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felix

The student newspaper of Imperial College

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# More papers under threat

Andy Sykes  
Editor-in-Chief

Westminster University Union's student newspaper, *The Smoke*, has faced censorship and possible removal of the Vice President of Communications over allegations made in the paper about the state of Westminster University's Freshers' Fayre.

A piece in the second issue of *The Smoke*, titled "Fayre... Or Failure", reported on recent student complaints about the Fayre, calling it "one of the most disorganised... in the recent past". Examples of the complaints were cited, such as a lack of a major bank stall for overseas students to open an account, a lack of organisation for commercial stalls as they arrived, and a bad stall layout. They quoted an anonymous source as saying that UWSU is running at a £10,000 deficit, and that personal rivalries between the sabbs have been hampering opera-

tions, with the President, Salima Lanquaye, apparently telling the other officers that she could handle the bulk of the arrangements herself.

The UWSU General Manager, the head of the union staff, apparently filed an official complaint against Rayhan Rafiq Omar, the VP Communications, for allowing the issue to go to print. It is not clear what the sabbs felt was inaccurate about the article, though they issued an immediate ban and began removing the paper from its distribution points and readers' hands. Mr Omar, understandably furious, commented to *Felix*: "I've never seen them do so much work." The sabbs have also tabled a motion of no confidence in Mr Omar.

The General Manager summoned Mr Omar to a disciplinary panel meeting. However, this took place via text message sent at 10:15am, with the meeting occurring at 12:30pm the same day. Mr

Omar was unable to attend, due to prior commitments, and the meeting took place without him present. However, the sabbs eventually decided that it was not appropriate to discipline Mr Omar without him being present, and agreed to reconvene in a fortnight's time.

Mr Omar, contacted by this reporter for comment, feels very strongly about honouring his word to the students that he serves. After the sabbs decided that they would deliberate on his case without him, he stated: "My responsibility is to the students, not myself", adding that he could continue to help students after being disciplined.

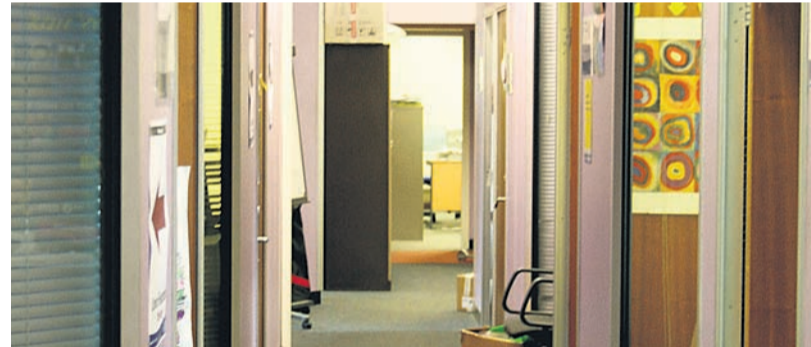
*The Smoke* is independent from the UWSU in terms of content, and funded by the union. Mr Omar and the other sabbs took decisions at the beginning of the year to make it fully independent of any political infighting within the union, and as such, the only body that can remove Mr Omar from his post is the General Meeting.

Mr Omar controls the funding of the newspaper, and although he has a right to change content, he feels his role to be more of a guiding one, saying: "As long as I am in the post, I will protect the students who write for *The Smoke*, and ensure what they are doing... can be published." This reporter contacted the UWSU President for comment; at the time of going to press, no reply has been received.

In other news, *Felix's* previous news editor, Chris Miles, has succeeded in irritating the sabbs at Bristol University, after asking questions about the finances of the Union in his new role as news editor of university's student newspaper. The sabbs have threatened the paper, *Epigram*, with withdrawal of funding and closure, and possible removal of Mr Miles from his position.

# Massive outrage as nothing happens

FUCIT



If something's happening, they're damn good at hiding it from us

A huge group of students and staff gathered on campus yesterday, as it was revealed that absolutely nothing had happened during the week. The gathering protested by going about their daily business as if nothing had happened, which is in fact what had happened. You see?

*Felix* has assembled a special reporting team, the *Felix* Undercover Investigation Team, or FUCIT for short, to try to get to the bottom of this outrageous farce. This loose assembly of tireless men and women of journalism scoured the campus from the broad, slightly blinding white space of Dalby Court to the lofty heights of the sabbs' offices in Beit Towers, trying to locate an answer for you, dear reader, to the eternal question: "What the fuck are we going to put on the front page?"

Initially, FUCIT toyed with the idea of filling the page with lorem ipsum and knocking off early to the pub for a few swift lagers and a stomach-destroying Union chilli-with-nachos, but this plan was scuppered by a rather angry editor wielding what he likes to call his "angry stick" and threatening everything from fractures to forcible orifice insertion. Ejected from the *Felix* office by the editor's lackeys, FUCIT decided the next best course of action would be to wander up to Beit Towers and see if they could steal anything from the photocopiers that might be horribly incriminating. Sadly, all the team located was a photocopy of some unidentified body parts covered with hair, and a copy of the

Governance Report autographed by the Union President, John Collins. They did bump into a certain online newspaper editor along the way, who could be heard yelling, rather angrily, "why won't you lot make a mistake?"

FUCIT, that bastion of journalistic integrity, tried to obtain comment from the sabbs. Eric Lai, Deputy President (Cakes & Snacks) was unavailable for comment, as he was wandering the halls questioning passers-by: "Does anyone know how to get the Internet on my phone?"

Ben Harris, Deputy President (Fluff & Stuff), initially displayed reluctance to talk to FUCIT, but then darkly muttered something about "ULU.. damn journalists.. NUS.." before collapsing into a immobile heap. Jon Matthews, Deputy President (Pounds & Pennies), used his comment-making machine to say: "It would not be appropriate for me to make comment at this juncture." Sir John Collins (Punion Resident) officially refused to make comment, before adding under his breath: "Off the record, old chap, but being President is a fine old lark." Shama Rahman, Deputy President (Girl's Stuff), unfortunately could not hear FUCIT knocking on her door, as the volume of her modern beat combo music was sufficient to vibrate nearby fixtures.

When asked for comment by FUCIT, Andy Sykes, *Felix* Editor, said: "What the hell are you doing back in here? I thought I told you go make up news. Here comes the pain!"

the **smoke** 4th-17th September 2006 Issue No. 2 sponsored by: STUDENTS' UNION W1 UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER www.uwsu.com

THE BATTLE OF THE BANDS... IN PRINT!

SUPERSTAR DJS vs. ROCKNROLL page 14 >>>

FAYRE... OR FAILURE?

Are the cracks of the unorganised Students' Union beginning to show?

by Priyanka Deladla

Students' response to the Freshers Fayre makes us wonder: what exactly went wrong with this year's organisation?

At most universities, more than 30 per cent of the stalls set up at the Fayre are allotted for commercial purposes; these could range from banks to food chains, housing, health and services, and even for television rentals.

For most international students at the beginning of their academic life in a new country and generally a major cause of

The issue of *Smoke* that upset the sabbs and union staff

# Abusive ex-student disrupts Ethos pool

Andy Sykes

An ex-student has been "abusive and out of order" while at the Ethos swimming pool, aggressively confronting staff and students after a training session overran.

Ethos provides external coaches from an organisation called Fast Fins to the Swim & Waterpolo Club free of charge during their training sessions. These are usually split into two halves, with the swimmers in the first session, and the waterpolo players in the second session. The trouble started when the first session overran. A member of the club, Ares Protopapas, became irate at the external coaches at the poolside, asking them to hurry up and clear the pool. The coaches were in the process of concluding the session, but this apparently was not enough for Mr Protopapas, who disrupted the end of the session and jumped in the pool.

After the event, the club's President, Sophie Mitchinson, sent an email to the club's mailing list. The email asked members to try to be punctual to training sessions to prevent overrun, to stay out of the pool until a coach has checked whether the trainee is a club member, and to wait patiently should the first session overrun. Mr Protopapas decided that this was not sufficient, and sent an email to the entire list, as well as the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes. The email, entitled somewhat bizarrely, "of timekeeping, sportsmanship and tobacco", accused the swimmers of monopolising the pool and not taking into account the fact that "some of us have various professional and other obligations".

It also included a rather strange personal attack against the coaches themselves, stating: "I personally find the presence of 'civilian' persons (business managers etc in mufti [civilian dress], without appropriate ID, uniform, or good manners and reeking of tobacco



A pool session at Ethos was disrupted by an unruly ex-student

smoke) rather inappropriate for the Ethos poolside." Mr Protopapas' complaint seems to be that he felt he had been treated badly by the coaches, and that wearing "IC colours/trunks" should have entitled him to preferential treatment.

Mr Protopapas should not have been able to join the club, as he is no longer a student at the College, and hence no longer a Union member. He was able to join via the website due to an administrative error by ICT, which still had his status set as a current student. He has since, allegedly, claimed life membership of the Union; however, no records of this exist.

In an email leaked to *Felix* by an anonymous source, Neil Mos-

ley, head of Sport Imperial, stated that Mr Protopapas must abide by Ethos' codes of practice, or he will be banned from using the centre. Grant Deskine, operations manager for Sport and Leisure, stated that the partnership with Fast Fins to provide additional coaching at no extra cost has been "very impressive". He also stated that he "does not feel one 'minor' issue should be blown out of all proportion by an individual who is not even a member of the student body", confirming that the Rector's office has also come to this conclusion.

*Felix* attempted to contact Mr Protopapas for comment; no reply was forthcoming at the time of going to press.

# Elections much less of a farce now



Stephen Brown, standing as RON, amuses the voting public

The Council elections have become less farcical, with the Union President, John Collins, changing the rules to allow people to stand.

The GSA elections did have all signs of becoming a classic Union election farce, but a number of people are now standing for the available posts after a heavy campaign of e-mailing and approaching postgraduates. However, the seconding appeared to be a problem, with many candidates having only one or two seconders. Mr Collins decided to interpret the constitution regarding elections, which says that candidates "normally require" ten seconders in order to stand, and 'waved through' those who had a few seconders.

However, hustings still appeared to be as pointless as ever, despite

the enthusiasm of Mr Collins, which a few students lunching quietly in the JCR found somewhat off-putting if the heckles are to be believed. The candidates for the GSA can only be voted for by postgraduates, and several students then raised the question of why hustings for these positions took place in the JCR instead of the SCR. Mr Collins responded that masters' students are not permitted in the SCR, but are still represented by the GSA.

The RON campaign, run by Stephen Brown (RAG Chair) this year, got a far better reception than any of the other candidates, with some responses to questions making the whole room chuckle. When discussing the Equal Opportunities Officer post, Mr Brown said: "I'd rename it Athletics Union Officer."

## Corrections and clarifications

In issue 1359, we included this claim in the front page story about the incident at Wye Campus: "Concerns have also been raised over the fact that students were still being served in the bar, despite being clearly drunk." We have since learned that this is incorrect; the student in question arrived at the bar drunk already, and was rightly refused service by the bar staff. We sincerely apologise for this inaccuracy.

## felix 1,360

Friday 20.10.06

### Little Green Men

"The SKA is a massive project, costing over 1 billion euros. But it has the potential to answer most of the outstanding questions in astronomy today - from alien life to the origins of the universe."

PAGE 6

### 100 Years of Elements

"The periodic table is an iconic symbol of science, but it's easy to forget what is so great about it. Anyone who has studied chemistry will be familiar with the table that shows off the elements in all their organised glory."

PAGE 7

### Harry Hill

"What success? I'm here, at Imperial College on a Wednesday night!"

PAGE 8



### Rebuilding Lebanon

"Imagine if you were an orphan. What would your life be like then? What you are envisaging is not even half as tragic as a real orphan's life."

PAGE 9

### Super Scientist

"Galileo is no superhuman. He is a man in the raw: flawed, obsessive, irascible, and reckless. His reactions are as much visceral as cerebral, his pleasures alimentary as well as astronomical."

PAGE 22

### New York, New York

"During my summer as a New Yorker, I managed to gatecrash the long haul departure lounge of the international fashion jet set for the Spring 2007 collections."

PAGE 25

### Grilled Gordon-bleu

"It wasn't long before Ramsay's temper began to boil over and the contestants cottoned on to this faster than you can fry an omelette."

PAGE 27



Wining, dining, maxing, and relaxing at the RCSU and CGCU balls. PAGES 10 AND 11

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# Imperial's entrepreneurs challenge

"To succeed in business it is necessary to make others see things as you see them."

**Michael Olymbios**  
Business Editor

Monday 9 October marked the launch of the Entrepreneurs Challenge for the forthcoming academic year. The annual prize fund of £55,000 attracted undergraduates and faculty alike, from all disciplines. Any individual – regardless of their previous experience – is invited to use the two-part competition as a forum for exploring business ideas without financial risk.

Although as many as 350,000 businesses open their doors each year in the UK, just as many go into liquidation. Bizhelp, a website providing assistance to small businesses, identified ten major reasons for companies failing. "Lack of skills" tops the list. Many people have excellent ideas, but are deficient in the technical, management and marketing skills needed to put their concept into effect. The challenge gives such people the opportunity to harness the experience of industry professionals, whilst at the same time enhancing their knowledge.

For the first part of the challenge, known as the "Ideas Challenge," entrants must submit a two-page



New business challenge winning team "Intervent" and runners-up "Nap-ease" and "A-fix" 23 March 2006

business plan with a 1,200 word limit. The pro-forma includes various headings such as "who is your market?" Learning events, including lectures from the Tanaka Business School, and one-on-one tutorials, are available to those who

apply. The competition closes on 20 November. Details on how to enter can be found on the website listed below. There are 10 prizes of £1,000 and 10 of £250 which shall be awarded on 7 December at 18.00 in room 220 Mechanical Engineering.

The second part of the competition is "The New Business Challenge." This requires entrants to expand their ideas further and produce a 10-page plan. This comprehensive proposal needs to include technical information such as cash-flow esti-

mates. Teams must then present a marketing-pitch to a panel of investors and judges, a nerve-racking, but potentially rewarding event.

The first prize is £25,000 (£15,000 on paid services), there are two runner-up prizes of £5,000 (£3,000 paid services) and seven £1,000 cash prizes. In the past, the entire prize was in cash. Unfortunately, some teams would spend it on their business, and others would indulge themselves. Thenceforth, part of the prize can only be spent on services for launching a new company. Last year, there were 300 entries, most of whom were undergraduates with no experience.

All the teams took something positive from the experience. Whether or not their ideas were taken further, their business knowledge grew, they learnt to structure their thinking and they learnt to sell an idea. The experience entrants acquire, makes an impressive addition to any resume, in a world where universities are churning out thousands of talented people.

Apply on [www3.imperial.ac.uk/entrepreneurship/entrepreneurschallenge](http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/entrepreneurship/entrepreneurschallenge)

## City explained: derivatives demystified

Goldman Sachs' income from derivatives sales and trading four times that of M&A



The international petroleum exchange is one of the largest futures exchanges for energy products

**Jayraj Chokshi**  
Business Correspondent

Read the FT on any given day and there is usually more than one article full of derivatives jargon: options, futures, swaps, CDOs, CDS, exotics, hybrids...the list is endless. Warren Buffet once described financial derivatives as "weapons of mass destruction", Alan Greenspan and the countless number of investors (or is that speculators?) certainly didn't seem to think so. The rise of derivatives and their use over the last decade alone has been startling. Look at Goldman Sachs' balance sheet and you can quite easily see that income generated from the sales and trading revenue streams, of which derivatives

form a large part, outstrips M&A advisory income four times over.

The industry in its current incarnations has been around in some shape or form since the 70s, when 3 academics from the Chicago Graduate School of Business – Myron Scholes, Fischer Black and Robert Merton – developed the Black-Scholes option pricing model. Futures have been traded on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) since the mid-nineteenth century. The more quantitative development of areas such as credit derivatives has happened more recently. A financial derivative is described most simply as a financial contract which is valued on some underlying asset or event. This asset or event can literally be anything – stocks, currency,

wheat, weather, England winning the World Cup.

Lets stick to wheat, for simplicity. Imagine a farmer who has a field on which he grows crops of wheat. In order to grow this wheat, the farmer has put forward a certain amount of initial outlay of capital, maybe it was his own, maybe he borrowed it. Either way, he had to pay for the land, prepare it, seed it and water it. He also would have bought fertilizers and pesticides. In order to make money, his expenditure needs to be lower than his income, simple. His ability to make money is determined on 2 factors: the amount of wheat he sells (volume) and the market price of the wheat. For argument's sake, lets discount the volume, and so price

becomes the overriding factor, and he has an exposure to changes in the price. If it goes up, he will earn more, if it goes down it will squeeze his margins. There is a risk that the price could fall below what it costs him to produce the wheat, meaning he will run losses. This is where derivatives come in. He can enter into a derivative contract to manage that price risk, he could sell the wheat in the future but at today's price, or another mutually agreed, fixed price. This is a forward contract, or a future.

In essence, what the farmer has done is eliminated uncertainty in his future earnings; he is protected from a huge fall in the price, but equally must give up any extra profit if it rises. Fine, but who wants to buy wheat forward? Someone with the opposite need, say a baker. A baker needs the wheat to make his bread and he may well have exactly the opposite risk exposure as the farmer: if wheat prices rise, the farmer gains but the baker loses out, if they fall, the farmer loses out but the baker gains. This is a delivery settled derivative contract. One can speculate of course, and this is where cash settled derivatives come into play. You agree a price in the contract, called the strike price, but you don't actually have the wheat delivered to your door. The farmer merely enters into the contract with a dealer, say an investment bank, without disrupting his own trading relationships. If the price rises above the strike price, the farmer must give up the difference between the actual price and the strike price to the dealer in cash, if it falls below the strike

price, the dealer will pay the farmer the difference.

Herein lies the problem, the farmer must always give up the extra revenue he would have generated if the price rises had he not entered into a futures contract. He doesn't have to; he could enter into an options contract instead, more specifically in the case of the farmer a put option. A put is essentially an insurance against the price of the wheat falling. If it falls below the strike price of the put, the farmer is paid the difference by the dealer. If it rises, the farmer need never exercise the option and hence can reap the rewards of the price rises. He must of course pay the dealer a premium for the option, called the option premium, just like premium paid to an insurance company for car insurance. The premium is determined on the risk exposure the dealer assumes on entering into the contract. So we've helped the farmer, what about the baker? He is worried about price rises, so he could purchase a call option, if the price is below the strike price he can continue to buy at the market price, as soon as it hits the strike price the option triggers and the dealer must now offset the extra cost of purchasing wheat.

The example of the farmer and baker is quite elementary of course, and the risks involved are hedged quite easily, this is not always the case. The investment banks in essence act as the dealers, they assume the risks, repackage them, and shift them off their balance sheet onto someone else. In short, someone else holds the ticking time bomb.

# SKA trekking across the universe

Felix talks to International SKA Director Professor Richard Schilizzi about a new variation of space invader

Nigel Praities

Galileo used his telescope to tell us that the earth went round the sun, and in doing so, fundamentally changed the way mankind thought about itself. In our lifetime, astronomers are preparing for another revolution, this time from the world's largest ever telescope, planned for operation in 2020.

The SKA (Square Kilometre Array) offers exciting possibilities, enabling us to see further into space than ever before. We may be able to finally uncover the secrets of the structure of the universe and search for life on other planets.

Surprisingly, this revolution may come from an area of barren orange soil in the outback of Australia. Mileura station in Western Australia has recently been selected, along with another place in South Africa, to be a possible site for the telescope. These desolate areas have been chosen as they are dry, have clear skies and are far from the interference of radiation from modern civilisation.

"This is a very large project involving 55 institutions in 17 different countries," says Professor Richard Schilizzi, the International Director based at the SKA headquarters in The Netherlands. "With this telescope we will be able to go back to more than 90% of the age of the universe."

SKA will be a radio telescope with a collecting area of one million square metres – equivalent to 200 football pitches – making it 50 times

more sensitive and 10,000 times faster than current telescopes. Radio telescopes collect waves emitted by radio sources, usually via large antennas or dishes.

Like the rings of a cosmic tree trunk, radiation from the deepest parts of the universe can give us information about its history. The SKA will be able to examine radiation from the gases which became the first stars and galaxies. This will give us a clearer picture of how the universe evolved.

Ancient information from the very first stars, galaxies and black holes will be recorded for the first time, giving us a clearer picture of our beginnings. "The big bang was 13.7 billion years ago," explains Prof Schilizzi. "We will be able to look at this very early stage, perhaps within a billion years of the big bang, when the universe began to form."

As well as this early history, scientists hope to be able to peer into a crystal ball and see where the universe is headed. The Array will help to explain the mysterious 'dark energy', a force pushing the cosmos apart at an ever increasing speed. By observing the distribution of the universe's most abundant element, neutral hydrogen, the SKA will look at the role and properties of dark energy, and help us make sense of this strange force.

Alien life forms should also beware – SKA will be searching for you. Astronomers will use the telescope to look for earth-like planets around other suns and radiation from extraterrestrial life in our gal-



An artist's impression of the Square Kilometer Array sunning itself in Western Australia

axy. For the first time, we will be able to detect tiny amounts of radiation from other planets. Signals as small as those emitted by TV sets or radar equipment, for example, could be detected. "SKA will be able to pick up radars from other civilisations close to us," says Professor Schilizzi. "It is certainly something that we are interested in."

Scientists are also keen to use SKA to extensively test Einstein's famous Theory of Relativity. The behaviour of dead stars, or pulsars, will be analysed and compared with Einstein's predictions. This will provide with information to test

the validity of Einstein's theories. Professor Schilizzi is confident that SKA will pick up around 20,000 pulsars and that "at least one example of a pulsar will be around a stellar black hole, which can be used for testing Einstein's theory in a strong field case".

The SKA is a massive project, costing over 1 billion euros. But it has the potential to answer most of the outstanding questions in astronomy today – from alien life to the origins of the universe. Construction on SKA is planned in 5 years time, once the large group of collaborators from Argentina,

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, the UK and the US decide on a final design, funding and a site for the project.

It is likely that SKA will raise more questions than answer them. Professor Schilizzi refuses to speculate on what SKA could reveal, but he does say that "all we can say for the moment is that every telescope [that was a major advance] found things that were absolutely not predicted ahead of time". We wait with bated breath.



Scream if you wanna go faster. The Fairground: Thrill Laboratory event explores our obsession with adrenaline fueled excitement.

## Thrills and spills

Krystyna Larkham  
Science Editor

Pleasure. Frisson. Excitement. If you're after the ride of your life, then what will you feel? Unfortunately, probably not what was experienced at the opening of 'Fairground: Thrill Laboratory'.

The Dana Centre, the adult only bar and discussion forum on Queen's Gate, is holding a three week event to explore our fascination with thrill, via the medium of the fairground ride. Over the course of the three sessions, the themes 'Pleasure', 'Frisson' and 'Excitement' will be subjected to the rigorous testing of the 'Thrill Laboratory'.

The event kicked off last Tuesday with a multimedia investigation of how we experience 'Pleasure'. The Staff of the Dana centre have transformed their premises into an approximation of a fairground, complete with live DJ, bright lights, and fast food canapes (mini burgers, hot dogs and fish'n'chips!)

Bizarrely however, one's enjoyment of a sneaky toffee-apple is soon disturbed by a balloon waving, white jumpsuit-sporting 'Thrill Technician', exhorting you to have 'fun', or later, to pull funny faces (terrified, surprised, thrilled). The emphasis this evening was on interaction, including a ride on the fairground ride 'Miami Trip' hooked up to videolink and heart monitor.

However well intentioned, this particular reviewer did feel slightly like she'd stumbled into a primary school populated by 30-something science nuts.

The main attraction of the event, apart from the enormous 'Miami Trip' parked outside, was a hand picked selection of academics, each giving a short presentation on 'Pleasure'. At 10 minutes long, these were perfect for an evening audience, long enough to inform, and even to entertain, but short enough to prevent thoughts straying back to the bar. Subjects covered included the relationship between Pleasure and Crime, and whether or not machines and robots can experience emotion. Most interesting however was Claire O'Malley's talk on our interpretations of facial expressions, and how easy it is to confuse surprise and fear.

The Thrill Laboratory is an ambitious event, not un-beset by technical problems and unsmoothed edges. Once these teething problems have been outgrown, this event should mature into a fascinating, and even fun take on our hedonistic pursuit of thrills.

Head over to the event at the Dana Centre, Queen's Gate, between 17th October and 1st November. £10 (includes free drink and fairground ride!) on 0870 870 4868.

## Best of the rest

Tonight at the Cruciform Building UCL, Susan Greenfield is talking about 'From Chemicals to Consciousness' at 19.30. Tickets £12,020 7409 2992.

Greenwise, the London's Ecology lectures continue at Gresham College. 1pm Barnard's Inn Hall, www.gresham.ac.uk

If life at Imperial seems decidedly lacking in 'Frisson', head over to the Dana Centre on 24th/25th for the second installment of their 'Fairground: Thrill Laboratory' series (see left for review). Event starts 17.30, tickets £10 on 0870 870 4868.

Imperial is holding a one day seminar on Biocompatible Materials and Devices from 0900-1700 on 26th October. To register, email p.degenaar@imperial.ac.uk.

Whether you side with the fluffy bunnies, or a vigilant vivisectionist, everyone will have some interest in Friday's talk at 19.30 in the Churchill Room, London House, Goodenough College, WC1. Chris Bickerton, the co-founder of Pro-Test, is lecturing on 'From Pro-Test to progress, the politics of animal research'. 020 7209 9220 for more information.

# Turning the tables on Mendeleev

As we approach the 100th anniversary of his death we take a look back at the man responsible for *that* chart



Mendeleev's statue outside his old residence in St Petersburg

Naomi Antony

Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev was born in Tobolsk, Siberia in February 1834. His father died when Mendeleev was around 13 years old, leaving his mother Maria to raise the family on her own. Money was tight, following the loss to fire of his mother's family business, and his only chance of going to university was to win a scholarship. In 1849, the family relocated to St Petersburg, where Mendeleev was accepted into the Main Pedagogical Institute.

Mendeleev married his first wife Feozva Nikitichna around 1862, under the influence of his sister Olga. However, 8 years and two children later, the couple was living separately. In 1877, Mendeleev met and became infatuated with Anna Popova, a teenaged art student staying in Petersburg with his older sister Ekaterina. When Mendeleev first proposed in 1879, Anna turned him down and was sent away to Rome by her father. Not to be deterred, Mendeleev went to Rome in 1881 and proposed again, vowing to kill himself if she refused him. She accepted, and Mendeleev and his first wife were divorced in February 1882. According to Orthodox law, Mendeleev should have waited seven years before marrying Anna, but the couple was married in January 1882, earning Mendeleev public notoriety as a bigamist.

While most people recognize Mendeleev as the primary creator of the periodic table of the elements,

few are aware of his other pursuits. Mendeleev was passionate about metrology. In the early 1860s, he played a central role in the Ministry of Finance's strategy to reform the state's alcohol industry by converting Russian volumes and weight measures to metric ones. Convinced that the introduction of the metric system would be symbolic of a westernizing Russia, he advocated its introduction throughout the 1860s. Mendeleev was eventually appointed Director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures in 1893.

## Russia's most recognised scientific name

In the 1870s, Spiritualism began to spread across Russia in a wave of frenzy. The focus was on séances, usually led by a medium. Many of Mendeleev's colleagues, including Aleksandr Butlerov, were drawn to spiritualism. Mendeleev helped establish the 'Commission for the Investigation of Mediumistic Phenomena' in order to prove that mediums were frauds. From 1875-1876, he attended several séances, writing up reports after each one. In a series of lectures, he publicly attacked spiritualism, declaring seances as "simple-minded manipulation of the rhetoric of facts." The spiritualist community was outraged as he had violated their codes of practice by faking noises during one of the

séances (which he admitted).

Mendeleev had little patience for Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, finding them tortuously descriptive. He preferred works of adventure, particularly those by Jules Verne, and attempted Verne's adventure in his own life twice. He developed a fascination with ballooning, a pursuit that he believed would aid him with his meteorological studies, and took flight in 1887 to study the solar eclipse of 7 August 1887; an event documented in his article *An Air Flight From Klin during the Eclipse*. Then, inspired by Verne's *A Journey To The North Pole*, Mendeleev attempted an Arctic adventure of his own. Together with S.O. Makarov, a naval hero, he built an icebreaker on which he proposed a journey to chart a viable northern sea route (Gordin 2004). Alas, his efforts to get his plan endorsed failed and he fell out with Makarov, to whom he never spoke again.

It is evident that Mendeleev was far more than just a chemist. As well as a metrologist, meteorologist and advocate against Spiritualism, Mendeleev was also an active citizen, committed to improving the technological advances of Russia and deeply concerned about the social problems of his time. His well-publicised rejection from the Academy Of Sciences in 1880 only increased his popularity, elevating him to an almost celebrity status and, to this day, he remains Russia's most recognised scientific name. Mendeleev passed away in January 1907, aged 73.

## Elementary, my dear Dimitri

Lizzie Gibney

The periodic table is an iconic symbol of science, but it's easy to forget what is so great about it. Anyone who has studied chemistry will be familiar with the table that shows off the elements in all their organised glory. But when Mendeleev first proposed it back in 1869, only sixty of the elements were known and the idea that the similarity of elements could tell us anything fundamental about their nature was unexplored.

The table as we know it today shows 115 elements in 'groups', displayed in columns, and 'periods' in rows, but in the early nineteenth century even the elements themselves were not well defined. Any similarities in the way they combined or looked were curious but not regarded as very important. Atomic weight could be determined (similar to our measure of relative atomic mass) but what this meant for the element was unclear.

By 1817 patterns began to emerge. Johann Dobereiner noted that when three similar elements were lined up in atomic weight order, the properties of the middle one would often be the average of the other two. After the publication of more accurate atomic weights in

1860, a flurry of new ideas surfaced that speculated of a higher relationship. In 1862 the French geologist A.E. Beguyer de Chancourtois noted that not only did these similarities exist but that when ordered by atomic weight they occurred roughly every eighth element. The table's shape was evolving.

Chancourtois could have claimed the creation of the first periodic table, but the dense and incomprehensible nature of his publication meant it met with little success. Errors in identifying and placing elements seriously limited the table's practical use.

Mendeleev himself is supposed to have happened upon the idea of putting the elements into a table whilst playing a game of patience. Having written the properties of the elements on the cards, while rearranging them he noticed the regular pattern of eight with certain types of elements always followed by another type.

The publication of Mendeleev's 'Periodic System' in 1869 overshadowed other contemporary papers. In part this was because of the well-timed release but also due to its sheer ambition. Mendeleev was so impressed by the simplicity of the repeating pattern that where the atomic weights disrupted it, he ig-

The iconic image of the complete Periodic Table.

nored them. Elements were put where its properties said it should go. Where he found inconsistencies he double-checked results - performing his own atomic weight experiments. If still he found no element to fit a space, he left a gap, preferring to believe there were elements undiscovered, rather than concede to anomalies in the pattern.

These gaps helped prior Mendeleev make predictions about the missing elements. From looking at an empty position in the table he could predict the properties of

the mystery element with great accuracy. Two of these were found within 15 years of publication and the precise nature of his predictions served to cement the value of his periodic system.

In the end Mendeleev correctly repositioned fourteen different elements in defiance of their accepted atomic weight and predicted ten entirely new ones, seven of which were later found.

Over the years scientists have amended the table with new discoveries and observations. Lord Rayleigh added a 'group zero' of

newly discovered noble gases in 1895 and Henry Mosley lead a reordering according to atomic charge rather than weight, after discoveries of isotopes showed that these did not always correspond.

The following century saw a search for the reasons behind the elements' fundamental similarities displayed in Mendeleev's table. An atomic explanation for the behaviour of elements relating physical and chemical properties to atomic weight and charge is now deeply rooted in our understanding of chemistry and matter itself.

# Be proud like Harry: quit medicine

Stoic TV's Chris Hemmens pops the questions during a one on one interview with comedian Harry Hill.

Comedian and bald primate Harry Hill was at Imperial College recently giving a tour de force with his stand up routine. In between tickling ribs and taking drunken requests for autographs, Harry caught up with stoic tv for a question and answer session.

**We've just seen you performing as Harry Hill And The Caterers. So, who exactly are 'The Caterers'?**

Well, they're a bunch of chefs that I met at Knutsford services. They were down on their luck, and they were looking for work. And so I got them, I trained them... No! Basically they're a number of musicians that I worked with in the past and we started doing this for fun, just to do it in the sound-check when I'm doing the big shows. We'd just play a few different songs. We thought; "Hey, let's see if we can get people to pay for this" and so we started doing it. Yeah, just doing it for fun, really.

**So what made you get into the whole comedy scene?**

Made me? I qualified as a doctor. I was a bit fed up with that and I'd always wanted to have a go [at comedy]. I'd always written jokes and liked comedians. Since I went to medical school in London I went

to a lot of clubs, comedy clubs.

**Which medical school in London did you go to and what possessed them to take you onboard?**

St. George's Medical School in Tooting. They'll take anyone!

**Who are your favourite comic performers?**

Well when I started going to clubs I used to go and see people like Jo Brand and Jack Dee, people like that. They were like, just kind of on the clubs. Whereas when I was a kid I liked Monty Python, Spike Milligan, Eric and Ernie; that kind of thing.

**Moving on to TV Burp, could you tell us a bit about the next series and where it is heading?**

Well it's returning soon. There's going to be a Christmas Special and then we've got a 13 week run in the new year which is the longest run we've ever done. So let's hope there's enough television for us to ridicule and take the mickey out of! As long as Em-

merdale's running and churning out cracking television, I think we should be alright!



**You've recently released a new book. What's that about then?**

The book's called "Tim The Tiny Horse". It's a mix for parents and kids that crosses the generational gap. Oh, and it's about a tiny horse and his adventures.

**What was your motivation for putting pen to paper, or rather finger to keyboard in this technological age, and writing the book?**

I just started drawing this little horse and I did a story and then I thought "that'd be fun", so I sent it off to see if there was any interest. And there was a little bit of interest, so then I had to draw the whole blooming thing! It took me weeks!

**Obviously, without giving the game away, what would you say was the secret of your success?**

What success? I'm here, at Imperial College on a Wednesday night! Or is it a Thursday? It must be a Thursday, we missed 'Extras'. I'm very pushy; that's the secret of my success, yeah. Push, push, push. I don't mind who

I tread on in the process. Stamp, stamp. The heads I've stamped on, you know. The enemies I've made.

**Right, ok. Moving on... What would you describe as the proudest moment of your career? Proudest? My God. I'd say a person's proudest moment is when they can look back and say, "I did that". I think just giving up medicine would be mine, yeah.**

**Final question for you. What do you think of Imperial so far then? Wonderful place isn't it?**

I like Imperial. It's a fantastic building. That Quad's really good, isn't it? Yeah, you've done well to get here so close to the action, you know. You've got the Albert Hall, you've got Hyde Park there, the Serpentine Gallery. Yeah, I'd say you're minted.

## Life at a glance

A medicine graduate, Harry started with a radio show in 1993, and eventually moved to Channel 4 with *The Harry Hill Show*. Nowadays he is best known as a stand up comic and host of ITV's *TV Burp*.

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# Islamic Soc's Save a Nation

Helping to rebuild shattered Lebanon after the war between Israel and Hezbollah

Saad Raja

When we look at our lives, it is perhaps only human to feel that we never have enough. Family, education, opportunities are all taken for granted, while basics such as accommodation, food and health are not even considered.

Imagine if you were an orphan. What would your life be like then? What you are envisaging is not even half as tragic as a real orphan's life.

Factor into this the ravages of war. Your surroundings are piles of rubble and dust, littered with unexploded cluster bombs. Your infrastructure is nothing more than bombed roads, crumbling bridges, burnt ambulances and an oil slick on the beach. There is no electricity, clean water or fuel for transport. What remains of your education is what remains of your shelled school. Now, try and imagine what it would be like to be an orphan in these conditions. You can't. And this is the story of Lebanese orphans and children.

During the 34-day war, the Lebanese nation received more than 7,000 air strikes, 2,500 naval shells, and countless bullets. 1,183 people have died in Lebanon, a third of them children; 4,054 people have been injured and 970,000 displaced. At the cost of £1.8bn, 30,000 houses, 120 bridges, 94 roads, 25 fuel stations, 900 businesses, 5 hospitals, and 31 "vital points", such as airports, ports, water and sewage treatment plants, and electrical facilities, have all been destroyed (Source: UN).

With this background in mind each and every year the Islamic Society runs a charity campaign, Save a Nation, to raise money for and awareness about desperate situations around the world and this year has dedicated the Save a Nation (SaN) campaign to the children and orphans of Lebanon, through the Disasters Emergency Committee (Islamic Relief charity)

Islam places a heavy emphasis on charitable acts. Not only is charity (Zakat in arabic) obligatory on all Muslims, it is one of the five defining pillars of Islam, with the poor and needy having the constitutional right in Muslim countries to a minimum of 2.5% of everyone's wealth (not income). The Quran says: "Establish prayer and dispense the purifying alms (zakat) and bow in worship with those who bow" (Chapter 2: Verse 43). In past years, the campaign has raised over £60,000 for Afghanistan, Sudan, Bangladesh, Iraq, and recently for the victims of the Pakistan earthquake. The relief work has involved emergency food distribution, supply of clean water, basic sanitation, education rehabilitation, to mention but a few. The campaign coincides with the holy month of Ramadhaan, a month that involves a lot more than fasting alone. The spirit of Ramadhaan is one of self-control, devotion to God and sharing one's wealth with the needy. Fasting helps us empathise with those who are less fortunate. Yet one cannot begin to feel the suffering of those whose lands have been struck by war, famine and drought. Similarly one cannot com-



Israeli shelling has left many Lebanese civilians homeless

prehend the happiness a child or a mother goes through on receipt of the generosity of people like you.

The Save a Nation campaign was therefore launched with the desire to practice the great teachings of

Islam by helping people in need of humanitarian aid. Every year the SaN campaign has accomplished great success in raising funds and awareness, amongst the general community at Imperial College.

## The Save My Soul appeal

Nabeel Sarwar

How odd? Having graduated two years ago – I find myself writing once more to the old feline rag.

The Save a Nation Appeal – an Islamic Society project has hit campus again, this year being its sixth. To date it has raised some £75,000 for five countries from struggling Sudan to earthquake hit Kashmir last year. There is no doubt that thousands of lives across the world have been positively affected as a result of the campaign. Yet, when we started it all six years ago – I never thought I was going to be one of those people.

I don't for one minute compare my life to the cruel realities of life in a mud and straw raquba in Darfur or myself to those poor children destined to spend a second winter in the Himalayan mountains with only a piece of cloth to protect them. But neither can I deny that it has changed my life.

My story is one of an IC graduate who realised that perhaps there truly was more to life and happiness than money – and decided to do something to reflect that. Don't get me wrong – I'm not brave – naive is perhaps more the order of the day but my life is more than full and I am so immensely happy. The choice I faced was one of stark contrast. I suppose I figured there can be no harm in helping others and learning more about oneself along the way – especially when the alternative was to help myself, and learn more about one.

I work for an organisation that was founded by a medical student 22 years ago; the first donation was 20p from a young lad of seven or eight who just wanted to make a difference. What a world of difference they made. Two decades later, and that greying student, Dr Hany el-Banna mobilises thousands of students every year. That 20p has grown into £22 million. There is no doubt in my mind that we, young people can make a world of difference and yet I'm not so sure-footed to know how. Naively again, I propose we strive hard together to create a caring world of tolerance and compassion rather than stand back indifferent. You can e-mail me on nabeel.sarwar@islamic-relief.org.uk



Islamic Society running a cake sale, with the proceeds going to help rebuild war-torn Lebanon and provide humanitarian aid to its people

### Islamic Relief UK

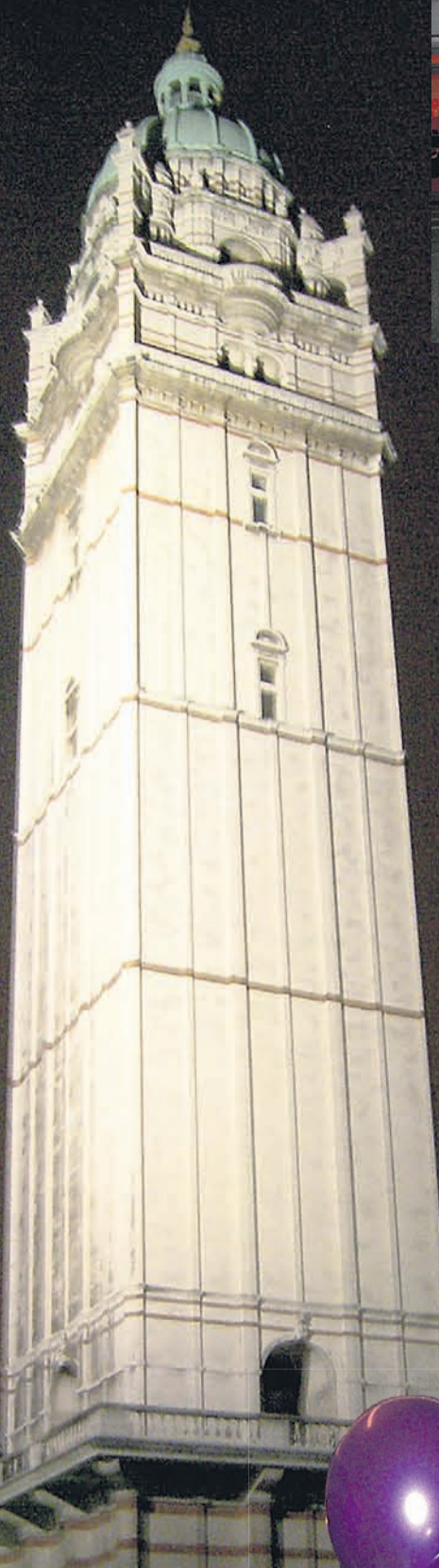
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# Comment & Opinion

## Weighing in on the veil issue

Omar Hashmi urges students to communicate with each other and suggests that there may be something more to recent comments made by Government Ministers



Omar Hashmi

"We must do whatever we have in our power to stop the madness from spreading."

We are forever at war. The end of the cold war era meant jack, there is always another enemy to fight, more lands to be re-conquered, the grip of power ever cemented. I firmly believe that what we now see in Britain, and indeed the rest of the world, is the beginning of a subtle process that will in the end lead to the maligning of Muslims being deemed a "radical fifth column." The view may very well prevail that not only can they not be trusted, but they must be watched over and defended against with vigilant suspicion. Anyone who believes in different core values, dress or systems of governing life is a danger to all of society, where even one of these individuals has the ability to cause irreversible torment.

Jack Straw is not an idiot, he didn't get to holding cabinet posts by being an idiot who lets his mouth run, nor when he lets it run on consecutive days is he unaware of the fire he is flaming. The same applies to John Reid. Both of them gave the same message but with different force, i.e. we have a segregationist community that is a danger to us. Neither could be farther from the truth. In my experience most people at uni-

versity have friends from many backgrounds, especially Islam, so if we all do our bit and actually talk to each other I'm sure we would work out that, actually, we get on quite well! We don't have to go to the exact same events all the time, but when we meet each other we break those "common courtesy" barriers and really understand what the other person is thinking about. It doesn't matter if she has a face veil on because (guess what), you can still talk to her! And as long as the content of the conversation is conservative, suitable and necessary it should be fine. How many women wearing niqab have we seen having trouble at schools, hospitals and in their jobs? If they were isolationist why are they even there? Let's admit it - some of us just don't like the way the other person looks, without even trying to get to know them. Why are people linking the veil to isolationism? I don't need to be naked to talk to you.

To what end does it serve making some look different, isolated, weak and suspicious? One possible explanation is that it is a massive distraction. As I live in Essex, I know some of the people that attended the community meeting with John Reid over "watching the signs of extremism." The one

point that all were in agreement over was that time and again by virtually ever single person in that room was that a minister of government cannot preach about extremism to people whose family they are killing in an illegal war and occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan, a new colonial process that is the latest in the history of many in the last hundred years. Look at the history of virtually any nation in the Middle East for the last century and you will find that the number one force for change was foreign interests. Remember, in the beginning, Saddam was America's boy against Iran.

I have to conclude that the highest level of government is deaf, dumb and blind to the real reasons for anger. They really do want a war, one where the home population will be bullied into thinking what the powers that be want you to think. So here we are. We know what is going on. We know we are the brains of tomorrow. Let's use them to actually do something for once. Even the smallest change in the attitudes of others will make an unprecedented impact against a world engulfed in delusion and murder. Whoever we are, we must do whatever we have in our power to stop the madness from spreading.

## Get on the lash



Stephen Brown  
Comment Editor

My pages this week seem to have an awfully serious tone. In an attempt to cater for those not particularly interested in the loftier issues considered in other columns I'm going to extol the virtues of trading in a weekend clubbing in London for somewhere more far-flung.

I'm sure most of you are aware by now that a night on the tiles in London town can get hideously expensive. Thankfully cheap air travel provides a solution. I now reckon it's far more cost effective to fly away after lectures on Friday for a weekend of carnage in a city that's not quite as big a rip off as this fair town. Ubercheapness seems to be most plentiful in Eastern Europe and closer to home, well, anywhere north of Newcastle.

The obvious downside is that you won't be treated to any big name DJ's but you do have the added novelty factors of going somewhere new, mostly the many different types of people you just don't get in London. Take Glasgow for instance. Aside from it's reputation for drunken violence a friend reliably informs me that a certain section of the female population now begin their Saturday night out an hour earlier so they can squeeze (take this literally) in an extra takeaway between the pub and the nightclub. Isn't that splendid? Drink a skinfull, eat a kebab, attempt to dance off the kebab in some god-forsaken sweaty club then replenish your energy levels with a smoked sausage supper. I hate to think what Jamie Oliver would think of this rather dubious way of spending your leisure time. And people still wonder why parts of Glasgow now have lower life expectancy than the Gaza Strip? The entertainment value of this spectacle of gluttony is almost worth the trip itself. You could sum it up in the following manner: return flight £50, 2 nights on the lash £80, seeing two women wrestling over the last pickled onion... priceless!

This might not sound like your cup of tea but I do recommend you try and sample some nightlife outside of London. You'll save a bit of cash and then perhaps next time you go out here you'll complain less about the prices.

## Yes, I actually *do* want to be a doctor



Ryan O'Leary

"Sorry to knock you off your pedestal, but we, as a profession, do care."

I felt compelled to write having read the article by Seema Pattni (So you think you want to be a doctor?), in last week's *Felix*, in order to provide something in the form of a response.

Miss Pattni appears to be under the illusion that all other medics, at whatever level of their career, are mercenary, money-grabbing creatures, concerned only with personal profit, giving no thought whatsoever to the patients whose care we are entrusted with.

If this is the case, I would like to ask why we give up six years of our life training to become doctors, when we could do another degree lasting, say four years, and come out of it driving faster cars, wearing nicer clothes, and generally earning more money than we will do when we graduate as doctors?

Assuming that Miss Pattni is a third year medic herself, she will have by now completed about eight weeks of clinical training. I feel that this is an inadequate period of time in which to cast such far reaching aspersions on an entire profession; in my own clinical experience, I have seen consultants close to tears over the loss of a patient (incidentally, on the very Friday when the original article was published), and have been for-

tunate enough to work with some of the best consultants this medical school has to offer, who have worked their hind legs off in their respective field to further enhance the care available to their patients (Prof Gazzard et al, pioneers in the field of HIV medicine).

Yes, no one will argue that the NHS is in a mess, but this does not mean that the people working within the organisation are not doing their best with the ever-increasingly limited resources they have to work with. On the contrary, I have spoken to at least one consultant who has gone on record and publicly denounced the way that the system is heading towards compromising patient care in the press. Tell me; is that the action of a self-obsessed, greedy charlatan?

No profession is perfect, and no one will pretend that medicine is any different. There are the occasional bad eggs, and no doubt there are some people at Imperial studying medicine for the wrong reasons. I am well aware that medics are not held in the highest regard by many at Imperial, but I hope that people reading this can read past the fact that it is written by a medic proud of his school, and see that I am merely trying to illustrate an alternative viewpoint.

I think someone needs to wake up and smell the proverbial coffee beans. Banter is part of hospital life. Consultants earn respect through years of hard work, and they in turn have endured the ribbings afforded to them by their seniors. For what it's worth, I personally come from a working-class family, and the reason I am doing medicine is to try and do my bit to make hospitals a less scary place to be for all those who I come into contact with.

Miss Pattni, no one is holding a knife to your throat forcing you to stay in medicine. If it's not what you expected and you are not enjoying it, then leave, you know where the door is.

I hope that over the coming year your experiences and opinions change for the better, but if they don't then there is little point in continuing in a system within which you are not comfortable. Believe me, there are plenty more people waiting in the wings to fill your boots, and the majority of those will be caring, good-hearted individuals who will also do their best to ensure that whenever they are given charge of someone's care, they will fulfil that duty to the utmost of their ability.

Sorry to knock you off your pedestal, but we, as a profession, do care.

## Wielding the mighty organ



**Andy Sykes**  
Editor-in-chief

I've decided to adopt a moralising tone, having spent the last week boring those within earshot of me with my slightly (okay, maybe more than slightly) pedantic rants on various political and economic events, as well as offended a good proportion of people who were on a number 52 bus with me the other evening as I drunkenly shouted expletives and questioned the legitimacy of birth of certain BBC news reporters. You may have noticed recently that the world seems to have gone insane. This is in fact normal and nothing to be worried about. However, the level of insanity appears to be increasing exponentially. For instance, this whole Muslim veil row. While I will support your right to think and say what the hell you want until you prise the final martini out of my stiffening and rapidly cooling fingers, I will not stand for any religious icons, dress or teaching in publicly-funded schools. I don't care whether you wear a veil, a burkha, a huge mahogany cross or whatever the Jewish hat thing is called outside of the classroom; inside the classroom, these things have absolutely no place.

I'm sure the above paragraph will have me in trouble with Muslims, woolly-minded Guardian-reading liberals, and probably a few Christians as well, so I'll add a small disclaimer: I'm not an Islamophobe, a Christianophobe, or any other phobe. If the row had been that a teacher's crucifix had scared the children, I would not phrase my argument any differently: religion has no place inside publicly-funded schools. These schools should be the one place that is free from political or cultural colouring; in practice, of course, they aren't, but I welcome any step that takes us closer to this ideal.

By now, of course, you've realised an atheist. I'd go as far as to label myself one of those Bertrand Russell-reading, Tom Paine-loving anti-religionists. Again, I will support your right to be religious, to read scripture, to practice whatever traditions you see fit despite being an atheist; I fervently believe that my personal belief system should not be forced upon another, and would hope that others would do the same.

My second "the world is utterly bonkers, I mean, walking-around-smearing-in-excrement-bonkers" argument lies with the ridiculousness occurring at various student newspapers. It seems slight criticism of authority brings a vastly disproportionate response. Our old news editor, Chris Miles, had the audacity of questioning the sabbs at Bristol University's Union, where he now works for their newspaper, and the Union responded by trying to shut down the newspaper by removing funding. This is only a single example of a very dangerous trend (cf. London Student, Roar). If you are elected to any public office, you should expect scrutiny. You must be open and honest. Doing so will gain you the respect of journalists, who may in return cut you some slack when you need it.

## felix

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## Thawing the cold war

Hugh Stickley-Mansfield asks whether we really appreciate the peaceful society in which we live or are we all just very ungrateful

As with presumably everyone reading this, I was born during the cold war. Unlike some, however, I have no real memories of the time – in fact, my first memory of any events outside my domestic sphere was watching the news of the fall of the Berlin wall when I was four years old. Although I remember little before then (and, if truth be told, little of the rest of my life), I was fortunate enough to be sufficiently aware of the political situation to understand the significance of the event. Further to that, I was aware of the change in people's mindset over the following years – in this post-war day and age, there was no longer the Damoclean bomb and the paranoia that came with it, though the sense of relief that might have been expected was, at best, short-lived.

Since we are now in a situation where the Western world is once again in the midst of a war against a threat from the East where at any moment we might all be blown apart and, once again, there is an almost palpable sense of paranoia amongst the populace, it seems remarkable that, between 1991 and 2001, the public mood was not in some way more ebullient. After all, the climate of fear

had been a feature of life since the late forties, and even those for whom this was not a lifetime had lived through the second world war even before that. So why, then, was the longest period in which Britain was not at direct risk of becoming a battlefield since 1939 so underappreciated?

**"My first memory of any events outside my domestic sphere was watching the news of the fall of the Berlin wall"**

The obvious answer would be that the British public are innately ungrateful. If my articles of previous weeks have made but one point (which I daresay some will contest) it is that the obvious answer is, by and large, wrong. That is not to deny that many are indeed dyed-in-the-wool ingrates, as anyone step-

ping aside to let someone onto the tube ahead of them can attest, and I do not deny that it may be a significant factor. Of greater significance, however, is the very fact that the public had become so used to the paranoia – why be grateful for the removal of something which you only notice once it has gone?

Perhaps it goes beyond that, also – perhaps some actively resented such a shift in values. Perhaps some had felt the sense of fear as a safety blanket of sorts, which is not as perverse as it might seem, given the age-old British obsession with stoicism. If anything, the racial tensions underlying the current state of affairs serve to further such feelings amongst those who hold them (albeit depending on their skin colour) since the measures drawn up to combat the current threat will not affect them adversely, so can only prove to protect them from the threat whose presence they cherish.

Though, of course, you would be hard pressed to find anyone who would state outright that they wish to live in fear, which shows either that people are not conscious of this feeling or that I am talking nonsense. I believe it to be the former, but I would not begrudge anyone to disagree.

## Wardening the almighty organ



**Anthony Cucernak**

Wardening is a team effort. Over the last couple of weeks the whole Linstead Wardening Team, Hall manager, and Hall Seniors have all been working really hard to ensure that the Linstead students are settling down well into hall, are meeting people and enjoying themselves. I'm really proud at the way that everyone has worked together to create a superb hall atmosphere.

Already we've had lots of events over the last few weeks in order to help people meet each other. As part of this we have had a series of "Meet the Wardens" parties held in my flat in Linstead at which groups of the new students can get to meet all of the wardening team in a comfortable and relaxed environment. Linstead has 188 students so they don't fit into my flat all at once! Hence, we have a series of five parties, and we select people from different parts of hall so that they get a chance to meet people who aren't their next door neighbours.

One of the big events of the year in Linstead is the "Coming up dinner" and this was held last night in a local South Kensington Hotel. As you can see above the whole wardening team attends along with the hall manager and the youngest member of the hall – three year old Zara (my daughter)! It's an opportunity to really dress up and enjoy a

good atmosphere with great food and entertainment. This dinner takes quite a bit of planning from the wardening team – selecting the venue; negotiating the price; arranging for decorations; selling tickets; planning the menu; arranging entertainment; and arranging for drinks in the Hall beforehand. Then 'counting them out' and 'counting them all back in'. A few of the students were a bit 'worse for wear' after the event and we checked on them overnight to make sure they were OK. It's all worthwhile as it's a great event which brings everyone together. It also gives us a chance to toast the 'Anonymous Benefactor' – the person who donated the money to build Linstead Hall – it's an enduring mystery to us all who this person is...

Our next big event is the Linstead Hall trip to Bruges. This involves a 5:00am start (do you stay up all night or risk sleeping in...?). Each year we have to go and wake up some poor students who forgot to set their alarms! The coach arrives at Dover a few hours

later and once on the ferry we all have the chance to enjoy a good fry-up breakfast. Just few hours later we arrive at the ancient city of Bruges. We hand out maps to everyone and Imperial College descends on Bruges en masse. (130 people are set to go this year). People have a great time as there is lots to see in this historic city – for example you can take a boat trip; visit a museum; or even stuff yourself silly with famous Belgium chocolate. On our way back home we call in at a Hypermarket where everyone stocks up on their favourite French and Belgium products – both liquid and solid! We arrive back at College at about 23:00. Everyone has to drag themselves, and all their shopping off the coach and into the hall – probably the most difficult part of the whole trip.

Wardening is a fun but demanding role. You have to be prepared to organize your life around the Hall, but in return you get to meet many interesting and enthusiastic people and make a difference to their life at Imperial.

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# Scaling up of HIV/AIDS treatment

Could increasing the incidence of resistance do more harm than good by making drug therapy useless?

**Olly Todd**  
Medsin

"What do I do," asked Dr Vineeta Gupta, an Indian physician working in Punjab, "when a 40-year-old woman with learning disability and bite marks across her body presents to me with HIV because she was raped by her father as a child? Do I offer her condoms? Encourage her to be faithful? To be abstinent?"

"What do I do," she asks again, "when a 14-year-old sex worker in Mumbai tests HIV positive, having been sold to a brothel at the age of 9? Do I say to her it was her choice?"

Dr Gupta argues that the current response to tackling HIV is insufficient, even harmful. This was hardly the line touted at the XVIth International AIDS conference in Toronto, in celebration of the renewed resources for the struggle toward universal treatment.

Any newcomer to the pandemic could be forgiven for presuming Richard Gere, Gates, Clinton et al. might as well have discovered the HIV pathogen themselves, given the airtime they received. Those most implicated by these discussions, those with HIV themselves, were only noticed by their absence on the main stage.

There was, however, one platform, courtesy of *The Lancet* medical journal, aboard a boat on Lake Ontario – perhaps a necessary free-lance for a message that in contrast left no slack for complacency. Those on that boat heard from grassroots initiatives – those with HIV and

working with HIV directly in India and sub-Saharan Africa.

Education is constantly being touted as the answer but what effect does it have for woman who have no choice? Consequently, education must be about empowerment, not just cucumbers and condoms.

What does education do for these women who have no choice? What choice is there for them amongst abstinence, being careful (marriage), and contraception? No such simple mantra can hope to break the restrictions of liberty that disable women in these countries from agency for their own health.

HIV thrives in the thick of a complex knot of problems. It is irrefutably a shameful situation in our world today, where 38 million live with a debilitating and fatal illness simply because they cannot afford treatment. Our only experience of fighting HIV successfully comes from the sterile laboratory conditions of the wealthy west. The risk of interventions worsening inequality, and the risk of losing current drug artillery to resistance, cannot be underestimated.

Why is it only on Northern soil that we entertain a bottom-up approach to eradicating disease that

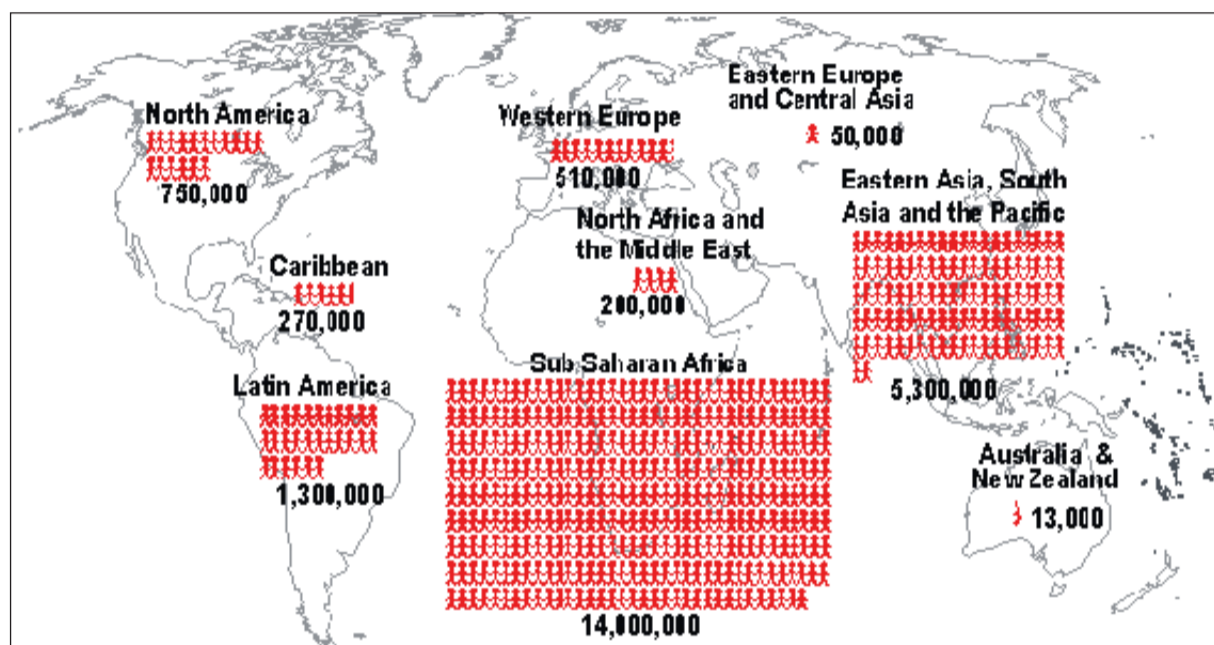
is community-specific, and patient-centred? What excuse can be found for not offering the holistic medicine we consider necessary to those across our national borders?

David Barr, a long-term treatment advocate and educator, argues that lack of resources is not the problem. Nor is it a lack of interaction from Northern Rich to Southern Poor.

There is such interaction on a massive scale but it is tied to "profit, market development, war, and arms procurement". The U.S. will spend \$1 trillion of its \$2.25 trillion total government outlay in 2007 on war while international develop-

ment contributions from the richest countries in the world average at just 0.22% of their GDP.

This discussion comes to Imperial in the form of a Perspectives night at 6.30 p.m. in the biology lecture theatre, SAF Building, on 24th October, with nibbles provided. The discussion title is "Could stepping up the current response to HIV do more harm than good? Discussing the need for a holistic treatment plan for all with HIV world-wide", with Dr. Elinor Moore of MSF, and Ms. Jenny Swan of Newham Hospital. Visit [www.globalhealthforum.org.uk](http://www.globalhealthforum.org.uk) for more details.



A single red stick figure indicates 50,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in each of the continents

## Did you know?



- Women interviewed in Mumbai would rather risk their own health in marriage than the financial risk of being outside of marriage.
- 60-85% of women in Sub-Saharan Africa contract HIV by their husbands.
- 90% of females with HIV in India were virgins pre-marriage and remain faithful.

## This month

### PUGWASH

Wednesday, November 1  
**Launch Event 2006/2007**  
TBA

Informal introduction to Pugwash as an organisation with a professional historian who works for international Pugwash.

To find out more visit  
[www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/pugwash](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/pugwash)  
Or you can e-mail:  
[pugwash@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:pugwash@imperial.ac.uk)

### MEDSIN

Tuesday, October 24  
**"Could stepping up the current response to HIV do more harm than good?"**  
6.30pm Biology LT – SAF

Discussing the need for a holistic treatment plan for all with HIV. Dr Elinor Moore, MSF. Ms Jennifer Swan, Newham Hospital NHS Trust. Nibbles provided.

To find out more visit  
[www.union.ic.ac.uk/medic/medsin](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/medic/medsin)  
Or you can e-mail:  
[pugwash@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:pugwash@imperial.ac.uk)

## Scientific ethics with IC Pugwash

The possible detonation of a nuclear weapon in North Korea is cause for concern

**Sarah Hyland**  
Pugwash Imperial

The world of scientific ethics is unpredictable, argumentative, and always, always relevant. Wednesday's meeting of Imperial College's student Pugwash society exemplified all these qualities.

The speakers were to be Professor Peter Zimmerman, professor of Science and Security at King's College Department of War Studies, and Dr Rebecca Johnson, Executive Director of the Acronym institute for Disarmament Diplomacy. "Weapons in Space" was the topic up for debate, on the arsenal of satellites that may soon be surrounding the Earth. But as things turned out, these potential superweapons were overshadowed by events at ground level, as on Monday, North Korea detonated what they claim to have been a nuclear device.

The two speakers were inundated with requests for comment on the North Korea situation from national and international news channels, and Dr Johnson was unable to take part in our discussion. However, Prof. Zimmerman, who has previously served as Chief Scientist at the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, kindly made time in his hectic schedule to explain to



The 4th Pugwash Workshop on Stability, Security and Cooperation in Northeast Asia, 2005, Beijing, China

us precisely what we know about the event in North Korea.

He focused on the facts, analysing the earthquake to reveal the size of the bomb, and concluded that, if indeed nuclear, it was 'the worst first test in history.' Whether this is reassuring or terrifying is up to us to decide.

He also speculated as to the current state of North Korea's nuclear arsenal, pointing out that nobody wastes a bomb on a test unless they have several more to spare. Although he describes himself as a "Democrat in exile", Prof. Zimmerman preferred not to discuss the U.S. nuclear arsenal. When interrupted with questions, he explained that such ideological arguments

would not be productive within the evening's setting. Those with opinions on U.S. nuclear policy will have to wait for future meetings to air their views. In discussing the testing of nuclear weapons Pugwash is returning to its roots. The international Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs began in 1957, when the scientific community was coming to terms with the shocking reality of the atomic bomb. Today, Pugwash considers the ethical aspects and global impacts of all areas of science, from agricultural biotechnology to the distribution of HIV medication, though the prevention of armed conflict takes top priority.

By bringing scientists from

around the world together, Pugwash can search for peaceful solutions to conflicts. As many Pugwash members hold positions as advisors to governments, the ideas formed through the discussions and conferences can quickly find their way into international policy. The organisation's influence was acknowledged in 1995, when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

International Student/Young Pugwash encourages students to think beyond the facts and concepts of scientific study, and consider its reasons and implications. The Imperial College branch organises talks and debates with leading scientists in order to raise awareness of important issues, and holds a yearly exhibition of ethical careers, demonstrating how scientific knowledge can be responsibly applied.

We will be rescheduling our planned "Weapons in Space" debate to later this term, and delve further into the politics of North Korean nuclear testing. There is also an informal session on the history and foundations of Pugwash on the 1st of November, chaired by Pugwash historian Sandy Butcher, which will be an excellent introduction to the organisation for anyone interested in the ethical implications of being a scientist.

## Welcome Message

### From the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

Having had a sizeable chunk of October to settle in, it might be beginning to dawn on most postgraduates what a different kettle of fish their next stage of their education.

To many Masters students, the intensity of their courses may come as a shock (or to those hard-working few a relished challenge!). Don't worry, if you don't know what I'm talking about, you will do soon enough as you're inundated with twice the amount of papers to read per course than you might have had for all your courses combined in one undergraduate year!

For many, using a Masters as an opportunity to change their primary focus of study, or those coming from a foreign country, this task is made all the more mammoth as they struggle with the advanced terminology. I hope the lost Greek students from the Hammersmith campus who came up to me yesterday with 1,001 (albeit valid!) questions were able to find the glossary of biological terms (a.k.a. "Henderson's") I recommended to them. Not to mention the best places to go for discounts of course!

For those of you doing a PhD and rubbing your hands with glee at not having to do another exam for as long as you live (unless you're unlucky and by some chance your professor enrolls you onto a course!), things might seem rosy. Indeed your life might seem an incarnation of Parisian café culture as you go for endless intellectual meetings with supervisor and peers alike (although this is more likely to be at the Senior Common Room than the charming little place on Gloucester Road). Fear not, your time will soon seem to have flown by you and you'll find yourself panicking to make those damned experiments work whilst simultaneously finishing off a 100,000-word thesis before your funding and the "lavish" lifestyle it sustains, go out the window.

Life as a postgraduate can be a surprise and quite different from anything you've experienced before. You'll have more independence to pursue your own interests but this may also be accompanied with full responsibility and many of you may find the pressure of this latter point stressful. Many might also find that they are simply not in the right lab or with the right supervisor. Some may even feel bullied and feel so strongly dissatisfied that they desperately want to change their situation. Others might be upset with the course content as the prospectus may have misled them somewhat. Yet others may be adamant about their exam papers being remarked as they simply could not have done that badly. The list goes on and on and can be as long and varied as the number of different programmes on which people can enrol on here Imperial College. Each individual can have their own individual set of problems; this is what can make being a postgraduate a bit more frustrating as you may feel that no-one will understand your particular problem or you don't know where to turn.

If you have pursued every local avenue that is available and you feel like you're banging your head against a brick wall, there is still one more possibility open to you and that is me. I'm the postgraduate representative at the Students' Union and many may already have met me. But if not, I tend to reside with my cups of coffee (and yes you can talk to me over your very own free cup of coffee) in the first floor offices of the Union Building at Beit Quadrangle.

My job is also made more efficient and my representation of the postgraduate community more accurate by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). Every postgraduate is automatically a member of this association and can come along to any of its meetings, but a select few may wish to get more involved by holding more prominent positions in its committees.

The committees are comprised of the Activities Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee and the Executive Committee (which has representatives from both other committees and the Sabbatical team).

The Activities Committee consists of anyone whom wishes to help host events for the postgraduate community. Many of you may (or may not!) feel that you want to do something different from your average undergraduate's night out and so can opt to attend the Activities Committee meetings to put in your two cents. There are official positions within the Committee such as the Activities Co-ordinator and the Communications Officer (who looks after publicity such as the website, flyers and posters). Remember that your ideas should be as varied as the postgraduates the GSA represents, who can be anything from the age of 21 upwards (or alternatively, have the mental age and intentions of an 18 year-old!), be married or single, enjoy the finer things in life, want to explore London and so on.

It can be an exciting and challenging occupation catering to such diverse needs and we tried to do this at our successful "Showtime" event on Monday 2nd October. Your inboxes were probably inundated ad-nauseum with information about this event, but it was your chance to meet a huge community of postgraduates existing and new at Imperial-this was exemplified by the 500-strong attendance! The next event we are proposing to do jointly with the Royal College of Art and the Royal College of Music on the November 9th in dB's. So come down if you want to discover an interesting melange of people, music and art performances!

The Academic Affairs committee is composed mainly of Faculty Research and Taught Representatives. If you want a list for your faculty, please email me; they will convey any complaints on to me.

This year, the GSA also hopes to gain many external affiliations for those of you with career aspirations other than academia. For example we already have the opportunity to sell discounted memberships to the Chartered Management Institute (ranging from £30-£45, normal individual memberships cost £50). If you are interested in building career contacts, the GSA is also hoping to work closely with Imperial College Finance Society (ICFS) in order to hold a careers fair more specifically aimed at postgraduates. With their unique set of skills, many postgraduates can command higher salaries and more bespoke roles than provided in an average Graduate scheme, but many do not know this and often companies do not advertise these opportunities well enough.

On top of this we are hoping to hold a special GSA Centenary event in the Spring/Summer term. There will be a conference during the day (speakers are yet to be confirmed but lets just say that every one of you will have heard of them!) followed by an evening of entertainment. Watch this space and contact me if you want to get involved.

Please visit [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/gsa](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/gsa) for more information on the officers of the GSA and its constitution. People are still being elected to these posts throughout October so keep your eyes peeled for a chance to vote them online. If you want to email me: [dpgs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpgs@imperial.ac.uk).



**Shama Rahman**  
Deputy President  
(Graduate Students)  
[dpgs@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpgs@imperial.ac.uk)

## Update from the President

### National Union of Students: to join or not to join?

Last week I received a petition signed by over 600 students calling for a referendum on the question of whether or not ICU should affiliate to the National Union of Students. In the year where Imperial becomes an independent university and we are forced to deal with the consequences of our withdrawal from the University of London Union, external issues surrounding our access to national and regional representation are fast becoming matters of great importance to ICU. I am wholly supportive of this referendum and I look forward to engaging fully in this debate over the next few weeks. My own views on the NUS will be made clear in the comments section of Felix in good time; however, I will refrain from commenting on official Union pages as these should always remain neutral. The word on the ground is that this vote will go down to the wire so we can expect to see colourful campaigns, heated debates, and (I hope) a whopping turnout this November. We haven't held a referendum at Imperial College for five years so enjoy this moment while it lasts!

### Council elections

After what seems an age of waiting, the polls will finally open for elections to the Union Council next week. Many positions are contested this time round and voting in these elections simply could not be easier. All you need to do is log in to our voting website at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote) between October 27th and 31st, select the election that you are interested in and then enter a number (i.e. order of preference) next to the name of your preferred candidate(s). I will send an email to all members whom are registered on our mailing list advising how to vote next week. The results will be announced in Da Vinci's at 12:30pm on November 2nd, but that's not the end of it because...

### More elections!

There are still a handful of vacancies that we need to fill as soon as possible. There are positions available in the undergraduate natural sciences and postgraduate engineering constituencies and the Welfare Campaigns Officer position is also still vacant. We will be publicising advice on how you can run for these positions shortly after we announce the results to the online elections. It is likely that we will be running the next round of elections from the floor at the third Council Meeting, which will take place on November 13th.

### And finally

The mischievous Felix Editor has informed me that there is relatively little news around at the moment and he has asked me to "screw something up" to create a good news story. Clearly I am not trying hard enough and so I shall endeavour to mess something up in time for the next Felix deadline.



**John Collins**  
President  
[president@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:president@imperial.ac.uk)

## Drugs for Free

It's an inevitable fact of life that at some point you are going to fall ill. This may be no more than a flu which requires a few days in bed and some TLC, but there are other cases in which you will need to seek medical help and this can often mean you will be issued with a prescription. And that means money - for each prescription you are issued with you will be charged £6.65. For one-off cases that may not sound like much, but for ongoing treatment the costs can quickly add up.

Luckily it's not all bad news. Anybody on a low income, including students, can apply for help with their health costs. This covers not only prescriptions but dental care, eye tests and glasses, dental treatment and (if, like me, you suffer with a rapidly receding hairline) even wigs. Virtually all students will qualify for this support and you simply need to fill in an HC1 form which is available from the Health Centre (in Prince's Gardens) or online at [www.ppa.org.uk](http://www.ppa.org.uk). The form can take up to six weeks to be processed, so to make sure you enjoy all the benefits of cost free druggy goodness, fill it now before you fall ill.



**Ben Harris**  
Deputy President  
(Education & Welfare)  
[dpew@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpew@imperial.ac.uk)

# Manifestos For Union Autumn Elections 2006

## ▶ Equal Opportunities Officer 1 Position



### Thomas Brodrick

The American writer Laurence Peters once said "equal opportunity means everyone will have a fair chance at being incompetent." This quote best sums up why I am standing for the position of the ICU Equal Opportunities Officer. It's not because certain groups deserve a head-start over others in life (in what some refer to as 'positive discrimination'), but because everyone really is the same underneath it all. One human being can succeed, or fall short, in the same way any other can.

As Equal Opportunities Officer, I would ensure that ICU facilities, clubs, societies and other opportunities involving union life stay accessible to everybody. I would also support events that help to promote equal opportunities in the college.

Most of all, I want Imperial to remain the diverse and welcoming place that it currently is; in a truly equal environment, anyone can achieve greatness.

### Syed Junaid

No manifesto submitted...

## ▶ Councillors: Undergraduate Engineering 4 Positions



### Edo Abraham

Hey to all you Engineers. I hope you are enjoying the new academic year so far, and that it will be a year of fun and success for you all. I am Edo Abraham – a 3rd Year EEE student on an MEng course. I would like to tell you that I will do more than just attend all the council meetings and vote on issues key to your experience at IC. I will also make sure that your ideas, concerns and expectations are heard at the meetings. I know I have the genuine interest, the discipline, competence and motivation to follow through my promises.

So go on...let's make a better Union Council, and vote for Edo! – enjoy the rest of the year.

### Joao Serra

No manifesto submitted...

### Nicholas Simpson

No manifesto submitted...

### Steven King

No manifesto submitted...

### Yanyan Huang

No manifesto submitted...

## ▶ Councillors: Postgraduate Engineering 2 Positions



### Ashley Brown

With both the college and the union looking for better postgraduate representation it is important for us to make our views known. Whilst undergraduates can understand many of the issues unique to postgrads, they often do not hear of them. Strong postgraduate representation is important, particularly with a growing number of postgrads engaging with union.

I don't avoid difficult questions or tolerate weak answers and demonstrated this last year. I've now been at Imperial as an undergrad for 4 years and postgrad for 1 year, so am well aware of the vast assortment of problems met by both groups. More importantly, I know the ways to resolve them.

Vote me to have your concerns voiced and interests taken into account.

## ▶ Councillors: Undergraduate Natural Sciences 4 Positions



### Derek Wan

In an environment where student issues inevitably affect you, your opinions maybe all you have to count on. But when some voices are louder than others, how do you make sure you get heard? Your best bet is to vote for someone who can and will make that happen! My promise is an unselective, professional student representation. Please vote confidently for me as I have served the Council last year and possess further experience from other student processes. Voting for me is voting for a better student body. Thanks all!

### Zhibing Hu

No manifest submitted

## ▶ Councillors: Postgraduate Natural Sciences 1 Position



### Alex Guite

It's a time of immense change in Imperial College Union: withdrawal from the University of London Union, a make or break year for the new Graduate Students' Association, a radical Governance Review about to be implemented and a Union Building refurbishment which must have at its heart a commitment to sustainable design.

Now more than ever, Union Council must be more than a talking shop. I have experience which spans the Union, from setting up and chairing societies to leading a Faculty Union. As an Ordinary Member of Council last year I took a lead on opposing the College's crazy dress code, fought to keep the Queen's Lawn free of portakabins when College management tried to sneak it past us during Easter and I lead the campaign to ban smoking from the Union Building.

If you elect me I pledge to be an open and approachable advocate of your views.

## ▶ Councillors: Non Faculty 1 Position



### Andy Sykes

I'm standing for this position in order to get a vote on Council. At the moment, I have no say whatsoever in the governing bodies of the Union. I can write about it, I can attempt to hold the Union and the Sabbs to account for what they do, but I cannot change it. Vote for me over RON to see a Felix Editor sit on Council.



## Councillors: Undergraduate Medicine 3 Positions



### Kapil Sugand

Don't you think it's incredible how our medical school is one of the best in Europe within only 10 years of existence? Now, that makes me a proud Imperial Medical student and I, Kapil Sugand (3rd year), want to represent YOU as your ICSM Union Councillor!

I am an active committee member of medical societies such as Surgical Society and The Great Escape Run. Furthermore, I participate in charitable and cultural societies including Marrow and ICSMART. These keep me involved in the medical school and enable me to establish and maintain contact with colleagues in all six years.

As a former Year Representative, I successfully dealt with educational and social issues in a team and individually. Now as Union Councillor for Medicine I wish to represent everyone. I promise to voice your concerns and expectations and keep you informed about YOUR Union.

Allow me to represent YOU!



### Zain Sikafi

In my four years at IC a lot has happened. Our students are in increasing debt and IC has withdrawn itself from the University of London, to name a few significant events. Real representation is needed to make a difference.

I believe I can make that difference. Having led and played significant roles in sustaining several societies at Imperial I learned quickly how to run committees and take control of projects. Such experience empowered me to work with several charities co-ordinating nationwide appeals for water-aid in East-Africa as well as Iraqi & Palestinian relief projects. I also believe in social responsibility and am currently leading youth sports schemes aiming to encourage the development and integration of children from disadvantaged and ethnic backgrounds through sports.

Voting for me means you are voting for social responsibility, genuine representation, and real experience that will matter when standing up for what YOU believe in.



### Zubair Sarang

"It's a wonderful feeling to know that we are part of a global network of universities that represent excellence in what we do. We as students play a critical role in that excellence and it's true to say that one's daily life at university can play a part in determining that success.

Many issues have to be faced by us as students. Are our halls up to high standards of living? How about the food in halls? Is my union and its branches a haven of hope when I need them? Am I getting all the possible benefits and support from a well funded university? Can food at lunch times be made healthier?

As your councillor I would love to hear and debate your views at council meetings. I will endeavour to hold surgery days regularly; my email inbox also welcomes what you think should be done on many topical issues.

### Anojan Arulanathan

No manifesto submitted...

### Jitin Verma

No manifesto submitted...

## Councillors: Postgraduate Medicine 1 Position



### David Bonsall

Since I joined ICSM four years ago I have maintained an active role in numerous projects run by the union and many of its clubs and societies. I led a successful RAG team between 2004-2005, and experienced the workings of the union first hand. I have gained a realistic insight into the importance of the union body, but I also recognise its current limitations, particularly in underrepresenting the postgraduate medical students. The welfare of every student is at the heart of this position. I am highly approachable, proactive, and a good listener and I pledge to actively seek-out, and represent the views of Imperial's Postgraduate Medical Student's.

## ULU Delegates 3 Positions



### Furquan Kidwai

I am a friendly and outgoing person and most importantly willing to help you out in anyway possible.  
Have academic and practical knowledge of Finance: Currently studying for an MSc in Financial Engineering and Risk Management and have completed several internships in Investment Banks.  
Have excellent communication skills through interaction with wide range of students from PGs to Undergraduates: Trustee of the Students' Union, Senate Rep for the Faculty, Student mentor, Student ambassador and active involvement in student societies.  
Have leadership and team working qualities: University Court member, Faculty board member, Delegate in MUN Conference.  
Actively involved in University sports; Cricket team Captain at university and college.  
Acquire more funding for the GSA.

Bring transparency to GSA accounts through financial prudence.  
Promote equal spending on graduate students from other campuses.  
Cater for the diverse postgraduate community through a separate diversity budget.  
Encourage focussed discussion and policy on topics that Imperial ... (Edited for word limit)

### Varun Reddy

No manifesto submitted...



### Lin Mei

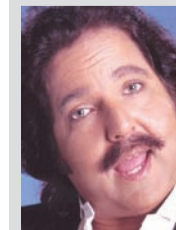
My name is Lin Mei. Last year I was awarded full colours for my service to the GSA. This year I stand for the position of ULU delegate.

ULU is such an organization: the more we put into it, the more we'll get from it. Therefore, I'm not going to make any fancy promises. What I will do, is to represent EXACTLY YOUR decision in the council. Above that, I endeavour to STRENGTHEN YOUR VOICE in the ULU so that your concerns and suggestions will be fully understood and pushed forward.

We pay huge for ULU membership. Let's MAKE FULL USE of it. It is my commitment that there shall be intensive communication between ICU and ULU and more collaboration opportunities between us and other ULU members, resulting in more tangible welfare and interesting activities for YOU.

Vote for LIN MEI, see a difference to be made.

## RON Re Open Nominations - Steven Brown



RON would re-name "Equal Opportunities Officer" to "Athletics Union President". Lets stop this position on council being completely pointless and turn it in to something that people will care about.  
RON would bar all medics from taking part in the democratic process. RON believes that so-called medical professionals who are incapable of curing athletes foot should not be allowed the vote.  
RON believes that the GSA is a bit pointless, shouldn't need any representatives and that any postgrad who thinks otherwise should sod off and get a real job.  
RON believes we don't really need to send delegates to the mockery of a sham that is ULU Council as the bloody thing is never quorate and Imperial is leaving UL anyway.  
RON would let City & Guilds assume control of RCSU, purely on account of the fact that hardly any of the scientists were bothered enough to stand for election.

# at the union oct 20th - nov 3rd

▶ **Wednesday 25th & 1st**

▶ **Thursday 26th**



## SPORTS NIGHT

**25th October - Free Ice Cream!**  
**1st November - Team Karaoke**

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

**dB<sup>s</sup>** only

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



## Oculo Garden

**Sallyforth**  
**InnerCityFolk**  
**The Cages**

Live Band Night

▶ **Friday 20th**

▶ **Friday 27th**



## MILK!

FRESH HOUSE AND BREAKS FROM  
MATT CARPENTER AND FRIENDS

LOADS OF FREE  
GIVE-A-WAYS!



## WALKING DEAD

HALLOWEEN  
SPECIAL  
FANCY DRESS  
ZOMBIE FOAM  
PARTY

▶ **Also on this fortnight**

Fri 20th Oct	Milk! Fresh House and Breaks
Tue 24th	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 25th	Sports Night - Free Ice Cream!
Thu 26th	Oculo Garden - Live Band Night
Fri 27th	Walking Dead Zombie Foam Party
Tue 31st	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 1st Nov	Fight Club - Team Karaoke

▶ **Coming Up Soon**



## FIREWORKS NIGHT PARTY

# Reviews

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Editorial



### Matty Hoban Music Editor

Whilst laying out and editing this week's music section, I got thinking. My first thoughts were: why am I here spending time fiddling with images at 11pm when I should be at home, beer in hand, watching *The Daily Show* for my fix of American satire? Resigned to my fate, I then began to think about reviews and what they mean. It is something which could be explored by someone more academic but I'll ramble on nevertheless.

I remember when I first started reading reviews those many years ago. I started off by reading ones of things I had bought. This may seem pointless since theoretically you read a good review and then go out and buy the record. However, I read these reviews to either feel glorified in my choice of purchase or a review would often give me pointers for listening. I was young and needed guidance I guess, and found those critics' professional ears useful. I thought about this some more and realised that their ears must've had an effect on my own and thus I was just replicating their opinions. Thinking about this got me paranoid; I mean, how do I know what I really like if I am just replicating the loop of 'good-taste'. I then had a cookie and realised that I have disagreed with reviewers all the time.

Ultimately reviews are to give you a guide to music you might want to buy. If we aren't fulfilling this, this is because public relations companies for the bands (both independent and obscure or major label) send us a limited range of CDs. Our readership is small so we aren't the priority for these companies. Another reason is that our reviewers do this voluntarily; they are not paid to sit down and listen to stuff they may not 'get'. We are limited to our scope of knowledge and taste. If you feel you can fill a hole in the music we cover then e-mail music.felix@ic.ac.uk.

Something you should all go to is a gig tomorrow (Saturday 21st) in the Union. It is £3 to get in from 7.30pm with 4 bands playing. There is a door price because the headliner need their flight price covered as they're from San Francisco, USA. They're called Citizens Here and Abroad and they're brilliant. Look them up online and then come down. Look out for posters.

Sam Lombard

# Album's plague of boredom

This bizarre concept compilation, featuring legendary names, is a bit of a mixed bag

## album review



Various Artists  
Plague Songs  
(4AD)  
★★★★☆

The concept behind Plague Songs is straightforward; ten songs based on each of the plagues of Egypt, presented in Biblical plague order. The picture this paints of the album

before even opening the case is a bizarre one. A collection of singer-songwriters singing about horrific devastation just doesn't feel right – it feels too twee to do the topic any justice.

However, the first song on the album dispels such notions immediately. Klashnekoff's *Blood* is a sinister hip hop polemic which opens with a corruption of the Lord's prayer, "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom is in flames". It goes on to describe a situation of urban decline, referencing the war in Iraq, gun crime and even Quentin Tarantino.

What is barely referenced, however, is the plague of blood itself. In fact, the first song on the album is the least faithful to the original story though paradoxically one of the

most evocative of the theme.

The contrast between the first song and the next is striking. King Creosote's calm, whimsical ballad *Relate the Tale* narrates the plague of frogs from the point of view of a frog, and comes across as a defence of the individual members of the plague. A similar approach is taken toward the end of the album by Imogen Heap, whose *Glittering Cloud* is a catchy dance number sung in the character of a positively apologetic locust.

Unfortunately, between these two songs comes only one of any great interest – *Flies* by Brian Eno and Robert Wyatt, a beautiful pastoral ambient piece played over a constant buzzing – while the others range from the insipid to the downright irritating.

The end of the album, though, is

every bit as strong as the beginning. Scott Walker's *Darkness* is quite simply terrifying, with his quiet tones echoed by a loud, shrill choir; and Rufus Wainwright's *Katonah* on the death of the firstborn, and particularly his recently departed cousin, is profoundly moving.

Plague Songs comes across as something of an unfinished work. Whilst the better songs on it are astounding, to a lesser or greater extent, almost half of the songs are uninspiring, verging on unlistenable (reminiscent of the plagues).

It feels as though those behind the project were too polite to reject certain works that didn't come up to the level of quality they were clearly aspiring towards, which is a terrible shame, given the rest of the album.

Hugh Stickley Mansfield

# Three reviews in London's big venues

## live reviews



The Subways  
Shepherds Bush Empire

This is far from the first time I've managed to see The Subways this year. However, this gig was easily the best show I've ever seen them perform.

Originally meant to play last April the band had to reschedule after Billy Lunn (lead vocals & guitar) injured his throat and had to take time out to let it heal. But now at the end of their UK tour and having just come from the festival circuit there was no sign of any problem. Supported by the up-and-coming Dodgems (who were as usual superb) and not quite to my taste but good nevertheless, Larrikin Love.

The Subways treated us to a perfect set of varied and extended album tracks. Most of the time it was hard to tell if it was Billy you could hear or the hundred other people around you who all knew the words, which only added to the night. While dropping in the odd new song here and there (definitely look out for the next album) and performing a 15 minute version of their now nearly legendary *Rock and Roll Queen*, Billy still managed to go for an extended wander around the venue before crowd-surfing of one of the 10 foot high balconies to finish the set. You could tell they really wanted to finish their tour with a bang, and surrounded by some pretty hardcore fans they did that and more.

AFI  
Brixton Carling Academy

Before I start this review I just want to clear up a few issues. Yes I know AFI (A Fire Inside) are rubbish, they are cheesy and most songs sound the same. Although they have followed the likes of Minor Threat and gone 'straight edge', foregoing drugs, smoking and alcohol for the music, they still sold out to Dreamworks instead of staying on the small label Nitro; managing to perform poorer in the moral standings than the musical. Yet they still remain my biggest guilty pleasure and are in my top 5 favourite bands of all time.

The tour is to promote their new album *Decemberunderground*. The album moves further away from their punk hardcore roots to catchier and higher production value songs with a tint of Duran Duran, god forgive.

Hoping the new album wouldn't dominate the show I turned up to the Brixton Academy an hour-and-a-half after the doors opened. I missed the first band and being subjected to the second (watching them did involve large quantities of pain and pity in equal measure).

As the roadies set-up the stage for the headline act, seeing props including a white painted tree suspended from the ceiling white white amplifiers and drum-kit, my heart sank. Was it going to be an over the top, soulless gig? I had wished for something not too far from that 3 minute live video of *He Who Laughs Last* I downloaded off Napster so many years ago.

No, in fact the gig was absolutely amazing. Opening with the intro to the latest album the band followed up with *Girls Not Grey*, played with such energy as the band members

ran along rows of monitors and mounted drum-kits many a time. Finally the *Days of Phoenix* intro rang through the Academy, turning the sea of Despair Faction T-shirts into a sweaty frenzy. All my dreams were answered a few songs later when they played infamous *All Hallows EP*, *Totalimmortal*. Nearly 7 years made no difference to the quality of the performance; it was electric. The whole band were decked out in white T-shirts and jeans, looking almost dangerously like a bad taste 80s band and although guitarist Puget sported a full on NME hair-do, Davey Havok retained the slicked comb over but not yet bald styling that has defined him through the history of the band.

The encore, a sensible two songs, topped it all off, while running through the anthem *God Called In Sick Today*, Havok hardly had to sing as the audience sang every word with him, and the latest single, *Miss Murder* was a fine, upbeat end to the night.

Nick Simpson

Seether/Engerica  
The Astoria, Charing Cross Rd

Playing to a venue packed with black-clad metallers that were quite clearly awaiting Seether's rescheduled performance with restless anticipation, it looked as though it was going to be difficult for Essex band Engerica to win the crowd over. Fortunately, Engerica are used to playing support slots for bands with a cult-like following. Engerica ooze confidence, self-assuredness and charisma, immediately evident as front-man David Gardener struts onto the stage dressed in incredibly tight trousers and very shiny, pointy

black shoes. Despite the striking impression of the front man, the other members of the band don't make such an impact, it appears that this is David Gardener's band and this is his show.

Engerica rattle furiously through songs from their debut *There Are No Happy Endings*. During *Did You Hear What Sylvia Said*, *The Smell and Goddamn Suicide* you could visibly see increasingly more of the audience being won over by the impressive energy levels that the band brought to the venue. As Engerica continued, the crowd did what they do to show appreciation of punk-rock i.e. become more and more violent to one another and mosh harder and faster. Sadly, despite collecting more fans throughout the gig, they were not playing to win over the Seether fans. Engerica has decided to call it a day after this tour; thus the band were evidently playing for their fans, their friends and themselves. This was made clear when bassist Mike Webster's twin brother Jim was invited to play drums; this night was about Engerica enjoying the experience of playing in one of England's most famous venues.

Engerica are evidently a band that have been slowly but surely growing in strength; they have been nominated for a Metal Hammer award, received rave reviews and played at Download. Consequently you get the impression that if had they postponed their amicable split for a bit longer, they could have achieved greater things. They may have been the support band to Seether; but Engerica certainly stole the show at the Astoria. Seether may have pleased their fans however; with their Nirvana and Neil Young covers, they just didn't match the style or the raw quality of Engerica.

Jenny Gibson

# A look at the short-length releases

## EP review

**London Apartments**  
Logistics and Navigation  
(Universal)  
★★★★☆

This EP is the first release outside Canada from Justin Langlois aka The London Apartments and the press release certainly makes a good go at granting him the all important indie credibility that may help push him onto the world stage; the references to obscure influences are interspersed with the heartwarming tale of a teenager creating tracks on his computer

in his bedroom and getting them noticed with a little bit of help our good friend the internet.

Then there's the ridiculous name. I can almost imagine the thought process that brought it about, 'A pluralised name for my one-man-band? Why not? It worked for Bright Eyes.' So far so indie. It could only be better if Justin wasn't from Ontario because everyone knows all the cool kids are from Montreal (Godspeed You! Black Emperor and The Arcade Fire to name a couple).

Once I got bored with the self promotion I figured I should probably get around to listening to the CD and I must admit it's a polished

piece of work.

Breathy and somewhat ethereal vocals float on top of an electronic back-drop of bleeps and beats. It makes strangely hypnotic listening. I think the most obvious comparison is to Icelandic band Sigur Ros.

The similarity between the otherworldly vocals both employ is quite striking. Also their lyrics share the same unintelligible quality, although in the case of the Icelandics this may be achieved by singing mainly in a fictional language.

Where the differences really start is with the range of sonic palette both artists can employ. Whilst Sigur Ros always have a trick up their

sleeve, be it a guitar played with a cello bow or the ever-present threat of the brass section, this record is much more limited.

No matter how varied the electronic backing is there is a tendency for it all to blend into one giving the impression of an EP with one exceptionally long track rather than four shorter ones. Whether this is good thing or not I would imagine depends very much on whether one is trying to get to sleep at the time or not.

This sounds far harsher than I intend to be. This is certainly an accomplished debut and I did enjoy it. It is definitely worth a listen if you enjoy the kind of ambient, vocal-

driven sound it employs.

However it seems limited in scope – there's only so much you can do with drum machines and synthesiser software and this record seems to hit that wall.

That being said I do hope to here more from Justin Langlois, if he can achieve something like this with just his computer then I'd love to hear what he could do leading the band implied by the name he has chosen for his project.

So look out for this guy in the future I'm sure we'll be hearing from him again, I just hope it's not in the form of backing music for a car advert.

Thomas Wilkins

## Finally, this week's singles round-up

**McFly**  
Star Girl  
(Universal)  
☆☆☆☆☆

I like to think I have an open mind when it comes to music – I even admit to owning Shania Twain CDs. However I can only assume this song was produced using the following process: Step 1, for inspiration watch Rick Waller have a colostomy; Step 2, inspired by the 'rich and powerful' aromas write lyrics such as "You never asked me to say ooo-oo-ooo"; Step 3, after failing to flog it to North Korea as a WMD, package it up with cover art designed by the work experience kid and ship it out to literally thousands of adoring fans, with a combined age lower than Rick Waller's weight (in tons). It's tempting to describe the song as a polished turd simply for attempting to rhyme 'kissed me' with 'frisbee', however I fear even Mr Muscle developed ear cancer after listening to this drivel.

John O'Loughlin

**Sean Lennon**  
Dead Meat  
(Capitol)  
★★★★☆

Poor Sean Lennon; no matter what he does, he'll always be compared to his father. It's inevitable. What makes it worse is that he also looks and sings like him. Even though I acknowledge his misfortune, I can't help but fall into the same trap.

While I'm listening to the song, thoughts of how John would improve the song nigger at the back of my head. I feel terribly guilty, because in essence this is a good song.

Lennon's vocals initially sound weak, but soon find their

place accompanying the dramatic orchestral backing.

You can really hear his anguish over the subject matter, his recent ending of a long-term relationship. Whilst he doesn't express the emotion lyrically, the melodramatic mood of the song conveys this perfectly. A guitar carrying the clever chord progression strums in the background and a piano adds little frills around the edges, but all-in-all this sound is nothing ground breaking.

Overall, Sean Lennon is worth checking out if you're a fan of the current indie-with-strings trend. If not, go and buy yourself *Sergeant Peppers* and hear what real music sounds like.

Francesco Padormo

**Amy Winehouse**  
Rehab  
(Island)  
★★★★☆

Back in 2003, Amy Winehouse crept onto the scene with her critically-acclaimed debut album *Frank*, but the world wasn't listening. Nominations for a Mercury and Brit award finally had copies flying off the shelves and it went on to be certified multi-platinum.

Fast-forward three years and she's back, a couple of pounds lighter but her voice is just as full-bodied and husky as it has ever been.

*Rehab*, the first single off the album, sees the Londoner ditching her signature jazzy roots characterized by the complex chord structures in favour of a simpler and soulful gospel sound.

It is just the right amount of quirky and maybe that's why she will remind some of Macy Gray (without the homicidal tendencies). *Rehab* is unlikely to grace the top of the charts anytime soon (although it thoroughly deserves to) but it does prove that urban British music doesn't have to be childish and chavvy. I think a certain Ms. Lily Allen should take note.

Jemil Salami

**Rihanna**  
We Ride  
(Def Jam)  
★★★★☆

Rihanna is 3 singles into a moderately good sophomore effort and it's beginning to show. It's not that we're tired of seeing the Barbados beauty writhe around on a beautiful beach (we can't get enough of that) but the single quality has dropped.

*We Ride* sounds at home on the album but isn't really strong enough to go it alone.

*S.O.S (Rescue Me)* turned out to be the heavy-hitting club stomper and *Unfaithful* fulfilled its objective as the pretty, intricately-crafted yet mature ballad (with a very clever use of murder as a metaphor for cheating) and this all makes *We Ride* seem, well, pretty boring. Let's put it this way, it's the not-so-attractive one nobody wants but the guy with a girlfriend ends up pairing off with a favour or good deed to his mates. Definitely second rate compared to its predecessors but seeing as the chart is a bit barren at the moment it won't have much trouble climbing to a respectable top 15 position.

Jemil Salami

**The Magic Numbers**  
Take A Chance  
(EMI/Heavenly)  
★★★★☆

The astounding thing about The Magic Numbers, if you ask me, is how on earth they got to be so popular? It really does boggle the mind how they got to become one of the most talked about bands. I might just be bitter that they sound almost exactly like Belle & Sebastian but far more twee and syrupy, and don't show enough of their pop-like side as Belle & Sebastian show. If you bought the album on the strength of the singles, you will have been suitably annoyed that there were no extra pop-tastic indie-folk tunes. But you must at least admit that the singles are surprisingly good. *Take a Chance* has a fun, bouncy beat that is matched by a relentless and quite catchy vocal line. This is if you can stand Romeo Stodart's whiny, aurally painful singing voice. Frankly I can't. It makes me want to shoot things. But the music is

fine. It's the kind of thing their contemporaries in the indie folk scene have achieved time and time again with little effort. However, it leaves me begging to see someone like Architecture in Helsinki get as much hype as these guys have, because the Magic Numbers really don't deserve a lot of the praise.

Matt Long

**Kelis ft. Nas**  
Blindfold Me  
(La Face)  
★★★★☆

In late 2003, Kelis joined forces with her then fiancé, Nas, and blessed us with the wickedly sexy groove that is *In Public*.

Kelis rarely ever repeats a trick, but now married, Mr and Mrs Jones are giving us a second glimpse into their kinky games for her second single, *Blindfold Me*, from her fourth LP titled *Kelis Was Here*.

This track has 'Kelis' written all over it from the weirdly pitched introduction to the blazing synth effects. Nas does his thing and lays down a mean verse near the end and there we have it – probably not as radio-friendly as her competition (Beyonce's next UK single, *Irreplaceable* or Rihanna's *We Ride*) but this track will not need to be re-worked for the club.

The formula is familiar but still exciting and the absence of the Neptunes on the credits confirms that although they were a big influence on her sound, she without doubt owns it.

Jemil Salami





## Alex Baldwin Nightlife Editor

Good afternoon, my nocturnal friends, and welcome to another nightlife page, with an actual review this week so I know at least one of you has been going out. Personally, I have been recovering from a week of fun and games with my Imperial College society of choice: the Alternative Music Society (AMS).

Presided over from afar by our favourite supreme nightlife editor Greg, the AMS strives to improve the lives of poor lonely Freshers with better taste in music than is good for them. Having been a member since I was a first year, I have seen the society rise from the primordial sludge and evolve into a thriving social network. Never overburdened with members, the society provides an opportunity to meet people with similar musical tastes and learn about different types of music, as well as just generally having a very nice time.

On that note, I will conclude this column by strongly recommending the AMS's own Kids Will Be Skeletons gig night at the union on Saturday 21st October, where you will hear lots of sumptuous and delicious music flowing into your ears from real live bands.

# Hard house at The Fridge

Insekt's second birthday at The Fridge brings out the clubbing masses in full force

**Insekt's 2nd Birthday**  
The Fridge  
★★★★☆

It must have taken a pretty inspiring line-up to encourage myself and the other few remaining survivors of the Tidy Weekender 10 (held only the previous weekend) out just 4 days after the 3 day hard house overdose we experienced up in Wales. Those able bodies who hadn't enjoyed the fun of Tidy needed little persuading. I am sure to attend Insekt's second birthday at The Fridge, Brixton with *Karim*, *Paul Glazby* and *Justin Bourne* laying on a night of nothing but pure filthy hard house for the listening and stomping pleasure of 1000 very satisfied customers. Previously a monthly event held at Fire Club, Vauxhall, Insekt events are less frequent now due to losing residency there, but the masses came out in full force to celebrate Insekt's second birthday.

Dontstayin.com gave away a few coveted tickets in their competition, but I'm sure all who paid the fifteen pounds for entry would agree that it was money well spent; I tried not to look too smug as I walked in (plus one) for free! The Fridge's location, fortunately, somewhat exempted it from steep London drinks prices: three pounds for a beer in comparison to anything from four pounds to six pounds in Central London. Following a raid back in April, The Fridge has since under gone a refurbishment. Although it has lost a bit of that *grimy* feel which used to add a special something to a night

out, it still managed to match the style of the music excellently: we came for a bit of filth and that's what we received!

Arriving at around eleven thirty, we did not have to queue at all but entered to find the place pretty full, yet with a reasonable amount of space for an hour or so for some high energy dancing to kick start our evening. The crowd was no where near as mixed as usual: next to no cybers, mainly 20s/30s, all very friendly. *James Nardi* initiated our night with some full on hard techy house to get the excitement up. *Defective Audio's* live PA left no one disappointed, especially the male

## Pure filthy hard house for your stomping pleasure

clientele who got to gaze upon the scantily clad dancers on stage! Having nearly exhausted what energy I had in me I was ready to flake had it not been for the excellent timing of *Karim's* 3am set. The ferocity with which he lashed out the tunes was electric and had everyone on their feet by the time "Have Faith" was played.

The Electro room, hosted by *Too-muchbutneverenough.com*, added an alternative interlude to the fast paced music of the main room, to those after a chill out on the comfy leather sofas. *Eduardo Herrera* played out some excellent filthy techno for those of us wanting to

JAMES FINCH



This man is probably much friendlier than he looks.

keep on our feet to a slower yet still heavy beat. The 'Ice Box' room was relatively empty, which was sometimes a welcome change from the busy crowd in the main arena. Living up to its name, The Fridge never became overheated at all. Quite the contrary, the air conditioning provided relief for those sending their temperatures soaring all night. Too often a night is spoiled if the venue is stifling.

Back in the main arena, once *Karim* had ended a particularly satisfactory set, it was time for *Paul Glazby* back to back with *Justin*

*Bourne*. Although enjoying a practically perfect concluding set from *Glazby* the week before, he still managed to top his prior performance. The pounding filthy beats came on relentlessly leaving no opportunity for a break! Although by *Marc Johnson's* culminating set the club's numbers had dwindled, those remaining gave it their all. The brave stayed on for the free after party whilst us Tidy veterans headed home, completely spent but in the knowledge we had enjoyed a blindingly good night!

Caz Knight

## Fabric turns seven years old

Elderly London club pushes the limits of the term 'weekend'

Alex Baldwin

Fabric has been bringing us a varied array of exciting electronic music for seven years now and they have decided to stretch the definition of a weekend to breaking point, with five days of music starting on the 19th of October, so you've missed the start already. Never fear though, for there are still four more days of musical mayhem to follow.

On Friday the club sees, amongst others, *Stanton Warriors*, *Scratch Perverts*, and *Switch* take to the decks, with *Foreign Beggars* and *Bondo Do Role* providing live music.

Saturday brings another impressive list of DJs and performers, with names such as *Ricardo Villalobos* and *Matthew Dear* as well as *Lindstrom* performing live.

On Sunday, 'polysexual' club-night DTPM descends upon Fabric, bringing with it a surprise guest DJ along with *Malcolm Duffy* and *Nick Pryce*.



Ricardo Villalobos standing somewhere that looks nice.

After the end of the real weekend, you'll have to wait a few more days before the fun begins (and ends) again on the following Thursday, when *Adventures In The Beetroot Field* hits Fabric, with *Simian Mobile Disco* and *Filthy Dukes* DJing,

plus a host of live bands including *Modeselektor*, *Brakes* and *Duels*.

One, or even all, of these nights may be for you, so check out the full listings on [www.fabriclondon.com](http://www.fabriclondon.com), where you can also find DJ Profiles and entry prices.

## Competition Time

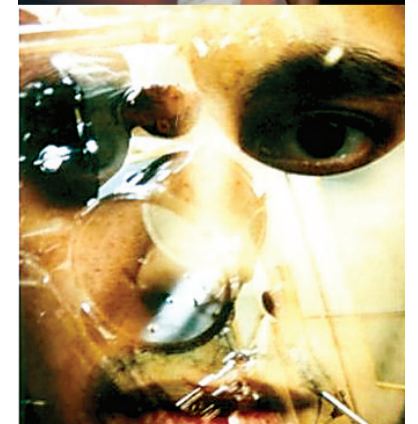
Win a pair of tickets for Timo Maas, Kieran Hebden and Little Creatures at The End/AKA on Saturday 28th October

On Saturday October 28, As One at The End/AKA presents 99%, featuring as its main attraction an all night session from Grammy-nominated German DJ and producer *Timo Maas* in the main room. Fresh from his residency at DC10 in Ibiza this August and with a new residency at Pacha in New York, he returns to The End for a marathon eight hour set.

The lounge sees the talents of *Kieran Hebden* (AKA *Four Tet*) DJing an eclectic mix of Electro, stripped down House and Techno, Broken Beats, Soul and Hip Hop as well as bits and pieces from his collection of sampled gems, which should make for an incomparable listening experience.

Over in AKA, you'll hear house music from two of the UK scene's pioneers, *Luke Solomon* and *Kenny Hawkes* reunited as new project *Little Creatures*.

For your chance to win a pair of tickets to this event, just send us an email at the address you can see at the top of the page and we'll pick a winner at random some time before the event takes place.



From top: Timo Maas, with jazz hands. Kieran Hebden's face.

# FABRICLIVE.

# A great scientist

400 years later, and Galileo's choices are still relevant to us all

**The Life of Galileo**  
National Theatre  
Until October 31st  
From £10

If anyone fits the definition of genius, it has to be Galileo: mathematician, physicist, and inventor. By developing the telescope, he made important observations that allowed him to challenge ancient cosmology and the prevailing view of mankind's place in the Universe. But *The Life of Galileo* is more than the story of a great scientist: it is a political work meant to provoke as well as to entertain.

Brecht uses Galileo's life as the skeleton upon which to hang the flesh of a fictional narrative dealing with timeless themes: science versus religion, reason versus dogma, humanity versus authority.

The drama lies in Galileo's dogged pursuit of what he sees as the truth, wherever it may take us. This threatens both religious dogma and the stability of the old order, and brings him into conflict with the Church.

Galileo is no superhuman, though. He is portrayed instead as a man in the raw: flawed, obsessive, irascible, and reckless. His reactions are as much visceral as cerebral, his pleasures alimentary as well as astronomical. While he can understand the meaning of his discoveries, is he also a man enough to face their consequences?

We learn in a cliffhanger scene of high tension that Galileo's religious and dutiful daughter wishes her father to recant his heresies and be spared torture at the hands of the Inquisition. His loyal supporters want Galileo to stick to his beliefs and stand up for the truth regardless. What does he choose? What are his motives? What are the consequences?

Brecht asks questions of us. Should science be pursued for its own sake? Should scientists be



Galileo Galilei, oppressed by the Church for his 'heretical' writings

responsible to society for their actions? Should political expediency or religious fundamentalism be allowed to suppress the truth? We are left to ponder the answers and to find our own position in current debates about cloning, creationism, and climate change.

David Hare's fine adaptation features the typically assured and energetic Simon Russell Beale making the best of the title role. The supporting cast is also excellent and some of the most powerful speeches come from the Cardinal Inquisitor, the Donald Rumsfeld

figure of his era – a cold, calculating character with little interest in the niceties of arithmetic.

Appropriately, the actors travel together on the revolving stage during frequent scene changes, neatly reminding us that, in riding the whirling roundabout of human affairs, we are all as one on our spinning Earth.

*The Life of Galileo* runs until the end of October. The remaining performances are pretty well sold out so you will need to be lucky, or clever, to get hold of tickets.

Edward Wawrzynczak

## Beer Guru's Guide

**The Beer Guru's Guide**  
Book Review  
by C. E. Street  
£10

"Enlightenment for those who thirst for knowledge," says the front cover. As every student is searching for knowledge, I delved into the realm of the beer guru.

This self-proclaimed individual promises to guide the reader into truly experiencing beer, and becoming at one with your inner-beer guru. I get the impression that a pint of Carlsberg with over an inch of head, served in a plastic cup

in the union, is not what the beer guru is teaching.

From this book you learn about the inner mysteries of beer, and its wonderful hallucinogenic properties. However, if you are reading this, you are probably more than well aware of what a marvellous substance it really is. It is said that alcohol is probably responsible for many of the so-called magic potions and witchdoctory of the past – who can honestly say that they have not felt like Superman after a night on the booze? This book explains in a light-hearted way about how beer is truly a sacred beverage, to be appreciated by all, and not to be ruined by cheaply made, regionally licensed lager.

The Beer Guru, demi-god who resides high in the Himalayas, takes you through how to fully ap-

preciate your beer, from examining its aura (brown aura leads to headaches, deep blue aura turns you into a moody bummer), to creating an altar for your beer (decorated with your team's colours), to how to listen to your beer talking (it may tell you the lottery numbers). This book is amusing in a not-too-sophisticated way:



Does your pint have a soul? How can you even tell?

you could read out a couple of lines with your mates and have a laugh at it.

Having said all this, the book is not really the sort of book you can actually sit down and read. It is the kind of book that you buy your Dad on Fathers Day, because you cannot think of a proper gift to get him.

It is funny in its own way, but I did not find it as good as some of the many other beer guides on the market. It reads as if it was written between the cast of *Men Behaving Badly* crossed with the Dalai Lama, and paying £10 for a book which is essentially nothing more than a bit of humour seems a bit steep. If it were half the price, I might recommend it, but as it stands, *The Beer Guru's Guide* is not really worth the money.

Andrew Holland

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# Boys make A-Level History

In a not too distant past, *History Boys* were fighting to get into Oxford and Cambridge

Yuen Ai Lee  
Film Editor

Not too long ago, we were all A-Level students fighting for the promised land of university, a land where we were supposed to achieve our fullest potential while making our entrances in the best alcohol-influenced student parties.

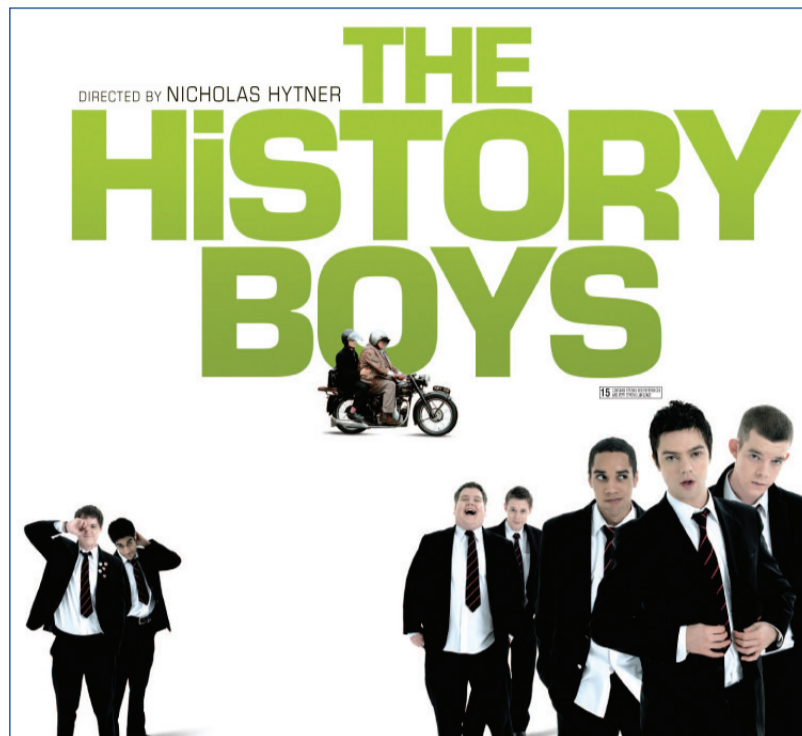
In *History Boys*, eight bright, funny history students in the north of England in the mid 1980s are in the process of pursuing an undergraduate place at the country's two finest universities. The school's headmaster is obsessed with breaking into the ranks of those schools that regularly send boys up to Oxford and Cambridge. Hence, Irwin, a shrewd newcomer, is enlisted to coach the boys into intellectual shape for the trials ahead.

While the boys are seduced by the exam-busting bag of tricks offered by the temporary supply teacher, the story becomes just a little spicier as the boys are torn by their loyalty to the hugely eccentric, poetry-

spouting English master Hector and the regular diet of nourishing facts and figures dispensed by Mrs. Lintott, their history mistress.

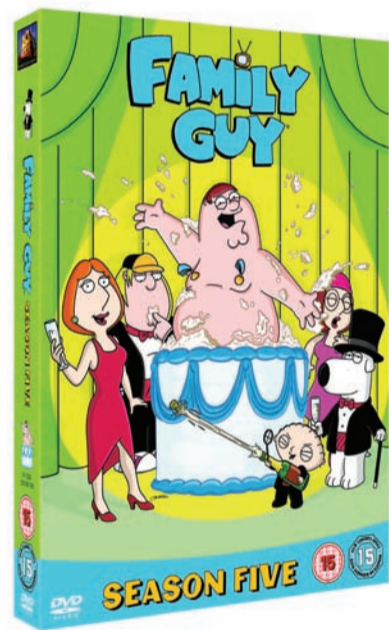
The journey of *The History Boys* becomes a light-hearted and eye-opening exploration of the education system and lulls into the story through the perspectives of eight boys whom you could easily relate to. Now you know the story, I'm sure you want to win *History Boys* merchandise and tickets. *Felix* is offering three lucky readers the chance to win a *History Boys* merchandise (T-shirts, keychains, pens and so much more!) and the first lucky reader to answer the following questions correctly two tickets to watch the movie in addition to *The History Boys* merchandise. So get your pens out!

- 1 Tell me the name of the *History Boys'* school.
- 2 Tell me the name of the script writer.
- 3 Tell me the name of the director. Answers to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk).



Already in cinemas: Don't miss *The History Boys*!

## Win Family Guy!

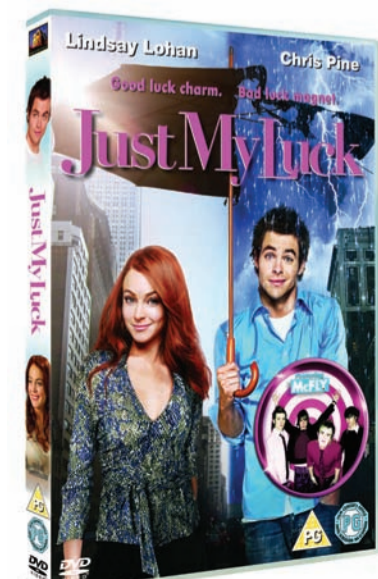


*The Simpsons* is mute compared to this seriously dysfunctional family. A short recap for those who must have fallen out of the world: Peter is the lazy, good-for-nothing father; Lois is the hot mother who must have a fetish for ugly fat men; Stewie is the destructive and horribly intelligent baby with the posh British accent. As for the rest of the children - Meg just pales into insignificance while Chris is the boy who has just reached puberty.

*Felix* is offering two readers an opportunity to win *The Family Guy* Season 5 which will be available to buy on DVD on 30th October 2006. *Family Guy* Seasons 1-5 box set is released on the same date. Just tell me the answer to these questions:

- 1 Who is Lois' long-lost brother?
- 2 And what particular people does her long-lost brother like to kill? Answers to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk).

## Win Just My Luck!



Chick-flick alert! Lovable Lindsay Lohan makes her debut as a chick-flick princess in *Just My Luck* starring as New York's luckiest girl, until a fated kiss sees her luck switched to Jake - the unluckiest guy in town!

Featuring the feature film debut of boy band McFly, *Just My Luck* is the perfect feel-good romantic comedy, released to buy and rent on DVD on 13th November 2006 from Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment.

To win a copy, answer these very simple questions:

- 1 The title of Lindsay Lohan's first album.
- 2 The title of Lindsay Lohan's first movie with Jamie Lee Curtis. Answers to [film.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@ic.ac.uk).

## Write for Felix!



Yuen Ai Lee

To our lovely readers in the wonderful campus of Imperial College, a great big welcome to the freshers and a welcome back to the seasoned readers.

Please be aware that this is an impassioned plea for the rest of you to put your pens to writing something that's fun and has absolutely nothing to do with science, business or medicine.

If that silent plea did not already frighten you, this is what you stand to gain if you write for the *Felix* Film section. I know London is a hot bed for A-list stars, but what if you get the chance to participate in press conferences without having to line up for hours in the sodding rain?

*Film Felix* had many amazing opportunities last year thanks to many wonderful PR agencies. We've met and even talked to people like Ashton Kutcher, Sarah Jessica Parker, 50 Cent, Erica Bana and the cast and crew for *The Chronicles Of*

*Narnia*. All you have to do, is put in a bit of your time to attend these press conferences and write up a short review and voila, you have another A-list star to the list of people you have seen.

If that's not interesting enough, how about free movies? *Film Felix* is always looking for people who love movies and who love free movies even better. Most of the time, we get invites to press screenings for movies that had not even been released in the cinemas. First plus point, you get to see the movie everyone's been waiting to see. Second plus point, you get to watch it in a plush review room. Third plus point, it's absolutely free. All you have to do is write a short review and you can see your name in print for it. Fantastic deal, isn't it?

Let's not forget the free tickets. During the weekends, we need people to review some of the upcoming movies. The system works with me sending out a list of movies I want reviewed to the people who have indicated their interest to review films. And then, I hand out two tickets for you to watch the movie. So let's not forget, you can bring a friend to watch the movie with you. Way to bring up your popularity rating!

So how do you get your hands in this fantastic opportunity?

Just email me at [film.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:film.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Tell me your name, your contact number and the kind of films you want to review i.e. horror, chick-flick, romantic comedies, etc.

I'll do the editing, you do the writing. Stop me before I enforce anymore of my opinions on all the films you have to watch!

Upcoming films:  
*Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning*, *The Good Year*, *The Grudge 2* and *Marie Antoinette*.

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Step Up (PG) (RT 2h05)  
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Subtitled Shows

The History Boys (15) (RT  
2h10) Sunday@ 16.05 Tues-  
day@ 18.40

Audio Description

The History Boys (15) (RT  
2h10) Daily: 13.30 16.05 18.40  
21.10 Sat Late 23.40

## New releases

Barnyard (PG) (RT 1h50)  
Daily: 12.15 14.30 16.40 18.50

The Guardian (12A) (RT 2h40)  
Daily: 14.00 17.15 20.10 Sat  
Late 23.10

Marie Antoinette (12A)  
(RT2h25) Daily: 12.05 14.50  
17.35 20.20 Sat Late 23.20

The Grudge 2 (15) (2h05)  
Daily: 13.40 16.00 18.20 20.45  
Sat Late 23.25

The Last Kiss (15) (RT2h05)  
Daily: 13.25 15.50 18.15 20.40  
Sat Late 23.00

## General showings

Texas Chainsaw Massacre:  
The Beginning (18) (RT 1h55)  
Daily: 21.15

The History Boys (15) (RT  
2h10) Daily: 13.30 16.05 18.40  
21.10 Sat Late 23.40

Open Season (PG) (RT 1h50)  
Daily: 12.30 14.35 16.50 19.00

The Devil Wears Prada  
(PG) (RT2h10) Daily: 12.10  
14.40 17.10 19.40 Sat Late  
22.30

The Departed (18) (RT 2h55)  
Daily: 13.15 16.35 19.50 Sat  
Late 23.05

Click (2006) (12A) (RT 2h10)  
Daily: 11.05

Hoodwinked (U) (1h45) Daily:  
11.30

The Children of Men (15) (RT  
2h15) Fri-Tue Only 21.00

Stormbreaker (PG) (RT1h55)  
Daily: 11.00



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# New York Fashion Week opens

James Burnett's account of New York's most fabulous special event out for those with fashion on the brain

For some, New York is the fashion capital of the world. During my summer as a New Yorker, I managed to gatecrash the long haul departure lounge of the international fashion jet set for the Spring 2007 collections.

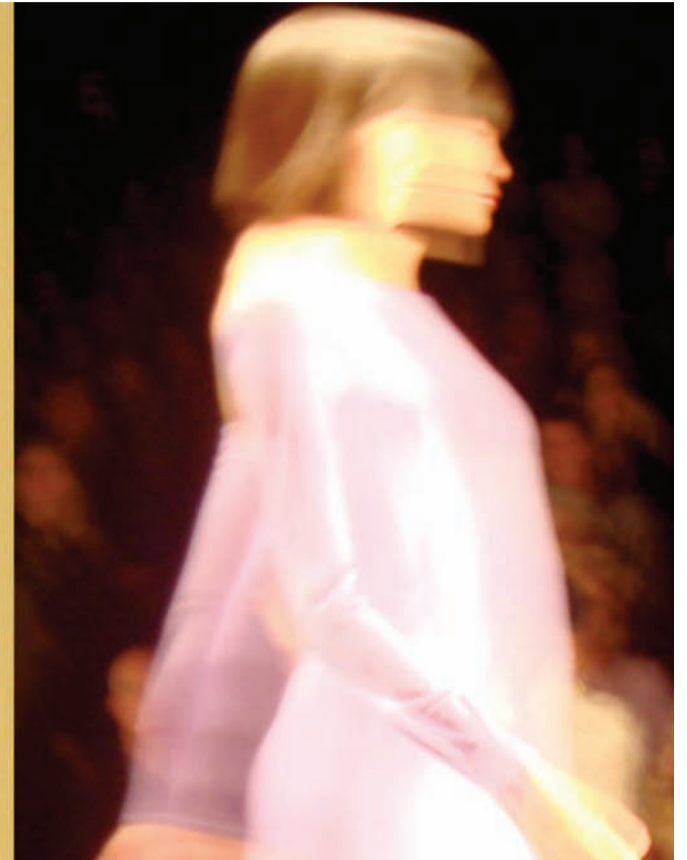
My experience at one of the biggest fashion emporiums on the planet began with my first show, Ashish N Soni at The Atelier in the tents at Bryant Park. First of all, arriving at the main tents was very glamorous and I was delighted to wade through the intrigued public outside with my invitation. Inside chandeliers hung from the ceiling and the Olympus Fashion Week sponsors showcase their offerings. Ashish N Soni, an Indian designer, embraced nature as a main theme for its Spring/Summer 2007 collection, with the sounds of ocean serenading the models down the catwalk. It was very tranquil and the models cast were very demure, with the collection based mainly on simple whites and blacks. Overall, the production was very calming, which was particularly unusual for a late Friday night show.

After a fantastic first night, my next show was Ruffian, which took place at the historic Tilden Mansion at Gramercy Park, home to the National Arts Club. After arriving especially early, I got to see some of the fantastic pre-production: with hair by Rolando Beauchamp for

Bumble & Bumble and make-up by Rie Omoto and the MAC Pro Team. As you can see from the photos I took, the models were flawless and the collection was exactly as one fashionista described: 'fresh, modern and wearable'. The American modern collection dazzled, with vibrant and sumptuous colours like butter cup yellow and baby-boy blue, but overall the collection focused on creams and beiges with lots of silk as well as the traditional Ruffian ruffles. What I particularly loved was the juxtaposition of the beautifully old and the beautifully modern with the 1840s setting and the wonderful creations of Brian Wolk and Claude Morais. If you love your art, I definitely recommend a visit to this national landmark.

My fabulous fashion week was about to get even more fabulous with tickets to Tracy Reese. I was very excited to be going to a much bigger show at The Promenade at Bryant Park. Just by checking out [tracyreese.com](http://tracyreese.com), you can tell that she's had hugely successful collections. The Promenade is a huge space and the world's press waited at the end of the long runway. You could tell the room was bustling with excitement and suspense, and the arrival of Carmen Electra definitely helped add to the energy.

The collection was based around Latin dance, and the show opened with Luis Bianchi and Daniela Pucci whirling down the runway show-



Felix's fashion correspondent watches women strut their stuff at the New York Fashion Week

ing their Spanish flare. The collection of 46 looks was then divided into three sections each named after a dance: Tango, Samba, and Barrio, with each being introduced by its own dance display and pieces taken from a neutral colour palette, with many voluptuous rather than fitted designs.

The audience seemed delighted by the collection with many showing their approval with a standing ovation and backstage you could tell the crowd was overjoyed by Tracy's new designs.

And what's even more exciting is that meeting so many amazing people, such as Marc Dlugoof, Pedro Lázoro, and Stéphane Hoüy-Towner who took me to the opening of the N store, a very hip boutique in Harlem, which was show casing the new collection of Omar Jermaine. The newly renovated structure was a very chic, and the party was packed full of models and buyers drinking champagne and raving about the new collection, which is really outstanding; it consists of traditional clothes fashioned in a very modern way. After meeting the designer (who was immaculately dressed) you can just tell that he's going to be hugely successful. Then, after an exploration into Korean cuisine, we headed to the Venexiana Show at The Metropolitan Pavilion on West 19th Street for more stunning models and sensual clothes by Kati Stern, who is based in Venice and New York.

#### The Vollbracht Magic

All of the shows I have been to have been special in their specific type of fashion, but I just can't get over the Bill Blass show. Lucky enough to obtain an invitation with the art nouveau, inter-clasped double B emblem gracing the cover, I was thrilled. After being moved to fill a second row seat in the Tent behind Sigourney Weaver, Joan Rivers, and Liza Minnelli, with Janet Jackson opposite; it dawned on me that

Bill Blass is a big deal. Admittedly, I had never heard of this label before, apart from seeing a Bill Blass hoarding off Times Square. When I think of the best American dress designer, I usually think Ralph Lauren, but after the timeless yet modern elegance of Bill Blass I think I may have changed my mind.

The day ready-to-wear collection was defined by its simplicity, typified by a high cut pale blue sheath dress and sandals modelled by Morgane Dumbled. The only consistency in this varied section was that each outfit featured its own distinctive belt. What I especially loved were the dresses presented towards the end of the show. They were the epitome of high glamour with each being totally individual. One that particularly caught my attention was a lavender neck to toe jersey gown, which covered almost every inch of Julianna Imai's skin. It was like she floated down the runway. And Camila Finn modelling an exquisite embroidered gown comprising of interwoven deep and bright reds with multiple trails of confetti.

The models, including Freja Beha, Hana Soukupova and Izabel Goulart were an especially beautiful selection and perfect in the context of the show's overall production, which reminded me of an Agatha Christie 'Poitrot' novel, and of the movie 'Gosford Park': very fifties, with an infusion of modernity. And of course when the time came, an extremely impressed crowd rose straight from their seats to congratulate Michael Vollbracht on his magic.

#### Chado Ralph Rucci

Displaying both his Spring 2007 and Winter 2006 Haute Couture collections as the last big show of New York Fashion Week, Ralph Rucci furthered his engraving in the fashion history books with elaborate designs and ornate detailing. As the only American to be invited to display his creations in Paris since the

forties, Rucci is arguably the most influential American designer on the global fashion stage.

One continuous element that characterises Rucci's work is the extravagance of the looks he produces. It is this opulence that gained the attention of France's premier fashion council, the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, which invited Rucci to display his haute couture collection in Paris. With his success in Europe, Rucci has once again stunned the New York Fashion Week crowd with the intricate detailing and sheer lavishness of his outfits. What's even more astounding is that Rucci is now celebrating 25 Years in fashion design and numerous exhibits and awards are honouring a quarter of a century of Rucci's creations.

The Chado 2007 Ready to Wear Collection emphasised a current trend by many designers to use python skin in their pieces. However, Rucci incorporates taupe and brown shades with the skin and all black and all white designs, which were supplemented by two cinnamon looks in a double-faced wool crepe design. One dress in particular epitomises Rucci's attention to detail; the organza dress made with ivory linen and pearl embroidery. However, the embroidered script caftan modelled by Ingrid Schram and the doubled faced cashmere costume with Japanese scholar print of the Winter Haute Couture collection further delighted an already exuberant audience.

However, Rucci had not yet reached his pinnacle, as look after look shone with luxurious fabrics and impeccable craftsmanship drawing continuous applause from the audience. Velvets, chiffons and satins with an incorporation of the blacks and chocolates of the Ready to Wear Collection, It was certainly obvious that the organisers of Fashion Week had left the most lavish show to last.



One model has a hidden message for her English speaking haters

# Quit it with the monkey business

Has *Horizon* lost its credibility as a leading science program investigating whether *Chimps Are People Too*



The first live presenter of *Horizon*, Danny Wallace, poses for the camera.

## Edward Wawrzynczak

*Horizon* has employed its first live human presenter – the offbeat writer and self-confessed non-scientist Danny Wallace. His mission was to investigate the premise that *Chimps Are People Too*. How far did the programme succeed in exploring this claim? Did it meet *Horizon*'s usual standards? And was it worth watching?

Wallace fittingly spent much time observing or 'hanging out' with our closest ape cousins, whether running free in the wilds of Africa or confined within research centres in the US and Europe. We saw chimpanzees vocalising in the Ugandan forest, co-operating in tasks at the

Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, and learning from each other at the Yerkes Primate Center in Atlanta. Between demonstrations of such human-like behaviours, the presenter acted as our enthusiastic guide and interpreter, sharing his thoughts, feelings and opinions with us.

Memorably, we also visited the facility that is home to a family of bonobo chimps, another close cousin of ours. There Wallace met, communicated and played with the famous Kanzi. This ape has learnt to understand a vocabulary of more than 500 words and to 'talk' by the use of symbols. For more than twenty-five years, primatologist Sue Savage-Rumbaugh has raised a small

group of these apes as if they were part of her own family. She is dismissive of research involving caged animals and is convinced that if you treat a bonobo like a person, it will become more like a person.

There were moments when Danny's tongue-in-cheek wit was genuinely funny. In the jungle, he looked affronted when St. Andrew's researcher Katie Slocombe informed him that chimps are five times stronger than the average human male. He boasted of being at least 'half-chimp' and wondered if the chimps would challenge him to arm wrestle. "I've got tactics," he bragged to Katie's bemusement. Pausing only briefly, she whispered: "They'll probably just kill you."



A still from Quentin Tarantino's latest cinematic offering.

"Good tactics," observed the instantly deflated Danny.

Sadly, as the programme wore on, the cheap laughs became overwhelming. Wallace's attempts to canvass support for a campaign to recognise chimps as people at a Royal Society meeting were fatuous. A ludicrous test for pheromones involving T-shirt sniffing, tied in with the customary images of lab paraphernalia and white-coated scientists, lacked merit. And a shot of bonobos enthusiastically copulating was simply gratuitous. Most disappointing was that all this tomfoolery diverted attention from the real story.

We have come to understand more and more about our evolutionary relationship to chimpanzees since the time of Darwin. But it was only last year that we were able to put a precise number on just how close that genetic similarity is. Remarkably, the DNA making up the genomes of human and chimp is more than 99% identical. Yet it is plain to see that we are different. Why? We were given hints that the reason must lie in the 1% or so of DNA that we do not share, and that this has something to do with our big brains, but these tantalising observations were not followed up.

Where *Horizon* feared to tread, Channel 4 pressed ahead undaunted. It handled the subject altogether better in a two-part programme *What Makes Us Human*, which aired over the summer. In this, Imperial scientist and author Armand Marie Leroi introduced us to the biology believed to underlie the uniqueness of humans. With urbanity and understated humour, he explained how specific genetic changes are thought to have driven a relatively recent and rapid evolution of the human brain.

The human brain has trebled in size since humans and chimpanzees last shared a common ancestor. In particular, the expansion of the cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that we use to do our thinking, has pushed human capabilities far beyond those of our ape-like

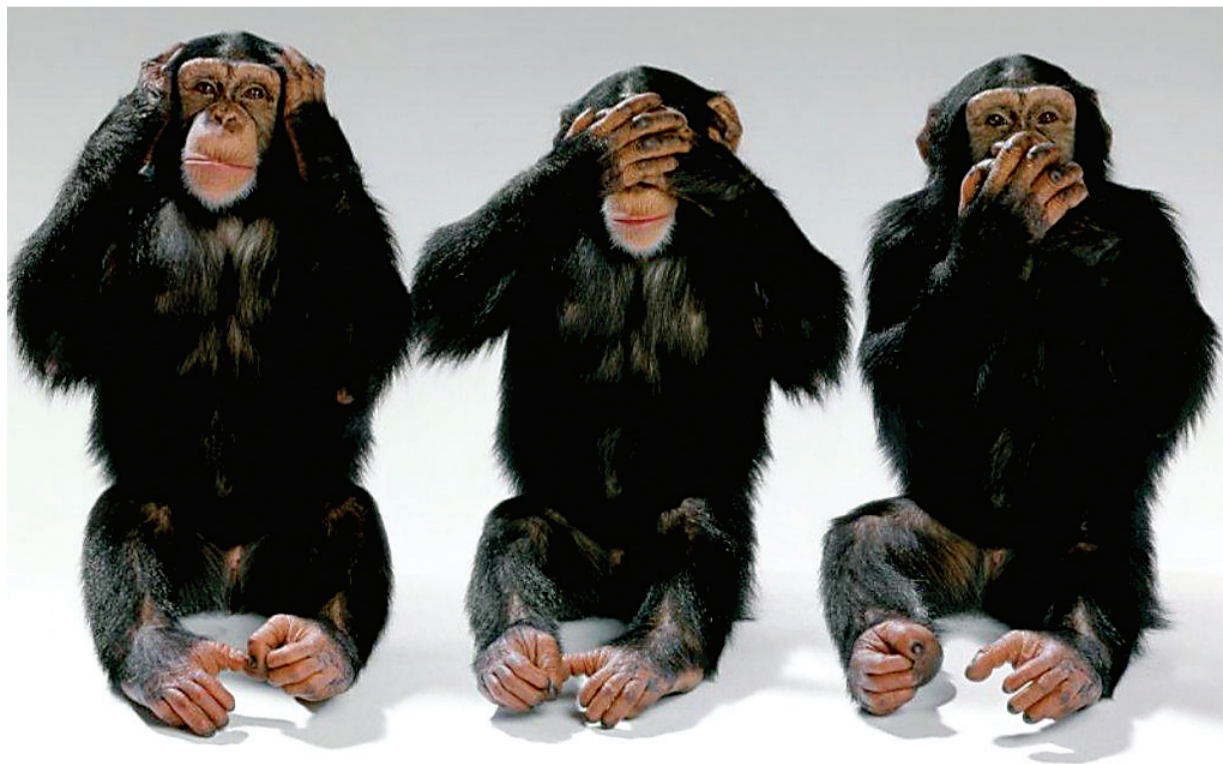
ancestors and their non-human descendants. We have developed new cognitive abilities – the use of complex syntax, the capacity to interpret one another's intentions, and the skill to imitate the actions of others – that appear to have been critical to the formation of human society and culture.

Clearly, traits such as tool-use and language, which were once seen as characteristics able to distinguish humans and apes, are no longer so definitive. But the skills shown by chimps are only rudimentary compared with those of humans – they are limited in their capabilities because their brains do not work in the same way that ours do. So, chimps are not human – and they cannot be people – even if some of us would like them to be.

Our uniquely human qualities have allowed us to dominate and manipulate the natural world and its creatures. Ironically, this was perfectly demonstrated by two scenes from the *Horizon* programme. In one, we saw chimps within a fenced compound being trained for Hollywood and our entertainment. In the other, we saw the bonobos in their enclosed research centre being observed in the name of science and our enlightenment.

*Horizon* has strayed into the fuzzy territory somewhere between entertainment and enlightenment. There is clearly something engaging about a cheeky chappie messing around with comical chimps and the prospect of slapstick tomfoolery not too far away. But this is surely a new concept – *Horizon* 'Lite' – offering a flavour that may appeal to a larger audience but with an aftertaste that is definitely less satisfying.

While there is a role for science with a smile, and scope for novel approaches to popularisation, let us hope that this is not achieved by trivialising research and those engaged in it. Indeed, it would be a great disservice to the viewing public if scientists were turned into freaks at the circus for the sake of the clowns.



*Horizon: Chimps Are People Too* explores the differences between chimp and human capabilities.

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tv.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Robin Hood fails to hit the target

The BBC's latest Saturday night family show takes over from *Doctor Who*, certainly a tough act to follow

Tom Roberts  
TV Editor

The BBC's latest flagship drama *Robin Hood* rode onto television screens a few weeks ago. Promoted with the channel's prime time cliché as "the one to watch", it has set camp in Saturday evening's family friendly seven o'clock slot. The BBC's advertising bow had been targeted primarily at the *Doctor Who* audience who tuned in at the same time for weeks previously. I wasn't a fan of the time-travelling dalek-dueller, so my expectations were cautious but those clever television execs also happened to be superb archers. Who'd have thought?

After the initial episode I was hesitant to write about the program. To my surprise, it was enjoyable but the splinters in my bum were stinging from sitting on the fence – I couldn't decide whether I genuinely liked it or not. *Robin Hood* cantered along quickly enough from scene to scene and it was easier to watch than clubbing one of the sheriff's guards over the head with a sword. As a piece of family entertainment, there's nothing more suitable than a cheeky protagonist battling the oppressive ruler whilst pushing the messages of charity and spreading the wealth to the fore of children's minds. My view was delayed a week before *Robin Hood* was trialed again for the dungeon of condemnation.

The week passed and as I began watching Jonas Armstrong flex his string bow as Robin of Locksley once again, immediately I sensed a cauldron of contempt bubbling up somewhere inside of me. The editing was the first thing that riled me. Simple shots of Robin's right hand man, Much, turning round were chopped together with three different camera angles looking utterly strange.

In the final scene of the episode

Robin improvised using his bow as a zip line mechanism. The scene was cobbled together with endless amounts of different shots thus ruining any sense of excitement or, more importantly, danger, as our hero hung statically in different positions along the rope zip line. Various shot changes gave the impression Robin was in fact gradually moving back up the rope! One of three things happened here: either the sheriff had a tiny castle (which would also explain why there are only five guards available to fight the peasants in the entire fort!) not just with a moat but actually floating on a water reservoir rocking Robin back and forth; or the set was too small to film an entire shot of this extremely high risk manoeuvre; or the insurance people wouldn't pay out in case Robin went too fast and smashed through the sheriff's polystyrene faux granite walls. I haven't got time to lambaste Robin's CGI arrows that magically leave the bow and suddenly reappear wherever his invisible telescopic sight points.

The appalling editing wouldn't be such a concern if the camera could focus on more than the very small handful of locations that were on show. A few straw huts, a castle courtyard, a dingy dungeon and the generic Sherwood Forest background are already as unwelcomingly familiar as the stench of someone doing a you-know-what in public toilets – hold it till home, people. Usually it's possible to see past technical shortcomings and find salvation in the story and acting; after all, high budget television has always lacked the finesse of dramatic cinema – the CGI artists on *Doctor Who* braved the TARDIS themselves fetching their animation equipment from the 1980s. But once again, *Robin Hood* fails miserably when it comes to the players and script. Armstrong's cheeky nature soon slips into smugness



Jonas Armstrong in *Robin Hood*: Unfortunately that's a string bow and not razor wire.

and the audience is left wanting to break Robin's ruddy bow over his skull. Keith Allen is well cast as the Sheriff but let off the leash and descends into a sarcastic fool who never really feels like he is going to prevail against the renowned, worshipped and almost holy Robin Hood. By far the worst character is Much. Only ever used as a device for woeful humour that makes *Friends* look original, at one point he charges into a dungeon exclaiming: "This is a rescue! And we are undetected!" Cue the sound of shouting guards in the background and a joke Joey Tribbiani would be

ashamed of. Even more appalling script writing is when a group of outlaws are discussing the Sheriff's ransom clause for capturing Robin Hood – cutting out people's tongues. The outlaw declares that it would be funny if "instead of 'the cat got your tongue', 'the sheriff got your tongue'" would be a hilarious phrase. Some outlaws begin examining their nails for dirt whilst others scan the sky for cloud coverage, whilst behind the cameras the crew are probably dying on the inside because this script was commissioned when they themselves could have written a better script

than this steaming turd on a piece of Kleenex.

It's unclear where my epiphany came from regarding this program. Having previously enjoyed it, I now can't stand to endure it. Once I started picking, the bogies soon fell out of *Robin Hood's* nose. This judge's verdict on *Robin Hood*? The dungeons are out of the question. A prompt trip the stocks of disgrace for the actors followed by a severe quartering for the editing team and a hanging of the script writers should suffice. For the good of all, the rest of the series should be axed immediately.

# Gordon Ramsey gets a roasting



If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen. Gordon Ramsay takes the flak presenting *Have I Got News For You*.

Last week I had the pleasure, and luckily friends in high places, to see *Have I Got News For You* recorded live. Actually, that's a lie. I just have friends quicker than Paul Merton's cutting wit when it comes to obtaining extremely high-demand tickets.

I've always enjoyed *Have I* and Ramsay's television programs have featured numerous times in this section, so when the hard-arsed chef's name was called out along with Peter Serafinowicz of comedy *Look Around You* fame, I was feeling pleased at the prospect of an entertaining evening with a panel I respected.

Before cameras began rolling, Ramsay promised the entire audience dinner and wine at Claridge's should he make six mistakes. Before he'd even finished the introductions the audience members each had four eager fingers and a thumb raised.

The three Michelin star winning chef was clearly nervous, fidgeting in his seat, twiddling his pencil

and thanking the audience for their support.

It wasn't long before Ramsay's infamous temper began to boil and the contestants cottoned on to this faster than you can fry an omelette. Paul Merton was the main culprit, interrupting Ramsay regularly whilst he read from the autocue.

By this point, we were all imagining perusing the à la carte Claridge's and picking the most pretentious dish possible. Whether Ramsay was genuinely concerned with our pipe dreams or not was unclear, since he continued to reassure us we would be tucking into his fine gnosh whilst at the same time there was an impression he was attempting to win our support against his four adversaries.

Merton pushed Ramsay to breaking point and he retaliated naming him a "c\*\*t" before adding a further insult suggesting if Merton was so hot, why wasn't he sitting in the host's seat? Game on. Ramsay was like a lamb to the slaughter.

Merton and his teammate Andrew Neil launched into a tirade of jesting, ribbing Ramsay about Jamie Oliver, Anthony Worrall Thompson and whatever else caused a reaction. As expected, Merton was too sharp and Ramsay was looking jaded. Merton made the valid point that he'd been "doing this for years" and that if he came into Ramsay's kitchen, he wouldn't be cheeky about making a shepherd's pie.

My respect for Ramsay was tainted ever so slightly after walking out of the studio. Part of his ability to achieve such a high status came from his ball breaking nature, but perhaps even his aren't made of steel.

I feel that the televised footage of *Have I* only partially conveyed the tense atmosphere and that a lot of the time the editing rendered certain jokes and comments to appear out of context. But I respect this would have been a mammoth task. Now, to phone Claridge's.

**felix**



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***Felix* depends on your contributions to survive.**

We are currently in need of:

- People with newspaper layout experience in InDesign.
- A dedicated news editor, who can coordinate with reporters and the editor to introduce external news round-up pieces.
- News reporters for both internal and external news.
- A sports editor, responsible for collating and laying out sports reports.
- Reviewers for all our review sections, including music, film, arts, books, games, food, fashion, nightlife, and others.
- Writers for our news-related sections, like business, science and politics.
- Feature writers, willing to research and draft feature articles.

## **Contact us.**

You can e-mail us at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk), stating what you are interested in, or just to ask for more information.

# *The Running Man*



*Coming Soon...*

# >> GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES IN TECHNOLOGY, BRANDS AND MEDIA LAW

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>> **When:** Tuesday 24 October 2006 >> **Time:** 6.30pm – 8.30pm

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BRISTOWS

# Sudoku 1,360

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. E-mail your solution to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) by 9am Tuesday. 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.

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

Solution to 1,359

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

Jotting pad

Thanks to everyone who entered. **Akif Imtiaz Wyne**: a winner is you. Keep those entries coming in!

# This Week's Horoscopes

## Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)



You discover that anything you listen to while you go about your daily business suddenly seems to sync up with what's happening around you. This goes horribly wrong the morning you select Slayer's *Reign In Blood* for your daily tube journey.

## Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)



During an exciting caving trip in the Rocky Mountains, you encounter a talkative brown bear. After discussing the pros and cons of beech veneer when compared to Venezuelan maple, she asks you to have a gander at her beaver. Head first, you oblige.

## Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)



Certain events reveal to you that toffee is actually the remains of hunted foxes ground up into a paste and mixed with huge amounts of sugar. You try to explain it to your friends and family, but they can't hear you because you're a fox. Or something.

## Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)



You decide to buy Garth Marengi's *Darkplace* on DVD because it's out. Right now. Right this instant! You watch the hallowed disc and never consider regretting your purchase as laughing makes your sides to split open in a bloody, horrific mess.

## Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)



Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Unfortunately for you, you are so hideously ugly that any puppy unlucky enough to catch a glimpse of your face has a massive canine embolism and dies. You decide to use your powers for evil, not good.

## Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)



Horoscope fans: there's a chica with gigantic orbs sitting opposite me as I enlighten you all with my wisdom. I don't think she's noticed me, so I'll play safe for now and stick to a bonobo mating call, before moving in for the kill, Eastern Iranian platypus style.

## Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)



While you idly dream of playing hide the pickle with the girl from labs, a tiny leprechaun appears on your cheese sandwich. However, you're so engrossed in your mental shag-a-thon you fail to notice this, and munch his tiny frame to bits.

## Gemini (22 May – 21 Jun)



You decide to find out what the fuss about heaven is. Calculations conclude you need to build a ladder from staples in order to reach the pearly gates. After 22 creative years, you climb for all your worth. God is playing dice and a stray roll hits you for six.

## Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)



Hey, have you noticed how the symbol for cancer here looks like two people, well, providing mutual relief? I think it's pretty rad. So, like, this is good shit, man. What time is it? Dude, we should put those mini-pizzas in, I'm starving.

## Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)



Sitting in the JCR, your attention is diverted to the brain in your knee as it pulsates. Closer inspection reveals an inhabited land where minute men swing gaily from hair to hair. You shower. The tsunami kills millions. You just lost all your friends. Loser.

## Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)



You might have noticed horoscopes seem to have taken a turn towards the downright surreal. This is because there is very little air in the *Felix* office, and those of us who aren't suffering from terminal hypoxia are hallucinating wildly.

## Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)



This week you defeat your nemesis and his stocky Swedish right hand man. You get the girl. You get to play tonsil hockey whilst the golden sunshine shimmers on the mercury sea. You get to sail away in a power boat. You get to see your name as the credits roll.

# Felix Crossword 1,360

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

## ACROSS

- Absorption in a microcosm, O sister (7)
- Fix up chattering toy without reason, sort of (7)
- Vile nag scared, perhaps on jet plane (7)
- Prevalent rank (7)
- Miscellaneous papers behind pub (5)
- Exclamation in George, initially due (5)
- Move right, in left of crater (6)
- I start, crazy creative type (6)
- Online marketplace dashed dreams (5)
- Church before Rome is silvery (6)
- Bug squashed, I wager (6)
- Schedules as after decay (5)
- Drilled plank, we hear (5)
- Mangled red cone could be an enigma (7)
- AND perhaps additional shortcakes (7)
- Semester, we hear, perhaps olive unrest (7)
- Play area in fields and pitches (7)

## DOWN

- Papery art source lacking in French friend (7)
- Edge sounds certain (5)
- Superficial, lacking its second paste (7)
- On right of standard bottle (6)
- Sounds like depository soaked meal (5)
- Crackerjack scalding Buck, for example (7)
- A person in the know? I, sir, end confused (7)
- Alternative headless matriarch (5)
- Insert in position (5)
- Sages infused vapours (7)
- In hospital rooms, toward the centre (7)
- Pulverished crab ate entertainment (7)
- Bowling, perhaps, above unspirited harm (7)
- Epicure sounds like blood encountered (7)
- Bull follow soup, perhaps (6)
- Copy reverse gender pinnacles (6)
- Once a turbulent expanse (5)

Jotting pad

# Rawden

Greetings, crossword fans. As I'm sure you've all learnt by now, my crosswords usually have a few quirks, and this week's is no different. For some reason I seem to have been obsessed by the word "in" while writing it. Not sure why, but it might give you the odd clue. On the other hand it might be totally useless. Who knows? Some more useful advice is to work from the middle. There are so many damn clues in there that some of them will fill themselves in. Someone remind me never to design a grid that requires numbering to 30 again. Have fun - I'm off to bed for 2 weeks. Writing crosswords is very strenuous, you know.

Rawden

Solution to Crossword 1,359

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

Send your answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) or bring this page down to the *Felix* office in the West Wing of Beit Quad by Tuesday 9am. Each week, we'll choose a winner and print their name, thus providing them with almost unlimited kudos and self-satisfaction. **Christopher Harris**: A winner is you. Everyone who provides us with a correct solution will get an entry into our prize draw at the end of the year.

## Canoes in the Alps

Sophie Gore

The eagerly anticipated canoe club trip to the North Alps had finally got underway, starting with the minor hiccup of leaving a boat behind and one of the cars missing the ferry. We arrived in Kitzbuehel in Northern Austria the following afternoon and set up camp in an extremely picturesque site. The next day's paddling was debated around our first barbeque of the trip.

The Wies and Pinegg Gorges on the Brandenberger river were decided on as a suitable first river. For me, and many others, this would be the first Alpine and warm weather paddling experience. The valley was beautiful and the glorious sunshine was a real novelty. The river was a gentle affair with a couple of more significant rapids resulting in just the odd swim. Back at the campsite we all tucked into pizza and a few 'steins' to start Harry off on his epic fortnight of beer consumption.

Next day we were back at the Brandenberger for a further section of this river. Again, this was a gentle run with a couple of more interesting rapids which resulted in a number of swims from the less experienced. Patrick was due to fly into Salzburg later that afternoon, fresh from his trip to Norway, so a girly contingent headed off for an afternoon's sightseeing, ice-cream eating and to provide Patrick with a suitable welcome. The trip started badly for him though; we got back to the campsite to find everyone had eaten our dinner, having got lost and picked up a speeding ticket.

We then headed across the border to stay in Mittenwald in Bavaria where we found a more natural campsite on the river's edge to get our campfire building off to a good start. Boats proved particularly useful for this given that most of the available wood was on the opposite bank! In the three days we stayed here, the Rissbach, Loisach and Upper Isar were paddled; all low volume grade 3, which resulted



A member of the Canoe Club gets into some white water

in only a handful of swims amongst the group. This was also the scene of the biggest disaster of the trip – Harry dropping the barbeque in the river – were we all going to starve?

The next destination on our itinerary was Landeck – the focus of the Austrian kayaking scene, and fortunately also home to a shop selling barbeques. Dominated by the mighty Inn, this was the biggest volume water many of us had encountered and required a bit of getting used to.

Recent floods in the area have changed the rivers dramatically and several of the 'classics' had been canalised, making them somewhat hairier. First up was the Rosanna, a classic grade 3, followed by the commercially-rafted Imst Gorge – part of the Inn.

At 250 cumecs, this river was huge and full of big, bouncy wave trains which were immensely entertaining for the whole group. Swims on this kind of water were certainly trickier to handle, with people and kit taking somewhat longer to recover, keeping the more experienced members of the group occupied. There were some sig-

nificantly harder rivers here for the 'big boys' with the Sanna, Tösens, Lower Oetz, and infamous Inn Shoot being ticked off by some. Our final move of the trip led us up the Inn valley into the Engadine area of Switzerland. We spent the final few days of the trip paddling various sections of the upper reaches of the Inn. S-Chanfs and the Brail Gorge proved somewhat low on water, whilst Giarsuns and Ardez Gorge gave a welcome challenge to the brave few. The final section we paddled, the Schuls, proved to be one of the most challenging paddled by the whole group with some pretty tricky grade 4 rapids claiming one or two victims amongst the group. So ended a thoroughly enjoyable trip, a great learning experience for those on their first Alps trip. Much beer was consumed and many rivers paddled. We are extremely grateful to Claire for her excellent work in organising the trip.

.....  
**Anyone interested in joining us on our next summer tour should contact the club, via patrick.clissold@imperial.ac.uk. See you on the water.**

## Arts & Ents outing of joy

As a special treat to kickstart the year in style, Arts and Ents are taking members of their societies to Thorpe Park for an amazing day of frolicking, fun and festivity.

The event will take place on Saturday the 4th November, leaving Beit Quad at 9:00am and returning by 6:00pm in plenty of time for everyone to head over to Battersea for the Fireworks.

Tickets are available online, at the address below, for the bargain price of £25. This includes your ticket and your travel costs. However, today (Friday 20th October) is the last day they will be available so get your skates on and don't miss out!

If you are unsure whether you are eligible to participate in this earth-shatteringly amazing event then check the list of clubs and societies below or [ae.secretary@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ae.secretary@ic.ac.uk).

### AEB Clubs and Societies:

Chamber Music, Choir, Cinema, Contemporary Music, DramSoc, Jazz & Rock, Jazz Big Band, LeoSoc, Musical Theatre, Musical Theatre Tour, Sinfonietta, String Ensemble, String Orchestra, Windband



### AEB Thorpe Park Trip

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**Date:** 4 November 2006  
**Time:** 9:00am – 6:00pm  
**Price:** £25  
[www.imperialcollegeunion.org/arts-ents-board-300/thorpe-park-trip-303/product.html](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/arts-ents-board-300/thorpe-park-trip-303/product.html)  
**Contact:** [ae.secretary@ic.ac.uk](mailto:ae.secretary@ic.ac.uk)

## Opera and Choir open day

Stuck for something to do on a Saturday afternoon? Well, here is something just a little bit different and exciting. Sinfonietta and IC Choir are running an Opera Chorus Day on Saturday the 21st October. This will take place in the Great Hall, Sherfield building, South Kensington Campus.

The rehearsals will kick off at 3:30pm and will finish by approximately 7:30pm, interspersed with tea and cake. What's more, it is completely free! The idea of the day is to introduce people to new music and to showcase just some of the exciting opportunities offered in these societies. Other musical groups also involved include Jazz Big Band, MTSoc, String Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra and

Windband. It is important to realise that no previous musical experience is necessary. Maybe you consider yourself a budding diva or maybe you can't stand hearing yourself singing in the shower. No worries! It's all about having a bit of a giggle.

If all that has got you bursting with excitement, then you may have to sit down for this next bit. Once the singing and playing is over the real party begins; we will be heading over to the union to 'barnce' the night away to a live ceilidh band, who, being predominantly Irish, are overqualified in playing folk music!

.....  
**If you want to find out more about the Orchestra, contact [sinfonietta@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sinfonietta@imperial.ac.uk).**

## AdLib

by Tevong You

