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felix

The student newspaper of Imperial College

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A free student press?

Andy Sykes
Editor-in-Chief

Recent events have thrown the position of London's student newspapers into doubt, with some raising doubts over whether there will still be a free student press in the city. Two student newspapers, including Europe's largest, *London Student*, are facing threats from their unions with regards to their freedom and continued existence.

The student newspaper of Kings College London, *Roar*, has had a number of changes enacted upon it over the summer by the previous year's executive, with what the *Roar* team have referred to as "minimal consultation". Prior to the summer vacation, *Roar* was printed every three weeks during term time; the new *Roar* team will only be producing four issues a year. The make-up of staff has also been modified; the editorial team no longer have their own individual sections to edit. The 'managing editors', full-time students who run the paper on a day-to-day basis, no longer exist. It is not clear how the paper will be run in future without the work of these experienced volunteers.

The removal of the editorial team is reportedly the result of 64 students signing up at Freshers' Fair, with none going on to contribute to the paper, though no facts have emerged related to how many of the 64 simply chose not to write. In comparison, *Felix* has in past years had more than three hundred people sign up to write for the paper, and has often only added five or six permanent volunteers to its editorial team. The outgoing managing editor, Lauren Thompson, in comments made to *London Student*, stated that "KCLSU are trying to gag their student press", and suggested that the removal of the editorial team was in fact linked to the poor relationship between the sabbatical officers and the newspaper's editors. There have also been allegations that the Kings College management leant on the Union to remove the editorial team, after what the management felt were factual inaccuracies in several articles.

The changes were pushed through by the previous holder of the Vice President of Communications post, Sneha Solanki, and the ex-President, Daryn McCombe, along with several other unnamed members of the Union's executive, and announced suddenly to the *Roar* staff in June. All but one of the eight members of the *Roar* editorial team have questioned the rationale behind the changes, one complaining that it would result in "utter, utter chaos".

Ed Drummond, the new VP Communications, has accepted that the changes may not have been necessary, but that they prevented *Roar* from becoming "stale". *Felix* contacted Mr Drummond with a number of questions; a reply came too late to make it into this issue. However, on the KCLSU website, Mr Drummond has posted in the sabbatical's blogging area, asking people to make comments about the future of *Roar* on a KCLSU message board - to date, there have been a total of 8 replies. One comment read: "Maybe the officers/staff/*Roar* editorial team could figure out exactly what *Roar* is for, and exactly what kind of students it is aimed at. Maybe then the content would become obvious." Mr McCombe has refused to comment on the changes or the reasons behind them, leaving the staff to guess what the purpose was.

London Student have also faced the threat of closure, or at least damage to their printing numbers and frequency. ULU, *London Student's* publisher and part-funder, has recently completed a huge Consultation Project on ULU's services, involving officers from student unions across the city. *London Student* received a mixed response; out of fifteen unions surveyed, only five unions were positive about the newspaper, whereas four were fiercely critical of it. Imperial College Union were one of the five that rated *London Student* positively.

A presentation by one senior ULU manager stated: "The situation with *London Student* cannot continue in my view", referring to the fact that newspaper receives 5% of



The closure of *London Student* would leave *Felix* as the only independent student newspaper in London

ULU's college grant at a time when many other ULU services have been disestablished. The options offered in the presentation were financial independence, becoming "SU focussed", or shut down completely, with the money being channelled into other ULU campaigns and projects. The original presentation stated that no drastic changes would take place until 2008, with a period of consultation with *London Student* contributors before proposals were made to ULU Council. These stipulations were removed by Vicki Slater, the new ULU President, in a later revision of the document.

Asked why she removed these conditions, Ms. Slater responded that there was no particular reason. In a comment to *London Student*, she said: "I don't really know why I took it out to be honest, I did it about midnight". She reassured the paper that all parties involved will be consulted prior to changes being made.

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Freshers' Fair Success



Freshers' Fair this year was a success largely as a result of the hard work of Eric Lai, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). See more pictures from the day on page 10.

Chinese Soc goes on

Matty Hoban

After last week's cover story on the suspension of Chinese Soc there have been a mixed bag of updates on the matter. The society have had their accounts frozen because they sold multi-year membership which is illegal, and as yet, the missing money from the memberships has not been recovered. The accounts of the society are still suspended, this means they cannot trade or organise any events that will require money being transferred to or from their account. We reported that they would not have a stall at Freshers' Fair. This was overturned by the Union and they had a stall, though it was however closely monitored in case they sold membership. The society's stall was also monitored for the selling of membership via wireless internet connections, as were other stalls at the Freshers' Fair.

Emily Chow did not contact *Felix* directly but got her solicitors, Rochman Landau, to send a short email to say that they she was not prepared to make a comment. This email was not read until after *Felix* was sent an e-mail on September 29 from the same solicitors to confirm that the Chinese Society would have a stall at the Freshers' Fair. This was a day after the last issue's print date. The reason for the first email not being read is because it was seen as junk mail, as it had a file attachment that appeared to be similar to a virus attachment.

The matter of the money for multi-membership being missing has not yet been resolved. At the time *Felix* went to press, the solicitors for Emily Chow have not met with the Deputy Presidents for Clubs & Societies and Finance & Services to discuss any action to be taken. The society's accounts are likely to

remain suspended until the matter is resolved.

It appears, from the solicitors' letters, that Miss Chow has entirely dropped any threat of legal action against the Union or the individual sabbaticals involved in the disciplinary proceedings against ICCS. The letters refer to reaching an amicable agreement with the Union. *Felix* hopes this farcical situation will be resolved soon.



The solicitors' letter to *Felix*

Threat to London's free student press by unions

Continued from page 1

In a rather furious statement to *Felix*, John Kenchington, the London Student editor, said: "ROAR should be seen as a shining example of what not to do to student journalism. We want to make sure that London Student does not go the same way as ROAR; our editorial independence should be seen as paramount." Commenting on the somewhat odd behaviour of the removal of clauses from the presentation by Vicki Slater, Mr. Kenchington said: "It is nothing short of scandalous that Slater told us she didn't know why she made the changes", adding that this removal from a document tailored by Ms. Slater for ULU management "does not bode well".

Felix also caught up with Chief Subeditor of London Student, Jeremy Harris, at Freshers' Fair. Mr. Harris said that financial independence seemed to no longer be on the table with regards to London Student's future, and was very pessimistic at the chance of it not being closed in December, when ULU Council will meet to discuss the proposals: "they want to close us down!" Speaking about the possible independent role of the newspaper, he commented "you just try running a student newspaper without collegiate support".

He also discussed the possible removal of the paid sabbatical editor position, saying that it would be "disaster for the newspaper", and adding that he and three other members of the unpaid volunteer staff had spent the entire summer vacation getting London Student ready for publication, expressing regret that *Felix* and London Student are the only two London student newspapers with independent sabbatical editors. Mr. Kenchington's statement to *Felix* also commented on the possible removal of the sabbatical position, saying that it would "paralyse the newspaper, which needs twenty-four hour management".

ULU's serious financial problems are now widely known, as reported in London Student and

other newspapers. At the moment, the newspaper receives almost £30,000 from ULU, which is just 3% of the Union's £1m available grant. Mr. Kenchington questioned the logic of the cutting of this expense, saying: "It is astonishing that that it [the cost] is being targeted so strongly".

Felix costs the Union about £7,000, not including the sabbatical editor's salary, which brings the cost up to around £28,000. However, it made nearly £50,000 last year in advertising, with print costs being around this amount. Because of the highly targeted nature of the newspaper's readership, *Felix* is able to charge substantial sums for advertising to corporate entities. London Student, with a far larger distribution and readership, is likely to be able to command even greater fees than this.

In comparison with ROAR, the Union has received far more complaints from the College authorities about *Felix* in the previous year, though no threats have been made by the Sabbs to close the paper down, or neuter it in a similar way to the KCLSU newspaper.

The idea of having a "Media & Communications" Deputy President, responsible for *Felix*'s overall content, but not its day-to-day production, has been mooted numerous times, and was allegedly discussed in the sabbatical team last year. This setup operates in a number of other universities; most notably at LSE's Beaver. However, in place of a dedicated sabbatical editor, there is a large team of editors, graphics assistants, and designers. The freedom that such systems allow varies from year to year according to the personality of the overseeing sabbatical and their closeness to the President and other officers. *Felix*, on the other hand, has its independence guaranteed by the Union constitution, making the editor responsible only to Union Council for the content of the newspaper.

It remains to be seen what this year's sabbatical team will make of *Felix*'s slightly odd status in the Union's structure.

NUS protest stunt at Fair



A number of students took part in an NUS stunt at Freshers' Fair; the gagging is supposed to represent the fact that, with the Union leaving ULU, the students will have no voice unless they gain national representation through the NUS. A petition at the Fair calling for an NUS referendum received 675 signatures, above the required 575 (5% of the student body) needed for a referendum.

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Thursday 05.10.06

Tone deafness

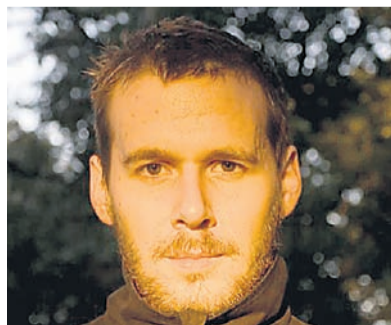
"Whistling a merry tune whilst walking gaily down the street on a crisp autumn morning, do you find that that the reaction is often children running screaming in the opposite direction rather than an appreciative smile from a fellow pedestrian? Congenital amusia is a disorder that results in sufferers being unable to either perceive or produce music."

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Chinese whispers

"Rather than starting the year and having Felix talk about the activities and indeed the whereabouts of students during fresher's week, this year has started with very interesting news in the form of Emily Chow and the Chinese society."

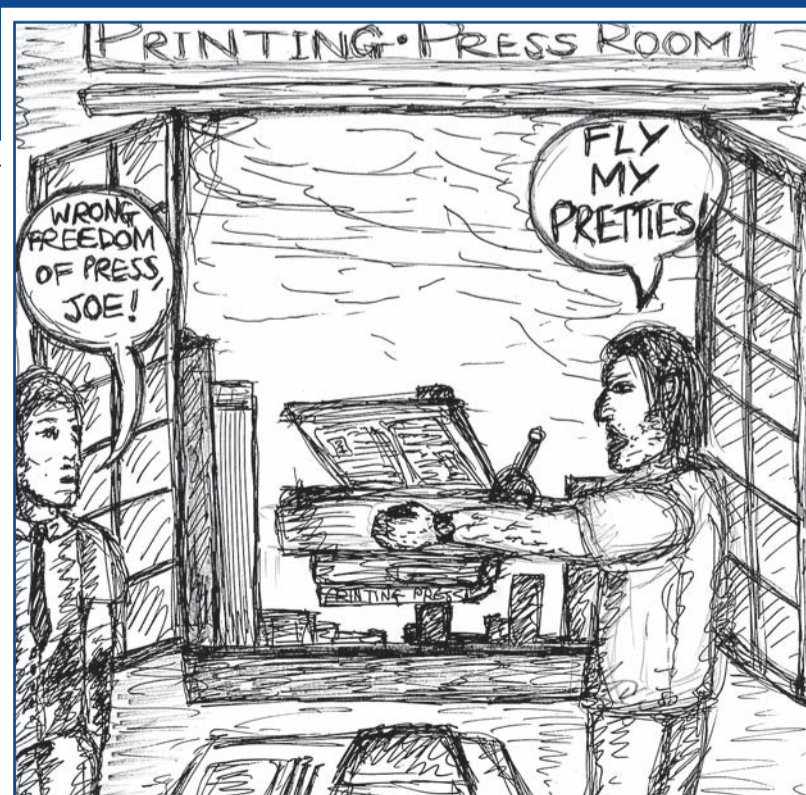
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Bad vs good

"In this music section we like to be controversial so we gave a good review to a new Warp electronic album and a bad review to The Young Knives album. It would be good to get feedback from other people who have heard these albums so that we can get a discussion going."

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felix

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New NUS Extra card

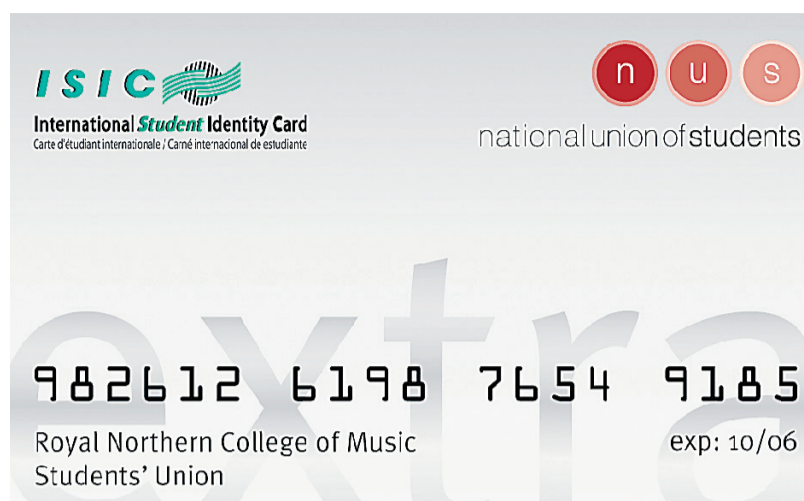
Matty Hoban

The National Union of Students (NUS) have scrapped discounts on their card, which is freely available to all students of affiliated student unions, and introduced a new paid-for "Extra" card that carries the discount capability.

The NUS Extra card costs £10, and can only be purchased by students of a union which is fully affiliated with the NUS. The income from sales of the card is divided between the NUS and the affiliated union, with £4 being received by the union for each card sold. When students buy the Extra card, they also receive an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), issued by the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC). This popular card is accepted internationally as proof of student status, and gives the holder discounts on travel, hostels, hotels, restaurants and attractions, as well as providing access to the services that ISTC provides, such as a 24 hour emergency helpline for students abroad. Bought separately, the card costs £7.

Ben Harris, Deputy President (Education & Welfare), has said to *Felix* that the annual cost of membership of the NUS would be "about £30,000", but that the amount could vary, though it would rise no higher than £50,000. Imperial College has around 11,000 students; should, say, 50% of these students decide to purchase the "Extras" card, this will bring the Union an additional £22,000 in revenue from the commission on card sales, thus reducing the net amount the Union would be paying the NUS to around £8,000, if Mr. Harris' ballpark figure is to be believed.

The card was initially trialled at thirteen Student Unions in the northwest of England during the academic year of 2005-6, and following a decision made at the NUS Annual Conference in April, the card is due to launch nationally for 2006-7. The results from the original pilot scheme in the northwest can be found on the NUS online support site: www.officeronline.co.uk. However, it is restricted to those



The new NUS Extra card, which includes ISIC branding

who are registered with the NUS and so non-members of the NUS cannot see the results, and hence reporters at *Felix* were unable to view these as well. Deputy President (Education & Welfare), Ben Harris, also could not gain access and would not be able to use this information in any campaign material provided to students during the upcoming referendum.

The old and free card is now known as the Democracy Card and it denotes membership of the local and national union. It only provides access to "democratic processes and to some areas of nusonline.co.uk" without any discounts available with it. The card can be purchased online, but only at those universities that have chosen to participate in the scheme.

NUS claim to be committed to the smooth transition of the NUS Extra scheme and will keep members updated with the "latest information, case studies and updates." King's College London Student Union is doing its utmost to promote the card but it has found some hostility with other unions. Clare Solomon, SOAS officer, said to London Student that the scheme "...totally contradicts both our value statements and our ethical supplier policy." This was in reference to the companies providing the discounts being large businesses, which "...make too much profit."

The introduction of the card has prompted questions about the state of the NUS' finances. A report submitted by Salford University's Union President, Stephanie Walker, submitted to USSU Council, states that in the year 2004-5, the NUS was indebted to the tune of £700,000, and was suffering an annual shortfall of £200,000. Various measures have been enacted in order to attempt to reduce costs, such as relocating to the northwest, and selling offices on Holloway Road. The report also states that the purpose of the NUS Extra card is to "recuperate costs... which would secure the future of not just the NUS but individual students' unions as well." The report also contains a number of interesting points, including the fact that after tax, VAT, and various production costs, NUS will only receive around £2.50 per card sold. *Felix* could not gain access to this material first-hand, as Imperial College Union is not affiliated to NUS.

The introduction of the NUS Extra card is adding to the debate on whether Imperial College Union should join the NUS. Many still receive student discounts by showing their Imperial College swipe-card and so may see the NUS Extra as unnecessary thus the NUS only having national representative benefits.

The NUS referendum is anticipated to take place in November.

Tanaka students miss Fair



Felix has learnt that students at the Tanaka Business School had lectures scheduled from 9am until 6pm on Tuesday, forcing them to miss the entire Freshers' Fair. There is a College-wide agreement in place that lectures are suspended during Freshers' Fair. CGCU President, James Fok, alerted the sabbaticals to the problem, but unfortunately it was too late to take any action.

JCR complete and on time



The redevelopment of the JCR finished on time, much to the relief of the sabbs, who had been worrying that the area would not be usable for Freshers' Fair. With several rooms in the Union out of use, space for this year's Fair has been tight. The JCR now has a brand new fast food bar at the far end. *Felix* enjoyed a rather tasty burger during a rather busy afternoon. QT's is back, and much better looking.

College rejects RCSU, CGCU, ICSMSU names

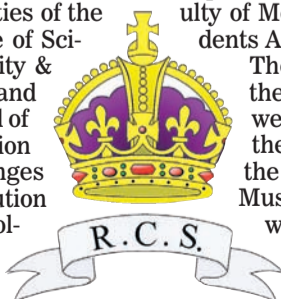
College Council, the highest body in the organisation, has rejected changes to the Union constitution in the summer vacation that would have settled the names of the three constituent faculties of the Union to Royal College of Science Union (RCSU), City & Guilds Union (CGCU), and Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union (ICSMSU). Any changes to the Union constitution must be passed by College Council. As the changes have been rejected, the new names of the faculties are now somewhat unwieldy. C&G will become ICFoESA (Imperial College Faculty of Engineering Students Association), RCSU becomes

ICFoNSA (Imperial College Faculty of Natural Sciences Students Association) and ICSMSU becomes ICFoMSA (Imperial College Faculty of Medicine Students Association).

The last time the names were taken to the Council, the infamous Mustafa Arif was President. He reported back to Union Council that the names had been accepted - however, the reality was that the names had been rejected. As the

President is the only student that sits on College Council, his word was trusted. Unfortunately, this has left the names of the constituent faculty unions in disarray.

The RCSU, CGCU and ICSMSU names were chosen through student referenda, and have strong historical significance. In the College Centenary year, in which the College is attempting to attract donations from alumni (many of whom have strong faculty affiliations), some have questioned the wisdom of this rejection. It is likely that campaigns will take place this coming year to attempt to reverse the ruling.



Da Vinci's lukewarm opening



Da Vinci's was open for Freshers' Fair; however, the resulting decor left something to be desired. Those responsible have insisted that the bar is not yet finished, and that new furniture will be arriving next week. However, freshers didn't seem to mind, and the bar was crammed throughout their first few days at the College. As long as a bar is open, *Felix* is happy.



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Physics is a Feminist Issue

As the gender balance in Science continues to tip towards men, we ask: where have all the little girls gone?

Emma Turner

Pick a random member of the physics department at Imperial College. Go on, any one will do. There may be a luscious and free-flowing mane covering the troubled individual, but delve a bit deeper and I bet you'll find a Y somewhere in their chromosomes. It is statistical likelihood that the baryon-informed being standing in front of you is not a woman. It's not sexist; it's an undisputable fact. So, why do so few of the fairer sex grace the corridors of Blackett? Is the lack of ladies something we should worry about?

Variety is the spice of life and if we are to believe the proverbial nursery rhyme ('What are little girls made of?') then physics is missing out on a lot of spice. In order to prevent extinction of this endangered species, a government initiative labelled 'A Strategy for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology' was launched in April 2003 to try to coax women into science. A month later the Institute of Physics jumped on the bandwagon and launched their own 'Women in Physics' group whose efforts includes a 'how to attract women' guide for physics departments.

The Institute's repertoire of hot tips includes advice to mechanics lecturers like: 'Make sure that examples given reflect modern society and are gender neutral. e.g. a bicycle is neutral, a car - particularly a racing car - is more male,' and even lecture theatres themselves must take note, 'Do you have photographs of physicists on the walls? - if so what fraction are women?' Political correctness gone mad? Certifiable, by the sounds of things.

Why men are lured by the seductive call of calculus and the major-

ity of fashion students are female has long been the subject of debate, and some suggest the root of it lies in our childhoods. When selecting toys scientists have observed that little boys will gravitate towards a ball or toy trucks whereas little girls will tend to pick a doll. But is the reason nature or nurture? Studies have shown that in general men do slightly better in mathematical problem solving and spatial reasoning than women suggesting an in-built mental difference between the sexes. This is not to say that women cannot learn these skills to the same ability, but it may take them longer. Although there is increasing evidence that this is due to cognitive differences in the brain, the jury is still out. But there is no escaping the evidence that there is a deficit of totty in the physics department. Physics requires those 'male-favoured' skills that the majority of women shy away from thus female physicists are few are far between.

So how would you ever recognise such an elusive creature if by some miracle you were to stumble across one? She is often to be found in the library or computer room, beaver away on her projects and problem sheets. A female physicist is always working hard. She is more likely to be surrounded by a gaggle of men than to gather with her own kind. For some unknown reason, female physicists spread out over the male student body evenly like a thin layer of oil on water. Finally some studies over extensive periods of time have shown that in some specimens traditionally female traits become reduced over years of male exposure and in extreme cases are lost altogether.

According to Bob Forsyth, Senior



When I grow up, I want to be...

Tutor for the physics department, the highest percentage of girls the physics department has ever seen currently resides in the fourth year, hitting the heady heights of 25%. 'But unfortunately it's been trickling down to just under 20% since then' he says regretfully.

A 1:4 ratio may not seem like much but even this is a veritable battalion of girls compared to earlier times. Looking back in history the ratio of female to male physicists exponentially decreases. You'd be hard pressed to find the female version before the 20th century as they were forbidden access to higher learning and laboratories. In the 16th century King James I rejected the idea

of educating his daughter reasoning that, "To make women learned and foxes tame has the same effect - to make them more cunning." It is a relief that this theory is no longer believed (by the majority at least) or we would be lacking some vital contributions to physics today. For example, without women in physics we would not have the nuclear shell model. Maria-Goeppert-Mayer won the Nobel Prize in 1963 for her discovery of 'magic numbers' (certain numbers of nucleons in an atom that cause it to be extremely stable) and their explanation in terms of the shell model.

Granted, the number of achievements by men far outweighs those

by women and from the evidence it doesn't look like the stats are going to even out any time soon. However, without any sign of gender bias it doesn't seem that there is anything for the feminists to get testy about in the Blackett lab. If a girl wants to get with the physics program then IC welcomes you with open arms. As always in life you can lead a horse to water but you can't make it do a physics degree. On a positive note however, being in the gender minority can have its advantages. After all anything rare is generally considered valuable. You don't have to be a spice girl to have girl power in the physics department. Sisters are doing it for themselves.

How do you solve a problem like...congenital amusia?

Dean Veall

Whistling a merry tune whilst walking gaily down the street on a crisp autumn morning, do you find that the reaction is often children running screaming in the opposite direction rather than an appreciative smile from a fellow pedestrian? If so, Krista Hyde and colleagues at the Montreal Cognitive Neurological Institute may hold the key to this most distressing condition. You, like some 4% of the population, may suffer from congenital amusia, or what our friends at the Royal College of Science refer to as 'tone deafness.'

Congenital amusia is a disorder that results in sufferers being unable to either perceive or produce music. These symptoms often manifest themselves despite apparent normal neurological history, education, intelligence and memory. It is a lifelong musical affliction. Behavioural studies have previously associated amusia with a severe deficit in pitch processing but until recently there was no neurologi-

cal evidence to support this theory. Hyde's study is the first such investigation into neural correlates of congenital amusia and appears to have discovered the area of the brain responsible for the disorder.

The investigation consisted of two tests based firstly on the ability of patients to detect if and when they were singing out of tune, and secondly on musical memory. The differing brain anatomical responses between the two groups of patients to the tests were quantified using weighted magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Comparison of images from the two groups revealed the inferior right frontal cortex to be responsible for pitch encoding and melodic pitch memory and therefore ultimately amusia. In particular a decrease in the concentration of white matter was observed in amusical patients.

White matter is composed of myelinated nerve cells and serves to transmit information within the brain and the spinal cord. The changes in concentration of white

matter is thought to reflect a larger reduction in the connectivity between the pitch processing centre of the inferior right frontal cortex and the auditory centre of the brain. Ultimately this revealed the link between the anatomy of the brain and musical behavior that eluded researchers.

However, far from having inherited that toneless crooning from your dad, this disorder could potentially be the result of environmental conditions. The integrity of white matter in the frontal hemisphere of the brain is thought to be vitally important to normal musical competence.

A possible lack of extensive exposure to music it is suggested may result in a reduced myelination rate of the connecting nerve cells and as a result the connectivity of the two musical centres of the brain is impaired. Hopefully, Krista Hyde's research will now go some way to helping all those talent TV shows hopefuls understand why their musical efforts are not appreciated by the other 96% of the populace.



Mariah Carey: congenital amusia?

Best of the Rest

What? More Science? Well, seeing as you asked so nicely... Firstly, those fun loving mathematicians at the American Association of Mathematicians are currently looking for contributions to the 4th annual Math Art Exhibition. For more information visit http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2098_intro.html.

The Gresham Society is holding a free lecture on London's Ecology at 1pm on October 9 in Barnards Inn Hall.

If you are having trouble making sense of the universe, then Michael Frayn, novelist and playwright, and Paul Davies, cosmologist, are talking about just that, also on October 9 at IPPR, Southampton St, WC2. And if that doesn't seem to help, you can always come home to the Sir Alexander Fleming building at 6pm on October 12 to hear Bernard Carr, (Queen Mary, University of London), Paul Davies, (Macquarie University) and Rodney Holder, (Faraday Institute) explain 'Why is the universe so uncannily fit for life?'. Enjoy!



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Comment & Opinion

Chinese Whispers again

John Sargent applies some good old-fashioned common sense to the laughable prospect of Union Officers being sued by one of their constituent clubs.



John Sargent

“She probably should have thought this one over a bit more carefully before she brought in the suits.”

Rather than starting the year and having Felix talk about the activities and indeed the whereabouts of students during fresher's week, this year has started with very interesting news in the form of Emily Chow and the Chinese society, seen on the front page of last week's Felix, after solicitors acting on her behalf threatened the Union's President, ex-President, and two sabbaticals with legal action unless they reverse the decision to suspend the Chinese society from any and all activity including the Freshers' Fair.

The Union informed the society that they would not have a stall at Freshers' Fair or be allowed to run their society until several monetary issues are cleared up, including charging £10 for multi-year memberships when it's illegal to do so, taking money from freshers at Freshers' Fair last year which is also illegal (whoops), and very interestingly organizing an event in Hong Kong which cost £13 to attend, without the Union's knowledge or consent (double whoops). Most importantly, a lot of this money, including the money from the Hong Kong event and the extra money from the multi-year memberships, has never been banked into the ICCS account – thrice whoops.

So, because of all this, and I promise not to mention the almost £2000 debt as an additional reason,

the Union contacted the president and treasurer in August. What last week's article didn't mention, however, was that the first contact the Chinese Society had with the Union President John Collins regarding the matter was the letter from a law firm in Hong Kong threatening a lawsuit over the suspension of the society; I thought this was slightly impolite to say the least.

It is very likely that I've missed about thirty steps worth of bureaucratic councils, committees, tribunals, assemblies, directorates, conventions, panels, and governing bodies before the situation gets extreme enough to take the issue to court – clearly Miss Chow had other ideas, but this author thinks that she probably should have thought this one over a bit more carefully before she brought in the suits.

I could refer to the Union constitution, the charter, and all sorts of rules governing clubs and societies, but it boils down to this: the DPFS can freeze the budget of a society if there are monetary problems, such as, let's say, taking money from people associated with your society and not banking it into the society's bank account, otherwise known as fraud. The DPCS can suspend a society for incomplete documentation. And since the President is responsible for all Union activities, he can do all of the above and more. This action was taken against the society, and not against any one

individual such as the president or treasurer, so here's my honest question: where the hell does the lawsuit come into play?

I should also point out, for everyone's benefit, that if you infer or claim that you have no internet access, it is wise not to go posting publicly on Facebook.

Let's look at it from another perspective. This year, I am a committee member of the CGCU Motor Club, and we can't get our funds released because we have yet to elect a president and treasurer (whoops). Because this isn't directly my fault, perhaps I should sue the union officers so I can get this year's budget released. There are two problems, though – since clubs and societies are not actually legal entities, it would mean it's me suing rather than the club suing. Additionally, by suing officers of the union I'm not just taking the Union to court as an entity, but also involving Imperial College. What chance would I have facing the wrath of College, suing for something I can't sue for in the first place?

So in conclusion, Miss Chow has done nothing wrong, unless you count the whoopsie on Facebook and seeking legal action in the first place – but neither has the Union. Surely, then, everyone can start working towards a solution instead of being at each other's throats when it is certain that this conflict will result in no gain for anyone.

Letter(s) to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In his opinion piece on joining the NUS, Mr Guite argues his case in favour of affiliation, but he completely fails to consider the other side of the issue.

Mr Guite talks about a free ICIS card and discounts one can get with the NUS card; however, he fails to mention that the NUS card itself is no longer free but costs £10. No NUS card, no discounts.

This is in addition to the substantial affiliation fee the Union will have to pay. In the last referendum on NUS affiliation at Imperial in 2002, 72% voted against affiliation. This large majority is even more impressive considering that at that time the NUS card was free for students.

We just did not want to affiliate to a body whose politics are so far removed from ours. ICU has always been an apolitical organisation, focussing their efforts on issues directly affecting Imperial students as students and not getting encumbered with general politics. According to their website, the NUS spends quite some time in front of embassies, demonstrating against wars etc, which is fine in general but really not their job, instead of concentrating on student issues such as tuition fees which they spectacularly failed to prevent.

Things like this happen when people are only interested in climbing the political ladder and see the NUS as a first step to do so, as has been the situation for quite some time. Mr Guite himself agrees that the NUS needs reform. However, I think that he is somewhat over-optimistic when he says that we would be at the forefront of reforms if we joined. We would be the new guys, with little influence. We would be just one voice, lost in the noise.

Now, let me assume for a moment that the NUS did offer the benefit of lobbying at the highest political levels on student issues, disregarding for a moment the question of whether it is effective at this or not. Do we really need to spend £50,000 for this to happen? The NUS would campaign on the most important issues anyway, and we would reap the benefits whether we are affiliated or not. And for the rest we would not have the power to push them in a direction they did not want to go. So why join and spend all that money that could be put to better use increasing the funding for our clubs and societies, directly benefiting all students at Imperial?

Daniel Sauder

For those who enjoy their suffering...



Omar Hashmi

“But sometimes we act in a way that defies temporal logic.”

For the majority of their lives, human beings usually try to avoid unnecessary suffering. Perhaps this is slightly different at Imperial, where the proportion of those with a masochistic tendency is higher, but I would hope that this basic part of human character still stands within us. Let's just hope it does, it's not like the first week of term isn't hard enough! So why, then, is there a great proportion of campus that is deciding to go deliberately against the grain and search for pain?

OK, so maybe it's your first day, first year or perhaps coming back after a long summer where you missed out on that addictive uni atmosphere. You come (back) to your friends, get 'chillaxing' and let the good times roll. That is what life's about. Each and every action performed by you this week will probably be aimed at acquiring some sort of benefit, be it material or not, like making a friend or new acquaintance soon to become a "network" contact. In fact, if you were to perform an action that resulted in no gain, yet lost time and energy, then you would probably class yourself as a grade A idiot. Right? Now – let's think. What actions are there

from which you can receive no gain, none whatsoever, yet still consistently undertake the very same action?

For every act there is most certainly, most definitely, a desired reward no matter who undertakes it. The difficulty arises when trying to assess the nature of that reward. Different people from differing views, for instance atheists, Jews or Sikhs, all may agree on the same action being 'good'; charity for instance. Charity has no overt reward. You don't really even know that your money will reach the needy due to the thousand obstacles in the way. Yet, you give that coin or note nonetheless because you feel some sort of gain – perhaps the world will benefit from it (or if you're really clever, to impress someone and get a bonus, or a raise, brownie point or some other deviant material reward). But sometimes we act in a way that defies temporal logic. Perhaps there is something in human nature that pushes each individual to strive for more than one's land, flock or pride. But this lifelong push towards being more than what one already is rests on two factors that seem to be infinitely variable between different individuals; certainty and purpose. I may perform

an action that has no reward, not in this world at least, yet I have a certainty that there is a much more intangible reward and satisfaction. It is not done simply for a material reward or for the hope of a better living.

So today is the 9th day of fasting in Ramadan. Just to refresh – that's no food, nor water between sunrise (about 5am) and sunset (around 6.30pm). Furthermore, lying, cheating, backbiting etc, are actively discouraged by individuals who are fasting, while supplications and meditation over one's purpose in life increase. There is no fear about loss or hunger. If you consider today's political climate, there isn't any concern about the attitudes or possible actions of other people. And there is no material reward, except the certainty that God will be happy with you, and that makes you quite happy. It is your view about what happens after life that changes how you acts in this one. To many, this is a dangerous mind-set, liable to corruption and the worst forms of extremism. But, to others it represents a liberation from one's own weaknesses and fears, and becomes the centre of life's purpose itself, and a satisfaction with what will come after.

Welcome from the President

Freshers' week has been incredible! Our entertainments venues at South Kensington, Charing Cross and Wye were packed to the rafters on most nights, indicating (I hope) that our members are impressed by our newly refurbished facilities. Freshers' fair was a huge success and credit must be given to the dozens of Faculty and CSC people who worked tirelessly alongside Staff and Sabbaticals before and after the event to make it run smoothly.

Of course Freshers' Week would not be the same without the official freshers' welcome talks, which were attended by nearly 3000 students on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. If you were lucky enough to make it to one of these events and witness the College's extraordinarily cheesy promotion video, then you may remember hearing one or two representatives from the Union speak as well!

I appreciate that the speakers at these talks have an irritating tendency to throw a lot of facts and figures at their audience in a short amount of time, and I am just as guilty of this sin as any other. So, for the benefit of those who didn't make it to these talks and for the benefit of those who did but would like to see more information in print, here is a summary of the welcome speech I gave to our incoming students earlier this week.

What is Imperial College Union?

Imperial College Union is many different things to different people but in essence it is what you, our student members, want it to be.

We are the voice of the students of Imperial College: we run a large network of student representatives and welfare officers across the whole College. All of these people work tirelessly to raise students' concerns to the College and external organisations about any subject ranging from the quality of lectures and food outlets on campus to campaigning on national issues such as top up fees and student debt.

We are a community of 11,500 students: we exist to bring our students together through our comprehensive events programme and our plethora of student clubs and societies.

We are a federation of clubs, societies and constituent unions: our international societies, departmental societies, faculty and campus unions represent the diversity of our students at Imperial and tailor events and activities to their needs and interests. We run over 270 well funded specialist clubs and societies at Imperial College and if none of those interest you then we can help you set up a new society.

We are part of a wider student movement: we are part of the London student community and are presently a member of the University of London Union (ULU). As Imperial College becomes an independent university in its own right this academic year, we will be forced to disaffiliate from ULU and seek alternative means of representation - indeed there are rumours that a petition is being prepared to organise a referendum to affiliate to the NUS this autumn...

We are an advice and support resource: if you have any concerns about your course, your accommodation, your health, student debt or employment then please come and visit our professional student advisor at the Information and Advice Centre in our South Kensington Building who is always happy to help. The Sabbatical team, too, are always willing and able to help you.

We are often referred to as a building: when in fact we operate in three buildings (South Kensington, Reynolds and Wye) and have a presence on almost every campus in the College. The Beit Building, which is our main building in South Kensington, is presently undergoing a large and exciting refurbishment programme that may cause limited disruption over the next couple of years.

We are 100 years old this year! So we will be co-ordinating a wide range of events throughout 2007, climaxing with our extravagant Centenary Ball, which will be held at the South Kensington Campus on 16th June 2007 (put that date in your diaries!).

Imperial College Union exists to help all of the students of Imperial College to get the most out of their time at Imperial College. It is an entirely student led and governed organisation, run by students for students. If you have any ideas about how we can serve our student members better or want to find out a little more about how the Union works and how you can get involved in its activities, then please come along to our Freshers' General Meeting on Monday 9th October at 6pm in the Union Concert Hall.



John Collins
President

president@imperial.ac.uk



TFL Discount

30% discount on Oyster cards

Transport for London is offering 30% discount on Oyster travelcards for students at Imperial.

A Student Oyster photocard entitles the holder to buy student rate Bus Passes and Travelcards valid for 7 Days, one month or longer periods of up to one year. Students will get 30 per cent off the adult rate.

Student Oyster photocards are only available by application and a fee of £5 applies. Please ensure that you read the eligibility criteria before you apply as the application fee itself is non-refundable. Please note that if you are registered on a part-time basis you will not normally be eligible for a photocard and cannot apply online.

In order to apply, you will need:

- Your credit/debit card number and expiry date
- A digital photograph of yourself saved as a jpeg
- Your Imperial College London ID card.

Apply online here:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/fares-tickets/2006/photocards/18.shtml>

Union Website

Join online now!

Don't forget you can join Clubs & Societies online at imperialcollegeunion.org.

Did you see anything at the Freshers' Fair that took your fancy? Then have a look around the Clubs & Societies A-Z for them and join up, it is simple, quick and secure!

Also online we are selling eTickets to all the big entertainment events at the Union. So, again, have a look around and see if there is an event you would like to attend.



at the union

october 5 - 18th

▶ Wednesday 11th & 18th

▶ Thursday 5th



SPORTS NIGHT

Every Wednesday At The Union!
Carlsberg, Tetley's & Blackthorn only
£1.30 a pint

dB^s only

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



Harry Hill

and the caterers



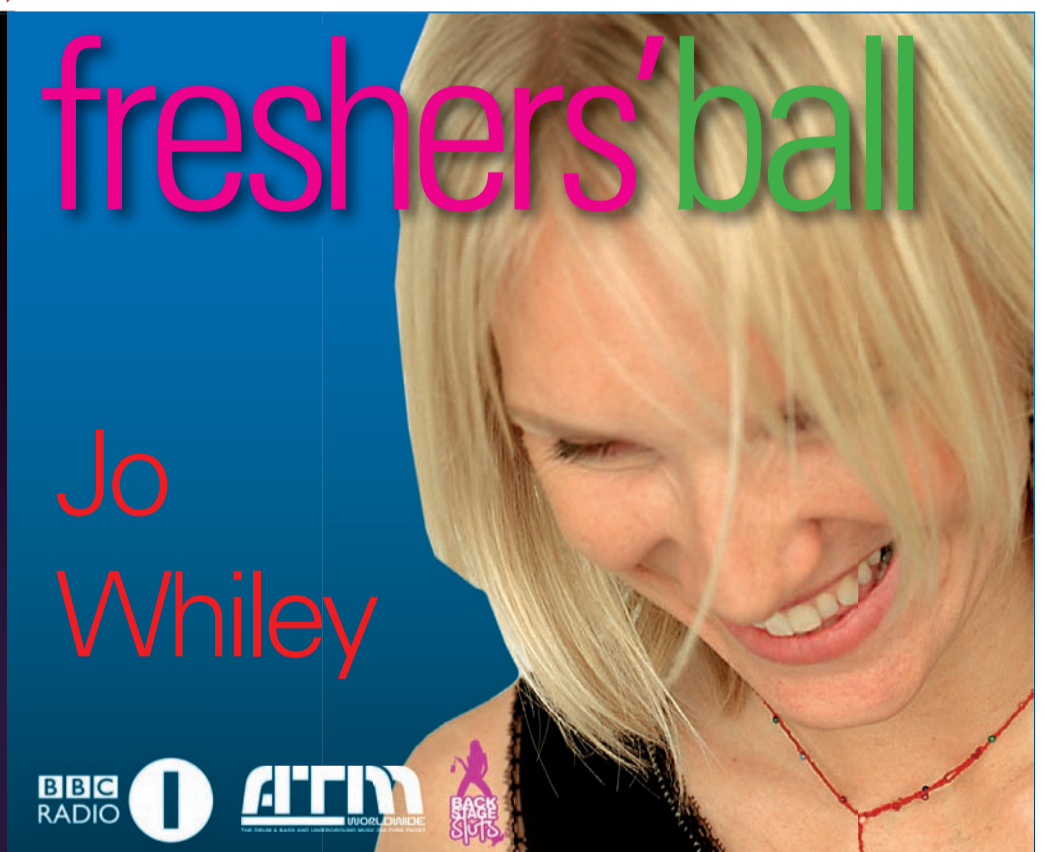
▶ Tuesday 10th & 17th

▶ Friday 6th



quiz nights

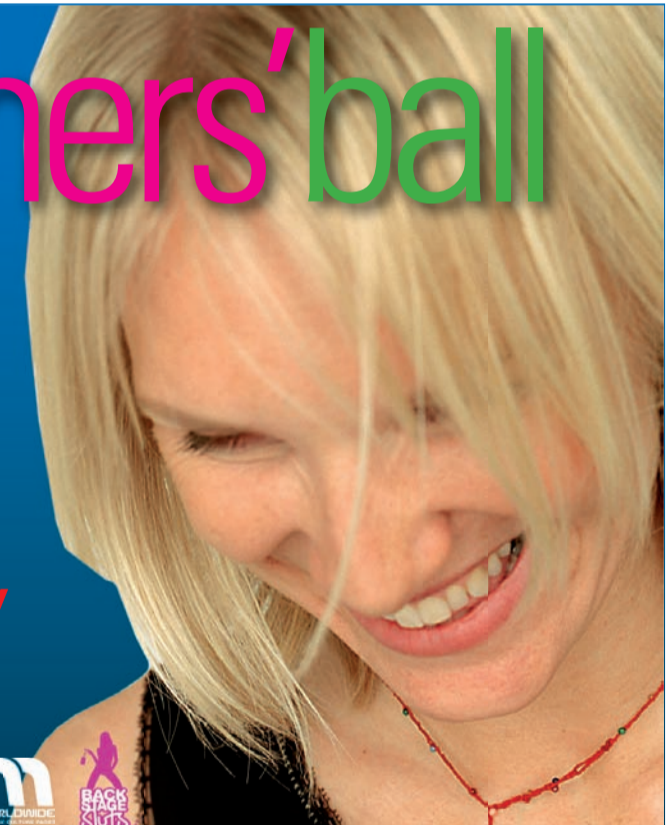
in da vinci's



freshers' ball

Jo Whiley

BBC RADIO 1
 AITM WORLDWIDE
 BACK SITS



▶ Also on this fortnight

Sun 8th	DramSoc present Fresh
Tue 10th	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 11th	Acc Bar Night
Thu 12th	Alternative Music Society Event
Fri 13th	Felix Live
Tue 17th	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 18th	Fight Club - Bouncy Boxing!

▶ Coming Up Next Week

felix live!

Feat: Ross Copperman

FRESHERS' FAIR 2006





MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Editorial Rant



Matty Hoban
Music Editor

Welcome to the second music section of the year. I didn't get many objections to the album list last week so I assumed that I am 100% correct. I for one am not sure about this.

Anyway, this week I wish to tell of the wonder of FREE CDs and FREE GIGS. I repeat, FREE CDs and FREE GIGS. If you would like FREE CDs and FREE GIGS then come along to our Music Felix meeting. This meeting will take place today (Thursday 5th October) at 12noon in Da Vinci's or some part of the union. There is a picture above of me so that you have a visual reference. I also have said FREE CDs in my hands. If you can't make it to the meeting and haven't tracked us down at the Freshers' Fair then e-mail us (look at the top of the page).

Also this week we have two album reviews. One of these albums is already out and available for your consumption; the Clark album is brand spanking new. In this music section we like to be controversial so we gave a good review to a new Warp electronic album and a bad review to The Young Knives album. It would be good to get feedback from other people who have heard these albums so that we can get a discussion going. What we say shouldn't be the be-all and end-all, so we want to know what you think about these albums.

We are also helping to organise an event in the union. This will be next Friday, which is October 13th. Union Events are providing two acts who are called Ross Copperman and Rushmore.

Ross Copperman has been receiving some attention recently from the radio and is touring universities across the country. Along with these two bands, we at the music section have selected a band called The Sailplanes. This band sound somewhere between Sonic Youth and Sleater Kinney. We like the sound of them and hope you will too. Watch this space for more information.

Also look out for Alternative Music Society nights on October 12th and 21st. On October 12th there are four acts with a beautiful, melodic edge and it will £1 entry and free for members of the society. Go listen and enjoy!

Young Knives stab eardrums

Where other more reputable newspapers praise *The Young Knives* album, we slate it



The Young Knives
Voices of Animals and Men (Transgressive)
★★★★☆

Maybe I should cheer up; it could be worse. If I'm given an album featuring a brightly dressed farmer standing alongside a man made entirely of straw, I should be grateful that I'm not reviewing "Generic Indie-Rock Group (Number 107)", whose style consists entirely of tat from Camden Market in an entirely witless and unoriginal attempt to be edgy, with music to match.

So here we have the debut full al-

bum from Oxford-based The Young Knives, and past form initially revealed a band which is lively and fun. Unfortunately, for the main part, this album is anything but. When you press play, you're greeted with a drum crash which fills the headphones. Good start. From there it's all very much downhill.

Like most bands of the moment, the music consists solely of choppy guitars bereft of any rhythm, melody or originality in a crass attempt to copy the post-punk era. Lyrically, it's nothing exciting; in fact it's just plain lazy.

Lead singer Henry Dartnall just barks out almost randomly-composed lines, consisting of three words each with no poetic cohesion whatsoever. When he can't be bothered it generally degrades to shouting the same thing over and over in an effort to fill airtime.

The early songs are full of faults; an attempt at humour in the opener *Part Timer* - where the music stops

and the band discuss what to do next mid-song - falls flat, mainly due to the weakness of the surrounding elements. A crack at evoking the spirit of Syd Barrett-esque whimsy suffers from the general malaise in the lyrics. Some interesting guitar work pops out in *Mystic Energy* but then mutates into sub-Sonic Youth noise. Whilst taking this in, I cannot help but think that if you give a three-year-old a *Tommy Tutone* and record what happens, it would be more complex than this. Some of it is catchy; but then again so is syphilis.

Halfway through, however, there's a glimmer of hope. After the rocker *Here Comes the Rumour Mill*, there's the delight that is *Tailors*. Taking the rather esoteric noise of scissors cutting as its basis, along with a doleful acoustic guitar, this simple track about haberdashery is one of the rare moments where the whimsy pulls off. Topped off with Henry Dartnall's delicate vocals,

you're left with something truly mystical. The surreal *Half Timer* leads into the genuinely funny *She's Attracted To*, showing that when they put the effort in, The Young Knives can be a stand-out band. Besides, I defy anyone to not crack up at a song which starts "Who are these people? They are too stupid to be your real parents!"

After that it falls back to the same state as before, albeit with some melody and the surprising heart-felt *Loughborough Suicide*. I'm not going to explain the album further; trees have been killed to create this newspaper and I'm not letting their pulp be used in vain.

Despite some promising moments The Young Knives have showed themselves to be another sub-standard band with few ideas. If I hear another release like this soon - which is likely - I've a feeling my brain will melt. Or maybe I should cheer up; it could be worse.

Matthew Hartfield

Warp electronic album actually good



Clark
Body Riddle (Warp Records)
★★★★☆

Warp is one of the world's best-known and most respected labels, and has consistently put out records over the last decade that have come to be looked on as genre standards; c.f. Aphex Twin, Autechre, Black Dog. Whoever sits and listens to demos at Warp has got to have golden ears.

In the last couple of years, we've seen a diversification in Warp's output. Gone are the faceless electronic stars of the early 90s, and in come signings like Maximo Park. At the same time, new electronic releases have been faltering, with only Jamie Lidell in recent years managed to bust through the obscurity barrier and get some mainstream press inches (he was in the *Observer Music Monthly*, f'god's sake). The underground stuff has left a lot to be desired, with Black Dog's newie just rehashing early Black Dog (man, that stuff sounds dated) rather than attempting some kind of new shit.

Chris Clark isn't exactly unknown, and Warp devotees are sure to have his back catalogue. I'll confess to being a relative virgin when it comes to Clark, so don't expect a lot of in-

formed piffle about "oh, he's moved on, this is new, blah blah fucking blah." Here's the one-liner, so those impatient internet-grabbers among you can go ahead and queue it up in your Bittorrent clients; this record is a fucking stormer.

Clark's motif is big, crackly synths, huge hiphop breaks, and a dash of DSP crunch. The opener, *Herr Bar*, rides stuttering, chunky beats with pretty xylophone patterns, with a middle eight whose burbling synths recall Nathan Fake's *My Bloody Valentine* impression. Just when you're happily bobbing around on your chair, Clark cracks open the track with swathes of white noise surrounding the already dancefloor humping beats.

In a similar vein is the superb *Vengeance Drools*, which is crying out for an MC like Ghostface Killah, or maybe Aesop Rock, to come along and throw some reasonably intelligent gangsta flow over the top. Setting filmic strings atop a clunky vintage drum loop, Clark expertly conjures up bad boys cruising the city at night, top down.

He isn't all crotch-grabbing, posturing beats, though - a few tracks eschew beats entirely, and come out sounding like Tim Hecker with a taste for melancholic melodies. *Frau Wav* flirts with jazz breaks at times, but drifts almost arrhythmically around big (yet far from cheesy) violins and broken, fuzzed out analog synths. *Springtime Epigram* fixates on a burbling sine wave and microshifts in the surrounding sounds to create its reflective, almost morbid mood.

I dropped in a facile comment about cruising round a city at night, but there's actually an undercurrent

of city nightlife about this record - in the same way that dubstep has taken the UK garage sound and pushed it out into darker territory, incorporating dance and hiphop elements along the way, Clark's record draws together a veritable shedload of genres and shoehorns them into his own dark vision. The palpable sense of tension about most of the tracks, and the sheer overwhelming darkness of the record, conjure up the essence of urban decay, of a city lit up at night by neon glow. I'm reminded of the recent fuss surrounding the Burial record; this is actually a much better representation of late night London than the overhyped dubstep release.

My final words are reserved for the last track on the album, the epic (in a good way) *Autumnal Crash*. Here Clark hits upon the per-

fect formula; emotive, overdriven Rhodes chords, and a skittering, thundering breakbeat, building upwards and onwards with ever-thickening washes of static and faraway city samples, gradually losing all coherence and crashing into thick, Hecker-like washes of reverb.

I love this record. I love the oppressive aura. I love the dark, instrumental hiphop influence (yeah, like Prefuse). I love the incredibly detailed production that almost, almost lets the tracks overflow the speakers and set them crackling. Most of all, I love that the album flows almost perfectly - from the wake-up call of *Herr Bar* to the gentle fade-out of *Autumnal Crash* - this feels like a perfectly formed piece. This thing was made for night listening with headphones.

Andy Sykes



The many faces of Clark; Warp's latest electronic genius

Are you bored of science already?

Just because you go to Imperial doesn't necessarily mean that you have to be a geek. Read on to discover a more of an all-round education that happens to be right on your doorstep (Okay, maybe a bit further).

Emily Lines
Arts Editor

To all the freshers reading this, well done for getting to Imperial, and I don't mean because it's a great university. No, I mean well done for coming to London, because it's such an amazing city.

If, like me, you love art, theatre, dance, opera and comedy, then you've picked the best city in the country (if not the world) in which to live. If you don't, then you've picked the easiest city to acquire cultural knowledge without much effort, and being able to talk about such things might even help to get you laid (well, you can live in hope, anyway).

So for all those who are new to the city (and all those who've never left South Ken) here's a little guide to some of its highlights.

London is full of galleries. Everywhere you look there are posters advertising exhibitions at the Tate, National, Hayward and Serpentine, to name just a few. Though it all seems a bit overwhelming, the great thing to remember is that most galleries and museums are completely free (at least for the permanent collection).

Try to avoid the Tate Modern (Blackfriars tube) being your only cultural experience in London. Yes it's big and exciting and all that, and the Turbine Hall is breathtaking, but

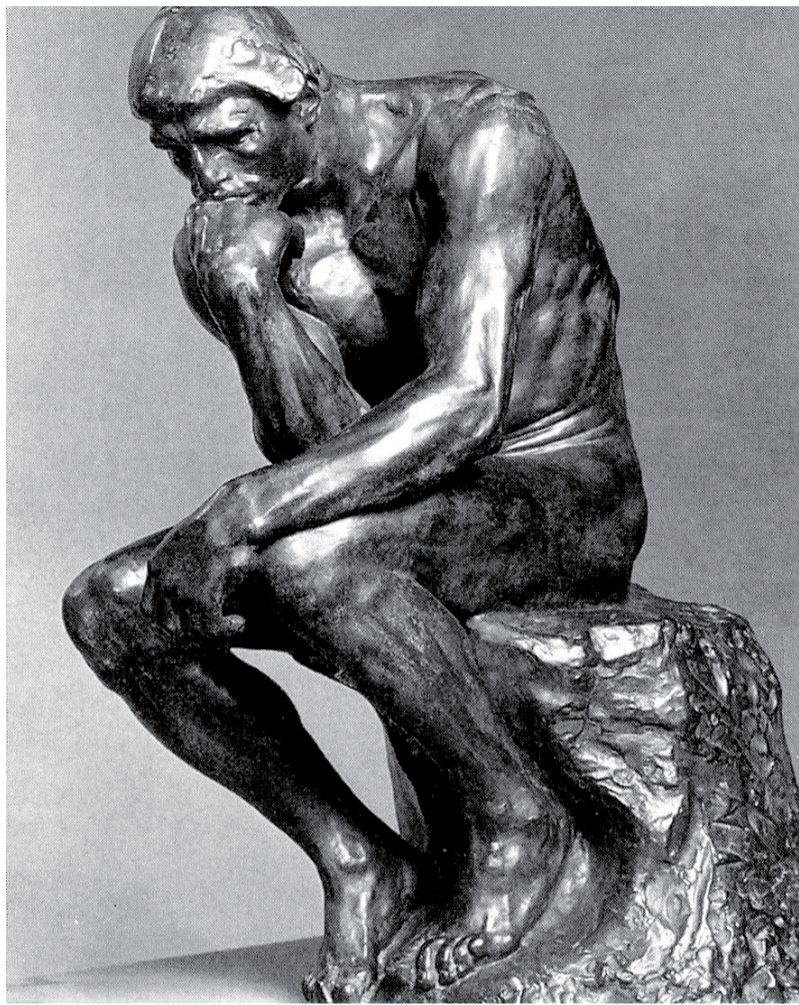
it's also always completely rammed with tourists and kids on school trips, which do tend to detract from your enjoyment. Also, some of the works are downright weird.

So for a much more relaxing introduction, head to the Tate Britain (Victoria), where the collection has some of the best of British Art from 1500 right up to the present day. It is also currently hosting the Turner Prize exhibition (£5).

Another amazing and sometimes overlooked gallery is the National Portrait Gallery (Trafalgar Square). Its fantastic collection provides a unique record of public figures, from monarchy in the Middle Ages through to rock stars of the modern day. It is currently running an exhibition of David Hockney's portraits (£6 for students).

The West End houses arguably the most famous theatres in the world, and chances are Mum and Dad will want to 'see a show' when they come to visit. Take full advantage of this and make them pay as tickets are outrageously priced (£40 plus for many shows).

Although Leicester Square is full of 'discount' ticket booths, they are (in my opinion) largely rip-off merchants, selling mostly tickets for the least popular shows at full price with a hefty (£2.50-£5) agent's fee. The TKTS booth is the only official discount agent, and sells tickets for a lot of shows on the day.



Rodin's *The Thinker*, at the Royal Academy of Arts from October 10

It sells tickets for up to half price, so you can expect to pay £15-£25, although it will never have tickets for the best shows (Billy Elliot, Guys and Dolls etc.) or any of the new ones (Wicked, Daddy Cool) so cannot be relied on. Go with no fixed ideas, preferably on a weeknight, and you might get a good bargain.

The only other option for cash-strapped students is last-minute standby tickets. These are sold from the box-office, usually an hour before the performance, although not all shows offer them. The National Theatre sells tickets for £10 for all its shows 45 mins before performances.

Opera and ballet have a reputation for being expensive and inaccessible forms of entertainment, but this doesn't have to be the case.

The ROH and Royal Ballet (Covent Garden) have a student standby scheme that sells tickets for £10 and advertises to students via text messages (register online). The ENO (St Martin's Lane) sings entirely in English, and is often much more contemporary than the ROH. Contemporary dance performances can also be found at Sadler's Wells (Angel).

Of course, London has much more to offer than I can list here, so don't be confined to South Kensington. Go out and explore the richness and variety, and you might find there's more to life than science.



Want to experience London's Arts scene? Living on a student budget? Like free tickets? Write for Arts Felix! arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



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Two left feet?
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taster afternoon on
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There'll be drill practices and technique instruction finishing off with a big match!

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www.imperial.ac.uk/sports

The devil wears Prada?

Innocent Anne Hathaway's encounter with the darker side of fashion...

Yuen Ai Lee
Film Editor

The Devil Wears Prada is a screen adaptation of Lauren Weisberger's novel with the same title. However, what is it about the book that has caught the eye of the masses? What is the tipping point of the novel that catapulted it into a novel with film rights? It is undeniable that the classic my-boss-is-a-monster lines are rather funny. However, it is the rumour that the story's monster, Miranda Priestly is loosely based on Lauren Weisberger's experience when working as an assistant for Anna Wintour, US editor of Vogue that sealed the deal.

This is the new generation of chick-lit books: The kiss-and-tell-all genre.

In this film, Anne Hathaway takes the lead as Andrea Sachs, a fresh graduate from Northwestern University. A serious, aspiring journalist with stereotypical prejudice towards fashion, she winds up at Miranda Priestly's (Meryl Streep) office without a clue to Miranda Priestly's position in the fashion world. Despite her odd-ensemble, she gets hired as Miranda Priestly's co-assistant. In the beginning, she rebels against the general wave of expensive clothes at Runway. However, she soon crumbles to colleague pressure when she realized that she wanted to win Miranda Priestly's approval.

Why does Andy (Andrea) want to stay in Runway, a magazine she doesn't care about? Quoted as 'the job millions of girls would kill for', the belief is that once Andy has finished one year as Miranda Priestly's assistant, Miranda will help her to get into any magazine or newspaper she wants.

Helping Andy along the way is a

multitude of interesting characters. A stylish gay man is as crucial to the fashion world as clothes are. In this movie, Nigel (Stanley Tucci) is the man with the taste that even Miranda agrees with. Mild-mannered and a complete gentleman, he assists Andy in her fashion choices with generous helpings from Runway's fashion wardrobe. The costume designer for this film is none other than Patricia Fields, who is well known for her work with *Sex and the City*. And I guess that explains the extremely gorgeous green Calvin Klein dress which I am still hankering after.

Back to the movie, another interesting addition would be Christian Thompson (Simon Baker), a successful writer. While he helped her on an impossible task i.e. to obtain Harry Potter books before they were even published, they share more than a favourable working relationship. The constant flirtations and Andy's personal attraction for his curly blonde hair and generous build make him the most unwelcome and yet the most welcome threat to her domestic life with Alex, her live-in boyfriend.

Adrien Grier plays her down-to-earth boyfriend. A one-dimensional character just like her two friends, Doug and Lily, they were all quite impressed with the side gains of Andy's career at Runway at first. However, when it seems that Andy was changing and losing her personality just to win Miranda's approval, the friendship and her relationship with Alex slips into a downward spiral.

The movie is definitely not a strict abider of the book. However, it is a very neatly-sealed movie that gives it a simple and easy-to-follow storyline. Unlike the book, which gave in detail Miranda's various and pe-



Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway starring in *The Devil Wears Prada*



Hathaway's lawyers refused to sue Starbucks for taking four attempts to make the perfect latte macchiato.

culiar demands, the movie simply used a shortened slide-show method to explain Miranda's viciousness. An aspect that I disagreed with would be the fact that they miss out how Miranda discarded her Hermes scarves as if they were tissue paper. Miranda's wasteful habits have to be highlighted if the movie is to generate more revenue for its controversial likeness to Anna Wintour.

According to popular opinion, Meryl Streep did a great job as Miranda Priestly. In fact, the title 'Devil wears Prada' could not be accurate as trivia tells us that 40% of her shoes in the film were from Prada. And of course, nobody could miss the obvious scene in the beginning when the camera zoomed in on Miranda's bag of choice for the day. There are many opinions that state that Meryl Streep gave her character an unquestionable sense of grace and style. Despite the fact that I agree with their opinions, I have to digress on this portrayal of Miranda Priestly.

In the book, not much is known about Miranda Priestly. While we know she is unreasonable and difficult, her personal life remains an undisclosed issue. In contrast, the movie gives a perspective of Miranda Priestly as a hardened woman in her career with a broken family. The movie has softened Miranda Priestly into a common stereotype that might have helped with the

storyline. Unfortunately, I disagree because stereotypes are for Disney films.

While Anne Hathaway did a great job as a girl who got lost in the evil drift of fashion, I think she needs another film that can rid her of her Disney-princess qualities. Perhaps it is a personal cynicism issue, but I think the film had a more fairy tale-like quality than a sleazy tell-all film.

The film reaches its pinnacle when Andy realizes that her decision to go to Paris as Emily's replacement has changed her into a corporate honour-less person. Without giving away the ending, I have to say that this is another Disney aspect of the film. While unreasonable demands such as Miranda's might not exist in the real world, it is naive to refuse a job promotion because your friend wanted the same promotion. Poetic justice is for fairy tales and frankly, the Devil wears Prada should not be a fairytale.

Lastly, I always have a lot of expectations from films. I have read the book two years ago and hence, I have my own opinions of it. Therefore, to be fair, the film is indeed entertaining and it is quite a treat for the eyes. When there is Paris, New York, beautiful clothes and shoes in the mix, it is a sure-win for eye candy. Nevertheless, be forewarned that it is a comfort-film as it is filled with common stereotypes and an easily-digested storyline.

vUE
cinemas
www.myvue.com/students

Film times from Friday,
October 6 to Thursday,
October 12, 2006

Paid Previews

Open Season (PG) (RT 1h50)
Sat/Sun only: 10.50 13.10
15.20

Subtitled Shows

World Trade Centre (12A) (RT
2h30) Sun @ 15.10 and Tue
@ 18.20

Audio Description

Little Miss Sunshine (15) (RT
2h5) Daily: (10.20 Sat/Sun
only) 12.40

World Trade Centre (12A)
(RT 2h30) Daily: 15.10 18.20
21.10

New releases

The Devil Wears Prada (PG)
(RT2h10) Daily: (10.30 11.30
Sat/Sun only) 13.00 14.00
15.30 16.30 18.00 19.00
20.30 21.30 Sat Late: 23.15

The Departed (18) (RT 2h55)
Daily: (10.00 Sat/Sun only)
13.20 (14.20 Not Sat/Sun)
16.40 17.40 20.00 21.00

General showings

World Trade Center (12A)
(RT 2h30) Daily: 15.10 18.20
21.10

Click (2006) (12A) (RT 2h10)
Daily: 12.20 15.00 17.50
20.20

The Queen (12A) (RT 2h5)
Daily: 12.10 14.50 17.30
20.10

Hoodwinked (U) (1h45) Daily:
12.30 14.40 16.50

The Children of Men (15)
(RT 2h15) Daily: 12.50 15.40
18.10 20.45 Sat Late: 23.30

Little Miss Sunshine (15) (RT
2hr05) Daily: (10.20 Sat/Sun
only) 12.40

Talladega Nights (12A) (RT
2hr10) Daily: 18.50 21.20 Sat
Late: 23.50

The Black Dahlia (15) (RT
2h25) Sat Late: 22.45

Life And Lyrics (15) (RT 2h)
Sat Late: 23.00

Party time



Greg Mead & Alex Baldwin Nightlife Editors

Well, we still haven't been able to get rid of Greg completely, so this week's Nightlife page comes to you courtesy of both of us again. Next week, Greg *really* will be leaving us for a while, but never fear, he will still be prodding me from behind the scenes.

We hope all you new arrivals have been having a wonderful Fresher's Week and haven't been too busy to check out some of the clubs we recommended last week, but if you have, rest assured that for the rest of the year we shall be reviewing and recommending a plethora of lovely clubs worth your attention (or maybe telling you to avoid the less worthy ones).

Our main feature this week sees us reminiscing over the history of a favourite club of ours, *And Did We Mention Our Disco*, which may soon be in a new permanent home much to our delight. With a friendly atmosphere and great music, we hope that some of you will be able to enjoy it in its new guise in the not too distant future.

In addition, we have a feature for those of you considering throwing parties in your beautiful new houses, with a few tips to help party go off without a hitch.

If you didn't enter our competitions last week, you still have until Friday next week to email in and bag yourself some great prizes. Just email us saying which competition you would like to enter and we will select winners randomly. Of course, it wouldn't hurt to make these emails a bit more interesting, as Greg and I do get bored sometimes.

Above all, don't get too attached to the union, since there are plenty of other places out there, just get some friends together and try out some clubs. If you happen to enjoy one of these outings, why not write a review and email it in, we may even print it.

On that note, if you are a budding journalist and enjoy going out to clubs around London, email us and we can get you free entry and guestlist places into clubs in exchange for the lovely reviews you will write.

Well, that's it for this week. We hope you thoroughly enjoy reading this page and have fun during what remains of Fresher's Week. But not that illegal kind of fun.

Our Disco is back?

Our Disco set to move into a new venue, perhaps, maybe

Alex Baldwin & Greg Mead
Nightlife Editors

With news that everyone's favourite alternative electro clubnight may soon be finding a permanent new home after several months in limbo, we at *Nightlife* are rejoicing. After being kicked out of Plastic People, their regular home in Shoreditch, *Our Disco* have been keeping their name alive with a number of one-off events around London.

Back in their heyday at Plastic People, *Our Disco* attracted such big-name DJ's as *Mylo*, *Erol Alkan* and 2 *Many DJ's*, as well as live bands. All this was on top of a sturdy backbone of resident DJ's (including *Rory Phillips* of *Trash*-fame).

Although in a similar vein to *Trash*, *Our Disco* did without the 'fascist fashionista' door-policy and too-hip clientele. Musically, there tended to be a more electronic bent to the tunes on offer, making for a lower proportion of Indie Kids on the dancefloor.

Trash, without the fascist fashionistas.

The final event at Plastic People attracted so many people that by midnight the queue snaked most of the way down the street, much to the dismay of anyone hoping to actually get in. We, however, did manage to negotiate our way in at a reasonable hour and enjoyed a fitting send-off for what had, for the past three years, been a staple Friday night outing.



AND DID WE MENTION OUR DISCO?
PARISIAN INVASION

AND DID WE
MENTION
OUR DISCO?

May's Parisian Invasion event at Our Disco

Following a couple of events at the overpriced and oversized Canvas in King's Cross, things did not look good for our beloved clubnight. Despite attracting huge crowds, Canvas has none of the cave-like charm seen at Plastic People and on top of this, the entry and drinks prices soared well beyond what *Our Disco* regulars were used to, the promise of cheaper drinks for the second Canvas event made for a considerably better night, the fact that it wasn't free entry also dissuaded random people just looking for a free night out from attending, which is probably a good thing in that part of the world.

The club's stint at Canvas climaxed with a night featuring the best in recent French Electro acts including *Justice*, *Mr. Oizo* and a brief live performance from petite Miami rapper *Uffie*. A packed ven-

ue, cheaper drinks and an excellent line-up resulted in a great night for all present, the dancefloor being packed out for the entire night without the annoyance of sweaty people

Awesome-a-licious parties

stuck to you. Since the events at Canvas, the *Our Disco* crew have been on the road this summer, appearing at a number of venues around the country and are soon to be jetting off to Barcelona.

Wherever the folks at *Our Disco* do eventually decide to set up camp, be it Canvas or anywhere else (please be Plastic People!), we have no doubt that they can further raise the bar with some utterly awesome-a-licious parties.

Planning a house party? Don't.

Uffiesaurus

Many of you new second years moving into houses of your own for the very first time may have had the revolutionary idea of throwing a housewarming party in your fancy new abode (which is unlikely to be so fancy the morning after). In our experience, this is a horrifically bad idea unless you know some interesting and attractive people, which is fairly unlikely (I don't). If you absolutely insist on hosting one of these parties, you could do worse than to pay heed to this brief and poorly-constructed selection of hints and tips.

Most people will tell you that the most important part of hosting a house party is inviting the right people, but these people are wrong. Invite everyone in your phone memory and all your e-mail contacts and get your housemates to do the same. Invite your next door neighbours and their children, hell, why not just invite the whole street?

Right, now you have some people to attend your party, we come to the single most important element: dips. One flavour of dip will not usually be enough, although there's no need to expand your selection beyond red and white, but for heaven's sake remember to provide enough crisps, which must be sturdy enough for dipping.

Free booze will also help to keep your house guests interested. Provide some beer for the gents and some tasty punch for the ladies.

In conclusion, the only thing you need to throw a great house party is drugs. Get everyone coked or ketted up and it'll be a blast. I promise.

More Competitions!



Win one of 10 pairs of tickets for *Happy Mondays*, *Switch* and *Steve Smart* at **Papadiso** at Egg on October 14th. Plus free entry to **Jaded** afterwards.

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 dedicated to the electronic sounds of funky, deep, tech and electro house music go head to head with Chocolate Groove who will be playing their mix of Soulful, Deep, US House/Funky, Chunky, Jackin House (with a bit of electro & disco-funk).

Win entry for yourself and two friends for **StereoSushi** at Ministry of Sound on October 13th, Plus three **Hed Kandi** double albums.

In the main room the legendary CJ Mackintosh will grace the turntables, dropping an array of soulful, intoxicating rhythms. 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, with the finest selection of disco grooves and Soul Logic host the Baby Box.

E-mail nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk to win

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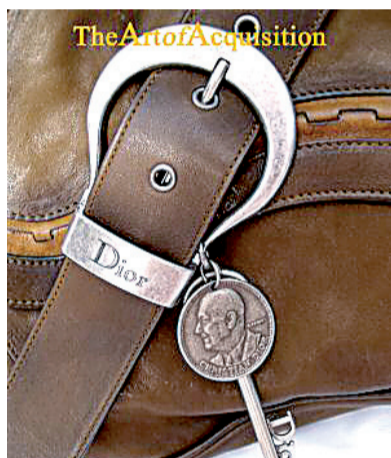


This is the winter of dress content

Missing fashion shows, size 00 and the end of *What Not To Wear's* Trinny & Susannah... whatever next?

Dolly Delaney

Another year, another set of rules to learn. I've been getting rather bored of my wardrobe recently, same old skinny jeans with flat shoes and variations on the theme of a tight top. So, this year's resolution is to wear outfits that cost no more than £50. When I mean outfit, I mean, shoes, underwear, top, bottoms, bag, jewellery, the whole fucking lot. Should be interesting and I'm sure I'm going to end up looking like some kook from the local market, but at least mornings will be filled with mental maths, (£3.99 plus £1.50 plus...), instead of: "hmmm, could this pink nail varnish possibly go with my red shoes?"



Christian Dior, Gauchobag, £915

I was recently given tickets to London Fashion Week, but being a social recluse, I decided that galivanting in Yorkshire was much more interesting. During a visit to Whitby Abbey I instantly felt the need to don a nice black dress and go hunting for Dracula, strange girl you might think, but at least the catwalks agree that everyone's inner goth should be celebrated; the Gothic Look is back! But for me the look should really be called "rock'n'roll groupie." Galliano's new collection looked more like a homage to Axl Rose (read Oral Sex). To perfect the look, think sliver skulls, leather and bandanas. However, if like me you're on a budget, Camden Market, famous for the weird and wonderful, will supply your every need for the Gothic look.



Alexander McQueen, Assymetrical Tartan Kilt £995

Charity shops have long been one of my favourite haunts. I once found a child's old school kilt for £1.50. It belonged to Marianne Hartley-Brown, and every time I wear it I wonder what she's up to, and whether she'd approve of her kilt going to indie club nights and getting drenched in beer. I haven't worn it for a while, due to the fact

that wearing a 7 year-olds kilt restricts ones breathing somewhat (I'm a singer, didn't you know, and I breathe from the diaphragm). But the recent rise of tartan and plaid has made me re-think. If, like me you have the same idea, be warned. Overdosing on the Scottish rag could make you look like a Bay City Rollers fan (a bad, bad thing). Keep it simple, ie only wear kilts.

Galliano's new collection looked more like a homage to Axl Rose... To perfect the look, think sliver skulls, leather and bandanas.

By far the best look of this season is the Tailored look. Many of the catwalks have tried to keep it simple, with tailored dresses and leather gloves. But I say the more androgynous your look the better. Even though it pains me to say it, Kate Moss works androgyny better



Anna Sui, Strapless Cocktail Dress £285

than anyone I know: grey waistcoat avec matching suit trousers and a crisp white shirt. But, if you aim on becoming a Moss-follower, make sure that the trousers fit your arse. Many a time I've seen women with saggy, unfitted bums and it looks awful.

This is a particularly sore point for me. I am one of those Size 00's and believe me, it's crap. No I'm not anorexic; I just have crappy genes (or should I say jeans?). At 5'1, I was always the smallest at school. I gave up ballet classes, so I could be with the rest of my year on Thursday evenings; playing netball. The worst decision of my life, as no one passed the ball (well they couldn't see me) and my graceful walk started to deteriorate. But then this year, a revolution happened. Size 00 jeans appeared in Gap (albeit, in Japan) and I quickly shelled out £45 to get them. So long saggy bum, hello tight arse! Larger people often complain about Size 00's, but quite frankly

they have a much better fashion life than us. They get way more material for their money's worth and never have to worry about their asses filling trousers. They have wonderfully voluptuous breasts and are a damn sight more intimidating that myself when it comes to shouting at the editor, because he won't make you tea. So you see, Size 00's are the real victims here.

If you are reading this and are utterly incensed at my words because you're a larger woman and find it hard to dress yourself; then never fear. What not to wear (WNTW) is back. However, singer Mica Paris and "supermodel" Lisa Butcher have replaced the duo of Trinny and Susannah. Last weeks' episode of WNTW had the same format as the last episodes T&S presented, but I'm afraid that's all it shared with the former shows. The clothes were mediocre and the advice was neither helpful, nor intelligent (flared trousers make you look taller?!).

T&S have now moved over to the dark side, ITV, and are presenting their own new show. How could

they sell themselves so cheaply? I am outraged and only hope that they return to their rightful home soon.



French Connection, Serpent Dress £130

You may remember my first article of the 2005/6 year. I talked about the new trends of that autumn and also about a dress. "The Galaxy". The dress of 2005. Many people

have called me the "Mystic Meg" of the fashion world; some have just called me lucky. Whatever your stance, here are my top 5 predictions for this autumn:

- 1) Gaucho Bag, by John Galliano for Dior. As seen on Mischa Barton and currently being advertised by a make-up less Kate Moss. It's a steal at £915 (as in most girls will have to steal it).
- 2) French Connection's Serpent Dress; a bronze-sequined striped number. Every girl's been talking about it, but at £130 it's time to start getting yourself a rich and generous boy.
- 3) The Little Black Dress. It's back, it's black and it's strapless. Prada have the perfect one for £1,160.
- 4) Gold is lighting up the catwalks this season, for the ultimate ghetto chic, get down to Asda and buy a gold dress for £14 from George!
- 5) Chunky knits are warming up every the hardest of fashion's hearts. Stand out from the grey crowd with Joseph's Blue jumper, £209.

STUDENT SHOP AT TOPSHOP OXFORD CIRCUS!

Fashion favourite Topshop is holding two shopping evenings for students at its Oxford Circus store on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th October.

Students are invited to enjoy 20% discount, quickie style advisor appointments and a free gift with every purchase over £15. The evening events run from 6pm – 10pm and valid student ID will be required for discount.

Clubs & Societies

Stoic TV is on the air

Watch too much television? How about you get off your backside and create it!



Mania Hormozi
Head of Advertising & Publicity
Stoic TV

If you have often sat in front of the TV and thought to yourself that what you are watching is actually pretty rubbish, then you are part of a huge society of different nationalities who every day complain about what they watch, but yet they still watch it. If you are one of these people, and think to yourself that you could make a TV programme that would be much better than this then you need to be part of another society too. I welcome you to the Student Television of Imperial College; we like to call it stoic tv for short.

We at stoic tv work together as a team to make a wide selection of programs such as news, light entertainment, short films, the news, and so much more. These are then broadcast across campus in the Junior Common Room on the walkway, and Da Vinci's (from 1-2pm each day, so keep a lookout over lunchtime!). And all our programmes (including those from the last two years) are available 24/7 on our website, at www.stoictv.com.

All these programmes are created by members of our society who are generally interested in making a program or broadcasting in our state of the art studio located at the West Wing of Beit Quad. You will be surprised to know that a lot of the effort that goes into a successful broadcasting is not just a good programme idea or a good show; there are many behind the scenes technicalities that are very interesting. But that isn't the only point of stoic tv - mostly we're seeing how much we can get with and how many celeb parties we can gatecrash just because we're holding a TV camera!

We offer a range of different shows and events throughout the year and there are new programmes this year too, including "Ask The President", an interactive debate show with the Union President, and a comedy sketch show. Our live news shows, where we keep the College up to date with the latest goings-on and events, are also very popular.

We're holding a few workshops to introduce you to our kit (which is pretty hot), our studio, and show you some of the stuff we have done - from films to news - or more importantly, what you can do. All of us are approachable and some of us aren't even technical wizards - me, for example!

There is a place here for everyone. We need 'front-of-camera' people as much as technical staff. It's a really good conduit for an ego that needs a little massaging or a creative writer with a crazy idea for the next *Blair Witch Project*. Alternatively, if you like lots of attention because you're holding a large piece



Filming on *The Matt And Dave Show*. Join stoic tv and you can make television programs too.

of shiny, technical material in your hand then this is the place for you. It's loads of fun! Just like real TV, we have a national awards ceremony we get to attend every year. Our station won the Best Male, Best Female and Best Broadcaster awards last year (so you could call us officially the best student broadcaster in the country!) Who knows, maybe you can help us win something next year?

The first step to getting involved is attending a freshers workshop (whether you're a fresher or not!). If you like what you see then become a member, sign up to a few programmes or start one of your own. There will also be more formal training sessions so that you can use our kit to its fullest potential. So we look forward to seeing you at stoic tv in the West Basement of Beit Quad, or e-mail info@stoictv.com for more details.

Workshops

Our renowned workshops run next week, on both Sunday and Wednesday, and give you a unique introduction to the world of stoic tv, and TV studios in general. The workshops consist of three sessions, each lasting about an hour. The first two involve producing a short light entertainment programme; it tends to be quite chaotic but it's always good fun. We're not trying to produce a BAFTA award-winning entertainment show, just give you an idea of how things work at stoic tv.

Studio

In the studio you'll be able to have

a go at being a presenter, which is great fun if slightly nerve-racking! The ability to talk non-stop is helpful, but you are largely at the mercy of the rest of the crew to feed you the information you need and do what you are expecting. There's nothing quite like introducing a segment and then looking in horror into the camera as you realise you still have fifteen seconds left to talk.

For the more reserved among us, why not have a go at controlling a camera, as instructed by the programme's director. Or you could be the floor manager - this person is essentially in charge of the studio and is responsible for making sure everyone knows what they are doing, from telling the presenters which camera to look at to counting into and out of video segments so that the presenters know when to stop and start talking.

Gallery

The gallery is the nerve centre of any recording. It's here that you'll find the boss, or the director. The director's job is to keep the whole show on track from deciding what the cameras should do to cueing in video segments, or just telling the presenters to wrap it up because they're being dull. If you like shouting and bossing people around then this is the job for you, but at the same time you need a cool head as you have to be thinking not just about what is happening now, but also about what is happening next.

The director works closely with the vision mixer, who controls which pictures go to tape (or to broadcast

if it's a live show). There's also a sound mixer who does a similar thing for audio, and VT operators who play in video footage such as music videos and interviews. They also need to press record at the start of the show, otherwise people will get very upset when you tell them that they have to it all again.

Editing

Most programmes need to go through post-production after being recorded before they make it to the screen. At its simplest, editing is simply rearranging bits of video into the right order and length. Then you add captions, music, graphics, special effects and more - the list is endless. It can take a very long time but the results can be spectacular.

To give you a taster, we'll produce a trailer for a film or TV show from a set of clips we've prepared. You'll get to call the shots, deciding what goes where and how to make it look perfect.

If editing is your chosen art, then we'll give you dedicated training on the use of our suites so you know how to do all the basics. All you need is creativity and imagination.

Interested?

If all that sounds like fun, then come along and get involved. We'll be running two workshops. The first on Sunday October 8 and again on Wednesday October 11, both from 2 to 5pm. And because we all know that bribery works, there'll be free food, beer, soft drinks and whatever else we can tempt you with.

IC Radio welcome



Michael Higgins Station Manager

Hey you. Welcome to the wonderful world of ICRadio. First things first, throughout this I will be quoting five songs, whoever comes to our freshers' beer and biscuits evening next Monday from 6pm (we are in Beit Quad in the basement mixing up the medicine) with all five answers first will win a mystery prize worth around £25. Just to help I've already done two of them and for the most part do not make sense in the sentences.

So, now for the serious stuff, we broadcast 24/7 at www.icradio.com and on 1134AM in Wye. We have award-winning shows covering more types of music than you've ever heard of, from rock to pop to hip-hop with some ska, punk and jazz, and a whole host of speech based programs. We run all our training and within 3 hours can have you presenting your own show. In the two years I have been doing this I have gone from pathetically poor to unbelievably average, but that's the point: *anyone* can have a go.

IC Radio gets all the latest albums and singles before the shops from major and independent record labels that our music team get to review and sometimes receive free invites to gigs. We have top-notch DJ equipment we hire out to other societies, clubs and bars for events. We own a professional level recording facility for any band on the run to rent. We can help you achieve your greatest dreams, God only knows what you'd be without us (now that quote was quite poor and not even correct).

We need presenters, technical guys and gals, producers and a bucket full of others. We welcome any ideas and are able to make (almost) anything happen. So get started and you can play to the world over and over and over and over; like a monkey with a miniature cymbal... Anyway, I'll see you for beer and biscuits.

If you are interested and you darn well should be, email manager@icradio.com. Oh, on more thing, remember to check out icradio.com - especially 'The Moon Unit', IC's premier rock and alternative show presented by me and my emo housemate (don't worry, he doesn't get a say in what we play!).



TIM SCARBROUGH

Fellwanderers scale Swiss Alps

Tim Scarbrough

A very early start on a miserable Monday morning in late June signalled the start of the Fellwanderers Summer Tour in the Swiss Alps. The Alpine Pass Route (APR) makes a complete East to West traverse of Switzerland, from Sargans to Montreux, and it was our aim to tackle a significant chunk of this epic journey.

We awoke in Meiringen to a glorious morning, and we were able to truly appreciate our amazing surroundings. After a gentle 'introductory' day's walk we, spent the night in Grindelwald, pitching our tents with views of the Eiger. The entertainment for the night was provided by trying to light our cooking stoves using ethanol instead of the recommended petrol, much to the amusement of eight hungry people.

After a restless night's sleep due to heavy rain and thunderstorms, we packed up and began our day's walk. The walk was described as 'surprisingly steep', which we were soon able to verify. Nonetheless, superb weather and scenic views more than compensated for the physical exertion needed on this section. After more than 10 hours, having passed the Eiger/Mönch/

Jungfrau triple, we were relieved to pitch our tents and cook dinner, with the stunning Staubbach waterfall illuminated in the background.

Unfortunately, later on the following day the weather deteriorated and we had to change into our wet weather gear before continuing our ascent to our rest point for the day, the Rotstockhütte. The remote hut, at 2039m, is only accessible on foot.

After a not insignificant pass following the Rotstockhütte, we tackled the highest (at 2778m) and the most demanding of all passes on the APR. Descending, steeply at times, above glaciers we dropped to our night's rest, overlooking the amazing Oeschinensee. We were joined by some Swiss fishermen who had travelled up to the Oeschinensee for a weekend of fishing, and seemed amazed to find us there. They could not understand what we were doing there if we weren't fishing! They made us feel most welcome, offering us their special homemade 'firewater,' which ensured a good night's sleep.

After a rest day paddling in the lake, we climbed to the Bunderchrinde pass – a magnificent gap in a craggy ridge – and then down to Adelboden. The following day to Lenk was 'relatively undemanding'.

After the usual procedure of pitching tents and cooking dinner, we visited 'Andy's Pub' in Lenk, which was exactly as the name indicates.

With a relatively early start, and the absence of a reception, we left Lenk unable to pay for our night's stay. We had already accomplished the highest sections of our journey, but nonetheless, today required the crossing of two passes. Truttlisberg pass at 2038m was our first, with our ascent livened by climbing steel ladders beside a waterfall. After a brief pause, we had to prepare ourselves for our second pass of the day, the Krinnen pass at 1659m. Upon our approach to this wooded ridge, the weather deteriorated, and flickers of lightning and rumbles of thunder were evident in our surroundings. When the rain caught up with us, it really made up for the glorious weather that we had received so far. Very heavy thunderstorms accompanied our descent to Gsteig, where it was decided that in our sodden state, we should seek alternative accommodation. The one open hotel in Gsteig, the very nice looking Hotel Baren, took sympathy on us, and Tim negotiated an effectively half-price deal. A superb meal in the adjacent restaurant didn't disappoint, despite Evelyne nearly

setting the place on fire before we'd even eaten.

The next day, after a promising start, the weather again turned against us and we joined a herd of cows in a shed for our lunch. In the afternoon, we crossed the Col des Anderets, and after a welcome hot chocolate at Isenau, the brightening weather tempted us to carry on a little further, to Col des Mosses. An amazing walk contoured around the mountainside provided spectacular views of mountain tops poking out above the clouds, with the Mont Blanc massif visible in the far distance. On arrival at our intended campsite, it became apparent that it was not aimed at people with tents. Too tired to carry on any further, we found a quiet area of the site and pitched our tent in somebody's garden, ensuring that we would have an early start in the morning in case the owners arrived.

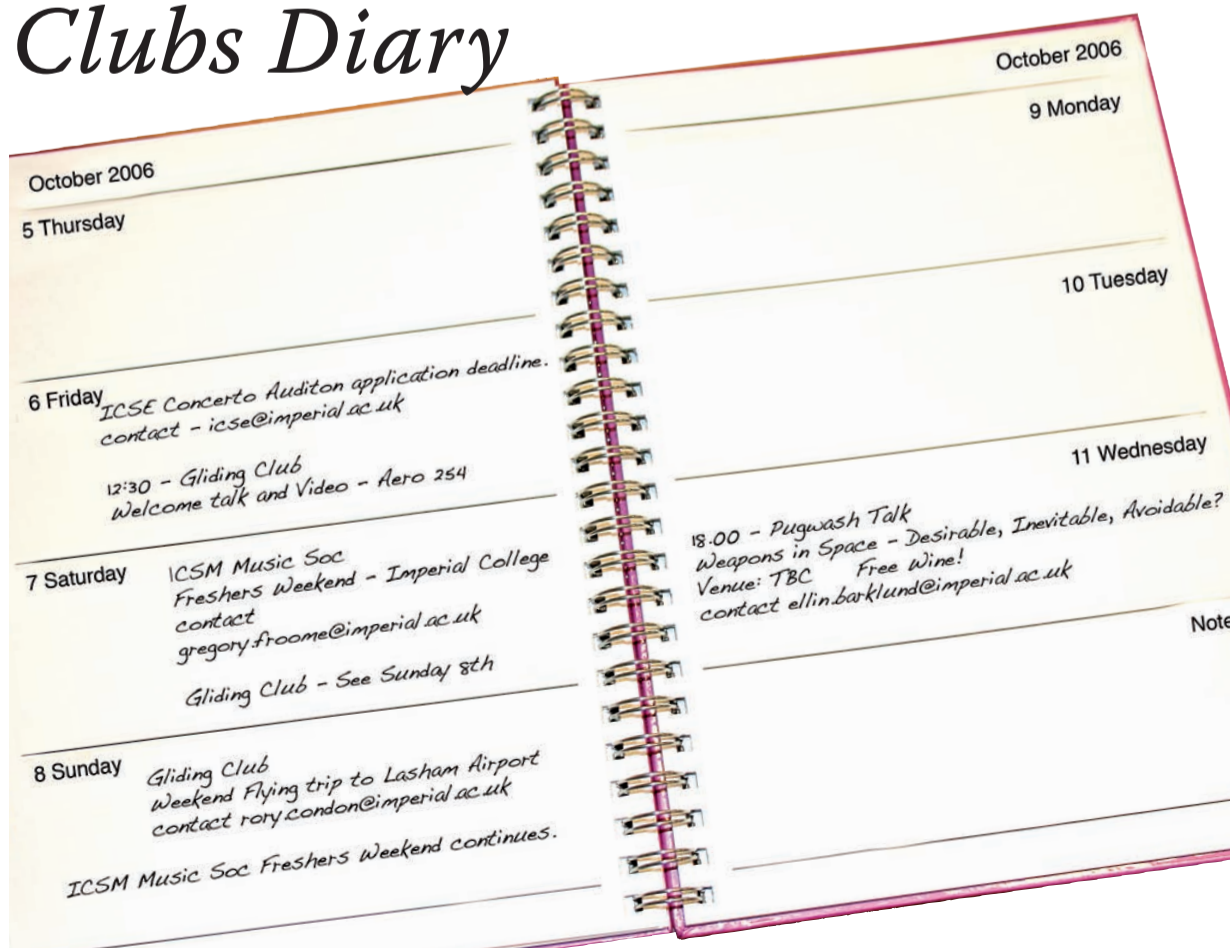
We awoke with great determination. Today we would tackle the last significant chunk of our trek. We had great expectations of an amazing view of Lake Geneva, with Montreux remaining hidden behind a final spur of hillside. However, after several hours' walk we were presented with a blanket of haze and

very poor visibility. After spending a few minutes cursing our luck, we were rewarded with clearing views of Lake Geneva some 1200m below. Our destination that evening proved to be a perfect penultimate conclusion to our journey - we reflected on our journey, as we wine and dined watching a delightful sunset sat 800m above the Lake, with the city street lights glowing in the distance, and the occasional sample of the vibrant Montreux Jazz Festival climbing to our ears.

Our final base in Vevey acted more as an expensive baggage storage facility than a cheap hostel. We celebrated the final night of our tour, enjoying drinks and dancing to the live bands at the festival. After two weeks trekking across Switzerland, accomplishing over 10,000m of ascent, and over 180km of mountain trails we travelled back to England. Whilst hard work at times, we could all reflect on the magical scenery and the good times that we had all had together. The memories of the summer tour will remain in our minds for a long time to come.

To become a member email tim.scarbrough@imperial.ac.uk. The full report is available at www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/fellwanderers

Clubs Diary



IC String Ensemble

Imperial College String Ensemble (ICSE) is now entering its second riotously successful year as a society. Last year we built on an already impressive foundation, branching-out with staged performances of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and challenging repertoire such as Tchaikovsky's Souvenir de Florence and Grieg's Holberg Suite. We have also been working on our reputation for wild-partying, posing a serious threat to many established college music groups with the sheer volume of our social events – we've even developed groupies! After brilliantly successful tours in the Summer and Christmas holidays of

2005 we're heading off to the Peak District for more barn-dancing and watersports. Plans for 2006/7 include a student concerto, collaborating with Leosoc for Artsfest 2007 as well as regular concerts slots at Holy Trinity, Brompton. As the college's only small ensemble for string players we offer a different experience to Symphony Orchestra and Sinfonietta, both socially and in terms of repertoire.

To find out more about how to become involved in Imperial College String Ensemble contact Tiffany Fan at icse@imperial.ac.uk or check out the union website.

Something exciting to say?
clubsandsocs.felix@
imperial.ac.uk

Summer break television

The good, the bad, the legend, the cavernous mouth pieces, the manic depressive, the podgy bloke havin' a laff and the ugly, as well as numerous other clichés.

Tom Roberts
TV Editor

I never thought I would slip into the stereotypical habits of student television viewing. I've nothing against those of you who rush home to get your fix of life on Ramsey Street or family friendly detective shows played out on balsa wood sets starring old, white haired, should-be-by-name porn stars. I just never expected these brain disengaging, and obviously I mean that in a relaxing sense, programs could be so compelling.

Waking up at 9:25 during the week will never be the same again for me thanks to *The Jeremy Kyle Show* during the holidays. Taking over from Trisha 'get-in-da-kitchen-an-get-me-some-chicken-and-rice-and-peas' Goddard, Kyle has brought his straight down the line approach to daytime chat shows.

Various ogres sporting bigger gaps between their teeth than the yellow enamel ridden pegs themselves bound onto the stage spouting nothing audible, literally, in order to meet pre-watershed requirements. But whereas you get a sense Jerry Springer's audience are actually the ones out for blood carrying 6 inches of serrated steel on their belts, Kyle keeps a serene atmosphere in place at all times. Calming his audience by requesting boos and jeers are withheld, a bodyguard is rarely summoned. Not that Jezza K, as his homies should call him, would ever need them. His combination of brick-shithouse stature, chav hypnotism and "two sides to every story" attitude ensures smooth runnings.

It is this final point that makes *The Jeremy Kyle Show* tower above the competition. The initial guest is not necessarily the one who walks unchanged or unscathed. Often having despaired that they've been wrongly done in their life, the accused guest enters stage left and Kyle deftly probes his way to the bottom of each story giving his measured advice that the 'victim' scowls at. Prejudice is thrown out of the window, then down the nearest cliff and into the cave at the bottom on *The Jeremy Kyle Show*. There is a real sense that the riff raff out there aren't all bad and can change their ways. This is certainly a positive point.

Unfortunately, my taste for all things student didn't completely change overnight. The success of *Deal Or No Deal* remains a mystery to me. I have never witnessed such a self-congratulatory, patronising and downright daft premise for a game show. Please, before you remove this page of the newspaper,

whilst particularly paying attention to seeing how many tiny fragments you can tear my emboldened name into, hear me out.

I congratulate Noel Edmunds for bursting back onto the television scene. Hopefully, this is just a

so stupid, he/she has forgotten the rules? So stupid, he/she has forgotten that Edmunds has previously spoken to the banker who has offered a wodge of cash? No, just like the endless rapturous applause, this is just a device to stretch out the proceedings before the inevitable conclusion is reached, for this is a game show where the prize has already been decided before a cameras have begun to roll!

Deal Or No Deal is a monotonous game of probability disguised by the black phone that has reset the cement on Edmunds career. Rarely do the contestants accept the banker's offers more out of fear of being infinitely booed rather than out of sensibility and therefore the game is over before it's even commenced.

One man that can present a game show is Stephen Fry. *QI* is a quiet triumph nestling in just beyond the primetime slots of BBC2. Whilst *QI* provided plenty of summer evening's entertainment, Fry's two-part documentary *The Secret Life Of The Manic Depressive* was easily the best viewing during the holiday. Fry suffers from bipolar disorder along with 4 million other people in the UK. In the documentary Fry discussed his condition with incredibly personal insight, as well as visiting friends and folk who cast light on the subject.

The program blew away the naïve clouds covering my eyes and probably many others throughout the UK. I fell into the category of people immediately addressed by Fry as believing manic depression was a simplified way of saying you're just really, really low. Here lied the programs biggest success. In similar fashion to Pete winning *Big Brother* and successfully drumming up awareness for toilettes, *The Secret Life* has Stephen Fry largely to thank for its success because of his willingness to open up so much of his life, which could not have been easy.

Not since last terms *Tony Robinson: Me And My Mum*, have audiences had the chance to relate and empathise with well known faces so closely. Having been expelled from school and imprisoned largely due to his extremes of mood, Fry came through all of this to get to where he is today. Even more surprisingly he thanks his manic depression for this success. The program is due to be repeated in the near future according to the BBC website and I urge you to watch if you missed out.

Moving from one intellectual extreme to the other, we arrive at *Loose Women*. Riding high on the recent wave of independent women attitude largely thanks to *Sex And The City* and possibly a certain song by Destiny's Child, a group of forty-somethings sit around a table running their mouths about all sorts of topical views. The conversation is about as intellectually stimulating as talking to a bottle of botox and is comprised of whatever bullshit has been written in Heat or Hello



Loose Women: Giant axe wounds.

platform for higher prospects, but I severely doubt *Deal* is a short-term affair. My main qualm with the program is the audience's need to clap every bloody time anything at all happens. The contestant asks Edmunds for 'The Question' in the final part of the round. Inevitably, the smug git in the high chair replies: "No deal!" to which the audience claps, cheers and even 'woops'.

This is not an American game show! Why do they shout like they're at an NFL match where there is a vast open stadium for their cola induced whooping to gush out of?

Taking a step back, why does this insistence on requesting The Question even exist? Is the contestant



The Secret Life Of The Manic Depressive: Stephen was feeling particularly pleased with himself after successfully leaving his red boxer shorts in a white wash.

or *Closer* or *Cosmopolitan* during the week. So, the content doesn't exactly match up to *Question Time*, but one thing the women do have in common with the politicians on that program is that the waffle spewing from their mouths is unbelievably hard to comprehend.

'Feminism' is the first word that springs to mind when viewing the program, but even this isn't accurate as the opinions are tinged by a sense of misandry that lies within some of the loose women. Occasionally a special guest of the lesser sex is brought out and at this point we may expect a tip in the balance of the man hating fuelled conversation, but this adds fuel to the fire as the women out do each other and silence the poor bloke with their endless talking. I've already spent too long on this and I feel I'm treading into dangerous territory but television would be a better place without a live version of OK magazine.

From one program to next via a tenuous link, we arrive at a program not afraid to offend for the sake of comedy with *Extras*. Andy and Maggie make a welcome return but this time the tubby wannabe actor has got his own show commissioned, whilst the dapsy blonde continues to basically dig holes for her best friend to fall into.

The hook for the first series was the chance to see famous stars parodying themselves but this has taken a back seat as Ricky Gervais

lets the story of come to the fore. Andy is rising through television ranks where reality is not all rosy. Major changes to his script are made by those 'in the know' and somehow the hollow gap between his agent's ears has become even more vacuous.

Until the third episode with an hilariously 'macho' Daniel Radcliffe and a dwarf known to me as none other than 'Him from Willow', *Extras* suffered slightly from Gervais' slightly heavy handed attempts at telling us how much of a struggle the television industry is. Still, Gervais continues to produce comedy that is a cut above the competition and each episode is over faster than Stephen Merchant can unsuccessfully chat up a pair of women.

The Charlotte Church Show deserves no tenuous link however. I'm going to put as much effort into this summary as it takes to give a chavette her own television chat show. The show begins with some stat about Cardiff's crime rate and depicts brawling Welshmen, which is not something I'd be promoting if I was constantly pushing the fact I'm obsessed with the country I originate from. Why the fuck doesn't she shut up about Wales? Borat talks about Kazakhstan less than she does Wales and he is literally a joke! We get it Church! You are the offspring of beastiality! Now kindly watch the door on the way out in case it hits your hind legs.



Deal Or No Deal: Noel Edmunds spots an audience member with no hands or voice.

Sudoku 1,358

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. E-mail your solution to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk by 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.

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

Solution to 1,357

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

Jotting pad

Thanks to everyone who entered. The winner this week is **Scott Fraser**. Keep those entries coming in!

This Week's Horoscopes

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)



Freshers' Fair fills you with a sense of dread. Every year, at this time, you sprout weird, curly hair in tufts on your neck. In order to avoid the stares of frightened and lonely freshers, you take to wearing scarves. Later, a dog bites your eyebrows.

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)



This week, a reincarnation of Ronald Reagan will visit you while you're in bed. Unfortunately for you, you'll be in bed with your significant other at time. Coitus interruptus or what? Reagan will explain how only you can save Reagonomics. Laugh.

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)



I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you. I hate you.

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)



A sixties starlet will rise from her grave this week, and progress towards your humble student digs. Enthralled by her grave-rotted beauty, you'll offer to do her bidding. Six counts of animal mistreatment later, you'll awake from your trance.

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)



I've been watching you. I know where you live. In fact, I know where you went with Ben on Tuesday night. Unless you want your current boyfriend to know, please mail me a minimum of £50 to IC Blackmailers Anonymous, c/o the Felix Office, Beit Quad.

Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)



There's no escape from paranoid psychotics this week. They all want to talk to you about their problems; they say you're the only one that can understand them. You'll end up spending a fortune on self-help books for them, and get a giant stress ulcer.

Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)



Beards don't scare you. Only the ghosts of beards do. Every time you see a recently shaved man, you'll begin to weep. The beard ghosts don't rest; instead, they whine in your ears with voices like Gillette Fusion razors over soft, supple skin about death.

Gemini (Jan 20 – Feb 18)



Crosswords are evil. In fact, by looking at the one below, you've condemned yourself to a afterlife of blood-soaked, skinless nightmares, rather like a Tesco's meat aisle, except with less grandmothers and rather more angry demons with seventeen arms.

Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)



You'll be struck with ideas this week. In fact, so many ideas will flood your skull that you'll forget your name, where you live, your parent's faces, your fuck buddies private parts, and your very first dog's name (he was called Leo, by the way).

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)



Woof woof woof. Woof woof woof-woof. Woof woof snarl. Woof woof woof, woof woof; WOOF woof woof. Woof snarl: snarl, woof woof-woof bark. Whine, bark snuffle woof-woof. Snarl snarl snarl, woof woof woof bark-bark woof. Snarl.

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)



If you're actually enjoying these horoscopes, then please let me know. After all, I sit here on a Tuesday night (a day before deadline), drink a pint, and listen to hardcore just to dream these up for you. Feedback is welcome, morons.

Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)



You can't stand people who say the word "ledgers" this week. When you hear it, blind fury will grip your soul and force you to cram your pint glass into their mouth. Unfortunately for you, you're an accountant. Don't drop the soap in the prison showers.

Felix Crossword 1,358

1		2				3		4				5		6
7					8							9		
11												12		
13														16
17														18
19														20
21														22

ACROSS

- 1 Newly known headless bird aimed with no eye (7)
- 4 Correct Don again (7)
- 7 Above the rest in Amazon topiary (2,3)
- 9 Lay to rest between (5)
- 10 Letter I code cryptically may reveal the truth (3,8)
- 11 We say tend to Anthony, lackey (7)
- 12 David's shield spell agony without reason (7)
- 13 Country mare confused baffled CIA (7)
- 15 Due to see a cub distraught (7)
- 17 War-torn Malaga joined together, united (11)
- 19 Lord, that is, with leg (5)
- 20 Wilt? Oh, in fall (5)
- 21 Outsider fixed society magazine without thank you (7)
- 22 Presently at this location, an item here doesn't exist (7)

DOWN

- 1 Diamond mob rush in chaos (7)
- 2 Sodium tail lacking one relating to birth (5)
- 3 Phone ET about C jargon (7)
- 4 Revive her serf, collapsed (7)
- 5 Regarding ten mixed up: don't leave! (5)
- 6 A fish missing tea is called Mr, not Dr (7)
- 8 Evade troubled Peter, a vicar (11)
- 9 Smashed in deadly topless hat - Ed. (11)
- 13 Ring University of London Unions after Ann (7)
- 14 Sharp sounds like a fisherman (7)
- 15 Yokel relations follow bump (7)
- 16 Shape assorted pie, sell at random (7)
- 17 Silver tarnished cross might be secret (5)
- 18 "Cease," we hear, "poem is one way only" (5)

Rawden

Greetings, crossword fans, and other less important people! Now that you've experienced the joys of freshers' week, I know you'll have lots of time to avoid lectures and do my crossword instead. I realise you might be feeling a little fragile after all that drinking, so I've made it quite easy for the most part. This week's puzzle has a bit of a geometric theme running through it (and I don't just mean the grid design - although isn't it pretty? I made it myself, you know). For extra bonus points, see if you can work out which clues I wrote while 9 down. Have fun! **Rawden**

Solution to Crossword 1,357

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

Send your answers to 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.

ICURFC Canada Tour 2006

Daniel Lindsley

This July saw 25 of Imperial College's rugby club head to western Canada in search of fame, fortune, glory and perhaps a little liquor. The tour began in Edmonton. Stepping off the plane into blistering heat we realised that things may not be quite as straight forward as we had hoped. However, rugby boys being rugby boys, little time was wasted in exploring the local taverns and eateries, despite our first match being the following day.

The second evening presented us with our first fifteen a side match, a game that we were told was against a team made up of a mixture of players from the local clubs. It just so happened that this representative team was the Edmonton Gold, a Canadian Super League team who finished second this year. The team in front of us contained an awful lot of talented looking players, including several internationals such as the Canadian try scoring record holder Dave Loughheed and ex Leicester Tigers winger Winston Stanley. However, we started with optimism and found ourselves only four tries to two down at the half, thanks to some great play from the half back pairing of Rob Robinson and Jim Pedder. A lack of fitness and match practice as well as extreme conditions drain saw IC walking off after 80 minutes of fast paced rugby and a comprehensive drubbing at the hands of Edmonton. The game ended, 57-12. The score line does not reflect how we had played in the match, and in fact there were hints of potential in the scratch squad comprised of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and even 4th team players.

Having enjoyed a few more days in Edmonton the journey south to Calgary was made for another fifteen a side match, the first sevens tournament and of course the legendary Calgary Stampede. It was business as usual for the lads as we explored Calgary, but we were a little more wary for our match against

the Calgary Irish after our lesson in Edmonton. The match looked like it may not have gone ahead, with a fierce thunder storm raging above our heads and interrupting play minutes in, but eventually it got underway. The Irish took advantage of the rain delay and immediately pushed over for a try from a lineout. This sparked IC into life and started a very tight match, dominated by forward play due to the stormy conditions. This limited IC's attack, being out muscled up front and unable to play the fast running rugby we wanted. A solitary try came from Quincy Allen intercepting a miss pass from the Irish 10 and running to the line. The score in the end was 12-7, but we left feeling that it was a match we could and should have won.

Next was the sevens tournament at the Stampede Sevens. The IC first squad qualified for the semi finals having put out the previous year's champions. This led to a match against a side from British Columbia, Meraloma. After a half of possibly the best sevens ever played by an IC side we led 25-0, however a Meraloma fight back saw them score three tries leaving the score at 25-19 with only a couple of minutes to play. But IC always looked in control and victory seemed secure when Robinson crossed the line late on, only for his try to be disallowed for time wasting after pressure on the referee from the Meraloma coach. This let Meraloma back in the game and a converted try in the last play handed them victory, much to the dismay of the tour party. Meraloma went on to meet our old friends the Edmonton Gold in the final where they were comprehensively beaten. However revenge would be had on Meraloma before the tour ended. A further couple of days were had in Calgary enjoying the stampede and rodeo, a highlight of the tour for many, as well as a great final night in Cowboys. A special mention has to be said for Rob Gaskell and the luge at



ICU Rugby Football Club on tour in western Canada.

the Olympic Park, something that only Rob survived.

The next five days were rugby free, spent in the glorious surroundings of the Rockies. One night was spent in the middle of nowhere at Canmore before moving on to Banff where the lads enjoyed white-water rafting, mountain biking, canoeing and the surroundings of the Lake Louise as well as the never ending hospitality of the Banff locals. After Banff we started the long journey to Vancouver with one night's stopover at Shuswap Lake, where accommodation was in the form of Caboose (railway carriages) and a boat house. We enjoyed an open campfire, local beer and a few of the guys sweated in a traditional Native American sauna before an invigorating swim in the ice cold lake.

The last week of the tour was spent on the west coast at Vancouver and Victoria. Our final fifteen a side match was to be against Capi-

lano, a top ranked British Columbia side. The game saw the best rugby played all tour, with the forwards fronting up against physically bigger and stronger opposition and the backs running fantastic lines. The game was close throughout but first half scores from Quincy Allen and Rob Gaskell gave us the edge heading into half time before Jim Pedder stretched the lead soon after the break with a run from halfway. Capilano scored two of their own before Raphael Diguisto put the game beyond doubt with another try under the posts. The final score was 24-12, testament to a squad that had developed throughout the tour to become a very good outfit. Choruses of Sylvia were sung with gusto and new songs were learnt thanks to the good lads from the Capilano side. Be warned, those of a sensitive disposition may need to cover their ears next term as the rugby boys sing the S&M man.

After another few days R&R at Victoria on Vancouver Island, where the traditional Kangaroo Court was held - much to the amusement of the Canadian locals, it was time to head back to Vancouver and the twenty fifth Simon Fraser University Sevens tournament, where our old enemies Meraloma lay in wait. Again the first squad looked in good form heading to a meeting with Meraloma. Rob Robinson looked to seek some personal revenge against the side that denied him at the previous tournament scoring all five of the tries in a 27 to 12 victory. This time we reached the final, losing out in a close encounter to the Bayside islanders, a team made up of Fijians that had won the tournament a total of 17 times.

That was the final night of a tour that had been successful on and off the pitch. Western Canada had proven a tough rugby test for IC but it certainly was an enjoyable one.

