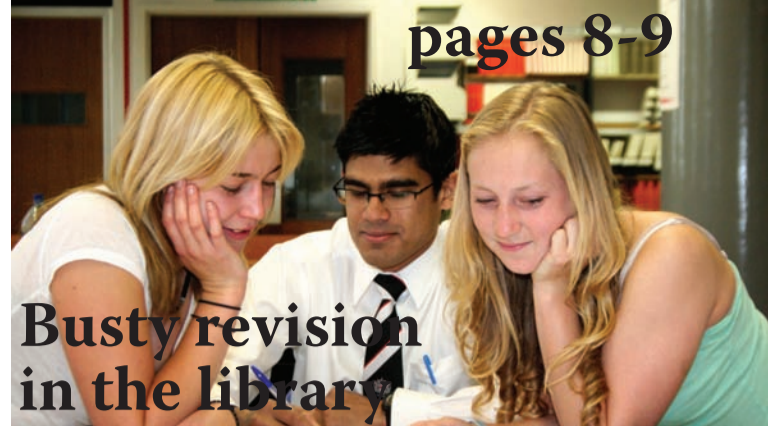


New pullout section:
Exclusive interview with Paul Rusesabagina, the hero of *Hotel Rwanda*



Bodies...
pages 6-7



Busty revision in the library
pages 8-9

FREE
No 1354
Thursday
1 June 2006
The student newspaper of Imperial College
felixonline.co.uk

felix



Jobs under threat

Future of Biomedical Sciences Division left in the balance



The Biomedical Sciences division, located at the heart of Imperial's Sir Alexander Fleming Building. Staff working for the division are concerned about potential redundancies over the coming weeks.

Chris Miles
News Editor

The Division of Biomedical Sciences (BMS) is facing potential closure this week, with expected job cuts and staff relocation of teaching and support workers at the Sir Alexander Fleming Building (SAF).

Representatives from College and members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) will be discussing the future of the BMS division on Thursday 1 June at the Academic Joint Staff Committee meeting.

The Faculty of Natural Sciences announced the instigation of a thorough review into the division in April, aiming to develop a long-term plan to continue Imperial's medical science teaching.

Closure of the division was believed to have a direct impact upon first and second year medical students, who rely on such teaching to comple-

ment the early stages of their medical training.

A worried BMS research associate working at the SAF told *Felix*: "More people here are worried about their jobs than who's going to teach the medical students. The morale is plummeting."

"We used to be part of the Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM) but were moved into the Faculty of Life Sciences. There was a £1.7 million deficit and the ICSM would not pay for teaching; who are they intending to get to do it in the future?"

Sir Peter Knight, Faculty Principal, previously told staff that the financial state of the BMS division was unsustainable and their position was untenable. Deficits of over £507,000 were recorded for the financial year 2005/2006 and projections for 2006/2007 show a deficit of over £1.4 million on a turnover of £1.6 million.

Felix took these points to a College spokesman, who responded: "The College's duty is to strengthen and

improve its teaching in biomedical sciences and medicine and to undertake research at the highest level.

"There are no proposals to change our medical undergraduate courses and we are looking forward to introducing our new Biomedical Science course and subsequently graduate entry medical course. Discussions are continuing and the College will be communicating with staff again shortly."

He added: "It is important to note that...student teaching and facilities will not be affected."

Felix spoke to Emma Smith, a second year medical student, who said: "I'm really surprised that the Biomedical Science Division is being shut down in such a fashion. By all accounts, the communication between senior College figures and the research associates is unsatisfactory to say the least. I hope this is resolved satisfactory."

Leader, page 11

College security flaws

Chris Miles & Vitali Lazurenko

Security at the Faculty Building, hub of College academic management and workplace of the Rector, has been exposed as inadequate and ineffective in light of a *Felix* investigation.

Felix reporters were able to enter the 'restricted' building on two separate occasions and were not challenged over their identity, whether they were in fact members of College or their purpose for entering Imperial's administrative headquarters.

Entry to the building is usually controlled by swipe card entry gates that allow access to a select group of College staff; these are adjacent to a manned security desk at the entrance of the modern four-storey building and are the main access points for all personnel entering and leaving the Faculty building.

Reporters were waved past the desk on entry and left to roam freely around the floors coming within feet of Sir Richard's office and mixing with employees at a nearby coffee bar.

Empty offices with thousands of pounds worth of equipment and confidential documents were all in potential reach of the reporters. After spending over 30 minutes in the building, *Felix* left and returned an hour later to be greeted by a different

receptionist who also granted access without confirmation of prior appointments or identity.

Simon Davies, a first year physicist, told *Felix*: "If College can't keep the Rector secure, what hope is there for the student body?"

Samantha Perera, a second year medical student, said: "Personally I think far too much money is spent on security as Imperial College and the Rector are not high-risk terrorist targets. The money could be better spent on improving teaching facilities."

Concerned with such lapses in College security, *Felix* also attempted to gain access to restricted areas in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building (SAF) and Union offices. Once inside the SAF, we were able to tailgate a researcher into a restricted access area without being challenged. We subsequently had open access to research labs, some of which contained hazardous chemicals, as well as expensive microscopy equipment.

Similar breaches occurred in the Sabbatical offices, where no attention was paid as reporters passed the Union reception and into the unlocked vacant office of Deputy President (Education and Welfare) Sarah Khatib. Various valuables were left unattended in the room, in direct contravention to advice issued at the

Continued, page 3



Felix accessed Imperial's administrative and management building without being questioned by staff or asked to produce College identity.

felix 1,354

Thursday 01.06.06



Enron fraudsters found guilty

The largest scandal in American corporate history concluded on Thursday 25th May. A climax was reached with former Enron bosses Kenneth Lay and Jeff Skilling convicted for conspiracy and fraud.

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Sudoku No 1,354

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 Ya Deng.

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NEWS

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

DPFS election result announced

Chris Miles

The result for the remaining Union Sabbatical position, Deputy President (Finance and Services), was announced last week after the post went unfilled following last term's spring elections.

Over 800 students cast votes, a record turnout compared to previous summers. A close-run race resulted in Jonathan Matthews winning the election by 14 votes. Edmund Hunt, in second place, achieved 302, and third-place candidate Daniel Chowdhury took 116. RON (Re-open Nominations) came last with 91 votes.

Jonathan Matthews will join ICU President elect John Collins and future Deputy Presidents Ben Harris, Eric Lai and Shama Rahman, as well as Felix Editor elect Andrew Sykes in next year's team.

Speaking to *Felix*, Jonathan Matthews said: "Obviously I'm absolutely thrilled to have been elected, especially in such a close result and very much look forward to the consid-

erable challenges to come, it's going to be an interesting year.

"At the risk of this sounding like an Oscars speech, I'd like to express my thanks to both other candidates for making it such a hotly contested but fair election, especially to Edmund for coming so close and acting in such a sportsman-like manner throughout."

Mr Matthews states in his manifesto: "I will be directly accountable and ensure I am available to you, not just hidden in an office." He will also "correct the unacceptable increases in bar and events prices".

Current ICU President Sameena Misbahuddin told *Felix* that she was delighted with election turnout, pleased to see passionately fought campaigns and wished Mr Matthews the best of luck for next year.

The positions of City and Guilds College Union President, Council Chair, CAG Chair and RAG Chair were also elected, with candidates James Fok, Daniel McGuinness, Radha Gadhok and Stephen Brown winning respectively.



Jonathan Matthews: Future DPFS

James Fok said: "The faculty union presidency will be a big post to fill after the previous leaderships of John and Sid. I look forward to improving the unity of the engineers in the upcoming college centenary with better communications and events."

Welsh Society launched at Imperial

Meurig Thomas

Imperial College Union has recently approved the formation of a Welsh Society. The society unofficially formed on 1 March, St David's Day, a symbolic date in the Welsh Calendar.

Although the proposal to form the society had been in the pipeline for months, the idea to coincide the launch with the beginning of March

came from a most unlikely source: each year, Marie Curie's Cancer Relief launch their daffodil appeal on St David's Day, and the founders took inspiration and informally discussed plans for an official Union society.

This was seen as a great opportunity to support a worthy cause. The group received official confirmation at the beginning of the month and have since organised several events and recruited a sizable proportion of

Imperial's Welsh contingent.

A member of the society said, "I think this is a great idea and paves the way forward for future Scottish and Irish societies, hopefully bringing with them the accompanying whisky and Guinness!"

Although part of the UK, Wales very much has its own culture and Welsh Society aims to provide a social group for Welsh Students. Gabrielle Thomas, President of the Welsh Society told *Felix*: "I'm delighted that we have been able to form such a society at Imperial College. We are here to welcome our fellow Welsh students, but also to provide a learning opportunity for those interested in Welsh culture and language."

Her thoughts were echoed by Simon Matthews, Deputy President (Clubs and Societies): "It is great to see the regeneration of the Welsh society after so many years. It is the first time for a long while that the Union has had a society representing any of the home nations and hopefully there will soon be more," he said.

Events planned for next term include a trip to Snowdonia, Union bar nights (namely one to finally mark St David's day!), a Six Nations get-together, as well as guest lectures and discussions on Welsh current affairs.



Welsh Society thought to pave the way for more home nation clubs

To get involved, please contact meurig.thomas@imperial.ac.uk.

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No allowances for state schoolers

Tallulah Bygraves
Senior Reporter

The widespread belief that state-educated pupils will outperform their privately educated contemporaries at university has been challenged this week by Oxford academics.

Over recent years admissions tutors at top universities have adopted a more lenient approach towards state school applicants, under the premise that these candidates will go on to achieve higher grades than those from private schools.

Research published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in 2003 supported this claim with evidence that, given equal A-level scores, a higher proportion of state-educated graduates achieved a 2:1 degree compared to those from the independent sector. Further studies by Smith and Naylor, readers in Economics at Warwick University have blamed the so-called 'independent school effect' which describes the observable fact that independent candidates may seem more intelligent than they are due to their school's ability to pull everyone through with high A-levels.

However, a new study conducted at Oxford University by Dr N.G. McCrum, Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Dr C.L. Brundin and A.H. Halsey, Emeritus Professor of Social and Administrative Studies, has found no evidence of this phenomenon within Oxford or Cambridge. According to their findings, Oxbridge colleges should not make concessions for comprehensive pupils, with the exception of males studying science.

The study compared the final scores of Oxford and Cambridge graduates, from various academic backgrounds, between 1976 and 2002. Pupils with two A grades and one B grade were compared with entrants who had achieved three A grades at A-level. Dr McCrum and colleagues showed that pupils with lower grades continued to fall behind their higher achieving peers regardless of back-



Do state school pupils really outshine independent students at university?

ground, concluding that there was no relationship between the student's final score and their previous education and therefore that a student's ability could be accurately predicted from A-level results alone.

The academics published their research in *The Oxford Magazine* stating that "for both types of school for both genders at Oxford and Cambridge, A-level dictates finals score, except in the sciences for males". The dons have been careful not to enter into the perennial access debate which surrounds the university application process, insisting that the study makes "no comment on the intrinsic value of different institutions and courses". Dr Brundin, reader in engineering at Oxford, is quick to point out that their paper is not a denunciation of the funding council's 2003 paper and must not be taken as proof across the board: "We're saying we can't challenge their study as a whole, but that we cannot say it applies to a single institution and in particular, it does not apply to Oxbridge."

However, the study has received some criticism. John Thompson, an analyst for the funding council, claims that the present study fails to "fully appreciate" their original research and maintains that "overall, if you make a comparison, keeping everything the same, state school students do a little better". Although, Thompson does admit that at the most selective universities the effect of a student's background on their final classification is less apparent.

The publication of the funding council's initial report met with mixed reactions upon publication. Many supported a system in which an applicant's results were judged in the context in which they were achieved, but some labelled the move nothing more than social discrimination, albeit of a positive nature. Whether this latest study will herald the return to a system where students are measured entirely on academic ability remains to be seen, but as its authors acknowledge this is "surely a boost for the use of A-level in the admissions exercise".

Cannabis effective in treatment of post-op pain

Andrew Somerville

A study at Imperial College has shown cannabis to be effective at relieving post-operative pain.

The trial, carried out by researchers based at Imperial and led by Dr Anita Holdcroft, showed that administering Cannador (an extract of the cannabis plant) can be beneficial to patients suffering from acute pain following surgery.

Whilst this is not the first study into the use of cannabinoids in cases of acute pain, it follows widespread research into the effect of Cannabis in various types of pain: mainly into chronic pain relief, such as multiple sclerosis (MS).

Patients at hospitals all over London (including Chelsea & Westminster and Charing Cross) were given Cannador in a single pill dose of 5, 10, or 15mg immediately following an operation. The test subjects with larger doses reported a decrease in pain and an increase in side effects (such as nausea and an increased heart rate). All patients receiving a 5mg dose requested additional pain relief. However, only half of patients receiving the 10mg requested additional medication; and of patients given 15mg, three-quarters required no additional pain relief whatsoever.

The extract targets the brain's nat-

ural cannabinoid system to relieve pain, in similar way to morphine mimicking the opiates that naturally occur in the body. When compared to morphine (the conventional treatment for acute pain), the major side effects are less dangerous and the drug is far safer. Cannabis is most notorious for its recreational use, but this involves taking a huge overdose of the substance, whereas in the levels prescribed it has a far more beneficial effect.

Following successful human trials and a "mountain" of animal trial data, there are clear benefits and uses for cannabis-based treatments. The lead researcher, Dr Anita Holdcroft, said that this approach has the "potential to become part of normal post-operative care".

However, licensed Cannabinoid drugs aren't likely to be available for many years, if ever. A special Home Office licence is required to carry out trials of this nature, and cannabis is still an illegal substance.

As Dr Holdcroft states: "They're focussing on MS even though it's proven to work on acute pain." This is mainly due to the few available treatments that provide pain-relief for MS, whereas there are several other medications which treat acute pain, and not enough money to make its benefits available for acute sufferers.



College's sloppy security exposed



Felix gains entry to restricted access zones at SAF (above) and an unlocked Union Deputy President's office (below). (Photos: Vitali Lazurenko)

Continued from page 1

start of term in light of recent hall thefts to make sure students keep their property secure and doors locked.

College told *Felix*: "It is vital that members of the College community do not allow people to tailgate when they enter a building, make sure doors are properly closed behind them and report any suspicious behaviour to security staff."

Responding to the *Felix* investigators entering the heart of Imperial management, College responded: "They were not challenged because they were known members of the College community and assumed to be there on legitimate business."

However, no such connections were made when *Felix* was admitted on two separate occasions by receptionists to the building, believing the reporters were not students and had prearranged appointments with members of the Faculty Building management staff.

College added: "It is important that staff and students should not confront anyone they believe to be acting suspiciously, but should contact security staff or the police immediately."

£10k loss for Union bars

Chris Miles

The productivity of union-run bars at Charing Cross Hospital and Wye campus has been questioned by Tim Aplin, ICU Deputy President (Finance and Services).

As reported on C&G website *Live!*, Mr Aplin wrote in a report to Union council that the bars "[do] not make commercial sense".

The report stated, however, that as from the week ending 18 May, overall the bars have gone over 30% above expected income.

Charing Cross and Wye bars were the exception and shown to be per-

forming poorly.

While Charing Cross has turned in a 5% increase in revenues (3% of which is accountable to inflation), the forecast for the both bars over the year predicts losses of over £10,000.

Danny McGuinness, ICSM SU President, said: "We are now expecting to hit break even this year. We have come in at under budget on expenses and have had almost £4000 of one off expenses this year including the mandatory licence fee due to the changes in licensing laws.

"What we must remember is that we've turned a £23,000 loss last year into break even this year and I feel that deserves some recognition."



Future of Wye and Charing Cross bars discussed at latest Union Council

business

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Enron fraudsters found guilty

Michael Olymbios
Business Editor

The largest scandal in American corporate history concluded on Thursday 25th May. A climax was reached with former Enron bosses Kenneth Lay and Jeff Skilling convicted for conspiracy and fraud. This came as a relief to prosecutors and the government, who have been cracking down hard on white-collar crime over the past five years. These crimes have shattered investor confidence, resulted in job losses and have cost the US economy billions of dollars.

The notorious case lasted sixteen weeks in court, but took only six days to deliberate. The jury concluded that Mr Lay and Mr Skilling had deceived company-shareholders regarding the true state of the energy-trading firm. The conviction was not easy to secure, though, and of the thirty people charged in connection with the scandal, prosecutors had to make deals with over half of them.

Some of the jurors viewed themselves as key players in the fight against corporate irresponsibility and greed that prompted US lawmakers to pass the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The new laws have increased the extent to which executive and directors are accountable for company actions. At a news conference, Kath Harrison – one of the jurors – said, “This is undoubtedly the most challenging and heart rendering experience I’ve ever had, I’ve fought a battle ground for American justice.”

Mr Skilling was found guilty on eighteen counts of conspiracy and fraud but was acquitted from all but one – insider trading. Mr Lay was found guilty on six charges and was also charged on four counts of bank fraud in a separate case. For



Largest scandal in corporate history ended with 2 CEOs found guilty

this, he could be sentenced to 165 years in prison and Mr Skilling 185 years. Sentencing will occur on 11th September. Prosecutors were relieved by the verdict despite a lengthy list of employees and investors who were certain that the two chief executive were to blame. Until Thursday’s ruling, no Enron executive had been convicted of any crimes.

After the verdicts were read out, Mr Lay’s wife and children sobbed while huddling around him. Mr Skilling’s wife did not attend the hearing and both men vowed to vigorously appeal.

The jurors rejected the two’s defence, which was different from ordinary corporate strategies. Usually, executives accept that fraudulent actions have taken place but deny personal responsibility.

In this case, however, it would be difficult to prove that the such large fraudulent transactions could have gone unnoticed by the chief executive. Instead, the former executives claimed that the company had been destroyed by a market panic brought on by heightened scrutiny of the media, regulators and analysts. They

also claimed that their activities were not abnormal for tech boom companies and if any creative accounting did go on, it was no different from the money-shuffling policies of similar firms. One of Mr Lay’s lawyers even remarked, “when did bankruptcy become a crime?”

Mr Skilling was granted a bond of \$5 million until sentencing but was ordered to surrender his passport and have his five children put forward their homes to guarantee the bond. In the meantime, various hedge funds and other investment funds have agreed to buy Enron’s remaining \$2.1 billion assets.

Prosecutors hope that this verdict will satisfy the American people who view Enron as the symbol of those who have amassed fortunes through dubious means. The trial did help emphasise some home truths regarding American business culture, particularly with regards to spin. Mr Lay was a great fan of spin and this is, of course, sometimes necessary for marketing within any company. Problem arose when Mr Lay took spin to the point of criminal lying. He lied about company earning, not only to the Securities and Exchange Commission, but also to employees who were told Enron was “going to hit [its] numbers” when it clearly was not.

The draconian measures of Sarbanes-Oxley, seeking to put an end to corporate fraud and bolster investor sentiment might, in the end, do more harm than good to the capital market of the US. Initial public offerings that would have normally ended up in New York might now gravitate towards London and other financial centres with less stringent rules. The US is left hoping that Enron is the last major scandal that will hurt investor confidence.

Overview of week’s business news

Michael Olymbios

Global equity markets endured another tough week. Shares in London and Central Europe were highly volatile. Emerging market equities in Russia, India and Indonesia fell sharply. Investors ploughed money into US treasuries, which strengthened over the week. Fears over inflation are blamed and were heightened last week with a rise in durable good ordered and the Federal Open Market Committee signaling that interest rates in the US will rise.

Energy was at the top of the agenda in a Russian-EU summit that took place in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. Russian President Putin attempted to ease European fears over unstable energy sources stating Russia, “was, is and always will be” a reliable supplier to the EU.

OECD is upbeat on the outlook of the global economy. Despite the current turmoil in equity markets, weakening dollar, inflation issues and spiking commodity prices, the Paris-based economic think-tank said that the world’s leading economies are looking strong in the next quarter.

Euronext, the company that runs European stock exchanges and the

London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE), is weighing up rival offers. Managers are encouraging shareholders to go for the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) offer. However, the \$10.2 billion initial offer from the NYSE was rejected and investors voted that the Deutsche Börse proposal was the best valuation.

Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, said the country must prepare itself for growing international competition citing the labour market’s rigidity as problematic. The Chancellor voiced a desire to see workers’ rights cut. This has now started a feud between the government and trade unions.

Taiwan’s President’s son-in-law has been detained over allegations of insider trading. This is one of a string of corruption scandals that has struck President Chen Shui-Bian’s cabinet over recent months. They have severely damaged his credibility in public opinion poles.

Pensions are to be reformed in the UK with retirement age being raised to 68 and the link between pensions and earnings being reestablished.

Oxfam attacked sporting-goods companies ahead of the World Cup. Nike and Addidas were singled out as firms that are failing to address poor

中國銀行

BANK OF CHINA

The Bank of China is now one of the top ten largest banks in the world

working conditions in Asian plants.

Arcelor, the Franco-Belgian steel company, is to merge with Russian steelmaker, Severstal. The two companies have been in talks for years but the hostile approach from Mittal Steel has hastened matters.

Bank of China, China’s second largest bank, raised \$9.73 billion during its initial public offering in Hong Kong. It floated 10.5 per cent of its share capital and is now one of the world’s top ten largest banks in terms of market capitalisation.

MySpace, the fastest growing internet social network, is in talks with both Google and Microsoft over forging stronger ties through search

engines. The site is owned by Rupert Murdoch.

IPOs suffered at the lack of consumer confidence. CMC Markets and Sigma Capital Investments were due to float on the London Stock Exchange but were cancelled after Vonage, an internet telecoms company, saw its shares fall by 15 per cent on its first day of trading.

Ben Bernanke admitted to the Senate Banking Committee that he suffered from a lack of judgment when he told a journalist at the White House correspondents’ dinner that he was not as “doveish” on inflation as markets thought.

Enron Timeline

1985 - Enron founded by Kenneth Lay

February 2001 - Lay retires as chief executive, replaced by Jeffrey Skilling

August 14 - Skilling resigns after six months. Lay returns

October 16 - Enron reports \$618m third-quarter loss

October 17 - Securities and Exchange Commission begins inquiry

October 31 - SEC inquiry upgraded to a formal investigation

November 8 - The company starts negotiations to sell itself to Dynegy,

November 9 - Dynegy agrees to buy Enron for \$8bn in stock and cash

November 29 - Dynegy withdraws from deal

December 2 - Enron files for bankruptcy

January 23 2002 - Lay resigns as chief executive

January 25 - Clifford Baxter, former Enron vice-chairman, found dead in an apparent suicide

January 30 - Stephen Cooper takes over as Enron chief executive

February 4 - An investigative report by the board implicates Lay in Enron’s collapse. He resigns from the board

February 8 - Fastow exercises the Fifth Amendment right to refuse to testify before Congressional panel. Skilling testifies

February 12 - Lay also invokes the Fifth and refuses to testify

February 14 - Sherron Watkins, Enron “whistleblower,” testifies before a Congressional panel against Skilling and Fastow

June 16 - Arthur Andersen, Enron’s auditor, convicted of obstructing justice. He had shredding Enron documents. Conviction was overturned by Supreme Court

May 10 2003 - Ben Glisan, Enron’s former treasurer, pleads guilty to crimes at Enron and becomes the first Enron executive to go to jail

February 20 2004 - Skilling charged over Enron’s collapse, pleads not guilty

May 6 - Lea Fastow sentenced to one year’s imprisonment

July 8 - Lay charged in Enron’s collapse, pleads not guilty

January 30 2006 - Trial begins

May 25 - Lay and Skilling found guilty

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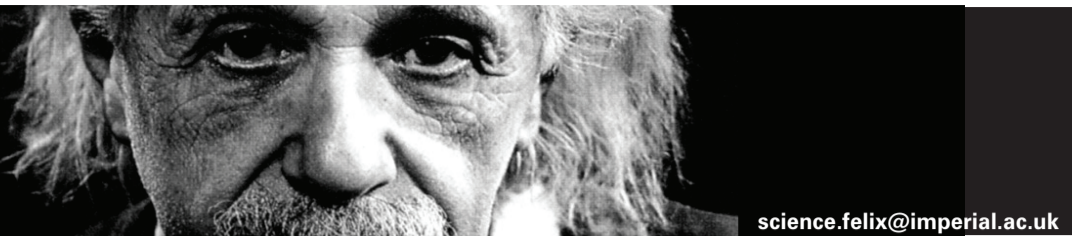
For more information goto www.union.ic.ac.uk



Tickets on sale from the Union reception, Beit Quad and the Union Shop, Sherfield Walkway. Ensure you buy your tickets early as last year's event sold out and Dinner tickets are limited. Dinner tickets £45, Ents only tickets £25. Non IC Students Dinner tickets £50, Ents £30. Reception for diners 6:00pm, Ents tickets from 8:00pm



science



Waking the dead

Chris Miles spends an unusual afternoon in the company of dead bodies and reflects on whether the new von Hagens-style exhibition is more gratuitous than educational.

The prospect of spending my afternoon looking at dead bodies at Earl's Court was strangely alluring. This was not because I have a bizarre penchant for necrophilia or enjoy the company of corpses, but more because I find the human body truly fascinating and wanted to see whether I could stretch my educational muscles further than spending an afternoon in the Felix office.

Such eerie thoughts of human preservation instantly triggered visions of Gunther von Hagens, TV personality and anatomist extraordinaire; a person who refuses to shy away from the cameras or cower from public scrutiny. I had vague recollections of his Channel 4 series last year, where the hacking away of various body parts provided a highlight to an otherwise conventional Thursday evening. Unfortunately for von Hagens, his demeanour came across as that of a 'mad scientist with psychotic tendencies' rather than that of a 'humanitarian educator'.

His previous exhibition, *Body Worlds*, shocked and fascinated millions of people around the world. Of course, it was by no means all sunshine and lollipops; the exhibition caused widespread outcry after some of the plastinated bodies were found to have bullet holes in the back of their heads and led critics to label his work "a shameless Victorian freak show".

With this in mind, I was shocked to discover that this year's exhibition was not the work of von Hagens, but of an Atlanta-based company who obtained the bodies from a medical school in China. The organisers of the revamped *Bodies* exhibition assure us that it has no connection with the original *Body Worlds*, but it has still managed to invite considerable controversy. The organisers have attracted attention not merely because of the gratuitous content, but also because many specimens in medical schools in China are made available via unidentified donated bodies.

It did indeed take guts to go and see an exhibition like this (excuse the pun), but none of our group seemed particularly concerned, and as the only medic, I felt an obligation to at least sound as if I knew what I was talking about.

Eager and inquisitive, we eventually approached the exhibition centre on a dreary Wednesday afternoon with high expectations and a fair share of animosity; it took about 10 minutes before we discovered the way in and then had to navigate past what only could be described as an aircraft hangar (the entrance reminded me of the queue for Space Mountain at Disney World!). The silence was readily apparent. Reminiscent of a Chapel of Rest, the people waiting in the queue were conspicuously respectful, which made the airport-like bag checks even more peculiar.



One of the twenty dissected bodies. Most of them come from Chinese medical schools, which has sparked discussions over the integrity of the organisers' intentions. (Photo: Vitali Lazurenko)

One of the rooms seemed to shock more than educate – babies at various stages of development were curtained in darkness and set out in a similar fashion to watches on a jeweller's table.

The exhibition was divided into nine dimly lit galleries which the visitor had to pass through in sequential order. Starting with the bare bones, the body is gradually built up by adding various body systems. The displays started off relatively tame, with an array of bones scattered across a few exhibition tables, and a familiar-looking skeleton facing visitors as they entered the first chamber. Maybe this was to 'ease' people into the experience more than anything, but still provided me with an opportunity to show off first-year anatomy, even if incorrectly.

In the later galleries, the exhibits became much more intense. The bodies were arranged in a variety of positions, but unlike the previous *Body Worlds*, they were more athletic in contrast to their aesthetic counterparts. I did wonder how they kept them so immaculately preserved and thought back to my days in the anatomy lab where we had to endure the sickening smell of formaldehyde the morning after a night out. In fact, the bodies had undergone a 'plastination' process, during which fluids were drained and exchanged with plastics to make the bodies rigid, odourless and permanently preserved.

Suffice it to say, such preservation was not used to maintain bodies in a clinical, 'upright' position. Throughout the exhibition, bodies were displayed in various poses ranging from one man kicking a football to another playing darts. Not a typical finding in



Top: An exhibit showing the circulatory and respiratory systems. This was achieved by injecting coloured plastics into the bodies and then removing all other parts. **Bottom:** The bodies were arranged in a variety of positions, but unlike the previous *Body Worlds*, they were more athletic in contrast to their aesthetic counterparts. (Photos: Vitali Lazurenko)

Central London admittedly, but the dissection was extraordinary and the specimens were truly flawless.

As I continued through the exhibition, I spoke to an elderly couple staring intently at a nearby body. I asked them what they thought of the exhibition and why they travelled all the way to Earl's Court from Brighton, a question which was certainly met by an interesting response. Not attracted by the gore and hyperbole, the couple were actually considering donating their bodies to medical research. Never before had I met someone who was serious about doing such a thing – I expected the attendees at the exhibition to be sensation-seekers, not potential body donors!

The educational worth of the displays was forced upon us throughout the exhibition; anatomy snippets of trivia were plastered across the walls with an explanatory plaque positioned boldly next to each exhibit. I think the line was crossed, however, when we fell victim to a room full of fetuses around an obscure half-way corner.

The room seemed to shock more than educate, babies at various stages of development were curtained in darkness and set out in a similar fashion to watches on a jeweller's table.

Moving through the exhibition, human interaction returned with a vengeance. Set out like a market stall, a solitary staff member stood in wait for passers-by with the aim of allowing visitors to feel and 'experience' a selection of specimens. As I approached the table, I was offered a slice of brain and a bone to 'play with'. Wrongfully identifying the bone as a femur, I was promptly corrected and embarrassed by my non-existent level of anatomy knowledge after three years of medical school!

Surrounding the table were numerous glass cases containing diseased body parts – a part of the exhibition that forced us to think about the impact of everyday 'pleasures' on our own health. A healthy lung was displayed alongside a diseased blackened smoke-tarnished specimen, and close by was a glass case contain-

ing hundreds of cigarette packets, a stark reminder of the consequences of some of our everyday actions.

There is no doubt that the exhibition set out to teach us some valuable lessons about the body in both disease and health; however, I could not help but wonder whether such elaborate gestures were necessary to provide us with a deeper insight into our being. As the boundary between science and art becomes more tenuous, it is difficult to comprehend how sensationalist displays of bare human flesh can help us further our own understanding of our bodies and convey the sense of respect we naturally hold for the dead.

Visitors at the end of the exhibition were invited to fill out cards to describe their experiences during the day. One girl wrote: "Tell us a bit more about the bodies – who are they?" She might well have a point.

BODIES... The Exhibition is now on at Earls Court. For more details visit www.bodiestheexhibition.com.

The Newer Scientist

Writer's Block

Duncan
McMillan



The difficult job of a professional science writer got that little bit easier with the launch, last week, of WriteSci.com, an internet service designed to aid the fraught process of turning hard science into easy reading. Angela D'Angelo, the site's founder: "We're hoping to help those afflicted with linguistic impediment disorder, or Writer's Block, by providing a number of automated tools to help them translate cutting-edge science for the lay reader."

The most exciting tool on WriteSci.com is the Prominent Scientist Quote Generator (PSQG). The service has been endorsed by dozens of leading scientists, science communicators and historians, and will provide instant quotations on a variety of subjects from across the Academy. Surprisingly, the quotes will be entirely automatically-generated.

The PSQG engine allows the user to specify a subject area, a subcategory, and a scientist. "So far we have Stephen Pinker, Richard Dawkins, Susan Greenfield, Martin Rees and many others signed up," D'Angelo said. The entire body of printed and recorded commentary by each Prominent Scientist is put on the PSQG system. The engine scans that archive for matching opinions and uses a syntactic algorithm to put those opinions into a coherent quote. The user can even specify the length and tone of the statement.

However, certain opinion topics will be restricted to certain scientists. Stephen Hawking will comment on astrophysics, alien life, the Universe, and God. Historian of science Lisa Jardine will comment on the Royal Society, the Enlightenment and the Scientific Method. Dawkins will comment on anything. Indeed, the more forthright commentators are proving hard to integrate into the PSQG system, as chief coder Sam Spode described: "We had to create a separate subroutine for Richard and we ran over a thousand test cycles of the Dawkinator before we produced a single quote that didn't libel anyone."

As D'Angelo points out, the service is doubly beneficial:

"It helps the science writer and the Prominent Scientist. The writer gains by being saved the difficulty of tracking down a scientist who tends to be unavailable just as the copy deadline approaches. The scientist is saved the trouble of having to remember what his or her opinions are on every little issue.

"It's especially helpful for Stephen [Hawking] – he won't need to do nearly as much clicking... In fact, we predict that the research productivity of our Prominent Scientists will shoot up once we've got going – they will actually be able to do some science!"

The PQSG will also be a flexible service. Prominent Scientists will be able to log in regularly, edit their opinion profiles, and tweak the rules that govern their automated responses.

For instance, Jared Diamond could be pushing some new writing, so he ensures all his automated quotes include the phrase: "For example, in my new book...", thus ensuring effortless publicity, even whilst he sleeps.

D'Angelo is negotiating with some older scientists to "archive their views before their gene-vehicles cease to function. We've got Freeman Dyson and James Watson on board, but sadly we missed out on John Maynard Smith and Fred Hoyle."

D'Angelo, however, revealed they are developing Poe – the Past Opinion Extrapolator – a tool which generates quotes on subjects many years after the source has died. "Poe will extrapolate an opinion on a contemporary subject on the basis of what is known about a particular scientist's historical attitudes. We'll be able to have Marie Curie on nuclear power, Galileo on the Mars Programme and Newton on String Theory!"



Hard at it in the library

Now that's concentration!

Only two weeks left!

Pose here. All you have to do is email us at page3.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A black and white portrait of Paul Rusesabagina, a man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a serious expression.

ROVER

**Paul
Rusesabagina**

The True Story Behind Hotel Rwanda

Photo: Daniel Walker

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Hitori

This is a puzzle similar to sudoku, you will notice that some rows and columns will duplicate a number. The aim is to colour in cells so that an individual number never appears more than once in a particular row or column

The cells that you colour in must never be adjacent to each other horizontally or vertically

All the cells that are left uncoloured (in their original state) must join together to form a single area.

Send your answers to sudoku.felix@ic.ac.uk

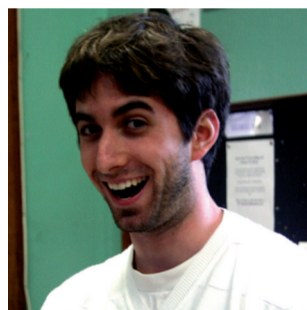
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4	6	3	5	2	5	8	1
7	4	6	7	3	5	2	8
3	1	4	5	4	8	4	1
7	6	8	1	5	2	4	6
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6	5	7	8	4	1	7	3
2	2	1	4	6	1	5	3



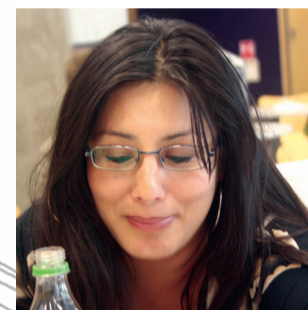
Shag, Marry, Shoot?

Here at *Felix* we know you're all gagging for a bit of action. Come on, you do go to Imperial so it's probably been at least a few months. If ever. It's a known fact that guys walk around playing Shotgun, calling 'dibs' on the hottest girls in sight. In the case of the Computer Scientists, they're just calling 'dibs' on any female-shaped blur they can see with their computer monitor-damaged eyes, in the hopes that she's over the age of 16 and is attractive by Department of Computing standards. And don't call us sexist - we know girls play too. Their version isn't quite so crude - they claim to think about 'having someone's babies' (which we all know is code for 'banging senseless'). So we thought we'd join in.

Each week *Felix* will ask a jury of the cooler IC students who they'd shag, who they would marry, and who they would shoot:



Alex:
"I'd shag Sameena and Simon, then shoot him afterwards! And marry Sarah."



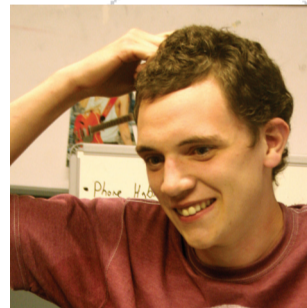
Shazia:
"I can't shag any of them, they're girls and he's questionable but if I had to I would shag Sarah, marry Simon and shoot Sameena."



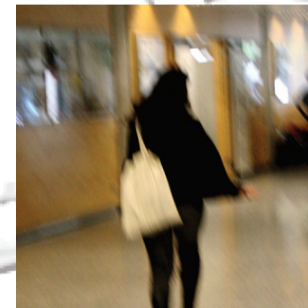
Mariko:
"I'd shag Sarah, shoot Simon and marry Sameena."



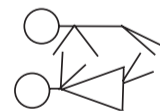
Gareth:
"Can I shoot them all? Who are they anyway?"



Mike:
"I'd shoot Matthews because he's a Sci-fi geek and he takes up our space! I'd shag Sameena and then I could sell the story and I guess I'd marry the other one, she's the only one I've met."



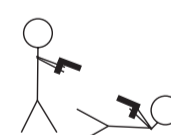
Hannah:
Took one look at the pictures and fled in disgust!



Sameena



Sarah



Simon

Rover Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of Rover, the new *Felix* pullout. We're starting off with our weekly game of 'Shag, Marry, Shoot?', to give Imperial College students the chance to at least *think* about who they'd rather get it on with!

On a more serious note, we have an interview with Paul Rusesabagina, the inspiration behind the true to life film, Hotel Rwanda, and an expose on the Tanaka Business School donation scandal.

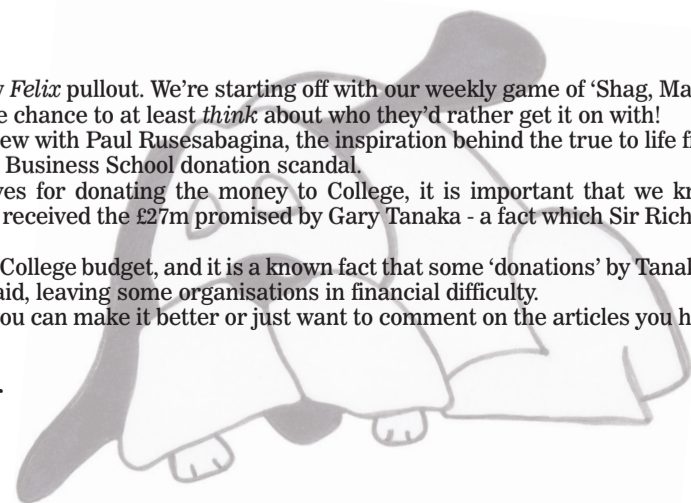
Whatever you think about Tanaka's motives for donating the money to College, it is important that we know whether or not Imperial College has actually received the £27m promised by Gary Tanaka - a fact which Sir Richard Sykes is keeping very secret indeed.

This is potentially a very hefty deficit in the College budget, and it is a known fact that some 'donations' by Tanaka's business partner Alberto Vilar were never paid, leaving some organisations in financial difficulty.

If you've loved this week's issue but think you can make it better or just want to comment on the articles you have read, then please contact us!

Rover editors: Saba Shafi and Dan Walker

Call: 020 7594 8072
Text: 07732 869 555
Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk
Visit us: West Basement, Beit Quad





felix

No 1354
Thursday
6 June 2006
felix@imperial.ac.uk

// This is the third lapse in security Felix has uncovered this year //

Biomedical Sciences closures

Felix and, more importantly, the staff concerned remain totally unaware what the future holds for Biomedical Sciences at Imperial.

When we asked College to provide us with full details of the planned closures and job cuts, we were only told that College "are protecting the teaching...students and facilities will not be affected". There was no mention as to the job security of those employed in the BMS division. Felix is the students' newspaper, but it is read by most staff members at Imperial.

We understand the staff will be informed of the decision today. Felix hopes that College has the sense to treat its employees with the respect they deserve.

Lax security in College, again

Despite College focusing heavily on security concerns, notably October's dress code, this is the third lapse in security Felix has uncovered this year.

On most occasions we gained access to forbidden areas by simply tailgating others through restricted doors. Staff and students need to be aware of those around them and not hold doors open for people they don't know.

Even though we may not have accessed any highly classified areas, it still brings into question the security of this campus. Given a bit more time and effort, we are sure we could have gained access to even more restricted areas.

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

Make your point while you still can. Only 2 issues left.

Letters to the editor

The author of the Star Letter received each week wins £10



Star Letter

Chicken skewers

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my outrage at the new food vending machines that were recently placed in the JCR. Just today I purchased "Chicken Skewers" and found that they were unsatisfactory in every way. I have a number of points that I want to make about the system and the food themselves.

1. The Cost - The the chicken skewers cost £2 which is quite expensive under any circumstance however especially when they are compared with the £1.76 baguettes offered by the Tiki Café.

2. When I actually purchased the food they got stuck in the machine and to enable them to be removed the box was squashed beyond repair. This is not an irregular occurrence as I have seen on a number of occasions the same thing happening with the machines.

3. I then chose to have them heated. Following the instructions I placed them in the microwave and pressed start. Indeed a quick 30 seconds later I removed the food. This was where the real problems started.

a. The box had started too disintegrated.

b. Then I opened the box and to my dismay I found 3 "tiny" pieces of chicken. The combined weight of which could not have been more than the weight of the money I paid

for them.

c. The appearance of the chicken was nothing that would inspire you to eat it - in fact it wouldn't be wrong to say that it was just revolting.

d. Then to top it all the food wasn't even what could be considered remotely warm.

e. When I actually tried some of the chicken it was horrible and had no flavour, the best part was the sauce provided.

I tried this food to see what I thought I would be eating come exam time as it has been tipped as being the food available 24 hours a day during the exams. If I had an exam any time soon I would have been very hesitant to even think about eating it due to any possible medical repercussions. I do think that the idea was good however I just feel that the action undertaken was very poor and something needs to be done.

Edward Judge

Please & thank you go a long way

Dear Felix,

Forgive me for being a nag but I just find it amazing and unbelievable how rude people can be when they don't say "please" or "thank you". I found this quite a trend when I was helping out with Medical OSCE exams recently, where not one even said "please" or "thank you" to the helper who was going to hand them the needles and gloves. Furthermore, when lending pens, I find them handed back to me without a word of appreciation. I am quite compelled to stop being generous when I don't hear a

word of please.

You'll find it quite amazing how a little appreciation for our fellow students can go a long way and make everyone's day so much better, considering its rarity nowadays.

yours,

Ava
1st Year Medical Student

Public transport horror

Dear Felix,

Why is public transport so bad? My parents live in a hilly little place not so far from Manchester. Ordinarily I would get the wonderful Virgin pendolino train from Euston (which makes me feel less bad about the price of the ticket), but the main line was closed this weekend, to my dismay. The National Rail website told me to get a train to Nottingham (or Sheffield) from St. Pancras. This doubled my journey time from a bearable 2 hours to more than 4.

The last step of the journey involved me using (gasp) a bus. Growing up in Saddleworth has prepared me well for the terrible bus service, but it has since worsened. It takes another two hours to travel the 12 miles from Manchester, and these buses run just once an hour.

Returning to London always makes me think how much better things are here, and it amazes me that the government (initially) refused funding for Manchester's Metrolink. I wonder whether the people sitting in Westminster know what lies beyond the limits of Greater London.

Daniel



Only a pair of issues left!

No Ordinary Man

The hero of *Hotel Rwanda*, Paul Rusesabagina, launches a damning critique of the United Nations and the Rwandan government, telling *Rupert Neate* why the world needs to take notice of Africa, the “forgotten continent”

On the 6 April 1994 the Hutu-controlled government of Rwanda launched a well-planned attack on the Tutsi minority with chilling efficiency, resulting in the deaths of more than 800,000 people in just 100 days. Whilst the West largely ignored the conflict, refusing to acknowledge it as genocide, Paul Rusesabagina turned the prestigious Hotel des Mille Collines into an impromptu refugee camp. In his new autobiography, *An Ordinary Man*, he tells the story of how he saved the lives of 1,268 Tutsi and moderate Hutus.

Throughout those three months Paul insists that he did “nothing special, I managed the hotel like I would every other day” but, to the people in his care his actions were nothing short of extraordinary. Through his bravery and selflessness they escaped the rape and slaughter that besieged the streets as soldiers and the government armed Interahamwe militia systematically hunted down the Tutsi ‘inyenzi’ (cockroaches).

It is difficult to imagine how he managed to save his own life, let alone those of 1,268 others, when by rights he should have been on the government’s hit-list. Though a Hutu himself, his wife is a Tutsi and as such his children are of mixed-race, making him a target. He was also a known dissident who often rebelled against the government, refusing to wear badges expressing devotion to the Hutu President and hosting the Tutsi rebel army, the RPF.

Although no other moderate Hutu would have been tolerated by the regime, Rusesabagina was able to charm and cajole many of the militants and officials. Using a black binder full of the names of Rwanda’s movers and shakers - collected during his years of service in the Mille Collines’ sister hotel the Hotel Diplomatics - he traded in those favours for lives.

He applied his amazing ability to read people methodically: first, flattery, by implying that officials were ‘too important to be dealing with this’, second an appeal to their wallet, and failing that, he would play on their fear of doubt - ‘what if the Hutus lose the battle, and you are up against the Court of Human Rights, what will you tell them? If you help us I will be able to defend you.’

Ironically, the only people who failed to succumb to Rusesabagina charm and persuasion were Western governments. When the hotel phones were cut off in April 1994, his black binder and the influential contacts it contained were useless, removing the last lifeline. However, the ever-ingenious Paul saw round this problem by using the fax machine (which had a direct line to the national grid). He stayed up late every night firing off faxes to the Belgian Foreign Ministry, the White House, and the United Nations - whoever might listen. One night he followed up on a fax to the White House only to be told that he “should contact the embassy of the United States in Rwanda”. He informed the White House that their embassy left Rwanda on the 9th of April.

Despite, minimal help from both the UN and the US, Rusesabagina was able to keep the refugees alive until they could be transported to refugee camps around the country. Soon afterwards the RPF took power, forming a Tutsi-only government.

Two years later after his family were granted asylum in Belgium he left Rwanda as a refugee. With little more than a briefcase Paul was able to support himself as a Taxi driver. Being a natural businessman he expanded this into a minicab firm, and has now started a trucking company in Tanzania.

Paul’s story became widely known with the release of *Hotel Rwanda*, where he is played by Don Cheadle, who Paul says is “much better looking”. Following the release of the film he was invited to the White House to meet President George Bush. When asked about the meeting, in which they discussed the situation in Africa, he simply laughed. He holds a lot of resentment toward the United States for its failure to intervene or even address the atrocity by its proper name - genocide.

Fully aware that the International Genocide Treaty would force them to act if they labelled the conflict as genocide, the US stated only that “acts of genocide had occurred”, but there was not sufficient evidence to suggest that the acts were targeted at eliminating a specific group.

Subsequently President Clinton has apologised to the Rwandan people and publicly stated that not intervening in Rwanda was one of the biggest regrets of his administration. Paul told *Felix*, “He [Clinton] apologised; that is ok, but it would have been better if he had joined words with actions. Those were just words.”

It is widely acknowledged that the world at large made a dreadful mistake by not intervening earlier. A meagre 2,500 United Nations Peace Keeping troops were sent to Rwanda prior to the genocide but with a pitiful mandate. They were prevented from using their weapons except in self-defence, and were powerless to intervene even when people were being slaughtered directly in front of them.

Rusesabagina heavily criticises General Romeo Dallaire, commander of UN forces in Rwanda, and the UN in general, stating that its presence was “worse than useless”, and was only there to appease the world’s conscience. Early on in the genocide, Dallaire submitted a proposal to the Security Council for 5,000 well-equipped soldiers. His request was refused. A later investigation revealed that this force would have, at the very least, reduced the slaughter. Dallaire tried in vain to force the genocide into the forefront of the Security Council’s mind, giving interviews to every major media organisation, in which he appealed for more troops and a revised mandate. However, Rusesabagina believes that this was inadequate and Dallaire “should have disobeyed the foolish orders from New York... or if he did not have the stomach to do this then I think he should have made a spectacle out of resigning.”

The timing of the genocide could not have been worse for the victims. The slaughter began in April 1994 just months after the failed operation in Somalia of *Black Hawk Down* fame, which left the West extremely reluctant to send any more troops to Africa. On the first day of the genocide the militia slaughtered ten Belgian peace-keepers to further discourage any intervention by the UN. As a result, Belgium, backed by the UK and the US, withdrew its troops, leaving just 260 poorly equipped soldiers, all from the developing world.

Paul remains critical of the UN’s peacekeeping record. He says that in most cases the ‘men on the ground’ are from poorer countries, whose governments are using the UN “as just a means to an end to improve their ‘premium’ with the superpowers” and that “the business of peace-keeping is now more of a joke, as superpowers are no longer involved.”

In Rusesabagina’s view the UN’s failure in Rwanda is just one of the events that has left the UN in its current state of impotence. The UN was forged for all the right reasons in the aftermath of the Second World War, to be an international body for peace, but Rusesabagina believes that its very inclusiveness is the one thing preventing it from being an effective body. “The UN can’t decide unless they decide by consensus. Each and every one of the 150 members must have their say but by then the genocide would have been over.”

Rusesabagina told me that “‘never’ and ‘again’ are the two most abused words in the world today”. When President Clinton used those words in an inauguration speech at the Holocaust memorial in Washington in 1993 there was another genocide taking place on the other side of the world.

Though officially there are no longer distinctions made between Hutus and Tutsis - everyone is simply Rwandan - Rusesabagina told me this is just a façade to keep the West happy. “Telling someone ‘you are not a Hutu’ and the other ‘you are not a Tutsi’ is just like telling you ‘you’re not white’ and me ‘I’m not black’.” Rusesabagina believes that the hatred is so ingrained that fresh bloodshed in the future is not unimaginable. He says that although there is now a multiracial government, with Hutus in positions of authority, these roles are largely just symbolic, with no effective powers.

In the eyes of the Western world the new Rwandan government is a model of African democracy, but according to Rusesabagina all is not as it seems, as the government operates through intimidation. Paul explained, “When they see the Tutsi survivors they tell them, ‘listen you guys. Your Hutu neighbours were going to kill you. It was us, the RPF, who saved your lives. Shut up.’ They also come to Hutus and tell them ‘we will kill you anytime we want, if it wasn’t for us you wouldn’t be here’. Those Hutus also shut up.” The Rwandan government’s intimidation does not stop with its own citizens. “Whenever the international commu-

nity raises a voice the government says ‘listen you guys. You ignored the fact that there was a genocide. Don’t give us a lesson. You’ve got nothing to teach us’ and the international community just shuts up.”

Western nations have tried to press Rwanda into dealing more effectively with the 120,000 genocide suspects held in prison, more than 50% of whom are being held without charge. He told me “it is worse than Guantanamo Bay, because in Rwanda with the husband in jail the wife and children are also in prison” as the wife has to bring the husband’s food to the prison at 10am every day, preventing her from working.

Though the legal system is overwhelmed by an immense workload, this is not a sufficient excuse for its lack of effectiveness, as Paul explained: “after the genocide the whole world felt guilty. They said ‘now we are going to help Rwanda to rebuild’. They raised \$1.2bn. They started training judges, but those judges never went to courts.”

Instead of a more formal justice system, Rwanda has favoured a form of community justice called Gacaca courts, where the local people come together to try and to convict their peers. Rusesabagina strongly disagrees with the Gacaca system because “everyone knows that in the Gacaca courts those peasant people will be trying and convicting their neighbours. They can convict you to 30 years imprisonment or even life. Is that power really to be given to people of such a lower level?”

Paul is extremely worried about the situation within not just Rwanda but also Africa as a whole. According to Rusesabagina, the whole of Africa is just a “forgotten continent”. He reels of a list of other forgotten African horrors: Uganda, Darfur, Ivory Coast, Somalia. “Africa seems to be very far away from America and Europe. Those are the deciders?” He believes that the status quo can be changed but “what we need now is to send a strong message to all of those dictators who kill their own people, who steal from their own countries. Listen you guys, you are not untouchable, one day you will also face justice.”

Today, we shudder at the astounding rapidity with which the massacres took place. Averaged out, 8000 people died each day, meaning more than 5 lives were taken each minute. Paul Rusesabagina, whose names mean, fittingly, ‘the great communicator’ and ‘warrior who disperses enemies’ managed to save 4 hours worth of people. His autobiography is a tale of courage and human resilience, yet he himself is a modest and simple man, who insists that he did nothing extraordinary. He is a modern day hero, and an inspiration to all.

An Ordinary Man is published by Bloomsbury and priced at £16.99 (hardback).

Rupert Neate & Saba Shafi

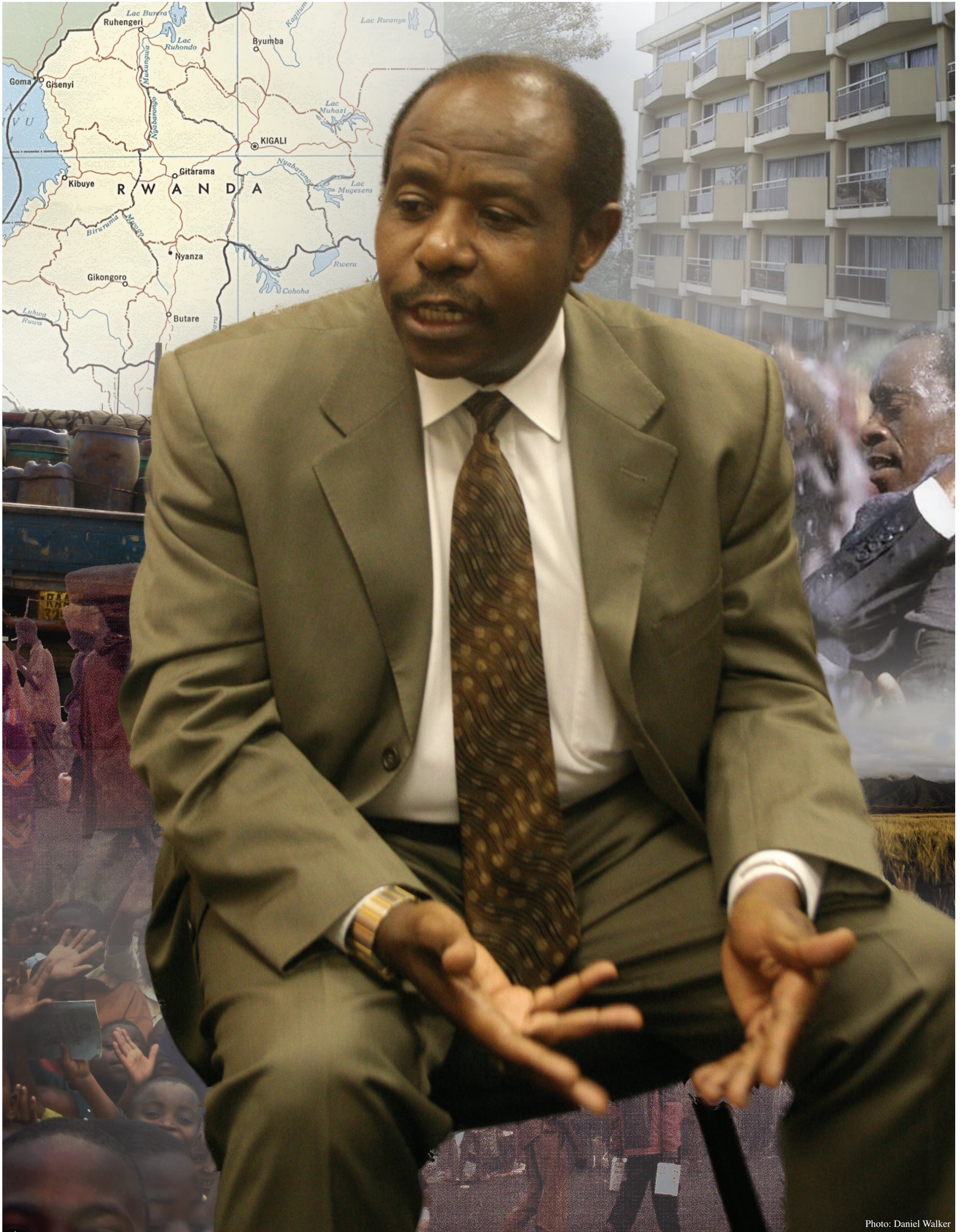


Photo: Daniel Walker

Eurotrip

Darlings, as summer approaches, it's time to make travel plans. For those of us who have blown our summer budget already there are only 2 options... Blackpool pier or Inter-railing. For only £140 you can cart yourself around Europe, staying in hostel after hostel with nothing to worry about except your next feed. We've sampled some of the culinary delights, tried on some of the outfits and visited some of the brothels so you know exactly what to expect on the continent. Bon appetit!

Scotland: depending on where you go you could have a nice time. Edinburgh is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world, home of the famous Fringe Festival. We dare you to try a haggis! (Sheep's intestines, for the uninformed)



Sweden: home of the most beautiful Europeans, apart from old, horny Sven. Their diet of saffron bread and meatballs give them their air of mystery. (Why are they so good looking when they eat shit food?)



Holland: home of clogs, cannabis, windmills, tulips and whores. Need I say more? Just don't expect to remember any of the trip. Red is the colour to wear.



Russia: when you get here make sure you drink vodka, eat caviar and sample Russia's most famous export, Anna Kournikova. Just don't mention the Cold War. Or communism. Or democracy. ...

England: very notable for its unique social mix of chavs, fish and chips, and of course Felix. Beware of happy slappers - it's the new craze for poor people.



France: definitely the best dressed nation. However, the women don't shave their armpits, let alone their unmentionables, and the men smell of garlic. To have a good time, put on a beret and try some snails... or perhaps just visit Calais and catch the ferry back to Dover!

Germany: probably has the worst food in Europe, such as Sauerkraut and sausages, however, come in September to celebrate Oktoberfest. Berlin is famous for its inventive and groundbreaking architecture, but the young people are depressed, wear a lot of eyeliner (boys included) and speak better English than you!

Greece and Turkey: the women are kebab-munching nutters who like to bleach their hair and wear skimpy tops. Greeks are famous for their beauty, and the country is steeped in ancient civilisation. Turkey has its own appeal; full of shisha, beautiful rugs and buildings and belly dancers! All of the inhabitants have terrible dress sense but at least their country has the best food in Europe. Feta cheese, olives, moussaka and a nice kebab. Just don't mention Cyprus!



Spain: if you like girls with sideburns and a semi-professional attitude towards hygiene, then this country is for you. Tapas is basically a foreign buffet masquerading as an exotic proper meal. Look out for dodgy paella, holidaying Brits and sexy flamenco dancers.



Italy: hot women and even hotter men. Don't come here in the hope that you'll ever pull anyone, because everyone else is just so much better looking than you. Wear very little clothing and shout a lot. Eat pasta, be merry and don't forget to go visit all the famous sites like the leaning tower and the Colosseum

nightlife

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Norwegian fun in Notting Hill

More free drinks for *Felix* at Notting Hill's most trendy club.

Notting Hill Arts Club
Check day for prices.

★★★★☆

Some of our more observant readers have noticed that over the past few weeks, the factual content of our articles has been in rapid decline. No longer do we dwell on such mundane items as drink prices, entry times, or even club locations (apologies to all who visited 286 King's Road for Mamilanji's. It is in fact 108.) At this juncture, we feel we must apologise once more, as something rather special happened on Tuesday evening.

We left our Chelsea residence early on foot, bound for the eclectic Notting Hill Arts Club, renowned for its underground music showcases and bohemian clientele. Whilst strolling leisurely through the opulent surroundings of a leafy Kensington Garden square, we spotted a residents only *Champagne & Smoked Salmon* summer party in full swing.

Ignoring the rather obvious fact that we were dressed in an antique silk smoking jacket and full fencing attire (plus épée), we walked boldly up to the gate and stated merrily that we had just moved in to number 37b (We later found out there were only 35 houses in the square.) One hour, two bottles of Moët and half the salmon in Loch Lomond later, we had acquired invitations to various parties from our numerous 'neighbours' including a rather creepy landscape gardener (who may/may not be queer) who dwells at number 5.

It suddenly struck us that we had a



Oooh. Norwegianish

job to do, so we respectfully bade the residents of Vicarage Gate farewell and staggered on up to Notting Hill.

Within ten minutes we had arrived at the club (very close to Notting Hill Gate tube) and with bouncers eyeing the épée warily, we were escorted to the manager's office below. The club was every bit as 'arty' as its name suggested, one wall bearing

a photographic exhibition, surrealist sculptures dotted about, and a music showcase comprised entirely of Norwegian bands (yes, you heard us correctly, Norwegian). It was upon further consultation with the management that we realised the house was having a Norwegian night, under the watchful eye of the headliner (and master of ceremonies) *Dr Filth*.

Towards the end of the evening (after several beverages) we enquired of the good doctor whether his title was indicative of 6 years at medical school or a mere PhD. As sensitive journalists, good manners preclude us from printing his rather brusque reply (I always thought *Cnut* was merely a medieval king).

The music encompassed a wide

range of styles and moods, with one unifying core concept: the lyrics were entirely Norwegian and therefore we couldn't understand a word.

This may sound hideous, but the music was fantastic to dance to and the bands were all of a very high standard (it's by no means a coincidence that those horn-hatted bastards won Eurovision). The house has a long history for spotting rising talents. The club assured us their latest find, *Lilly Allen*, a female rapper, will soon be a household name. Watch this space.

Aside from the music the bar was excellently priced including a fantastic cocktail bearing the name *Die of Pleasure* (£4) (Note the factual information). The club is also unique in running a student friendly Saturday night, with admission at £6 (£4 on guestlist).

If, like us, you prefer Baroque to *Blur-Rock*, a requiem to *Eminem*, or *Rachmaninov* to, oh fuck we can't find another pun, the club also runs a classical themed chill out evening once a month, presided over by a DJ from Classic FM.

To round off, the décor was arty and cutting edge, the drinks were both cheap and tasty, and we are currently contemplating holidaying in Oslo. The club is affordable for students and its smorgasbord of nights ensure that there is something to suit all tastes. Some clubs we review (like Nag) are ridiculous to the extreme. Some, like Mamilanji's, are members only, but this is the genuine article: a good club that welcomes students. Hopefully all the factual information you need!

Moseli-Lynch and Lowely

Plastic People: Jewish Salsa party. With attitude.

Spacebase - Plastic People
£6/£5 Students.
★☆☆☆☆

A little intoxicated and more than a little nostalgic for the days when you could have a good Friday night out in Shoreditch, our fine nightlife editor Gregory and I set off on a mission to discover exactly what had replaced the much-loved *And Did We Mention Our Disco* at *Plastic People*. We could not have anticipated what horrors awaited us.

Our Disco has been replaced by a night called *Spacebase*, which apparently consists of a mind-boggling mixture of Jewish salsa and disco-funk, making for an experience somewhat akin to a rather under-attended Bar Mitzvah.

The majority of the clientele seemed to have either randomly strolled in, looking for somewhere to stay the night, or were in some way related to the promoters of the clubnight, and were only there to freeload a bunch of drinks. The DJ seemed to think that Djing meant playing a track all the way through, leaving a 3 second gap of silence, then starting the next one from the compilation album CD he found in the bargain bucket at HMV.

I would highly recommend this club night if you want to be surrounded by predominantly foreign people, and listen to music that is so bad it is an offence to your ears.

After fleeing *Plastic People* in a rush, Gregory and I made our way round the corner to 333, a popular haunt for people with no taste in music, but hell, with a queue that big

We were surprised when the entire cast of *Prison Break* strolled out into the club.

it had to have something going for it, didn't it? A friendly, somewhat scruffy looking man on the door told us we could expect to hear a ferocious mix of hard electro and rock and roll! How could we resist?

Having queued for what seemed like aeons and parting with an outrageous sum of money, we were finally in! The club has two rooms and

after enduring the brain-destroyingly horrendous noise of some live band they had playing downstairs, we settled into the main room where *The Smiths* entertained us briefly before the nightmare began.

Imagine our dismay when the DJ, proudly displaying a *Metallica* t-shirt on his chest, refused to serenade us with the dulcet tones of *Pantera* (I begged!) or indeed anything that was not straight up gangsta rap. Having been promised a night of electro and rock and roll, Greg and I were somewhat surprised when the entire cast of *Prison Break* strolled out into the club with microphones, for a live set.

Upon escaping downstairs it became apparent that the entire club night was simply an exercise in pairing up inherently incompatible genres of music as we found ourselves surrounded by a sweaty horde of cowboys and hillbillies listening to a delightful mix of 50's rock and roll and bluegrass.

Although not quite the same as actually being in hell, this club night did come close. However, if like most of the people in the club you are more interested in taking drugs in the toilets than enjoying some decent music, I am sure the whole experience would be a delight!

Alex Baldwin



Godskitchen
Presents

ESCAPE INTO THE PARK SATURDAY 17TH JUNE MIDDAY-MIDNIGHT . SINGLETON PARK . SWANSEA

WIN TICKETS!

Email in to nightlife telling me why you should win two tickets to Escape. Then you might!

Wales largest, wildest and award winning outdoor dance festival returns June 17th for its 7th year running. With the likes of Goldie Lookin' Chain, Mylo and The Shapeshifters gracing the main stage, plus a star studded line-up hitting the decks across 5 arenas, catering for all your dance tastes, this year is sure to keep the characteristic awesomeness that is Escape Into The Park.

Over 20,000 summer loving festival heads will descend upon Swansea's Singleton Park with it's scenic backdrop, to enjoy the very best of today's dance music. With sets spanning from the pounding beats of the likes of Eddie Halliwell, Mixmag's two time crowned "World Number One Dj". To the Turntablist sounds of the Scratch Perverts mixing it up in the Urban Arena, right through to downright dirty Drum n Bass, with a Dj set from Planet Pendulum, followed by Radio One's Fabio and Grooverider in the Raveology Arena, to keep you buzzing hard into the night. Radio One will be joining the evenings delights on their own stage, boasting the Netherlands Armin Van Buuren. He is sure to be one of my personal highlights of the night, ranked at no. 3 in the

public-voted DJ Top 100, he is one of the leading lights in the genre and the atmosphere is sure to be alive and electric, guaranteed to put you into a State of Trance. Simply unmissable.

Now for a little peek at the main stage, which is throwing out a whole host of stars over the day.

Headlining will be Wales very own track-suit clad super stars, who need absolutely no introducing. Yes, Goldie Lookin' Chain, will be entertaining us all in their oh so unique style. I've seen them a few times before and they get better everytime, here's what they have to say;

"This summer will see the second coming of love. We're more than overjoyed to be appearing at this year's Escape in the Park event. Not only for the amazing women and tearing party atmosphere, but because we get to party in Wales and also get to stay at the Pantycelyn guest-house on Oyster Mouth road. We also want to see sixty thousand ravers on the beach at 5am, just like Ibiza, but with better pubs."

A brief recap, yes there will be "amazing women" a "tearing party atmosphere", and world

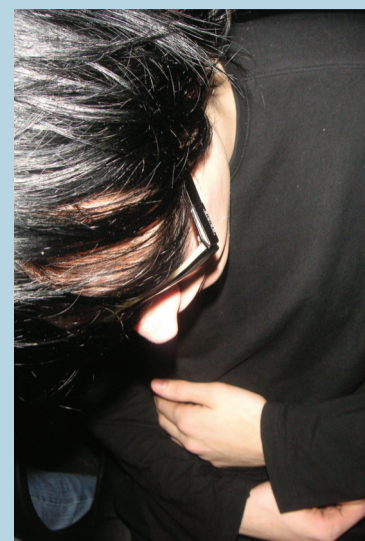
class acts for 12 jam packed hours. How can you not come now?

Also on the Main stage, yet from slightly further afield than Newport (Washington DC in fact), the incredible, Grammy winning Iranian-American House duo Deep Dish will be leading up to Goldie Lookin' Chain. A mash up of various genres into their very own deep house sound, makes Deep Dish stand out in the crowd as an original and hugely popular act. They've gone from strength to strength since their amazing debut album in 1998, a definite one to see.

As well as the non-stop music there will be other attractions throughout the day, notably a selection of white-knuckle thrill rides, dazzling displays, dancers and Karaoke if you feel the urge and/or are really drunk.

Having only mentioned a few of the world class artists performing (and very briefly at that) I feel guilty for leaving this preview of what is going to be a truly class A, 12 hours of musical madness here. All I can do is urge you to enter the competition, win the tickets and rock on down and join the party, what better way is there to end the exam season?

End of term is fast approaching, no more work? We're all doomed!



stuff as usual and great outfits, as expected.

Finally, the lovely Alex has been kind enough to document our night out to *Plastic People* to check out what replaced *And Did We Mention Our Disco*. All I can say is that the new club night *Lost* was absolutely awful, and possibly ranks as one of the worst nights I've ever had the misfortune to visit. Good work *Plastic People* in replacing a sell-out club night with something that attracted about 15 people.

Remember to enter the competition this week to win tickets for *Escape Into The Park*, if nobody does, well you can guess who will get the free tickets. Yep, my mum. Next week the competition will be tickets to *Get Loaded In The Park*. You should definitely enter for those tickets, its in London so you won't even have to move very far from college, which I assume you will all be hanging about during the holidays, considering how amazing it is here (I will be).

For upcoming reviews, a brave reviewer has volunteered to visit 5 clubs in 5 consecutive nights. I will only attach one rule to that, minimum 20 alcohol units per night. We're also still looking for more volunteers, so I'll use the rest of the space in my column to try to convince you to write things for us. Please write for us, or Conor and Michael will invade the whole of Felix! (Not that I would mind). I'm not sure I understand why I always hear complaints from people telling me how expensive the union is for drinks, when I offer them free drinks they refuse!

Greg Mead
Nightlife Editor

Considering I have exams tomorrow, I've decided to spend the time I have left for revision making a two page spread for *Felix*. Oh well.

This week we've got a super special competition giveaway for two tickets to the biggest dance music festival in the UK, *Escape Into The Park* in Swansea, the line-up looks pretty good, so good in fact that I may go there myself (purely for journalistic purposes) and check it out. Simon has kindly written us a preview on the event and after hours of research has created the masterpiece you can see to the left.

In other matters, Conor has written us another review. Don't you have a job or work or something? This time its of sometng a little more suited to student budgets, the *Notting Hill Arts Club* on a Norwegian invasion night, good

Upcoming festivals

Get Loaded In The Park

This year will see the second incarnation of the Clapham Common festival, boasting a line-up that most major festivals would be jealous of. Expect to see live performances by Babyshambles, Graham Coxon, 65 Days of Static plus many more bands on the main stages, as well as DJ sets by the likes of Kraftwerk, Erol Alkan and Tiga in the dance tent hosted by Bugged Out. Look out for next weeks *Felix Nightlife* for a preview and chances to win tickets.

Latitude Festival

Mean Fiddler group are treating us this summer to a new festival, expect to see Mogwai, Snow Patrol and many others on the lineup, for what looks to be a fun packed weekend in Suffolk.

Think you can write reviews ?

Felix Nightlife is looking for reviewers to check out nightclubs, bars and other special events throughout London.

If you want free entry and drinks, email in with any ideas.



coffee break

with David Hasselhoff

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A bucketful of Fake Tan

...and a drawer full of lube. The end of the Hoff-era draws near. Enjoy.

David Hasselhoff's Hairy Chest

He drinks like a fish and he smells like a skip, but for some strange reason, the ladies love him and the boys want to touch him. It's time for some inspirational words from The Man.

Hello Students. It's been a while since we've spoke, what with the new girl Buttercup fagging up the office. The place no longer has my familiar musky smell, thanks to the half-a-dozen Glade Plug-ins that she's whacked into every available socket. The place couldn't possibly be any more summery or meadowy.

I've also been busy with some of my extra-curricular activities. Some of you may have befriended me on that Facebook thing. I have to say it's pretty disappointing that the majority of people are blokes trying to claim 'we hooked up'.

Facebook is more homo-erotic than spending a weekend camping with the Rugby team. I dread to think how many of you are getting off on these very words, clutching the paper in your sweaty hands, as you enjoy a private moment with Felix. It makes a change from the amount of people who use Page 3 for their wank-bank. Surely there comes a point when you must realise that there is something wrong with you and surely that point comes when your wastepaper bin is full of 'used' copies of Felix and you catch sight of yourself in the mirror,

limp, drained, and with ink stains around your rapidly fading Johnson. With so many of you getting off on the thought of my manly hairy chest, and so many of you getting off on the hairy chests on Page 3, I'm beginning to notice a theme. Some of you are seriously repressed. Many times I have pondered on the state of Imperial Boys whilst plowing away on whichever tart I happen to be poking at that time (It helps me last longer to think of you lot). Maybe you aren't so useless with women after all. Maybe the real reason is that you are all Gay. Now listen, I am perfectly fine with you being homosexual. I'm a modern guy. I mean look at me, look at my fine curly hair, I am clearly in touch with

my feminine side. It could be argued that I was the first Metrosexual. Anyway, the more of you that are gay, the more minge there is for the rest of us. Anything that makes it easy for me to get my end away is okay by me.

It shouldn't really come as surprise to you all. As well as myself, there's The Rector, who is clearly a Gay Icon. Just look into those eyes and swoon, fellas! London also has a thriving scene, and in fact, I'm beginning to think there are plenty of advantages to being Gay At Imperial.

For a start, you no longer have to do all this needle in a haystack bullshit with trying to find a decent bit of fanny. You can't go anywhere without bumping into a bit of cock. You no

longer have to pretend to understand football. Girls also tend to be more comfortable with Lance The Modern Man than they are with Dave The Muff Master. I think it's time to bring this column to a close. If you've got any comments then just use the regular email address. I promise to read them all. And then laugh and delete them of course.

And then laugh and delete them of course.

And then laugh and delete them of course.



Massive FUCWIT Update

If you've been reading Coffee Break all year, and let's face it, you should have – then you'll be aware of our FUCWIT competition. Here's what we'll be giving away.



1st



2nd



3rd



1-5



6-15

The winners will be receiving this lovely Chocolate Fountain, guaranteed to send the ladies of the Computing department all-a-quiver.

Second prize is this cool looking laser game - if you shoot your opponent, they get a genuine shock. Not suitable for pregnant women or pussies.

A chance to relive your youth if you come third - you could win this lovely Space Hopper. It's good for exercise, and you need some, tubby.

The top five teams all receive a crate of beer. Why not enjoy it German-style and get yourself leder-hosened up, just like these chaps?

The next ten teams all get a small pack of beer. This is more suited to the lightweights amongst you. Maybe you could share it with your nan?

Important!

As you may or may not be aware, there are only two issues left this year, after this one. The Hoff's time is coming to a close now, and with it the FUCWIT competition. Next week will be the last FUCWIT thing, and as such, it's a special one. Pay attention:

Next week is a treasure hunt of sorts. We'll explain it in more detail in next weeks Felix - but there's a few things you'll need to know. You can only enter on Thursday and Friday as we'll need to the weekend to sort out the prizes and stuff. This means you need to be quick! We're going to need you to prove that you've found these things by taking a photo of yourself with them, so you'll also need a camera. Just a phone one will do though.

If you're pretty low in the table this is your chance to catch up, as we'll be giving away loads of points.

Answers

They might be late, but here you go:

1344

Dazed And Confused

The combinations were:

1. Prospects, Snakebite, Pammy, Pull
2. Kings, Meths, Noel, Nude
3. Kavs, Furry, Erik, Vomit
4. Cheaps, Doubles, Mr T, Fight

Name That Film

1. Magnolia
2. Million Dollar Baby
3. Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
4. Monty Python and the Holy Grail
5. The Godfather
6. King Kong
7. Robocop
8. Coyote Ugly

1345

The Circle Line Pub Crawl

1. Imperial
2. River Westbourne
3. Queen Victoria

4. 8 Royal Parks
5. City of Westminster
6. Hungerford Bridge
7. Shares a name
8. Black habits of local friars
9. Five vowels
10. Measure Distances
11. Distance to start of Great Fire
12. Tower of London
13. Local Gate
14. CIA Safehouse above it
15. 1975
16. Aldersgate
17. Smithfields Market
18. Saint of Children
19. UCL
20. Not on any maps
21. It's the biggest
22. Terrorists!
23. Peru
24. Around 155 years
25. Richard Curtis
26. Hide it from the Nazis
27. Imperial College

1350

Cock Or What

1. Gay

2. Girl
3. Gay
4. Gay
5. Lesbian
6. Gay
7. Lesbian

1351

Girl Power Is Whack

1. Luton or Belgium
2. Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Sweden
3. GBH is naughtier
4. Call an electrician
5. Linda Lovelace
6. Ferrari
7. 1947

1353

The Ultimate Chowdown

1. Food
2. Food
3. Vomit
4. Vomit
5. Food
6. Food

FUCWIT League 2005-2006

Darkshines	325
Cupid Stunts	311
Cockroach On Coke	304
Me, Myself & John Sargent	292
The Fantastic Four	225
Forever Throwing Doubles	178
Insert Name Here	176
Norfolk 'n' Chance	142
Bernard Scumley Porno Queen	109
Barbie's Castle	70
The Schist Ones	69
Paul and Jen	64
Wolverines	40
Disgruntled Virgin	24
Caledonian Conspiracy	23
House of Earthly Delights	23
Citizen Erased	15

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

at the union

june 1st - 9th

▶ **Wednesday 7th**

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

▶ **Friday 2nd**

MARDI GRAS!
PARTY

chill out in the quad
 &
Bar Shisha

 & DRAFT MIXER
£1.25 in 

20.00 - 02.00
 Free entry before 22.00, £1 after

▶ **Thursday 1st**

Oculo Garden at dB
 featuring.....

The Bad Robots
Lynch Rider Lulu
Poppö and the Seeds

▶ **Friday 9th**

Jazz & ROCK

Carlsberg, Tetley's & Blackthorn only
£1.25 a pint

World Cup Opening Ceremony
 Germany v Costa Rica
 Poland v Ecuador

▶ **Also on this fortnight**

- Thu 1st June** Imperial Goes to Movement
- Sat 3rd June 14:00** Da Vinci's - Live Football - England v Jamaica
- Mon 5th June** Rugby Bar Night
- Thu 8th June** Jazz Big Band

▶ **Coming Up This Term**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

SUMMER BALL

June 17th 2006

Dear Miss Confidentiality...

agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hey guys, I'm about, and as helpful as ever. Star letter gets a pair of film tickets 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

Feeling Relegation...

Dear Miss C,
I'm a guy who really appreciates beauty. Girls are awesome, but I'm having trouble finding one. The thing is that I kinda have high standards, which means that girls I'm interested in are probably out of my league, and the few that would have me, well, they just don't do it for me. Does this mean that I'm destined to be lonely for all eternity?
Cell Ektiv

Dear Cell Ektiv,
Unfortunately there is just no getting around the problem of who you do and don't fancy. Many people will turn around and say that there is no such thing as a 'league' but to them I say denial. There are always exceptions, although when you look at the celebrity list the exceptions are normally gold diggers. We all know how a spark is needed for a relationship to get started, but beauty can sometimes only be skin deep. The solution here would be to broaden your outlook and not

always be so quick to reject. Now, I can't pretend to be a psychic (I'll leave that to Mystic Stars), but I doubt that your penchant for beautiful women is going to cause you to end up all alone. If you're really that worried though, aim to get rich quick. Then you'll have loads of flashy girls running around after you, but they'll only want you for your money and they'll either be dumb as can be or scarily conniving. Just take it slowly, I mean you're

"Subtlety is the key here.... try tripping him up"

still in uni. Yes I have heard about the 10% who meet their future partner at uni, but do you really think those stats apply to IC? It's not a normal university now, is it? Just enjoy your youth, and when you least expect it sparks will fly. Maybe she'll be gorgeous, who knows.

Relight my fire!

Dear Miss C
3 months ago a guy in my class came up to me in the JCR during the lunch break. As I didn't really know him, I stopped the chat in less than 2 min and left him sitting on the sofa alone. After that I felt guilty, especially when my friend told me that this guy is extremely shy and that it is impossible for him to talk to a girl. Like a spy I tried to catch the moment when he works, he smiles, etc. Now I think I am in love with him. How ironic! Every time he walks past me, it's like there's gold on the floor; he never looks up. I tried to join his friends circle, but no luck. I seriously cannot think of any other ways. Help!
ShySassySillyGirl

Dear ShySassySillyGirl,
As much as I want to berate you for your silliness I find myself in the awkward position of complete and utter sympathy. We have all been there, but first things first you need to get over this. Ok, you made a mistake, some random guy came up to you and you cut him down. So what? Who wouldn't? Do you only like him because you think that he likes you? The problem there

though is how do you know whether he still likes you? You need to break the ice, become his friend first. Act as though you don't really fancy him. Sit next to him in the computer room, pretend you're computer leper and need help. Subtlety is the key here. Try tripping him up, and then whilst apologising, confess all. Or next time you go out clubbing, dance around him topless. I mean come on, if that doesn't get his attention what will? If all else fails I suggest you just go and talk to him, something he probably won't expect. Don't forget: honesty is the best policy.

Head on?

To Miss C,
I'm not complaining, but my new girlfriend loves giving me head. She cannot get enough of it. Now, I really can't claim to have much experience in these matters, and I don't think it's bad in any way, but I've certainly never come across this before. Is this normal?! Do most girls enjoy it quite as much as she does?! I have no problem returning the favour but I definitely don't take quite as much pleasure from it as she does.
Mr. Grateful

Dear Mr. Grateful,
Now why do I have the feeling that you're sitting in the JCR surrounded by your group of bloke mates who are praising you and worship-

"Women are great at acting and men are crap at realising"

ping the ground that you walk on? Talk about gratuitous praise. If your girlfriend enjoys giving you head so much, why are you questioning it? Ever heard of tempting fate a bit too much? Don't forget women are pretty good at acting, and you're probably not great at seeing right through her faking! Hint: this might not be all that she's faking, ever seen When Harry met Sally? If I were you I'd stop analysing the situation and enjoy it while you can. Like you said, you've never come across this before and you'll probably never come across it again!

Mystic stars

Scorpio (Oct 23rd - Nov 21st)



Got love on the mind? Well it's not hard to see why. Distractions of every sort, though, are disastrous this week. Stay focused on work for a few more days then you can let your hair down.

Sagittarius (Nov 22nd - Dec 21st)



Spring fever has arrived and your symptoms are worse than most. Hang on in there and all will be fine, and you'll have a great new relationship to show for it.

Capricorn (Dec 22nd - Jan 19th)



Although times past haven't been fruitful, the cosmic forces show the only way to fulfil high demands is to keep aiming high.

Aquarius (Jan 20th - Feb 18th)



Unfortunately this week, several jealous looks will knock your confidence. Stand up for yourself and be prepared, for the worst is yet to come.

Pisces (Feb 19th - Mar 20th)



Uranus will be dominating your life for the next week, and will teach you to relax more and become less calculating in love decisions. Follow your heart.

Aries (Mar 21st - Apr 20th)



You, an emotional cripple?! Ha ha, well this week you will prove others wrong when you are the last one standing after you suffer some emotional turbulence in your closest friendships.

Taurus (Apr 21st - May 21st)



We all know that cats have 9 lives, but since when are bulls immortal? Overconfidence will be your downfall. The clock is ticking and your luck is beginning to run out.

Gemini (May 22nd - Jun 21st)



The time has come to air your grievances to those around you. In doing so you will go into June feeling like the worries of the world have been lifted from your shoulders.

Cancer (Jun 22nd - Jul 22nd)



It doesn't always benefit you to depend upon the kindness of strangers, but then again, since when do you do what makes sense?

Leo (Jul 23rd - Aug 22nd)



You will do well to maintain your distance from loved ones this week. In doing so you may find new ways to keep a partner keen.

Virgo (Aug 23rd - Sep 22nd)



Ok, it didn't work out. Too bad! Stop beating yourself up. It could have happened to anyone. Everything depends on how you respond now. Think before you act.

Libra (Sept 23rd - Oct 22nd)

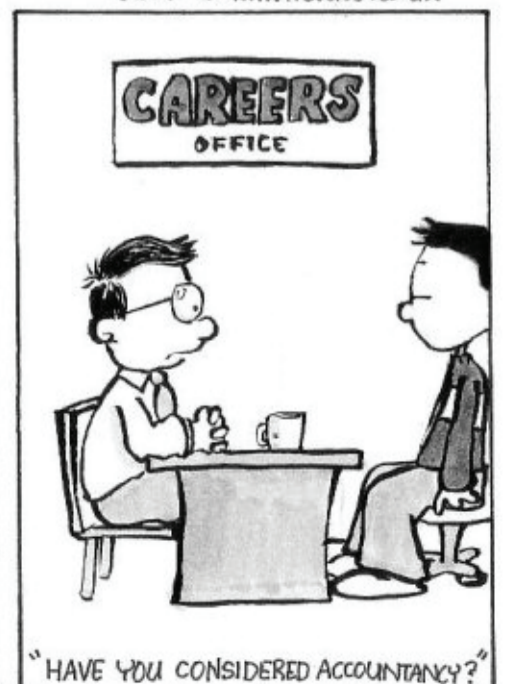


You are conservative, don't do much of anything, and are considered lazy. You should avoid standing still for long periods of time as you tend to attract pigeons.

ADLIB BY TEVONG YOU



JIHAD TO WWW.TEVONG.CO.UK





John Sargent

Formula sheets for a tenner, anyone?

Unless you've been under a rock for the past couple of weeks, you are likely to have had a leaflet for Oxbridge Essays shoved in your face as you walked around the South Kensington campus. And for those that have skipped the front page story last week and went straight for the rugby boys naked centrefold, all is forgiven: I'm here once again to entertain and inform.

Oxbridge Essays is a company whose idea is simple and brilliant: get students at Oxbridge to write your essays for you, charge extraordinary amounts of money, pay the Oxbridge student a happy amount so they have money to spend on Pepsi and Sprite when they're in need of a tipple at the Advanced Algebra Society meeting on Saturday night, and pocket the rest of the money.

My initial reaction as I read the flier in a boring lecture was probably the same as the rest of the student population at Imperial: "Oxford and Cambridge..." followed by a few choice words which I've been told by the editor I'm not allowed to repeat. Upon closer inspection, however, it appears that Oxbridge may not be as guilty as they first appear.

The company is actually owned by a student at

Birmingham University and his brother at King's College. The former was recently cleared of bringing his university into disrepute because 'what Oxbridge Essays does is entirely legal'. Okay, they have a sentence on the website stating that nobody should hand the essays in as their own work – but I go on the assumption that people buy these essays to plagiarise. If anybody reading this thinks that someone would pay £1,440 for a 3000 word undergraduate essay to an upper first standard and not hand it in, please write in to *Felix* and state your opinion clearly, so I can send off your complimentary tin foil hat.

So why is the company so successful in the first place? It's reasonable to assume they must be, since they keep recruiting more and more Oxbridge students to write things for strangers. However, who in their right mind would pay that much for someone else to write what you could probably do just as well yourself? And don't forget, the Rector has made it perfectly clear that anyone caught buying and using these essays will be expelled, which is more than fair. After all, if that's the best thing you can think of to spend your money on, I'm more than happy to advise.

Ironically, they even offer services writing

Oxbridge entrance essays to people wanting to get in, which means that in a few years' time, the people writing them for you might not even be good enough to write their own.

Assuming an undergraduate studies a four year Master's course at the Imperial international rate averaging £15,000ish a year, that amounts to about 60 "guaranteed first" fast delivery essays. The last time I checked, Imperial's standards haven't dropped low enough that handing in fifteen not-even-upper-second essays a year (while simultaneously flopping your exams) is enough to get you a degree. So who is actually silly enough to believe that plagiarising ten good essays, which could cost the same as a nice new car, is going to get you anywhere closer to success in the real world? Someone must, because the company is making money – answers on a postcard.

I was considering grouping together enough money to buy a 6,000 word dissertation about why Imperial kicks Oxbridge into the middle of next week. However, since my wallet can't support that, I'm contemplating setting up my own company: Imperial Essays, and I'll happily write your lab report for you for a measly £500, which is a bargain. I'll even throw in a tin foil hat.



Alon Or-bach

Gorgeous George's moral maze

No – this isn't a TV programme (yet). Last week, George Galloway said it would be "morally justified" if a suicide bomber were to kill Tony Blair, just stopping short of calling for the assassination himself. But he was not quite so clear-cut when asked whether he would alert the authorities if he knew of such a scheme. He remarked what a "moral maze" that quandary was before explaining how he would report an assassination plot – not because that's the law but because he feared the murder would cause an islamophobic backlash.

I'm happy to admit I'm not a fan of George's, but I've never had any sleepless nights thinking about whether or not to report anyone conspiring to murder. Even if you did follow Galloway's logic that by ordering our armed forces into action, Blair is responsible for the deaths at their hands, it still does not follow that his death is in any way justifiable. Britain thankfully does not have the death penalty. By that sort of reasoning, vigilante retribution can be argued to be morally just. Fortunately, that's not the case in our society.

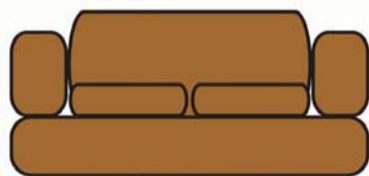
But it is far from clear whether Galloway's antics are motivated in the defence of Muslims

or by his fierce opposition to America. Over the years, he's been willing to fly as far as needs be to make acquaintance with dictator after dictator, so long as they're hostile towards the United States. After the first Gulf War, Galloway flew out to salute Saddam Hussein's courage, strength, and indefatigability. Last year, Syrian president Bashar al-Assad received Galloway's praise only months after the assassination of the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafik Hariri, whose death many believe to have been at the hands of the Syrian regime. But beyond that, Galloway supported the USSR, saying that the "disappearance of [his] life". More recently, he opposed the military action against Serbia which stopped the mass murder of Kosovan Muslims. And now, Castro is the latest to get Galloway's praise, being referred to as his "the living person he most admires".

Galloway aside, populist politics is rife in Respect. Back when Yvonne Ridley visited Imperial, she boasted how Respect's candidates were "a rich multicultural mix of people". But it doesn't quite seem that way now in Tower Hamlets. Of Respect's twelve councillors, all

twelve are Bengali. The fallout of their campaigning tactics has resulted in voting on racial grounds. In some wards where only one or two Respect councillors were elected, it was the Khans, Begums and Munims that were elected – not the Townsends and Empsons that stood for Respect. The likely cause of this is people only voting for the Bengali candidates – a very worrying sign of divisions on ethnic and religious grounds.

The far-left is keen to take on racism and populism from the BNP and other far-right parties. But when the effects of racial tensions and religious divisions are evident in their own back yard, Respect has decided to capitalise on it rather than confront it. If that's not the intention, the effect of campaigning that splits the community is devastating and hard to undo. Their strategy to focus on anti-war campaigning and targeting areas with a high Bengali populations may be paying off electorally. But when the dust has settled, such tactics leave a polarised populace, with the danger of those who feel disenfranchised voting for the far-right. It's time Respect showed a little more respect to the communities they now represent.



Brown Couch

Semaphore Sam

This week the Brown Couch looks at student cheating. It was reported last week that essays written by Oxbridge students were available to buy online from upward of £500. The Brown Couch has investigated other internet-based exam services such as Stan's Exams (www.stansexams.com). Owned by Stan Kalowski, once a cleaner at Imperial, the company's main service is "Precision Revision" – in which students pay upward of £200 an hour for one of Stan's employees (known in the trade as a "Knowledge Man") to do revision on their behalf. During the session, the Knowledge Man tackles the difficult revision work facing the student. We spoke to Ralph, a 2nd year chemistry student and one of Stan's current clients. "I've been working a lot with Montgomery – an expert Polymath and Classicist. When he's doing my work, I generally lounge around on Queen's Lawn or traipse around campus. I worked with him a bit in the first year but I didn't do very well in my exams. This year I've been working a lot more with him but despite that, my first exam was last week and I still found it really hard – nigh impossible."

For students with more money to spend, they can purchase the "Executive Exam Plan". Students spend the month leading up to the exams involved in Precision Revision with Sir DeVille Saint-Clare – the highest ranking Knowledge Man in the business. When the exams arrive, Sir DeVille uses a faked swipe-card to legitimately sit all the exams in the student's name. We spoke to Sir DeVille at his London residence.

With a grey handle-bar moustache, chained-monocle and diamond cane, he looks every bit the academic Hercules you'd expect. "I started as a knowledge man in the 1950s after obtaining my 3rd undergraduate degree and 5th PhD – all from Cambridge. My work used to take me on excursions all around the globe – I've sat exams on behalf of the Prince Regent of Papua New Guinea as well as Mao Tse-tung's nephew."

Sir DeVille speaks 19 languages and is acknowledged as a world leader in almost all fields. He moved to Stan's Exams in 2000 to reduce his workload at the start of his retirement. When asked if there'd ever been any problems with ID checks when sitting exams, he just chuckled. "Things were a lot easier 40 years ago. Fashions have changed and I think that now I look a little out of place in my full evening suit [with tails, a cummerbund and silk gloves]. My slow, sloping cursive script and Latin colloquialisms also looks slightly arcane nowadays. Technology is also making things more difficult. During the last exam I sat, the barcode on my fake swipe card was scanned. When it registered an error, I had to charm the exam invigilator to take a lenient attitude." Our final question was to ask how much Sir DeVille charges for his extraordinary services. He just looked us up and down and laughed.

Many students are too poor to afford the services offered by Stan's Exams – they have to rely on more primitive methods. According to a report to be published in the Times tomorrow, the two most common exam cheating methods used by

Imperial students are "Toilet Breaks" and "Non-linguistic Communication". The "Non-linguistic Communication" method mentioned in the report details attempts made by students to use Morse code, binary code and semaphore to pass answers and information around the exam room. Common signalling methods include coughing, table-tapping and tribal tongue-clicking. One attempt was made to use the specialist Hamley's teddy-bear "Semaphore Sam" to communicate circuit diagrams in an electronic engineering exam. The bears were brought into the exam under the guise of mascots, but the alarm was raised when an invigilator and part-time Navy reservist watched the four-inch flags and correctly decoded the message.

Not all cheating, however, is deliberate. Millstone Water, a Scottish based soft-drinks firm has released a new brand of water called "Liquid Learning". The bottle label is packed with scientific formulae, historical dates and passages from great works of literature. Intended as a revision aid, the new product has caused many students to be removed from exams and expelled from their courses for "possessing prohibited academic material during the exam sessions". Millstone Water is rethinking its product strategy and considering withdrawing its "Revision-aid Lemonade". This has not stopped other manufacturers jumping on the revision-aid bandwagon with the appearance of the Maths Mars bar, Smart Smarties, cheesy corn-based snack "Swotsits" and the difficult to read Cadbury's Crème Egg-heads.



felix

No 1354
Thursday
6 June 2006
felix@imperial.ac.uk

// This is the third lapse in security Felix has uncovered this year //

Biomedical Sciences closures

Felix and, more importantly, the staff concerned remain totally unaware what the future holds for Biomedical Sciences at Imperial.

When we asked College to provide us with full details of the planned closures and job cuts, we were only told that College "are protecting the teaching...students and facilities will not be affected". There was no mention as to the job security of those employed in the BMS division. Felix is the students' newspaper, but it is read by most staff members at Imperial.

We understand the staff will be informed of the decision today. Felix hopes that College has the sense to treat its employees with the respect they deserve.

Lax security in College, again

Despite College focusing heavily on security concerns, notably October's dress code, this is the third lapse in security Felix has uncovered this year.

On most occasions we gained access to forbidden areas by simply tailgating others through restricted doors. Staff and students need to be aware of those around them and not hold doors open for people they don't know.

Even though we may not have accessed any highly classified areas, it still brings into question the security of this campus. Given a bit more time and effort, we are sure we could have gained access to even more restricted areas.

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

Make your point while you still can. Only 2 issues left.

Letters to the editor

The author of the Star Letter received each week wins £10



Star Letter

Chicken skewers

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my outrage at the new food vending machines that were recently placed in the JCR. Just today I purchased "Chicken Skewers" and found that they were unsatisfactory in every way. I have a number of points that I want to make about the system and the food themselves.

1. The Cost - The the chicken skewers cost £2 which is quite expensive under any circumstance however especially when they are compared with the £1.76 baguettes offered by the Tiki Café.

2. When I actually purchased the food they got stuck in the machine and to enable them to be removed the box was squashed beyond repair. This is not an irregular occurrence as I have seen on a number of occasions the same thing happening with the machines.

3. I then chose to have them heated. Following the instructions I placed them in the microwave and pressed start. Indeed a quick 30 seconds later I removed the food. This was where the real problems started.

a. The box had started too disintegrated.

b. Then I opened the box and to my dismay I found 3 "tiny" pieces of chicken. The combined weight of which could not have been more than the weight of the money I paid

for them.

c. The appearance of the chicken was nothing that would inspire you to eat it - in fact it wouldn't be wrong to say that it was just revolting.

d. Then to top it all the food wasn't even what could be considered remotely warm.

e. When I actually tried some of the chicken it was horrible and had no flavour, the best part was the sauce provided.

I tried this food to see what I thought I would be eating come exam time as it has been tipped as being the food available 24 hours a day during the exams. If I had an exam any time soon I would have been very hesitant to even think about eating it due to any possible medical repercussions. I do think that the idea was good however I just feel that the action undertaken was very poor and something needs to be done.

Edward Judge

Please & thank you go a long way

Dear Felix,

Forgive me for being a nag but I just find it amazing and unbelievable how rude people can be when they don't say "please" or "thank you". I found this quite a trend when I was helping out with Medical OSCE exams recently, where not one even said "please" or "thank you" to the helper who was going to hand them the needles and gloves. Furthermore, when lending pens, I find them handed back to me without a word of appreciation. I am quite compelled to stop being generous when I don't hear a

word of please.

You'll find it quite amazing how a little appreciation for our fellow students can go a long way and make everyone's day so much better, considering its rarity nowadays.

yours,

Ava
1st Year Medical Student

Public transport horror

Dear Felix,

Why is public transport so bad? My parents live in a hilly little place not so far from Manchester. Ordinarily I would get the wonderful Virgin pendolino train from Euston (which makes me feel less bad about the price of the ticket), but the main line was closed this weekend, to my dismay. The National Rail website told me to get a train to Nottingham (or Sheffield) from St. Pancras. This doubled my journey time from a bearable 2 hours to more than 4.

The last step of the journey involved me using (gasp) a bus. Growing up in Saddleworth has prepared me well for the terrible bus service, but it has since worsened. It takes another two hours to travel the 12 miles from Manchester, and these buses run just once an hour.

Returning to London always makes me think how much better things are here, and it amazes me that the government (initially) refused funding for Manchester's Metrolink. I wonder whether the people sitting in Westminster know what lies beyond the limits of Greater London.

Daniel



Only a pair of issues left!

Imperial College's Centenary

1907 – 2007

Sameena Misbahuddin
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Next year sees Imperial College celebrate its 100th birthday – activities are already being planned and will be starting next academic year, running through until the end of 2007. In 2007 the College will be celebrating its achievements so far and looking forward to the future.

The last 100 years

8 July 2007 is the College's 100th birthday and the date commemorates "100 years of living science" since the drawing together of the three 19th century constituent Colleges – the Royal School of Mines, the Royal College of Science and the City and Guilds College – to form Imperial College.

The last hundred years has seen the College expand from a science college of 600 students (and no females!) to 11,500 students, teaching Engineering, Medicine, Science, Technology and Business, with 8 campuses across London and the South East.

The Future

With Imperial leaving the University of London, the College will become a university in its own right. Coupled with an ambitious redevelopment, Imperial has an exciting future ahead.

Centenary Campaign

As part of the Centenary celebrations, there is a massive fund raising campaign being run by College. It aims to raise funds for a number of flagship projects, including the Union Building redevelopment, Centenary Scholarships for students, redevelopment of the Library, redevelopments at the Hammersmith campus, new buildings on Exhibition Road, Envision 2010 (Engineering) and a Centre for Risk Management at the Business School.

The College's Office of Alumni & Development is leading the fund raising campaign and is planning a number of fund raising events at the College as well as internationally to raise awareness of Imperial's celebrations.

Union Building

The Union Building has been adopted as one of the Centenary projects demonstrating its importance to the College and meaning that part of the fund raising campaign will be for it. Together with the £1.2 million College have put into the project already, and the £1.1 million from the Union, the fund raising campaign will seek to find the rest of the money required along with help from College.

As part of the campaign, Trevor Phillips, the UK Government's Commissioner for Racial Equality and an ex-President of the Union, came on board this Easter as an ambassador for the Union's fund

"Some of the best moments in my life happened in and around the Beit Quad and in the Union Building – from becoming President of the Union, to my first brush with the media.. to learning how to drink a yard of ale, through to stuff that no-one but me and the others involved need to know about. The redevelopment won't just be an asset to the College. It will be essential to both preserving and updating the best in student life".

Trevor Phillips OBE



What will happen during the Centenary?

During the year there will be lots of events going on including Guest Lectures, Exhibitions, birthday celebrations and the opening of a number of College developments, including the new Southside Halls of Residence. Student events will be incorporated, such as the New Year's parade to kick off the centenary year in style. An events programme will be published in the Autumn of 2006 and will be available to all students.

There will also be memorabilia available to celebrate the year, available in the Union Shop and online, as well as a celebratory DVD and a book mapping the history of the College by Dr Hannah Gay.

A free gift will also be given to all students as a memorabilia of this special occasion for students.

**Imperial College
London**



How Alumni can get involved

As part of the College's centenary campaign, alumni will be asked to consider making a gift to one of three areas: student support, the library and the Imperial College Union refurbishment. Donations from alumni, staff and friends are extremely important to the College and it's encouraging to see the increase in support each year. Over the last three years, more than 1,500 alumni have made more than 4,000 gifts amounting to over £325,000 to the Student Opportunities Fund, a College-wide scholarship fund designed to support students who may not otherwise be able to afford to take up their course at Imperial.

For more information about any of the College's fund raising activities, please contact the office of Alumni and Development (supporting@imperial.ac.uk).

▶ How YOU or your CLUB or SOCIETY can get involved

Thanks to those who have already given ideas for events and memorabilia, many of which have been incorporated into plans by the Centenary Project Team.

If your Club or Society will be having an event next year which you'd like to incorporate in the College's 100th birthday celebrations or in the fund raising for the student projects, contact centenary@imperial.ac.uk and president@imperial.ac.uk.

Centenary events will be publicised through the Centenary website, which will be launched later this term, and you will be able to use the newly developed Centenary logo and strap line **you may even get the Rector and other famous college alumni giving the opening speech at your event!**

Further information about holding centenary events will be published on the centenary website shortly.

100 years of living science

100

What's going up & what's coming down across campus

Sameena Misbahuddin
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

With scaffolding coming up & down all around the campus, here's a summary of some College building projects that are in the pipeline

Southside & Prince's Gardens

This £51 million project was delayed for a number of years because of planning permission problems due to the old building's national heritage status.

The current state of this project is clearly visible for all to see, with the old Southside halls of residences having been demolished and construction underway for 3 new halls, which will provide 420 bed spaces. The building will also house the College's medical centre, which will be larger than it was previously, as well as social space that can be used by all Imperial students.

The project is due for completion by October 2007, ready for incoming students of that year to be its first residents. The Gardens in front of the halls are being developed and are hoped to be open for the end of 2006.

Students have been involved since the design stage of this project. If you have any further questions, contact Sarah Khatib, Deputy President (Education & Welfare) dpew@imperial.ac.uk who is the rep for this project.

Central Library

As discussed in an earlier Union page, work on the Library will be happening over the next few years, starting this summer. The project will improve the working conditions in the Library, provide more study space and allow for the relocation of the Humanities department. However during the construction period some resources will be relocated.

For more information see <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/library>

Sherfield Building

The long term intention is to completely redevelop the building including the catering areas - JCR, MDH and their kitchens - and to create one area for all the student oriented services such as the Registry and Accommodation Office. Other space on the upper floors will continue to be used for administrative services such as the Estates department and relocation of ICT. In order to create additional space the intention is to fill in the light-wells within the centre of the building.

Though plans are not completely concrete for the first phase of development, the initial plan is to refurbish the 3rd floor and to fill the light-well in the 4th and 5th floor to create the additional space. It's hoped that the work will start in the autumn although the funds for the project have yet to be agreed. Plans are also underway for a much needed revitalisation of the JCR and will start when funding is secured and occur during the undergraduate vacation times.

As the Sherfield Building plans will not be finalised until next month, please look out for more details about when work will start and what areas will be affected.

Exhibition Road

With Tanaka in 2003, the next plan is to complete the Exhibition Road area of campus with a modern redeveloped building housing both Mech Eng & Aeronautics and replacing those currently there. Initial designs are underway with the architects to be chosen soon. Building work is not expected to start until after the Centenary year.

Huxley

The Huxley building is coming to the end of its life and within the next 10 years is due to be demolished and a replacement built. This project is quite far off, but in the meantime £1million investment will be made to the building to maintain it during this time.

Burlington Danes

This £54 million building is part of a large-scale research investment on the Hammersmith Hospital Campus and is in its final stage, due to be completed this year. Funding for this project came from Imperial College, GlaxoSmithKline and Medical Research Council.

Bessemer

The £22million construction work has provided new teaching facilities and research facilities, and will house the Institute of Biomedical Engineering, Bio Nanotechnology Centre and Bio Incubator Unit. Most of this first phase is in its finishing stages as can be seen from Dalby Court, though the 2nd phase of works is scheduled to start soon.

Maths Institute

Located in 53 Princes Gate, the institute is now open and occupied and provides offices for academic staff and research students. The Institute was part funded by David Potter, founder and chairman of Psion and an alumnus of the College and is due to be officially opened in the next few months.

Queen's Lawn

Due to the number of projects, the need to decant to portacabins temporarily is high. But now College have confirmed that they won't be using the lawn !!

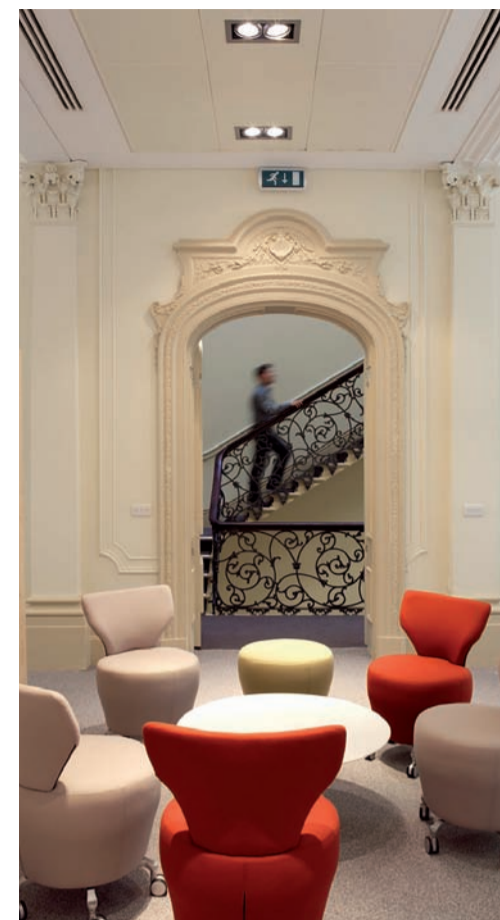
Union Building, Beit Quad

For this building development you've received a lot information through the Union and detailed info is available at <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk>. Building work is scheduled to start this June.

For most Building projects around Campus, a student representative is invited to sit on its User Group & Project Group to ensure that the students' needs are not forgotten about. These groups start when the project is confirmed and is going ahead and the Student Reps report back to the relevant Union committee or through Union communications as and when significant progress is made in the project. Alternatively the relevant Clubs or Student Reps are contacted, who are involved as the end users of the buildings, for example, for the design of the new Southside Halls Sub-wardens and Re-apps were called upon.

Though approximate timelines are given, due to the sheer scale and complexity of these building projects and their dependency on numerous factors - money, planning permission, construction problems to name but a few - the status of projects are often changing or delayed and individual projects often take years from initial conception to the final opening of the building - Southside Halls is a good example.

For further information about these projects and others, see College website <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/estates> or email n.buck@imperial.ac.uk. Alternatively email me on president@imperial.ac.uk.



Maths Institute Interior



Maths Institute Exterior



Southside Demolition

Elections Results



Results were announced last Thursday for the remaining Sabbatical position and the RAG, CAG & Council Chair positions. Thank you to all those who voted. We had twice as many voters as in previous Summer term elections. This year saw the closest Sabbatical election results, with only 14 votes between the Deputy President (Finance & Services) candidates Edmund Hunt and the winner Jon Matthews.

Congratulations to the winners:

Jon Matthews - Deputy President (Finance & Services)
Steve Brown - R.A.G. Chair
Danny McGuinness - Council Chair
Radha Gadhok - C.A.G. Chair
Winners will take their posts on August 1st.

Thank you to all those who voted.



Club & Society Training

This year the training programme has been expanded to 8 sections, with different sessions tailored to people who do different roles within clubs.

Anyone can attend any of the sessions, but some are compulsory for certain officers. Every club officer should attend a Union Introduction session. There are lots of sessions running at different times of the day until the end of term, so everyone should find a time which suits them. Dates of sessions are at www.union.ic.ac.uk/node/290 and you should book onto a session through the the Student Activity Centre casa@imperial.ac.uk.

Summary of the training sessions:

Union Introduction

A general introduction into the purpose of the Union and the way it's run. It will introduce key senior officers and members of staff and make you aware of the main services and facilities available to clubs through the Union. It will also summarise what training is being provided and who it is targeted at. All incoming club officers should attend.

Principal Officers

This is compulsory for the principal officers – Chair, President, Club Captain etc. of your club. The course will explore the specific duties of being a principal officer and the actions such officers are responsible for ensuring happen, particularly in terms of safety and administration. The effective governance of your club will be discussed, as will your part in the governance of ICU.

Finance

This is compulsory for the Chair, President, Club Captain and Treasurer of your club. It explores the responsibilities of these officers with respect to the

finances of the club, make you aware of the systems for processing financial transactions and systems for budgeting. The module will involve both theory and practical examples of club financial operations.

Minutes & Records

This is intended to expand upon the notes available to club secretaries and is aimed at the secretaries of large clubs which require greater levels of record keeping and minute taking.

Marketing, Promotion and Fundraising

The Marketing, Promotion & Fundraising session gives a broad overview of the best ways to promote your events and also your club in general. The session will also detail how the Union can help you with promotion and fundraising opportunities for your events. Finally the session will give you a basic look at the Union's new website and how to utilise the site's ability to promote your club and how you can sell memberships, trips and items online.

Event Planning and Organisation

Events are often a lot of fun, but if not properly organised they can cause headaches and nightmares for those involved for years to come. This session is recommended for all officers involved in planning events, whether a talk about the latest trends in railway engineering or a huge showcase party for a thousand people. It will give an overview of the key principles and stages of planning an event along with where to go for advice and support.

Sports Team Captains & Fixtures Secretaries

This compulsory for all sports team captains and fixtures secretaries – this course will explore all aspects of competitive sports fixtures and ask

“Where is the game really played?”. Participants will be equipped with the necessary knowledge to lead and administer their teams, from the notification of a fixture through to the completion of the season. The course will also discuss sporting conduct and team management and motivation – after all, winning the match is really only half of the game.

Activity Leaders

This is aimed at all those who'll be leading a club activity away from the main Imperial campuses over the next year – whether that is a sightseeing trip to Oxford or a Mountaineering trip to the Swiss Alps. The course will outline the principle steps people need to take when organising and leading trips for ICU clubs and societies, as well as providing the information for what to do when it doesn't quite go to plan. An optional extension will explore the specific considerations when leading residential activities.

Equipment

This is aimed at those clubs who own personal protective equipment (PPE) – equipment designed to sustain life and prevent accidents. It will examine the responsibilities of the clubs and of ICU in the maintenance of use of such equipment, the levels of required record keeping and highlight the assistance available. Equipment officers and anyone in the club with a responsibility for maintaining such equipment should attend.

For advice on what modules you should attend please speak to the Student Activities Centre, or email casa@imperial.ac.uk

Good luck and enjoy your training!

**TONY
READ
MY
LETTER**

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 return a completed a petition card from any of the following outlets: Union reception, DaVinci's café bar, Union Bar, Library (Haldane), SCR, JCR, MDH, Union newsagent and Union shop along the walkway. Please complete by the end of the week.

A giant replica of the letter is being passed from each of the 19 institutions to another during the campaign and will be presented to Downing street on 5th June.

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

 **Aldwych**
GROUP
Students' Unions of the Russell Group

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
From Union Reception, Union Shop & Online

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON
SUMMER BALL

DON'T FORGET!
chill out music,
BBQ & shisha in
the quad every
wednesday and
friday evening

SPORT, CLUBS & SOCIETIES

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Frisbee-tacular!

Manny Bennett

Ultimate Frisbee

Ultimate Frisbee is a game played between two teams of seven players, using one disc (more commonly known as a frisbee). Each team tries to obtain, and then maintain, possession of the disc by passing it between team-mates, so that they can score by catching the disc in the opponents' endzone. It is a non-contact sport, and players cannot run with the disc. Last Saturday KCL and Imperial's Ultimate Frisbee clubs joined forces to create the mixed team "Flump", to compete at a national mixed tournament. 36 teams travelled from across Britain to compete, and some of the best players in Europe were in action.

Basic 2 vs Flump 15 - 2

Basic stands for "Brunel and Southampton in Conjunction" – sorry to disappoint all you computer types, but it's not the language sometimes preceded by "Visual". They entered two teams into this tournament, and split their teams evenly. Both Brunel and Southampton have very strong Uni teams, and they dominated the game from the beginning. Their strong handlers were able to fire off a worrying number of dangerous break-force throws, and their zone defence was equally strong in the wind. We succeeded in breaking through once, with impressive cutting by Liza for our first score. Particular comedy moments included three pick calls (a type of obstruction foul) by Basic's JJ in our endzone, and stinging horizontal hail stones that sent substitutes sprinting for any shelter they could find.

Herd 2 vs Flump 12 - 8

After a long break, and the arrival of "Mental" Gaz, we played against Ealing's ultimate team. The game was characterised by "huck-and-D" (i.e. playing for yards, or simply hucking downwind and hoping the opposition turnover near their endzone). They caught a slight early lead, but a switch from zone-D to a straight-up force did the trick, and the game was very close for a long time. Our lack of experience of playing together showed through in the later stages, and the Herd managed to grab a couple of critical upwind points.

ABH - Flump 12 - 6

We went into this a bit too excited from the game before, and failed to adapt our style of play. The winds were gradually getting stronger (as if they weren't strong enough anyway), huck-and-D failed to work, and we turned the disc over too often close to our endzone. One highlight which has to be mentioned was Amy's first layout – she didn't managed to get the disc, but it was a valiant effort for someone who's been playing for less than two months, and who had never played a proper match before. It was the most excited I'd seen Sam all weekend!

After showering in the dodgiest showers in London we headed off to the "Dutch House" pub for the tour party. Only one other team showed-up, but the friendly staff, cheap food, cheap drink, good company, and comedy selection of late 80's and early 90's cheese made-up for it. It turns out most teams decided to go home and watch Eurovision instead.



Flump All-Stars

Discuits 2 - Flump 15 - 5

Discuits 2 were the highest-seeded team we'd play all weekend so we knew it would be tough. Though their handling wasn't special, they had a couple of very fast receivers, and

took an early 6-0 lead. We had a mini-comeback which scared Discuits, but they soon regained their composure, and put real pressure on our handlers with their junk-zone-D. The game was slightly marred by Discuits' unsportsmanlike behaviour.

We started seeded 33 out of 36, and ended 35. We didn't really mind the

shocking weather, but we did mind missing out on 2 more games because a team pulled out at the last minute, and the UK Ultimate Association decided it was more important for higher seeded-team to have a full set of games than for lower teams to have a full set of games, despite us all paying the same entry fee.

Varsity victory

Jez Green

Men's Hockey

Imperial College 1st XI 5
ICSM 1st XI 2

After a recent good run by IC 1sts their spirits were running high into their biggest match of the season. With the recent dispatch of their previous Stinky captain to foreign parts, Batty had been left in charge to ensure the Medics got a good beating. And that he did with great success. With earlier talks by Jezz saying that we were 'gonna beat them psychologically' he was obviously up for the job. The psychology worked, leaving the Medics to attempt to warm up at the Fortress for hours beforehand. Meanwhile the Imperial 1sts had the sense to arrive at the pitch just as the whistle was blown, avoiding the icy (IC) wind and barren conditions for as long as possible. IC's Batty captain arrived just seconds before pushback, having decided a casual drive to Reading and back would be the perfect warm up.

A rousing call of "1,2,3 Fortress" in the huddle obviously had the right effect, as despite having nine short corners the 'scum' could only convert one, and soon ran out of ideas when they realised their fabled drag

flicker could not put the ball past an inspired and often airborne Apu in the IC goal. If only he hadn't been so polite, always inviting them to "please come again" he may have been up for the 'Best Visual Effects' award in Hollywood next month. Even in open play the pansies couldn't force their way through the brick wall that was the IC Central defence of Date Rape and Mountie.

Confusion and panic swept through the IC ranks midway through the first half as Blue leader, Flight Lieutenant Star Wars appeared to desert his comrades mid-battle. Little did we know it was all a cunning strategy to catch the opposition unaware, as Star Wars light jumped his x-wing back into the fray, lazars blazing triumphantly as the young padawan fired home another IC goal.

The right wing attack combined Harvester with the slippery skills of Toadfish. Although some tackles from Harvester were on the agricultural side, he ploughed down the flank and sowed the seeds for the IC forwards to reap the rewards.

Toadfish in the midfield took an ill-deserved and obscene ramming from his ULU chums, but still seemed to be having a whale of a time schooling the scum on how to drag-flick. Perhaps it was something Date Rape slipped into the oppo's half-time drinks but he certainly managed to take out a few of the ULU boys with his rock-solid tackle throughout the second half. And we all thought he

had a girlfriend?!

With Crusty clowning around and Phlegm sticking it in yet another medic, the IC attack quashed the scum resolve. Both snatched well taken goals, though the actual intent of Phlegm's 15-yard loop-deflection must be brought into question.

Cometh the shortie, cometh the Drag-Queen, but even Max had to stand and watch as Toadfish harpooned the ball into the medic goal, leaving the scum keeper flapping around like a fish out of water. In attempting to find his hat-trick and deserved messy-pint, Toadfish decided the scum deserved a mid-match taster course in open-heart surgery when he proceeded to sling another vicious drag-flick into the chest of a marauding medic defender, re-creating a scene similar to the opening of Saving Private Ryan. The consequence was that the medic pulled his heart-string and the remnants of the medic team followed suit soon after.

In conclusion, it's a good thing they're all medics (if ever that can be a good thing?), cos its gonna take some serious surgery to repair the wounds inflicted on that fateful day at The Fortress!

One medic scum summarised in confidence to Stinky:

"The buggers won 5-2. We played like chumps, converted 1/9 shorties and leaked like a sieve. Gay. Also Lander drag-flicked 2 into the net and 1 into my chest." Yes Mr medic, gay indeed.



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William Bradlow

Swimming and Water Polo

Swimming and Water Polo at Imperial College is undergoing something of a revival. The club's fortunes have changed a great deal since the start of the year when it was divided and orphaned, struggling to find temporary homes after being ousted from the sports centre. Now training takes part three times a week in the plush surrounds of Ethos. Managed by a determined committee, the club has grown from strength to strength. The skeptic may ask in what ways. To start, members have responded enthusiastically. Though free swimming was available, they voted with their feet to take part in club-only sessions instead. Numbers have doubled with alumni returning to train and help as skills dictated. Senior club members have volunteered to coach, with noticeable results.

"This year we invaded the ACC Dinner with the largest turnout of any club."

Importantly, the new pool has allowed swimming and water polo to be reunited. Training times overlap with evident benefits to fitness, technique and camaraderie. Team spirit has been strengthened through fundraising ventures (Swim for Malaria/BT Swimathon) and rampacious social events. This year we invaded the ACC Dinner with the largest turnout of any club.

In the club's second year of IC representation at BUSA, attendance in individual short and long course swim events has grown impres-



Waterpolo - join the club to play in Ethos.

sively. Achievements out of the pool have also been remarkable. Sakura Hingley and Sophie Mitchinson had successful Channel crossings, with Sophie breaking the magic 10 hour mark. In doing so, she became the fastest UK swimmer of 2005. As this goes to press, others are in preparation for similar attempts this year.

In keeping with the cold water

theme, we welcome Lewis Pugh, or more properly the Ice Bear, to Presidency of the club. Over the last twenty years, he has pioneered extreme cold water swimming and has a keen scientific interest in the subject, collaborating with a number of leading physiologists. We look forward to a lecture on his experiences in the near future.

Water polo has built on lessons from the IDEA League held in Zurich last year. This year the team narrowly missed first place in the London League, but won the intercollegiate competition held at Ethos in April. We have contributed personnel to the ULU Men's Water Polo Team who were BUSA champions this year. In addition, Imperial play-

ers will be representing the UK in the men and women's ULU teams in this year's European University Championships.

"it only remains to be seen if IC Swimming and Water Polo can do its new pool justice"

Finally, the club has embraced corporate opportunities with gusto. We have been helped by The Duke of York pub and are negotiating with the new Harrington's Bar. Strong branding has been developed through sponsorship and guidance from Frutina (a sports nutrition company) and swim kit from Sport and Leisure. We are very grateful to all of the above and the Union for their ongoing support.

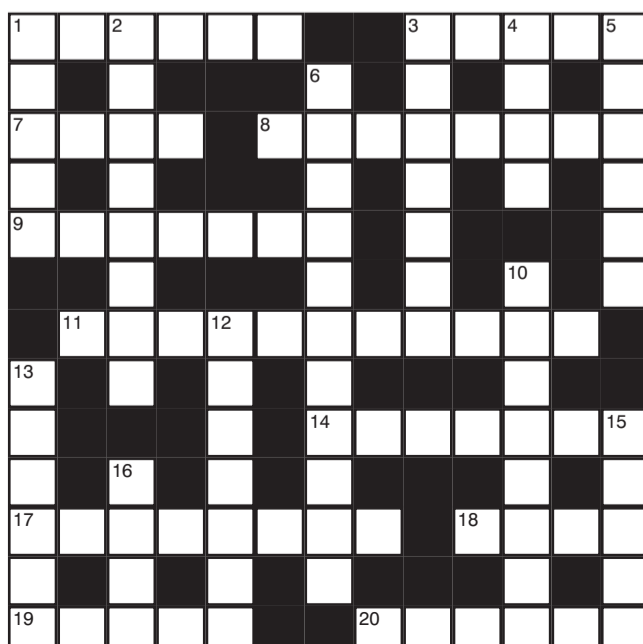
What can we expect from the club in the future? In the short term, a summer tour to Croatia is planned where local teams renowned for their water polo abilities will be challenged. A swim-tour of London's lidos has been arranged to raise funds for this.

In the long term, we have only to look at the club's ambitious manifesto: a development scheme that will raise standards to those of universities competing in the upper third of BUSA. In doing so, water polo will represent the College alone. It is clear that the gains made this year were predominantly related to the amount of training time and quality of coaching. For these needs to be met, it is vital that internal and external support is fostered.

The club's progress has been encouraging and members are looking forward to next year, assured that the pattern is set to continue. With the relevant bricks and mortar in place, it only remains to be seen if IC Swimming and Water Polo can do its new pool justice.

Cryptic Crossword 1354

Rawden



Across

- Vin, perhaps Spanish, the following Latin day (6)
- When Hell freezes over, in one version (5)
- Look out, bird! (4)
- Male, French, and in communiqué (8)
- Spirit follows headless beard membrane (7)
- Lyle's, perhaps, mixed drugs openly (6,5)
- Tea before Russian cash worry (7)
- Write label on shape (8)
- Remaining relaxation (4)
- Correct pen, we hear (5)
- Dish sounds like Pie for Miss Fitzgerald (6)

Down

- Sidestep Viper, perhaps (5)
- Cost rage results in slow food (8)
- Cancel void, arranged For Your Information (7)
- In move to deny (4)
- Jogged over short Dominic, haphazard (6)
- A cult minion ordered summit (11)
- Mute ringer weighs a ton (8)
- Communal bedroom above insect suspended (7)
- See you, we hear, perhaps on Bow Street? (6)
- Additional abbreviated external Research Assistant (5)
- Hindrance pesters rearrangement (4)

Send your solution to the 1354 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 Kayleigh Wardell.

Across: Down:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 6 Martial | 1 Radio |
| 7 Mould | 2 Stepping stone |
| 8 Disproportion | 3 Slap in the face |
| 9 Winner take all | 4 Cottage cheese |
| 12 State of the art | 5 Alcohol |
| 13 Stone | 10 Imitate |
| 14 Classes | 11 Fried |