

President of the International Bar Association: "Tony Blair and the rule of law"

Page 18



Win tickets to Isle of Wight Festival
Page 7

Facebook!



Pages 12-13

FREE
No 1352
Thursday
18 MAY 2006
The student newspaper
of Imperial College
felixonline.co.uk

felix



Botched exam: emergency resit on Saturday

Rupert Neate
Editor

Dozens of third and final year Maths and Computing students have been forced to sit a rescheduled exam on Saturday due to a printing error. As the students looked over the original exam paper last Thursday, several noticed that both pages were identical. The exam paper had two sets of the same three questions, whereas there should have been three on one page and two on the other.

The students were informed that the Geometry of Surfaces exam was cancelled and they would all have to go home and await instructions. Subsequently, all students received an email asking them when they would be available to re-run the exam. As this is the exam period and students have many other commitments, the only time all the students were available was Saturday afternoon.

Emily Lines, one of the affected students, told *Felix*: "This is totally unacceptable, how can a simple error like this happen at Imperial which is supposed to be a top-flight University.

This won't only negatively affect my performance in this exam but also my other exams as my revision timetable is now all over the place."

Felix contacted Dr Frank Berkshire, the Director of Undergraduate Studies for Applied Mathematics, to ask if the department believed that students would be significantly disadvantaged by the mistake. He replied: "It is difficult to see how candidate performance would be adversely affected - at least on this exam".

The students will sit a completely revised paper on Saturday that has been hastily prepared by the depart-

ment and is currently being approved by an external examiner.

Dr Berkshire confirmed to us that "the facts of the case will be brought to the attention of the exam board and any disruption caused to students will be taken into account when decisions are made about [the grades]".

The students have demanded to know exactly how this incident occurred. On this point, Dr Berkshire only stated that it was "an error which had not been thought possible". A full report on the incident is currently being written.

Some students believe that the exam

could have continued on Thursday and was cancelled with undue haste. They suggest that if the correct version of the paper was 'in the system' it could have been printed and the exam could have continued with only a minor delay. Dr Berkshire told us that although the paper was in the system, "it was not obviously and instantly [available]".

When *Felix* informed Sameena Misbahuddin, Union President, of the blunder, she said, "Honestly, don't they check the paper over first? It is very important".

Leader, page 19

Students exposed to clinical waste



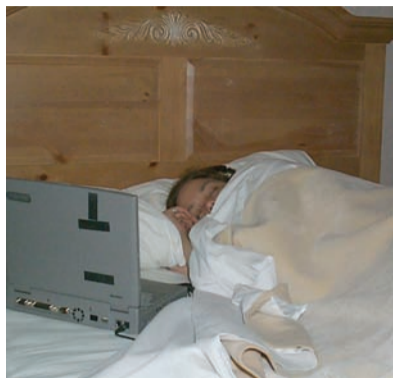
Hazardous waste abandoned at Imperial hospital, page 3

Photo: Felix Images

felix 1,352

Thursday 18.05.06

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk



City Explained: Equity Capital Markets

This week's *Felix* looks at Equity Capital Markets, affectionately known in the industry as the "factory floor", the place where financial instruments are created.

Page 15 ▶

EBAY FOR SALE - BUY THIS WEBSITE!

Starting bid: US \$24.95 (Approximately)

Time left: 6 days 19 hours

Start time: 30-Dec-04 02:18:00 GMT

Buy It Now price: US \$1,000,000.00 (Approx)

Calling All Imperial Geeks

Need a break from revision? Did you die on WoW? Tired of wanking? Fear not, *Felix* Nightlife has prepared a London club guide just for you.

Page 7 ▶

This Week

News	1-3	Comment	18
Business	4	Leader	19
Science	5	The Union	20
Music	6-7	TV	22
Nightlife	8-9	Agony	23
Coffee Break	12-13	Sport	24

Sudoku No 1,352

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. E-mail your solution to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk by Friday 4pm. We will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. You must claim your prize within a week. Last week's winner was Ross Mounce. The week before that it was Vanessa Walton.

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

NEWS

Engineers visit Thorpe Park

John Collins

The UK's biggest amusement park attraction opened at Thorpe Park in March, just as term was ending. At 205ft tall "Stealth" certainly is big. It is Europe's tallest and fastest coaster and can be found at the Surrey-based amusement park. It launches from standing at the station to 80mph in just 2.3 seconds, before throwing you up and vertically down down over its 205ft hump! The whole experience lasts just 20 seconds and 15 Imperial students got the chance to see the complex engineering from behind the scenes.

At 7am, they arrived at the somewhat deserted theme park to be met by their contact, who then took them to meet the head of engineering in the maintenance sheds. Here, every morning, the team of ride engineers would go over every single nut and bolt of all three carts, ensuring nothing had gone astray the previous day. The wheels would even be re-aligned to ensure a smooth ride. Indoor heating lamps warm the carts before they leave the sheds in order to ensure that the lubricant on the wheels works as it should. If it's under 5 degrees Celsius many of the rides will not function. It was 6 degrees on the day...

Leaving the shed, they passed the ride's first passengers of the day: The water dummies. Each dummy, weighing the same as a person, gets a ride before real people get a chance to even queue. After the 20 second ordeal, they were all intact. This was taken to be a good sign.

The hardcore engineering lies under the large hump, inside a bunker. It contains one very large, very expensive motor; containing 42 smaller motors, to be precise. Oil and



Scream if you want to go faster

Nitrogen are pumped-in constantly to store energy from the National Grid between ride launches (to stop Staines having blackouts every minute or so). This stored energy is then released causing a cable to be reeled with an impressive force. This cable is attached to the cart via a catch-car shortly after everyone is secured (this is the bit of the ride when judder forward and back before you shoot off!). The force stored in the pipes in here could slice you in half if the cable buckled. Furthermore, if the oil in the system leaked, the whole bunker would be filled in seconds. This explains the rather secure door which is sealed before operation.

The tour was finished with a look at the launch track and the controls. Every day, engineers run the catch car at a snails pace along the 80m launch track feeling by hand any vibrations which indicate damage in the track. The control system is simple to operate, but pretty complex

in the background. In order to make sure you get over the top, the launch force must automatically reconfigure itself based on the weight of people and weather conditions. Every 5 runs averages are taken with the intent that the cart reaches the crest at 12m/s. If you balance at the top (this happened once on a similar ride in the US called Top Thrill Dragster. People were stuck for 35minutes at 400 ft), there is a rope for a rescuer to climb to give you a nudge - but this should never happen...

Once the park opened, the students got a chance to experience the ride... According to one of the lucky guests: "It's awesome! It's very fast, very smooth and you get a great view for the second or so that you are at the top. Get down to Thorpe Park and give it a go!"

Volunteer to help CGCU Internship Centre run similar trips to Virgin Radio and BBC Television Centre. Email: internships@cgc.u.net

Student wins prize and trip to Florida

Mansoor Ansari, an Imperial PhD student in the department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology, has won an IChemE Particle Technology Subject Group (PTSG) bursary to attend the World Congress on Particle Technology 5 in Orlando, Florida. The aim of the PTSG student travel bursary competition is to encourage top PhD students to maintain the nation's competitive edge in this fast growing discipline. Mansoor's study objective is to develop an analytical approach to produce "designer granules" in binder granulation process - a vital processing step in chemical, food and pharmaceutical industries. His research supervisor is Dr Frantisek Stepanek, of the Chemical Engineering department.

Got a question for the Rector?

Ever wanted to ask the boss a question?

Quiz him on top-up fees?

Curious about his plans for the College?

Want to know whether portacabins will still be built on the Queen's Lawn?

Send in your questions by Saturday, 20 May, and your answers may be printed in the 1 June issue of *Felix*.



Staff

Editor Rupert Neate	Film Editor Yuen Ai Lee	Agony Aunt Editor Preya Patel
Deputy Editor Vitali Lazurenko	Arts Editor Emily Lines	Sports Editor Stephen Brown
Design Editor Saba Shafi	Food & Drink Editor Hannah Theodorou	Ads Manager Anthony Obiekwe
News Editor Chris Miles	Fashion Editor Dolly Delaney	Copy Editors Ben Beiny Mike Ferguson Geoff Steel Chris Miles
Science Editor Alex Antonov	Nightlife Editor Gregory Mead	Web Editors Robin Doherty
Business Editor Michael Olymbios	Comment Editor Tristan Sherliker	
Politics Editor Matthew Hartfield	Coffee Break Editor Shaun Stanworth	
Music Editor Matthew Hoban	TV Editor Tomo Roberts	

Got a story?

Call – 020 759 48072

Text – 077 647 61324

Email – felix@imperial.ac.uk

Visit us – West Basement, Beit Quad

Hazardous waste abandoned at Imperial hospital

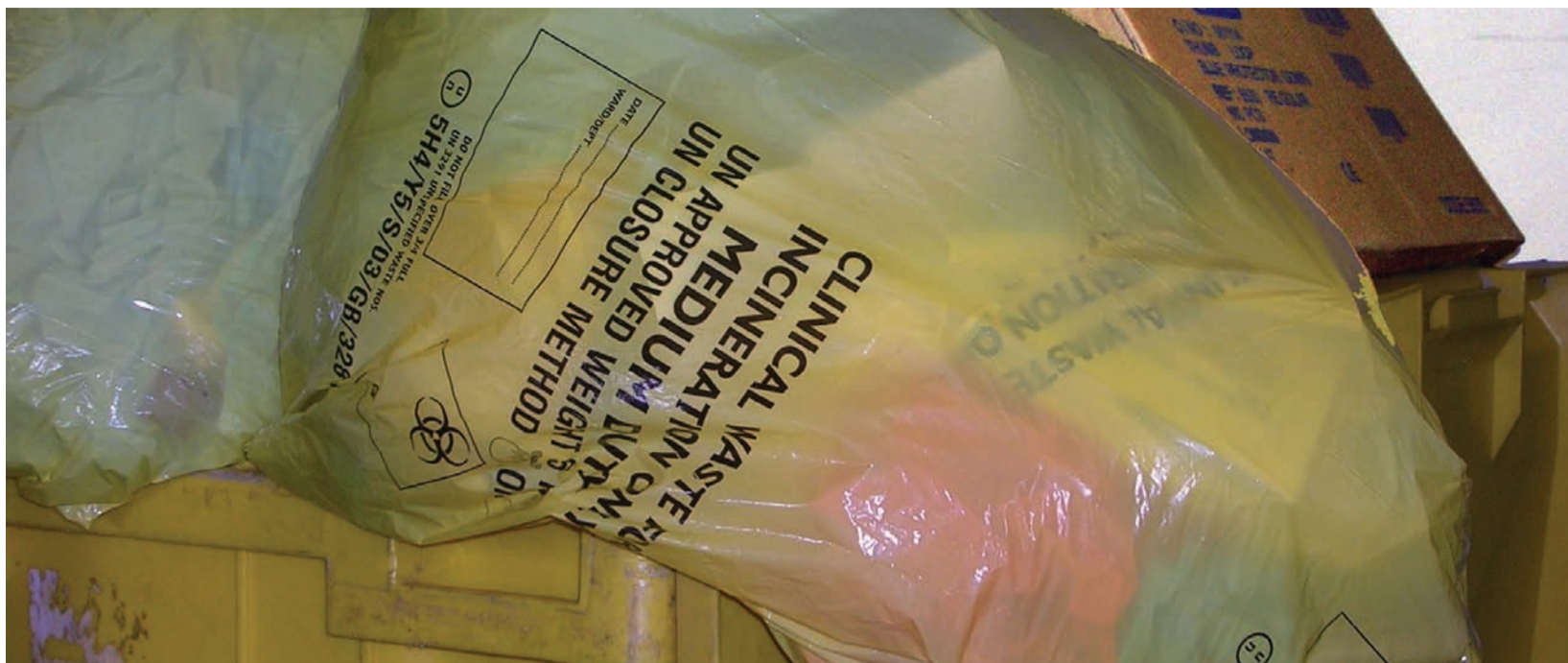
Chris Miles
News Editor

Medical students at Charing Cross Hospital were put in direct contact with an unattended skip of clinical waste as they attempted to enter the hospital's laboratory block on Friday, 12 May.

Overflowing bags, which can contain anything from human tissue to drugs and dressings, were obstructing the exit from a lift, which is accessible to patients, students and visitors at the hospital. One student walked into an overflowing clinical waste bag as she left a public-access lift on route to her tutorial. She had to move the yellow 'biohazard' containers in order to get past the obstruction.

The distressed fourth year student told *Felix*: "This is utterly unacceptable. It looked as if someone had left early for the weekend and dumped a skip of potentially hazardous waste in front of a lift for some poor soul to walk right into. The bags were unstable and if one had split open, I dread to think what might have happened."

There are usually stringent controls in place to ensure that clinical waste is managed safely and is disposed of without harming the environment or human health. Contravention of waste controls is a criminal offence. Section 34 of the Environment Protection Act 1990 places people concerned with clinical waste under a duty of care to ensure that the waste is disposed of safely and is only transferred to



Imperial medic walks into overflowing bags of waste outside a public-access lift in Charing Cross Hospital.

someone who is authorised to handle it.

Students noticed that the waste had been left untouched for two hours and contacted *Felix* to voice their concerns. We spoke to the hospital switchboard to report the incident and were put through to the Duty Porter's office, who confusingly said, "put it in the bin". We later contacted Imperial College Charing Cross Security and the skip was removed for incineration within the hour.

An employee working nearby described the situation as "disgusting" and immediately contacted the hospital's Health and Safety Executive. The Facilities Department at Charing Cross Hospital are currently investigating the matter.

Danny McGuinness, ICSM SU President, said: "This is indeed unacceptable and I sincerely hope it has been reported to the Health and Safety Lead at the Trust. Our students should be able to go about

their studies and placements safe in the knowledge that their health and safety will come to no harm."

College released this statement: "The College is concerned by the reports that a clinical waste cart was mistakenly left outside the entrance to the laboratory block... Although the College is confident no one was at risk under these circumstances, an investigation has been launched with the Hammersmith Hospitals Trust to determine the events which led to

this incident.

All clinical waste is first placed in clearly marked bags prior to loading onto a clinical waste cart and disposal is thereafter handled by the NHS Trust with whom the College regularly liaises.

All staff and students at the College are made aware of the potential risks posed by it, in accordance with both College and Trust health and safety regulations."

Leader, page 19

UK students panic as emergency AUT talks collapse



Imperial academics pictured outside College protesting for an increase in London salary weighting.

Andrew Somerville

Final year students all over the country are facing severe disruption to their degrees after the Association of University Teachers (AUT) rejected the final pay offer made by the Universities and College Employers' Association (UCEA).

After days of talks, the offer of a 12.6% pay rise over three years was dismissed this week as the AUT claimed it was not a "decent offer... it is dressed-up to represent 12.6% [when it is really] worth less than 11% in real terms". Jocelyn Prudence (Chief Executive of the UCEA) called these calculations "misleading" and said that the offer "exceeds the [AUT's] original demand". She also criticised the Union for not putting the offer to its members for a vote.

This latest breakdown in the emergency discussions leaves many

final-year students considering legal action against their universities as they are uncertain as to whether their exams will take place and even whether they will graduate. Many say that this situation is preventing them from finding employment, leaving them with lost earnings, a feeling of helpless limbo, and a bitterness that is mainly directed at the UCEA and their own institutions.

Imperial is not affected by these developments since staff at College are under local pay negotiations and cannot take part in the national dispute. However, IC staff are also due for similar pay negotiation before August this year, but talks have not yet begun. The situation does not bode well for higher education in general as anger grows over the inequality in pay rises between education staff and university administration. Over the last three years vice-chancellors have been awarded an aver-

age increase of 25%.

The AUT fears a 'meltdown' across higher education as exams are cancelled and marking deadlines come and go. Edinburgh, Aberystwyth and Liverpool universities have already cancelled up to twenty exams, and many universities are advising that their students check daily for updates on the internet.

Universities are attempting to quell the disruption by implementing emergency contingency plans, but this is causing concern in some quarters about the quality of degrees awarded this year, fearing that standards will not be upheld.

As tempers fray on both sides of the debate, more strikes are planned. Some universities have begun to dock lecturers' pay for failing to mark exams; an end to the deadlock is still not in sight.

Memorial bike ride

Chris Miles

A silent bike ride is to take place on Wednesday 17 May in memory of cyclists killed and injured by motorists. The scheme, part of a US 'International Ride of Silence' initiative, will involve a 10 mile route through the city's Hyde Park.

Imperial College student Apijak Srivannavit was killed in a road traffic accident whilst cycling in the South Kensington area last summer.

Mr Srivannavit was at the junction of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road when he was hit by a coach. The coroner's report concluded that both the coach driver and the cyclist were to blame for the collision; however, no action was taken against the coach driver by the Crown Prosecution Service.

In June of last year, Thomas Sippel-Dau, an ICT manager, was also

knocked off his bicycle and killed by a 4x4 vehicle. The upcoming ride will visit the sites where the College members were killed.

Ben Jefferys, Chair of the Union's Bicycle User Group, told *Felix*: "I hope this is a fitting tribute for Apijak and the other cyclists who have died in London. It has been organised with the cooperation of Apijak's family. This event will be followed up by a vigorous safety and awareness campaign, funded by a generous donation to ICBUG from Apijak's father."

Anyone wishing to take part should meet at Hyde Park Corner at 6:30pm on 17 May. The 10 mile route will take approximately two hours and riders should be as silent as possible. The pace of the ride will also be restricted so all cyclists are able to join in. Each participant should wear a black armband (or a red armband if they have been injured themselves).



The busy Cromwell Road where one of the students was killed last year.



Oil prices fuelling inflation

- Inflation for April up by 2 per cent on pervious month
- Bank of England says rate hike likely despite fears over economy

Michael Olymbios
Business Editor

One year has almost passed since Goldman Sachs infamously published a report predicting a tremendous spike in oil to \$105 per barrel. Once deemed ludicrous by many analysts, few dare speak against it now. The price of oil has surged by almost 50 per cent since then and consumers and central banks alike are starting to feel the sting.

In America, the price of petrol is nearing \$3 a barrel and the US is finally easing off the gas pedal in response, but not voluntarily. Opinion poles show anger at the pumps is being directed at the government and at a time when the Bush administration is looking to have the worst mid-term election result in history. In response, the Republicans have been passing legislation designed to pass the buck to oil companies.

The Federal Agency Price Protection Act is supposed to prevent "price gauging", but with oil at around \$70 per barrel, one must question the function of this law.

Other proposals to increase taxes on oil producers have been rejected outright. Similarly, the EU retraced its plans for increasing taxes but Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, levied the taxes paid by North Sea oil producers.

Mervin King, the Governor of the Bank of England, signalled energy costs are finally taking their toll on inflation, indicating potential rate rises. He said, last Wednesday, "the prices of oil and other commodities such as metals have risen further...pose upside risks to inflation." Soaring energy bills and tariffs on long haul flights has pushed up inflation to the Bank of England's target.

The Office of National Statistics said that consumer price index, a measure of inflation, is up to 3.8 per



The Bank of England where Governon Mervin King gave his inflation report last Wednesday

cent in April, a 3 per cent increase on the previous month. The Bank of England signalled the next move would be a rise in base rates. The US Federal Reserve has already raised rates to 5 per cent. Money markets have priced in a 25 basis point rise this summer and a 50 point rise for

mid 2007 in the sterling. The bank is, however, cautious about a lack of capacity in the economy and does not wish to overreact on wage inflation data. Consumer sentiment is still high, though, due to a resilient housing market and expensive assets.

Despite economic forecasts being

revised on the downside, Mervin King was still optimistic about the state of the economy, highlighting a strong external environment. Projections show that this year will be the first time, since 1995, that the trade balance is positive and contributes to the economy.

City explained: Equity Capital Markets

Michael Olymbios

Capital markets, affectionately known in the industry, as the "factory floor" is the place where financial instruments are created. Typically, it is a branch of the investment banking division, and is divided in two sectors known as equity and debt capital markets (DCM). The main products they form are shares and bonds respectively, and do so to raise money for companies. Recently, however, banks are combining ECM and DCM into a single division.

This week shall deal with ECM. Europe saw a 400% increase in equity financing in 2004 with deals totalling \$30.6 billion, compared to a meagre \$5.7 billion, the previous year. Those working within capital markets find themselves principally involved in one of three things, including: originating new business, structuring the products or syndicating, which entails pitching newly prepared instruments to potential investors.

The most publicised work of ECM is the initial public offering (IPO). This is where a private company decides that, in order to raise finances it will sell its shares to the public, usually via a stock exchange. There are rare instances when the motive is not to raise capital but stocks being sold as a secondary offering by existing shareholders.

This was the case for the USA's largest IPO in 1998 when DuPont sold part of itself to Conoco for \$4.4 billion. Some of the largest IPOs occur when governments sell their holdings in stock to raise money. This was the case for the largest ever deal that

eBay stocks increased by 260 per cent on the first day of trading

involved \$13 billion worth of stock in Nippon Telegraph and Telephone being offered by the Japanese government.

Once a company decides to go public, its first decision is to pick an underwriter. The choosing of managers is often known as the 'beauty contest'. This involves meeting with investment bankers form different firms who pitch what they think the company is worth and how much stock they can realistically sell.

Underwriters are the midwives in

the birth of financial products and their role is three-fold. Initially, they explain the procedure and provide advice, after which they then buy the newly issued instruments that are finally resold to the public. After an underwriter is chosen, that firm's lawyers and accountants prepare a registration statement to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It is a lengthy and dry document covering a range of issues, including proposed financing and the history of the company.

The most important aspect of the registration documents is the S-1 form, also known as the prospectus. It is vital to get this right because it is distributed to potential investors. Creating a prospectus is a highly expensive process because it involves an array of highly paid professionals. This culminates in something known as "going to the printer". This highly stressful endeavour involves lawyers, bankers and accountants being locked in at printing houses where they must work together continuously until the prospectus is perfected. It is not all bad news though. These 24-hour financial printers (the largest being Bowne and Donnelley) offer all the gourmet food you can eat, baths, showers and other amenities.

Whilst the firm awaits a decision from the SEC, it is busy calculating the issue price. This is done using models like price to earnings ratio comparisons and discounted cash flow models. Once the SEC gives the green light, something known as the road show takes place. This is a marketing exercise where the banks talks to potential investors who will mostly be institutional investors such as mutual fund or pension fund managers. They will then give the bank the maximum price they are willing to pay and how many dollars they are prepared to put forward. Although investors are not legally bound by their promises, they will want to stay in the underwriters' good books so as to remain in the loop when it comes to future opportunities.

When selecting a price, underwriters are extremely cautious and usually do not go for the highest possible since this might put off investors and

leave unsold stocks. Some degree of under pricing also leaves room to temp other investors. This is where a conflict of interest might arise. Since the underwriters agree to buy the stock and then sell it to the public, they do not want any unsold shares since that leaves them with market exposure. On the other hand, the company wants a high a price as possible to raise as much capital as it can since that is, in most cases, the motive behind floating on a stock exchange. In return for underwriting the stock, the bank profits from a spread. That is they are allowed to buy the stock for less than they sell it to the public. The company is also billed for any administrative costs incurred by the bank.

The most expensive aspect of an IPO is under pricing. The cost is hidden but very real and is famously illustrated with eBay. The prospectus for eBay estimated that investors would be interested in a stock price of \$14 to \$16. However, they failed to account for the huge interested this new web-based economy had generated. By the end of the first day of trading over 4.5 million shares traded and the close was \$47.375. In the UK, IPOs increase by an average of 20% after floating, but this premium is short-lived and prices usually settle within five years.

Bankers in ECM can typically expect similar pay to those in M&A with some managing directors achieving seven figure bonuses at the best firms for the largest deals. The dot-com crash has hampered the industry but the number of IPOs is back on the increase.

science



science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Delving deeper into brain surgery

Deep brain stimulation is becoming more popular as a treatment for Parkinson's, but how much of a risk is it?

Katherine Nightingale

"It's restored life to me," says Fergus, of the procedure known as Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS). Now an established treatment for Parkinson's disease and other neurological movement disorders, DBS, a combination of brain surgery and implant technology, is becoming more widespread. As we live longer, brain disease will become more common and managing its symptoms and finding a cure will be an ever-increasing problem.

Certain areas of the brain are over-active in movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, and DBS targets those by the insertion of electrodes into these regions. A high-frequency current is then transmitted to the electrodes from a pacemaker, which controls and generates the electrical pulses and is implanted into the patient's chest under the collarbone. The electrical stimulation effectively blocks or reduces the activity of the chosen brain region, alleviating the symptoms resulting from the brain's over-activity.

Part of Brain Awareness Week, the webcast broadcast by the Dana Centre was a presentation of the science of DBS by two top surgeons in the field, combined with a discussion of the selection procedure and follow-up treatment carried out by neurologists. Mike Robins, one of the first people to undergo the procedure in this country seven years ago, goes so far as to turn his pacemaker off, letting us see the reality of living with Parkinson's before the operation. He describes conventional Parkinson's drugs as making him feel as if he were "living in a bubble" as he became gradually more despondent and marginalised from society. DBS became a last resort for him, and one for which he is very grateful.

Despite this being something of a celebration of DBS (another young woman in the audience, Amy Westall, was also on hand in the audience to talk about the positive impact DBS has had on her quality of life), the discussion was tempered by an intelligent and informative presentation from neurologist Dr Patricia Limousin about the selection procedure and rigours of post-operative care, including the trouble patients may have in finding the correct setting for their

pacemaker. DBS is clearly a risky and serious step to take; as Tiipu Aziz, a consultant neurosurgeon, says: "I as a surgeon can kill you, tablets can't," making it clear that DBS is only to be considered for extreme cases of movement disorder.

One of the strengths of the evening was the combination of technical and personal stories gained from having such a diverse combination of speakers. DBS is both a neat and revolu-

"I had the rather bizarre feeling of having crashed a private party where people exchanged idea for Parkinson's help groups over wine and canapes."

tionary piece of science as well as a life-changing experience for those seeing no other alternative. The contrast between the PowerPoint presentations from the neurosurgeons (briefly evoking a scientific conference or lecture hall) and the emotive speeches about DBS from patients balanced the evening nicely and prevented the event from sliding into either dry information about the surgery and risks or emotional polemic about the benefits.

It dawned on me about halfway through the evening that I was probably one of the few people there whose life has not been touched by a movement disorder. I had the rather bizarre feeling of having crashed a private party, where people exchanged ideas for Parkinson's help groups over wine and canapés. Although not exactly science-in-public, and perhaps not what the Dana Centre was designed for, this event showed that there is clearly a role for a public forum about specific diseases.

Maybe the speakers were preaching to the converted or giving valuable information to people whose lives would be directly affected by the topic. It was certainly the busiest I've ever seen the Dana Café, and perhaps indicative about the kind of science the public want to be informed about.

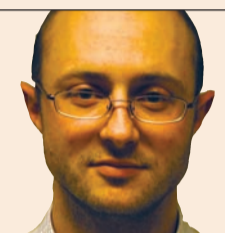


Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) is a risky and serious step to take. As Tiipu Aziz, a consultant neurosurgeon, says: "I as a surgeon can kill you, tablets can't."

The Newer Scientist

Ockham's Razor

Duncan McMillan



A new grooming product launched this week is set to change the way we communicate and even alter the way we think. Ockham's Razor™ is an application of the philosophy of science to everyday life and its makers, PhilosoTech, have billed it as a revolutionary tool for "cutting out bad ideas" and "trimming unsightly theories". The device was inspired by an artefact unearthed last year from a fourteenth-century grave near Woking.

Ockham's Razor has been developed in partnership with the university of Edinburgh's department for Intellectual Parsimony (DIPY). DIPY's head, Professor Seth Knox, gave the historical background to this invention:

"William of Ockham was a man to whom scientists owe a lot. He came up with ideas about theory creation and selection which can be paraphrased as: 'Don't multiply entities in a theory' and 'When choosing a theory, go for the one that explains things in terms of what you already know, and in the simplest way.'"

For centuries this idea has been described as Ockham's Razor, but when Knox and his team discovered Ockham's tomb in 2005, it seemed his razor was more than metaphor. "We found a number of objects associated with Ockham's life, presumably thrown into the burial pit after his coffin. One of these was a rather elegant knife, apparently designed for shaving with."

Tests on the little knife showed it had never been sharpened, but a chance discovery revealed something more interesting. Senior researcher Selima Alma described the moment: "I was getting nowhere with my analyses. Prof Knox came in and asked me how I was doing. I started to describe my procedures and theories about the knife and absent-mindedly scratched my chin with it as I was doing so. Suddenly my redundant ideas fell away, and my vague theories crystallised. Knox noticed the difference immediately. He said I was 'shaving the phenomena'."

Alma and Knox realised the blade was actually influencing the user's thought processes – Ockham's razor indeed existed, and could be used to clarify thought, simplify theories and rationalise poor logic. Knox decided to conduct some scientific tests; he applied the blade to 35 History of Art students and 28 showed a significant increase in verbal clarity and logical reasoning for up to five days following the application. There were some unforeseen consequences though. As Knox noted: "Most of them failed their assignments for that week."

PhilosoTech saw the potential market for a retail version of this ancient knife and worked with Knox and Alma to develop an up-to-date device. They have since received huge advance orders for Ockham's Razor and their sales manager, Julia Romeo, pointed out some interesting sales patterns: "We've had high order volumes from the Shoreditch area of London, parts of Liverpool, and most of Kent. We believe that these must be regions where people talk complete nonsense most of the time – hence the demand for such a device." However, the stand-out sales successes have been corporate orders from major consultancy firms Accenture, McKinsey and PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Ockham's Razor will retail at £12.99 for a set of five disposable blades and a mock-ivory handle.

Bored of exams?
Write for Felix Science:
science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

music

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix's music section loves you.

Tools, iron, wine. An alcoholic blacksmith's dream.

Dawn of a new, not so different era

It's exam and project time for many, and this means a few things. One of them being a thinning of *Felix*. It also means a shortage of staff.

Our ever-opinionated Music editor (and soon-to-be triumphant new *Felix* editor) Andrew Sykes has a workload the size of an elephant's love package. This means that I have come to help ease the burden that is making this music section the envy of all other music sections.

Exam and project stress have also distracted our reviewers, so I have taken it upon myself to venture into the big, bad world and witness some brilliant live music. But luckily it isn't the *Matty Show* completely. I have a special guest, Nick Simpson, reviewing the extremely long-awaited and disappointing new Tool album. I have to agree with him, it is a slice of pap.

Also bringing in this new era is a competition where you, yes you, can win tickets to the Isle of Wight festival!

Matty Hoban
acting-Music Editor



Metal with a sense of humour? Tool are now officially Megadeth.

ALBUM REVIEW

Tool
10,000 Days
(Volcano Records)
★★☆☆☆

Not many acts can get away with sticking to the same formulae throughout a career. While some take an almost schizophrenic/polarised approach to every album, totally contradicting the last (Madonna springs to mind), others like to develop and grow, urging the listener to follow them into new ground. Often this doesn't work, the band implodes and becomes a memory of a particular year, rather than one of true musical inspiration. Then again the occasional group do 'make it' and become iconic, genre defining, and much loved by even the most ardent music critic.

But what about Tool? They do nothing. They arse around, play infrequent concerts, and write their website blog. When they get bored, once about every half a decade, they whip a new album out of their trousers, put it down on the table, and watch as hordes of disaffected American youths gorge on the dark lyrics that Maynard spits down the microphone.

Don't get me wrong, I love Tool. In fact, I managed to scoop a coveted ticket to their two night residency at the Hammersmith Apollo; but as they begin to average a 5 year hiatus between albums, you start to wonder if they are just a one trick pony, lazily rehashing a 14 year old sound when their bank balance gets low. *10,000 Days* is definitely a, 100%, no-doubt-about-it Tool album. It throbs like a headache, occasionally exploding into a full blown migraine of distortion and screams: But it is not until track six, *Lipian Conjuring*, that we actually hear something new. Something that reminds the listener of *Henry Rollins* on *Undertow* (their second album). Two tracks later, *Rosetta Stoned* reverts back to their run of the mill sound, containing a riff lifted straight from *Lateralus* with a few sampled vocals added to dupe the listener into thinking it is new.

After listening to *10,000 Days* it becomes obvious that Tool aren't planning on pushing the boundaries of music forward any more. Perhaps Maynard put too much into his side project, *A Perfect Circle*; or perhaps it has just taken five studio albums for them to loop back to the start. Which ever it is *Lateralus* remains Tools magnum opus and *10,000 Days* is half the album it thinks it is. The cool Alex Gray artwork isn't going to save you now boys.

Nick Simpson

LIVE REVIEW

Iron and Wine with Calexico
The Forum
Kentish Town
★★★★★

Hyperbole goes hand in hand with the music scene like poor personal hygiene goes with a physicist (the smell in Blakett after a hot day would upset a skunk). Speaking of which, harsh personal opinions also occur in the music scene. Nonetheless, I am not mincing my words when I say that out of the many shows I've been to (enough to make me more than extremely cynical) *Iron and Wine with Calexico* is perhaps the best and most memorable. As I sit here writing whilst watching *Full Metal Jacket*, thinking about that night fills me with inner tranquillity set against the harsh martial tones on the telly in the background. It really was that good.

For those who are fans of either of said artists, you have no doubt picked up their magnificent collaboration record. If you haven't, I recommend you do by the end of the day, otherwise whatever Supreme Being you believe in will never forgive you. It is a record of delightful harmonies, melodies, and delicate vocals, with all the power of the Kubrick classic (see above). So after hearing their collaboration and finding out they were playing together at the Kentish Town Forum (the size of the Astoria, but with brilliant sound and ambience) I

couldn't wait to go.

The best part about the gig is that I was constantly guessing about what was going to happen. I didn't know whether they'd play separate sets and then play a set together at the end or whether they'd play together and have a couple of support acts. So it was to both my simultaneous relief and surprise when the hirsute Sam Beam, a.k.a. *Iron and Wine*, strutted onto the stage, carving up the air around him with his magnificent beard. The sound, despite suffering from some early feedback, was wonderfully clear. Ironically, wearing an amazing *Doctor Who* t-shirt, his songs defied time and stretched out melodies, accomplishing so much in what feels like such a short time. His set drew songs from *Our Endless Numbered Days* with a couple of newies and felt both infinitely long and delicately short.

Then Sam announced, "I'm gonna' bring on the Calexico guys for a few songs." These magical words heralded the first set of the songs they wrote together and it was delightful. One of the songs, *Red Dust*, featured normal and slide guitar solos. This would usually make me sigh in despair but I loved every minute. Then Calexico's Joey Burns announced that they would take a 10 minute break and after an hour and a half's worth of music, I didn't care one bit.

True to his word, Mr. Burns came back after 10 minutes with one Salvador Doran, a Mexican version of Tom Jones who makes animal noises whilst playing Flamenco guitar. As much as that could sound both pretentious and/or awful, it was fantastic, and somehow appropriate

for the night. After this engaging aside, Calexico got on with their hour-and-quite-a-bit showcase. If you have heard the new stuff by them, you might be disappointed, but their set was well timed, paced, and packed full of melodies and harmonising trumpets! Yes, harmonising trumpets! Along with a cover of Love's *Along Again Or* (with trumpet fanfare in the chorus), Calexico were more than entertaining and importantly, they were different from *Iron and Wine*.

Then, when Calexico come back on for their second encore they bring *Iron and Wine* on with them along with *Salvador*, meaning there were 12 people on stage at once. With this, there was both quantity and quality and again the Forum's sound-system kept up with this amassing of musicians and the sound was still clear and entrancing. They performed *He Lays in the Reins* together (including *Salvador's* operatic third verse) and this song resonated in my ears for long after I had left the venue

The icing on the cake however was the cover of *Velvet Underground's All Tomorrow's Parties* (the name of the festival that also organised this night). It was an apt near-ending and a brilliant re-invention of a classic. All I can say is if you can't appreciate music like this then I refer back to the aforementioned film in saying: "What is your major malfunction numb-nuts? Didn't Daddy show you enough attention as a child?"

Matty Hoban



Looks scarily similar to our last family photo portrait. I have a serious case of beard envy though...

LIVE REVIEW

Final Fantasy
The Luminaire
Kilburn
★★★★★

“Final who?” This is something I might catch you saying, or regretably, “You mean the guy who writes the music for the video g...” NO! I completely understand the former, though, since his first album was cobbled together in a week and released without any fanfare on a little known label (Tomlab). Fans of the gay version of the *Polyphonic Spree*, the *Hidden Cameras*, and those who dedicate themselves to every string crescendo of *Funeral* by *Arcade Fire* will have heard of this one man band. He wrote string parts for both. Now you are thinking you should’ve heard of him sooner, aren’t you? Well, “yes” is my answer.

When he performs live, he does so with a violin, his voice, and a loop pedal to create the backing. Now he has a new album out. The more orchestral, fuller-sounding (but tragically titled) *He Poos Clouds*. Buy it (when it finally comes our over here). Due to the nature of this album, I was unsure whether he would expand to include a quartet, or continue with his ‘one man and his loop pedal’ show. It turns out he stuck to the latter and it was joyous, but first a few words on the support acts.

Simon Bookish is fantastically appalling. I can see what he is trying to do (one third *Jarvis Cocker*, one third *Richard Youngs*, and one third *Richard James*) but falls flat and just irritates me.

Grizzly Bear, from Brooklyn, are brilliant with their charming, sparse, experimental, heavily reverbed, and looped alt-folk country with slo-core (I cannot believe I used said that) elements. It is beautiful stuff and no description I can muster will cover it.

Owen Pallet arrives onto the stage with violin in hand and launches into *The CN Tower Belongs to the Dead*. A magnificent entry, I must say (as the bishop said to the housemaid). He proceeded to impress the audience with his mastery of his looping pedal during new songs such as *This Lamb sells Condos*. This song is about a middle aged guy who can’t perform in the underwear department. Classic lines include, “His massive genitals refuse to co-operate/no amount of therapy can now save his marriage.”

A new arrangement of *This is the Dream of Win and Regine* was not as successful or triumphant as I wanted it to be, with the drums letting it down. It is odd that as soon as he adds elements, he takes away from the performance. Also after professing that *OMD* (80’s pop) were his favourite British band, one of his encores feature two brilliant covers (with faithful schoolground noises). His second and last encore then featured an attractive cover of *Mariah Carey’s Fantasy*, featuring the lead singer of *Grizzly Bear*, that had me singing along and laughing, which is simply a good thing.

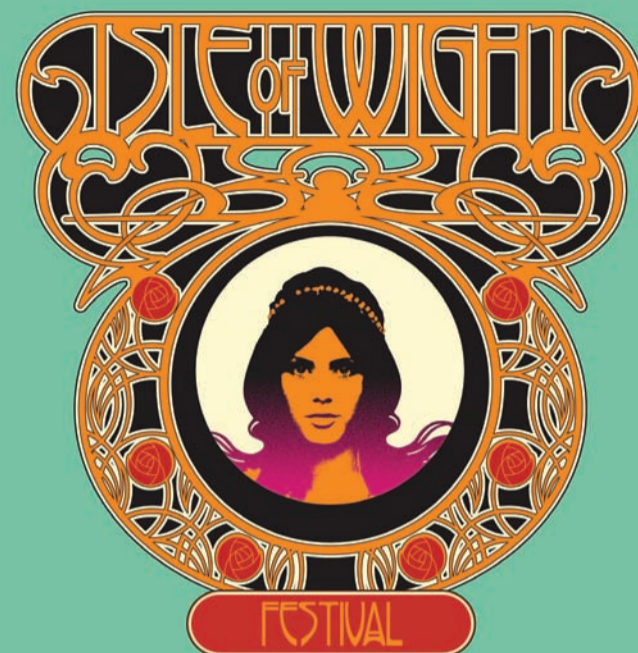
Owen Pallet has a geeky edge (he has a song called *59 Man Points Leads to Many Lives*) which is actually tolerable, and is the best thing named after a computer game. He may remain in the shadow of the far better-known and accessible (some may be offended by Pallet’s lyrics dealing with homosexual themes) *Arcade Fire*, but I hope this doesn’t last long.

Matty Hoban

The Summer is Here!

The Isle of Wight Economic Partnership (www.iwep.com), in conjunction with Felix, is offering two pairs of tickets for the Nokia Isle of Wight Rock Festival (9th to 11th June 2006).

Go to www.felixonline.co.uk for details of how to enter.



You too can be part of the crowd above and also get to see the sights of the picturesque island.

ARE YOU READY TO LIVE LIFE?

The Isle of Wight offers a fantastic lifestyle to Graduates. Fast becoming one of the UK’s cultural hotspots, with a large music scene including the famous Nokia Isle of Wight Music Festival and the Bestival.

The Isle of Wight offers excellent opportunities for extreme watersports enthusiasts and hosts Europe’s largest extreme watersports festival - White Air.

People are able to take time chilling out, enjoying the beaches, restaurants, and pubs or being

a bit more active, trekking or cycling across our beautiful countryside and rugged coastline; one can really achieve the work-life balance that so many people aspire to.

The Isle of Wight has built up an enviable reputation as a place of excellence and innovation in the fields of maritime and aerospace engineering and technology. Many world class companies such as British Aerospace Defence Systems, GKN Westland Aerospace, Britten-Norman and FBM Marine are based on the Island.

In recent years the Island has been successful at developing a cluster of businesses in the

renewable energy and composites sectors such as SP Systems and Vestas Blades. The Island also has many small and medium sized companies offering opportunities.

A recent report showed the Isle of Wight Economy grew faster than the South East and the UK. These figures reflect the number of opportunities for skilled students and graduates to live, work and play on the Isle of Wight.

To apply for work experience and graduate placement opportunities on the Isle of Wight, or to find out more, visit www.iwep.com.

nightlife

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Like to feel cold? Like vodka?

Felix reporters get chilly with the *Absolut Vodka Ice Bar* on Regent Street.

ICE Bar - Mayfair
£12 - Any Day
★★★★★

Having trawled a selection of some of London's less salubrious clubs, we requested, for a change to be sent somewhere 'cool, classy and chilled'. We think that our request may have been taken a little too literally and we found ourselves bound for the exclusive 'Absolut Ice Bar' in Mayfair...

Some clubs just perfectly suit their name, for instance: Hombres is, of course, filled to the brim with men, Embargo should be avoided at all costs and sure enough, exactly as it said on the tin, the Ice Bar was constructed entirely from ice. Upon arrival we were presented with large, insulated ponchos, sporting fur collars and hoods, that made us look like camp Nordic members of the Ku Klux Klan. Everything from the walls to the bar was carved entirely from ice, and not any old frozen Thames Valley Tap Water, but as our obliging antipodean barman 'Jase' proudly informed us, ice specially imported from the Tourne river in Sweden. This spectacle was further enhanced by ambient blue lighting, breathtaking ice sculptures, and reindeer pelts to sit on... Even the glasses were little more than hollowed out blocks of ice.

The management insisted we 'sample' every beverage on the menu. The drinks, invariably vodka based, bore Nordic-esque names such as 'The Howling Husky' and 'Northern Lights'. Everyone we spoke to stipu-



No sailor outfits in sight this time, but those coats do look rather dashing.

lated that it was nigh on impossible to get drunk in the ice-bar, yet lo and behold, two-and-a-half hours later (one-hour-and-three-quarters over the maximum time the establishment and conventional safety laws would allow plus numerous requests to vacate the premises from the management) we had accomplished

this feat, and almost collapsed on Regent's Street...

The establishment's entrance fee was twelve pounds (one free drink included) which perhaps explained the large number of 'wanker-bankers' and suit-wearing monkeys amongst the clientele. We leapt upon the opportunity to challenge some

bearded Germanic businessmen to an impromptu curling match, using our glasses and the slippery surface of the bar. After sending at least two glasses cascading towards the floor we decided to call it an honourable draw, but Fritz was having none of it! The drinks (having sampled all of them) were delicious, yet fiscal rape

at six pounds a time. The staff were fun and friendly and we were able to request ice in our drink or cappuccinos at least five times before they wearied of the jokes that must plague them on an hourly basis.

One or two things did strike us as strange about the bar, for instance: the fact that there was a fire escape. Call us crazy, but how could it happen? Furthermore, if you stood in the same place, leaned against the walls, or propped up the bar for any significant period of time, you tended to become attached to the surface. After a while this can become a tad embarrassing, especially if one is chatting to a large number of attractive Swedish young ladies.

Customers are only allowed into the bar for forty-five minute slots yet the venue also boasts an adjoining bar and lounge bearing the name 'Below Zero'. In stark contrast to the ice bar, the theme is 'warmth', with roaring fires and ambient red-orange lighting. Food is served, but alas, after rinsing £240 worth of *Felix* complimentary drinks in the Ice Bar the management shockingly did not permit us to sample the delights of the menu (which interestingly included Kangaroo steaks and roast Ostrich)

To summarise, the bar was expensive, yet well worth the money as it is a truly unique experience. It would make fantastic date material and it is guaranteed to impress, despite the fact it may seem almost impossible to get her drunk. Wait till you leave and the heat hits you, the bar will certainly be the only frigid thing around.

Mosli-Lynch & Lowley

Another double page spread. Conor at Ice Bar, IC Tamil Soc at Twist and a stupid cliché article.



you'll have to wait a few weeks before you get any of the best material we have to offer, which means we are still open to suggestions. I've said it every week before so I'll say it again here, if you want to write a review for somewhere just email me with your preferences, I'll give you and a friend a club to visit, some free drinks, some money, a prostitute, and a miniature giraffe. It can be anything: Your favourite club, your worst club, your local crack brothel. In fact, it doesn't even need to be a review. You could write an article on your favourite area for picking up hookers, or maybe an essay on how much you love me. I'm open to suggestions.

Congratulations to the winners of last week's prize. I'm afraid there is no competition this week as I didn't have time to organise the prizes, but look out in future issues for our super sweet giveaways: Probably more VIP tickets, or maybe something completely different, I have no idea. Remember if you don't enter then I'll just end up keeping them for myself, or giving them to a tramp or some underage kids. Until next time, have fun with revision.

Greg Mead
Nightlife Editor

Two pages again today, which is strange considering most people are not going out any more. Thank you to the Tamil Society for sending in their review of *Twist: Reloaded*; be sure to catch their next event. Conor has been at it again this week, sampling the delights of Mayfair at the Ice Bar, making the most of the £240 bar tab that they gave him for writing the review. *Felix* must be pretty highly regarded in those circles.

No reviews from me this week,

Twist: Reloaded with IC Tamil Soc.

In the run up to the exams for most university students, Imperial College International Tamil Society (I.T.S.), organisers of Mega Maalai, offered a little break from long hours trapped in the dark recesses of the library in the form of their 4th bi annual charity event: *Twist: Reloaded*. The *Twist* parties are the brainchild of I.T.S. veteran Harry Narenthira aka Harrybo and have been running for three years now. These parties have witnessed performances from some of the biggest personalities in Imperial College including MC Rashad the Human Beatbox and Funkology, the high profile dance troupe! They have been hosted at some of London's top night clubs including Rococo and Zoo Bar, raising over a thousand pounds for various charities including Medical Institute of Tamils.

The 3rd of May 2006 saw *Twist* grace the glamorous location of Mayfair at the favourite celebrity haunt: Capiisce. The 200 strong crowd on the night fitted perfectly with the plush venue with students' glamping themselves up with tiaras and fur coats. Although the crowd mainly comprised of Imperial students, there was strong representation from all years (especially the 5th year medics who were out in force tearing up the dance floor.)

Taking care of the music on the night were Ministry of Sound's DJ Technixx, K2 of the Notting Hills Arts

Club and ICSM's own DJ Harrybo and Nazza T who has just released an album: *Spot the Difference* on *Xtreme Soundz* record Label. Throughout the night the sounds of Hip Hop, Soul and Bhangra were pumped out as well as an inspired garage/grime set resulting in an explosion of severe dancing/rowdiness on the dance floor!

event on most of the major clubbing websites in London, we also saw a couple of high profile photographers taking photos on the night! Even Bob Geldoff decided to pop his head into the venue! There were great drinks promos available and the Capiisce air also boasted a hint of flavour with shisha available throughout the venue.

Congratulations to the International



In traditional *Twist* style the evening included break dancing and street-locking performances by Caesar (look out for his dance classes) and Ajay (ICSM) as well as an Open Mic Competition featuring the likes of MC Menis, Sub Zero and even Harrybo blessing the mic with some interesting lyrics to get the crowd lively. Having advertised the

Tamil Society Committee 06/07 and the veterans Harrybo and Kris for continuing the success of *Twist*, hosting an excellent party and raising over 600 pounds for worthy causes such as British Red Cross, Ramakrishna Mission and Tamil Aid. Look out for our future *Twists* during next year's fresher's week.

Annakan Navaratnam

Calling all Imperial geeks

Need a break from revision? Did you die on WoW? Tired of wanking? Fear not, *Felix* Nightlife has prepared a London club guide just for you.

No doubt you're feeling tired of revision, feeling worried that you're not going to score 100% again this year, are bored of wanking and need some stress relief. Lucky for you, this is a guide (for the boys) to clubs in London where you're guaranteed to pull, giving you that much needed confidence boost just before those exams.

Now, considering you are most likely at Imperial, you've probably got no chance of even having enough courage to talk to a girl, much less of convincing her to let you put your penis inside her, so before the club guide begins, I've been kind enough to include a list of what not to say or do. (I can vouch for these; I've seen people trying it, and witnessed the results). I'm not kind enough to tell you what you should do though, but just bare these few points in mind.

Remember! You are not at Imperial College Union here, this is the big wide world you've ventured out into, it's a scary and perilous place I know, but don't worry. Just keep in mind that nobody out here cares a tiny little bit about the structure of your degree, nobody cares that you've got 9am tutorials on a Wednesday which

Definitely don't ever mention your 180Gb porn collection.

means you have to get up just for that instead of sleeping in, its *boring*. When someone asks you what you do, it's not an invitation to talk for 20 minutes about thermodynamics, maths or quantum mechanics and don't *whatever* you do, mention that lame fact that "Thermodynamics Sucks" it just never, ever works. Neither does claiming that "Imperial is the second best university in the country for Computer Studies" in a surprised voice, when they tell you that they've never heard of it. You might also want to consider waiting until the fifth or sixth date to mention that the Union has the second biggest sci-fi library in the world after MIT, and definitely don't ever mention your 180Gb porn collection, and never, ever talk about *World of Warcraft*.

Finally, if you are an IC rich kid, don't tell everyone about it. Who cares what private school you went to, what exclusive gentleman's club you've joined this year, the companies your daddy owns and which merchant bank you've managed get an internship with. It makes you look like a *prick* when you talk about that, (I myself am a prick so I'm told on numerous occasions, but we're interested in you here, not me.) This isn't a 'networking opportunity', you're trying to get a shag, not secure a job



Soon enough this will no longer be what you wake up beside.

interview.

Now with that in mind, if you follow this guide completely you will have a nearly 100% chance of meeting that girl of your dreams (the one that will allow you within 3 feet) and maybe if you're very lucky, and if she's really wasted, you won't have to face that horrible prospect of graduating as a virgin. Don't get your hopes up too high though, we're going for cheap sluts here, there is no way that this guide will find you a nice girl.

Monday

Monday night is a hard one to start with, sure there are some good clubs, but that's not the aim here, we're trying to get lucky tonight, not appreciate the DJ's or listen to music we actually like. Don't bother with Trash; the last time someone pulled at that place they were playing new tracks by *The Smiths*. Imperial students have no chance here. Your best bet is heading off to The Roxy and grabbing yourself a 16 year old, and if that fails, go up to a random, loose looking slut in Soho and ask her where a good place is to go out on a Monday, you'll find out what happens.

Tuesday

This is easy, and again we head off to The Roxy for our easy pull. Who cares if they look younger than your little sister, £1.50 bottles of beer mean she'll probably be so wasted she won't actually be able to focus on your butt ugly face, just be sure to get in there

quick before everyone else does. Be aware this will probably be where you'll find the most refined girls of the week, indie kids tend to be pretty self conscious, so even if she's ugly at least she'll have some nice accessories.

You're trying to get a shag, not secure a job interview.

Wednesday

Quite obviously you have to make your way over to Cheapskates, if you don't know where it is, just start off in the union and follow all rugby toffs there. This is probably the most guaranteed night you'll have of getting lucky, so if you can only tear yourself from your computer for one night of the week, make it this one. If you prefer boys to girls, then Nag Nag Nag is your place, just get tarted up..

Thursday

Lucky for us, Candybox, the second best club for getting an easy shag has moved from Wednesdays to Thursdays, it won't clash with Cheapskates any more, allowing for a mid-week double whammy. So head on over there, get tanked up and find

yourself a cheap tarted up minger who won't give a dam that you'll only last 5 minutes in bed as long as you buy her vodka and mixers all night. If that doesn't take your fancy, you can always head off to Metro and find yourself another indie girl, maybe the same one you found at The Roxy on Tuesday, *perfect*.

Friday

No doubt at this point you are feeling a bit knackered, and if all is going well you must have been lucky at least once in the week, but don't lose momentum! Friday night is easy picking. If at the beginning of the week your taste for underage indie girls was whetted, then get your skinny arse over to club NME at KOKO, there's literally thousands of them here, this is where they breed. Being in Camden means when you get bored there, you can move on over to the Electric Ballroom; rock chicks and pseudo goths galore. Be aware though, nu-metal girls can be pretty freaky in bed, so just watch out if you're a bit feeble, or you'll wind up someone's bitch. Oh and make sure you don't end up with the 'booby-prize' emokid, she may seem up for it in the club, but once you're back at hers she won't stop crying and reading you her poems.

If these still don't take your fancy, then head on over to Ministry with cheap sluts ten-a-penny at their hip-hop night. Be warned though, Elephant and Castle isn't South Ken,

so be prepared to get robbed or beaten up.

Saturday

Hopefully this morning you'll be waking up in someone else's bed, so make sure you sneak away quietly, or make your excuses and get the hell out of there. There's a whole other night of fun and games ahead, so don't do anything stupid and geeky like falling in love. Get home and have a rest, play some CS put on your Clearasil and get ready for another evening of pasty hot geeky action.

If you don't fancy any more super clubs, then make your way over to Belushi's, formerly Prospects, this is the best place in Fulham to pick up a cheap Australian bird, and with snakebites for only £2 they are sure to be more trashed than you. What's more they'll live near by so no need for a long bus journey back, where she runs the risk of noticing what you look like.

If you are still in the mood for clubbing, then you could make your way over to Ministry again, crap House galore, you're sure to find some willing bint. Just make sure if she's hugging you really hard, check that her

Get home, have a rest, play some CS and put on your Clearasil.

pupils aren't too huge, you don't want your girl to crash by the time she gets home, or she'll never agree to sex.

Sunday

Sunday: the day of rest. No doubt you will be completely shagged out by now if you've followed the guide completely, and you'll have absolutely no chance of passing those exams after spending a week partying and sleeping around. Luckily for you there isn't much around on a Sunday where you can meet cheap sluts, so use this day as an opportunity to get back online and tell all your clan members what you've been up to this week, and book an appointment with the STD clinic.

If you've followed this rundown of clubs religiously, then most likely you'll have achieved your all time dream of pulling a girl. Now you can get back to revision, and after those exams, go and try it all over again. If you still failed to pull by following this, then you have absolutely no chance in hell. Give up now, you'll have to make do with that online virtual girlfriend, carry on using that porn collection you've amassed, and get yourself a *Blow Up Betty*, she has very lush lips.

Echobastard

Do you like getting free entry to nightclubs? Free drinks and VIP treatment? If yes, email nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk to contribute

at the union

may 18th - 28th

► **Wednesday 24th**

► **Friday 19th**

SPORTS NIGHT

Every Wednesday At The Union!
Carlsberg, Tetley's & Blackthorn only
£1.25 a pint  only

Free entry before 9pm, £1 thereafter, free cloakroom for sports bags

Bar Shisha in the quad

footballer's wives
 theme party!


SMIRNOFF
 & DRAFT MIXER
£1.25

20.00 - 02.00
 Free entry before 22.00, £1 after

► **Tuesday 23rd**

► **Friday 26th**

quiz nights

in da vinci's

chill out in the quad
 &
 Bar Shisha

balleric and sunset house beats


 & DRAFT MIXER
£1.25 in 

20.00 - 02.00
 Free entry before 22.00, £1 after

► **Also on this fortnight**

Mon 22nd	Pimms in the Quad all evening
Tue 23rd 19.00	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 23rd 19.00	Da Vinci's - Live Football - World Cup Warm-ups

► **Coming Up This Term**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

SUMMER BALL

June 17th 2006

We arranged the shoot... 16.05.06

felix
~~PLEASE
GET
NAKED
FOR ME~~



WARNING NUDITY WARNING NUDITY WARNING NUDITY WARNING NUDITY WARNING

...and nobody
turned up.

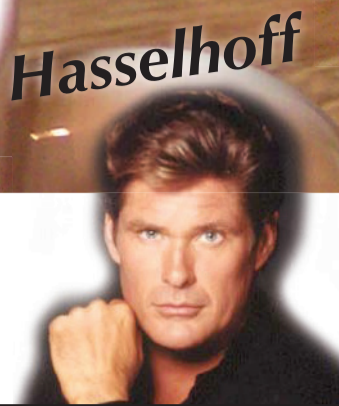
Show Us Your Builder's Bum!

Pose here.

All you have to do is email us at
page3.felix@imperial.ac.uk.
Girls, boys ...anybody!

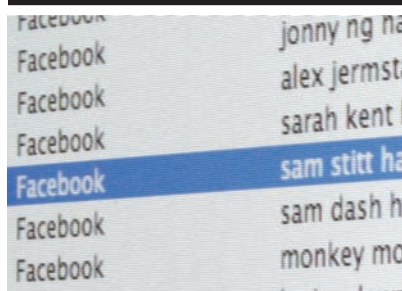
coffeebreak with David Hasselhoff

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Facebook: Crack for Geeks

It's taking the college by storm and guess who's here to guide you through it



FACEBOOK FOR DUMMIES HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS AND POKE PEOPLE

Unless you've been under a rock for the last week you can't fail to have noticed the revolution sweeping the college: Facebook. It's basically a social networking website, like MySpace or Faceparty. You have a profile where you put your details, your photo and various fascinating tidbits of information such as your favourite book and how much you love Coldplay.

The 'cool' thing about it is that you have a friends list, where you can add all your bestest pals from college and home. As your friends list grows, so does your e-penis, and in life the biggest penis wins.

If you really haven't got with the times yet and signed up, here are a few basic steps to get started:

1) Go to www.facebook.com assum-

ing you have a computer handy (of course you do, this is Imperial, by the time you read this you will probably have a microchip under your skin/in your tooth/eye with fully-functioning WAP).

2) You have to register. Check your email. Get your password.

3) Log in and create your own profile. Make sure you put down your university/college as Imperial, the year you're going to graduate, then you have access to all the groups and stuff. You can upload photos, make albums and all that jazz. The photos have to be 4MB or smaller. We've also thoughtfully included a guide to taking the prettiest picture.

It's pretty self-explanatory, and if you need any more help than that you real-

ly shouldn't be at this university should you? Unless you've Forrest Gump-ed your way in, in which case your mother must be getting tired of screwing all these old bald professors.

So you've got your profile, you've got your sexy picture, and you're ready to Facebook. First of all you'll want to check out your friends' profiles and click Add 'whoever' As A Friend to show them how much you care. Pro-tip: You can also click this button on people you don't know but just want to touch.

You can also send people messages. Should you find an attractive target and wish to court them in a proper manner, rather than being all rough and ready and heading straight for friendship, this is the way to go. Just

don't forget to put plenty of xxxs at the end. The occasional :-> goes a long way too.

You're bound to have noticed the Poke button by now. Poking has no purpose. It is completely pointless. However it is childish and fun to go around poking strangers, and of course poking back those who were foolish enough to poke you.

There's also a group system. You might want to join The David Hasselhoff Appreciation Society, or maybe The Appreciation Society Appreciation Society. *Felix* also has a group but it's far too rad for mugs like you lot.

There you have it, Facebook in a nutshell. Just remember to revise rather than spending your time stalking Medic girls.

Coffee Break

The Facebook Photography Masterclass

The key to any successful profile (i.e. one which gets you some ass) is a suitably attractive picture - slutty, and yet sophisticated, is the way to go. Felix shows you how.

So you've decided to join the revolution and whore yourself out on Facebook. Excellent. Only the most desperate and horny person will poke you if you don't include a picture of yourself though, and unfortunately that school photo isn't going to cut it, ugly.

The first step is to realise that cool people don't know how to use the self-timer on their cameras and that mirror shots are the way to go. Make sure you include cool things in the background though. Even the smallest details count!

It's a scientifically proven fact that the longer and floppier your fringe, the more interesting you become. It also helps to hide your Doherty-esque complexion and any unsightly blemishes such as your face. You'll also want to use eyeliner and mascara here. The Beetlejuice look is popular this year.

Now for the pose. You want to be a



mix of erotic and exotic. Even though this picture is the most important moment of your life, you need to look like your so damn hip you don't even need to look at the camera. Use your best come-to-bed face and don't forget to pout.

All you need to do now is upload it, guaranteeing a never-ending stream of pokes and random messages.

Clockwise from top-left: Our heroine struggles to hide the excitement of discovering Facebook; The classic mirror shot, complete with sexy background details; Sultry, exotic, and potentially emotionally damaged enough that she might let you have a poke; Two eyes good, one eye phwoaarrr!



Buttercup takes on the 'book

If you think some of the idiots on Imperial's Facebook look stupid, wait until you see what Buttercup has found. She's been to the home of the phenomenon, the US of A.

It's official. You're all losers. Facebook losers. I suppose you can be forgiven because Imperial students are so inept at any face-to-face social activity that we have to resort to an online feeding frenzy to message people we see everyday anyway. I am as guilty as the rest of you. If you're not on Facebook you're nobody. But even if you are, it doesn't make you somebody. Even though everyone loves seeing every-one else's drunken photos, there really are (believe it or not) better things to do. Is it only me or do any of you trawl through innumerable lists of friends' friends' friends trying to find either a)

the blood circulating. They'll come out looking like they've just stepped out of 'The Sound of Music'. You might have even changed their life.

What is great about Facebook is that it doesn't only extend to people in the UK, so if you really can't find anyone to poke fun at in England, although trust me there are plenty, you can cross the Atlantic and check out all the Americans. Oh yes. There are those who are self-confessed geeks or gangsters, and then there are the understated ones who refuse to accept their meaninglessness, but one look at their photos says it all. Shame.

You can use the great search engine to find anyone you want, any nationality, any sexual persuasion, no limits! The only problem is that you really have to put yourself out there and actually ask people, including Americans, to be your friends. It's almost as pleasurable as being thrown into the gutter. Your dignity disappears like copper coins being thrown away one at a time, down the drain. Then once you've got your face in the sewer you are obliged to hold your breath and sit tight until Mr/Mrs/Miss/MS. Redneck can gallop on their family pony to the single computer in the whole of Utah and 'accept' you on their only social network. I really 'accept' them too, in my heart, just like I 'accept' retards.

"Ugly people make you feel better about yourself"

an extreme hottie that clearly doesn't have the brain for Imperial but you pray that they might be within a 5 mile radius of London, or b) an extreme ugly who just has the 'point and laugh' factor.

Ugly people make you feel better about yourself. And great stress-relievers. Just zip them up in a punchbag, hang it up, think of cute little Indian children starving because these people are using up food, and away you go. Let it all out. You have my permission. It's not like you could make them look worse anyway, and a few kicks gets

If I wasn't so desperate for a laugh they wouldn't have to make all that effort just for me. But I am, and they do. It's politics. We treat Americans like the office slave: call them over, smile politely and pretend that we want them to make some coffee, wait until they make it and bring it over; then frown and say it isn't REAL coffee, can't they understand irony, tell them to get out of our sight, and after they've shuffled away we laugh like the evil Mojo Jojo we all are. The more satanic of us (probably me) would laugh directly in their face. This process repeats throughout the whole of life: Americans appealing to the English, trying to please us, and in return we nod, smile and turn away like we would do to a begging leper. But let's face it, if we didn't protect the chip on our shoulder they would probably eat it. They are like us at Imperial in many ways: they have social problems, disabilities, and are willing to take desperate measures to fit in. You know you can tell that a computer belongs to an American from the Krispy Kreme icing all over the keyboard. They really are unclean. And obese. But that's another Coffee Break.

Facebook is a worldwide phenomenon. There are people who have been made famous by it. I

kid you not. One of these very promising individuals has made her mark on men of all ages, especially the editors of the acclaimed literature: "Maxim" and "Playboy" She is full of talent, from the fabulous town of Silicone Valley, USA, and is truly a living inspiration

"Dreams really can come true, if you just put your brain cell and breasts into it."

for us all, and shows us that dreams really can come true, if you just put your brain cell and breasts into it. In other words, get naked and see what happens. In a world like this, you can never have too much fake tan. Out with Miss World, in with the 'Facebook Princess', Jenn Sterger. Things have never been so good. In a recent interview she revealed how she found true happiness: "I just have an amazing surgeon". She has proven that people love her for who she is: "almost every girl on facebook wants my doctor's number". Jenn is an outstanding young woman, a wonderful role model, showing that we really don't have to live with what we were born with. She is no longer the shy, reserved woman everyone found so boring, and at the end of the interview she dispenses one last precious snippet of true natu-

ralism: "damn it, I'm going to shake what my doctor gave me!" In a later interview the doctor reviewed his new surgical technique, implanting unused tissue from other areas of the body to enhance the silicone, but he was unwilling to reveal which tissue he used with Jenn. Brain?

Facebook really has made a difference. But we must stop using it to excuse ourselves from the vital tasks at hand, like getting battered at the Union bar. Instead of laughing over a snakebite and triple vodka with real people, we are determined to sit in our rooms and laugh to ourselves with our computers. Please. Just because we're at Imperial it doesn't mean we have to be cybersocial. I know you have money, so quit booking your face appointments with Doctor Alone and get out more.



Information

Account Info | edit |

Name: The Hoff
Network: Imperial '06
Last Update: May 16, 2006

Basic Info | edit |

Sex: Male
Interested In: Women
Relationship Status: Single
Looking For: A Relationship
Random play
Whatever I can get
Evelyn Gardens
July 17, 1952
Hometown: England

Contact Info | edit |

Email: coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Personal Info | edit |

Political Views: Libertarian
Favorite Music: David Hasselhoff, Boston, Africa, Europe, James Blunt
Favorite TV Shows: Knight Rider, Baywatch, Airwolf, The A Team, Thunder In Paradise, Judge John Deed
Favorite Movies: Backdoor Bitches volumes 7-9, Cum-Hungry Teens UK, The Shawshank Redemption
Favorite Books: Hoff (David Hasselhoff)

IMPERIAL FACEBOOK SOUNDBITES IF YOU WANT TO CUT YOUR OWN THROAT DON'T COME TO ME FOR A BANDAGE GIRLS RUNNING: IT'S BETTER FROM THE FRONT IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING DON'T PETE DOHERTY IS A PRICK YOU CAN'T FANCY HIM HE LOOKS LIKE A SQUIRREL WHO'S HAD TOO MANY NUTS THIS WINTER NO WAY YOU SPASTIC YOU'RE A MENTALIST WOULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE I ONLY GOT TWO DAYS OF PEACE UNTIL MY WIFE COMES BACK FROM FAT CAMP I'M OK THANKS I DRINK FROM THE BOTTLE IF THAT MAN CAN TASTE COLOURS WOULD HE BE FULL AFTER LOOKING DOWN A KALEIDOSCOPE ONLY THOSE WHO ATTEMPT THE ABSURD WILL ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE MEN WITH BEARDS: JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE HAIR ON YOUR LIPS DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN BE A C**T I'M GONNA LIVE FOREVER OR DIE TRYING I HAVE A JOB BUT I DON'T GO THAT IS SOME FUCKED UP REPUGNANT SHIT I CAN WALK ON WATER I HAVE VERY BIG FEET ONE CHORD IS FINE TWO CHORDS ARE PUSHING IT THREE CHORDS AND YOU'RE INTO JAZZ I'M THE OPERATOR WITH MY POCKET CALCULATOR THIS CRACK IS REALLY MORE-ISH THIS IS A GODDAMN BITCH OF AN UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION WHO EVEN IS THAT QUICK GET IT DOWN BEFORE IT ROLLS BACK UP THAT'S SO TAUT GEOFFREY BRING ME MY TOOLS - DO YOU MEAN YOUR KNIFE AND FORK SIR IF THIS BASS WAS MOSES IT WOULD LEAD YOU TO SLOUGH YOUR EGO'S WRITING CHEQUES YOUR BODY CAN'T CASH THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE OF GUN RUNNING IS NEVER GET SHOT WITH YOUR OWN MERCHANDISE YOU LOOK PRETTY IN PHOTOS IN REAL LIFE YOU'RE A DISAPPOINTMENT IT'S BETTER TO SPEND MONEY LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW THAN TO SPEND TONIGHT LIKE THERE'S NO MONEY TIME IS NEVER WASTED IF YOU WASTED ALL YOUR TIME NOBODY CAN LOVE ME AS WELL AS I LOVE MYSELF EXCUSE ME DO YOU BUY OR RENT I'M IN LOVE WITH A GIRL CALLED BRIAN

2006 Sabb Elections Special



DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

Daniel Chowdury



Why are you standing for this position?

I've been involved in the Union for three years, over which time I've gradually increased the amount of stuff I know. I think I have the knowledge and experience to represent the whole of College. I know what students want.

So, what have you been doing the last three years?

In years one and two I was a Biology year rep. At present I'm Natural Sciences Union Comms Rep.

Do you think that's enough experience?

You can never have too much experience. There's stuff I don't know, I admit that. It's essential that I build on what I've already got.

Why didn't you stand at the last election?

Mainly because it wasn't a good time. I have much more time now. I think I should stand, that's why I'm standing.

Are you just standing for CV points?

What!?! No, I've got lots of CV points. My CV is full.

How do you think Tim Weinert-Aplin has perform in the role so far?

He's done a good job. He's very pro-active at contacting societies. Fair enough there have been times when he hasn't been able to fulfill their wishes, that's the difficulty of the role.

If you get the job, what would be the one legacy you'd like to leave?

To ensure the Union redevelopment goes as smoothly as possible. Next year we really need to make sure the groundwork is laid successfully. The Union needs a viable future.

If you don't get the job, what will you do next year?

Umm. I don't have anything specific planned. Bit of travelling, temporary jobs. Then apply for a graduate schemes next year.

Manifesto

With the redevelopment of the Union, as well as College's decision to leave the University of London, next year will undoubtedly be challenging. Next year's Sabbs will have important decisions to make, affecting both current and future students.

Having been in an elected position for my three years at Imperial, I believe that I have shown my dedication and proved that I have the necessary skills to produce results.

This year I have been the Life Sciences Union Communications Officer and Broadsheet Co-editor. Developing communication networks with students and companies has been essential and I have secured sponsorship which I hope will aid next years RCSU.

Studying Biology with Management I have taken modules in Finance, Accounting, and Project Management which will aid my performance as DP (F&S).

Fundamentally I am running for DP as I feel that I would be good at the job and serve students well.

Edmund Hunt



Why are you standing for this position?

In the past people haven't viewed DPFS as an important position, just as a glorified accountant. But, it has a key role in determining the success of the Union.

Do you think that's enough experience?

In the first year I was an ordinary member of Council. I am now a re-app in Evelyn Gardens, which allows me to keep in touch with the first years, who are very keen users of the Union. I'm also a course year rep and treasurer of the debating society.

Are you just standing for CV points?

No. If I wanted CV points I'd have got a job. My CV is not my first motivation. I care about student welfare. If student democracy is going to succeed people have to stand up.

You are suggesting the Union should employ a dedicated alumni fund raiser, won't this just cost money?

It will be cost neutral. At a university like

Imperial, which is a leading European university, there are a lot of very successful graduates. A lot of them would be keen to lend their support. I had a gap year at a US uni and they made a lot out of alumni. It's a shame we don't utilise this. Oxbridge do it a lot.

A lot of people think the Union sucks.

Does it?
The Union has achieved a fair amount - the Building redevelopment, the new website etc. If I am elected I have the ideas to move things forward. People normally underestimate the scope of the DPFS.

Why didn't you stand at the last election?

It didn't occur to me. But, seeing who has been elected I'd really like to work with them.

Some people think you're too political, are you?

I don't think DPFS is a political position. However, involvement in politics demonstrates a passion for the issues.

Manifesto

The DPFS is not just a Union pen pusher: the winner of this election will take a key role in overseeing the delivery of Union commercial and welfare services, as well as guiding vital projects such as the union building redevelopment.

I've listened to students and staff to discern priorities for the coming year; my 10 manifesto pledges are laid out on a separate page ad in this Felix. All are achievable: if followed through they will make a tangible difference to our university life.

Since arriving at Imperial I've been involved in student issues. I've served on Union Council, as my course year rep, as a re-app and as treasurer of the Debating Society.

We need a DPFS who is approachable, honest and who has a sense of humour. Let's finish electing a great team and make 2006/7 a year to remember!

See www.edhunt.me.uk for more details

Jon Matthews



Why are you standing for this position?

I have a great deal of experience at Imperial. I've lived with students for 5 years, which has given me a lot of understanding and knowledge of the issues they face. I'm standing for balanced representation, not political ambition.

What previous positions have you held at the Union?

I've been a backroom boy and been mainly on the accommodation committee for 4 years. I've also contributed to council meetings, but not held a massively high position in paper. I also have a great deal more experienced than the other candidates.

You want to continue as a subwarden next year, wouldn't that be detrimental to a sabb post?

I am a subwarden for the sense of pleasure I get from the job and for the big differences I can make to the students.

There were some efforts from a minority to prevent from being one. I do, however, have full and complete support from the warning team.

Why didn't you stand in the last elections?

I'm a research student; I asked the department whether or not I could take a Sabb year in the middle of my PhD research. They said they'll get back to me. Nominations had closed by the time I found out.

Have the Sabbs done a good job this year?

The President has done a very good job this year but maybe the rest of the Sabbs could speak to people as well! People in residences don't even know who the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) is.

Are you against the smoking ban?

Should the union serve the vast majority? I think it should consider all students. You can judge services by how many people turn up. I stood up in public for what I believed was right. If people vote on a single issue basis, they aren't doing themselves justice.

I will promise I will make no attempt to reverse the ban. We should not buck the trend. It would be undemocratic to do so.

Manifesto

Imperial is a world-class institution, isn't it time you received world-class services?

The Union is you, its members, but this seems to have been forgotten.

The Sabbs work for you, you are their boss but most people feel that neither the Union nor the Sabbs serve or are relevant to them, this must change.

Progress has been made this year but we still have a long way to go, I can help us get there.

If elected, I will:

- Listen, be directly accountable and ensure I am available to you, not just hidden in an office.
- Drive for more funding for the refurbishment ensuring you benefit and have input every step of the way.
- Correct the unacceptable increases in bar (over 100% in my seven years at Imperial) and events prices.
- Give the Faculty Unions the support and independence they need.

Vote for yourselves, vote Jon Matthews for DPFS.

COUNCIL CHAIR

Danny McGuinness



Manifesto

.....
For those who have experienced Council you will be more than aware of the frustrations that can be encountered. We spend too long having to read the papers as nobody can be bothered to submit them before the meeting. Well I've had enough of it so it won't be happening in my Council! Deadlines are deadlines and constitutions should be adhered to. Less bickering, people need to understand their responsibilities and that they are to represent student opinion and not personal agendas.

I'm currently ICSM SU President (oh my god, a medic!), which means I have plenty of experience of chairing meetings. Nobody wants to be endlessly debating the same point over and over again and I'm very good stopping pointless drivel if needs be. Council is where the big decisions are made, so lets not let it descend into a playground
Vote Danny or I'll tear the place up.

RAISING & GIVING (RAG) CHAIR

Stephen Brown



Manifesto

.....
A lot of students don't really know what RAG is. RAG is the hugely successful charitable outlet of Imperial College Union that organises a variety of excellent fundraising events throughout the year.

If elected your RAG chair I would build on the success that RAG has enjoyed by getting even more students involved. I would achieve this by working to give RAG a higher media profile on campus to make sure that everyone knows how much RAG helps people and of course, how crazy some of the stunts can get.

Whilst the promotion of public nakedness in the name of a good cause is a great RAG tradition I wish to continue I would be innovative in considering other methods of fundraising. For example if *Felix* were to make a £10 'donation' for every spelling mistake printed the charities would benefit and the standard of writing would drastically improve!

COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP (CAG)

Radha Gadhok

Manifesto

.....
It is unquestionable that CAG provides an interaction between student and homeless communities that is valuable to both parties. It is evident on each and every of these interactions that those that sit on the margins of society within the Westminster district value the soup runs that form the basis of CAG's actions. What remains is to convince students that they too will benefit from participating in endeavours such as the soup run.

I hope that I shall be elected as CAG chair to raise awareness of: the vital capacity of what CAG does, the importance of connection between different spheres of communities within London and the benefits to any student of involvement in a world outside of a potentially cosseted studentship.

RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS (RON)



Manifesto

.....
RON pledges:

Council Chair - Slap people down rather than fostering agreement - it's more fun. Allow alcohol back into meetings.

RAG Chair - Lobby to have the SAC breakout area (in the new building) turned into a RAG office. Fit a de-humidifier to the storeroom.

CAG Chair - Lobby to fit a kitchen into the new union building - the new servers won't fill an entire room. Turn CAG into a normal club, this means it doesn't need to have cross campus elections and can run its own elections.

DPFS - Put advertising on the minibuses - the service should try to break even. Improve key list security - magnetically encode privileges onto the cards. As a priority RON will work with Sport Imperial to reduce the ACCs ground hire bill from £91K. Bars shouldn't make a profit - commercial operations should operate on a break even basis.

DISSATISFIED with the candidates for a particular position? THEN VOTE RON! Nominations will re-open, and a better candidate may get the chance to stand for election.

ADVERTISEMENT - THIS DOES NOT INDICATE SUPPORT FROM FELIX



WHY VOTE **JON MATTHEWS** FOR **DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)?**

The Union is **YOU**, all of you, it's your union and you make it what it is. The only reason the Union is there, is for you, its members. The Union needs to be accessible and represent all of its members but it can only do this if it listens to you. I will, let's make this a Union to be proud of.

The Union is more than just a bar, but these are an important part and need to be attractive to you, not just aesthetically but in ambiance and price, the refurbishment is only going to get us halfway there. The Union needs to put on events that you want to go to at a price you can afford.

Another major aspect of the Union is its Clubs and Societies, these are so important that we have a Sabbatical Officer to look after them, shouldn't they have equal importance in your Faculty Union? I believe so and believe that strong Faculty Unions make for a strong Union with better and more relevant representation that will serve you better, they can only do this with adequate support and funding.

If you elect me, I **promise** to:

- Cut bar prices.
- Ensure the new website is run properly and makes the union more accessible to you.
- Make it clear how clubs and societies are funded and how you can get the money and support you need.
- Give the Faculty Unions the support they need to run their own Clubs and Societies without interfering with their independence.
- Listen to you, if you elect me then you are my boss and I work for you.
- Ensure I am available directly to you, not just in South Ken but wherever you, the members, are.

Vote for you, vote **JON MATTHEWS** for **Deputy President (Finance and Services)**.

*Make it **YOUR** Union*

got eggs?

I will be handing out 200 creme and galaxy eggs starting Friday 19th on Queen's Lawn at noon!

The DPFS is a vital part of the Union's mission to serve student welfare. The officeholder is not just another cog in the Union's financial machinery, but a key player in making sure that services are tailored to student interests. I am standing as the candidate passionate about carrying through reforms that will make a real difference to our university life. I am approachable, honest and hardworking: please give me a chance to serve. Listed right are my 10 priorities.

www.edhunt.me.uk



1) Reinvigorate the Union building masterplan

- stay focused on completion
- address environmental concerns
- welfare services and clubs getting priority for space

2) I will support greater faculty union autonomy

- faculty unions are vital to student community
- greater financial independence for CGCU, ICSM, RCSU
- more effective union support in training etc.
- I support funding sabbatical positions for faculty union presidents
- increased funding for departmental societies

3) I will strive for a fairer Clubs & Socs budget allocation

- cut underspend
- reward careful budgeting and prudence
- supporting clubs that have a wider benefit to the student body

4) I will employ a dedicated alumni fundraiser

- making the most of centenary opportunity
- enormous income potential for properly cultivated alumni links
- long-term revenue source for student welfare projects
- cost neutral (fund out of donations)

5) I will lay plans for opening a student job centre

- help students supplement income with diverse part-time and summer jobs
- develop work skills
- complementary to careers service

6) I will ensure responsive bars, cafes & shops

- create focus groups drawing on all Imperial students - all year groups, all faculties, postgraduate and international - to regularly consult on what food, drinks, varsity clothing etc. people want to buy
- minor changes in product offerings could result in significant increases in commercial turnover

7) I will offer more varied & accessible Union ents

- more diverse entertainments, eg. comedy nights, more club-led nights
- reducing drinks prices, especially soft drinks
- a decent cocktail menu!

8) I will argue for increased union funding from college

- per student, college funding has been falling in recent years.
- union clubs & welfare services are a major part of student life
- with top-up fees being introduced we deserve more funding

9) I will work for an effective Union website

- reduce paperwork, improve efficiency, enhance communication
- use to its fullest potential as gateway to the Union

10) I aspire to a Union that serves everybody

- encourage different groups of students to use Union services and facilities, eg. international students, postgraduates and non-drinkers
- union facilities accessible to all members

Vote

Edmund Hunt for **DP Finance & Services**

Plus working for a cleaner, greener union!



Vote online at www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote , Friday 19 - Tuesday 23 May

Last Chance To Nominate For Union Colours

For those of you who have been thinking about this and haven't yet nominated someone, this week is your last chance.

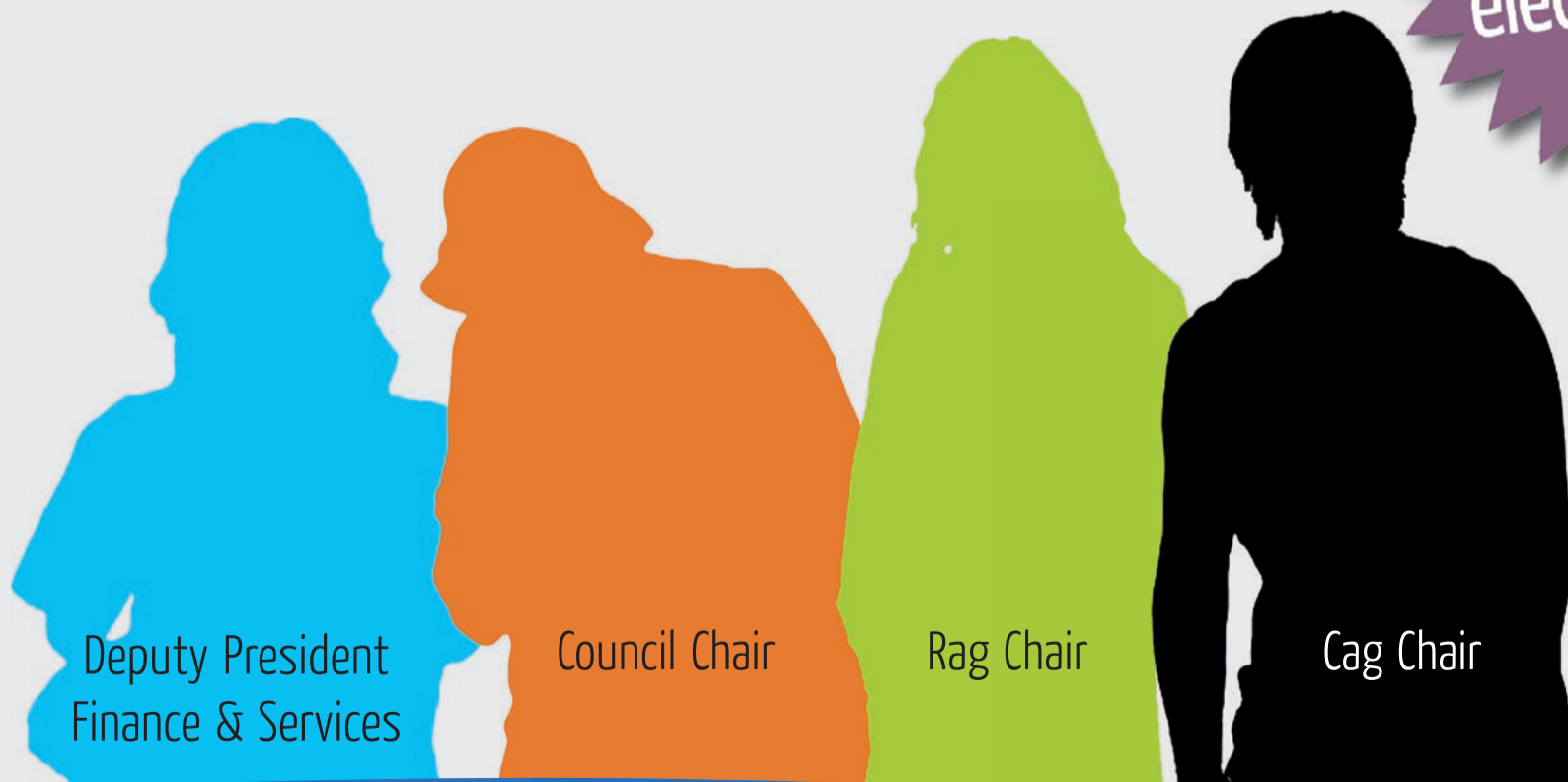
Nominations close on Monday
22nd May.

www.union.ic.ac.uk/colours



www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote

19th May - 23rd May



Deputy President
Finance & Services

Council Chair

Rag Chair

Cag Chair

Ethos – free gym & swim continues!

Imperial Sport Centre, Ethos, will continue free gym & swim next year. After the delay in opening of the centre, the guarantee of a year of free gym & swim had been cut down to only 6 months, but due to its popularity the Union has been working extensively with College to ensure that this continues for the next year and this week it has been confirmed!



Photo: Christian Richters

The Union continues to work with the Sport Centre, so look out for further details.



Sameena Misbahuddin
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Queen's Lawn

In response to the strong student opinion against the use of Queen's Lawn for portacabins, the Union has been lobbying the College on the issue. In response the College have said that it's extremely unlikely that the Queen's lawn will be used – "99% chance it won't be used", but complete confirmation of this cannot be given until plans for refurbishment of the Sherfield building are finalised.



More information about this and other building plans will be in next week's Union Newsletter in Felix.

Aeronautical Engineering & Mechanical Engineering Merger

Both these departments are intended to be re-located to a new building on Exhibition Road, when built*, and the two departments are being asked to produce a merger plan in the next few months, looking at what the major issues would be and what problems would need to be overcome if this were to go ahead. Following this, a proposed structure for the merged department would be drawn up and then timescales given.

College have emphasised that both the Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering undergraduate courses are two very important courses with excellent rankings and these two separate undergraduate courses would definitely remain. The intention is to discuss further with students in the new academic year.

* More information about this and other building plans will be in next week's Union Newsletter in Felix.

Letter to Tony

Keeping the Cap on Top-up fees – "Letter to Tony" is a campaign being run by the Aldwych group (the Students' Unions of the 19 Russell Group Universities). It's part of a national campaign demanding that the government listens to what students have to say about Top-Up Fees.

Thousands of students and staff have already signed up to the letter from the different Students' Unions, available at www.lettertotony.org, calling on the government to commit to keeping the £3000 cap on tuition fees. To sign up, collect and complete a petition card from the Union and outlets around campus.



Dear Tony Blair,

We write to remind you that the Russell Group is more than 19 Vice Chancellors. We are ½ million students, and thousands of academics. We are the Aldwych Group. We are the alternative Russell Lobby; we are the representative voice of the Russell Group.

We agree with our Vice Chancellors when we call for more funding in a still chronically underfunded education system. But, unlike our Vice Chancellors, we don't want a tiered, marketised HE system, littered with the barriers to participation that tuition fees create.

We call on the government to commit to keeping the £3000 cap on tuition fees. We also call on the government to propose alternative means of better funding Universities and Colleges. Finally we call on the government and our Vice Chancellors to stop putting up barriers to participation in HE and to stop crippling millions of students with thousands of pounds of debt.

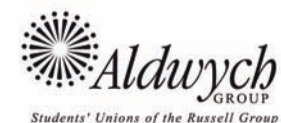
The Russell Group is not just 17 men and 2 women; the real Russell Group are the students in debt and the overworked lecturers and we ask that you hear our voice.

Yours sincerely

www.lettertotony.org



www.lettertotony.org





felix

No 1352
Thursday
18 May 2006
felix@imperial.ac.uk

// Regulations were clearly breached; not only was the waste left unattended it was also unsecured and overflowing //

Students exposed to clinical waste

This incident is an embarrassment to both College and the NHS Trust. There is a high risk of disease and contamination from clinical waste: the Hospital have endangered both our students and the public as a whole.

It is difficult to fathom how this was allowed to occur. There are strict governmental regulations regarding the handling of such waste. These regulations were clearly breached: not only was the waste left unattended in a publicly accessible area, but it was also unsecured and overflowing.

When we first contacted the hospital authorities, they appeared to misunderstand, and the skip was only removed when we contacted College Security. Disciplinary action should be taken against the person responsible.

Saturday Exams

This simple clerical error could have major implications for the students sitting this exam. The blunder will not only affect their performance in this exam, but will also have a knock-on effect on other exams to be taken next week.

Many of the affected students also have an exam the following Monday and had planned to spend this weekend intensively revising. Now they will miss at least one day's revision.

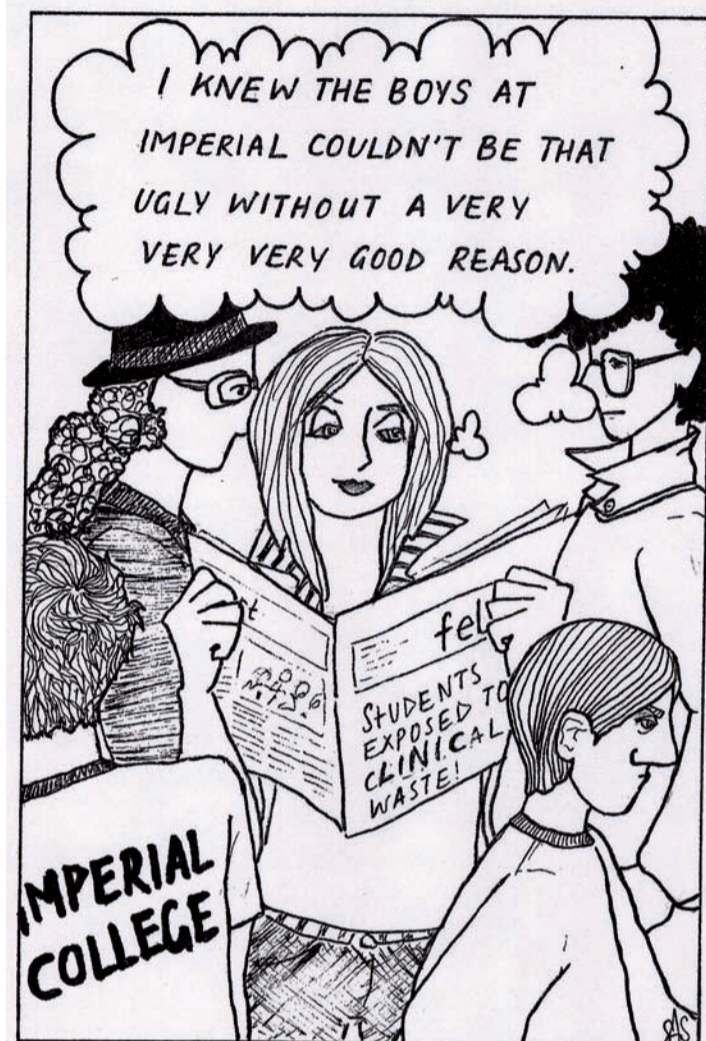
These are important exams that are worth one eighth of the year. A poor performance could lead to students finishing with a lower standard of degree.

College have launched official investigations into both of these incidents. These are of great interest to the student body and must be made available for public scrutiny.

*We want to hear your views
felix@imperial.ac.uk*

Clarification:

In last week's issue (1351), in *Union to effectively pull-out of ULU*, we stated: 'The main options being investigated are rejoining the National Union of Students (which is favoured by incoming Union president John Collins)'. In fact Mr Collins is undecided, but plans to look into the matter. We apologise for any confusion caused.



Got a creative side? Want to share it?

Phoenix, the annual Arts magazine of Imperial isn't happening this year, but don't despair! Arts Felix would like to publish the best creative pieces Imperial has to offer.

We're looking for your photographs, poetry, short prose and original artwork etc. and will be printing the best later in the term.

So if you have a piece you'd like us to consider, please email it to us at

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Photo from Phoenix 2005 by David Graham

Last Chance To Nominate For Union Colours

For those of you who have been thinking about this and haven't yet nominated someone, this week is your last chance. Nominations close on Monday 22nd May.

What are Union Colours?

This term the Union will be awarding Colours, which are the way the Union recognises the service, contribution and dedication of someone over the course of the year to the Union.

There are 5 types of Colours – Half Colours, Full Colours, Outstanding Service Awards, Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships.

Who can get Colours?

Anyone can receive these awards, except the Union Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor.

Who can nominate someone for Colours?

Any Imperial student (but you can't nominate yourself!).

What do you get when you win Colours?

Colours are a great honour! But as well as that, everyone who is presented with an award gets a certificate, a tie or pin, and in the case of the higher awards other things like engraved tankards and

Honorary Life membership of the Union. The Union keeps a record of all the people awarded Colours.

So what have you got to do to deserve each type of Colour?

To get Half Colours you have to have made a "positive contribution to the general life of the Union in an extraordinary fashion."

To get full Colours you have to "repeatedly, through outstanding achievements, over the course of the year, have made a significant contribution to the life of the Union."

For an Outstanding Service Award "you will have displayed continuous outstanding achievement across a broad spectrum of Union activities." Few of these are given out, only fifteen a year at most.

It's a lot harder to get the Fellowship which is only given to those "who have continuously served the Union in an exceptional manner." Very few are given out.

There is also the Distinguished Fellowship. It's "only awarded to those Full Members who have served the Union in a selfless and dedicated manner which is both exceptional and beyond reproach."

If you don't know which award to nominate someone for, just choose the one you feel is appropriate and the Colours Committee will change if necessary...

How can I nominate someone?

Nominations are open until Monday 22nd. Nomination forms can be downloaded from www.union.ic.ac.uk/colours and can be emailed to colours@imperial.ac.uk.

You'll have to give the name of the nominee, the award you are nominating them for and tell us, in less than 200 words, why you think they should get it.

What happens then?

Your nominations will be considered by the Union's Colours Committee and then the results will be announced towards the end of the term in Felix. Successful nominees will be given their awards at a Colours ceremony in June.



Sameena Misbahuddin
President
president@imperial.ac.uk



Award for Clubs & Societies

Last chance to nominate

One Club or Society will be awarded the President's Award for Clubs & Societies.

This is an award, only started a few years ago, for which you'll have noticed the winning Club/Society name on the Honours board in the Union Building foyer.

If you have any suggestions of who should receive this, let your Faculty Union President or CSC (Club and Society Committee) Chair know so that they can collate suggestions and nominate them.

Alternatively email me on president@imperial.ac.uk.

So if you think an individual or a club/society deserves recognition, don't let them go unnoticed. Nominate them today!



Union Elections

Voting for ICU elections – for the positions of RAG chair, CAG chair, Council Chairman and the Sabbatical position of Deputy President (Finance & Services) – opens 19th May & closes 23rd May at www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote

Faculty Elections – if you're a Medic or an Engineer, then there are another set of elections you can vote in.

Medics – voting for ICSMU elections is now open until Thursday 18th.

Engineers – CGCU voting for elections opens 19th May & closes 23rd May





Last week's TV...

Tamsin Greig is one of my favourite comedienne. Admittedly, she rarely plays anyone other than a ditzzy, unlucky in love, socially inept and insecure thirty going on forty year old woman but I'm fond of her. Earlier in the year I came up with a list of dinner party guests and her quirkiness makes her most certainly welcome. Greig first came to my attention with *Black Books*, then the criminally unnoticed *Love Soup* and most

The most self-centred, naïve and downright irritating person on the planet.

recently with the second series of *Green Wing* which has been a hoot.

The fast-forward, slow-mo direction has earned *Green Wing* most of its notoriety whilst at the same time polarising opinion. Set in a hospital, the story follows various employees as they do very little doctoring and little much else. Whilst, personally,

I find the direction enhances some of the comedy, for instance an invisible limbo stick is repeatedly ducked by office workers whilst the camera quickens and slows, it's the characters' variety that really succeeds.

The main plot follows Dr. Caroline Todd, played by Greig and it concerns a more conventional 'hard to get' romance. Internet caption winning consultant radiologist, Alan Statham is perhaps the most recognisable character; a bumbling, perverted, stammering fool disliked by most of the department for arrogantly talking convoluted and windy bullshit. Highlights include adlibbed verbal tennis with junior doctor Boyce and an incredibly immature rendition of the alphabet in a Chinese restaurant. The best one-liners though are saved for everyone's favourite evil bastard, Dr. Guy Secretan. Instantly quotable retorts include: "Cockspanker", "Thimble-dick" and "Jizzfountain".



Syed Ahmed: SHUT UP! SERIOUSLY.

Not forgetting his best line of all, "My balls look best on your chin". I haven't even got round to the insane Sue White and my favourite Dr. Marty "mo'foing pimp" D. Classic stuff and the best comedy since *Extras*.

My last waffle for the academic year concerns *The Apprentice*. Once again I became fixated by the show towards the end of the series. The final was last week involving the feisty, arrogant bitch Ruth and mildly pleasant Michelle. Sadly, my favourite, Ansell was fired the previous week, so these two broads were left to duke it out. The task: to each create a party on Tower Bridge, with the help of previous contestants. That included Syed who is probably the most self-centred, naïve and downright irritating person on the planet.

For some unknown reason the contestants all seem really shit, at everything. Constant arguments and an arrogance that is so blinding you fail to see your own flaws, wouldn't make a good employee in my book. Yet somehow these people, many of whom haven't obtained an A-Level, manage to get through the selection processes and into the final ten. Perhaps it's down to the BBC to choose who will argue with Alan the most, or maybe anyone with any self-respect and intelligence doesn't actually enter the competition.

Unfortunately I found out Michelle was the winner before I'd watched the show, thanks to my inability to divert my eyes from MSN's news homepage. Sigh. Nevertheless, it was a good show and thankfully Little Ms Piggy didn't win.

I hope you've enjoyed my output this year, but that's it from me. Lucky you, being spared what would have been weeks of inevitable *Big Brother* coverage! Take care, xx.

Tomo Roberts

DVD Review

C'était Un Rendezvous (Cert. PG)

★☆☆☆☆

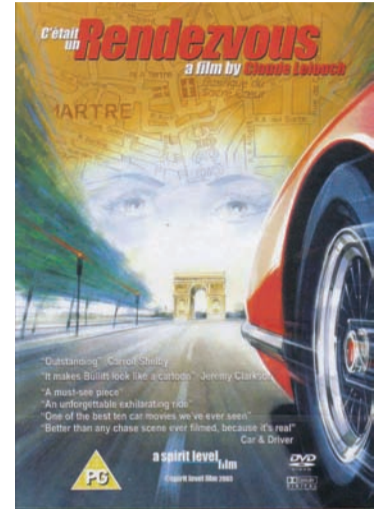
Indifference is rarely an opinion about cult films. Those who wear the robes and hoods worship their iconic film and then there are non believers who loathe it usually on the basis of art house cinema being pretentious nonsense. For this reviewer, a swift drive through the cobbled streets of Paris should be kept to Clarkson and company, not a woefully thrown together DVD.

1976 short film *C'était Un Rendezvous* begins with a car roaring out of a tunnel in the French capital. Speedily, the car growls past other vehicles, zooms down one-way streets and disperses pigeon gatherings instantly. The action is filmed in one long shot with the camera seemingly attached to the bumper of the car. Consequently, our chauffeur on this nightmare journey remains entirely anonymous, only glimpsed briefly when he steps out of the car

The car zooms down streets past other vehicles and disperses pigeons ... that's it.

and embraces a young blonde woman at the end of his lap. That's it, film over. Shorter than the stubby fingers of a London cabbie and costs more money than you care to place into his greasy palms.

Admittedly the ending is subtly unexpected. Contemporary television adverts bombard you with tragic climaxes resulting from the intoxication of an idiot having a 'great night out', but then *Rendezvous* was never going to finish with a pile up considering this was reality and the mysterious driver might have been the film's director. Cult status was attained by



the shroud that surrounds the short film. Director Claude Lelouch has remained tight lipped about the film. Was it a Formula 1 driver? Was the car a Ferrari or Mercedes? Was Lelouch arrested for making the film? The greatest mystery of all though is: What was the point?

Rendezvous has managed to become the petrolheads' Holy Grail. Forty year old men coping with a mid-life crisis, finish washing their Citroen "Oh, it's convenient for the kids, darling" Picasso before removing their anoraks, stepping indoors and kneeling down for another viewing of *Rendezvous* to glimpse the divine driver wishing they were that 'gnarly'.

From cellophane wrapper to being back in the case, all the DVD's content is exhausted (pun absolutely intended) within a fraction of the time it would take you to watch an episode of *Cops* or *Police Camera Action!* A single short film packaged onto a full price DVD is cheeky enough. Accompanying the main feature with four pages of text and three trailers where the logos zoom in Microsoft Powerpoint style reeks of 'cash-in' greater than super efficient Castrol GTX.

Tomo Roberts



Tamsin Greig: Strangely alluring...

ADLIB BY TEVONG YOU

IS THERE ANY OTHER MEANING TO LIFE THAN SEEKING HAPPINESS? WHAT MAKES US HAPPY? SELF-WORTH! FRIENDSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, JOBS, STATUS, MONEY, FAME, POWER... ALL INCREASES FEELINGS OF SELF-WORTH



MAYBE THAT'S WHY WE KEEP ANIMALS: PETS DON'T JUDGE YOU, THEY JUST LOVE YOU UNCONDITIONALLY, MAKE YOU FEEL WANTED



XXX AT WWW.TEVONG.CO.UK

YOU COULD AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE INTERESTED!

GET A BLOG



Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys, I'm about, and as helpful as ever. Star letter every week this term! So move your arse as fast as possible to a computer and get emailing. Write to me at agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Miss C



Star Letter

Chocolate Sex

Dear Miss Confidentiality, My boyfriend and I like to keep things exciting with a little sexual experimentation, so when he suggested the consumption of a Mars Bar from my nether regions I decided to give it a shot. The experience was unexpectedly pleasurable, I must say. However, as things got hotter and more slippery...it was necessary to keep reinserting the chocolate as it kept falling out, and after several reinsertions we were alarmed to find that the bar emerged missing a rather large chunk of the end. After both of us had spent a good half hour having a rummage around for it with no success, we decided that a trip to A & E was called for. The situation was rectified after an embarrassing half hour with the nurse, who seemed particularly god humoured upon hearing what had happened. The majority of the chocolate was removed, but I was told not to be alarmed if I were to experience any brown discharge. Thing is, despite the ordeal, I rather enjoyed myself and would like to try this out again, minus the drama. I'm a bit worried about infection too. Iashy, I need your sexual

expertise on how I can make this one work.
Amy

Dear Amy, First, way too much information. And secondly, what the hell is wrong with you?! What could you possibly find a turn on about someone eating brown solids from an area close to your excretory - is this a word? as in the area where you crap from? region. I mean I'm certainly not one to turn my nose up at a little sexual adventure as many...MANY lucky men will remem-

It was necessary to keep reinserting the chocolate into my nether regions.

ber - though none of you Imperialite freaks - but there are far better ways of keeping the spark going, leading to far fewer complications. As long as there are no police present. But if you insist on partaking in such activities in the future, dear God woman, have a bit of common sense and keep it in the wrapper! It doesn't take a genius. Make sure you cut off the sharp bits first though...

My room-mate is a weirdo

Dear Miss Confidentiality, I'm a fresher and I've just moved into halls. I've been assigned a roommate, but she has some very strange customs. I know I should be tolerant of her beliefs but its weird, should I speak to her about it or what? This is the first time I've ever shared a room, and I really don't know how to act around her. What do you suggest?
Angela, 18

Dear Angela, Well firstly don't worry! I think that as you've never shared a room before you're probably feeling extra anxious, but I wouldn't worry too much. You're now at university and you're starting afresh learning new things and in your case new customs. I mean unless your roommate follows some sort of vampire culture, where she's going to attempt to drink your blood I don't see any reason for you to not accept it, ask some questions about what she's doing and why. Maybe your problem is just that you don't understand the customs. If

the reason you're feeling awkward is because your roommate is trying to force her beliefs on you that's a different story. Simply pass on the fact that you hate the taste of blood and really don't find people's necks that attractive, hopefully she'll let the topic drop.

I want my Mum

Dear Miss Confidentiality, I don't know where to turn to, ever since I've come to uni I've just felt so homesick, I miss home so much, I really can't stand it. It's so strange and scary and all I want to do is go back home and be with my friends back home. What should I do?
Lize, 18

Dear Lize, I know it's hard to start all over again at a new place, and that being back at home is just comfortable. It may seem easier, but you'd just be missing out. University is a great opportunity, and a chance for you to just have some fun. You need to just get out there and start having some fun, meeting new people and living!! You're in London, there is so much to do. I understand that it seems like a big challenge, so start small, join a few club and societies at college, start hanging around in the common room at halls, start making some friends and you'll feel a lot happier, even if all you end up doing is playing cards or game cube in your kitchen. You'll soon find that life at university is just as good if not better than life back home, just give it a chance.

Can't Cook Won't Cook

Dear Miss Confidentiality, I'm a fresher, and I'm starting this year, and I can't wait, I'm so excited, but there's a slight problem - I have no idea how to cook. It may sound stupid but I really don't know what to do!
Ben

Dear Ben, I wouldn't worry too much, so many of the people who are joining you in halls are in the same position. Some of them may not even know how to make toast, or may end up setting pizza on fire! That's halls! You'll all learn, the best thing is that you guys share a kitchen, which is a great way to make friends as you all take it in turns to make meals. However, if you're sneaky you'll find a wannabe master chef who'll happily make all your meals for you, gourmet style. Luck of the draw I'm afraid, good luck xx

Horoscopes



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

There's no point in feeling guilty now. Everyone is doing it, it's the new craze, and you will get the test results back soon enough, and even then it is treatable. Ignore the evidence on Facebook, who really looks at that anyway.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

There's a question in your heart. It may be a rhetorical question, but if you leave too long of a pause after it, the universe thinks you want an answer and provides one in the form of a meteorite destined for the Queen's Tower.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The one who loves you knows your secrets and will eventually tell the world through Facebook after they find out that you cheated on them with that handsome librarian. But don't worry, no one looks at Facebook.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Want to stand out? Just stand there and say nothing. Pretend that they can't see you and undertake the actions that you leave for special 'you time' in your room. Advisable not to do this in an area with security guards.



Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Trying to get a loved one to change is a waste of time now. Accept that they are stuck in their shitty ways. If they are a family member, either disown them or end up like them. If they are a mate, cut them.



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

In an honest effort to help you, friends overstep established boundaries by helping you out of your pants when you are drunk. Rather than address this issue, be pleased that at least someone got to see your pants.



Taurus (Apr 21 - May 21)

You are suffering from post-birthday comedown or pre-birthday excitement. Overcome this by using your bullish ways to make friends and relatives throw parties for you every day. Presents must also be demanded.



Gemini (May 22 - Jun 21)

Your vulnerability is wildly attractive, so don't be afraid to show it. Potential loves want to be needed. Show it through becoming a gibbering wreck in the corner of DaVinci's aided by 4-6 snakebites (work to your limits and drink responsibly).



Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

A financial review is in order. Accept that you are approaching summer with no money and may need to get McJob. Silver lining is, you get you and your mates free food thus making you more popular.



Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)

Loved ones may not mind being mired in minutiae, but too many details irritate you to no end. Keep your attention on the broad strokes. Look for simple solutions. The simpler, the better - like becoming an avrts student.



Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)

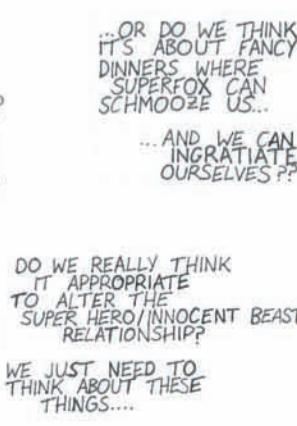
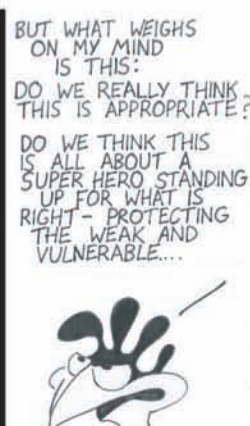
You're hard on yourself. Think of the good things you do each day. These acts are pebbles thrown into a still pond, causing ripples with far-reaching positive effects, which you can measure with a nice little formula (how exciting).



Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)

You are fabulous, gorgeous, widely popular, destined for great heights and will have bucket loads of money thrown at you to live the lifestyle that you deserve. You are so worth it!

A SMALL PLOT



Summer is here!

Is croquet the new cricket?

Eugene Chang

Croquet

With exam term upon us, many people seem to be spending hours cooped up in their department or the library, working toward that vitally important next exam. Whilst this is all good and well, it is impossible to spend every waking hour working, and one must take some time off in order to clear the head, ready to take in more knowledge. I thus propose a nice relaxing sport within a 2 minute walk of most departments and not too physically exerting. No, I'm not talking about Curling, Croquet on the Queen's Lawn is THE sport of this summer!

Many of you have seen or heard of Croquet in some shape or form – the images of Alice in Wonderland, cucumber sandwiches and toffs playing in back gardens of giant country estates spring to mind. However, cast that all aside for a moment and consider a new, streamlined version of Croquet complete with daring play, plenty of skill and lots of fun. Although Croquet has an image of being a game for retired and semi-retired, it has made a storming come-back amongst the younger generation. The physical skills and tactics are easier for young people to pick up, and one can reach a high standard of play after just 3 months.

Modern Croquet combines skill and tactics – on a lawn which is 35 by 28 yards (32 x 25 metres), and where the hoops are just 3 millimetres wider than the balls which go through them, one needs a bit more than luck to play the game well! There are two types of Croquet which are popular in England, we play both of them:

Golf Croquet is more synonymous with the 'vicious' image of 'back garden croquet' (the croquet of country



Croquet Club member Tom Tibbits in play

retreats), and one simply has to score 7 of the 13 hoop points on offer to win.

Association Croquet, the main variant of the game, is similar to snooker – one has to create 'break's in order to achieve the objective of getting both your balls through all the requisite 12 hoops and to hit the peg (post) before your opponent. It has drawn links with chess as well, for the high level of tactics and psychology behind the game. It is ideally suited to people who understand lines and angles - many of the top players in the current croquet world have a strong science background; in fact, Bernard Neal, the current president of the Croquet Association (the governing body of Croquet in UK) was head of the civil engineering department here a few years back!

Imperial sent a team to the National Student Championships at Oxford in June 2005, where we reached the semi-finals of the team competition, and yours truly beat off some strong

opposition to finish 2nd in the individual category (so apparently I'm the 2nd best student croquet player in the UK ??); the Nottingham Uni student who won it got to the last 8 of the World Championships later that summer. So all-in-all, Imperial consolidated our position as one of the best student croquet clubs in the country. We plan to take an invigorated team back to Oxford this coming June to stage an upset on holders and local favourites Oxford Uni!

If you are interested in Croquet in any shape or form, be it for amusement, relaxation, or you want to compete in the Imperial Croquet team, contact croquet@ic.ac.uk, or simply come and find us on the Queen's Lawn when we are there. Meeting times are on Wednesday afternoons and several lunchtimes a week depending on availability. We are looking to hold a croquet tournament open to all students and staff this term – keep your eyes peeled for more details!

Inaugural fun run huge success for charity athletes

Kumaran Shanmugarajah

Marrow Fun Run

On Sunday 5th March 2006, Hyde Park hosted the first ever Marrow Fun Run, in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust. This is an international organisation that keeps a registry of bone marrow donors who can potentially help cure sufferers of fatal blood disorders, such as leukaemia. The run had aimed to attract 500 runners to run either 8km or 3km races. Entering the run couldn't have been easier – pick up an entry form prior to the event, sign up online or simply register on the day.

As the members of the Marrow committee gathered at Hyde Park corner in the morning, there was a tense feeling. The Piccadilly Line through Hyde Park Corner had been part suspended that morning, making it extremely difficult for the runners to arrive in time for the 11 o'clock start. Then, there was the freezing cold, windy conditions, which could easily have kept all the runners in bed. One hour before the scheduled start, the volunteer marshals had marked out the courses for both distances and the St Johns first aid tent was in place. However, there were no runners to be seen – it looked like the planned start would have to be pushed back.

Slowly, the participants arrived at the start line to register their names and pick up their running T-shirts. Before long, Hyde Park corner was filled with bustling runners and their supporters – including young children, the elderly, sports teams and fitness fanatics, college professors and regular people trying to get a bit fitter. Even the Marrow superheroes – Bone Boy and Marrow Dog were spotted going through their pre-run stretches!!

The event eventually kicked off at 11.30, with an amazing 536 registered runners. The 3km run started first, shortly followed by the 8km event. Whether walking or running, the participants seemed to be really enjoying themselves despite the cold.

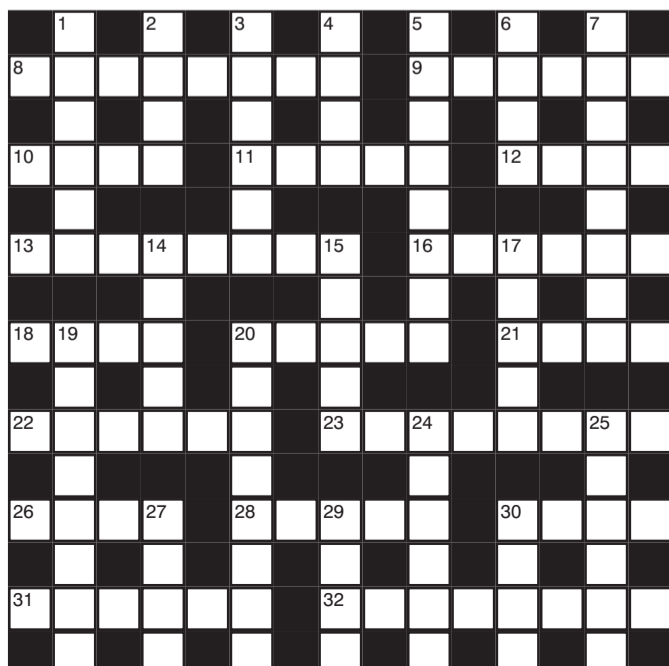
"We hope to see you again next year"

As runners crossed the finish line, they collected a fun run goodie bag, a much needed drink and their certificates. A special mention must be made to the winners. Pierre Gaudin won the 3km men's event with a cracking time of 11 minutes and 40 seconds. The aptly named Deborah Speed won the woman's 3km with a time of 16 minutes and 30 seconds. In the 8km run, the men's winner was William Burrard-Lucas with a fantastic time of 30 minutes and 10 seconds and the woman's winner was Angharad Care with a super speedy time of 30 minutes and 20 seconds. Another highlight was the performance of Bone Boy who came in last in the 8km run.

Marrow Fun Run 2006, eventually proved to be a massive success, raising an incredible £10,000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust and providing a relaxed and fun day out. A huge thank you must be made to the following people: Matthew Butler (fun run organiser), Gokulan Phoenix (Marrow President), all the volunteers who helped with the smooth running of the event. Most importantly, Marrow would like to give a massive thanks to the runners – the money you raised was unbelievable and we hope you enjoyed yourselves. We hope to see you again next year, along with many more fun runners.

Cryptic Crossword 1352

A novel on tax



Across

8. Utterly frighten away little Albert? (8)
9. Angered Pinochet deported alien (6)
10. I see, so to speak, a point breaking off Titanic destroyer (4)
11. Regal manoeuvre... (5)
12. ...to behead King's fellows (4)
13. Heathen leaders incited Nicaean insurgency (8)
16. Drove most recklessly to Alaska (6)
- 18 & 21. Shrieks, we hear, uttered by the French queen (8)
- 20 & 28. Holy men introduce regular pageants (5-5)
21. See 18
22. Force acceptance of French water (6)
23. Brother, for one, may lie to us (8)
- 26 & 27 down. Tricks reverse American vessel... (7)
28. See 20
30. ...carrying graduate from China (4)
- 31 & 32. Kiosks I mark over directionless journey (6-8)

Down

1. Diagrammatic outline found in Nietzsche manuscript (6)
2. Audibly twisted crossbar (4)
3. The old people and I, an Arab (6)
4. Such a party may be held before entering the Union (4)
5. Authorise account payment? (8)
6. Insane protocol's second half rejected (4)
7. Helicopter body, e.g., contains a dangerous firearm (8)
14. A point of view audience is not meant to hear (5)
15. Climbing plants, I contend, sting initially (5)
17. Shakespeare's dark-complexioned character may be found in Seoul (5)
19. Once more achieved control by impounding half of ambassador's staff (8)
20. Sultan is anxious to obtain narrow sail (8)

Send your solution to the 1352 crossword to sudoku.felix@ic.ac.uk by Friday 4pm. A randomly selected winner will receive a 128mb memory stick with the "Imperial College London" logo. Last week's winner was Richard Cude.

This week the answers to all across clues are composers. Note a peculiarity of 26 across which 'turns a corner' into 27 down, hence is only seven letters (a word length otherwise unavailable in this grid). Good luck!