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# felix

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# Sabbaticals to be sued?

**Andy Sykes**  
Editor-in-chief

Three sabbatical officers of the Union have been sent an official letter from a Hong Kong solicitors' office threatening legal action unless a decision to suspend the Chinese Society over alleged financial irregularities is reversed.

On Saturday September 23, as the sabbs were gearing up for officer training out at Wye, they received an e-mail from Wong & Co solicitors, who are acting on behalf of Miss Emily Chow, the current Chair of Chinese Society. The letter was addressed to the former Union President, Sameena Misbahuddin, the current President, John Collins, as well as Eric Lai (Deputy President, Clubs & Societies) and Jon Matthews (Deputy President, Finance & Services). The letter disputes the recent decision to suspend the Chinese Society and deny them a stall at Freshers' Fair after various financial irregularities regarding the sale of membership and the disappearance of money made from events came to light, calling it "entirely without merits, non-substantiated [sic] and accordingly invalid". The deadline set by the solicitors for the reversal of this suspension is today, five days from the sending of the letter, leaving the sabbs only three working days to reply. The letter threatens that unless the decision is reversed, the solicitors will "instruct [their] client's legal agent in the UK to exhaust every possible legal means in redressing the unfairness and grievances including but not limited to seeking injunctive relief...from a UK court", as well as holding the sabbs responsible for any legal costs or incidental losses that might be suffered by ICCS.

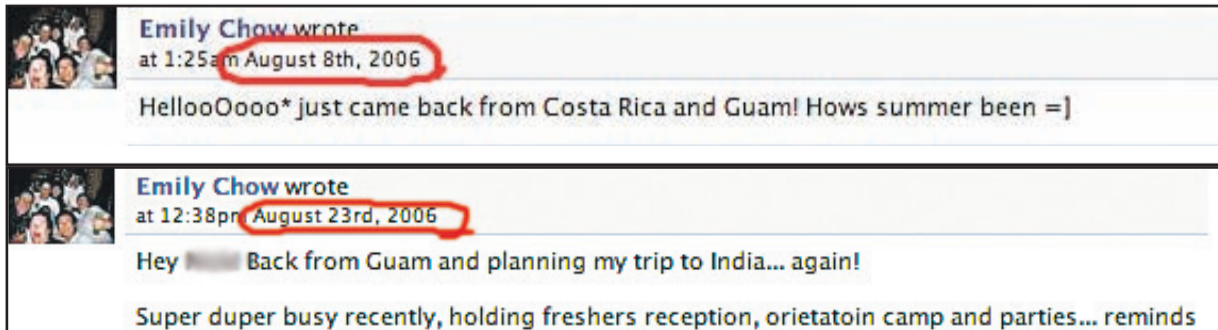
According to records available on the Imperial College Union finance website, which lists all the budgets and transactions of clubs and societies, the Chinese Society banked £500 in membership money from one hundred members, with membership costing £5. However, it has recently come to light that the Society has been selling multi-year memberships to its members for £10.



As Mr Matthews stated in an e-mail to the President of Chinese Society, Emily Chow, and the treasurer, Wai Wong, this is "wholly unacceptable and against Union policy". Membership to clubs can only be sold to members or life members of the Union, and should a student fail to complete their course of study and forfeit membership of the Union, they cannot be members of any clubs or societies, rendering multi-year memberships unfeasible. The evidence for this has come directly from society members contacted by Mr Lai, several of whom have confirmed that they were sold multi-year memberships for £10. As none of this 'extra' money has been banked into the Chinese Society's account, this raises the question of what has happened to it. If this money has been deposited in an external bank account, the Society may be held responsible for withholding funds, which may be construed as theft, and VAT fraud, as a result of operating a second bank account to take membership money on which VAT would not have been paid.

This is not the first time the society has run into trouble with their finances. At last year's Freshers' Fair, it was found to be taking membership money from prospective members, in express violation of Union rules. Nearly £700 was confiscated from the society's stall after the breach was discovered. The society has also been warned on previous occasions about the selling of multi-year memberships. In addition, the society is currently in almost £1,900 in debt.

Felix has obtained copies of e-mails sent between the parties, and a copy of the solicitors' letter. Mr Matthews and Mr Lai contacted Miss Chow and her treasurer via e-mail at the start of August, when the irregularities came to light. As this took place during the summer vacation, Miss Chow requested that the issue be resolved using e-mail or over the telephone. Mr Matthews subsequently informed Miss Chow by e-mail on August 7 that



Above (clockwise): Emily Chow, Chair of IC Chinese Society; Eric Lai, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies); John Collins, Union President; John Matthews, Deputy President (Finance & Services).  
Below: The two Facebook posts made by Miss Chow during her alleged stay at a spiritual retreat.

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# Homophobia in Islamic Soc

Two members of Islamic Society have been accused of posting “violently homophobic” remarks on a Union forum

**Al Chemist**  
Student

Posted: Mon Jan 23, 2006 12:10 am Post subject: wa'salam!

Joined: 17 Aug 2005  
Posts: 463  
Location: Jannah  
Insha'Allah!

I think we need to address the problems within the Ummah and not shy away, although I completely agree it is unpleasant discussing such an issue but we need to stop the whole denial of the existence of such things.

Alhamdulillah this does not affect people on this forum and in general people at Imperial (sure I hope not!) but within the Ummah in fact Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have a sizable concentration of such people, be it under or now underground. But sooner or later it will emerge and will spread, what will we do as an Ummah? How will we deal with it?

The last thing I want to do in my life time is have to explain to my child or anyone else's that it was always Adam and not Adam and Steve! Because I am sure the Gay Lobbyist will sooner or later increase the pressure and include it in the national curriculum or some other unavoidable ploy. Or what happens if your son/daughter tells you and asks "Daddy/Mummy, why does Pete have two man parents?" What are you gonna say?! Am I overreacting... but as we stand, we are having problems explaining the whole idea of free will and Supreme Power ourselves.

The Ummah is in a very sorry state, we have a lot of corruption internally and externally, spiritually and physically brothers and sisters, alhamdulillah you have been guided and may Allah preserve you from the blemish of the but it's not the same for your fellow siblings of the Ummah, deep indulged in fornication, alcohol and drug abuse that the sheer neglect of Allah the Most High and their very own parents!

Ok ... back to this Project!

Allahumma j'al fi qalbi nuran, wa fi sam'i nuran wa fi basari nura.  
O Allah! set a light in my heart and a light in my hearing and a light in my eyes.

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## A screengrab of one of the posts made by 'Al Chemist'

### Andy Sykes

Several members of the Islamic Society have been accused of homophobia and inciting violence against homosexuals after posts made on a forum hosted by the Union.

The chair of IQ, a society that aims to represent and support gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students at the College, reported posts he'd discovered on the ISoc forum in an email sent to the Sabbatical Officers, the President of the Union, the Felix Editor, and the Live! Editor. The posts were part of a discussion concerning a recent Channel 4 documentary about the plight of homosexual Muslims in Britain, and were made in late January of this year.

While many of the posts were articulate discussions of the teaching of the Qu'ran and the poster's own opinions on the subject, several posts, originating mainly from two individuals (posting under the names Al Chemist and Haji), were more extreme in their views. One of the earliest posts in the thread, made by Haji, stated that his 'solution' to homosexual Muslims was simple: "batter them." Al Chemist

expressed his distaste for the concept of homosexuality, inferring that gay Muslims were not proper Muslims: "them and some other 'Muslims' are on my hitlist". Within a few hours of the tip-off email, several of the comments had been edited, including those made by Haji, who replaced the word "batter" in his post with the less offensive "verbally batter".

The Union has indicated it considers this a very serious matter, as it breaches several College and Union rules concerning the use of IT resources and equal opportunities policies, and has subsequently worked closely with ICT, the College IT service, and the Islamic Society to identify the individuals posting under the names Haji and Al Chemist. In a post later in the thread, Haji signed off as "Sagir (Haji) Hassam"; it has since been confirmed in a comment made by Mr Hassam to the City & Guilds online newspaper, Live!, that he did indeed post under the name Haji. Mr Hassam was one of several students disqualified from last year's Union Council elections after investigations by Council and the Returning Officer discovered they had used mailing lists

to campaign, which is forbidden by the Union Constitution. When he made the posts to the forum, Mr Hassam, who now works for UBS, was an Officer of the Union, holding the positions of Vice President of the IC Finance Society, and Publicity Officer for Islamic Society.

John Collins, the Union President, has made clear that he does not hold Islamic Society responsible for the comments of the two members. He confirmed that the Society had been asked to remove the posts within a week; at the time of going to press, the entire forum had been deactivated.

Mr Hassam has made both an official statement to Live!, and numerous comments on the article itself. His defence is that he was misinterpreted, and that his communication skills were not sufficient to correctly convey his opinions on the matter, stating: "I have realised in retrospect that my individual thoughts were incorrectly communicated on this thread, and I did post further along the thread that "batter" was a much too strong word, I meant batter in terms of a verbal battering i.e. numerous discussions, not physically hurting anyone. I would never condone unprovoked violent actions against anyone regardless of sexual orientation, race or gender." Other commentators on the article have been somewhat sceptical of this claim, with one anonymous wag calling himself "Wiggly Worm" replying: "Wiggle wiggle wiggle! Haji needs to get out of this pickle!"

The posts could also be said to be an incitement to violence, though this is currently under consideration by Union and College authorities.

As Sagir Hassam has graduated and left the College, there can be no disciplinary procedure brought against him. The identity of Al Chemist is uncertain, and he has not come forward voluntarily. Investigations are continuing to attempt to determine his identity.

# Chinese Society threatens sabbs with injunction

*Continued from page 1*

any multi-year membership would be cancelled, and that the Society could not trade at Freshers' Fair. He also requested a list of names and CID numbers of people who had bought multi-year memberships, clarifying that he did not blame Miss Chow and her treasurer directly, as they were not on the committee last year. A number of other restrictions were also placed on the Society, in light of past transgressions, including enforcing online voting for society elections in the coming year. Mr Matthews reiterated that the society must abide by the current rules, such as having all events being approved by an appropriate officer of the Union, and a requirement that all income and expenditure be run through the Union accounts.

No reply was received from Miss Chow for a week, at which point Mr Matthews contacted her again, on August 15, to confirm receipt of the previous email, and to reiterate the request for a list of names of CID numbers of those who bought multi-year memberships. Again, the request went unanswered. On September 11, having received no reply from either of the two recipients, Mr Lai and Mr Matthews took the decision to suspend the Society's activities for the duration of Freshers' Week, thus preventing them from having a stall at Freshers' Fair and raising online membership. No reply was received. On September 23, the solicitors' letter arrived in the inboxes of the three Sabbaticals, as well as the notoriously leaky Union Reception email inbox.

The letter claims that Miss Chow did not know multi-year memberships were being sold, and that this occurred under the supervision of the previous committee members, as Mr Matthews does not dispute. It also claims that she did not know they were not supposed to sell multi-year memberships, but the e-mails sent by Mr Matthews seem to suggest that the Society as a whole had been told previously. It is suggested that this information was not passed over to the new Committee members at their unusually early handover date of April 1.

The letter also discusses the lack of reply to Mr Matthews' e-mails. According to the letter, Miss Chow returned to Hong Kong from Guam on August 7, the date of Mr Matthews' first e-mail. The letter says that after this, she went with her parents to a "retreat in preparation of spiritual enhancement" prior to her departing for India on September 8. During this period, Miss Chow received two e-mails from Mr Matthews, and replied to neither of them. *Felix* has discovered that while at a retreat "in preparation of spiritual enhancement", she nonetheless had access to the Internet. Miss Chow made posts on Facebook, that well-known spiritual resource, to two of her friends, on August 8 and August 23 – the first explaining she was back in Hong Kong and the second expressing the fact that she was busy "holding freshers' reception, orientation camp and parties". This is likely to refer to the events ICCS holds in Hong Kong for freshers prior to them arriving at the College, according to *Felix's* source. Questions have also been raised over an event held by the ICCS in Hong Kong in

partnership with the Hong Kong Society of Warwick University, and others. Neither the OSC Chair nor the Deputy President (Finance and Services) knew anything about this event being held, and no reference is made to it in the accounts of the ICCS. The tickets cost HK\$200, which is about £13. It is not clear how the money was divided between the participating University societies, though no money has been paid into the ICCS Union account. It is highly likely that, as the event was held in Hong Kong, there has been no opportunity for the members to inform the Union of the takings.

It is understood that Miss Chow has contacted Vernon McClure, Academic Registrar, who acts as the Head of the Registry, asking him to represent her in this situation. As ICU's disciplinary procedure has not yet been invoked over the alleged financial irregularities on either the previous committee or the new committee, the College is not permitted to be involved.

Miss Chow's complaint seems to centre around a statement made in an e-mail by Mr Lai, which said: "This is a very serious matter, which could lead to your degree being withheld or yourselves being removed from the College." The solicitors' letter comments on this, saying that Miss Chow and Miss Wong, the treasurer of ICCS are seeking advice on "whether or not such a statement is defamatory". *Felix's* copy of the *Oxford English Dictionary* defines defamation as "an attack on the good fame or reputation of a person", making it questionable whether Mr Lai's statement could be construed in such a way. The College authorities have confirmed that Mr Lai was correct in saying that a College disciplinary process could result in the "permanent expulsion" of a student from the College; however, this punishment is reserved for the most serious of offences, such as bringing the name of the College into disrepute.

The grounds for suspension of the society are the selling of multi-year memberships, forbidden by Union rules. The letter does not challenge this, but instead requests evidence to show that current committee members were involved. It is not clear whether they were or not, but there is prima facie evidence that shows that multi-year memberships were sold.

Asked for comment, Union President, John Collins, responded: "It would not be correct for me to make a comment at this point. I have forwarded the matter onto the College's lawyers for consideration, due to time constraints." Jon Matthews and Eric Lai both responded that commenting would be inappropriate. Miss Chow has been invited to comment; no reply was forthcoming.

Clubs have no individual, legal status within the Union, which means the upshot of any legal action on the behalf of ICCS would be the rather ridiculous state of the Union suing itself.

Since this story was written, Miss Chow and her mother, along with a solicitor from Wong & Co, have flown to London to consult with their UK solicitors. Mr Collins has received a letter from a London firm confirming the deadline for reversal of the suspension as September 28, and threatening legal action should the decision not be reversed by today.

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## Freshers Fair guide

This useful guide will help you make the most of one of the highlight events of the year. Find all those clubs that you want to join. There's everything from Aikido to Sinofonietta, and rowing to Ultimate Frisbee. Don't forget to visit Felix!

CENTRE PAGES

## The man who would be PM

Matty Hartfield tackles Gordon Brown's speech at the recent Labour Party Conference.

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## Enjoying a kip

Apparently, it's not your friend's boring stories that sending you to sleep, but socialising itself.

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## The City Explained

"The action of merging or acquiring (M&A) a company is far more complicated than buying most other assets."

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## The NUS

Should we be in or out? Alex Guite favours the former.

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## Freshers' Albums

As a Fresher into music, you're assumed to know about certain albums. This little guide will either have you nodding in agreement or frantically talking notes in order to brag it the next time a hot indie girl talks to you about Sonic Youth.

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## Afterskool

"Okay, so you'll still see the occasional music elitist with stupid hair and a ridiculous hat (guilty as charged) as is per usual in indie establishments, but Afterskool is largely full of – well – students!"

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# Union Governance Review

The new Union President, John Collins, has prepared a 100-page report on changing the way the Union is run

The new Union President, John Collins, has used the Summer period to launch the Union's largest-ever governance review, involving current and former Sabbatical Officers, other officers of the Union and alumni.

The proposals include some major changes to the way the Union is run, along with some more minor amendments. First and foremost in Mr Collin's Governance Review, which totals more than one hundred pages, is the introduction of a "Union Court". The Court's role is to ensure that the Union Constitution is obeyed by Exec, the President and Council, to investigate election disputes, and to act as an ultimate authority for media complaints. In the past, election complaints have been investigated by Council, which can lead to political voting on candidates. Who would sit on the Court is still being debated, though initial proposals suggested ex-Union Officers and alumni with a suitably 'hacky' interest in the Union; no currently serving officers would be eligible to stand.

Council is also on the President's hitlist, with the stated aim of making it more of a "Representatives' Assembly". This includes the removal of all non Executive "managers"; namely the Clubs & Societies

Chairs, the RAG, CAG, Welfare and Equal Opportunities officers. These seats will be replaced with Ordinary Members elected from the student population. Though some questions have been raised concerning the make-up of Ordinary Members, with the possibility of hacks stacking in Council, in the past the Ordinary Members have come mostly from members of clubs and societies, ensuring that the clubs will retain significant representative power in Council.

The Student Activities Committee (SAC) will be broken into two halves: the first half, the Clubs Activities Board (CAB), would be responsible for running the 'club stuff' of the SAC, and be attended by CSCs and Faculty Union officers; the second half, the Representation and Welfare Board (RWB), would take up the SAC's welfare role. The aim is to move the "management" officers from Council to what the review refers to as "doing committees". Some are unhappy with this arrangement, suggesting that this will shift the balance of power significantly to welfare as opposed to clubs and societies. With around 80% of Imperial students participating in clubs and societies, they are often the most visible and important aspect of the Union's services

to its members. The worry is that the SAC's budget will be divided amongst the CAB and the RWB, with more money being allocated to welfare than in previous years, resulting in more cuts to the clubs budget. Mr Collins has assured this reporter that "there will be no cuts to clubs" should the proposals to break up the SAC be accepted at Council.

Among the more controversial suggestions are a battery of measures to ensure the accountability of the Sabbaticals to the student body. These suggestions are no doubt prompted by the farcical behaviour of the Union Officers and Felix towards the previous incumbent of the Deputy President (Graduate Services) post, Luis Hui, after he went on record stating that "there are no welfare issues facing post-graduates". The issue of removing two-year Sabbaticals has been raised yet again, though it will likely be debated at Council early this year.

The initial, "phase one" proposals, including the formation of the Court and the SAC break-up, will be presented before Council as individual packages, and the consensual recommendations presented as a package. The changes to Council will not be debated until next year.

# Safer Neighbourhood Team to be sited at the College



Left to right: PC John Roberts, Tony Beckett (Civic Watch), PCSO Sarah Levitt, PCSO Martin Robson, Naomi Simpson (Civic Watch), Sgt Gary Herrett, Terry Branch (IC Security), Leroy Adedji (Civic Watch), PC Neil Denney, Tony Mwaitenda (IC Security)

Imperial College is to house the Safer Neighbourhood Team for the local election ward in the basement of the Sherfield Building.

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams are part of a nationwide initiative to provide community-level policing, with the teams consisting of six officers and community service officers. They provide a visible police presence in a local area, and allow local people to talk to the Team to let them know the day-to-day issues that are bothering them.

The officers will man the office in College some of the day, and will be walking a beat between the College and up to Belgravia and the surrounding area. Neil Denney, one of

the officers, stressed that the Team are not there to police students, and that there will be no stopping and searching of students on campus. Having a close feedback with police will aid College Security in matters such as bike theft from around campus. You can contact them at police@imperial.ac.uk. The Team are also helping co-ordinate extra security for freshers arriving over the weekend. Terry Branch, Chief Security Officer, said: "our aim is zero early thefts from around halls of residences". They plan to run regular 'surgeries' where students can talk to the officers about any crime issues, as well as pick up crime prevention leaflets.

# Wye development halted



The Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, at the signing of the Wye Concordat

Work on Imperial College's planned development of a Science Park at Wye has been halted, according to a statement made by the Deputy Rector, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, on September 15th.

The statement says that Sir Leszek would be recommending that the College does not continue any further investigation into "delivering a world-class research centre, science hub and associated housing" at the Wye Campus.

The story has been followed closely by the protest website save-wye.org. The site was founded by two

residents of Wye: David Hewson, a journalist who has worked for The Times, The Independent, and the Sunday Telegraph, and Justin Williams, the assistant editor at the Sunday Telegraph. Their statement was slightly less restrained than Sir Leszek's:

"Wye Park is dead, our job is done" read their front page.

The statement gave the reason for abandoning the development, which would have provided more than 12,500 jobs to the local area, as none of the scenarios for the campus presenting a "wise, viable or de-

sirable investment of public funds for Imperial College and Wye".

In July, BP began running adverts in a number of publications that said that they were planning to build a £500m biofuels research institute in partnership with a university, with Imperial College being one of those approached by the fuel giant. This cast a shadow over the continued development of Wye Park; should BP choose to build their institute in partnership with a British University, it would be very difficult to convince the government that another major biofuels research centre would be required. Save-wye reported that Imperial College was on BP's shortlist.

When suggestions about BP funding part of the Wye project were floated at a meeting of Wye elected representatives, Sir Leszek referred to BP as requiring to start the project by early 2007, far too early for Wye Park's planning stage to be complete. They also reported that the project was in "deep freeze" back in July, with contractors being pulled off the site, which was denied by the College at the time.

Sir Leszek thanked to the Wye residents, the Parish Council, and elected representatives in his statement, saying that he had "appreciated the responses that have been received".

The future of Wye Campus as part of Imperial College is solid for the foreseeable future. Sir Leszek said that the College would continue to strongly support the courses being taught at Wye, especially the successful Business course, and renegotiate the Campus' status with the University of Kent in 2011 as stated in 2005.

# Union building project faces several setbacks

The Union redevelopment project has hit a number of setbacks over the summer vacation; though da Vinci's will be complete for Freshers' Fair, providing somewhere for freshers to drink, there are doubts over whether food can be served from the kitchens.

While excavating a large hole in the central core of the building for the new lift, contractors found asbestos. Specialist workers were called in to deal with the asbestos, and air tests were performed that confirmed the absence of airborne asbestos.

The age of the building has been providing other challenges to the project. The main two floors of the building were built in 1910, and as

such, no plans exist showing the location of water pipes and electrical cabling. Workers managed to dig into a large water pipe, flooding the core, and there was a power cut to the building when another excavation cut power cables.

As there has been a large excavation in the kitchen area of the building which has not yet been filled it, it is doubtful the Union will be able to serve food for the first week.

Concerns have been raised over the stones artfully placed outside the new glass doors to da Vinci's. As they are not cemented in, they provide ready window-breaking or Security-hitting ammunition should inebriated students become infuriated with the Union.



The core of the Union building, showing the lift excavation

# Students suspected in terror scare

Does “ethnic profiling” help catch terrorists?

Camilla Royle

On the evening of August 9 this year counter-terrorist officers arrested 24 people amid accusations of an al-Qaida plot to blow up 10 planes heading for the US. Although it appeared that all of the suspected terrorists were safely behind bars, airport security was still massively increased as an extra precaution. Items such as bottled drinks, moisturiser and baby food were confiscated; even those purchased in the airport duty-free shops were seen as a possible new kind of weapon of mass destruction. Only essential items of hand luggage were allowed on long-haul flights. People's fears, however, were fuelled by the threat of “mass murder on an unimaginable scale”. They were told they might have been blown out of the sky.

Chaos at the check-in desk, especially at Heathrow, led to the deployment of an “ethnic profiling” system, a time-saving method in which only the passengers that looked most like potential terrorists were subjected to the most thorough security checks. Young Asian males were on the top of the list of potential targets for scrutiny; they are seen as statistically more likely to

become suicide bombers based on the evidence of the five years since 9/11. Even Claude Moraes, Labour MEP for London, was stopped and searched twice over the summer. The profiling scheme was criticised by Chief Superintendent Ali Dizael, saying that it created a new offence of “travelling while Asian”. He objected to the scheme, saying that it was not only unfair to innocent Asians and Muslims but also that the scheme “does not work or can be counter-productive”, detracting the focus away from real terrorists that don't fit the profile and making those that do the target for racist abuse. The case was quietly dropped after the arrested people were cleared of charges. None of them had booked flights and some did not even have passports.

Since the scare, a number of individuals have been treated as suspect. In Malaga two Pakistani students were removed from a plane on a flight to Manchester where they both study at Manchester University. The men alerted the suspicions of other passengers by speaking what one person assumed was Arabic and keeping themselves covered up so that they stood out in a crowd of holiday-makers in shorts and T-shirts. The same instincts that alerted people to the presence

of suicide bomber Hasib Hussain fiddling with his rucksack on a bus on July 7 last year caused the students to be taken away. They were held back for security checks as the plane left without them. However, this time, when those instincts were acted on, they proved to be false. Another flight from Gatwick to Hurghada in Egypt ended with an emergency landing in Italy after a passenger said that he had found a note in his seat pocket saying that there was a bomb on the plane.

Ethnic profiling overtly associates terrorism in the 21st century with some religious groups more than others and applies different rules to different people. It therefore emphasises perceived differences between cultures in the same way as the pope's recent comments about Islam have been seen as a sincere attempt to break the bridges built by his predecessor, John Paul II, by some Vatican commentators.

Whether justified or not, Islamophobia could become just as much a part of flying as claustrophobia and aviophobia. Acts of terrorism are intended to influence and cause distress within a society rather than merely kill civilians. It seems that in this case that goal has been achieved even if no real terrorists were ever involved.



The attempted terrorist attack this summer has led to the introduction of ‘people-profiling’ to catch suspected terrorists

## In depth: Gordon Brown at conference



Social Democrat or Democratic Socialist? Not much difference now

Matthew Hartfield  
Politics Editor

Over the past week Manchester has played host to the Labour party conference, the traditional warm-up for political parties before the main political season. Before it started we had already been told that this conference would be the last one under Tony Blair's premiership. All eyes are on his right-hand man, Gordon

Brown, the man tipped to succeed Blair for the leadership. Gordon gave his keynote speech on Monday regarding the state of the economy, but it also revealed what some of Gordon Brown's key policies would be if he became leader.

His main direction became crystal-clear early on in the speech, however, when he praised Tony Blair for running a party for “all of society”. The “all” in this case, however, is

not the working-class it traditionally supports, but, as Gordon put it, “We can't just be pro Labour, we've got to be pro business too”. This is a worrying precedent, considering he's following a leader who claims to be the leader of the party of the people, yet who invited Thatcher around to Number 10 for policy discussion. Recently we have seen the proposed selling off of NHS logistics to private companies and the creation of “Trust Schools” where an outside organisation, including companies, can dictate what ethos the school takes. It seems that with all these plans to be ‘pro-business’ he's putting the rest of society at risk; a lot of people are still angry at the failure of rail privatisation and such a continuation of this ethic can have disastrous consequences, despite Gordon's reassurances that he wants to end “a Britain of ‘no such thing as society’”, reversing Thatcher's famous comments.

Gordon Brown actively wants to follow the line set by Tony Blair on the world-famous “War on Terror”, supporting identity cards and an extension of 28 days detention for terrorist suspects ‘if evidence shows it necessary’. Both policies were widely criticised for being heavy-handed and counterproductive. He also supported the ‘global-cooperation’ in the war against terrorism and called for a stop in ‘anti-Americanism’, showing a continuing willingness to toe America's line on global policy.

Further into his speech, Gordon Brown did give ideas of how to improve social security and build on

what can be seen as some of Labour's main achievements during its tenure. Gordon championed the immediate increase of the minimum wage and the legislation of ‘corporate manslaughter’ where companies can be liable if poor regulations cause the death of their workers. The latter piece of legislation has been discussed for ages but has yet to be created, so any serious laws formed under Gordon Brown would be widely received; this is one of his main challenges he should attempt to overcome. There are also calls to “champion youth councils and youth budgets”, where young people get a major say in how money is spent on them in their local area. Those who think that this is a move away from issuing ASBO's should think again, as there is a rally to “be tough” on youth crime.

Education has been one of Gordon Brown's more controversial areas, with the introduction of tuition fees (and then top-up fees) to cover the costs of increased higher education intake. Although Gordon aims to increase government spending on state schools (from £5.5K per pupil to £8K, to match “today's level for private school pupils”), which is more than welcome if it goes ahead, he also has a vision of ensuring that everyone is educated up to the age of 18 (whether “part-time or “full-time”). Along with touting Alan Johnson's proposal to “give vocational qualifications parity of esteem with academic qualifications”, he runs the risk of stretching the educational system for further education and denying money

to where it is needed most; which was one of the contributing factors to the introduction to tuition fees.

On a global scale Gordon Brown introduces some progressive plans with the outcome of making Britain a leading force in international relations. The UN must “urgently” act on Darfur (again, action which is long overdue) and asks for further international cooperation when it comes to combating climate change. However, he warns, this should not lead to “environmental colonialism” where richer countries dominate poorer counterparts by providing all the relevant infrastructure. Instead he proposes that the World Bank set up a \$20 billion fund for poorer countries, to encourage their own societies to combat climate change.

Gordon Brown's speech to the Labour conference highlights his plans to increase global and social security; whilst these are an important and major step forward which improve on Labour successes, the fact that being keen on pushing forward with controversial (and unwelcome) policies such as continuing the current line on the war on terror (which isn't helped by keeping quiet on Trident in this speech) runs the risk of losing the next election, especially in the face of a Conservative resurgence under David Cameron. The main question for Gordon Brown now is will he listen to those who opposed the Iraq war and private finance initiatives? Otherwise he'll find out that his new reign will be a very short one indeed.



# I socialise, therefore I sleep

How it might not just be listening to your friends' stories that's making you drowsy

Krystyna Larkham  
Science Editor

Freshers week. At last! The time to throw off the shackles of mum and dad, to let your hair down and to P-A-R-TY! There's nobody there to tell you what to eat, or when to eat it, no one to ask you 'where do you think you're going?' or to ask you what time you're coming back. But best of all, no one to tell you when to go to bed. This is university man, you can sleep when you're dead!

But recent research published this week in *Science* indicates that in fact, it may be those who socialise the most who need the most sleep.

Indrani Ganguly-Fitzgerald and her team at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, California, studied the sleeping habits of the fruit fly *Drosophila* in various social situations. They discovered that flies that lived in groups needed significantly more sleep than those who were kept in isolation, and the increased requirement for sleep was correlated with the size of the group.

Although the importance of sleep was first indicated in the early '80s, when rats prevented from sleeping dropped dead dramatically after two weeks, it has not been until recent years that the complicated molecular basis of sleep has begun to be unravelled. *Drosophila*, although not mammals, are increasingly used as models for studies

into the genetic basis of sleep due to their surprisingly human like behaviour.

Fruit flies can sleep up to 15 hours a day, usually in one nocturnal burst, and remove themselves from their social counterparts to feed and groom before tucking themselves into bed. Like a sleepy student on a Monday morning, those flies who have slept the longest are hardest to wake, and they too try to catch up on lost shuteye, although like humans *Drosophila* only seem to be able to make up 30-40% of a 'sleep debt'.

Most importantly however, both humans and *Drosophila* appear to share the molecular mechanisms of sleep, making discoveries easily transferable to human sleep research, with antihistamines also making the fruit fly drowsy and unsafe to operate heavy machinery, and caffeine keeping them up all night.

So what do these new results mean? Is social activity so exhausting that you need to rest more to recover? Should the social mayhem of Freshers' week be reduced to lights out at 10pm with a nice mug of cocoa? And why? The answer may lie in the idea of 'synaptic plasticity', the process of making new connections between neurons in the brains, which is believed to be closely linked to sleep.

Previously, all sleep research in *Drosophila* has focussed on differ-

ential levels of gene expression in the sleeping/waking state. However, in June of this year, *Nature* published a report showing that when electrical activity was blocked in the areas of the *Drosophila* brain linked to remembering smell was, flies slept for much shorter periods, suggesting what any frantically cramming student will know that sleep is needed to consolidate memory.

To Ganguly-Fitzgerald, the connection is clear. The social flies in the study 'mate, they fight. They form memories about the interactions they've had, and they make decisions'. And then, they sleep. Isolated flies, and those with reduced sensory input (blinded, or with a reduced sense of smell) both received less information during the day, and accordingly, required fewer hours of sleep to commit their experiences to memory.

Unfortunately for freshers, the implications are clear. You might be going out every night and dancing the night away with that hot girl from your 9 o'clock, but it is not you, but nerdy Norman down the corridor who has not ventured from his room since day one who will remember what her name is. And more importantly, we finally have an explanation for the inverse relationship between number of people met and ability to remember all their names, where they come from, what A-levels they did, what they did on their gap year... But sadly, science still has no way of stopping them from telling you again and again and again.



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# Innovation Creation



A new society aims to stir up the entrepreneurial spirit within the College. **Toby Ferenczi** speaks to the co-founders Sefian Kasem, Ross Richardson, Bobby Goulding and Shin Yang Cheung

## Toby Ferenczi

"There is only one way to make a great deal of money; and that is in a business of your own," announced J. Paul Getty, former oil tycoon and one-time richest man in America. It is this realisation that has seen entrepreneurial activity grow drastically over the past three decades.

For people with ambition, building one's own business has become the ultimate achievement. With only one in ten new businesses succeeding it is not for the faint hearted, but for those with the drive and vision to spot a potential venture, the rewards could not be greater. As more prospective Richard Bransons join the fray, the hunt for 'opportunity' grows ever more difficult, and since the essence of science is innovation, this has led to a strong link between science and entrepreneurship.

Ivy League universities in the US took advantage of this situation from an early stage, building networks of investors and their academic staff. This has been a major factor in the success of both US universities and the US economy. Creating a new enterprise is perhaps the purest form of productivity and, as such, entrepreneurship has been a huge driver of industry over recent years. Although initially behind, UK universities are gradually catching up with their transatlantic counterparts. IC Entrepreneurs, a new society this year, aims to propel Imperial College to the forefront of technological venture.

"We are dedicated to providing the highest quality of resources to foster the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation across campus," says Sefian Kasem, former Finance Society president and IC Entrepreneurs' co-founder. Through a series of hands-on interactive events

PAVLA KOPECNA



From left to right: Bobby Goulding, Lawrence Tse, Vincent Garcia Tormo, Nimi Iti, Yunlei Hu, May Chen, Zhangpeng Feng, Kyle Tang, Alex Pais Da Silva, Toby Ferenczi, and Ross Richardson.

**"We are dedicated to fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation across campus"**

they aim to introduce the theory of entrepreneurship and highlight the practical skills required by entrepreneurs. "We want to simulate real situations so people can get involved, instead of just listening to lectures," Ross Richardson explains. Games such as 'Dating with Dragons' sound intriguing, although he reminds me that they are designed primarily to improve one's business skills rather than love life.

These activities will be complemented by networking sessions; events that, in the founders' words, "bring people interested in entrepreneurship together in a harmonious, supportive environment to encourage the cross-pollination of ideas and the expansion of contact networks." Members will also be

## Current IC spin-outs

### Ceres Power

Founded in 2001 by Professors Nigel Brandon, John Kilner, Alan Atkinson, and the late Brian Steele, Ceres Power has developed unique 'solid oxide' fuel cells that operate at much lower temperatures, allowing the cells to be made more cheaply. Winners of the Carbon Trust Low Carbon Innovation Award in 2003, they have won numerous awards, received praise from the Prime Minister as a "world leader" in fuel cell technology, and secured contracts with British Gas, along with other large companies in the energy sector.

### Concrete Canvas

Founded by two students from the Industrial Design Engineering course, William Crawford and Peter Brewin, who have developed a rapidly deployable hardened shelter for people made homeless during natural or man-made disasters. The "building in a bag" is a sack of cement-impregnated fabric that can be inflated to produce a structure that is more dura-

ble than a tent, but lighter and more readily transported than a Portakabin or similar temporary building. They have received nine awards, including the Saatchi & Saatchi Award for World-Changing Ideas, as well as raising over £40,000 in funding for their prototypes.

### Delta Dot

Founded in 2000 by Dr John Hassard and based on work on the separation and analysis of biomolecules pioneered in the High Energy Physics Group at the College, their technique of "DNA vertexing" can read long sequences of DNA in a fraction of the time conventional sequencing systems take, with a very low cost per base pair. Their approach to protein analysis replaces the 2D gel electrophoresis with a faster and more accurate chip-based system. These new methods have improved sensitivity and resolution compared to the traditional processes at much lower cost. In all, they have received over £1.5m from investor funding.

able to access resources in a flexible, time-efficient manner through a web-based electronic forum.

The society aims to be as incorporating and interactive as possible. It is targeted at all members of staff and students and they intend to work closely with existing bodies within the college such as Imperial Innovations and the Venture Capital Club. IC Entrepreneurs is also looking outside the college to create strong links with business schools (such as the London Business School) and companies within the venture capital sector. Imperial is ideally placed, both geographically and academically, to attract major investors and already the team have received significant interest from the groups they have approached.

This venture can only be a good thing for the College. Although the thorny issue of the sharing of intellectual property between researchers and their institutions is still a hot topic, it is evident that university spin-offs can provide enormous benefits to both parties. As universities gain experience and knowledge in the world of commerce, they are learning how to retain a greater chunk of the financial fruits of their research. As seen in the US, this money can be used to strengthen the university's standing on the

world stage.

From the researchers' perspective, the ability for scientists to think entrepreneurially encourages them to think about their work in the context of society. The critical aspect of starting any new business is finding a market, and to do so requires a deep understanding of what people want or need. In thinking commercially, scientists are getting better at looking at their work with the eyes of someone on the exterior. The smaller the gap between the laboratory and the shelves, the less distant the scientific world will seem to the general public, something which is vitally important in recruiting the next generation of researchers.

The ICE launch event featuring one of the world's leading entrepreneurs will be held in the first week of term and open to anyone who would like to expand their horizons. It might be time well spent; as Kasem says gleefully, "to succeed you'll need more than just a degree."

The Imperial College Entrepreneurs will launch on 17th October at 6.30 on the Lower Ground Floor of the Tanaka Business School. There will also be a 'Breaking the ICE' session on 12th October for all those interested in becoming members or just finding out more.



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# Career options in finance

**Michael Olymbios**  
Business Editor

With the dawn of the new academic year comes a new recruitment cycle and a fresh batch of undergraduates wondering what they want to do for the rest of their lives between weekends. Many see the financial services industry as intimidating or dry, but closer examination can reveal a dynamic, exciting and meritocratic working environment.

The most prolific employers of university graduates are investment banks, accountancy firms, insurance and actuarial companies, and management consultants.

Investment banks offer undergraduates from all disciplines career paths to suite most tastes. Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) bankers work closely with large multinationals on long-term projects in an attempt to efficiently restructure them. Juniors - known as analysts - are expected to work into the small hours of the morning calculating financial models or writing pitch books for clients. The high pay and invaluable business experience makes this an attractive choice.

The sales and trading departments offer slightly more sociable

hours but the work is fast-paced and not for the faint hearted. Sales people and traders work to bring buyers and sellers of financial securities together. Despite this simple premise, the job can be exceptionally complicated because the trader must ensure that, overall, he or she ends up making a small margin on everything bought and sold whilst still offering competitive prices.

Private bankers or asset managers pool together the cash of wealthy individuals or clients such as pension funds. They create portfolios consisting of a range of investments, from stocks to bonds to gold and property.

Those with an interest in investment banking should ensure they have an extensive CV with examples of teamwork and innovation, because competition is fierce. Ensure you are familiar with the industry you are interested in and the company you are applying for.

The large firms run summer internships for those in their penultimate year of study, which you can apply for online through their websites.

It might seem an obvious point, but knowing about the company you are interested in is essential. A recruiter from Royal Dutch Shell re-

counted an interview where a candidate thought that the company's sole line of work was "petrol stations." In actual fact the retail fuel garages break even. Shell makes its money by refining and transporting crude oil and crude products.

Management consultancy is about implementing positive changes in companies so they run more efficiently and competitively.

If you like the idea of solving complex problems with unique solutions, then this is the job for you.

Accountants manage and analyse the movement of cash within companies. Whether a local plumber or a multinational, all businesses need to have financial statements written up.

Cash-flow is important for work-

ing out how much money a company makes, who it owes, who owes it and how much tax is owed.

Accountants are increasingly becoming involved with strategic decisions, managing risk and helping businesses thrive.

As well as the College Careers Service, there are student-led careers societies offering you the chance to attend networking events hosted by companies.

At this time of year Imperial College Finance Society (ICSF) and Student Industrial Society (SIS) host investment banks, accountancy and other firms, who come to Imperial and give interactive talks on their business areas. They also give you the chance to talk to employees young and old.

*Interested in financial journalism?*  
**business.felix@imperial.ac.uk**

## City Explained

The action of merging or acquiring (M&A) a company is far more complicated than buying most other assets. There are several legal, tax and accounting issues to be dealt with. This week, we shall briefly examine these topics.

No matter how practicable a deal may seem, competition laws must be considered. No acquisition may take place if the effect may be to substantially lessen competition or tend towards creating a monopoly.

Once the antitrust hurdle has been passed, the form of acquisition needs to be considered. One way is for a company to assume all the assets and all the liabilities of the other. Conducting the merger in this way requires the approval of at least 50 per cent of the stock holders of each firm.

An alternative is to simply buy the company being sold in exchange for cash, shares or sometimes other securities. This method does not require the approval of the seller's top management, although it is generally sought. A hostile takeover can result if they resist, in which the buyer will attempt to acquire an effective majority of the outstanding shares. The final method is to buy some or all of the seller's assets.

The tax status of an acquisition can affect the taxes paid by the merged firm. Cash deals are taxable for capital gains tax. But share swaps are tax-free, and the stockholders are viewed as exchanging their old shares in company A for similar new ones in company B.

Academics view the corporate merger as a fulfilment of the economies of scale theory that stipulates free markets tend towards having as few companies and brand names as possible. In summary, the theory argues that by merging and growing into large multinationals, companies' production costs are reduced for a number of reasons. On a simplistic level, one example is decreased production costs permitted by bulk buying. You may then question the justification and motivation for corporations in different lines of business merging.

There are fundamentally three kinds: the vertical, horizontal and conglomerate mergers. The horizontal kind combines two companies in the same line of business, for example, Vodafone and German telecom giant Mannesmann. The vertical variety involves companies at different stages of production. The buyer either expands the company back towards the source of raw materials, or forwards it in the direction of the consumer. For example, Walt Disney acquired the ABC television network.

The conglomerate merger involves companies in unrelated fields joining forces. The justification being, that costs might be cut by sharing central services such as accounting. Nevertheless, corporations are under the influence of shareholders and top-management executives, leading to dubious motives for mergers.

In 2000 AOL acquired Time Warner. This conglomerate made corporate history with a record-breaking \$156 billion worth of stock purchased by AOL to acquire Time Warner. The new company promised to fulfil the consumer's media and information needs. Unfortunately, profits in the company slumped, resulting in an 80% decline in the share value.

## Summary of this week's business news

**Michael Olymbios**

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) decided to leave the federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent. The news came as no surprise to economists given the fall in America's headline rate of inflation in August by more than expected. This was largely due to decelerated energy inflation, which was 0.3 per cent in August compared with 2.9 per cent in July.

The regulation of hedge funds was brought into question after a Connecticut based firm - Amaranth Advisors - lost billions of dollars because of bad positions in the natural-gas futures market. Investment bank Goldman Sachs speculates the losses could reach 65 per cent of the entire fund. Christopher Cox, the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) warned individual investors of the high risks potentially pertaining to hedge funds.

JPMorgan Securities Japan lost millions of dollars on Tuesday due to an erroneous sell order on the Tokyo Stock Exchange. Similar incidences have plagued the exchange in the past, including the high-profile bad trade made by Muziho Securities that resulted in shares being mistakenly sold for a Yen. In this case, however, the TSE spotted an unusual trade in advance and warned JPMorgan. As a result only a small proportion of the trade went through. The firm released a statement admitting it had sold a group of stocks in the Topix index instead of stocks in the Nikkei 225. JPMorgan refused to put a figure on the losses.

Europe and Japan heavily criticised the anticompetitive actions of Russia, which withdraw a permit on environmental grounds. The permit was necessary for a \$20



**European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company admits further setbacks in Airbus A380 production**

billion Royal Dutch Shell energy-project. The action has increased the chances of Gazprom - Russia's state-owned gas monopoly - claiming the project as its own.

The European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) announced further setbacks in the production of the Airbus A380, putting pressure on its share price. No specific details were given, but a review is expected soon.

Bill Ford, chairman of automotive giant Ford, has employed the services of Sir John Bond - Vodafone's chairman and former chairman of HSBC. He will act as a part-time financial consultant to Mr Ford. After an uncertain year, investors showed renewed faith after the unveiling of plans to close two plants and cut 10,000 white-collar jobs.

Scania, a Swedish lorry manufacturer, rejected a takeover bid from MAN, a German competitor. Volkswagen, the leading shareholder, believed the offer of 9.6 billion euros undervalued the company, whilst Renault, with a 5 per cent stake in Scania, supported the deal.

Dieter Zetsche, chairman of Chrysler, predicted the company would make a loss this year, contrary to analyst predictions of a profit. The company will be making cuts in the near future and continues to lose its share in the North American market.

Motorola made its largest acquisition since 2000 after agreeing to buy Symbol Technologies for \$3.9 billion. Symbol manufactures handheld devices for tracking stock

and radio-identification tags, and will broaden Motorola's logistics division.

The Swiss pharmaceutical company Serono, which has been searching for a buyer for some time, is to be bought by Merck. The German rival said it would buy the 64.5 per cent stake currently held by the Bertarelli family for \$13.3 billion.

Telecom Italia's restructuring programme resulted in the chairman resigning over allegations of government intervention.

TI intended to spin off its fixed-line and mobile business so it could concentrate on broadband and media services. The centre-left government plans to oppose the scheme but TI is committed and plans to acquire AOL Broadband in Germany.



# Comment & Opinion

## In? Or better off out?

As we gear up for a referendum on NUS membership, Alex Guite makes the case in favour of joining and warns against the potential consequences of opting out



Alex Guite

“Leaving ULU will be a step back... For the first time in over 50 years, we will be on our own, isolated and mute without a national voice.”

As we move towards Imperial's centenary year, our College is ready to take a step forward to become a University in its own right when it leaves the University of London. But for our students' union, this move will be a step back when we leave the University of London Union.

For the first time in over 50 years, we will be on our own, isolated and mute without a national voice.

When our own Rector proposed top up-fees in 2002, it triggered a national campaign. With the real threat of top-up fees rising and more national upheaval in higher education within three years, this is not the time to be cut off.

From the discounts membership would give us as students to the greater say it gives our Union, it is time to look again at our membership of the National Union of Students (NUS).

I still remember the my disappointment and that of my friends when we started university here and discovered that we couldn't get an NUS card, almost a symbol of student life itself. But more than that, and the part which hurt our wallets, we couldn't get money off at Amazon, Topman, Pizza Hut or anywhere else that NUS has negotiated discounts for its members. From this year, the NUS card comes with a free ICIS card, extending even further the scope of discounts that are available to those in the NUS.

It was NUS lobbying which secured council tax exemption for students, the biggest student discount of all time. Could Imperial, or any university, have negotiated this on its own? Therein lies the real benefit of the NUS: that it is the recognised voice of students.

When politicians or the media want the views of students, is it to our Union or to the NUS that they turn? Whilst we remain outside of the NUS our voice is not being heard. On the day of the top up-fees vote in parliament, whilst the NUS President was negotiating with the Education Minister, all our own President could access was a back-bench MP who had already decided how he was going to vote. Imperial students deserve better. I am under no illusions about the NUS; I have no doubt that it needs reform. This is a view shared by the NUS itself, which has gone through root and branch reform of its finances and operations. We ensure that we have an effective national body representing students by working constructively for reform from within, not by sniping from the sidelines. Edinburgh, which voted to join the NUS in 2004, has been at the forefront of reforming the NUS. Should Imperial join, we too would be at the forefront of reforms.

Membership of the NUS is easily one of the biggest issues faced by Imperial students in recent times. With our circumstances radically changed by leaving the University of London Union, it's time for a sensible debate. We simply cannot afford to be isolated.

## A very warm welcome from the Union



John Collins  
ICU President

Welcome! To all fresher students, and this is probably not the first time you've heard this, welcome to Imperial College! To all non-Fresher students – welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed your well-earned summer break and are now prepared for the forthcoming year.

Andy informs me that I will be writing a weekly President's column for *Felix* to keep you all posted on the latest news from the Union. So I will start by telling you a little bit about the exciting refurbishment projects that we've delivered this summer. The Beit Building refurbishment is well underway and the first full venue revamp, Da Vinci's, is now complete. The promised new lift is presently being installed in the core of the building and I will write about this project in more detail in future columns. Outside of South Kensington, our Reynolds Bar has received a facelift and the ground floor of the student union building at Wye has also been overhauled. We hope you like these lovely new venues and politely request that you treat them well.

There is a lot more to ICU than can be summarised in a short article or a two minute freshers' speech. So, for the first time in living memory, we will be running a Freshers' General Meeting for all students on Monday 9th October at 6pm in the Union Concert Hall. If you want to know more about ICU and how you can get involved in its activities, then please come along to this event (refreshments will, of course, be provided).

Finally, if you need to contact me about these columns or chat about anything that concerns or interests you, then please don't hesitate to email me at [president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:president@imperial.ac.uk).

On that note, have a brilliant freshers' week and a fantastic year to come!

## Welcome to Gimperial!



John Sargent

For a lot of you (in fact, I don't think I'd be wrong in saying most of you), welcome to England. A well done to all of the freshers that are gracing us with their presence this year as you've worked damned hard. Not only have you been pressured by your parents from an early age to do well in school, but when you got to GCSE level you were told to work your arses off, you got the grades you wanted and sailed into your A-Levels, or IB, or Certificate of Competency, or whatever everybody else does where you come from. You toiled and broke your back with work for two years before finally landing the grades to make it into this prestigious institution that we call Imperial College London (or soon to be Imperial University, perhaps; frankly, nobody really knows). Congratulations.

“You will be given the royal treatment here at Gimperial”

If the above paragraph doesn't fit you, which it almost certainly won't, then you will be one of either two types of people who we regularly see here – genius academics, who

are the laziest people on the planet and will inevitably show up to a grand total of three lectures in their first year and somehow end up with a high first, or “just another Oxbridge reject”. Have no fear though. I can see straight through you – the truth is that you'll fit right in here and chances to slack off will be aplenty despite the nasty rumours about high workloads. Unless you want to get a first. Then it's a completely different story.

You will be given the royal treatment here at Gimperial as our institution strives to be amongst the elite of the elite. The number of female students on campus is so low that even the most rowdy male will be forced to sit at a desk and learn something once in a while. Additionally, when you are considering straying from your hard-working habits in halls and begin listening to music or, heaven forbid, playing World of Warcraft, rest assured that the alarms fitted in each room in the halls of residences also react to fun, and when the fun levels in any hall get past a certain point, they are sure to blare and usher you all out onto the pavement for half an hour while your annoyed wardens run around trying to figure out who used a chip pan to set three and a half kitchens on fire.

Lectures, on the other hand, are an entirely different matter. Whereas I have made the rest of Gimperial

life sound rather harsh, busy, and unforgiving, lectures are the safe haven where you are not only guaranteed the world class education that is offered here, but also the much needed sleep you missed the night before. Clearly then, as you can see, your working life here will have to be carefully balanced, and remember that it is always better to come in to lectures still drunk rather than with a hangover (that's advice from somebody else though).

Being serious just for a moment though, whatever your race, religion (probably none), sex (probably male), or drinking preferences (probably passed-out), you're entering a new chapter of your life and fortunately it's a pretty pleasant one.

Pretty soon you'll be out on the weekends with your mates doing whatever it is that takes your fancy. Take a good look at Freshers' Fair and sign up for everything you may have an interest in, you'll be thankful you did it later in the year. Don't fret about which hall you have because everyone will get more or less the same deal after you factor in price, and for goodness sake don't pass out naked on the Queen's Lawn at any time. Enjoy your Gimperial life, and remember the rest of us are here to help by making your day just that slightest bit more amusing.

# Wielding the mighty organ



**Andy Sykes**  
Editor-in-chief

First things first: while I was a-wandering the streets of South Kensington on Saturday night after a long day in the office fiddling with my mighty organ's design with my very capable Managing Editor, Alex Antonov, I was stopped by three beautiful young ladies wearing rather stunning dresses. "Lo, young traveller", they shouted unto me, "tarry a while and talk to us." Not wishing to seem impolite, I engaged in some hearty banter with them; they'd been to a wedding earlier, you see, and the shame of being 23 and unmarried had forced them to imbibe a significant proportion of their body weight in alcohol. They wanted directions to a local late-night drinking establishment that I have frequented with disastrous consequences, and I was happy to show them the way. They were called Peta (no, I didn't get it either), Philippa, and the beautiful young lady to their right, I could not remember her name; the only fact that sticks in my memory was that she was a secondary school teacher of mathematics. Anyway, they invited me to drink with them in said establishment, and I declined, as your editor was rather fatigued from a long night of staring at screens. In return for wussing out, I promised to mention them within the pages of this very newspaper. Consider yourself mentioned, my dear troika (look it up), and should you be in the Union bar in the near future, I will be happy to consume a beverage or two with you.

And so I lead on to more serious things. If you were one of the nearly one thousand that voted for me, I thank you. If not, well, you had your reasons. I've worked for *Felix* since pretty much the day I arrived at the College, naive, optimistic, and with zero alcohol tolerance. I've studied under such legendary editors as Will Dugdale, Alex Coby, and Dave Edwards, and consider myself one of the last of the old guard of *Felix*, having cut my teeth on the rather hellish music section and lengthy "editorial meetings" (read: bar nights). I've inherited a *Felix* that has been thoroughly disliked by staff and students alike, and one that has descended into petty name-calling and poor quality tabloid journalism. I've seen more strife within the *Felix* staff in the last year than I have seen in the previous four editors' terms. I've seen what I saw as the spirit of *Felix* get lost somewhere in the accusations and recrimination. *Felix* has a long and proud tradition; where we've held the College and Union to account in the past, we've done so with reason and balance. Our tone never used to be admonishing, but rather, a wonderful blend of irreverence and asshattery. I've wanted to hold this position all my College life, and I hope you enjoy my tenure. If not, well, I'll wreck up the place. I know where you live.

## felix

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# The Land of the Free

Does our scorn for Americans have any basis in reality? After a brief visit to the new continent **Hugh Stickley-Mansfield** is not convinced

Until this week, I had a very low opinion of Americans. Having never been there before now, my only real experience of them was in the news, in works of fiction or simply through received wisdom. The upshot of this was that I had an image of Americans as self-centred, unfriendly and stupid, and yet this is entirely at odds with how I have found them to be in my recent experience.

In fact, even before visiting, I had met a great many pleasant, friendly Americans – the occasional tourist or expat – in Britain. Yet many of these were keen to further propagate a negative view of their fellow countrymen – decrying the extremist leanings of many, or taking a dig at the insular mindset of the eighty-odd percent who have never owned a passport. Being a trusting chap, I took their word for it on the basis that they should know, of all people. But I did not consider that, since they had chosen to leave the country, for however long, they might be somewhat biased. After all, it would be unwise to base an assessment of the British character on expats in the Spanish Riviera, so why should America be any different?

In the few days I have spent in America, everyone I have met has been polite, friendly and a good conversationalist. Even at customs, where I had expected even a low level of intolerance given the events of recent years, there was a noticeable lack of the officious air that constant tales of high-handed officials would suggest. Of course, I do not for one moment assume that the whole country is like this by any means, but

in all my travels around Britain I have never experienced an atmosphere where bus-drivers will give impromptu commentaries of places of interest, fellow passengers on the train will strike up a conversation upon overhearing your own, and so on. Despite all my northern friends' claims, that sort of thing just does not happen even in their neck of the woods. However, I have

to back it up, or how often the news suggests it – once again, if my outlook of Britain were based on nothing more than that, it would appear all but uninhabitable, since news and drama only exist where there is conflict of a sort.

All of this is obvious. Yet I have been willfully ignorant of it, since it confirms my prejudices regarding Americans to do so and there is something deeply



"Everyone I know has an unflattering outlook on America"

comforting in that. And I know I am certainly not alone in this – almost everyone I know has an unflattering outlook on America and of Americans, even amongst the most liberal-minded of them – those who would otherwise flinch at the prospect of being in any way discriminatory.

There seems to be a sense that you are not actually being racist if you are only being racist about Americans – that they are a powerful enough nation that a bit of slander here and there will do them no harm (after all, they have repeatedly made it clear that they are more than than capable of looking after themselves). Or perhaps it is simply a protracted sulk over their latterday success since kicking the British out. Either way, it is a deeply unsettling and misanthropic notion, but no-one seems to think twice about it. But they are, after all, only Americans – so who cares?

# Your newspaper needs you!



**Stephen Brown**  
Comment Editor

Life is strange. In my final column as Sports Editor last year I was rather rude about some of the contributors to these hallowed pages and now I am charged with the responsibility of editing *Felix's* comment section. Do I regret my intemperate words? Not a jot, is the answer.

Some of the content in *Felix* last year was absolutely lamentable. Considering we are allegedly a world-class academic institution the standard of writing in *Felix* left a lot to be desired. Instead of objective, balanced journalism our column inches were littered with sensationalist

junk, paranoid grievance-mongering and terribly dogmatic pieces written by single-issue fanatics.

Several of my acquaintances agree with this rather uncharitable view of our publication last year. Where I would disagree with them was when they blamed our Editor for all of the faults. If some of the people last year put the same energy into writing news stories or columns as they did into bitching about Rupert, then *Felix* would have been a whole lot better.

I recall several occasions last year where I got rather animated when I had been sent sports reports that read like they had been put together by a particularly inarticulate eight year old. The sad thing was that more often than not they had been submitted by students who would claim that English (or some bastardised version of it) was their first language. At the end of the day editors only edit. Perhaps we could have been a bit more proactive in recruiting more writers but it is rather unfair to try and blame poor content on one individual.

It is on this note that I urge you all to get writing. Imperial is unique in that it doesn't run any courses which traditionally dominate campus media. We should see this as an opportunity for us scientists to present our inherently superior view of the world. I'm sure I'm not the only one round these

parts who tires of the same formulaic articles that keep appearing in the national press. I believe scientists would make better, more objective writers by the nature of the topics we study. We don't get away with pretentiously fluffing out essays with obscure literary and philosophical quotes to mask the fact that we don't know very much about a given topic. Our ability to call a spade a fucking shovel should make us perfect for reporting the world around us. Why on earth is the media and politics dominated by the arts? Perhaps it's just because scientists are too clever to bother with either.

In order for us to present a more diverse set of opinions we need your help. I've met several people at Imperial who would make excellent writers. It would be nice if some more of you could commit your thoughts to print for us. There are not many benefits about writing for *Felix*. It's a thankless task and you only really hear from people when you've offended someone, but I still would recommend it. On the upside, the bar nights are quite good fun, so please get writing!

Got anything you would like to share with our readers? Please send all contributions to [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# Reviews

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Editorial Rant

Hello, hi and willkommen to the vast plane of mid-20th century architecture that is Imperial College. If you haven't yet strained your eyes about two and a half inches upward on this page; this is the music section of the mighty organ that is *Felix*. Now for the patronising bit.

University should be a voyage of discovery. There are parts to you that you may not even know about. We are not suggesting that you invest in a room full of mirrors so you can perpetually observe your nether regions. Okay, let's start again...

When we first came to university, we wanted to learn about as much as possible, both inside and outside our 'proper' subjects. This naturally included music and its various forms. You might be equally inquisitive.

So here at *Felix*, we'd thought we'd offer you up some of the albums that we adored in our first year. Along with these, there is a list of 10 'essential' albums that can help open you up to a vast world of music that lies ahead, if you wish to pursue it. They're not necessarily the best albums ever but the ones that can expand your tastes.

We don't wish to patronise you, just to suggest some stuff that you might like. If you think we are smoking some of that crack stuff that we keep hearing about, and our suggestions are awful, or if you can think of other albums everyone should definitely hear then get in touch.

This section is always looking for reviewers. The rewards of this is that you get access to FREE gigs and FREE CDs and in return we should want you to write about them. Or if gig photography is a passion of yours then we can exhibit your work. Also it is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people.

This section is run by three editors so that the workload of being a music editor doesn't clash with out degree studies, since we are all in our third year here. It also means that there should be at least one of us around for you to harass.

You can get in touch by popping along to the *Felix* stall at Freshers' Fair or by e-mailing us at music.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Don't worry if you haven't done any reviews before. Our first years were the first time that we had ever put fingers to keyboards and ranted away.

The music section will also be helping to put on a gig on in the union on October 13th. We have selected a band to play alongside two bands that are playing on that night. The section is also connected to the Alternative Music Society and so look out for events organised by them here.

Enjoy this week's feature and reviews. If you want to contribute, please don't hesitate to get involved. Without voluntary contributions we would be nothing!

Jenny Gibson, Matty Hoban,  
and Tom Whitson  
Music Editors

# Albums for your first year

Ten essential albums and some that got our reviewers through their first year



**Sonic Youth**  
Daydream Nation  
(Geffen)

Everyone has heard of Sonic Youth but they are often associated with Nirvana and that horrible word, 'grunge'. This is purely due to bad timing. Whilst Nirvana were still tuning up, Sonic Youth had emerged out of the no-wave scene with two fantastic albums, *Sister* and *Daydream Nation*.

Opener, *Teen Age Riot* is perhaps one of the most perfect songs around. It's loud, catchy, sexy (Kim Gordon's intro does that to you) and fast. What more could you need? Well, possibly 13 more tracks of more brilliance and that's what you get. Sonic Youth were, and still are, one of the major inspirations to any band that wanted to sound different. Thurston Moore, in many a music patron's eyes, is a god and his label, Ecstatic Peace, is awash with fantastic bands. Avoid at your peril!



**Pavement**  
Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain  
(Matador)

Forget *The Automatic* and *The Kooks*, Pavement are *real* indie-pop. Where the former bands tread the same ideas and melodies used so many times before, Pavement were real experimenters.

Their first album, *Slanted and Enchanted* remains a classic to this day. However a good place to start with Pavement is their second album, *Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain*. This album is better produced and more accessible than their debut but Stephen Malkmus' (who also was in Silver Jews) lyrics are still insanely skewed and sharply brilliant. *Cut Your Hair* is so immediately great in its sardonic nature that it is irresistible.

### Favourite First Year Albums:

**Nick Simpson says:**  
At the Drive-In,  
*Relationship of Command*

**Keira Poland says:**  
Rufus Wainwright, *Poses*



**...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead**  
Madonna  
(Merge Records)

Yet another band to emerge from the Olympia, Washington scene - which also spat out Bikini Kill and Nirvana amongst others - but relocated to Austin, Texas. Trail of Dead mash together the indie rock noise-making of Sonic Youth with more rock'n'roll influences. It is high octane melodicism and reflects the Austin, Texas scene at the time. For classic rock fans this album can expand your tastes whilst giving you something you can still relate to.



**Animal Collective**  
Sung Tongs  
(Fat Cat Records)

Folk is becoming more acceptable at the moment and is not just dismissed as music for bearded old men. Nick Drake's *Nine Leaves Left* is a nice place to start but slightly obvious. Iron & Wine also offer beautiful music however it's still very traditional. Animal Collective are from New York and add a lush experimental edge to sparse folk yet retaining a pop edge. Magic.



**Slint**  
Spiderland  
(Touch and Go)

This is one of the true iconic albums of the 90s. If you like Mogwai, then maybe you'll know that they owe everything to Slint. This album spawned more genres that you can count on one hand. Math-rock, post-rock, indie-rock, whatever you call it, the music is constantly shifting and evades pigeon-holing.

**Favourite First Year Albums:**  
**Gregory Mead says:**  
Interpol, *Antics*



**Public Enemy**  
It Takes A Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back  
(Def Jam)

This is an album that a lot of people have heard of but have not actually heard. It is a seminal hip hop album in every aspect. The music uses infectious and brilliant samples with headline political views.

It is hard to deny the greatness of an album which feature tracks such as *Don't Believe the Hype* and *Rebel Without a Pause*. If you ever needed music to soundtrack your slow politicism at university or just general angst then put this on.



**The Clash**  
London Calling  
(Columbia)

This album might seem a bit obvious but it has London in the title, so that's why it is in. Also, it's a punk album that brushes with a lot of genres.

The Clash's 1979 opus is the ultimate London album from the ultimate London band. From the opening striking chords of the title track you're dragged through a machine gun blitz of punk, rock'n'roll, reggae and everything in between. All of this is topped off with Joe Strummer's visceral lyrics. Quite simply a classic.



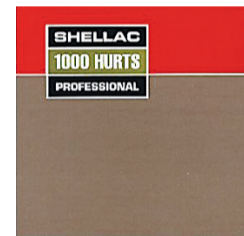
**John Coltrane**  
A Love Supreme  
(Impulse)

Jazz, jazz, oh jazz. One of the most maligned genres around. If you are a fan of jazz then I'm sure you know about this album. This is the last album in the classic quartet form. After this album, Coltrane went avant-garde and alongside with Ornette Coleman, wandered into new

undiscovered territories.

However I find this album a beautiful one for those who don't really know much about jazz. For one thing, this album has a collective theme of faith and worship. There is poetry in the liner notes of the sleeve which indicate this theme.

There is an air of melody within these pieces making the improvisation easier to grasp onto. The title track has an instantly catchy bassline and ends with the title being sung over the bassline.



**Shellac**  
1000 Hurts  
(Touch and Go)

This album is perhaps not the best album out there. It is however made by a vital band. The reason for this is Steve Albini. He is well-known for his production on Pixies albums and the last Nirvana album. He has produced so many influential albums that he has a certain myth about him. Albini has also been in legendary bands such as Big Black and Rapeman but Shellac is perhaps more accessible. *Watch Song* is fantastic song dedicated to the stupidity of brawling and fighting.



**Joy Division**  
Unknown Pleasures  
(Factory)

Possibly another obvious choice for essential albums. But I am tired and need to hand this in in five minutes. Ahem, I mean it is still an influential album and can introduce the listener to a whole new sonic territory.

This album may not feature *Love Will Tear Us Apart* but it still contains fantastic songs. These include *She's Lost Control* which is incredibly eerie yet very immediate. This album not only focuses on melody and rhythm but puts a large emphasis on sound. At once sparse and vast, the sonic landscape that is painted is an ear-opener.

The record has an industrial veneer that could have only been conveyed in the grey that is Manchester in the late seventies.

# A summery regression

Felix gets retrospective over some albums releases in the summer (we need to play catch up)

## album reviews

### Muse

Black Holes And Revelations  
(Wea)

★★★★☆

Much was said in the build-up to this album's release; speculation was endless as to what Muse could do next. The band were quoted as saying they had been inspired by The Strokes and their sense of melody. Some fans were worried that the band would lose their identity and 'sell-out' to the stereotypical mainstream indie crowd, but this was not to be the case. While this album may be more accessible to the mainstream listener the band have most certainly not lost any of their edge. If anything, this album proves them to be the true innovators they have only hinted at being in the past.

Their last album, *Absolution*, released to critical acclaim and commercial success, carried a central theme of apocalyptic events and conspiracy theories. Instead of continuing this trend and making *Absolution* Mk II, as many lesser bands would have, the band have used elements from their earlier sound and taken them to a new level.

As the first single, *Supermassive Black Hole* has proven, the band are not afraid of experimenting with their sound, but they took great risks in doing so. By changing their sound so completely to this new disco-funk inspired style

the band risked losing their main fanbase, who knew and loved them for their harder space-rock work. At first many fans, myself included, were bemused by this direction but although it is a radical departure it is also completely brilliant and tremendous fun.

Much of the rest of the album follows suit and yet it is still much more varied than their other ones. Stand out tracks include *Map of the Problematique* which combines a throbbing beat and pulsating guitars with emotional, heartfelt lyrics like, 'Why can't we see, when we bleed we bleed the same'. Another highlight is the politically charged *Assassin* which kicks into action with crushing guitars and thrashing drums while encouraging a revolution with Bellamy's lyrics, 'Aim, shoot, kill your leaders'.

Overall the album is a much easier listen than previous efforts and the diversity of the songs ensure that the listener is never bored. The album is closed by the epic *Knights of Cydonia* which romps and riffs its way through six minutes of pomp and spectacle before burning out. At the end you are left with one hell of a catchy riff stuck in your head, and an impression of slight disorientation. Like an impressive and varied fireworks display that goes out with that big loud one leaving your ears ringing and your retinas scarred, this album is great fun and as long as it's not taken too seriously a superb album all round.

Toby Prudden

### The Automatic Not Accepted Anywhere (B-Unique)

★★★☆☆

Most people's first taste of The Automatic would probably have been with their hugely successful single *Monster*. This was mine anyway, and if I'm being honest I enjoyed the rather fun, catchy and shouty nature of the song, accompanied by an entertainingly comical video, of you guessed it, them being chased by a monster. However, the novelty of the raspy shouts repeating the end of every line becomes incredibly irritating, when you realise that somebody, somewhere decided that it would be a good idea to use this technique on virtually every song on The Automatic's debut album *Not Accepted Anywhere*.

Don't get me wrong, I do actually like this Welsh band and I enjoy what they are trying to do. My favourite track is *Lost at Home* simply because they have refrained from using any shouty-sections, although admittedly I was just waiting for them to be introduced. Their other tracks which have been released as singles are also included on this album. *Raoul* and *Recover*, which has been re-released after its limited success as their first ever single have both received moderate success however obviously *Monster* was what got The Automatic their big break. These tracks along with *Monster* are very catchy, possibly explaining the excessive amounts

of radioplay that this band receives. The band do produce interesting, and somewhat refreshing songs, however they are all so similar that when combined they form an album that at best can be described as mediocre.

Apparently the band is called The Automatic as they provide the perfect cure to the automatic, monotonous lives that far too many people lead. However, surely if you just replace one repetitive task with a tediously droning noise of an album, you get that same bored feeling and that is exactly what The Automatic have achieved. Individually the songs are quite good, but they seem to be limited resulting in an album that sounds all too similar.

Jenny Gibson

### Gogol Bordello

Gypsy Punks:  
Underdog World Strike  
(Side One Dummy)

★★★★☆

I think that what I am about to say will give you some idea as to how I feel about this band. If you have not heard Gogol Bordello's latest album *Gypsy Punks: Underdog World Strike*, go and buy it now and enjoy. Tired of listening to endless indie-pop bands, which it seems are becoming increasingly blander as more and more hat-wearing, pointy shoe, skinny jean wearing bands shoot to stardom? Then this bizarre

fusion of gypsy folk and punk is the perfect antidote.

The music snobs amongst you may dismiss them as a cheap gimmick with silly songs, however you can't argue with the reaction of the crowd when you see them live. Their credibility is further boosted by the fact that this is their fifth album, with their first in 1999, and the fact that they have featured on the U.S. Warped Tour. Their songs may seem nonsensical, reflected in song titles such as *Start Wearing Purple* and *Immigrant Punk*. However if you can listen to this album without making slightly strange movements in time to any of the songs, then there is something wrong with you. This music is so refreshing and unusual; the frantic playing of the fiddle and accordion used in so many of their songs adds to the excitement and chaos created by the crazy lyrics and piercing, intermittent shrieks.

Their unique sound can be attributed to Gogol Bordello being largely made up of Eastern-European immigrants, now based and living in New York. Their influences are accredited to a wide range of bands, most of which I'm not afraid to say, I have never heard of, as I am evidently not an alternative/obscure music-buff. However, I would recommend this album to absolutely anybody who likes listening to haphazard, vibrant and revitalizing music. A far cry from what the British music scene is threatening to become.

Jenny Gibson

# Depeche Mode and others impress at Hyde Park

Your humble newspaper attends the O2 Wireless festival for an eclectic mix of bands

## festival review

### O2 Wireless Festival

Hyde Park  
Sunday June 25

★★★★☆

The final day of this year's O2 wireless festival opens with a set from OK Go. With 'get, get, get over it' inevitably fixed in our heads like a piece of barbed cheese, we wonder around for more sounds. We find London's own New Young Pony Club (formerly NYPC), who start their set with *The Get Go*, the jumped up punk-funk brings life into this Sunday afternoon.

The quirky front woman, Tahita, is relaxed and charming, bantering with the audience, and betting that we can't help but dance to the Jamaican reggae groove of *Hiding on the Staircase*. She has a point. The crowd know how to embrace variety.

After a bit of a wander around, we come back to the X Stage to find New York's Matisyahu (Matthew Paul Miller), bounding around the stage to push some Hasidic Jewish reggae into our ears. Looking at ease as the crowd builds to follow the hype that forms a fog around him. You just want to sway to the beat-boxing dubbed up Rasta roots

sound.

Sunday sunshine doesn't provide the purring intimacy that Alison Goldfrapp demands. We only catch two Goldfrapp songs, but we're bidding time as Gang of Four are due to headline the Xfm Stage so we move swiftly on. The X Stage is barely half full as some punters have twigged that Niteversions are another incarnation of Soulwax. Their set of dancebeats crafted out of percussion and knob twiddling just builds the rhythm of our anticipation. As they finish the audience melts away. Are these people stupid? Or are we at the wrong stage? A band formed in '77 that smashed up a sold out Brixton Academy in 2004 and now there's 30 of us in this crowd. Their loss is our gain. We move in closer and amazingly, we're at the front.

They don't disappoint. Gill leaps on to the stage first prancing around like a sprite, King's bashing his percussion instrument of choice, a microwave, with a baseball bat. Here's the intensity of sound we've waited for, what some have called their neo-Marxist funk. Call it what you want, it was a set of classics. Clearly enjoying themselves and it rubs off on the crowd.

We are moved beyond words and all we can do to pogo uncontrollably and grin. Their set is the highlight of the day. As Gang of Four

come off-stage, we rush over to the main stage for headliners, Depeche Mode.

The crowd has significantly expanded since we left Goldfrapp's set. We are barely settled and the tallest man in the vicinity positions himself directly in front of us. His mate, probably the second tallest man in the whole crowd, stands next to him. That was very considerate we thought before shifting behind some normal sized people. They're playing all the hits flawlessly and we wonder why it doesn't feel like the headlining act of one of our favourite bands.

Suddenly everything changes. Here comes *Personal Jesus*. The sun starts to set, the huge screens shine out beautiful pictures and from nowhere, the atmosphere finally arrives. Now it feels like the headline set of a festival.

When Dave Gahan utters the words, 'Come on lets see those hands,' the crowd obeys. They played the hits, but these were the songs that we needed to hear: *Stripped*; *Personal Jesus*; *I Feel You* and finishing on *Never Let Me Down Again*. A draining yet exhilarating end to the day, we faithfully went and bought Depeche Mode T-shirts.

Mia Kukathason &  
Heba Abu-Own



Depeche Mode live with very strange keyboards in background



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## Party time again!



### Greg Mead & Alex Baldwin Nightlife Editors

**H**ello, and welcome to another fun packed year at Imperial, hopefully you've had a wonderful holiday (actually I hope it was rubbish) and you haven't missed university life too much.

For you Freshers out there, we've prepared a wonderful specially made section for you this week, filled with competitions, student friendly clubnight reviews, and even a guide to some of our favourite clubnights of the week, we really suggest you go to them, they are great, plus you'll have the chance to meet the beautiful Alex.

Speaking of which, some of my regular fans may be wondering who the hell is the Alex character invading our favourite section, well he has kindly volunteered his services to take over the nightlife editorial while I am in rehab for the next few months, but don't start destroying every copy of Felix in sight yet, for hopefully I will return after Christmas where Alex and I will bring you the most awesome-a-saurus rex articles, and even more awesome made up words.

Our main review today is of Afterskool, courtesy of Leather Hat Matt, one of our most esteemed reviewers. As for the competition, we decided not to keep all the tickets for ourselves so we're giving away a load of free stuff! Make sure you email in to Nightlife for the chance to win these wonderful prizes. If you don't email in you have no chance at all of winning!

That's all we can think of writing this week, so read on and we hope you love all the genuinely amazing events during Freshers Week.

*Fancy free entry to any club any time?  
Can you write in English?  
Become a nightlife reviewer!*

# London School of Excess

## LSE has nicer girls than IC? Surely not!

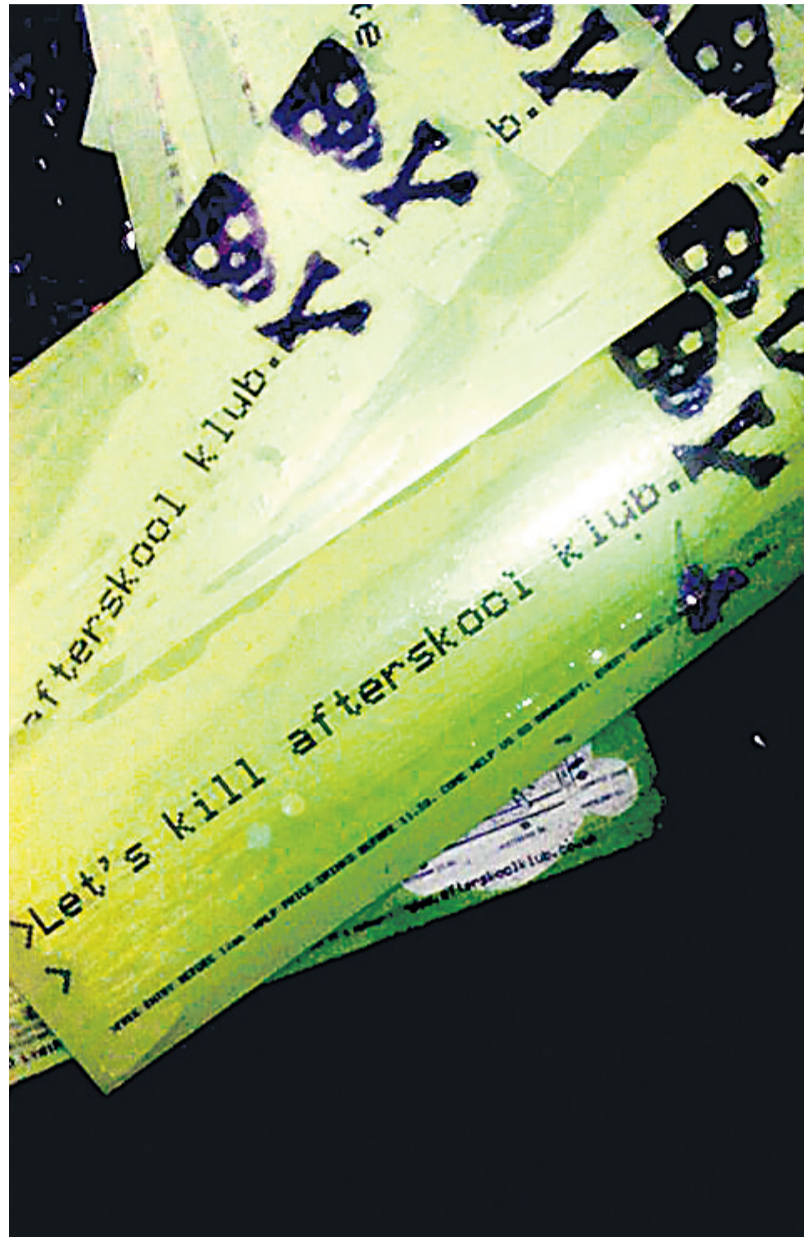
### Afterskool Klub

LSE Union  
Free before midnight, £6 after,  
£5 NUS/Flyer  
★★★★☆

Although there are better things I can think of doing for a night out than spending it with a load of economists, it has to be said that LSE's union is certainly enviable. It's popular, they have leather seats, multiple floors, more of the female gender, and it's even a little cheaper. I know what you're thinking. Bastards. Don't let anything put you off going, though, because one of the all round best outings in London is one of their flagship nights, on the pleasingly convenient Saturday slot. There's also a big clubnight on Fridays called Crush, but it's best not to mention my experience with that one (it involved pouring alcohol down my ears to drown out that horrendous noise people call urban 'music').

Afterskool has been going for a while now, and it describes itself as an indie and electro night. Amongst the usual suspects, there's a certain New Wave influence amongst it all, with the likes of *Talking Heads* and *David Bowie* rearing their heads for the dancefloor once again. There, are of course, your usual indie anthems which they pump out through the speakers, expect to hear something like *Love Will Tear Us Apart* or *Common People* at some point or another, most likely towards the end of the night.

There's also your standard selection of relatively new and danceable indie hits; *The Arcade Fire* are certainly popular, and whether you like them or not, there's the seemingly omnipresent *Franz Ferdinand* with their various remixes to keep you throwing funky shapes (although, readers, I must say whoever did that remix of the first 3 notes of *Do You Want To* that lasts about 13 minutes will pay for leg injury for dancing too long, I fucking swear). A lot of the night concentrates on the stuff the NME indie



We didn't have any photos, so heres a picture of their fliers instead.

kids listen to, I'm talking *We Are Scientists* and the like, it's not really as heavy as Club NME [*Hardly surprising* - Greg] on that side but it certainly veers more on the mainstream than a lot of the more elitist places in London. It may sound a bit strange to criticize a night of it, but personally I do feel that Afterskool sometimes skimps a bit on

the electronic side of their moniker - there's a fair bit of 80s stuff that has *synthesizers*, but don't get your hopes up thinking you're going to be having a night of dance music - this is strictly for guitar and guitar/electronic hybrid stuff.

I have this unshakeable feeling that this place reminds me of the infamous Mancunian venue The

Hacienda (if you don't know what that is, then may I suggest the rather great *Steve Coogan* movie *24 Hour Party People*). The main area spans two stories, and has whacking great big pillars running down from a balcony, which you can look over onto the dancefloor from. It's a nice enough area if you've had a few too many pints and need somewhere to relax, as it's less hectic than the main area.

Below hence lies the bar, which as I mentioned, is extraordinarily cheap: may the lord bless student unions. It's usually under two quid for a pint, in fact, I've found the rule of thumb is that it's about 5-10p cheaper than Imperial. This means that, for a change, you can actually get drunk on something you like and spend as much as you would at an average pub, without having to make do with whatever piss happened to be on special offer. Panic, I'm looking at you, with your *sodding* Kronenbourg (however you do play *Belle & Sebastian* loads, so I still love you).

And then there's the atmosphere. Okay, so you'll still see the occasional music elitist with stupid hair and a ridiculous hat (guilty as charged) as is per usual in indie establishments, but Afterskool is largely full of - well - students! Respectable students! Not that I have anything bad to say about the fine ladies at somewhere like, just a random club, Cheapskates, but it's a somewhat fun and friendly atmosphere, it's not full of horny males and neither is it full of music scenesters that are just too cool to dance.

So, it's easy to find, easy to get back from (you've got to love those buses in Camden at 3 in the morning, that only run once an hour and *never* go anywhere useful), a good time of the week, damn cheap, and has a great atmosphere. About the only complaint I can level against this place is that I wish it played more varied music, but it's a minor critique, and one I'm sure won't apply to 99% of you kids out there. If you enjoy indie music in the slightest - this is essential stuff.

**Matt "The Hat" Long**

## Greg and Alex's super duper club recommendations for the week!

### Greg & Alex

Since you may have just joined IC, and not be from London, or even from the UK, then we've been kind enough to write a little list of clubnights we might visit throughout the week, either because they are good or cheap. Either way, I suggest that if you don't like Indie or Electro then destroy this article now.

#### Monday

It's the start of the week, and you get to meet us in the flesh at Seen at The Fly on New Oxford Street. You can even touch our faces. That starts at 7pm and finishes at midnight, just in time to make your way over the road to Trash at The End,

where you will be swiftly removed from the queue unless your clothes and musical taste are up to standard (fashion show Indie).

#### Tuesday

You will not be hungover as the drinks at Trash are extortionately priced. Make your way over to The Roxy on Rathbone Place for Panic! a perfect student type Indie/Electro night sure to please all but the most snobbish of you with £1.50 drinks all night.

#### Wednesday

Venture over to Notting Hill for Death Disco, with Alan McGee at the Notting Hill Arts Club, get there before 8pm and you'll get in

for free, which coincides with the start of happy hour. Expect to hear an eclectic mix of Indie, Post-Punk, and a bit of Electro. They also have live bands.

#### Thursday

Get over to Candybox at Moonlighting, if you fancy a horrible night of Indie cheese. The questionable choice of music is balanced by the £1.00 house spirit and mixers, so turn up with £20 and leave totally wasted.

#### Friday

In the olden days before Our Disco was so cruelly removed from its home at Plastic People, it would guarantee a decent Friday night.

However there are still some commendable options, check 333 on Old Street for monthly clubnights that can be hit and miss, or Cargo, also around Old Street for a varied mix of live acts.

#### Saturday

Afterskool, the best student Indie clubnight in London, hosted at LSE's student union (see review) is a great option, the DJ's are good and the drinks are quite cheap. Other options include irregular clubnights at The Barfly (live bands) and maybe something at the Union, if you're very very lucky.

#### Sunday

Sleep, or do some work (hah!)

# Competition Time!

Hooray, we've got lots of prizes for everyone in this amazing first issue of Nightlife of the year! All you have to do is email in telling us which prize you'd like. Interesting emails may get priority.

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk



We've got 10 pairs of tickets for **Papadiso** and **Jaded** at Egg club on the 14th October, featuring, *Happy Mondays*, *Switch DJ's* and Kiss100's *Steve Smart*.

Presenting in the main room one of the hottest production outfits of the moment - Switch is in everyone's record box right now. Their current smash 'A bit patchy' which is forthcoming on Dave Taylor's own imprint 'Dubsided' is almost a classic summary of how Switch deliver beats that literally (lift/tear?) the roof off a dancefloor. Hav-

ing recently remixed the likes of Martin Solveg and X-Press 2, Switch have just re-rubbed the all time classic Basement Jaxx - 'Fly Life' ready for it's re-release on Atlantic Jaxx.

It gets better. Hosting the Terrace this month is the Happy Mondays Collective (messy) busting out a DJ-Set alongside the Papadiso residents Frisky DJ's & Kiss FM's Steve Smart. In the Loft

Sub-Mission - a DJ collective based in London and the south-east, dedicated to the electronic sounds of funky, deep, tech and electro house music go head to head with Chocolate Groove who at just over a year old will be playing their mix of Soulful, Deep, US House/Funky, Chunky, Jackin House (mixed with a bit of electro & disco-funk).



We've got guestlist for one winner and two friends for **StereoSushi** at **Ministry of Sound** on October 13, plus three **Hed Kandi** double CD albums to give away (to the same people).

Reintroducing a much needed dash of glamour and gorgeousness to Friday night partying, Stereo Sushi will lavishly transform Ministry into an opulent, oriental playground complete with Stereo hosts and Sushi Ninja Girl Warriors.

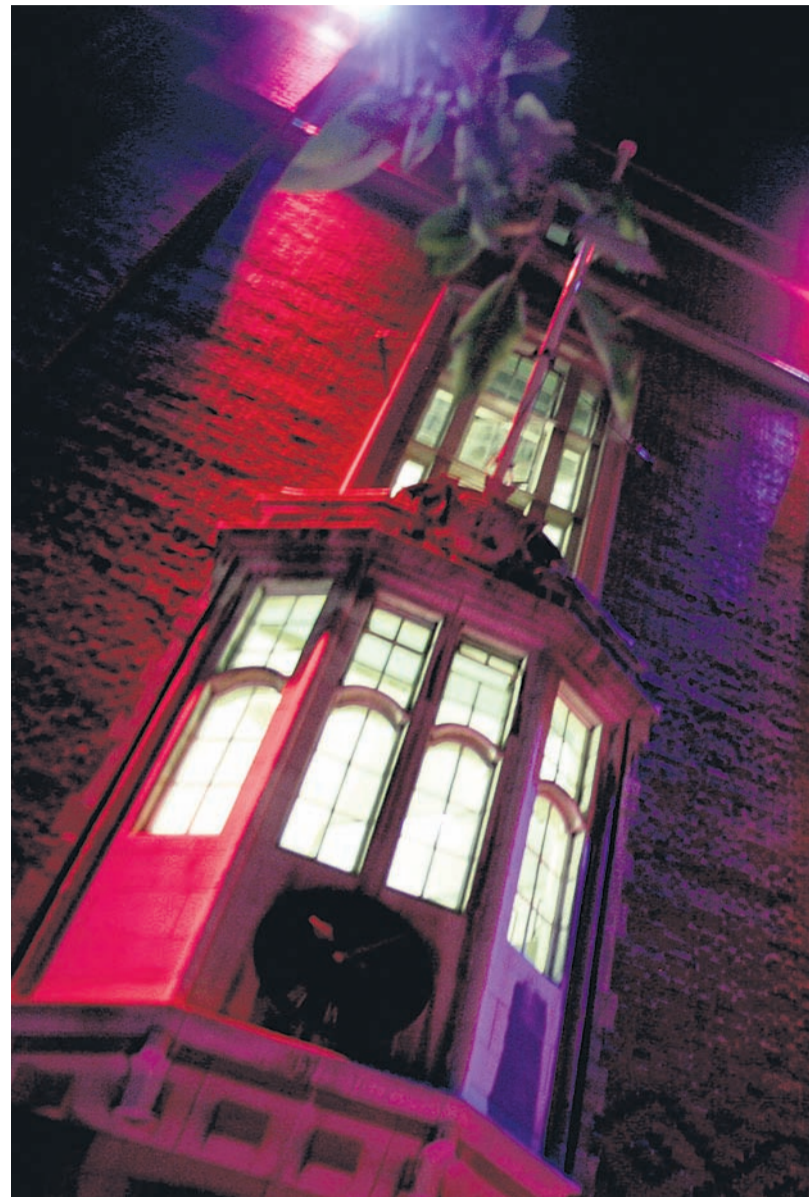
In the main room the legendary CJ Mackinstosh will grace the

turntables, dropping an array of soulful, intoxicating rhythms - if there's one person who knows how to work the mighty main room it's CJ - one of the original Ministry of Sound resident DJ's from back in day. Joining him on the night is another of London's leading soulful-house DJ's - Glyne Braitwaite, ready to deliver one of his infamous deep and

anthem led sets.

Andy Norman and Jamie Richard take care of proceedings in the Bar, taking us all on a melodious journey, satisfying our musical needs with the finest selection of deep and dirty disco grooves. Soul Logic host the Baby Box, with additional percussion supplied by Shovell from M-People.

## Cheap treats every night of the week



Despite fancy new lights, there are other places than the Union.

The Good Lord be praised for there be ways of getting cheap drinks and sonic appeasement almost any darn day of the week, even in the money grabbing shylock that is, London Town. Ok peeps, here goes.

### Monday

The cheapest place to find yourself a tippie on the first day of your cheap week is to get down to The Fly for a night called Seen. It's free entry and any house spirit and mixer is just £2.00 and a bottle of Carling is a mere £1.50. The house DJ's certainly know their stuff and kick up a fuss of old and classic indie with a fetischstic shot of electro. A really very good and very cheap start to the week.

### Tuesday

Head over to UCL Union for exceedingly cheap booze-age. Pints start at as little as £1.60 and Tuesdays traditionally are host to their Live Band nights where for the price of a lager and a packet of crisps you can hear the delights of new student band talent and also hear the freshers try out their DJ skills.

### Wednesday

Notting Hill Arts club is a must-go for anyone new to London, the basement venue an experience in itself, Wednesdays is home to Alan McGee's night Death Disco and if you're in before 6pm it's absolutely free plus between 6.00 & 9.00pm there are great drinks deals too. House beer and a glass of house wine are both £2.00, glass of house fizz is £2.50 and selected cocktails

are £4.50. With great DJ's and live bands this is a great night out with only moderate damage to your pocket.

### Thursday

It might be in Wimbledon but the Watershed is good fun and most importantly very cheap night out. A stone's throw from the borough of Chelsea, for your £4.00 NUS entry Watershed advertises all drinks at £1.50 till 11.30pm and has live bands from 9-midnight plus DJ's till 2am.

### Friday

Get down to the Live Room at ULU. NUS entry is a fiver and you get to see the best of the music scene's breaking bands for next to nothing before everyone else. Newly kitted out in state for the art PA it's a veritable genre feast and the drinks are student priced as you would expect.

### Saturday

Well it may be back to Notting Hill Arts Club for this one, but you won't be disappointed. Rota is a fabulous mix of cutting edge DJ's and live bands and is from 4pm till 8pm every week. Amazingly it's completely free. The same drinks deals apply as from 6pm-9pm on a weekday where a house bottle of wine sets you back just £8.00. Rock on!

### Sunday

What? More you ask? But this be the Lord's day of rest.. So give your liver a rest and go and cook sunday lynch for your mates in return for a plentiful supply of..

# The Health Centre welcomes you to Imperial College!

## **Registering**

It is important you register with an NHS General Practitioner as soon as possible. The Imperial College Health Centre is situated in the temporary building opposite Weeks Hall. You can obtain registration forms from our reception team at the Health Centre if you have not received them on arrival in hall. All Imperial College Students are eligible to use our services during the working day. However, only those living within our NHS registration area may register with us under the NHS. Please ask our reception staff for advice on NHS registration.

**Imperial College  
London**

## **Chronic health problems**

If you have any chronic health problems (such as diabetes or asthma) or take regular medication (but not the contraceptive pill) please come and have brief medical with one of the doctors to discuss your health needs and arrange for your medication to be continued.

## **Vaccination**

We also strongly recommend that you are vaccinated against meningococcal infection (meningitis) and mumps. Both illnesses, although rare, occur more commonly amongst university students and are both serious. Meningococcal meningitis can kill and mumps can damage fertility. If you have not been immunised against these, it is very important that you attend the Health Centre as soon as possible.

## **Existing patients**

If you are an existing patient of the Health Centre and you have changed address over the summer, please email your new details to us, stating your name, date of birth, full new address and your contact telephone numbers. It is important you keep us up to date with your new addresses. The NHS may remove you from our list of patients if we cannot provide them with a current address. Our email address is: [healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk)

## **Booking online**

We now offer an online appointment booking program called EMIS Access. With our new service, gone are the days of not being able to get through to us via telephone. You don't need the practice to be open to make an appointment. You can do it on-line; it also enables you to update your contact details, such as new address, telephone numbers. For further details please email us at [healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk) and quote "EMIS Access".

You can find out more about  
all the services we provide by  
visiting our website at  
*[www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)*



DULL SPEAKERS,  
BORING SLIDES,  
WARM WINE.  
COMING SOON TO A VENUE  
NEAR YOU.



INVESTMENT BANKING IS JUST ABOUT THE MOST EXCITING, DYNAMIC, CHALLENGING AND REWARDING CAREER YOU CAN CHOOSE. IT IS LESS ABOUT MONEY, TRADING SCREENS AND SKYSCRAPERS, AND MUCH MORE ABOUT THE POWER OF TEAMWORK AMONG TALENTED PEOPLE. SO, IF WE TURN UP AND DO THE STANDARD PRESENTATION, WITH TALKING HEADS AND OBSCURE GRAPHS, WE'RE NOT REALLY DOING JUSTICE TO THE OPPORTUNITY. INSTEAD, WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU, ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS AND MAYBE EXPLAIN WHAT GETS US OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING. WE TRUST YOU WON'T GET A BETTER OFFER.

[jpmorgan.com/careers](http://jpmorgan.com/careers)

LONDON FIRMWIDE NETWORKING EVENT

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER, 2006

6.00 P.M – 9.00 P.M

THE WALDORF HILTON

PALM COURT

ALDWYCH, LONDON

Places are limited so apply via the European campus schedule at [jpmorgan.com/careers](http://jpmorgan.com/careers)

THIS IS WHERE YOU NEED TO BE.

# Sudoku 1,357

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](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) by Monday 9am. 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.

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


**Solution to 1,356**

Thanks to everyone who entered. The name of the winner will be printed here each week.


*Want to edit this page?  
Be our puzzle bitch.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)*

# This Week's Horoscopes

**Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)**

 You'll be stopped in the street by a man claiming to be your son. He'll claim that you slept with his mother fourteen years ago. Explain to him you're twenty two, and could not have fathered him aged eight. When he starts to babble about time dilation, leave.

**Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)**

 Your boyfriend will be upset you spend all your free time hunting werewolves in the streets of London. You'll confront your nemesis in a deserted street behind a Nandos. After shooting him six times with revolver, his fur will recede to reveal your lover.


**Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)**

 You're addicted to social networking sites, and spend all your waking hours checking what your friends are doing. However, your bedsores are growing painful, so you'll find yourself walking the streets with a PDA, blogging constantly.


**Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)**

 A bizarre accident involving a length of twine and four hooks will send you back in time to 1660. You'll spend your week trying to explain to the locals why you're dressed oddly, but they won't listen. Finally, you'll be burned at the stake as a witch.


**Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)**

 You'll feel that a photo of Abraham Lincoln is watching every time to defecate. In order to prevent this, you'll only go to the toilet while wearing a hood and mask. This will backfire when you feel the need to evacuate your bowels while in a bank.


**Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)**

 You'll discover what really happened at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. However, before you can reach a payphone to inform the world's press, you'll be shot in the head by a homeless man. Passers-by will be shocked, until the homeless man explains he's CIA.


**Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)**

 Noel Edmonds will be stalking you constantly this week. Everywhere you look, you'll see his bearded face peering at you over the top of a newspaper, or from behind a parked car. Confront him about it before you're forced to get a restraining order.


**Gemini (Jan 20 – Feb 18)**

 When your path crosses with a gypsy lady near Tesco's, she'll make a cross sign and curse at you. When you ask what she means, she'll explain that, in the future, you'll run her over and kill her. Walk back to your car and laugh heartily.


**Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)**

 The mushroom in your shower will talk to you this morning while you complete your daily ablutions. It will explain that life in your bathtub is dull. Cut it free and take it with you to your first lecture. It turns you into a mindless infectious spore.

**Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)**

 Every time you see a Far Side cartoon, you'll experience a brief moment of unconsciousness. During this time, you'll be unable to remember anything that happens. When you awake, you'll find yourself in a wheelie bin covered in sheep's blood.

**Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)**

 Your librarian has been giving you the eye for the month. Today, you finally make your move. As you approach, wearing your most debonair shirt, the copy of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code will fall from your pocket, ruining your chance of a lay.

**Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)**

 While walking back to your house from the tube, you'll meet a beautiful young woman. She'll be instantly attracted to your suddenly apparent wit, and offer to go home with you. When you awake after a long night, she'll be gone, along with your wallet.

## Felix Crossword 1,357

### Jabberwock



1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10				11						12		
13			14				15		16		17	
18	19			20						21		
22						23		24				25
26			27		28		29				30	
31							32					

**ACROSS**

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

**DOWN**

- 1 Diagrammatic outline found in Nietzsche manuscript (6)
- 2 Audibly twisted crossbar (4)
- 3 The old people and I, an Arab (6)
- 4 Such a party may be held before entering the Union (4)
- 5 Authorise account payment? (8)
- 6 Insane protocol's second half rejected (4)
- 7 Helicopter body, e.g., contains a dangerous firearm (8)
- 14 A point of view audience is not meant to hear (5)
- 15 Climbing plants, I contend, sting initially (5)
- 17 Shakespeare's dark-complexioned character may be found in Seoul (5)
- 19 Once more achieved control by impounding half of ambassador's staff (8)
- 20 Sultan is anxious to obtain narrow sail (8)
- 24 Small restaurant exposed twice to regular terror (6)
- 25 Release international organisation's carbon record (6)
- 27 See 26
- 29 Some deer seen on elevated railroad in Kansas (4)
- 30 Dandy lover (4)

Greetings, cruciverbovoracists!

Carrying on with thematic puzzles, this week all the across clues are undefined but are of a kind. The theme is not altogether unrelated to the one in my last puzzle and should be easy to guess. Note a peculiarity of 26 across which 'turns a corner' into 27down, hence is only seven letters (a word length otherwise unavailable in this grid).

I had a feeling most of the clues were a bit dull, so if you do enjoy any in particular, please write in to cheer me up. Good luck! **Jabberwock**

**Solution to Crossword 1,356**

C	H	I	N	E	S	E	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R
A	N	N	X	U	A	Q	O						
L	U	C	A	N	P	O	L	I	T	B	U	R	O
E	U	U	O	L	E	A	S						
N	A	R	C	I	S	S	U	S	R	E	L	I	T
D	S												
S	K	I	N	N	E	D	T	R	A	P	P	E	R
O	O												
A	M	N	E	S	I	A	H	O	L	D	O	F	F
L													
M	O	O	S	E	E	U	P	H	R	A	T	E	S
A	T	R	T	E	O	R	T						
N	O	T	F	A	R	O	F	F	B	R	A	V	O
A	E	T	N	U	I	T	E	R					
C	A	R	O	U	S	E	L	A	N	T	E	R	N

Send your answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) or bring this page down to the Felix office in the West Wing of Beit Quad. Each week, we'll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year.

## Sinfonietta Storms Prague

Kirsty Patterson  
Clubs & Societies Editor

On Monday June 26, Prague Airport received more than 80 pasty-faced Imperial College students, still clinging protectively to their instrument cases, whilst grappling through luggage for sun cream and shades. No amount of weeks basking in Hyde Park after exams had prepared us for the glorious sunshine of Prague.

Impeccable travel instructions and pocket Prague guides meant that even collisions between trams and JCBs couldn't prevent us from arriving intact, excited and enthusiastic to sample the delights the Czech capital had to offer.

Next morning we were off again to our next destination, the delightful Spa town of Poděbrady. Unfortunately the weather turned against us and, despite soaring temperatures, our first two concerts, meant to be open air in the Castle gardens of Lázeňský park, were accompanied by rain. Big Band, however, admirably soldiered on through the downpour, to one of our largest audiences of the tour, in a lunchtime concert.

In our second concert, including Mussorgsky's "Night on the Bare Mountain", Shostakovich's Symphony No. 12 and Saint-Saëns' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" we were joined by solo violinist John Dickinson, an Imperial College physics graduate. Impressed by both our playing and "sense of teamwork" the Mayor expressed his gratitude and admiration for our hard work by giving us an exclusive tour of the town hall and presented each of us with a gift. We were particularly delighted to discover that this gift contained bottles of a so far unidentified, intoxicating liquor.

Our final day in Poděbrady gave us a great opportunity to visit the castle and its beautiful gardens. Excited by the apparent change in weather we finally played outdoors, on the specially built stage we had

SOPHIE GAUSS



IC Jazz Big Band on tour in Poděbrady

hastily been forced to abandon two nights previously. Attracting a much larger attendance, under the baton of acclaimed guest conductor Debashish Chaudhuri, we performed Dvorák's Symphony No. 9 to an appreciative Czech audience, along with the Mussorgsky.

Later that evening, Jazz Big Band played their wettest concert ever beneath the less than adequate protection of golfing umbrellas. Despite the rain, Sinfonietta danced the night away to the sounds of 'Franka Sinatra' and local people stopped to listen along the walls overlooking the courtyard. Jazz band's unfaltering dedication, despite being soaked through, was incredible and worthy of great cel-

ebration, which in true Sinfonietta style went on throughout the night.

On our return to Prague, we performed another concert with Debashish in the City Library Hall, this time including Shostakovich's "Festival Overture" in our programme.

Groups of eager Sinfonietta players armed with maps, tourist guides and tram tickets embarked to investigate every corner of Prague over the weekend. Witnessing England's departure from the World Cup on giant screens erected in the square, prompted many to be thankful that Prague beer was so cheap.

Spirits were lifted by attending the boasted "largest music club in middle Europe" which was likened by many to a multi-storey car park,

both in layout, interior design and smell. A chamber music concert in Vrtbovská gardens gave us all a chance to relax amongst the beautifully kept buildings and sculptures overlooking the rooftops of Prague whilst supporting our fellow musicians in an imaginatively staged concert of immense quality.

Pleased with the quality of all ten concerts performed on tour we joined together for a final meal. Having finished the tour on such a high I am sure no one will doubt that it was a tremendous success. A final thanks must go to our conductor Daniel Capps, as well as Alex Novo Tellado and Tom Woodcock, for their outstanding efforts to organise such a fantastic tour.

## Breaking the Waves

Victoria Sanderson

Are you interested in film? Do you want to join a society where you can watch interesting movies, discuss them with like-minded people and learn more about film-making?

Last year Filmsoc showed a wide range of films, including *Chung King Express* (directed by Wong Kar Wai), *Ichi the Killer* (Takashi Miike), *Bande a Part* (Jean Luc Godard), *Brazil* (Terry Gilliam), and *Coffee and Cigarettes* (Jim Jarmusch). We also organised trips to the Institut Français and the Barbican.

This year, we start off on October 5 with the Lars von Triers film, *Breaking the Waves*.

*Breaking the Waves* is influenced by many of the ideas of the Dogme film-making movement. The goal of the Dogme movement was to purify filmmaking by rejecting the use of special effects and postproduction gimmicks in order to focus more on the story and the actors' performances. Lars von Triers announced the movement in 1995 along with fellow Danish directors Thomas Vinterberg, Kristian Levring and Soren Kragh-Jacobsen. Specific rules included that filming must be done on location (i.e., without the use of sets and props), sound should be produced at the same time as the images, the camera must be hand-held, and the use of special lighting and optical filters is not allowed.

Over this term, we will also be screening films from David Lynch, Woody Allen and Fritz Lang and will be organising a trip to the London Film Festival.

We are a fairly new society and we really welcome everyone who shares our enthusiasm for cinema.

If you're interested in becoming a member, e-mail [victoria.sanderson@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:victoria.sanderson@imperial.ac.uk), or go to [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/clubs-and-societies/a-to-z/f/filmsoc/](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/clubs-and-societies/a-to-z/f/filmsoc/)

