it's obvious why, although for someone with some insane exhibitionist streak, I'm surprised you even took the time to ask. Before I totally lose the plot of this question though, I have a few questions for you. Why the pool table? In the centre of the common room? Are beds no longer comfortable enough? I'm sure the sofa would have been a bit easier on her back! How on earth did you get the girl to agree to that one? Methinks someone slipped a bit of Rohypnol into the eggnog! Now, back to your initial question. I really don't approve of you asking for the tape. But boys will be boys and will want to gloat, and I'm sure that tape will win you awe from the other boys, but I doubt the security men will return it to you. Now, as much as I'd like to hope that the tape has been erased, I live in the real world, and it has probably been put in the CCTV tapes Cupboard Of Fame, and might possibly be on the way to some candid camera show such as idiotic drunken students, or being posted on a porno site as we speak. I hope you're ready for some publicity. Sheer decency says you warn the girl, and mate, in the future, 3 words - *get a room!*

Mystic stars

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



2006 gets off to a good start but don't forget to slow down and take time to enjoy it - else you might end up missing out on some fun. Did I mention that you might soon have bull on your hands? Silly me.....

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Things will perk up this year, so grab life by the horns and look forward to some fun and frolics with an occasional pleasant surprise.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



Did nobody mention that 2005 was so last year?! Stop living in the past and look forward to a busy year with lots of new faces.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



Take a few moments to reflect upon the many successes of your last year before you jump-start this one. Remember - one step at a time.

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



Lady luck has always been your friend but it would be wise to ask for her continued blessings even if you think you don't need it. The road ahead isn't looking as smooth as you might like.

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



How many of those resolutions have you managed to keep? A few, I bet, as your stubbornness (umm, I mean determination) means you're much more likely to see things through.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



This will be a somewhat make-or-break year for you. Your laid-back attitude may have made you friends but does little for you at work. A little thought and you may achieve more than expected.

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



You start 2006 focussed and in control of matters, be sure to maintain this and you'll reap the rewards in more ways than one. Don't be timid now.

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



Your social status climbs high this year, but be sure to stay true to yourself. Romantic offers may come your way but think before you act.

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)



Time to take it easy now, as this is the beginning of the year. You need to recharge your batteries so you can deal calmly with situations which may tempt a blown fuse.

Libra (Sep 23rd - Oct 22nd)



Life has its ups and downs, and deals out unexpected situations. This year could see your experiences change you for the better, just maintain some perspective.

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



The dawn of the year is barely broken and already you have regrets. You may want another new start, but regrets are so last year! Don't waste your precious time, there's so much for you to enjoy.



SO, WHAT ARE MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS?



ONE: BE LESS PRODUCTIVE.
TWO: DAYDREAM MORE.



THERE'S NO POINT HAVING GOALS THAT AREN'T ACHIEVABLE.



Sport

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

IC ladies dominate

Chole Joyeux

Womens Football

Imperial College XI	1
RUMS	0

On a cold Sunday morning, the IC Football ladies set out for Harlington. After a late arrival of Chin, aka captain Planet, the team walked out on the frozen astro. All *nine* of us, as one unreliable girl had not showed up and another had cancelled last minute. The players were, however, ready for the clash against the 11 RUMS girls.

The game started as referee Richie P, aka Zippy, blew the whistle. IC started strong, keeping the ball mostly in the opponent's half. Pav and Yoke flew up their wings, helping the midfield and, more occasionally, dropping back to defend. The opposition made few runs, and did not worry Chloe and Jools much in the centre and left Muna almost bored between her goal posts. The domination of the IC ladies during the first half was impressive, despite their low numbers. Half-time came fast however, and honours even.

The second half began well as the pitch started thawing. The IC Ladies interpreted this as a good omen as they walked back on. The trio Mo, Chin and Poppy won the



Well done ladies!

ball, wherever it went, and sent it to Liz further up, who shot it with her powerful kick.

The ref finally started calling the bad throw-ins of the opponent, giving back the advantage to us several times. The IC ladies truly seemed to be everywhere on the pitch. The defence was impenetrable and gave RUMS great difficulty. Their defence, however, seemed to be leaking, allowing IC to perform several shots on goal. After several attempts, the ball finally touched the back of the net, thanks to Chin.

She ran all the way up the pitch, determined and as though nothing could stop her and shot, leaving the RUMS girls deeply disappointed as the score became 1-0.

The game went on, but as time passed by, the IC ladies started to become tired. They still maintained an excellent performance however, letting RUMS come close to scoring only once. For this one shot on goal, Muna was however ready and saved us all by plunging after the ball. What a save! A badly called corner almost gave the opposition another

opportunity, but the ball was rapidly cleared. As the IC ladies continued their struggle against exhaustion, Richie P saved the situation as his watch skipped a few minutes, allowing the IC ladies to forgive him for his doubtful corner. The game therefore ended in a happy atmosphere, as the IC won once again. Special thanks to Yoke's parents who came from Singapore to watch us (our first international supporters) and to the boyfriends, Garo and Tim, who "willingly" came to cheer the IC ladies on this cold morning.

Sailing Club hit Loughborough

Tom Sibley

Sailing

On the 3rd and 4th December, the Imperial Sailing Team travelled to the Loughborough Laser Team Racing Event 2005, where we competed against 14 other teams. This year's team consisted of Islay Symonette, Ian Preedy, Stew Edge, Helena Hamlyn, Thomas Dormenval, and (Captain) Tom Sibley, and although we did not have much team racing experience between us, we set off to show the new members how much fun it can be!

After an early briefing on the Saturday, it was straight into racing. The weather in the morning was looking good, with a blustery wind but showers on the horizon. Most of the team were happy that they had brought their dry suits with them; the others were feeling the cold. The first capsize happened within a few seconds of leaving the shore, and all spectators couldn't stop laughing at them, even to the point that another boat ended up in the water too. During our first few races we improved steadily, proving that the best way to learn some sports is by throwing yourselves into a competition (as the other teams had already been to several competitions in the last few weeks along with substantial practice for the events).

Several races were led by our boats, and the afternoon climaxed with our first team win by having our boats cross the line in 1st, 2nd,



Jubilant Seaman!

and 4th places (out of 6). After our success, it went a little downhill as the previous nights drinking began to wear off, and Stew managed to T-Bone another boat after an amusing aim in front, aim behind, hit middle sequence.

"we set off to show the new members how much fun it can be!"

Towards the end of the day, the initial round robin was over and we had managed to make it into the Silver League, however the wind had dropped and our final race of the day involved the smallest course

possible. This meant that more than the usual 90% of the race was determined by the start, and our starts were not improving. Then disaster struck. Light faded before we managed to start the second of our final afternoon races, meaning we would have to pack up the boats, reducing the chance of having a hot shower when we got back to the club house. It also meant we would have to rig the boats before our first race in the morning at 9, making it an even earlier start than on Saturday.

The Saturday evening is what the Loughborough sailing competition is known in the sailing calendar for, and we were not disappointed. That is until we had to get up in the morn-

ing for our incredibly early start. (Our tactics from the Saturday of doing the team race as a fleet race, then possibly trying some team racing manoeuvres if necessary, had not been working at the end of the day. So we decided to stick with them on Sunday.) We didn't have as many races on the Sunday, and were finished by lunchtime. Our final race was the best one we had all weekend: the wind was very light, and we managed some good starts. The course was not as small as on the Saturday, and we managed to use some of the manoeuvres we had learnt over the weekend. This resulted in some fierce team racing, with all boats finishing within a cou-

Check Mate!

Rafe Martyn

Chess

Following promotion from division 3 of the Middlesex league last season, Imperial Chess team is again coasting in division 2 after an unbeaten start to the season. The best moment so far was the demolition of Ealing 2. Coming after a disappointing draw away to an average Albany, our team was seriously psyched up. IC's shrewd captain, Peter Levermore, carefully outlined his inspired master plan: win every game to thrash them 8-0.

Things started well, with Ealing failing to put out a full team, immediately forfeiting on last board to put us one up. With their board 6 yet to show and strong positions on all boards, confidence was high. So high, in fact, that when Ealing's missing player finally did turn up, his opposite number, Imperial's Qingyui Chen, turned down the option of an automatic win before calmly crushing his tardy opponent.

Violent victories from Moritz Reuter and Ed Leung, and more serene successes from Robin Nandi and the skipper soon followed, leaving us 7-0 up with just my board left to finish. With team Imperial impatient to get down to the pub, my opponent's obstinacy was frustrating, but despite my best efforts it was only after 3 hours play that my foe finally failed, and resigned his tormented team to the inevitable whitewash. No sympathy was shown, however, and we duly turned down ailing Ealing's offer of drinks together in favour of our own, more go-at-orientated, drinking session.

Meanwhile, Imperial's ULU team, captained by Robin Nandi, is also getting on well after kicking off the season with a satisfying victory over UCL. Thanks should go to all those involved in the successful Imperial Chess teams for what has been a stunning start to the season. Look out for a blitz tournament later this term and the Mestel challenge in January, where you get to take on Imperial's own Grand Master.

ple of boat lengths.

Unfortunately, we were just pipped to the mark, but both teams agreed that it was some of the most exciting team racing we'd had that weekend.

"a fantastic time, and proving that we were good sailors by not capsizing once throughout the whole weekend"

After that, it was back to the warmth, and a good laugh at those who still had round robin races to complete. We left with only a few victories behind us, but after having a fantastic time, and proving that we were good sailors by not capsizing once throughout the whole weekend.

Sport

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Carry on ICSM 4ths

7th XI end 2005 on a comical note

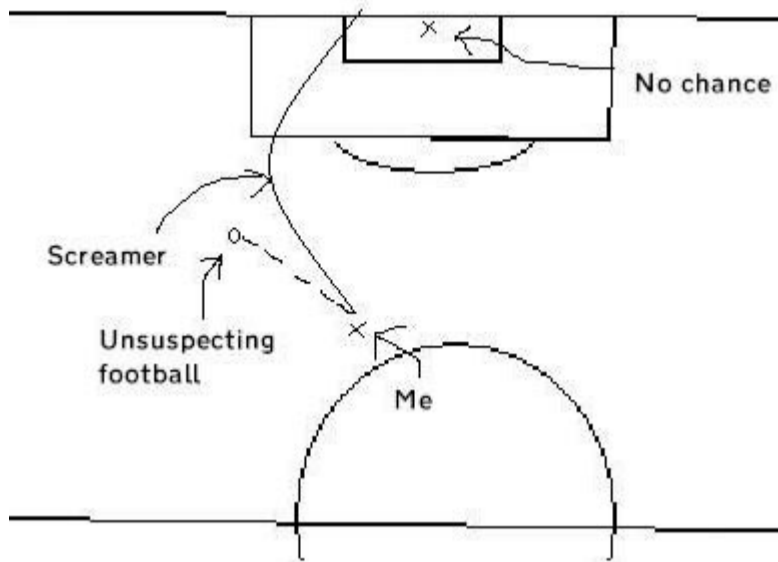
Sam Styles

Mens Football

Imperial College 7th XI	4
ICSM 4th XI	2

Regular readers of *Felix's* outstanding Sport section will doubtless recall that back in October, IC's favourite pirate-themed football team handed the dirty, cheating medics a 7-1 spanking. With the memory of the Harlington massacre still weighing heavy on the minds of both teams, the Mighty Mighty Sevens had several questions that needed answering: Could the medics really play as badly again? Would they have a kit? Were they going to give up on football mid-way through the first half and start another kick-boxing tournament? Only time would tell.

The air was tinged with anticipation as the battle-lines were drawn. Sam deliberately lost the coin-toss and the medics fell into his trap of changing ends, an early mental victory for the Sevens. The game began with the kick-off, in the traditional fashion. Early medics pressure suggested that IC may have a tougher challenge on their hands this time round, although the Sevens almost pinched a goal on the counter attack after Sam chipped the ball over the medics' centre-back and lobbed the keeper, only to see the ball fly inches wide. Eventually, the IC defence took the sting out of the medics attack, and the Sevens began to get a foothold in the game. The first goal came when Sam's corner was headed in at the back post by a suspiciously unmarked



A cut-out-and-keep guide: How to splaff on medics à la Sam

Szczeczczechesiak for his first IC goal. Unconfirmed reports indicating that he may have been hiding behind the goal prior to the corner being taken remain unconfirmed at the time of going to press.

Sam made it 2-0 to IC with a screamer (see diagram), a curling first-time strike from 25 yards into the bottom corner. That was the way the score stayed until half-time. The Sevens finally clicked into top gear after the restart and threw everything they had at the medics. Debutant Matias scored the third after skinning his marker and placing the ball into the far corner, and the Sevens fourth came after another piece of comedy medic defending when the centre back chested Pete's cross into his own goal, 4-0 IC.

At 4-0 up and with everything going swimmingly, the Seven's pirate ship suddenly sprang a leak. A long ball (surprise, surprise) from the medics keeper was uncharacteristically missed by the otherwise outstanding Seven's defence, and cheating ex-IC player John Scott scored with a neat, if somewhat Judas-esque finish. Another almost identical goal followed shortly after and the pirate ship had entered uncharted, stormy waters. With captain Sam setting a fine example by losing his head while all around him were also losing theirs, IC began to panic and a nervous 20 minutes ensued. A couple of let-offs and near-misses later, however, the storm subsided and IC's pirate ship emerged battered but unbowed with a 4-2 victory.

We're still here, just less vocal than last year!

Felix (a different Felix)

Womens Rugby

IC Virgins Autumn Term Digest

Well, we've been somewhat quiet recently, but don't worry, we're still rucking, mauling, drinking and creating our usual brand of chaos! As for a quick summary of the term so far:

We picked up record numbers of freshers at the start of term and headed off for our first match against GKT. We have quite a history against GKT and this year was no exception (we even pinched one of their best players, she defected to IC this year!). We came through victorious, 12-5 with virgin tried from Tumbles and newbie The Flash. St Mary's were second and a slightly different story. A bedraggled virgin squad (and two rather plucky lacrosse girls that we managed to snaffle) battled hard but lost 55-0. The third match saw us run out 27-10 winners against Wye and again gave us virgin tries, this time from Cherry P and GKT.

So, onto the matter in hand: Roehampton. This was a home match and we arrived at the pitch (or should I say sand pit) and wondered if Roehampton had brought any backs. Faced with an opposition composed almost entirely of props, some of our slimmer players looked a bit worried!

We kicked off and found that appearances hadn't been deceiving and Roehampton weren't the fastest opposition we'd ever come up against! What they were good at, however, was mauling, committing a sheer force of bodyweight that the virgins couldn't match. So despite spending a lot of time in the Roehampton half, we spent most of it in futile mauls going nowhere and knackered the forwards! It was then that the main feature of the game started happening - scrums. And more scrums. Oh, and some more scrums. I'm not sure if we had a scrum that worked first time throughout the whole match! The virgins have a

fairly experienced scrum and can hold their own against most teams, but Roehampton had some, shall we say, interesting scrum techniques! Twisting, collapsing, wonky, injuries, badly fed balls, balls coming straight out, you name it - it went wrong! Still, when the scrums did eventually lead to play, Spandex made some awesome steals to put us back on the attack. Then our advantage really came into play. We may have been down a player compared to Roehampton, but our backs ran rings around them! Storming runs from pretty much all of them gained us valuable ground. The Flash managed to skip round three of them to score our opener. We hadn't learnt though and were still taking it into mauls, then either losing ground or the ref deciding nothing would come of it. Roehampton fought back after going down in the scoring and crashed over the line just before half-time to even the score.

After a team talk, we went into the second half with a different tactic and saw almost immediate results. It seemed Roehampton were not familiar with the concept of rucking (kind of just standing there and looking at us) and going to ground four times in succession took us almost to their try line. After the usual 5 scrums, the ball was spun out to the backs where a blinding run from GKT nearly gave us our second try, but unfortunately the pass to Tumbles on the line was forwards and we were denied. GKT shortly afterwards went off down the pitch again (towards the bar, apparently she could smell the beer!) and this time got through to make it 10-5. We continued to ruck and pushed our advantage. The Flash was held up on the line, but we came back again and Tumbles sprinted round several players to extend our lead. We spent most of the rest of the game resetting scrums again and despite some good kicking from Roehampton, managed to avoid our half entirely.

Forward of the match went to our new girl Ali (so new she doesn't have a bar name yet!) who gave cracking support throughout. Back went to GKT for general fabulousness. A special mention should also go to Monkey, continuing the virgin tradition of kicking props!

RSM in derby day victory

Samuel Phillips

Mens Hockey

RSM XI	3
Imperial College 4th XI	0

In typical cheeky style, the miners hitched a ride on the IC hockey coach heading out to Harlington. After a last minute bail from one team member, we were left with 10 men until Alice bravely volunteered to play in a men's match (it's legal - check the rule book), then promptly missed the coach. Never fear, the rugby coach was only too happy to let the belle of the RSM hockey club have a seat on their coach, as you might imagine. After a surprisingly quiet ride with the opposition, we set about watching the IC 1sts match before us while IC 4ths hit their warm-up routine. At one point they were all doing communal stretches in a circle and we thought for a minute they might burst into song. We were, however, spared. After plenty of pre-match

banter with their captain on the sidelines, we took to the pitch facing ever-increasing bad light with the floodlights out of action.

The IC 4ths started at a blistering pace and had the run around of a particularly lethargic RSM defence for the first 10 mins. However, after a few last ditch tackles from Mikey and plenty of 'organising' (shouting abuse) from the goalkeeper Sam, the situation stabilised and the miners began to play. Pikey, our defender, was by this point injured as tradition now dictates and played an entire match in agony, hence the special mention. The midfield was a battlefield's worth of carnage in what would turn out to be a very scrappy and gritty game. Tim, Alice Nick and Mikey never really being able to find the space they needed to play properly in midfield, resorted to a war of attrition. Neither team managed to take an upper hand in the first half but IC had clearly spotted our danger man, Charles P having to deal with two or three markers at any one time.

At half time the score was 0-0 and there was no certainty of victory. In fact, the IC 4ths had matched us in every department and given us a good scare in the opening min-

utes. After introducing the midfielders to the backs at half time, they started (finally) to work together and the second half was slightly less scrappy. The 4ths were still matching us all over the pitch but when our chances came we took them. Charles Thornton being the first to open the RSM account with a very tidy goal. After that, the miners saw off a very reasonable attempt by the 4ths to score and Nick decided to put another one away for safety. By this point our opposition were still fighting tooth and nail but Charles P managed to slot another goal away and give us a rather flattering score line.

This was certainly not a case of beautiful hockey but we showed we could scrap it out with the best of them and get three points on the board. And Alice floored her marker, much to his surprise. The post match celebrations were every bit as messy as the game itself; we wish Charles P a swift recovery. Quote of the day/champagne moment goes to an anonymous IC 4ths player for replying to Nick's post-match handshake with that well known sportsmanlike adage: 'f*ck you'. Thanks IC 4ths for a tough game and well done to RSM.

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



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Eat Lard, Climb Hard

IC climbers report from far afield

Matt Wallace

Mountaineering

The last time I remember an article about ICMC in Felix was when a wheel fell off our minibus. Come to think of it, the time before that was when we rolled another one. Since then, Kev has left and the quality of Union minibuses has improved dramatically, so I'd like to correct this potentially negative impression of the club and persuade you that getting out of London and climbing is the only way to spend your weekends.

When I ask most people why they don't climb, I get the answer that they don't like heights. In fact, neither do many climbers. Although the sport was originally the domain of Victorian gentlemen looking for exotic ways to die, it has evolved now into many different disciplines. Traditionalists still seek adventure in long difficult routes, but many of us prefer to stick to leisurely sports climbing. "Boulderers", another breed, concentrate on technique, building up strength and skill on short, intense, and well protected (safe) climbs.

There are plenty of opportunities to try these styles of climbing, and more, on our fortnightly weekend trips around the UK. Peak District gritstone and Dartmoor granite provide technical short routes and bouldering, and anything from long rock routes to frozen waterfalls can be found in Wales. However, my favourite areas are the limestone sea cliffs on the coasts of Pembroke

and Swanage. There is no feeling like standing at the base of a rock face, belaying a climber with waves lapping at your feet as the tide slowly but surely advances towards your ledge. There are plenty of less scary spots in England, but none are as atmospheric and special as the sea cliffs.

With the variety and quality of rock only a few hours drive from London, you may ask why we ever go abroad. As you can imagine, the weather is our enemy. Swanage may be glorious on warm sunny days, but warm sunny days are in short supply in England. Therefore, during the holidays, we head off in search of drier climes and warmer temperatures. Last year, club members climbed in the US, France, Thailand, Spain, Croatia and, most recently for our summer tour, a very successful trip to Lake Garda in Italy, organised by our untiring president Herman.

During the summer, Lake Garda itself is filled with people sailing, waterskiing, windsurfing and doing every other kind of watersport imaginable, but surrounding it are a series of low altitude mountains. These constitute the southern end of the Dolomites, the chain that runs north through Italy, becoming the Alps. You won't find any snow or ice at such a low altitude, so the area is packed with a variety of warm and spectacular rock routes.

Despite my addiction to the local pizzarias and gelaterias in Arco (the town in which we were staying), the highlight of the trip for me was "Placche Zibrate", a collection of routes up an unbroken 500m slab of rock. This area is also popular with BASE jumpers, who throw them-



Don't look down! Alex half-way up the Penon D'Ifach in Costa Blanca

selves off an overhanging buttress just above the routes. Taking advantage of the thirsty outdoor folk is a small bar at the base of this crag. It even had binoculars so we could enjoy a cold drink at dusk while watching our fellow climbers' head torches as their relaxed route turns

into a night-time epic.

Unique to the Dolomites are "Via Ferrata", "Iron roads" of guide-rails and ladders bolted to the rock through the mountains. They were originally constructed so that the Italian army could move quickly through the Dolomites, but recently

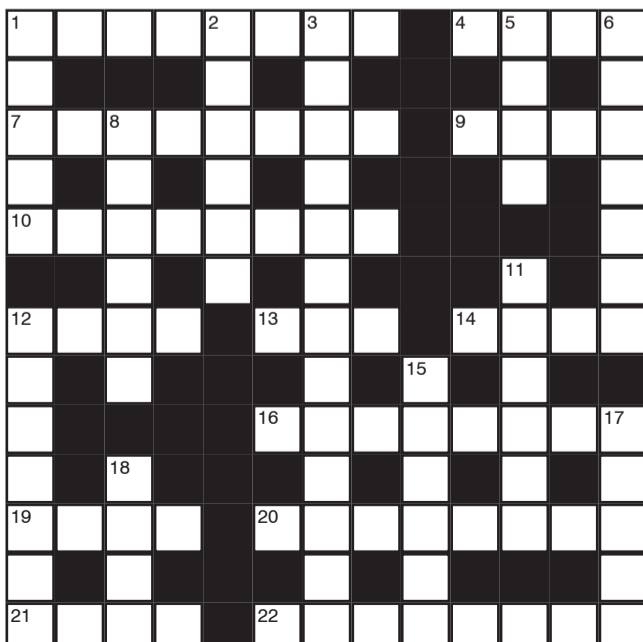
they have been restored and extended for visiting walkers and climbers. Whilst never as hard as the normal climbing, they give the opportunity to move fast and safely through stunning mountain scenery, with little effort.

Another high point was climbing by the lake itself, for many of us our first attempt at deep water soloing. This involves climbing up the rock face to around 40 feet without a rope, and then jumping into the lake. It's the most wonderful feeling - to be able to climb without a harness on a hot day and then cool off in fresh water. All in all this year's summer trip was a fantastic success.

Unfortunately, London isn't surrounded by sunbathed mountains, but it does contain some of Europe's biggest and best climbing walls. These may not be the same as real rock, but you can build up strength, stamina and technique in safety and comfort during the week. We also use climbing centres to teach freshers the basics of climbing, before they go on the weekend trips. We have new people joining us throughout the year, many of whom have never even seen a rope before. So if you are interested at all in climbing, want something to take your mind off work, or are looking for something more exciting than jogging around Hyde Park, then come along and join us. We meet in Beit Quad, by the Union entrance, at 1pm every Wednesday. All you need to bring are comfortable clothes to climb in, so come and get involved! For more information email markus.roggen@imperial.ac.uk, or go to our website www.union.ic.ac.uk/mountaineering.

Quick Crossword

by Fishface



Across

- Slaughterhouse (8)
- Crustacean (4)
- Group of people gathered together (8)
- New Zealander (*inf*) (4)
- Favouritism given to relatives (8)
- Intelligent but socially inept individual (4)
- Attempt (3)
- Part of leg (4)
- Long narrow flag or banner (8)
- Snakelike fishes (4)
- Establishment selling literary works (8)
- Open mouth wide (4)
- Strong coffee (8)

Down

- Once more (5)
- Red fruit (6)
- Drawings (13)
- Destroy (4)
- Court officer who takes away possessions (7)
- Light evening meal (6)
- Kindness or affection (6)
- Upper section of theatre (7)
- Large cup (6)
- Abbreviation for a copy or duplicate (5)
- At a low speed (4)



Crossword
setters
required!

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