

page 16

Music

Muse at Wembley



page 14

Clubs & Societies

page 24 Polo panto



felix

The student newspaper of Imperial College

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Sir Richard: I'll give £10k

Rector offers £10,000 for student hardship funds if a student runs the London marathon for Imperial College

Andy Sykes
Editor-in-chief

At the first Rector's Forum meeting with the Union's Executive, Sir Richard revealed that he would give £10,000 to a Centenary project (likely to be student hardship funds or the Beit redevelopment) at the College if a student would run the London marathon with the official blessing of the College.

This surprise declaration comes after Sir Richard snubbed Trevor Philips, the head of the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) and a former IC student, who had offered to run for the College and donate all money he made through sponsorship to the Centenary funds, on the condition that he could run for another charity at the same time.

The Union approached the Rector to discuss this possibility, which was met with a flat refusal by Sir Richard's office. John Collins, Union President, told *Felix* that the Rector believed that this would "dilute the College's brand".

At the Rector's forum on Wednesday, the issue was raised by the members of the Executive. Sir Richard, appearing to be somewhat frustrated with the matter, made the generous offer when it pointed out that a lone student running for the College would never be able to make the same amount of money from sponsorship that Trevor Philips could, simply saying: "I'll give them £10,000, then."

There are three Centenary projects currently under consideration for receiving money during

IC's funding drive to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the College. These are the Central Library redevelopment, student hardship funds, and the Beit masterplan (for redeveloping the Union buildings). It seems likely that the money from the Rector will be funneled into the student hardship funds.

The Rector's first forum with the Executive also led Sir Richard to make one of his trademark outspoken statements; in this case, it concerned the possibility of removing the cap on top-up fees. Sir Richard spoke strongly against it, saying: "You can't take the cap off, that's an absolute nonsense. You can't allow 145 institutions to charge what they like, that would be a disaster."

Sir Richard proposed a different funding model, arguing as he has done many times in the past that the most able students should have a chance to attend well-funded 'elite' universities, saying that a student achieving good grades and gaining a place at a top university should trigger full funding for that student's education – he called this "a damn good investment". Sir Richard focussed on the funding situation for the top universities, implying the development of a multi-tier system of higher education that already exists in some countries.

With the debate about top-up fees due to be reignited, and with the recent affiliation referendum meaning the Union will be joining the NUS whose policy on top-up fees has moved to being against removal of the cap rather than the abolition of fees, students may find it reassuring that Sir Richard appears to be on their side.



VITALLI LAZURENKO

Imperial College's Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, at an earlier meeting

Discussing police tactics post-7/7



EMERSON VIGOREUX

The Union's Chaplaincy arranged a meeting between members of the Metropolitan Police, the Police Authority and representatives from the Muslim community. The police were interested in being able to hear the views of students on the policing of London in the wake of the Tube bombings last July. Also present was Musa Admani, Imam of London Metropolitan University, who revealed on *Newsnight* last month that he had been threatened with death by an 'Islamic death squad' from Imperial College.

NUS says lads' mags should be covered up

Nuts and Zoo should be placed behind the counter, says NUS

The National Union of Students has attacked so-called "lads' mags", calling them "overtly sexual" and that the content is "demeaning and degrading to women". It has called on outlets on NUS-affiliated university campuses to restrict the magazines to take titles like *Nuts* and *Zoo* off the shelves and place them behind the counter.

The magazines have also faced calls from MPs for them to be consigned to the top shelves of newsagents, alongside more pornographic publications such as *Readers' Wives*, and a number of supermarkets have placed the magazines within 'modesty covers' to obscure them from casual browsers. Sainsbury's is the most high-profile supermarket to have adopted these covers, saying it acted after complaints from costumers.

The NUS National Women's Officer, Kat Stark, said that the National Union of Students fully supported the moves by supermarkets to reduce the visibility of the magazines to consumers, adding: "Most of their content is demeaning and degrading to women. NUS is therefore keen to see them relegated from the top shelf to behind the shelf throughout university outlets as well." The policy is voluntary, she insisted, though some unions had taken it up: "NUS is pleased to report that a few unions have already made the move to keep particular 'lad mags' behind the counter, and we are supporting women's officers all over the country to lobby their unions into following suit."

The policy has faced criticism and ridicule from some. At Leicester University, where the union has introduced the ban, the editor of the student newspaper, Tom Goodwyn, has expressed dismay that the NUS has dictated what magazines the outlets can stock. "*Nuts* and



One of the lads' mags the NUS wants to move behind the counter

Zoo target readers who are aged 18 to 26, a good proportion of who are at university," said Mr Goodwyn, adding: "Having to buy them from behind the counter is a bit dirty old man-ish." An online petition against the ban has already gathered more

than 200 signatures. With the recent referendum meaning that ICU will affiliate to the NUS, it is up to the pro-NUS group to decide if this is a worthwhile use of the affiliation fee, and whether the ban should be introduced here.

Union governance changes approved by College Council



The Governance Review being read for the first time at Union Council

The recommendations made by the Union Governance Review is now part of the the Union's constitution, having been approved by the highest body in College, the College Council.

The proposals have been a pet project of John Collins, Union President, who set up a number of working groups consisting of ex-hacks, current hacks and sabbs to review the way the Union is run.

The most notable of the changes enacted is the introduction of another committee at the top level of Union governance, called the Court. The Court's role is to rule on disciplinary matters, including election complaints. This should hopefully eliminate the partisanship normally involved when Council discusses election complaints.

The Court will be staffed by life members of the Union, along with current members of the Union. No current officers will be eligible to sit on the Court. The Court will

also be the ultimate body ruling on complaints against the student media.

The other key change is the splitting of the Student Activities Committee, the body that deals with all clubs and activities, into two halves: the Representation and Welfare Board, and the Clubs and Societies Board. The aim of this seems to be to make welfare a more important issue than it had previously been under the SAC.

A number of other committees have been amalgamated, disbanded or renamed, including the replacement of the unpopular Trading and Retail Committee being replaced with a number of 'forums' that interested parties may attend to discuss the issues directly with the staff involved.

Lastly, the Permanent Secretary, head of the Union staff, will be renamed Union General Manager, reversing the change made by ex-President Mustafa Arif.

Do you know something that's happening around the College or the Union? Tell us about it!
Contact felix@imperial.ac.uk

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yawn... science

"When researchers at the University of Stirling are pre-occupied with identifying the key features of the 'perfect comedy face', as reported in the Times, it is clear that some science is bonkers."

PAGE 4

n00ks and stuff, w00t

"Why have nuclear weapons? For a developing country, they represent a stab at rising to the global stage political stage, a chance to prove brilliant scientists, and an effective internal propaganda tool."

PAGE 5

Anton J Ownz0rs

"Every time I read your horoscopes they make me crack up so. More! Double horoscopes!" We're free Antoine, soon we will rule the world! Bwhaha! PAGE 7ISH



p0rky + b3ssy

"The new production at the Savoy Theatre seems to be billed as Ger-shwin for beginners."

PAGE 15

birds in dresses innit

"The Christmas season is officially upon us. Which means buying a pretty dress going out and getting drunk in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ."

PAGE 18

d1e n3rds ROFL

"What's worth taking a look at this season, and what should be left until the January sales of 2009? You can find our genre-by-genre run down of the best games for Christmas 2006 right here."

PAGE I'M NOT TELLING J00

bondage, hahaz

This week's Coffee Break stars the new, gadgetless, extremely metrosexual James Bond. Gone are the days when he would leave a woman gasping for breath in bed

PAGE 007 - I'D HIT IT

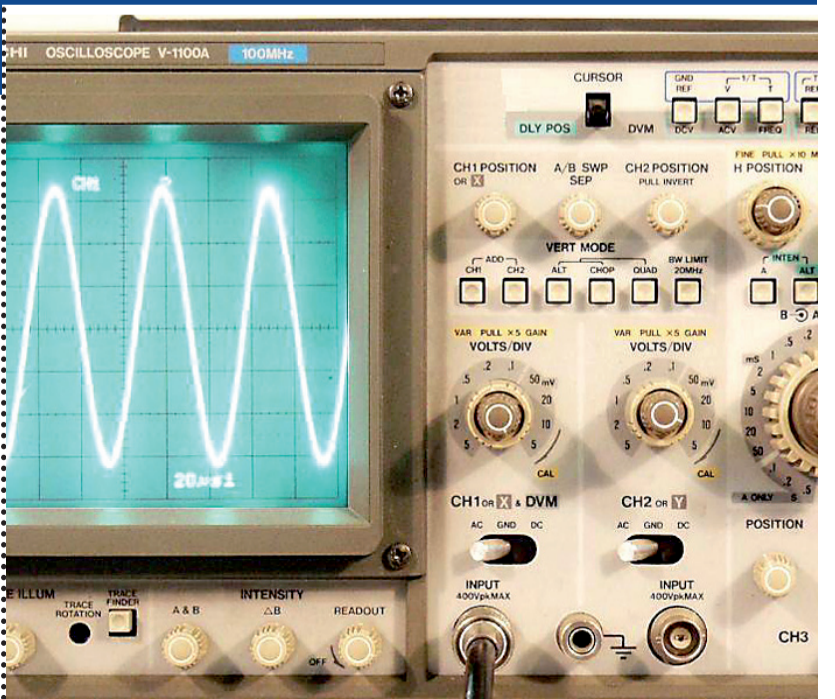


Image and word association you dumb moron
PAGE 27 - GO THERE IMMEDIATELY. YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT

LSE students halt talk by BP chief

A public lecture by Peter Sutherland, Chairman of BP and future Chairman of LSE, was halted by students angry over his appointment as LSE Chairman and alleged human rights abuses by Mr Sutherland's companies

David Ellis
News Editor

LSE students halted a public lecture to be given by Peter Sutherland, the Chairman of BP, Chairman of Goldman Sachs and UN Special Representative for Migration.

Mr. Sutherland was due to deliver a lecture on "Europe's Place in the World in the 21st Century". Just as the event was about to begin 15 students from LSE entered the hall and sat on the stage. They carried banners drawing attention to alleged environmental and human rights abuses of Mr. Sutherland.

The students obstructed Mr. Sutherland on his way to the podium and declared that they would stay until LSE held a student-wide referendum. Both LSE and Mr. Sutherland declined, and the event was promptly moved to a different venue. Student press and protestors were prevented from entering the new venue by LSE security, whilst Police and Community Sup-

port Officers removed protestors.

The anti-Sutherland camp claims that in his position as Chairman of BP, Mr. Sutherland has been responsible for environmental and human rights abuses. These are said to include the Prudhoe Bay Alaskan Oil Spill, where BP spilled 265,000 oil barrels after being fined in 2002 for illegally failing to install a leak detection system promptly; the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) Oil Pipeline, where BP's contracts have overridden social and environmental legislation and undermined human rights and similar infractions concerning pipelines in West Papua, Colombia and the North Sea.

The LSE Council comprises of lay, academic and student members, all of whom are elected to their positions. Its task is described as 'overall determination of strategy' at LSE. The role of the Court of Governors is to receive reports from the Council and the Director, to appoint Directors of the School and discuss major issues on the de-

velopment of the school.

The student campaign against Mr. Sutherland's appointment began after student governors raised objections at the Court of Governors meeting that ratified the appointment. Despite the objections raised a unanimous vote, in which student governors were allowed to vote, ushered Mr. Sutherland into the Court in March 2006. A statement from LSE said: "The Court of Governors approved Peter Sutherland's appointment as chair in 2008 by acclamation. Student representatives were on the Selection Committee, the Council and the Court, and consulted throughout.

"Many LSE governors or Council members are involved with other private and public businesses or organisations, and would often declare an interest to colleagues, but are still, of course, able to offer their views on whatever subject might arise."

Mr. Sutherland is expected to take over as Chairman in January 2008. A term as Chairman lasts three years after which a second term is possible. The current Chair, Lord Grabiner, has been exceptional in the position and has therefore been granted three terms. His third term is due to end in December 2007 when Peter Sutherland shall succeed him.

Howard Davies, Director of LSE, said: "My academic colleagues and I are delighted that Peter Sutherland has agreed to join us and, in time, to take on the Chairmanship of the School. His background in public policy and his business and international interests match the LSE's profile remarkably well. We look forward to the School continuing to prosper under his leadership."

A petition was started immediately after the appointment was made public and prominent student representatives voiced concerns. The protestors aim to force Mr. Sutherland to decline the Chair.

A spokesperson for the students said: "Many students are dismayed at this appointment and there is a



Students from LSE climb on the stage, interrupting the lecture

broad coalition that want to make it clear that we do not want someone with Sutherland's abysmal track record of human rights and environmental abuses to be the figurehead of our university.

LSE is famed for its commitment to social justice and human rights and this appointment contradicts our founding aims and ethos. LSE students protested over the appointment of a director associated with racial segregation in the 1960's so similarly we are now protesting against someone associated with environmental degradation and human rights abuses."

Mr. Sutherland also has a formidable reputation in business; he has previously held the positions of Competition Commissioner for the EU and Director General of the World Trade Organisation. Some students fear this will adopt a pro-business stance including measures such as raising the cap on tuition fees.

A student spokesperson said: "We also see it as another clear indication that the School is embracing an increasingly marketised perspective and increase tuition fees even more. Our aim was to make it clear to Sutherland and the School that students oppose his appointment and the way it was made, given that LSE has not listened to us. The appointment was railroaded through without any acknowledgement of our concerns. Tonight we forced them to listen to us and we hope they will take notice."

James Caspell, a student representative on LSE Council said: "LSE used to be the home of social democracy, whereas now its business links are getting stronger and this sends a negative message to students who have not yet applied but are put off by LSE's increasingly marketised approach to social sciences."



Police were called, who swiftly removed the protestors

Babar Ahmed loses fight to avoid extradition

Former IC staff member loses final appeal against his extradition to the US for "running terrorist websites"

Andy Sykes

A former employee of the College has lost his legal fight to avoid being extradited to the US on terror charges.

Babar Ahmed, who worked in Mechanical Engineering, was arrested in August 2004 on charges of setting up and administering websites that were allegedly used to raise money to train Taliban fighters and Chechen rebels, as well as printing material that praised 'holy war' and incited murder.

Mr Ahmed's supporters claim that after being arrested, he was "brutally assaulted" by officers from the Metropolitan Police, and was later released without charge. They also criticise the current ex-

tradition treaty between the UK and the US that allows the US to request extradition of a person in UK custody without the need to prevent the available evidence to a UK court for consideration. A number of British civil rights groups have also attacked the treaty for similar reasons.

Mr Ahmed's appeal was rejected on the grounds that it could not be proved that he would be treated unfairly should he be extradited to the US. There has been widespread outcry at the US government's use of "extraordinary rendition" and allegations of torture authorised by officials within Bush's administration.

His case was ruled on at the same time as that of Haroon Aswat, who

has been accused of setting up a camp to train terrorists to fight in Afghanistan. He has also been linked by US authorities to the infamous radical cleric, Abu Hamza. US officials claim that the two plotted to set up what they call a "jihad training camp" in the state of Oregon.

The only legal route left for Mr Ahmed, Mr Aswat and their supporters is to appeal to the House of Lords. The judges ruling on the case are currently sitting to discuss whether this appeal will be allowed.

The Union currently has a policy of supporting Mr Ahmed, passed at Council in December 2004 under controversial circumstances and allegations of intimidation.



Supporters of Babar Ahmed protesting in Central London

Scientific journalism is “boring”

Does science in the media over-hype its results too much and has the real meaning of research been lost?



Colin Barras

Ben Goldacre, the Guardian's Bad Science columnist, is unhappy. We know because he told us so, at great length, in that newspaper last year. The science reported in the media is “simplistic, boring, or just plain wrong.” Journalists gloss over the scientific method behind new research (too boring) and instead choose to over-emphasise the ‘groundbreaking’ conclusions. This isn't how it was supposed to be! But are Goldacre's concerns substantiated, or is his complaint no more than a sanctimonious rant at the reporters who fight to spread the word of science? I spent a week behind the Times (and the Independent and Guardian newspapers) to find out.

Who better to ask for an assessment of science journalism than the scientists whose work is reported? “Wherever the press folks interviewed the involved scientists and tried to present a balanced view, the coverage was decent,” Professor Swaroop, of the University of Michigan, told me. He was referring to the media response to a paper he co-authored that appeared in *Nature* early in November. That paper detailed the successful transplantation of precursor cells into the damaged retina of a blind mouse. The precursor cells integrated and developed within the damaged retina. To put it crudely, the procedure allowed blind mice to regain their vision.

I'm not a cell biologist, and until reading this research I didn't know that ‘precursor cells’ are slightly more advanced than ‘stem cells’. I doubt that the science journalists at the Times, Independent and Guardian were aware of this distinction either. But all of these writers recognised that this distinction was crucial to the researcher's success (because earlier attempts to integrate stem cells into the damaged retina were unsuccessful). It's because I read these newspaper reports that I now know what a ‘precursor cell’ is.

Goldacre suggests that science journalists choose to dispense with just this kind of information in favour of over-promoting the implications of the research. “Some of what I saw was...hype,” admits Professor Swaroop. But from which quarter did this hype issue? “We are now confident that this is the avenue to pursue to uncover ways of restoring vision to thousands who have lost their sight,” said Dr Robert MacLaren, one of Professor Swaroop's colleagues, in the Guardian. In that article, the voice of caution came from outside the science community: “It is important not to raise the hopes of people who have lost their sight until the results of human trials become available,” said a RNIB spokeswoman.

In fact, while scientists are keen to distance themselves from hype, most realise that a little hype can be a good thing. In the 1980s, interferon was hailed in the media as a miracle cure for cancer. When the *New York Times* began to publish reports that were more cautious about its efficacy, it was criticised by scientists who felt that such reporting could undermine public support for interferon research.

Goldacre complains that science is too often portrayed as “bonkers and irrelevant.” When researchers at the University of Stirling are pre-occupied with identifying the key features of the ‘perfect comedy face’, as reported in the Times, it is clear that some science is bonkers, whether Goldacre cares to admit it or not. Perhaps Goldacre fears that scientific investigation of this calibre damages the public image of science.

But the reality of the situation is that the public image of science is in no need of protection. There's plenty of evidence that science is trusted and respected. And it's the journalists, the source of Goldacre's ire, who do most to encourage this respect. Alok Jha writes in the Guardian, the same paper in which Goldacre vented his spleen. Jha is a journalist who fights for science rather than against it: “The biggest threat to science doesn't

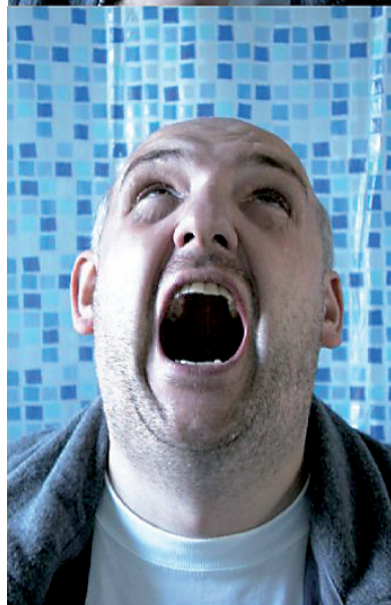
come from...the extremist who burns down farms in solidarity with research animals. It comes from those [in Government] who claim to respect the way science creates knowledge, but who misinterpret, distort or ignore that knowledge.” It's disingenuous for Goldacre to ignore the positive effects that the media reporting of science can bring.

Although Goldacre likes to imagine that scientists are misrepresented in the media, many scientists, including Goldacre himself, are regularly given column inches to peddle their own agenda. Writing in the Times, Dr Stephen Minger, director of the stem cell laboratory at Kings College London, put the case for his own research programme: “We are not mad scientists trying to play God, just scientists seeking a solution to the problem of creating cloned embryonic stem cells by ‘therapeutic cloning’. This, we hope,

will lead to new treatments for neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.”

This brings to mind the words of Neal Lane, former director of the National Science Foundation: “Scientists [must] sell themselves to the public to ensure that science retains both public support and the funding that goes with it.” This was clearly Dr Minger's motivation too. After making the case for the necessity of his research programme, he's quick to remind us, the public, that the success of his research depends on successful grant applications to the HFEA.

It should be clear that the manner in which science is reported in the press is far more complex than Goldacre suggests. So, how best to interpret Goldacre's polemic? Paradoxically, it is perhaps that polemic, and not science journalism, that is “simplistic, boring [and] just plain wrong.”



Are these perfect comedy faces? Is science portrayed as too “bonkers” in the media today?

Imperial College
London

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Iraq's diplomatic disaster

Omar Hashmi
Politics Editor

Since the recent American mid-term elections, the debate on Iraq's future has been attracting progressively more attention. Every option for the future of foreign troops in the war torn country has been considered. From immediate withdrawal, to "phased redeployment", be it phased withdrawal or increase of troops, as well as approaches to regional diplomatic initiatives to secure the non-interference of regional powers, is being touted as the wise and prescient course.

Last week, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during talks with the Iraqi president that US troops must leave Iraq if security is to be restored. In an effort to re-establish local diplomatic ties, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, visited the neighbouring power as the first Iraqi head of state to visit Tehran in almost four decades. This came after a recent summit meeting between Iraqi President Jalal Talabani and Syrian President Bashar Al Assad. In an ironic twist of events, it seems that the US is considering to pursue regional security in exchange for co-operation from the previous main "axis of evil" powers. This may involve ceasing the threat of UN sanctions due to objections to Uranium refinement for Iran, as well as losing some heat from the investigation behind the murder of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri of Lebanon, as well as allegations off funding terror.

In his recent visit to Pakistan, the Prime Minister Tony Blair was dogged by continuing criticism of



American soldiers in front of a defaced mural of Saddam Hussein

British policy in Iraq. His admission that the violence since the fall of Saddam Hussein was "a disaster" confirms what many have been arguing for nearly two years.

The claim was made in an interview with the Arabic television station Al-Jazeera in a programme hosted by Sir David Frost where he questioned Tony Blair about the West's intervention in Iraq had "so far been pretty much of a disaster". The Prime Minister replied: "It has, but you see, what I say to people is why is it difficult in Iraq?... It's not difficult because of some accident in planning, it's difficult because there's a deliberate strategy - al-Qaeda with Sunni insurgents on one hand, Iranian-backed elements with Shia militias on the other - to create a situation in which the will of the majority for peace is

displaced by the will of the minority for war."

Opposition MPs, and relatives of British soldiers killed since the 2003 invasion, seized on the comment as evidence that the Prime Minister had finally accepted that his strategy in the Middle Eastern state had failed. Such comments fly in the face of the many statements and remarks, which have been expressed, by both Downing Street and the Whitehouse that democracy is working and Iraq will soon be in place to take over its security.

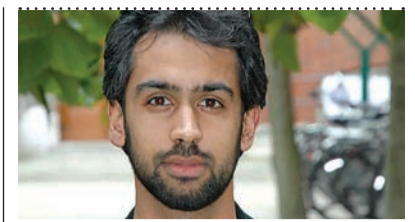
But a Downing Street spokeswoman insisted Mr Blair did not believe the violence in Iraq had been a disaster. "He was simply acknowledging the question in a polite way before going on to explain his view," she said. "To portray it as some kind of admission is completely

disingenuous."

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Menzies Campbell said the Prime Minister should now apologise for his actions. He added: "At long last the enormity of the decision to take military action against Iraq is being accepted by the Prime Minister. It could hardly be otherwise as the failure of strategy becomes so clear."

Rose Gentle, 42, from Glasgow, whose 19-year-old soldier son Gordon was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol in Basra in 2004, echoed these criticisms. The mother-of-three, a member of Military Families Against the Iraq War, said: "He's made a fool of himself and he may have admitted the war was a disaster, but he is still too arrogant to take any blame. This war should never have happened anyway."

Across the Atlantic the recent seizure of power by the democrats of both chambers in the mid-term elections is widely seen as a referendum on Bush's policy of Iraq. In a post-election news conference, George Bush accepted that the voters "registered their displeasure" at the way Iraq had gone wrong. The President mentioned the Iraq Study Group, under his father's Secretary of State James Baker, several times. He is to meet it soon and perhaps was hinting that he will take the Group's recommendations seriously. Prior to the election defeat the neo-con policy of full spectrum domination hollowed out the sound of alternatives, however, the realists have gained prominence with the mid-term victory and a new set of policies well may be on the horizon.



Omar Hashmi
Politics Editor

I am somewhat concerned this week why politics has descended into nothing but nukes, religion and war! How interesting it is that after the years of bloodshed in Iraq, the Bush administration is being diplomatically forced into being helped by powers it would rather not deal with. To what extent are leaders of different nations to trust each other? In the case of Iraq it seems that if it is left on its own, it will either tear itself apart from the inside or be torn from an external source.

It would be worth the political ease for the US to give Iran some slack and allow monitored uranium processing. No power is more responsible than the next when it comes to the power of total global destruction. However, many still view Iran as an untrustworthy power, whose views may be neo-expansionist in the immediate region that it can affect. Also, it is not known how destabilised the region will be if any regional power starts to abuse its obligations.

My hunch is that Iran and Syria could do a damn good job of stopping the immediate blood shed as well as maintaining some regional stability. Political tricks, betrayals and assassinations aside, it is (unfortunately) better to have all the bickering tyrannical powers involved rather than just one.

Trident update

Chen Jimeng

What is the big deal about Trident? As the United Kingdom's sole nuclear deterrent, we have a right to maintain it; to keep it running and ready to strike. Security is at the top of Britain's agenda; supporting America in a war crumbling at its foundations and seeping into the glue that binds together Labour has attracted the worlds 'terrorists', with Bush and Blair the protagonists. And that doesn't look like its going to stop. Blair has already initiated plans for a successor, although information is sparse.

In all, the British trident comprises four vanguard class submarines, each carrying approximately 48 trident missiles, topped off with nuclear warheads. These cold war relics occupy the oceans in undisclosed locations; a symbol of the United Kingdom lurking in the corner of any protagonist's eye. Official numbers remain confidential, but conservative estimates put Britain's nuclear arsenal at around 200 missiles. Compare that to the US arsenal of approximately 5000 warheads. But then again, the Americans are there to defend the world against derivations of Marx's ideology; protecting freedom and liberating nations. They need effective weapons and deterrents.

This is from a country that has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. America is taking steps



A Trident missile launch

to halve its arsenal, but 2500 warheads overshadows that of North Korea's and China's, countries that pose threats to America and American allies. The American nuclear weapons are a negotiation tool that cannot be neglected, arguably used to suppress the nuclear ambitions of countries like Iran.

Why have nuclear weapons in the first place? For a developing country, they represent a stab at rising to the global stage political stage, a chance to prove brilliant scientists, and an effective internal propaganda tool. The irony is that, in Britain, the nuclear weapons program is one that is looked on with disdain.

So do we actually really need Trident? As a symbol that is turning from one of power into one of tyranny amid fears of a global 'nuclear meltdown', maybe it is time to reassess our nuclear arsenal. Do we need a replacement nuclear deterrent once trident, a historical relic, has lived its life? Or is it time we grew out of nuclear weaponry altogether?

Attack of the creationists

I opened up BBC News today with some interest to discover that - praise be! - the Creationism lobby are starting a fresh attack on this nation's education. A group going along the name of "Truth in Science" have been sending out teaching packs including a manual and two DVD's (although I bet that they're nowhere near as good as 'Casino Royale') to all secondary schools in the country, which contain material promoting intelligent design as an alternative theory to evolution. Worryingly enough, 59 schools have written back saying that they will teach the material in class.

If you have a gander at their website (www.truthinscience.org.uk) anyone with any awareness can sense that something fishy is going on. We are told first that Truth in Science aims to "promote good science education in the UK", with "initial focus...on the origin of life and its diversity"; despite this rationale this phrasing nestles alongside a quote calling Darwinism "nihilistic". (Isn't this choice of words ironic considering Darwinism concerns the study of life? Just me then.)

Moving on to the board of governors, great lengths are undertaken to show off the academic background of the governor board; however this board is also host to Willis B. Metcalfe ("A businessman with a long career in agriculture and publishing evangelical Christian



Truth In Science: Creationists aiming to promote "good science"

literature in several languages"), Maurice Roberts ("Minister of the Inverness congregation of the Free Church of Scotland") and Gerard A. Chrispin ("directs Daylight Christian Prison Trust"). I'll leave you to make your own punch-line here.

But it is scientific, really! The website also contains "Evidence for Evolution" (Nurse! The screens!), analysing such famous cases as "Darwin's Finches", which offered the following conclusion: "They are a good example of micro-evolution...This study does not give evidence for macro-evolution" and how animals came about from "simple single-celled ancestors". (Read: "We are not monkeys!") Notice however they do not link to Darwin's ideas on how complex organs, such as eyes, evolved via small mutations from simple skin-based receptors barely able to distinguish colours to the massive machine we use to see with today. (Isn't that's why it's called evolution?)

How could the situation have got so dire? Surely major politicians

would have stood up to this sort of baseless meddling? Erm, not quite. Boris Johnson (he of floppy-haired fame) in responding to a creationist video sent to him called the debate 'quite right' and derided the "wider agenda, which seeks to replace the Judeo-Christian beliefs that underpin society with secularism" and is, apparently, a product of "political correctness". Indeed, Darwin himself was famous for reading the Independent and eating Muesli for breakfast. Even our dear leader, Tony Blair, has no beef with the teaching of creationism; in an interview he praised a 'diverse school system', which will "deliver better results for our children".

My faith (oh, the pun) in the system is still present mind; as I was wrapping this piece up news emerged that Richard Dawkins, every Imperial student's pin-up, is to launch a counter-think tank to "Prevent pseudo-science taking over in schools" and to subsidise buying of scientific material to be used in schools. Hallelujah!

Comment & Opinion

Extremism vs moderation?

Pierluigi Frison continues the debate on interpretations of historical events in reply to Saad Raja's piece in last week's *Felix* (Issue 1365)



Pierluigi Frison

"I believe views like that of Saad Raja are a perfect microcosm of the frictions between the western and Muslim people"

I am shaken by the article of Saad Raja in last week's issue of *Felix*, celebrating the conquest of Constantinople. According to him, with the consent of the European nations (who despised the brutal dictatorship of Constantine XI), the divinely inspired Muslim troops freed the city from the tyrannical grip of the Byzantine Emperor and established a fair and just regime. This interpretation of history is by my understanding; clearly ridiculous, completely biased and according to most of the world's historians, wrong. I suggest to all the readers to get informed by reading any version of the facts that is neither bias from the point of view of the conqueror nor the conquered.

When I read Saad's article I was outraged. In my opinion, confirms the worst stereotypes of the warmongering, completely biased Muslims. I feel it is my duty, in light of today's conflicts, to stand up against this view type. I believe views like that of Saad Raja are a perfect microcosm of the frictions between the western and Muslim people.

And I quote: "This is why 'Isoc' must be encouraged in their efforts to highlight humanity's struggle against tyranny and not bow down to the pressures of unqualified pseudo historians". It should be clear to EVERYBODY that especially in the Middle Ages, troops from every part of the world committed massacres when conquering cities. From historical records it is shown that the Ottoman armies established dictatorship in the city of Constantinople; other conquests included

modern Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Ex-Yugoslavia, Hungary and so on.... The Orthodox Christian church of the Holy Wisdom (the symbol of Istanbul) was turned into a Mosque, parts of the population were enslaved, raped, and murdered (it is true however that normally invading armies did much worse, Mehmet II however, did not want to destroy his new capital).

Mr. Raja states that the Byzantine Empire helped the crusaders in conquering parts of the Middle East. But I would like to stress that the Muslim armies commanded by Mohammed himself and his successors conquered and completely colonised the Christian Kingdoms of today's North Africa (e.g. the Arab Republic of Egypt) and Middle East. 'How could a prophesized Muslim army behave in such a manner?'

In reference to the passage about the influx of people to the newly conquered Constantinople, it is common belief that many important groups of people fled the new regime, especially the educated people. The scientists for example fled the country to pass on their teachings to the west. Many immigrated to Italy, and with their knowledge helped to cause the Renaissance.

The west has condemned the Crusades, in fact the Pope has apologised for it, but not because it was an act of unjustified imperialism, but because it is unjust to kill people for religious causes. We need to be peaceful and respect each other. Educated Muslims today have a duty to be careful and to TEACH respect.

European countries and espe-

cially Britain (with the largest Empire in the world) now condemn Imperialism because they supplanted undemocratic regimes in weaker countries and replaced them with other undemocratic regimes, leeching the raw materials of the conquered lands. We do however; celebrate historical events like the victory of WWII by the allies. On that occasion, democratic countries such as the US and the UK freed Europe and Asia from the grip of military dictatorships such as Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy. Those battles brought democracy back to people like me; and are just to celebrate. I don't think I would have been able to come and study here if Italy was still a Fascist country. Mr. Raja, do you really think that the Ottoman Sultanate brought freedom and democracy to the people of Constantinople? Perhaps you should choose medieval history as a humanities course here at Imperial. I agree with Samuel Lynas, what the Islamic society has done could be the same as celebrating the conquest of India by a British Empire society. It can be argued that this event was a good thing; schools and infrastructure were built and Hindus and Muslims weren't forced to convert to Christianity. Yet we condemn what happened.

Last week's article demonstrates that aggressive Muslims are everywhere, even at the institute of excellence that is Imperial. That article shows that there are people around us who don't believe in general morality. It is people like you, Mr. Raja, who perhaps unknowingly encourage terrorism worldwide.

Halls watch



Warden
Chris Roberts

I'm the Warden at Holbein and Willis Jackson Halls - but rather than just tell you about my Hall, I thought I'd use my column space to talk about how Halls have changed during my time here.

I'm lucky enough to have seen Halls from all sides: as a student, Hall Senior (aka re-app), subwarden, asst. warden and finally subwarden. Obviously Halls has changed a great deal since I came to university twelve years ago, subsisting solely on Fray Bentos pies and Stella Artois for my first year.

Certainly the accommodation needs of students have changed - I started Uni at a time when grants were still available, and cheap accommodation was an important factor. However, as a warden I'm now often asked about the availability of single and ensuite rooms in Hall. The focus seems to have shifted from affordability to comfort.

Also, Hall events often used to be 'bargain basement' affairs. Hall parties were very popular, with a vat of flat pink liquid optimistically called punch being served, whilst we satisfied the requirement for fancy dress by wrapping ourselves head-to-toe in toilet paper. Of course it's a given that these events still take place, but the diversity of our events has increased dramatically. We're more likely now to be organising events like a trip to a London superclub, a day out to Bruges or a Halal meal to celebrate Eid. Halls culture has benefited immensely from the increased diversity of residents - it's an excellent chance to experience other cultures.

Given that students' needs are always changing, wardening teams rely on our Hall Seniors to steer us towards what our residents want. If your hall isn't organising events that appeal to you, or you want different facilities, make sure that you're letting the wardening team know by raising it with us. We rely on you to get things right. Better still, get involved! The wardening team can help you organise an event and may even be able to help with a subsidy....

Although Halls have changed considerably since my arrival, I'm pleased to say that the fundamentals are still the same. Halls provide a unique community atmosphere which I still very much enjoy being a part of.

Should we fear the veil or tolerate it?



Adil Hussain

To ban the veil or not to ban the veil? That is the question that many European nations (and British universities!) have unfortunately got themselves bogged down tackling. Last week I attended a much needed open debate in my area of residency (East London) with regards to this issue. Whilst there were no famous figures in attendance, what the discussion did have was common folk representing a wide spectrum of the community sharing basic concerns. It was an event that any multi-cultural society would be envious of; a discussion in which many misunderstandings, fears and prejudices came to light to be dispelled for good.

One old lady, for example, stood up, faced a veiled woman and made an honest remark that epitomised the feelings of many in the room, "I have lived in this area for seventy years and the day your types turned up I was terribly shocked... You must really frighten kids that pass you. How they do not turn and run a mile I do not understand."

However, the reality of it, as covered in the discussion, is far simpler to understand than our fears will have us believe. Why would an inno-

"Is it fair to differentiate between a veiled woman and a hooded bandanaed teen?"

cent child, not yet subjected to the prejudices and ill-founded beliefs of those around it, turn and flee at the sight of a simple black cloth? A young child knows that underneath the cloth is a person and people are understood through interaction.

As the discussion of fear continued, the issue of hoodies was raised,

"Is it fair to differentiate between a veiled woman and a hooded bandanaed teen?" Who better to answer this than the local priest conveniently sporting a hoodie in anticipation of this topic, "If I was coming towards you on the street dressed as I am today, would fear cause you to cross over? Not likely. What if it were a group of veiled women? Again, not likely. What if it were a gang of teens? The reality is, unlike hooded teens, hooded priests and veiled women do not have a history or reputation of street-crime and theft." Towards the end, a consensus began to take shape: A society forcefully dictating that women should not wear the veil cannot rightfully claim to be better than a society forcefully dictating that woman should wear the veil. And at this point, a comment was thrown out, "What about that man who has been held in prison for the last two years because he wants to walk around Britain naked?"

Funnily, the room silently agreed to let the comment go without response.

Wielding the mighty organ



Andy Sykes
Editor-in-chief

Last week, I told you a little story about a man called Ed Murrow. I also promised I wouldn't weigh in on the argument about Islam that's been raging within these very pages for the last few weeks. I lied.

My position, to clarify, is that of the true atheist. I do not believe in any form of supernatural power, whether it be the fartherly God of the Christians or the God-in-creation of the Deists like the Founding Fathers.

The truth is that you cannot argue with the religious. All religion is based on a set of axioms; for the non-technical (hah!) among you, these are unprovable rules whose truth you take for granted. These axioms are laid down in the holy texts, and all religious observance is derived from them. Atheists, on the other hand, have a totally different set of axioms, from which they derive their 'life rules' in a similar fashion. Without a common set of axioms, you cannot argue with another person, as you will always strike the bedrock of each other's arguments: the unprovable axioms.

The only way you can argue is if you choose to temporarily accept one another's axioms for the duration of the argument. That way, you can argue about the deriving of religious observance or 'life rules' with a common ground. And herein lies the rub; those with religious belief will often refuse to accept another's axioms, even temporarily, because they the added weight of the "divine word" behind them. In other words, because the axioms are taken directly from the holy texts, which are reckoned to be word of God, the axioms cannot be wrong, and so to discard them would be sheer fallacy. I'm not saying atheists are much better in this respect; some of the more militant anti-religionists would believe their axioms, though again unprovable, are completely correct.

Hence, the argument is nearly always completely meaningless. Alex, the Managing Editor, says that I'm being way too logical about it all, and reducing everything to derivations and axioms in a meaningless fashion. I disagree, though you may not. That is all I'll say on the matter, as I have no specific problem with Islam any more than I have problems with every religion that proports to be 'the real truth'.

Lastly, I do support the recent rumblings to reverse the smoking ban, at least in the Union bar. Those of you that know me outside this rag may realise that's for selfish reasons, but I think it prevents a happy medium between, on one hand, those that wish to eat without breathing fag ash, and those that crave nicotine.

And with that, I'm off to bemoan my personal troubles in the bar over a pint (oh, the fairer sex and their borderline psychopathic nature). Have a nice week.

felix

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Fun with John and Ron

Felix presents you with part of an exchange between our favourite comedy duo and their beautiful prize-winning pigeon known as Ted

"Wow, John! New tills at the Union! It's about time they ditched those archaic machines. I mean, manually adding up drinks prices?! That's so risky; what if they don't carry the one? And talk about slow. Imperial College students shouldn't be expected to cope with that much pressure; what if someone orders a round? Of different beverages?! God forbid they throw a pie or packet of nuts in that order as well. How will they cope?"

"I know, Ron, me old mate "one-for-the-road-skip"! Let's replace them with computers. Ones that run off Windows. We can't do that? Not technologically viable to replace humans with robots just yet? Fiddlesticks. How's about buying some EPOS tills? Yeah that will make everything a lot better. I mean, adding up drinks prices in your head how 2005."

"Great idea John, have you used one before? Oh well, I'm sure we'll find someone who has. Instead of adding prices up in their head they could make the customers wait whilst they trawl through multiple menu pages to find the drink they want then punch it in. Military precision! Why didn't I think of this before? But how long do you think the customers would have to wait? We have to justify the £20k price tag."

"Gee wizz, you're right. Well how's about we give the bar plenty of time to train their staff in their use over summer? That way when the freshers move in on Saturday 30 September 2006 it will all be ready to use!" exclaims John.

"So the Friday before then?" asks Ron.

"Sounds good. What do you think Ted, my prize winning pigeon?"

"*SQUAWK*" responds Ted.

"So it is agreed, John, we'll make

them use these tills. That will improve 'stuff' around the bar. But what if it crashes; isn't a Windows based system unstable?"

"No, Ron, my slap-headed friend, Windows will never crash. I mean, come on, what do you expect? That the till in the Union bar will crash 15 minutes before the close of service on the first night the freshers arrive? Don't be silly, or else I will have to take your army toys away."

"Please, John, anything but that. I wanna play soldiers some more. But how can we justify the vast spending? Do we have this sort of money?"

"Indubitably, my good man. We'll just get rid of some of the fat from here or there. Or we can offer them less pay."

"You mean demote them?"

"No Ron! Bad, bad Ron! We don't use that word here. Its not a demotion. We'll offer them the job as part of the ongoing "Union Restructuring" to better serve the students and get my name mentioned."

"*SQUAWK*" Ted interrupts.

"What's that, Ted?" asks John. "You think that some of the bar staff might be upset about that? The old managers were the best thing the bar had going for it? Ha! I have a steel pot in the union bar. That makes me better than any manager."

"Too true and silly buggers, John! Besides, they aren't allowed to have an opinion. It says so in the staff-student protocol. Why, just the other day I humiliated one of the serfs whilst he was trying to change the TV station. I owned him! Yeeeeeeeah!"

"Err Ron, you might want to put your shirt back on; it's only midday, after all. We'll get to that later. But you may be right, Ted, my dear feral pigeon. We don't want the part time staff revolting



Ted, the feral pigeon, yesterday

on us now. After all, I'd drink there but I wouldn't trust any of them or say thank you at any time to them."

"Well John, why don't you just ignore them? Its worked for me. Hide behind our beloved staff-student protocol. Whilst we push pencils in these offices, they are only on the front line at minimum wage. I don't respond to anyone who doesn't earn above £7 an hour."

"What if all the old bar staff walk out, Ron? Won't we be left with amateur bar staff that would likely waste more money than we save?"

"You let me and my feather tickler worry about that. Besides, I wholly consider them replaceable. What are one or two ants in my vast army of prawns?"

"I like working with you, Ron. In fact, I like the way the light shines off your head."

"And I, too, like the fact that you haven't started to shave yet, John."

"Look away now, Ted, your Uncle Ron and I have some important things to do in my office."

As overheard by Windy Forest.

Felix says: "Bring back smoking!"



Stephen Brown
Comment Editor

Last week I had the pleasure of entertaining my cousin. It's always nice to hear from family and I was delighted to receive a call from him asking if I'd like to meet him for a drink in our Union once his meeting was finished. Catching up with him over a few beers should have been the perfect way to end what had been a very stressful week. All was well until he reached into his pocket and produced a packet of cigarettes. I recoiled in horror. "You can't smoke in here" I shrieked as he struck a match. I went on to inform him that if he wished to smoke he would have to leave the building.

He exclaimed "What? That's absolutely bonkers! I've been working hard all day and now you're saying that im not allowed a fag to accompany my pint?

It's bad enough back home in Scotland that they wont let me light up anywhere. I'd expect that people at a prestigious institution such as Imperial to have a slightly more enlightened view. What sort of wankers run this place?"

I went on to explain that last year Union Council voted to ban smoking and then followed up with some mutterings about "health Nazis" and "nannying." "Ah Mr Brown, you're just another angry smoker who thinks it's acceptable to belch out your poisonous fumes," I hear you cry. Not true, im afraid. You could probably count the number of cigarettes i've smoked in my entire life without taking your socks off. Aside from the libertarian argument about it being unfitting for our elected "rulers" to pass judgement on our personal habits, the reason that I am in wholehearted agreement with my nicotine addicted cousin was summed up that Friday evening, its just plain annoying.

I find it very frustrating that every time im out with my friends that some of them keep bugging off to feed their addiction. I am fully aware that there may be dangers associated with sitting with smokers. Life is all about taking calculated risks. Given the somewhat flimsy evidence as to the effects of passive smoking I have decided that although it may not be good for me I think that having some decent, uninterrupted banter with my mates is a benefit

which outweighs the negative effects. Im prepared to set aside my dislike of inhaling second hand smoke in return for not having to see some of my friends leave the table at regular intervals. In short, the ban disrupts the atmosphere and detracts from a good night out. The point is that it should be my choice as to how seriously I take the scaremongering from health fascists, not anyone elses.

At the end of the day people are voting with their feet. The Queens Arms have been doing a roaring trade ever since ICU banned smoking. Where are all the hordes of oh-so disgusted non-smokers who didn't previously attend to make up for the lost custom? Most of the people who use the bars would still go regardless but a minority have been driven out as a result of mindless political persecution.

Some might argue that even if we scrap the ban it wont make much difference as the government have plans for a nationwide ban. I've not read very much on this proposal recently so i'd be prepared to wager that it is not one of their pressing priorities and is destined for the long grass. Felix wants to scrap the ban to end the harassment of a minority of our students. I know smoking is a bit minging, but I would rather go to the pub with the addicts as they're a hell of a lot more fun than people who support these illiberal measures.

Letters to the Editor

Islam outrage, new clubs, and NUS

It seems you're an angry little lot when you're all riled up about something; here are your spleens, vented

In response to Samuel Lynas' article about Islam

Dear Andy,

It was quite depressing to read the article "Islam, Violence and the Empires" (*Felix* 1364), which terribly misrepresents the ICU Islamic Society. I'm sure you would have received e-mails about this, but I would just like to make it known that Samuel Lynas did not approach the Islamic Society at all when writing his article.

As we were not even given the opportunity of answering his questions it would seem that Mr Lynas set out to write an unbalanced article from the start.

This may be standard practice for certain types of newspaper, but I would like to think that the student newspaper of one of the best universities in the world could do slightly better. Indeed, there are plenty of opportunities on campus to talk to your average Muslim and find out what we believe, and what our views and opinions are on current affairs as well as history. The Islamic Society and all its events are open to everyone.

We have our Friday prayer and sermon in the Union Building at lunchtime. Our prayer room is at the basement of 9 Prince's Gardens. Just before the prayer room we have a 'doss room' where we sit, chill and discuss things.

If Samuel Lynas really wants to "ask questions", perhaps he should actually talk to the Islamic Society, or even e-mail us, and ask those questions. That would enable him to write a balanced article. To write an article insinuating that the Islamic Society is extremist seems a very

strange way of asking questions, especially considering the fact that the Islamic Society is within such easy reach.

Lynas says, "I admit that it is unsettling to ask these questions." No, Samuel, we're used to them. "But it is suicidal not to ask them." So why didn't he ask us?

Yours faithfully,
Mohammed Marikar
ICU Islamic Society

Dear Andy,

I have read the article on the Islamic website. I read it for what it was: a piece of historical information concerning the life of a competent leader and general.

I would like to thank Samuel Lynas for making me go to the website and read the article under contention. While I was doing so, I read a few other articles on Islamic history and was amazed to find a totally alien aspect to Islam and its development throughout history.

It made me realize how far it is from being the "psychotic death-cult" that the modern media has convinced people like Mr Lynas to believe.

Thank you, Islamic Society, for putting such articles of history on your website. They may be biased but that's better than having hundreds of clubs and societies with no place to find such historical information coming from a voice within Imperial College students.

While you're at it, Mr Lynas, next time you go to Trafalgar Square to visit all the statues of British generals, please write an article on how some people (like you) can be foolish enough to think that the statues are a celebration of violence and mass slaughter.

Regards,
Zirgham Afridi

Samuel Lynas replies,

Mr. Afridi's guess about the provenance of my low opinion of Islam is sadly mistaken. Does he really believe that the only reason Islam generates more antipathy and fear than Buddhism is some unexplained media bias? Would that it were!

As for Mr. Marikar's puzzlement that I failed to pose these questions directly to the Islamic Society, I must inform him that they were not addressed to the Islamic Society. Rather, they were addressed to those non-Muslims who are starting to wake up to the danger that Islam represents to this country but have, as yet, an unclear grasp of the magnitude of the problem.

I flattered myself that the Muslim response to my article was something I could predict, and Mr Raja's article in last week's Felix did nothing to disabuse me of this notion. It is a perfect example of Muslim apologetics, and makes my point for me quite succinctly. Perhaps next week Mr. Raja could explain away the millennia of slaughter, enslavement, rape, pillage, and genocide committed by Muslims in the Indian sub-continent, Africa, Spain, the Balkans, the Middle East, Turkey, Central Asia, and the Mediterranean Basin. The more people like him write, the less people like me need to.

In closing, let me say how encouraging it is that the stigma previously attached to criticism of Islam, the religion of peace, tolerance, and fluffy animals, has disappeared so completely. As the Muslim population of the UK grows, it will become bolder still in its insistence that we must adopt the dictates of a mentally ill 7th-century Arabian merchant. Pointed criticisms of this totalitarian political system masquerading as a religion are more necessary than ever. Long may they continue.



Any excuse to print this picture again; the impounding of Guildsheet

Guildsheet, the NUS campaigns and fools

Dear Andy,

In the article titled "NUS farce continues" (*Felix* 1364), it is stated that the Returning Officer for the NUS Referendum, Jon Matthews, was "approached by the 'Yes' campaign with concerns over conspiracy in the ranks of the 'No' campaign". It is mentioned that the leader of the 'No' campaign is the President of the same faculty union that published the offending paper, presumably implying that the CGCU President could have influenced Guildsheet editor's behaviour. Is this the same 'Yes' campaign who can name amongst their ranks a person who was not only, as your newspaper reminds us, Guildsheet editor, but also a former CGCU President and Chairman himself? In fact, it almost seems to me that the only position that this former CGCU barbershop quartet singer has never achieved within said union is that of Welfare Officer, having been defeated way back when.

It must be pretty galling for the pro-NUS group not to have thought of advertising in Guildsheet despite having such an illustrious veteran of CGCU and Union politics. It all just sounds like sour grapes from the join-US group.

Regards,
Tim Hoult
Mech Eng IV

PS In case it's assumed this is an attack on the 'Yes' campaign by a fervent 'No' man, I'd hasten to add that it must be equally degrading for a political movement to resort to naming themselves after the opening at the lower end of the alimentary canal in a vain attempt to disturb the student body out of their political apathy and vote.

Why is the library incredibly hot in winter?

Dear Andy,

Can you please explain to me why, whilst sitting at a computer on the second floor of the Central Library in a t-shirt on a cold winter's day, I am dripping with sweat? It's not because of an essay deadline, I can assure you! Am I really the only person at Imperial who finds the temperature of the Library faintly ridiculous?

It's certainly not conducive to work! As a leading scientific institution shouldn't we be setting an example by saving energy? Is there no environmental policy that we should be abiding by? More pertinently, can't we design buildings with windows?

Why is it so f**king hot? I'd carry on with the rage but this heat is sending me to sleep; a potential reason for the apathy around campus, perhaps?

Yours, clammy and 'orrible,
Darryl Croft

Andy Sykes replies,

The library has been a roasting oven for a number of years; as long as I can remember, anyway. A quick straw poll of the Felix office seems to suggest that Level 5 of the library is so hot because a) the College is conducting secret experiments on xenomorphs and requires tropical conditions to ensure the creatures' wellbeing, b) that there's a gateway to hell in the far cubicle of the gent's toilets, and despite the librarians' best efforts to counter the ancient evil, it still heats the surrounding air to several hundred degrees, or c) the library is built on an Indian... sorry, Native American burial ground.



Millions of pilgrims descend on Mecca; every able-bodied Muslim is supposed to travel to Mecca once

Chem Eng chemical spill evacuation

Dear Andy,

I am an Aeronautics postgrad who works in office 151 of the Roderic Hill Building. Our office's windows happen to open out onto the courtyard where the chemical spill happened a few weeks ago. I take issue with the fact that the Head of Security believes everything was handled well.

On the day of the incident, there were three of us sitting in our office, when a fourth colleague walked in. He had been told to evacuate his office (3rd floor of the Aeronautics Department ACE extension) and was told that "around the corner" was safe.

So, he came to our office. After 2pm (the spill happened at 12.30), one of our department's technicians came by and advised us that "it may be wise to close our windows." It was at this point that we found out that the spill was literally directly outside and was creating fumes. We decided of our own accord to leave the building. At no point were we told to evacuate. We left our office quite a long time after the Chem Eng building had been evacuated.

The following are the experiences of colleagues:

- In the office next door which has

windows opening onto the same courtyard, one PhD student was told at 16.30 by two Aero students to leave the building. He never knew about the incident.

- One staff member was told by one security officer to leave, and then by his partner to not evacuate. Later, Aero staff members were unable to leave the building due to locked doors, which did not lead to the courtyard.

- Security staff were seen helping themselves to food the Chem Eng department lays on for their undergrads in the foyer of the ACEX.

- Four of my colleagues were in an office on the second floor of the ACEX and were not told to evacuate. They only left once a colleague called them saying that he could not get into the building.

- The Aeronautics Department's lecture theatres overlook the courtyard, and were still occupied by undergraduates at 15.00.

I do not understand why two departments located around the same courtyard can be evacuated in such different manners. Lessons should be learned from situations such as this one, such that, if there is a more serious next time, students and staff are not at risk due to inept evacuation.

I am not one for frivolous health and safety rules. If anything, they have appeared only to create an illusion of safety, when actually important situations such as this one are handled so badly.

Sincerely,
Aki Pakarinen

Oddoscopes

Dear Andy,

I'm a fresher and I couldn't resist writing, because every time I read your horoscopes they make me crack up so much (in the privacy of my room of course!) Please do more! Double horoscopes! My compliments to the chef(s)!

Regards,
Anton J

Andy Sykes replies,

I'm glad you like them so much; I shall pass your compliments on to the horoscope team the next time I feed them their dripping, raw animal flesh through the grate in the floor of the office.

Freedom of the press? What's the point?

Dear Andy,

Love Felix 'n' all, but I have just one or two gripes.

This tiresome and cliquy current obsession with 'freedom of speech' in the universities' media may seem interesting to you, but to the

rest of us, I mean – does anybody really care? I haven't got a clue who any of these people are in these articles, besides being your fellow 'medija' cohorts / lovies, and I really don't care. OK, perhaps this issue is of some importance to other mere mortal students like myself, but - front page headlines? Every sodding week? A single paragraph on page 12 would do. We all know that the Student Union – by definition – is run by a clique of self-interested, power-hungry, autocratic idiots – this is not news! Perhaps it would be more relevant to give more focus to articles with a broader relevance and greater gravitas, such as your excellent "UK universities invest £1.5m in arms firms" article. Issues such as this are actually relevant to a great number of the university's students, not just the few belonging to a supposed elite clique.

Betch'a don't print this though.

Best wishes,
Alan Jones
Student Union Publications Officer
Silwood Park

Andy Sykes replies,

How much were you willing to bet? Damn, I should have agreed it before.

Anyway, I don't know where you're getting 'every sodding week' from, unless you're exaggerating for comic effect (I laughed). It was a couple of issues at the start of term, and to be honest, there was absolutely no news. I was fresh

into the job, confused, and unable to dredge up anything more interesting. Such is the life of a student newspaper editor.

Luvvies? I barely have to time to eat, never mind network. I'm glad you liked my article on arms firms; at least someone's reading the paper. You're right about students' unions, though, and you said it better than I could. Fancy a job?

New clubs delay

Dear Andy,

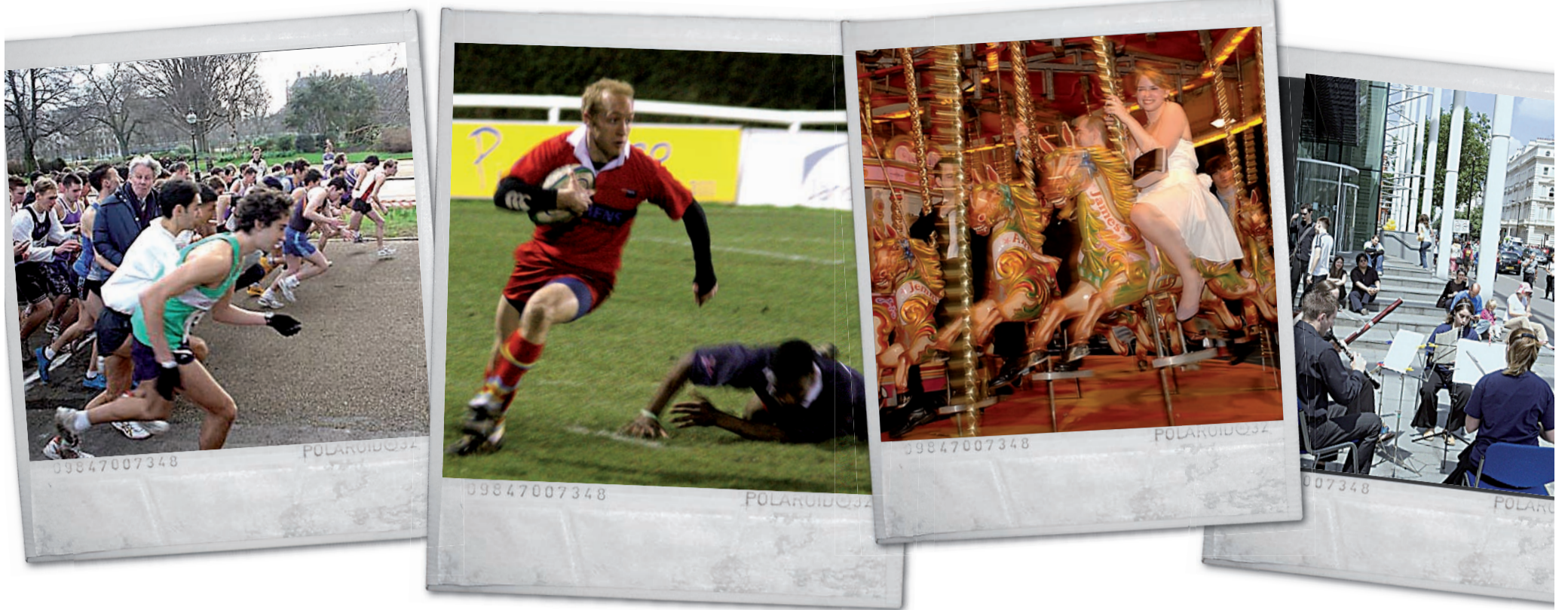
I'm writing regarding the article on the clubs' approval delays. As my proposed club, the IC Backgammon Society, has been left in the limbo state for the past month and a half, I would be extremely disappointed if the delay is based on some political motives. I personally prefer the new NCC (New Clubs Committee) format compared with the old system with the CSC chairs. But there is a flaw in the system in which there is not a mandatory period of which the approval meeting is held and such discretion has not been exercised with appropriate thought to the clubs in waiting. Surely, clubs and societies are an integral part of the union and higher priority shall be given to them. I greatly appreciate the work being done by the Union and I hope this can be resolved as soon as possible.

Regards,
Christopher Hong

Join hundreds of students to enjoy an evening of Christmas Carols with free hot drinks and mince pies

Emmanuel

The Christmas Carol Service
7.00pm Thursday 7th December
Junior Common Room, just off the Main Walkway
All welcome, free, and no ticket required



Union Centenary Events Introduction

Friday the 1st of December is officially the launch of the Centenary events organised by the students at Imperial. There are a whole host of events planned throughout the year for all of us to enjoy. We have glossed up some of the old favourites, created some new ones especially for the big 100 and ensured that we cover all interests. So for those who have no idea why we are celebrating this year, here comes the science bit...

Imperial College was established in 1907 in London's scientific and cultural heartland in South Kensington, as a merger of the Royal College of Science, the City and Guilds College and the Royal School of Mines. St Mary's Hospital Medical School and the National Heart and Lung Institute merged with the College in 1988 and 1995 respectively.

Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School merged with the College on the 1st August 1997 to form, with the existing departments on the St Mary's and Royal Brompton campuses, the Faculty of Medicine.

Therefore, this summer the college will be celebrating both "100 years of living science" as well as 10 years of the merger of the three medical schools to become the School of Medicine.

Over the past few months I have set up a project board to co-ordinate our clubs and societies into creating and developing their centenary ideas. In next week's issue of Felix I will be detailing as many events as possible that we have in store for you. But to whet your appetite here is a list of just a few:

- The Centenary Summer Ball
- Arts Fest
- Athletics Varsity
- Green Week
- The Fashion Show
- New Year's Day Parade
- International Night
- Charity Music Concert
- Varsity
- Inter-faculty University Challenge.



Shiv Chopra
Medics President
medic.president@imperial.ac.uk

One very special event we have planned is a "Centenary Runner" for this year's Flora London Marathon (April 22nd). So for your chance to run for your favourite Centenary cause (Student hardship funds/Beit re-development/Library project) simply enter our competition. The Rector himself will donate £10,000 to the cause of your choice. All you have to do is email 300 words to me (medic.president@imperial.ac.uk) on why you want to run for Imperial. The winner will receive free training and support from Sport Imperial. The entry deadline is Wednesday 13th of December.

So look out for the next centenary update in Felix from me, Shiv Chopra.



New Union Governance Structure Announced

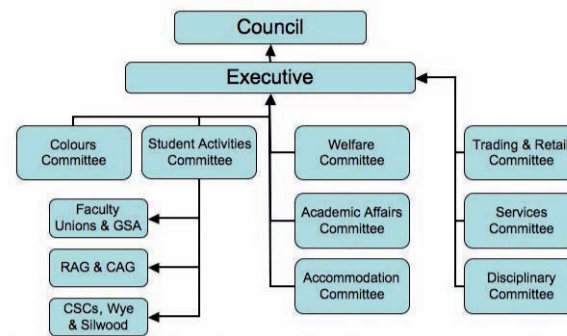
After months of discussion and consultation, the Imperial College London Council has finally given the Union the go-ahead to introduce a new governance structure.

From November 24th 2006, the following changes have been enacted:

- A **Union Court** has been established to play a judicial and scrutiny role in ICU's governance. Elections and appointments to this body will take place in early December.
- The **Student Activities Committee** will focus exclusively on clubs and societies activities and will now be known as the **Clubs and Societies Board**.
- The **Welfare** and **Academic Affairs Committees** have been merged to form a new committee called the **Representation and Welfare Board**. The board has been granted policy making powers and funding to strengthen representation and campaigns at Imperial.
- The **Accommodation Committee** has been renamed the **Halls Committee** and will now report to the Representation and Welfare Board.
- The **Trading and Retail** and **Services** committees have all been abolished. All trading matters will report to the Executive, all Advice Centre matters will report to the Representation and Welfare Board and all minibus matters will report to the Clubs and Societies Board.
- The **Health and Safety Committee** has been re-established as a sub-committee of the Union Executive.
- The **Permanent Secretary** will now be known as the **Union General Manager**.
- The **Overseas Students Committee** will now be known as the **Overseas Societies Committee**.
- More **Informal forums** will be organised as a means of engaging more students in the democratic elements of the Union's governance.
- Several Union Regulations have been **deregulated** by the Imperial College Council, enabling the Union Council to make changes to these Regulations without seeking formal approval from the College.

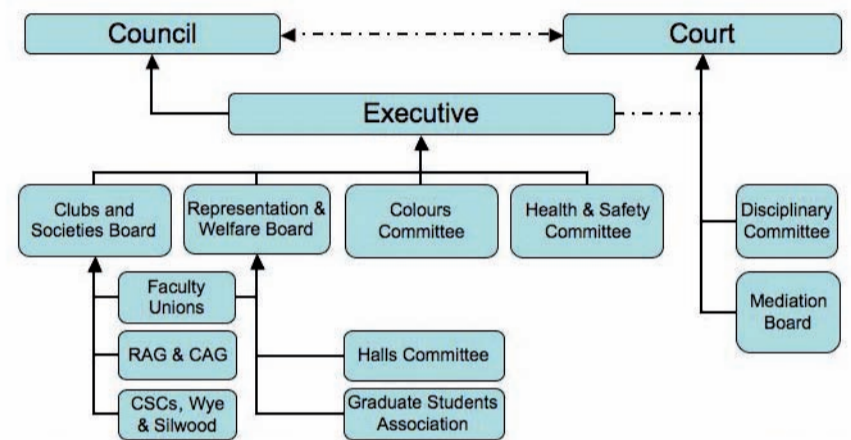
Although the major reforms to the governance of the Union have now been passed, further reforms to change the composition of the Union Council and the legal identity of the Union will be discussed by the Union Council in January 2007.

Old Union Structure



John Collins
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

New Union Structure



ICU is preparing to launch a democracy homepage, which will describe how the Union works and how students can get involved in its democratic processes. It is envisaged that this resource will be ready before Christmas 2006.

If you are interested in standing for a position on the new Union Court, or if you have any further queries about the new governance structure of the Union then please contact the President.

TFL Discount for Day & Single Tickets Campaign

ULU are running a campaign to get TFL (Transport for London) to extend the student discount for travelcards to day and single tickets.

Currently students at London Universities, including Imperial College London, are eligible for 30% discount on Oyster Travelcards – Get 30% Discount on all your London Travel!. However, this discount does not apply to single tickets and day travelcards.

To register your support send your name to ULU Tfl Campaign also ownload the petition from imperialcollegeunion.org.

Do you want
TfL Discount
On **DAY & SINGLE**
TICKETS?

www.ULU.co.uk
Campaigning for you...

Show your support by sending your name and University to:
supporttflcampaign@ulu.lon.ac.uk

New SOLE Survey Online From Monday

The Student On-Line Evaluation (SOLE) survey will open this Monday at this website:

www.imperial.ac.uk/news/sole

Please fill in this survey, it is the College's main way of collecting feedback about your courses and a brilliant way of highlighting your concerns. Cash prizes will be awarded to the department that scores the highest turnout. If you have any further questions about SOLE then please contact Ben Harris at dpew@imperial.ac.uk



Last chance for Club & Society Officers to Join

For club and society officers who have yet to join their club or society, you have until the end of 1st December to join. Failure to do so will result your club or societies's budget being frozen. So make sure you join today!

You can join online at imperialcollegeunion.org



thursday
7th december
doors 8pm
bands 8:15pm



imperial
college union

beit quad, prince consort road,
south kensington london sw7 2bb
tube: south kensington



to celebrate our tenth show we have
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kyote

dark and melodic alt-rock with the odd trumpet
- myspace.com/thekyote

hunter's loaf

one part drone, one part beautiful, all greatness
- myspace.com/huntersloaf

unspeakable
easels

chiming guitars meets anticon-
style hip hop
- myspace.com/unspeakable_easels

green as a
primary

electronica infused live
instrumental magic
- myspace.com/greenasaprimary



£3.50 entry
£2.50 students



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ICAMS PROUDLY PRESENTS:

Keds Will
Be Skeletal
Tonz



Reviews

MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Night of A-Muse-ment at Wembley

Those crazy classic-rock-raping, nu-prog-rocking West Country bumpkins play at the Wembley Arena

live review



Muse
Wembley Arena

"When the conspiracies unwind, will you slam shut or free your mind?" Lead vocalist Matthew Bellamy soars above the collective shouts of the many thousands in Wembley Arena during the mind-melting track that is *Exo-Politics*; simultaneously bursting the ultra-sound barrier with his incredible voice range and cryptic lyrics and breaking down the walls with his ambitious, sumptuous guitar riffs.

Muse are back in London, and are certainly nothing but the super-massive band millions have regarded them as ever since their modern classic, *Origin of Symmetry*, burst onto the music scene back in 2001. After a strangely poor opening act named The Noisettes, involving a lead vocalist that insisted on doing canine impressions (and at one point actually squealing so loudly most of the audience covered their ears in distress), thousands were even more desperate for what they came for. The wait was intense; all eyes were on the stage. Suddenly, the lights dimmed, and the background music faded into nothing. They had arrived.

Take A Bow opened, and instantly the crowd surged forwards, crush-

ing everyone and everything within reach: the screams, the shouts, the cries of joy and pain all culminated when the three progressive rockers (*Ugh, prog-rock, I feel dirty* - Ed) were illuminated by eerie lighting originating from all manner of strange, almost hallucinogenic large contrivances.

Initially playing the entirety of their latest album, *Black Holes and Revelations*, in the track order, you might have thought that nothing would have come as a surprise to the dedicated progressive rock fan in the audience.

Muse, consisting of lead vocalist and guitarist Matthew Bellamy, bassist Chris Wolstenholme, and drummer Dominic Howard, are well known for their energetic live performances, but this is surely the understatement of the millennium: energetic does not do this live performance justice in the slightest.

Personally, I was astonished at the astounding quality of each and every song I had the pleasure of cascading around the arena to. Every single track was far superior to the album version equivalent, and being an award-winning album of symphonic, melodious excellence, this is certainly saying something.

Supermassive Black Hole was, simply, the zenith of contemporary guitar rock music; a brilliantly catchy riff and a guitar solo second-to-none. The vast amount of violent head-banging, passionate air-guitar playing and the animated, synchronized escalations of members of the audience proved so overwhelmingly mind-bending that the bizarre, hypnotic lighting effects made little

difference to the state of thousands of psyches.

Time is Running Out, perhaps one of Muse's most famous tracks from their *Absolution* album, again superseded the album version considerably. The eclectic drum-work of Dominic Howard launched this piece of apocalyptic-themed music into orbit; complete strangers, separated from their own companions, suddenly put arms around shoulders and cried into the night: "We can't push it underground/we can't stop it screaming out/how did it come to this?"

Sure enough, nothing was stopping the enthusiastic, elated Muse fans from transforming Wembley Arena into the most vibrant mosh-pit environment I have ever experienced. When the metallic *Assassin* made its debut, several large rings were formed on the arena floor, and as the guitar riffs suddenly hit home tens of people leapt into each other, resulting in numerous concussions and multiple injuries; I was quite stunned to see a body fly past me and impact the floor moments later, only to rapidly recover and rejoin the melee.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the night was the spaghetti-western styled album closer *Knights of Cydonia*. Following on from the emotional, piano-driven performance of *Hoodoo*, this burst into life along with thousands of members of the audience; even those in the so-called seating areas - all of whom had long begun to attempt to be as preposterously insane as those in the standing area - could not resist leaping over chairs and copying my



Matt Bellamy (on a bad hair day) riffing it up for all the progsters

outstandingly good air guitar skills.

The guitar solo at the end of the track, which has become something of a legend among Muse fans, was so perfectly played by Matthew Bellamy, and backed up by the heavy-duty bass-lines of Chris Wolstenholme, that no-one, and I mean no-one, could control themselves. During the two-minute closing sequence, I accosted two complete strangers and demonstrated my immaculate yet imaginary guitar skills whilst blaring the lyrics in their general direction; within seconds they accepted this strange, overexcited entry into their lives and did exactly the same thing, only to realize they had been doing this already for quite a long time.

Drenched in various liquids of unknown origin, Muse continued to fulfil the audience's hopes and dreams by playing a host of older Muse tracks, including *Plug In Baby*, their cover of *Feeling Good*, *Hysteria*, *Sunburn*, *New Born* and *Bliss*, the latter of which was accompanied by large, suspiciously gelatinous balloons which, in comparison to the mysterious concentration of "Happy 18th Birthday" balloons and inflated contraceptives drifting around the arena floor prior to Muse's entry, proved far more appeasing.

Stockholm Syndrome was chosen as the closer; the antithesis to exit music chosen for most gigs of this magnitude, which tend to opt for more slowly-paced, emotive tracks. Muse's closing number was a monstrously virulent track, with its pounding bass-lines, sonorant drumming and absolutely electrifying guitar riffs propelling the crowd into a different musical dimension.

This was pure, explosive guitar-flavoured energy; there was nothing moving about this track, unless of course one refers to the physical

displacement we all experienced; even more so than that of *Supermassive Black Hole*. I found out first hand just how successfully a few of us in unison could propel ourselves towards the ceiling whilst blaring out the memorable chorus time and time again.

Leaving this gig just barely intact and positively buzzing with energy, I was unexpectedly hit by the tinge of disappointment. There were so many tracks Muse could have played, but opted not to, including the 1984-esque *Citizen Erased*, arguably their most epic track. I could not help pondering on why this, and other Muse 'classics', including *Butterflies & Hurricanes*, *Falling Down*, *Apocalypse Please*, *Falling Away With You*, *Megalomania* were not played.

However, shortly afterwards, the answer dawned on me: almost every Muse track is deemed a classic by the millions of fans spread across the world, and there simply isn't enough time to showcase them all in a two-hour slot. The ideal Muse fan's gig would simply be for the band to play every single song they have composed, no matter how long it took to perform. *Megalomania*, the closer to *Origin of Symmetry*, replaces religion with music, and could easily be compared to reality. Many bands have a large following, but I can say without the slightest doubt that the following of Muse borders on the religious.

Despite whatever bias may arise from being this obsessive with the progressive rockers' (*So, so dirty* - Ed) musical talents, I can think of no better way of putting this: Muse are undeniably the best of their kind, and their live performance not only demonstrates this, but sets the standard for hundreds of bands around the world today.

Robin Andrews

ROBIN ANDREWS



Huge, big testicles floating around... erm, yeah, too obvious

The intimate Gotan Project

Some more live reviews for you, with some Latin grooves and piano moods

live review



The Gotan Project
Brixton Academy

Two suited and booted Parisian DJs glide into their all-too-familiar throne set high above an authentic Buenos Aires 10 piece band. Interesting. So what exactly do you get when you mix the two most sexed nations on earth? Intercourse of course.

The first notes from the accordion wash over the crowd like the familiar first tender kiss of a lover. Everyone sighs. It has begun. Cool Latino beats and fresh female vocals follow, filling the air with a dirty static I can only find in a heated bedroom.

For those who like to close their eyes from this point in I would say this: you would surely be missing out. Buenos Aires skylines, broken Gauchos and strutting tango dancer visuals glide across the back of the stage in time with an almost dub-like step.

Teasing can only last so long. After what seems an eternity the DJs suddenly make their musical entrance. *Billie Jean's* bass-line filters through the speakers and finally takes over as musical centre. What follows is a succession of short, sharp, swinging tunes mixing the best of fast-paced Latin dance with warming electronic rock.

Post-climatic, airy tango brings you down to earth for a breather. As usual, the pair then just disappear

but only to bring (MOBO award winner) Akala back with them. How often does round two happen that quickly?

However, this time it seemed like they were just going through the motions. Akala got everyone bouncing but left just that little bit too soon. How frustrating.

Even the best have their limits but Gotan Project seemed a little under par this time, but everyone is different, and this may just be me.

George Refsum

live review



Ed Harcourt and friends
Everythingmustgo

Some gigs are thoroughly crippled by their own marketing and just can't live up to their hype. On the other hand, some cannot fail to live up to their promise – with little pre-publicity and the name 'An Evening with Ed Harcourt and Friends', there isn't an awful lot left to the imagination. Unsurprisingly, the evening fulfilled its promises with ease – a great many of his friends performed brief sets, every one of them including a duet with the man himself.

It was a very informal affair, especially since about half the crowd were performing at various points throughout the evening, performing to a surprisingly small crowd thanks to a combination of short notice and an understandable reti-



The Gotan Project, Argentinian pimps playing some sexy folk tunes

cence to go out on a Monday night (*despite the gig being free* - Ed).

Although some of the earlier acts were not the most impressive, none were anything less than enjoyable, especially when it came to Harcourt's duets with each. However, it was after an hour or so of good but unmemorable sets that the evening really hit its stride – Danny Goffey of Supergrass fame performed a single song from his new solo project, Van Goffey, as his first solo gig; David Viner played a stunning blues set; and continuing in the Americana vein, Michael J Sheehy then covered *The Passenger* in a masterful rasping country style.

Then Sam Herlihy of the much-missed Hope of the States debuted

his first new material in months – a fast, rock-oriented number and a quieter, whimsical piece which was sadly marred by chatter from the bar, before concluding with a majestic duet with Harcourt on a cover of Bill Fay's haunting *Be Not So Fearful*.

Changing the tone completely, Josh T Pearson's set was loud and unintelligible, but no less enjoyable, bringing down the volume for the compulsory duet at the end. After two such astounding sets, no-one but Harcourt himself could follow, ending the evening with a beautiful rendering of *Until Tomorrow* Then to a sadly depleted but extremely appreciative audience.

Hugh Stickley Mansfield

Some extra pickings for you my friend

album review



Bubba Sparxxx
The Charm
(Astralwerks)
★★★★☆

Born Warren Anderson Mathis in the small mill-town of LaGrange, Georgia, Bubba Sparxxx burst onto the scene in 2001 wearing overall and driving a tractor in the video *Ugly*, the Timbaland-produced frenetic hit single from Bubba's gold-selling debut *Dark Days, Bright Nights*. *The Charm* is an unimpressive attempt at repeating the success of his first album. But give credit it's due; Bubba has certainly worked hard on this album, even with the soulful *The Otherside*, a copy-cat of *Deliverance*; Bubba did try to outwit us with his genius and urban farm-boy tales, but it all sounds like a plea to embrace hip

hop barn music.

Fair enough, this album does have one or two club-friendly jams such as *Ms New Booty feat. Ying Yang Twins*: an up-tempo, bass-heavy track, produced by Mr Colipark, and a certified stripper anthem throughout the nation; or *Heat It Up*, which would truly give an extra spring to your butt. This album seems to have less Timbaland influence than *FutureLoveSex Sounds* by Justin Timberland. We also have the random Timbaland production, *Hey*, an amped-up tune built around a sparse marching band beat complete with horns and chants.

Folake Adegbohun

single review

Fergie
Fergalicious
(Polydor)
★★★★☆

Fergalicious is the second single taken from the debut album *The Duchess*. Former member of Kids Incorporated, Wild Orchid, co-host of the TV show *Great Pretenders*

and current vocalist of The Black Eyed Peas. Fergie is to BEP as water is to the Sahara desert.

Fergalicious is an addictive, choco-holic and sizzling single from Miss Stacy Ferguson. This is definitely a girl and club banging track and it grows on you; before long one begins to mime to the track.

"All the time I turn around brotha's gather round always looking at me up and down looking at my (wuhh)!" This are interesting attempts at rapping, but who can blame her. Definitely a must have on your iPod. Another work-out track, at least at the end of the day you would be as *tasty* as Fergie.

Folake Adegbohun

single review

The Feeling
Love It When You Call
(Island)
★★★★★

Taken from their debut album *Twelve Stops and Home*, The Feeling's previous three singles *Sewn*, *Fill My Little World* and *Never Be Lonely* have all been top ten hits.

This five-piece English band from Sussex and London have taken it upon themselves to reinvent the genre of 'pop' and I'll be darned if they haven't done a fantastic job at it. With instruments in sync and harmonised, and the beautiful vocals from lead singer, Dan Gillespie Sells, can this band do any wrong in our eyes? I think not! With lyrics like "I love it when you call, but what's the complication, its only conversation, he loves it when you call." The Feeling does not have a female fan-base for nothing. With lyrics like these any girl would be able to relate it too – you'll definitely be singing along in no time. But the skillfully engineered track is also provides a little something for the boys, with notable solos from the keyboards and guitarist.

Folake Adegbohun

December Femm

Expect some tasty reviews, interviews and features on a couple of bands that you might like. Also a feature on the independent media and other goodies.



Matty Hoban
Music Editor

I didn't get much of a reaction about my insensitivity over the death of Feeder's old drummer. So I can assume several things: pretty much no-one cares about music; pretty much no-one cares about Feeder; pretty much no-one reads this column and communicating with another human being in any form is beyond you. In this case, here comes the lengthiest tirade of racism, homophobia and misogyny you'll ever choose not to read. So if you're a black, feminist lesbian who is easily shocked, then please scratch out your eyeballs now!

Only kidding, I love/hate all God's creatures in equal amounts. What to talk about this week I wonder. Well, maybe I should talk about myself! You should get to know me, so that if I'm walking along you won't hesitate to have a chat with me. I often walk around waiting for an amazing conversation to eclipse the purpose of my walk in the first place.

I am from a place in the Midlands called Nottingham, or more specifically a suburb of the city (on the southerly edge) called West Bridgford. Nottingham is often associated with gun crime, but in my experience of the city late at night, this isn't completely true; I have never been shot at, just punched a few times. My star-sign is Aries and I would say I am quite passionate about things (including your mother).

My favourite music can be described as alternative. This broad genre encompasses many sounds, chords and keys. I like guitars, interesting sounds, crazy and loud drumming. I also like noise; when it is used efficiently and with precision it can make more of a statement than anything. I believe that punk is not dead and it is not defined as the music made by Green Day et al. Punk is an idea of rejection and so much music around now is only a show of rejection. I guess politically, I am liberal; even though punk ethics and ideals inspire me, I am very pragmatic.

I enjoy a good book. This does not mean Robert Jordan fantasy novels or Dan Brown; it means literature which challenges your perception of the role of literature itself. I am not elitist or a snob, I just hate complacency; one should not establish one's identity to be storm-proof, to be enlightened by different ideas is what made humanity progress.

I am constantly interested in new ideas: superficially in music and overall. This may sound like a lonely hearts column but I genuinely like talking to people about interesting stuff. GSOH. Call me.

Messing with the masterpiece

Trevor Nunn takes on the Gershwins' tale of bittersweet love and attempts to adapt it for a wider audience

Porgy and Bess

Savoy Theatre
Tickets from £20 (day seats
available at the Box Office)

I have a confession to make. Before going to this production, I had never seen *Porgy and Bess*. I hadn't even seen the 1959 movie with Sydney Poitier. I do, however, own many of the songs on CD as sung by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald, and like everyone else I know, hearing *Summertime* always brings a smile to my face.

The new production at the Savoy Theatre seems to be billed as Gershwin for beginners. Rather confusingly, Nunn has adapted it from an opera to a musical, which mostly seems to only have had the effect of cutting its length and the size of its accompanying orchestra. As a lover of Gershwin and opera, I approached the production with trepidation; after all, why meddle with perfection?

The first thing that struck me was the quality of voice that had been chosen. Though clearly not operatic, the casting has been done so carefully as to preserve the spirit of Gershwinian opera and thus jumped the first hurdle of my prejudice.

In other ways the production has clearly tried to be as faithful to the original as possible. With the exception of a couple of minor roles, all parts are played by black actors (as Gershwin stipulated in his will), and the set and costumes are true to the backdrop of the work.

But I soon forgot about all these things. I forgot to look for parts that didn't work, for dialogue that wasn't



O-T Fagbenle, Cornell S John, Clarke Peters and Nicola Hughes in the new production of the *Porgy and Bess* at the Savoy Theatre

right, because this is a magical production and I was completely transfixed.

Every part, however small, was performed exquisitely. During the crowd scenes the cast moved as one entity, flawlessly expressing the community spirit which pro-

vides the fertile bed from which the unlikely love story grows.

Bess (Nicola Hughes) is sublime as the abandoned prostitute taken in by Porgy (Clarke Peters), but it is he who is the real star. The role of a lame man in a stereotypical poor southern black neighbourhood

has so many clichéd pitfalls, yet Peters manages to avoid them all whilst still not over-dignifying the character. The scene where he and Hughes sang *Bess, You is My Woman Now* moved me to tears, and I actually wanted to punch Bess for leaving him.

Even though I can't imagine adoring this as much as the full opera, there is nothing I could criticise about the performance. It is quite simply the most moving performance I have seen all year.

Emily Lines
Arts Editor

Death and angry young men: not a good mix?

DramSoc's two upcoming plays provide something that is sure to suit everyone's dramatic disposition

Mort

by Terry Pratchett

Some people ask: what is the hardest thing about being in a play? Awkward rehearsal times? The multitude of lines to memorise? Stage fright? Well, the answer is simple. It is getting us all out of the

pub. When I say 'all', I am, in fact, referring to a pretty diverse bunch. Among others, there is a king, his daughter, a couple of wizards, a doorknocker, a cesspit cleaner and a young boy emperor complete with his murderous evil vizier. Oh, and of course, there is Death. Two of them in fact. I am obviously refer-

ring to the Drama Society's latest, and one of its largest, productions: *Mort*. Based on the novel by Terry Pratchett and adapted by Stephen Briggs, this uproariously funny play tells the story of young Mort, who starts his first job as an apprentice. To Death.

Of course, Death has more in

mind for Mort than just teaching him the business. You see, Death has an (adopted) daughter. Mort's eye, however, is caught by the beautiful Princess Keli, who is unfortunately about to die.

How will it all turn out? You'll just have to come and find out for yourself!

human companionship in an almost childish dependence.

Jimmy's long-suffering wife Alison and his best friend Cliff suffer his intellectual ranting and shocking attempts at drawing reaction in a loving relationship that seems at once bizarre yet understandable. Alison's colonel father provides an odd reflection of Jimmy – polar opposite in character yet similarly deprived of a concrete place, a role in the world. It is only when Alison's friend Helena enters the scene, unfazed and grudgingly drawn to Jimmy's offensiveness, that he is challenged, though not yet contented.

Essentially it is Jimmy's effect on his surroundings that proves the greatest draw to the audience. His ripples of anger and their contact with loved ones make up only the immediate, visceral excitement of the piece, making the overarching themes all the more powerful in the contrast with the domestic setting they transcend. The play works on us, the audience, by presenting both the unrestrained voice of frustration within us all and the figures of sensibility we use to hide behind. Ultimately it is us who prove most shocking as, in those scenes of revealed humanity, we start to sympathise with this angry young man.

Don't Look Back in Anger

by John Osborne

Gasp! An ironing board! Or perhaps not: the famous shock initial audiences felt at John Osborne's play-within-the-prosaic will not be felt today in an age used to 'social realism' and Real Life Drama!

Yet the themes of disaffection, of "lacking a crusade worth fighting for" and of a messy, grudging love are ones that still strike a chord, arguably more so, with a generation who live with the luxury of apathy.

Osborne infuses the main protagonist Jimmy, an archetypal example of the Angry Young Men of the 1950s, with a searing personality of frustrated power. As he cascades through the play in a fury of antagonism, he still yearns for a 'human passion' and 'conviction', while maintaining sensitivity to love and



The cast of *Mort*. They don't look dead to me, although some of them look rather disturbing

A photograph of a woman with voluminous, curly brown hair lying on her side on a bed with a light-colored, patterned quilt. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved top. A hand is resting on her left shoulder. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. She has several colorful bracelets on her left wrist and a blue earring.

Think you're hotter than this?
Prove it.

Pose for the *Felix* centrefold.

Email us at page3.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Yuletide party dresses, y'all

A selection of killer dresses for the festive party season, as chosen by Sarah Skeete

The Christmas season is officially upon us. Which means buying a pretty dress going out and getting drunk in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In homage to Jesus, I've picked out a few party dresses, selected for their skill in straddling the line between slutty and pretty.

If you want to look on trend, then definitely go for gold. Every high-street chain will have a version of that shimmering gold dress. Just make sure you tone down the accessories. Add more glitz and people won't be able to look directly at you, lest they be blinded. This look is best accessorized in black. Also a fashionable look is goth-romantic, to wear with plenty of black eyeliner.

To cut down on time spent in the changing room, there are some basic rules to find a flattering dress for your body shape.

If you're curvy (Read: politically correct version of fat) then a plunging neckline is best to draw attention to your best feature. If you're more hourglass, then a belted A-line dress will look great on your curves.

For lean figures, a strapless dress looks best, drawing attention to your delicate shoulders. Ruffles on your bust, despite what fashion magazines tell you, does not add curves. It's just a bunch of ruffles stuck to a flat chest. If people actually mistake this for voluptuousness then they are retarded.

Petite figures look best in a high waisted design whose hemline hits just below the knee. Most of the work is really done by very high heels; there's only so much a dress can do.

If you're tall then short dresses look best with long legs. Avoid long dresses, they will make you look like a giant. You can also get away with bold prints. Wear heels at your peril.

Athletic figures look balanced out with a flowing feminine silhouette. If you have the calves of a Hungarian shot-putter, then a hemline hitting at mid-calf is most flattering.

Alternatively eschew all fashion advice and spend eternity in a changing room cursing the 6 item changing-room rule, eventually ending buying a T-shirt. If you follow one piece of advice let it be this, avoid Oxford Street at all costs. You're less likely to be crushed to death by tourists on High Street Kensington. Happy shopping.



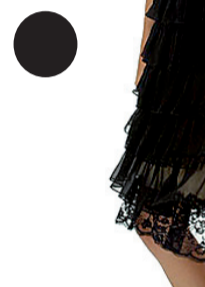
Mango
£90



Mango
£45



Miss Selfridge
£40



Miss Selfridge
£60



River Island
£49.99



FCUK
£120



FCUK
£95



Topshop
£55



Miss Selfridge
£45



Urban Outfitters
Lux Silk Babydoll dress, £68

COOL

Intimissimi

The Italian underwear shop is finally opening London branches. Stocking underwear for men and women, as well as nightwear, at reasonable prices, it's set to be as popular here as it is in Italy.



Celia Birtwell scarves

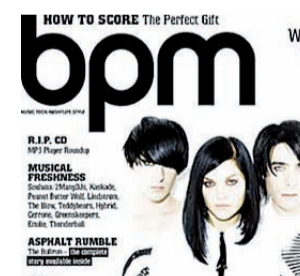
Designing for Topshop, her scarves are a cute addition to any casual outfit. Less cute are her various tops and dresses which look like something the villager's in Borat would wear. They have more than an undertone of boho about them.



BPM Magazine

Ships only to the US, but there's a totally free version online! And by totally free I mean, free for three months, at which point you can sign up again with a different email address.

It features new music and fashion, including fashion spreads filled with labels you can't afford or buy in the UK. Awesome! www.bpmmagazine.net

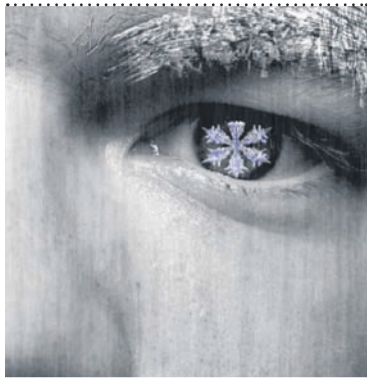


Britney Spears

And she was doing so well. She cut off the extensions wore a marginally less slutty dress, I thought she's make out of it with a decent comeback. Then came Paris Hilton. Back to the ratty extensions and crotch flashing pappazzi. Classy. I'll spare you the picture. If you really want to see Britney's crotch you can check out www.thesuperficial.com.

LAME

I, Gamer



Michael Cook
Games Editor

There are a lot of things I can't stand about Christmas. Remakes of old Christmas songs is one. Old Christmas songs themselves is another. Reindeer-oriented cartoons. Noel sodding Edmunds. But I guess what really gets to me are the people who say it's so commercialised that Christmas doesn't mean anything any more, and that somehow we've become monkey wrenches of The Man.

See, the thing is that everything is commercialised now. Music. Noel Edmunds. Even gaming – hell, *especially* gaming – is a commercial entity. Commercialism is good, it gives drive to people – and when it works it works very well. We get *Half-Life 2*, the *Total War* series, and *Tomb Raider*. Granted, it churns out a lot of crap, not unlike Noel Edmunds, but that's a fact of life.

But why we're worried about commercialism when it's bringing us some of the best technology and experiences yet – from the scale of *Battlefield 2142* to the innovative design of *Wii Play* – I can't work out. What ever happens on the stock market, money's made by selling what's good, and what people want. And generally – generally mind, *Crazy Frog Racer* still managed to spawn a sequel – people want originality, fun, clever design, and so that's what they get.

So yes, the motivation behind a lot of good things could be selfishness at its heart. But that doesn't make its outcome any less special. Which is why this week we're not only happy to bring you the lowdown on the best games of the festive season, but also offer you to the chance to win some tasty, nutmeg-flavoured freebies from the good people out there in gaming land.

Despite it being the Christmas coverage this issue, there's still one more event to cover this year. Next week we see the final piece of the next-gen puzzle fall into place with the release of the Nintendo Wii, as well as asking you for your help with our plans for next term. But until then, enjoy the absence of snow and the omnipresence of green spikey trees both on TV and off, and start budgeting for the most gaming-heavy month of the year.

Peace and Noel Edmunds to you all.

All we want for Christmas

Felix Games lets you know the best of the games vying for your wallet this year

And so this is Christmas. Now, we don't want to alarm you, but as you read this there are less than twenty-five shopping days until Christmas day, and a mere two weeks (or less, if you've lazily picked this up mid-week) until you kiss goodbye to Imperial until 2007. And that can only mean one thing.

It's time to get spending and buy the love and affection of those around you in the name of capital-

ism! And we don't have much time!

But in amidst all the generosity, love, compassion and peace to all men, you may find yourself forgetting one thing: buying stuff for yourself is awesome. And we're definitely under the impression that, as stuff goes, games are the best kind of stuff available.

Christmas, as you also might have gathered, means new games. And not just any new games – sizzingly brilliant games that have been in development and below the radar

of the press for the best part of the year. In the last few weeks and the few still to come, 2006's most anticipated releases hit the shops and the online stores – not to mention a host of price drops and bundles for the consoles. But what's worth taking a look at this season, and what should be left until the January sales of 2009? You can find our genre-by-genre run down of the best games for Christmas 2006 right here.

And for the three of you in the audience that feel there's something

missing from this line-up – well, there is. But fear not, because next week *Felix Games* will endeavour to give you a rundown of the best Wii games available.

Right now, though, it's not their turn. It's time to take a sneak peek into Santa's sack and see what the good boys and girls are getting. And if that's still not enough for you, check over the page to see an alluring selection of gaming tat just asking to have money wasted on it.

See you on Oxford Street.



BF2142 – Fight on the ground, or take apart a ship from the inside

First-Person Shooter – *Gears Of War*

Christmas is a time when you sit down with friends and family and engage in some bonding activities like *Uno*, ignoring the Queen's speech, or – if you're an Xbox 360 owner – dismembering large numbers of alien invaders.

Gears of War might have the kind of character lineup that makes the WWF look well-cast and realistic, but it's not as dumb or as trigger-happy as it looks.

Well, alright, it is as trigger-happy as it looks. But it's also very sophisticated – a stellar first-person shooter that's not based around a one-man army. Oh no. It's based on a four-man army.

Co-operation is the name of the game here, and playing this game through with a friend or two is not

only great fun but also surprisingly tense – you begin to sink into the war against the hostile alien force known as The Locust Horde, and despite its frenetic action and liberal use of gore, it still manages to be a scary experience – helped in part to an incredibly smooth look that still has the next-gen “I can't believe it's so detailed” sheen.

Multiplayer doesn't accurately describe playing *Gears of War* – if you've got a friend and a spare controller, you can't be without this game this Christmas. A fresh change from the same old death-match encounters – until someone ‘accidentally’ shoots you...

Chart Prediction – 2

Tony Plana

Massively Multiplayer – *Battlefield 2142*

There's something about playing against humans that can't be beaten. Sure, you can ace *Unreal Tournament* on Godlike AI levels, but when you lead a squad of five real people into a battle and outwit your fellow man – even if he is a twelve year-old Dane – it's an entirely other experience.

Building on the success of *Battlefield 2*, a game which rejuvenated the MMOFPS genre with a revised squad system and better online connectivity, *Battlefield 2142* takes the franchise into the future, where global warming has racked the Earth's surface and there is *only war!*

Okay, so no-one's dishing out points for plot here. The important thing is that *2142*'s technical side is a huge improvement on its rather shaky predecessor, which eventually became a shining example of everything that was wrong about

Electronic Art's attitude to game publishing.

Servers are more stable, the levels are more fluidly designed, and the game rewards teamwork even more than before, with upgrades for squads that consistently co-operate to achieve objectives.

With *Quake:Enemy Territory* still a few months off, and *Planetside* slowly sliding into the abyss, *2142* is the MMO to get this season if you want large-scale combat without paying a monthly fee.

Don't make a purchase expecting this to be *Unreal Tournament*, though – you won't get the most out of it unless you're willing to work together as a team. Give it a chance, however, and DICE's multiplayer vision begins to shine through.

Chart Prediction – 7

Michael Cook



Gears Of War – when explosive devices and testosterone collide

Freeware/Indie Gaming – *N*

Although we pretend to want free-roaming, non-linear masterpieces with eye-aching graphics and an epic narrative, most gamers are not averse to the simple things in life. From ‘Avoid Missing Ball For High Score’ to *Quake III* we're just as happy with something genuinely refined and polished as we are with a game that offers depth and complexity.

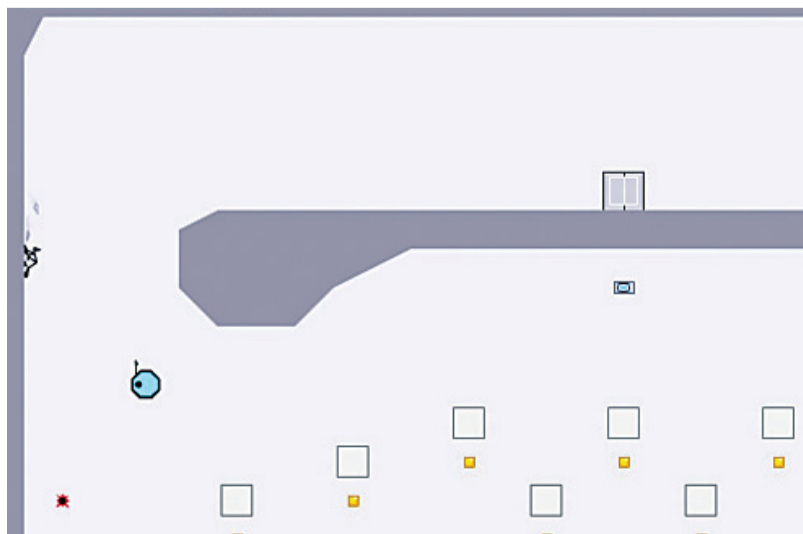
N is simple. A quick glance at a screenshot – a quick glance at the name – and you can tell this. *N*'s clean, crisp yet fondly retro graphics and simple, yet strangely stressful, gameplay provide a blend smoother than Master Chief's freshly polished visor.

N combines the Fun ethics of classic arcade games development with the ‘What If?’ mentality of the underground/bedroom coding scene. The ‘real life’ physics engine combines with the classic platforming recipe to create a fast-paced against-the-clock gaming experience which is absolutely, blissfully, free of charge.

Small enough for 56k users yet enduring enough for even the most adept platform gamer, *N* succeeds in every way great games of its type should.

Chart prediction – It's too good for that.

Mark Fletcher



N – We'll be seeing more from *N* after Christmas – get practicing!

Party and Family Games – *Buzz! Sports*, *Wii Sports*, *Singstar Legends* and more

If you ever wanted to get your sister, grandad or boyfriend hooked on gaming, now's definitely the time to do it, with a whole host of peripheral silliness available this Christmas.

There's bound to be plenty of times during the vacuum between greeting Santa and greeting the new year when everyone gathers around the warmth of the television and turns on the usual tripe.

But this year more than ever there's a better option – get them playing something genuinely *fun*.

You've got the simple and relaxed **Buzz Sports** to begin with, where every player has their own four-button controller which they use to answer multiple-choice questions, TV-Quiz style.

For a bit more noise – and a bit more embarrassment – **Singstar Legends** has a variety of songs that at least someone is bound to know. So if you find you're not in the mood

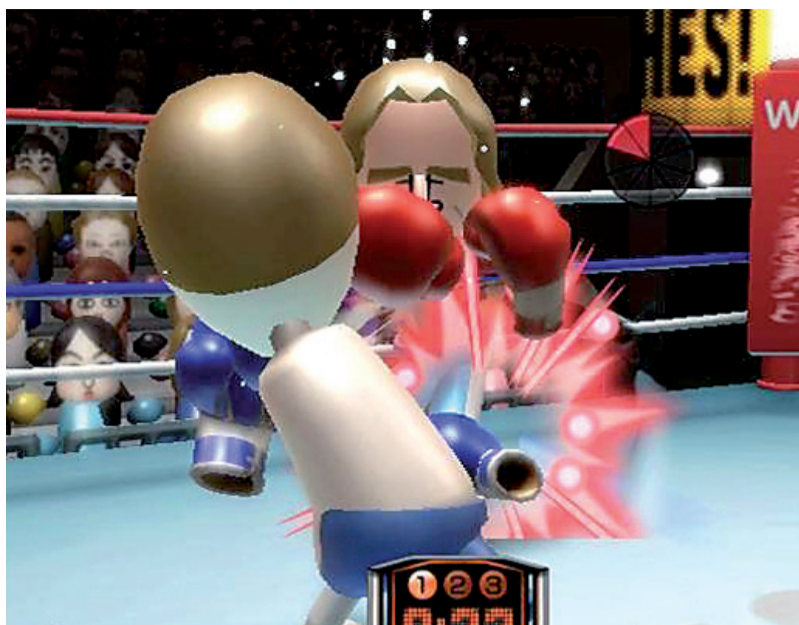
for howling out a rendition of *Rock-et Man*, you can always scream a bit of *Smells Like Teen Spirit*.

No-one's going to blame you if you feel like doing something normal though – what about bowling? Or boxing? Or tennis? Welcome to *Wii Sports*.

If you're going to splash out on a *Wii* this Christmas, then you'll already have this genius piece of software bundled with it. And if you're still undecided over Nintendo's new platform, then it should be this game that wins you over.

The equivalent of *Eyeto*: Play in the way that it shows off the *Wii*ote, *Wii Sports* is a medley of great multiplayer games that anyone can play. They don't require you to leap around the room like Muhammad Ali – though naturally, that makes it a lot more fun.

Tony Plana



Wii Sports – A perfect excuse to smack your annoying little brother

Strategy – *Medieval 2 : Total War*

What better way to get into the spirit of Christmas than to crush all enemies of your chosen religion before you with a crusade/jihad/door-to-door newsletter [delete as appropriate]? *Medieval 2* gives you the opportunity to do that without getting chucked in prison as a result, and it's all the better for it.

Massive, complex, deep, and yet easy to pick up, the latest in the *Total War* series doesn't skimp on the features. Religion, trade, diplomacy, city management, and of course big bloody brawls far from home. It all sounds suspiciously close to the modern day, but *Medieval 2*'s period detail is so thick and delicious it could pass for maple syrup.

Of course, if you've played *Rome: Total War* then you may be wondering just what's there to draw you to this latest installment. This isn't the revolution that *Rome* was over its predecessor, *Medieval*; instead, it's evolutionary, tweaking and adding features rather than revamping. Creative Assembly's expansion packs are almost games in themselves, and *Medieval 2* is more than enough of a difference from its predecessor to justify splashing out on it.

Don't resist it. Pay homage to the king of strategy games.

Chart Prediction – 5

Andrew Dunn



Medieval 2 : Total War – Above is known as the 'subtle' approach

Pure Fun – *Lego Star Wars II*

We covered it last week, and we're covering it again for one simple reason – Christmas is license season, and there's no bigger license than *Star Wars* itself.

But this isn't a cash-in on the films, or the children's building blocks, or even the original *Lego Star Wars* – it's pure fun, with more open levels, more things to go "vwumm" and "pishhh" at, and more importantly than anything else – some of the most famous movie scenes from history in glorious brick form.

The cast of characters is huge, and the scope of what's there to unlock is similarly impressive – it's definitely a game to keep you busy over the holiday. But it never gets dull; leave the console set up with another controller plugged in as you play and anyone passing can hop in, swish up a 'saber and start swinging away at droids and Sith

alongside you.

Let's face it – the holiday season is likely to make you watch the entire six movies at least once. This way, you get the joy of slashing and force-pushing your way through the adventure yourself.

The designers know what you want. They've put in the Battle of Hoth, because – for want of a better description – it's absolutely bitching. They've put in the duels with Darth Vader because *it wouldn't be a Star Wars game without it*. This is *Star Wars* with all the pretentiousness and romance and cutscenes swept away – and all you have left is pure, unadulterated *style*.

The force is strong in this one. And yes, that was an obvious gag. But it feels so *right*.

Chart Prediction – 11

Michael Cook



Spooof, Lego, and big furry things. It's a recipe for good *Star Wars*

Yet more games

You know how it works – there's always been far too many games to cover in such a short space, so it's likely you've missed some fantastic games in 2006. Now's the time to catch up.

New Super Mario Bros. debuted on the DS this year, giving Nintendo a good excuse to return to their 2D roots with the usual array of bright colours, memorable level design and soundtrack. If you've had enough of playing *Mario Kart DS* with businessmen on the Tube in the morning, *NSMB* is a good Christmas alternative.



Yes, you got it. It's-a-him. Mario

There's a lot of RTS to come in 2007, and if you need something to tide you over, then **Company of Heroes** (with *Dawn of War* bundled) can be picked up for less than £20 – a solid *World War 2* strategy and a great *Warhammer 40K* multiplayer RTS.

If, for some reason, you didn't buy **Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion**, then the Christmas season is sufficiently quiet to give yourself enough time to immerse yourself in Tamriel. Prices vary from platform to platform, but a PC version is around £20. Don't expect sublime reality, but do expect an immersive RPG and a hell of a lot of dungeons.



Santa's not coming to this town

PSP must-buys **Grand Theft Auto : Vice City Stories** and **Loco Roco** are still great buys, and with the PSP charts not looking too electrifying at the moment, the latter might be one to dig around for online – simple, obscure and great fun, something which the DS usually does far better than the PSP in.

But if you'd rather save up for 2007, we can't blame you. 2006 had a lot to show off, but as the year winds down *Felix Games* looks to the future when we'll be bringing you **Quake: Enemy Territory**, **Half-Life 2: Episode 2**, **Halo 3**, **Assassin's Creed**, **Final Fantasy XII**, **Metal Gear Solid 4**, and many more.

WIN! – *Lego Star Wars II!*

We've got a PSP copy of the excellent *Lego Star Wars 2* to give away. If you want to be in with a chance to win, just answer this question.

Where in the *Star Wars* film series does *Lego Star Wars 2* begin?

- Episode IV – A New Hope
- Episode III – Revenge Of The Sith
- Episode I – The Phantom Menace

Jot down your answer along with your email address and drop it in to the Felix offices (Beit Quadrangle, Media Wing, downstairs) or email games.felix@imperial.ac.uk by December 8th with the subject line, "No, Luke. I am your winner." The winner will get an email by Monday 11th.

For the gamer who has everything

Tasteless, geeky and utterly essential – Michael Cook looks at the best game-related things since games

Back at home – home being a relative term, given that my PC is with me at Imperial – there is a particularly strange piece of gaming paraphernalia. It's nothing sexually deviant, or illegal. It's just a bit... strange.

And actually, if you looked at it you might doubt that it wasn't sexually deviant, consisting as it does of a rather large round ball and an eight-inch blue tube. But I can assure that it plugs into the television and is family-friendly.

Ahm. Yes. Best stop there.

Euphemisms aside, it's actually a lightsaber game that plays directly through the television, imported from Japan by a friend of mine as a gift. It's all in Japanese, which makes it a little hard to distinguish "New Game" from "Quit" and so on, but this isn't really important. What's important is that I can swish the plastic lightsaber around madly, and droids explode. And it's unbelievably cool.

Something special happens when gaming starts thinking outside of the box. The results tend to be incredibly geeky, and rather strange – but no matter how much you smirk, scorn or chuckle, there's still a hardcore part of you that really *must have one this instant*.

Take, for instance, the NES Buckle (<http://www.nesbuckle.com>). It's a classic, *genuine* 1985 NES con-

troller, grafted lovingly so that it works as a proper belt buckle.

Now, Lord knows that most people wouldn't be seen dead with it because it's just that little step too far past Geek. But you can't help look at it and feel that your life is emptier without one.

And it's Christmas now, so who's to say it should be for a second longer? But if you think you might like something a bit more fashionable, then *Way of the Rodent* (<http://www.wayoftherodent.com>) is one of the many gaming websites out there on the web that have a t-shirt spinoff store.

WotR's main site is a regular gaming magazine with a thriving internet community – but their shirt designs are a tasteful way to proclaim your love for *Ico*, *Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney* and other games in an understated (and, yes, sometimes not-so-understated) way.

But both the NES Buckle and t-shirts with "OBJECTION!" written on them in large, red letters share one problem – they're fairly public. And not everyone's as happy with sharing their secret addiction with everyone else on the Tube.

Well, there's more than one way to skin a bank account. Maybe you've always wanted to see your favourite games immortalised forever in the form of... a game?

Eagle Games (<http://www.eagle-games.net>) is a boardgame design-

er and manufacturer that's converted some of the most popular videogames of all time into some of the most obscure boardgames of all time.

From the intriguing *Railroad Tycoon* to the epic *Civilization*, they're not the easiest things to get to grips with, and will certainly take a little longer to complete on Christmas day than a game of charades (even with that particularly deaf uncle of yours), but it's one of the most interesting uses of videogames that we've seen – even if it's a little obvious.

If nothing's hit you so far, well... you're beginning to make life difficult. And let's face it, if you're too self-conscious to wear a NES controller around your waist, then a full *Princess Peach outfit* (<http://www.farmgoodsforkids.com>) is probably going to be considerably over the mark. And Farm Goods' Mario costume merely makes you look like a camp window washer.

So I guess that just leaves... culture. *Sigh*.

Alright, so maybe you don't actually want to do anything with gaming at all, you just find it interesting? Half-Life 2 creators Valve released *Half-Life 2: Raising The Bar* some time ago, now – a book that delves into the art direction, as well as the deeper plot, of the seminal first-person shooter series. It's not Episode 2, but it's a good replacement for the time being. Bungie commissioned a similar book – *The Art of Halo* – that explores the famous game trilogy in-depth too.

Or there's fiction. The decidedly less-geeky *Halo Graphic Novel* perhaps (<http://snipurl.com/13cvy>), featuring a collection of spinoff stories in Master Chief's universe, or a collection of novels based on the *Resident Evil* canon (<http://snipurl.com/13cw2>). Or maybe you'd just like some Metal Gear Solid Vamp/Raiden hot gay fan fiction?

Well we're not linking you to that, so there.

But you might find it all a bit overdone and hyped up. Halo, for instance, is a game based around shooting the crap out of things. Subtlety, characterisation and plot development aren't high on their to-do list, and they don't always transfer that well to story form.

So have we begun to scrap the barrel yet? Not quite. There is one sensible suggestion left. Because if you've gone through all that and decided that you're just not brave enough to take the step towards gaming obsession, there's always film.

Resident Evil, *Final Fantasy VII*, *Tomb Raider* and now *Silent Hill* have all been given the silver screen treatment, as well as many others – to varying levels of success. If you're looking for a quiet night in but want to fondly remember the little grey box in the corner of the room, one of these should do just fine.

Whatever you go for this Christmas, gaming isn't just about games any more. So if you're thinking about spending a bundle on a next-gen console or some new hardware for a PC, just bear this in mind: nothing says 'hardcore' like a life-size statue of Lara Croft. (<http://tinyurl.com/txz3m>)

Yes.



Some men who like to be open with their preferences. For games.

WAY OF THE RODENT

the original spirit of videogaming



STOP!



SABRE TIME



WIN! – A WotR T-Shirt!

Why yes, yes they are hella cool. And because they love you so much, the folks over at Way of the Rodent have given us three t-shirts to give away to our readers! Your choice of size and design is up for grabs if you can convince us you're worthy.

But we're not messing around with multiple-choice questions here, oh no. We want you to make us happy. It's December now, which means Christmas should be just twenty-five chocolate-filled days away – but we've been told that we're simply too old to have advent calendars any more.

Balls to that. We want you to draw, paint, scribble, construct or just dash off in Microsoft Paint something festive and games-themed, and either drop it into the Felix offices (Beit Quadrangle, downstairs in the Media Wing) or send it in hyperdigitalised form to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk with the subject line, "Objection!"

The best three entries received by December 8th bag themselves a t-shirt each, it's as simple as that. Go get those crayons.

**your chance to celebrate
the festive season with
a 3-course meal, wine,
ice luge and hookah**

**plus entertainment from
bands and an "invisible"
guest speaker**

tickets available online from imperialcollegeunion.org

And there is no need to be afraid

At Christmas time we pre-order games only for them to be delayed. Do they know it's Christmas time at all?

Rikki Norris

Ah, laziness. Face it; we've all been there. Whether it's ten extra minutes in bed, getting the bus when we could have walked, or leaving it a month to write your first Felix piece. Delays are commonplace in the world of gaming.

When a new console or killer game is announced, you don't expect it to be released on the first date that's set (especially if you live in Europe). You have to wait to see when the first delay will be announced to get a better idea of when you can get your grubby mitts on the thing, only for your plans to be smashed when further delays are announced. Great.

So delays, then. What has recently been delayed? Well, the episodic trilogy expansion thing for Half Life 2 has recently suffered a setback. Episode 2 (along with Team Fortress 2 and Portal – you get them all together in one big, shiny pack for anyone that didn't already know) has been pushed back to some time in 2007. I think we can all live with this one though, if only for the Portal expansion. Believe me when I say this will keep FPS fans hooked for days, and I can only imagine the multiplayer possibilities. Check the official site (<http://www.aperturescience.com>) if you want to see why it's worth waiting for.

Another delay announced earlier this month was for the World of Warcraft expansion pack, Burning Crusade. Originally tipped for release in time for Christmas, developer Blizzard has pushed the release back to January 2007, giving some excuse about allowing developers enough time to polish the game.

Now, I have two problems with this. The first is that an excuse like that is bollocks. "Polish the game" just has "we were too lazy to do it in time" smeared all over it. They could have at least put some thought into making it feasible – why not try the old "we had a problem producing the PAL blu-ray diodes" trick? Secondly is that I really don't think we need an expansion pack for this



It's not just gamers who suffer when there are delays – Burning Crusade (above) was set to be a big Christmas seller for developers Blizzard

drivel. I would carry on with this one here, but I think I'll leave it for another time because I can go on for ages and ages and ages. Which is still nowhere near as long as some people spend playing the crap (*Back in the drawer, Mister Sharp! – Mike*)

The thing is though, there are some times when the developers just go too far. Let's go back, to, ooh, 1997? Perhaps one of the most well-known video game characters of

the time has his sequel announced. Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Duke Nukem himself would be reappearing in his brand new video game, Duke Nukem Forever.

Having played the original series like the little nooblet that I was, I was excited. So I waited. Screenshots were released, so I waited a bit more. Videos were released, and still I was waiting. Here we are, a decade on, and Duke Nukem (taking) Forever is yet to hit our

shelves. The official line from developer 3dRealms is that it will be released "When it's done." Wow. Nobody knows what the hell is going on with them anymore, and they give the most half-arsed release date ever.

Guys, you wouldn't release half a game would you?! They even went as far as threatening legal action against a mod team developing a Duke 3D Source game, as a mod for Half Life 2. My thinking is that it

was because Duke Nukem Source looked considerably better than whatever rubbish was being thrown around the development offices at 3dRealms. Selfish gits.

Maybe I'm complaining too much though. As the old saying goes, good things come to those who wait. Most hope that the PS3 will be the best on the market when (alright, if) it eventually arrives. Many delayed games in the past have been well worth the wait.



Left – Half-Life 2: Episode Two, a triple pack of Source games now delayed until Summer 2007. Right – Duke Nukem Forever, and the newest screenshot available. Six years old

"Look at you, Hacker. A pathetic creature of meat and bone." – SHODAN, System Shock

Clubs & Societies

Pantomime polo in Hyde park!

Kat Gray
ICU Riding and Polo Club Chair

Riding Club has recently become Riding and Polo Club, and to celebrate we had a weekend of polo related activities – panto-polo on Saturday and a couple of polo taster sessions on Sunday.

Saturday started out pretty wet, and I think this put some people off, but there were still enough very keen (or slightly mad) participants for us to make our way over to Hyde Park and play some foot-polo. This was great fun, much more difficult than most of us were expecting, and resulted in almost everyone ending up on the floor at some point! Once we'd mastered the ability to actually hit the ball rather than the leaves, we played a couple of "serious" chukkas and the score was really close at 7-5. Then, when we'd had enough of being "serious" we brought out the panto-ponies!! This certainly got us plenty of attention, lots of photos, including ones taken with a woman out for her hen party and a random American tourist, presumably to prove to their friends that they didn't hallucinate a group of students wearing inflatable horse-costumes playing polo in Hyde Park! There are some amazing photos of this (especially of Jon Matthews for some reason...) and they'll be going up on our website, www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/riding, over the weekend so go and have a look! Sunday also started out pretty

wet, which delayed our minibus, but in the end we made it to FHM Polo Club in West Sussex, where we met Francis Matthews, our new polo instructor. We split into two groups for our taster sessions and learned how to deal with our ponies, which are just about as different from riding school ponies as you could imagine, as well as how to hit the ball...although I think my pony kicked it for me more than I hit it! We also learned a bit about the rules and then played a mini-chukka. It was great fun and I'm pretty sure everyone that went enjoyed themselves, with several saying they were already addicted and would be coming back for more. I highly recommend the sport to any speed-freak, played properly it really is fast! To make things easier it's best if you can ride a horse in walk and trot without assistance before playing polo, just so you're not worrying about what the horse is up to too much. This usually only takes a few riding lessons to achieve so don't be put off by it.

If you have any questions about either riding or polo, or if you'd like to have a go at either, please get in touch with us on riding@imperial.ac.uk. We ride every Wednesday afternoon and our next polo session will be on Sunday 10th December. Riders or polo players of any ability can be catered for. Also anyone interested in borrowing/buying the horses costumes for bar nights, fancy dress parties etc. get in touch.



Panto-ponies ready for action, plus random American who couldn't quite believe she wasn't hallucinating

Audience wowed by MSF Charity Talent Show

Sarah Benaff

On the 10th of November, 2006 ICSM saw its first charity talent show held in aid of Médecins Sans Frontières. The event at the Reynolds bar at Charing Cross Hospital included a broad and colourful variety of acts ranging from the 6 piece band, Dirtbag and the Empire, to the dancers of The Ok Go! Team, to the hip-shaking Shakira-esque bellydancer, Canan.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

is an independent humanitarian medical aid agency committed to two objectives: providing medical aid wherever needed, regardless of race, religion, politics or sex and raising awareness of the plight of the people they help www.msf.org. Understandably opportunities for involvement in MSF's international projects require that doctors have completed at least two years at SHO level, therefore eager medical students wanting to get involved have to wait patiently to apply. In

the meantime, areas in which medical students can get involved are ample and include raising awareness about MSF and its projects and raising funds for MSF as it is a non-governmental organization and relies on donations from the public.

With this in mind, a group of 5th year IC medics came up with the idea of holding a talent competition in aid of MSF. Since an event of this type had never been held at ICSM we hoped it would attract a lot of interest.

After months of planning, the night was finally upon us. With the sense of excitement and anticipation in the air, the audience started arriving and before we knew it the student bar was heaving. The event proved to be very popular indeed. It was inevitable that with a £100 cash prize up for grabs for the first-place winner the standard of the performing acts was going to be very high. And they didn't disappoint; our two judges on the night were (Dr) Adam Kay, who we all know and love for the crude medical spin he puts on well known pop songs, and Jennifer Van Griethuysen of the Medsin Imperial committee. Between the judges and the show presenters, Richard Moss and Martin Bailey, the humorous banter and cheeky comments between acts added to the entertainment of the night.

With an audience of about 350

people, it wasn't difficult to gage the response to the various acts; this was especially so for Rashad Zafarulla's performance as a human beatbox who won the competition hands-down by replicating various songs using 'the art of vocal percussion'. He was even brought back on stage by Martin Bailey for an encore in which the two of them wowed us with an impromptu rendition of The White Stripes' 'Seven Nation Army'. Rashad was extremely generous in donating his £100 prize to the evening's cause.

In second place came the four some making up The Ok Go! Team whose awesome synchronised dance won them £50 off a meal at Café Lazeez in South Kensington. They were closely followed by the exotic bellydancer Canan, who won the third place prize of £30.

As the judges deliberated over who the winners would be, there was another entertainment slot in store in the form of the Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction in which individuals were auctioned off to the highest bidder who then got the pleasure of their company for an evening along with two free cinema passes which had been kindly donated by Vue and Cineworld cinemas. The winning bids ranged between £12 and £35 and helped raise even more money for the event's cause.

In a final effort to maximise the

amount of money raised by the event, a raffle was held, in which a number of donated prizes were up for grabs. These included a number of Toni and Guy haircuts, a meal at Nandos and a pair of tickets for the London Eye among other things. All attendees were extremely generous in taking part in the raffle, many people buying several tickets at a time.

All in all, the first Charity Talent Show at ICSM proved to be an extremely popular and successful event. It would not have been possible without the hard work of the organising committee who were headed up by Meryem Kaya and Samina Zaman, nor would it have been as successful without the volunteers who helped out on the night, of whom we must mention Phil Stennet who handled all the stage and sound equipment on the night and IC's Jazz and Rock Society who provided the equipment completely free of charge.

A number of companies were also very generous in donating prizes for our raffle, as well as donating cash amounts to help cover costs; the latter consisted of the British Medical Association, the Medical Defence Union, the Medical Protection Society and Wesleyan Medical Sickness. Their extreme kindness allowed all profits from the event to go directly to MSF and enabled us to reach a grand total of £2008.



The Talent Show Committee celebrates the end of a great show

End of term music and shows diary

It's that time of year again! You can't get up or down Oxford Street for manic shoppers convinced that the High Street will sell out of all those novelty socks and ties that inevitably end up under everyone's tree. The electricity bill for the City of London increases tenfold while people complain that the decorations were much better last year. And coursework deadlines are coming in thick and fast. If this depresses you then take some time to chill out at any of the great shows below. Imperial Students have been working hard all term to put on a challenging and impressive programme of events for this festive season. Tickets are very reasonably priced for students and I personally will be attempting to go to all of them! Don't be scared of a little culture – get out there and have some fun! For more information on tickets and prices contact Arts and Ents Secretary Kirsty Patterson at aes@ic.ac.uk.

29th November – 2nd December, 7:00pm

MORT
DramSoc
Union Concert Hall
A Terry Pratchett book adapted by Steve Briggs

Sunday 3rd – 4th December, 7:30pm

MTSoc Revue
Union Concert Hall
Free entry. Donations for the Terrence Higgins Trust

Friday 1st December, 8pm

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra
Great Hall
Short Ride in a Fast Machine – John Adams
Britten Piano Concerto – Soloist Melissa Daly
Shostakovich – 10th Symphony

Saturday 2nd December, 7.30pm

Imperial College String Ensemble
St Paul's Church, 32 Wilton place (nearest tube: Hyde Park Corner)
Parry – Lady Radnor's Suite
Vaughan Williams – Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis
Boccherini – Cello concerto in G Major by Soloist Nelson Ferreira
Elgar – Introduction and Allegro and special appearance by Imperial Brass

Saturday 2nd December, 7.30pm

University of London Symphony Orchestra
St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road
Tchaikovsky – Marche Slave
Stravinsky – Firebird Suite
Rachmaninov – 2nd Symphony

Tuesday 5th December, 1pm

Imperial College Wind Band
Great Hall
Jacob – Ballad for Band
Holst – Second Suite in F
Tchaikovsky – Capriccio Italien
Grainger – Lincolnshire Posy

Friday 8th December, 8pm

IC Choir
Great Hall
Poulenc – Gloria
Stravinsky – Symphony of Psalms

Saturday 9th December, 8pm

New London Opera Group
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road

Sunday 10th December, 6pm

ICSM Carol Concert
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road

Wednesday 13th December, 6pm

IC Carol Concert
Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road

Thursday 14th December

Jazz Big Band Gig
dB's at the Union

Friday 15th December, 6:30pm

ULU Chamber Choir Carol Concert
St. Georges Church, Bloomsbury

Imperial College London

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Why not get active in the community whilst you're at Imperial College London? It doesn't matter if you work or study in Imperial - volunteering will have always something to offer you! We have over 250 volunteering opportunities in our database, so there should be a project for you.

The easiest way to get regular updates about volunteering is by signing up to our mailing list. You will receive all the latest opportunities on a weekly basis, directly to your email inbox. Simply send us an email, clearly stating that you want to receive the weekly news bulletin and we will do the rest!



volunteering@imperial.ac.uk

020 7594 8141

www.imperial.ac.uk/volunteering

Sex, lies and radioactive sushi

The Sarge is very eagerly looking forward to the new cold war, where sushi is a weapon of mass destruction



Sergeant Sargent

Wait, hold up, hold on just a second. The Russian government and the KGB, being the geniuses they are, passed a law about a month ago that allows the KGB (oh come on, they can call it what they want, it's always going to be the KGB) to kill people in foreign countries, as if the rest of the world have to automatically usher people out of their assassin's way so they can do their job. Pretty conveniently, a couple of weeks later, some Russian former-spy who defected to England of all places (I could have given you a list

of healthier options, mate!) starts losing his hair and subsequently dies of radiation poisoning. Coincidence? Must be...

Now, normally I'm the first to jump up and down and scream at people about the dangers of eating sushi at Itsu, especially the branch in Piccadilly - who coincidentally happen to be proudly sponsored by IC Catering - quite clearly the Russians have yet to spy on the general student consensus of where to eat in London, and as can obviously be seen, and it's their loss, frankly. If you absolutely have to eat at Itsu, ever, though, my advice is to avoid the tuna, they tend to leave it out for a few weeks before it gets plonked on a bit of rice - don't say you haven't been warned.

Let's think about it logically, though. The KGB has been going about its business of destroying life wherever it sees fit for yonks now, and it was not really any big surprise to see this dude dead, to be honest - journo, big critic of president, shot dead. Ex-spy, investigating her murder? Surely somebody somewhere saw it coming.

No, here's what I would have done. I would have taken two rookie agents who had no fucking clue what they were doing, dressed them up in hoodies and given them readily available (on the black mar-



A photo taken from a top-secret KGB handbook, showing two agents with evil grins eating sushi off the back of their latest dead victim

ket, or frankly in Camden market) pistols, and sent them barging into the restaurant to drill three into the poor guy's chest. Not only would the powers that be not have the faintest idea it was KGB, but such an ingenious idea would completely throw them off the trail by making them start their manhunt in Brixton.

People are getting into a big fuss over the entire spectacle, even more so than when Blair sent fourteen troops to Iraq to play crash-dummy into each other in spanking new helicopters solely for the amusement of Curious George (and also

because not enough of them were croaking to make it a worthwhile effort, frankly). Who cares?

Anyway, this week's Coffee Break stars the new, gadgetless, extremely metrosexual James Bond. Gone are the days when he would leave a woman gasping for breath in bed before getting her to lick his dick clean and proceeding to rip the heads off fifty bad guys with his bare hands before firing a bazooka up the arse of the big bad guy. No, the only naked we got to see was him in short shorts. Sarge gives Casino Royale two thumbs up...

Answers for Issue 1362:

Where is Sarge?

1. The Royal Albert Hall
2. The Queen's Tower
3. Imperial College Library
4. Faculty Building (Blue Cube)
5. Union Building
6. Sir Alexander Fleming Building - Bonus mark for derogatory comment to medics
7. Bessemer Building - Bonus mark for derogatory comment with regards to colour choice
8. Royal School of Mines
9. Skempton Building, CGCU Motor Kart Garage

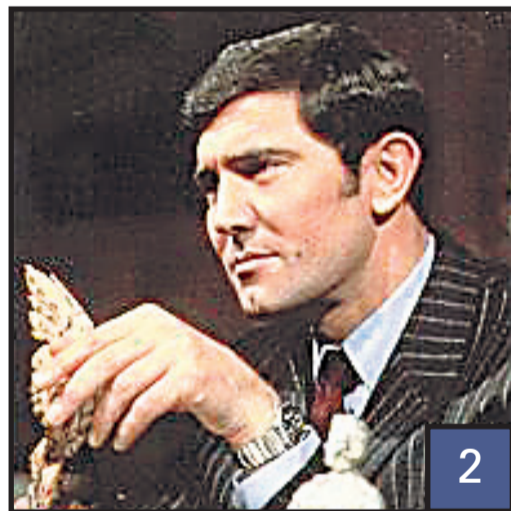
Answers for Issue 1364:

Arse or Elbow?

1. Arse
2. Elbow
3. Elbow
4. Elbow
5. Arse
6. Arse
7. Elbow
8. Arse
9. Arse



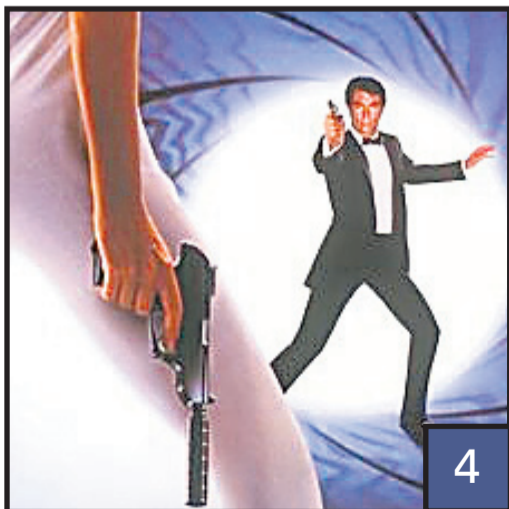
Bond gets frisky with an old friend - which film is this from and who's playing Bond?



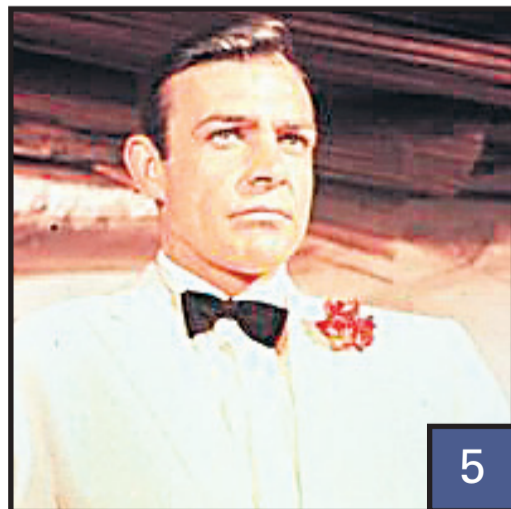
Sarge believes this is possibly the most camp Bond ever. Who is he and what film is it?



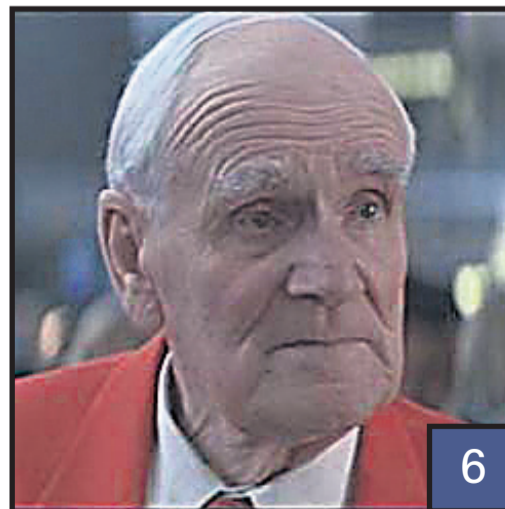
RAWR! If you don't know who this is, don't consider a career in the army.



Sexy bird with a pistol. Bond had better shoot or he'll get the daylight's scared out of him...



No movie required here, so only one normal point (nudge wink). Who's this shexy man?



No movie required here either, but who is this man and what is his significance to 007?

Round 3 - I Spy

Maximum of 13 + 1 points

The Sarge is a big fan of Bond because that new guy would be welcome in his bunk bed any day of the week. Name the actor playing Bond and (except questions 5 and 6) the name of the film the snapshot is from.

Answers

Issue 1366:
I Spy

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

7

Oooh, a bonus question, goody goody. You've got two points for this one. Who was the first Bond to record the famous 'Gun Barrel' scene, and in which film was it first shown?

Sudoku 1,366

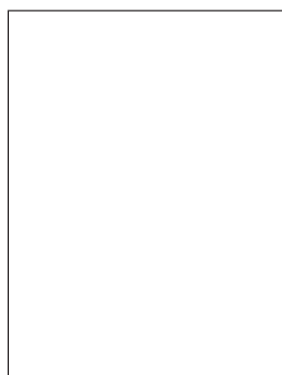
Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the digits 1 to 9. E-mail your solution to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk by **Tuesday 9am**. We will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. You must claim your prize within a week.

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

Solution to 1,364

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

Jotting pad



Thanks to everyone who entered a fortnight ago. **Yean Chooi**: A winner is you. Keep those entries coming in!

This Week's Oscilloscopes

Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)



“Something kinda ‘Ooooooo’, jumping on my ‘tooot toot’. The ramblings of a cannibalistic Felix writer, Matthew Ho-Bag as he teddybear rolls around the blue and navy speckled office floor celebrating life, God, table fussball and Turkish delight.

Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)



This week you meet Hugh The Man Stuck In A Muddy Field. You tell him you appreciated his crossword help last week, especially since the the Xword Cru got one over on the SudoKru. Someone knees you in the bojangles – I mean, who the hell talks like that?

Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)



Unfortunately, your dentist informs you he is relocating to Buenos Aires, Mexico. You have no choice but to fly out to get your pegs cleaned. Upon leaving the plane, a collection of gringos point and laugh. Buenos Aires is in Brazil – Mongoloid.

Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)



Waves. That's what that is a picture of. Or is it streaky bacon? I can't quite decide now I think about it. Perhaps it's in fact a pair of twiglets. Nik Naks anyone? Worms racing head to head in some “fashionable” Guinness Extra Cold advert. You decide.

Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)



Anton J, I can see you, you dirty, dirty man. You enjoy fellating farm animals and have been known to pick pickled peppers with your penis, you pervert. The Horoscope Team will hunt you down and make you taste their “angry sticks”. LOL COCKS!!!11

Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)



You star sign looks like a pair of tightly compressed butt cheeks. Upon realising this, you loosen your supposed buttocks. Little do you know that a small homosexual goblin-like creature called Toby has been waiting his whole life for this moment. You feel pain.

Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)



This week you will convince yourself that all your friends are called Juan-Fernando. In reaction to their bemusement of your new found label for them, you chop off both your arms. You can no longer hug the world and all of its little children. You suck. Eggs.

Gemini (22 May – 21 Jun)



You hear someone knocking at door at 7:28 pm. You go to open it and there he is, dripping wet, shirt half-open and foppish hair framing his gorgeous visage. Yes, you've been expecting him for so long. It's your dad! You need to see a therapist you sex-mad freak.

Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)



Hi, my name is Mike Cook. My favourite past times include peeling potatoes, trimming my navel hair and scraping finger poo from keyboards. I have a plethora of talents, especially rimming. Call me now for fun times and I fix you up good. Ciao ciao.

Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)



The Bearded Intruder is absent this week, after his beard and his very lineage were insulted by some cock with an attitude problem and, more offensively, stupid hair. In response, he has taken the only mature approach available and stormed off in a hissy fit.

Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)



There's a fly in the dungeon, dear Andy, dear Andy. Well swat it dear Tomo, dear Tomo. With what shall I swat it dear Andy, dear Andy? A copy of Felix dear Tomo, dear Tomo. Sacrilege. If I catch ANY of you fuckers mistreating this newspaper, you're dead.

Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)



This week you discover the joys of granary bread. The grains feel like an angel from heaven tickling your tongue. You deck out your new Kensington spread with a granary loaf bed. It's so soft! Mould begins to grow and your skin turns a fluffy dull green texture.

Felix Crossword 1,366

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

ACROSS

- 1 Standard bore (7)
- 4 Damp leaves have plenty (5)
- 7 Fact: roofless taxi Order of Merit (5)
- 9 Rubbish! Perhaps leave game (5)
- 11 Non-descript sounding mode of transport (5)
- 12 Continual missing ant – er, country dismay (13)
- 14 Sounds like an associate joint offence (6)
- 15 Clubs' arid-sounding endless verse (7)
- 17 Cosine in adhesive sugar (7)
- 19 Peeled off; ran away holding Russian gun (6)
- 20 Chaotic? No, it's anarchic too early (13)
- 23 Half a dispute, so it's said, would go well with a curry (5)
- 24 Relative pleasant with added fifth (5)
- 25 Times Educational Supplement – the French unit (5)

- 26 New Musical Express, we hear, is against us (5)
- 27 Order male escort (7)

DOWN

- 1 Copper biro has third degree (5)
- 2 Field above North cloth (5)
- 3 Mix grey ale fervently (7)
- 4 Shocked if I complain at noise increase (13)
- 5 Simple scheme I inserted (5)
- 6 Gee, lies about requiems (7)
- 8 Is Earth surrounded? (6)
- 10 Rightness to hoot angrily abused (13)
- 13 Entrails spoiled Alistair (5)
- 16 I arid lengths compute (5)
- 17 G & coke, perhaps? Bottomless bumble muttering (7)
- 18 Conscience itches terribly (6)
- 19 Goods don't sink. No A, Sam (7)
- 20 Saying to Latin era (5)
- 21 Article thanks eighth Greek (5)
- 22 Paper crawled endlessly, or so we heard (5)

Rawden

Greetings, crossword fans! This week's crossword has something of a mathematical theme. Well, more of a hint really rather than a theme - I got bored and forgot to keep putting maths terms in. Apparently I've been criticised for having too many anagrams in my crosswords. In response to this, I've added even more for your further enjoyment. However, with any luck they're slightly more well hidden than normal. Well, probably not, but that was the intention. Anyway, it's probably best if you stop reading this twaddle and do the crossword! Enjoy!

Rawden

Solution to Crossword 1,365

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

Send your answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk or bring this page down to the Felix office in the West Wing of Beit Quad by **Tuesday 9am**. Each week, we'll choose a winner and give them a tenner. Last week's winner is **Alex Trenchard**. Well done, you.

at the union dec 1st - dec 14th

WEDNESDAY 6TH

ACC Bar Night

plus

Carlsberg, Tetley's & Blackthorn only
£1.30 a pint

Free entry before 9pm, £1 thereafter

WEDNESDAY 13TH

Pornstar Party

with bed and confession booth

only

Carlsberg, Tetley's & Blackthorn only
£1.30 a pint

Free entry before 9pm, £1 thereafter

FRIDAY 1ST DEC

subredo

upfront drum and bass

FRIDAY 1ST DEC 20.00 - 02.00

With upfront tunes from:
 Bryan G Movement: Chronic Records, V Recordings
 Paxo and Terror: Kool FM - the drum and bass award winning radio station
 Miss Pink: Blackmarket Records
 Dj Surreal: Streetwise Music
 Macpherson: Fabric Live

Vodka and draught mixer £1.20 all night in all bars.

Also our Hookah bar with the relaxation generation. £1 from every Hookah sold will go to Aids Week.

Positively Red

Admission is free before 9pm and £3 thereafter. 50% of pre sales will go to Aids Awareness Week please buy from Aid rep's or imperialcollegeunion.org
 buy your eTicket online now at imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

THURSDAY 7TH

ic
a.m
 alternative music society



ALSO ON THIS FORTNIGHT

Fri 1st	Subred
Tue 5th	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 6th	ACC Bar Night
Thu 7th	Alternative Music Night
Fri 8th	Murder Mystery Theme Night
Tue 12th	Da Vinci's - Quiz Night
Wed 13th	Pornstar Party
Thu 14th	Jazz Big Band
Fri 15th	Christmas Carnival

FRIDAY 8TH DEC

MURDER MYSTERY Theme Night

Friday 8th December 2006 20:00 - 02:00

Can you find the Murderer?
 DramSoc Actors will be acting out blood bath murders all night!

Free entry all night if you are dressed up as a famous killer or murdered victim.

Drink offers include...

Vodka and draught mixer £1.20 all night in all bars.



imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

Imperial College Union, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB
 The Union encourages responsible drinking. R.O.A.R. Student I.D. Required.

imperial college union

dDs dance because they can-can

Ultimate Frizbee
Mixed, indoor regionals

Mathias "MadK" Karady

Following morale boosting performances with 4 wins out of 4 in the first one-day event of London Winter League, dD Mixed set off to Sussex University and South-East Mixed Indoor Regionals with high hopes, a great set of costumes for the Medieval themed party and even a choreographed routine.

Southern Trains did their best to make us miss our first game, but a small scheduling tweak and some good hustle at Lewes station, saw the bulk of the team reinforce the 4 girls and one guy who had the foresight to drive. With only 5 minutes to change, the first game, against newcomers Chichester, was going to be tough. Chichester boasted some experience female GB players and one mature PhD student of long experience. The game was very tight, with both teams playing high tempo man-on-man defense. dD relied on the experience of Dirk and Stylish to sneak a small lead and eventually take the game 5-4. The post match activities saw us introduce the first of our medieval games, Chicken Shoot, where we forced one member of the opposition to be the target for one their teammates armed with a rubber bow and arrow.

Our next match was against the host university's second team, Mohawks II, and was another stumble onto the pitch affair. The game began with the dD's taking a comfortable lead; forcing Mohawks to play their only 3 women whenever possible. Mohawks scored a few points late on, but the game ended 7-3 in Imperial's favour.

Our second medieval game consisted of bum-slapfencing with three players picked from each team. Mohawks managed a moral victory with one of their girls promptly dispatching all our players!

With 2 wins, we were looking to win our pool of 4 teams and guarantee a top 8 finish; in the way stood our bitter rivals (and friends), Thrown, of Kings College London. The dD's have never beaten Thrown indoors, whilst Thrown have never beaten the dD's in outdoor Ultimate.

Our confidence was high, as Thrown had just lost to Chichester. Unfortunately, whilst our commit-



It began with a passing comment about how comfortable tights can be on cold days and resulted in far too many men in tights

ment was there, we lacked a tactical plan for dealing with Kings' zonal defense. We turned over possession too often and were punished over and over again, the final result being our heaviest loss of the weekend at 3-8.

A three-way tie at the top of our pool saw us relegated to third and a lowly seeding of 12th. We still had a chance of top 8 in the shape of a crossover game against 5th seeds UCL. Our fellow Londoners were also fans of the zone defence; this time we were better prepared. The opening four points were traded evenly, but disaster struck; a couple of cheap mistakes gifted UCL a 4-2 lead. This was too much for one of players, resulting in a dropped kicked bottle and an enforced "cool-down" by our captain who refused to be flustered.

Despite the pressure, dD rallied, scoring two quick points and taking possession of the disc in the sudden-death overtime point. UCL threw up a wall of 4 players on their endzone line, forcing us to patiently swing disc from sideline to sideline looking for an opening. Nervous

minutes past, but Dirk, Mary and MadK handled calmly and finally forced the opening to take the game 5-4, securing a place in the top 8 for Sunday. The toughness of our pool was revealed when it turned out that Chichester, Thrown and ourselves secured 4th, 5th and 6th seeds respectively, out of 16 teams.

With our games complete, we returned to our host's house for pizza, a quick round of ring of fire and most importantly our Men in Tights costumes. We had a blast at the party and danced the night away. There were several candidates for the sharking prize, but I'll mention no names, they know who they are.

Sunday morning saw us back in Sussex, on the pitch for the first game of the day against Royal Holloway.

With the success of our costumes at the party, it was decided to play the day's game wearing our tights (in the case of one player, only his tights). A mixture of hangovers, tiredness, and their 6'7" monster of a player left us feeling a little apprehensive at the start of this game. The dD's used a zone to re-

strict their star player's options. Our girls all played chase, running after the disc in defense, whilst the boys took zonal places further up the field, marking out the area in which to throw. The tactic worked, producing many turnovers, which we punished ruthlessly, ending the game 15-4.

Holloway were the first team to see our fully choreographed routine; singing of the main theme of Men in Tights, complete with can-can.

With a top 6 place secure, we went into our next game, a rematch against Chichester, with high hopes of making the top 4 and qualifying for Mixed Nationals.

Hoping to replicate the success of our zonal defense in our last game, we threw it again, hoping to pressure Chichester from the start. The first point was very long, Chichester held possession, with surprising confidence, eventually finding a gap through our lines to score.

Our offence struggled and we soon found ourselves on the wrong end of an 8-3 score line. A mini-resurgence in the last few minutes

wasn't enough and we went down 7-10. The highlight of the game was, fresher, Emma scoring; ensuring the whole team had scored over the weekend. Chichester went on to finish 3rd.

We still had a shot for 4th place, via the 4-5 qualification final, but we needed to beat our bogey team, Thrown, whom we were to play again. This time, we were better prepared, matching their zone with our own. The first point was difficult with Thrown going close on two occasions, but we turned them over and scored.

The next three points were traded evenly then Thrown scored two quick points, we responded bringing the score back to 4-4. Nerves struck during this point, with both teams going close- it was Kings who scored. With just over a minute left, we fought hard and came very close, conceding only in the dying seconds with Thrown taking the game 4-6.

The weekend ended with dD lying in 6th place, representing the best indoor finish for Imperial in the last 3 years.

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St Barts bowled over by IC



The Ladies 2nd team, all dressed up in their beautiful new strip, courtesy of our lovely friends at Deloitte, yes that's Deloitte

Ladies Hockey

IC 2nds	4
St Barts 3rds	0

Dasha Nakariakova

The day began well with a member of the men's hockey team, who will remain anonymous, chasing after the coach as it set off to Harlington, displaying impressive dedication. (No, this was not due to the magnetic allure of the Ladies hockey team; the men were also playing at home.)

Upon arriving in Harlington, the IC girls, defied the elements; proceeding to warm up in a torrential downpour. Having beaten the opposition, St Barts 3rds, 12-0 in our previous encounter IC were in a confident mood. So confident that Bella decided we didn't really need our (fabulous new) keeper, Trish, and promptly belted a ball into one

of the few parts of her body not protected by padding.

St Barts, adopted a clever ploy of arriving late in the vain hope that we'd be so tired and wet by the time the game commenced; giving themselves an outside chance. They overdid the tardiness and arrived over 30 minutes late giving IC the opportunity to be granted a walkover. IC's generous captain, Fi, allowed them the dignity of getting their butts kicked in a fair match.

The game commenced with a very intimidated opposition trying desperately to work out how many they had on the pitch and why they were surrounded by a threatening sea of blue and red shirts (we had lots of subs and some fabulous cheerleaders a.k.a the mens 3rd and 4th teams). IC were lacklustre compared to usual; with a lack of passing and communication between defence and attack.

As the first half progressed IC picked their form up and produced

some awesome opportunities; Mala closely missing a wonderful shot from the post and Dasha missing a beautiful backhand flick. In a match where IC were too lazy to pull back and defend, the defence did well to keep a vicious resistance and the ball in the attacking half for most of the half.

As the teams formed their half time huddles IC had only 1 goal under their belts. The half time talk suggested IC would have to increase their energy, if captain, Fi, were to be kept happy; "We need more players in their 'D'". "We need to get back and defend more quickly", "Stick to your marker like glue", "We need more movement; look for spaces".

IC emerged for the second half enraged by the low score and ready for a slice of goal pie. The defence, again, repelling all of St Bart's movements towards IC's goal, with Bella taking some incredible hit outs, one of which found its way

onto one of the opposition's knees; a swift request for ICE followed. Mala worked hard in midfield, providing a much-needed link between attack and defence, even managing to hold position whilst falling into a 'splits' position! Trish, in goal, intimidated St Bart's attackers before they even passed the half way line- it wasn't until the last couple of minutes that she even touched the ball! Fi, as sweeper, cleared every threatening or wayward ball; allowing IC another opportunity to attack. The 2nd half was far more rewarding for IC with 2 graceful goals from the posts from Mala and Melissa. St Bart's began to play rather viciously in desperation which led to several minor injuries. Amanda scored a 4th with a clever manoeuvre which confused the goalie. The match ended with celebratory brownies in the changing rooms courtesy of Mala which lifted IC spirits which were otherwise disheartened by the lack goals.

Row-ow-wing

Jonty McNuff

Anyone passing the river at Putney last Saturday may have seen more activity than usual. The 27th, head of the river, fours race was taking place, with over 500 crews and 2000 rowers competing. Sponsored and run by Fuller's, the prize for winning your category is a literal piss up at the Fuller's stag brewery; there was a lot more at stake than just pride.

Imperial entered 7 crews, in various categories. The first boat; Adam Freeman-Pask, Will Laughton, Martin Rogulja and George Whittaker, entered in senior 2 quads, won by a clear 6 seconds. They beat over 60 boats including an Oxford Brookes boat containing an Olympian and 3 U23 GB International athletes. This result was a good send off for George, who is going to Thailand for 3 months in the interest of 'work'.

The second boat entered in the senior 1 coxless fours didn't fare so well; the wrong side of a 6 second deficit. A disappointing row combined with injuries placed Ole Tietz, Jonty McNuff, Simon Hislop and Ben Smith in third.

ICs third boat; Scott Rennie, Dan Cadoux-Hudson, Rob Manton and Mark Mearing-Smith, finished 9th in senior 2 coxed fours. A respectable result for a line up with a swap of sides for Rob and a change of role for Rhino Rennie. IC IV, entered in senior 2 coxless fours was not allowed to race competitively having substituted out every individual from the original entered crew- a fairly harsh ruling.

The women's top boat was Helen Ellison, Carlyn Greenhalgh, Kay Jacks and Cynthia Mynhardt also coming 9th in senior 2 quads, a reasonable result for a tough event. The women's squad also secured 4th and 14th place in senior 3 coxed fours.

The crews decided on a quiet drink in the local pub. This soon went out of the window and the squad descended, en masse, to the London Rowing Club 'Jungle themed' party. Being greeted by fake tan smothered men wearing thongs is always a good start to a night. Responsible drinking was observed during the unimaginatively named Strongbow and Bottle of Rum challenge. Imperial are very thankful to London for their 'pour your own drink' policy at the bar. The only casualty of the night being Olly Moore, who was outfoxed by a loose floorboard, suffering the biggest swollen ankle I've ever seen.

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The editor was tempted to write this caption himself, then he remembered how much he shits himself at the thought of angry Virgins

Women's Rugby

Kent	39
ICURFC	5

Women's Rugby

St Georges	20
ICURFC	47

Women's Rugby

GKT	29
ICURFC	27

Women's Rugby

ICURFC	40
Writtle	20

Samantha Pemberton

Our first match of the season came relatively late; with two different oppositions cancelling and postponing on us. As a result we turned up for our first BUSA encounter greener than we would have liked, with a team where all, but three, had never started for the Virgins before! Despite this, and arriving with only 14 players, we were still fired-up for the challenge ahead.

Kent were a well drilled side; with a squad of 19, it was a case of sink or swim for our 11 Rugby Freshers! Thankfully they all swam very well. Three of our pack were equal to the weight of one of theirs, but IC held their own in the first half. We had an impeccable defence, tackling furiously, pushing them back and making the odd break. IC were only 7-0 down at half time, despite being a player down, and by no means out of the game.

In the second half their superior numbers and experience showed. Until 60 minutes the score remained 7-0, but as we tired, they brought on all their subs; fresh legs gave them the upper hand. Kent scored 4 break away tries in quick succession, IC did not have the legs to chase them.

The weather deteriorated and the pitch turned into a mud bath, their forwards weight came into its own and they held us in our own 22, pushing over the try line a further two further times, both of which were converted.

The Virgins did not give up, when Kent thought they had complete control, Sam Pemberton, ran in a fantastic, team effort, try which was the last play of the match.

Although IC lost, our freshers were fantastic; managing to hold off a much more experienced and weighty side for 60 minutes with a

We arrived at George's ground on a sunny autumn day, expecting to be the less experienced underdogs again; we could not have been more wrong!

It was their first match of the season and they had barely any tackling practice. Again we were largely a fresher team and only had 13, luckily Georges did too. With two inexperienced incomplete sides it promised to be a far more evenly matched contest than our previous encounter.

Unfortunately, the referee made the mistake of telling both sides, before the match, that this was his first time refereeing- and it showed.

We dominated in the first half; our backs, particularly Sam Pemberton and Jess Alcena, took advantage of the holes in their defence and ran in 3 and 2 tries respectively in the first half; Sam converting one. When the half time whistle went we had a comfortable lead of 0-25.

However, after the break, they regrouped and scored a quick, break away try. IC steadied their nerves and a fantastic team effort lead to a try; involving nearly everyone and showing we can support with the best of them. The try was exquisitely finished off by fresher; Theresa Wright, who crossed the line to score her Virgin Try!

George's then managed to score 3 tries, in, what seemed to be, the blink of an eye and possibly with the help of the referee. Fortunately IC did not give up and both Jess and Sam got another try each before the full time whistle was blown.

The best part of the day was yet to come, the George's girls were excellent; providing us with free pizza and booze for as long as we could eat and drink. George's are by far the nicest bunch of people the Virgins ever had the pleasure to play against.

GKT aka Kings College School of Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Life Sciences etc, etc, at the campuses of Kings, Guys and St Thomas' Hospitals may have the longest official name for, well, anything in history, but bless them since they arrived with only 11 players after being broken the previous Wednesday and even before kick off their attitude gave us a hint as to why. We had 16 players but they would not concede and play a friendly so we played under protest knowing full well we would get the 3 points and it gave us a chance to play some of our least experienced freshers with the pressure slightly off.

Saying this, we had no intention of losing and once again a quick try from Sam Pemberton showed we meant business. We did however not bargain for the well quite frankly viciousness and dirty tactics from many of the GKT players.

With punching, kicking and biting they managed to even the score at 22-22 at half time, there was a great Virgin try from Kasey as well as 3 more tries and a conversion from Sam.

The second half was slightly less like a one sided boxing match than the first and as much as it pains me to admit they rucked very well and the teams were only separated by a conversion.

GKT went 22-29 up and were still celebrating their conversion when Sam ran in a quick try which soon shut them up. Unfortunately we did not manage to kick to following conversion and they emerged eventual 'winners'.

I have never played in such an ill tempered unsportsmanlike like match and I'm very proud to say we did not sink to their level and despite the score we can hold our heads up high.

Before this glorious day which was to be the setting for our first home match I had never heard of Writtle College.

When they arrived, to our amazement we discovered they were an agricultural college from Essex, chav farmers I hear you say, but there was no Burberry in sight!

For the first time this season we had a full team, as many from the older years came to join our fantastic crew of freshers.

Being our first home match of the season we were determined to win and we had the perfect start with Sam Pemberton running in a quick try against the team that size wise it was difficult to distinguish between them and the animals they care for. They did however hit back and bulldozer a try over several members of us, and to their credit they used what they had well.

The score did not stay even for long Roxanne Crossley got her Virgin try after a heroic effort by our forwards and a break away try each from Jess Alcena and Sam.

In the second half their steamroller technique awarded them three further tries but our superior speed and skill showed and both Jess and Sam ran in two further tries a piece.

I very much doubt we will meet larger teams than this for the rest of the season and in all honesty this match showed just how much potential the Virgins have and how formidable we can and will be when our freshers have a season under their belt.

With thanks to our sponsors:



Sports results from 22nd November

Badminton:	
Mens 1st	3
Oxford 1st	5
Mens 2nd	1
Queen Mary 1st	7
Womens 1st	3
Hertfordshire 1st	5
Basketball:	
Mens 1st	88
Bedfordshire 1st	91
Fencing:	
Mens 1st	135
Sussex 1st	103
Womens 1st	135
Reading 1st	77
Football:	
Mens 1st	1
St Marys 2nd	1
Mens 4th	4
Royal Holloway 4th	6
Mens 6th	1
University of the Arts 1st	3
Mens 7th	2
Royal Free 4th	2
Hockey:	
Mens 1st	6
Imperial Medicals 1st	4
Mens 2nd	11
LSE 2nd	0
Mens 3rd	2
Royal Free 2nd	1
Mens 4th	0
Brunel 3rd	4
Womens 1st	1
Brunel 1st	3
Womens 2nd	4
St Barts 3rd	0
Lacrosse:	
Womens 1st	3
Kings College 1st	9
Netball	
Womens 1st	27
Bucks Chilterns 1st	21
Womens 2nd	12
St Georges 3rd	36
Rugby:	
Mens 1st	0
Reading 1st	22
Mens 2nd	0
Reading 3rd	5
Mens 3rd	0
Royal Holloway 2nd	77
Squash:	
Mens 1st	0
Essex 1st	5
Mens 2nd	3
City University 1st	0
Mens 3rd	1
LSE 2nd	2
Womens 1st	3
LSE 1st	1
Tennis:	
Mens 1st	10
LSE 2nd	0
Womens 1st	10
Brighton 1st	0

Cyclists fly on downhill track



No matter how hard you look there are no nakedness or subtle arse shots this week, I promise. I know you're still looking - stop it!

Stephen Motley

For a change, the sun was shining as we set out to on our way to Aston Hill. After a quick one hour drive and supermarket stop we arrived at our local downhill and cross country spot ready for a full day's riding. Luckily the heavens hadn't opened up the day before like the weather

man said they would, so most of the tracks were dry and ready for some mud-free riding.

There are a multitude of downhill tracks at Aston hill as well as a fairly good cross country course and we set out doing all of them except the cross country.

My favourite was the 4X track with big burrs and smooth ramps

which then leads into the bottom half of DH3, another very good run.

There were no major injuries except to our egos, with Kofi "the flying man" Danso doing as his nickname suggests and leaving his bike behind, landing on his knees at the bottom of the same drop twice, and James "topple over" Atteck not being able to get his feet out of the

clip pedals fast enough and keeling over at the starting blocks of the 4X track in front of a group of 12 year olds. Oh, how they laughed.

Eventually though the day drew to a close. With rain beginning to fall and a group of very tired cyclist, we loaded up the van and set off back taking a "scenic detour" north on the M1 back to London.

Ladies Hockey

Brunel 1sts	3
IC 1sts	1

Sarah Clayton

The Ladies 1sts faced Brunel, away, last Wednesday. Yes, the team who beat us 9-1 only a few weeks ago! Thankfully, spirits were high as we knew we had improved in leaps & bounds since that black day.

We only lost, more narrowly than the score suggests, 3-1; Partly due to the fact that two of their goals should have been disallowed. The first was at the very end of half time. Roxy was off due to a ball being smacked into her hand, so IC were a man down as we have no subs, according to our coach the halftime should have gone when they managed to sneak one past us. The 2nd was stopped by Debs on the line & the umpire called it over even though three IC players clearly saw it didn't.

Despite this controversy and yet another defeat our team left the pitch smiling. It was our best match to date; we all clicked as a team with great improvement all round.

The team play on the pitch has been a bit of a struggle this season with over half our squad being fresher's. After a lot of hard work & enthusiasm we seem to have our team in order; the inter-play between Kate, as centre-mid, and Roxy, on the left wing, was exemplary. Vicky & Pru created a whirlwind upfront leaving the Brunel defenders option less at every free hit. Both Shiv & Anna's, left and right-mid respectively, work rate was exceptional high; as always. Lil' Han managed to push more than her fair weight around the pitch and Deborah was always where she was needed. Flustered Brunel never managed to score from their countless short corners due to Hannah's aggressive running and courageous dives from our goalie Sam, once she had put her shoulder back in place!

There was 100% commitment shown by the whole team and Alex, our coach, was very proud; an enjoyable afternoon of hockey.

AdLib

by Tevong You

