

felix

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IC Library to remain an inferno

Westminster Council reject planned 'solar shading' changes

Andy Sykes
Editor-in-chief

Planned refurbishments to the Library have been blocked by Westminster Council, meaning students will have to suffer another summer of roasting temperatures in the upper floors.

The College had to submit a planning application to the Council for the changes it wished to make to the building. The plans included a

number of changes to improve the poor ventilation in the building. These include extra vents and motorised windows to provide fresh, cooler air into the building.

These were to complement the planned "solar shading", which would be achieved by dimming the Library's windows. This should complement the otherwise poor air conditioning and the extra ventilation to reduce the ambient temperature.

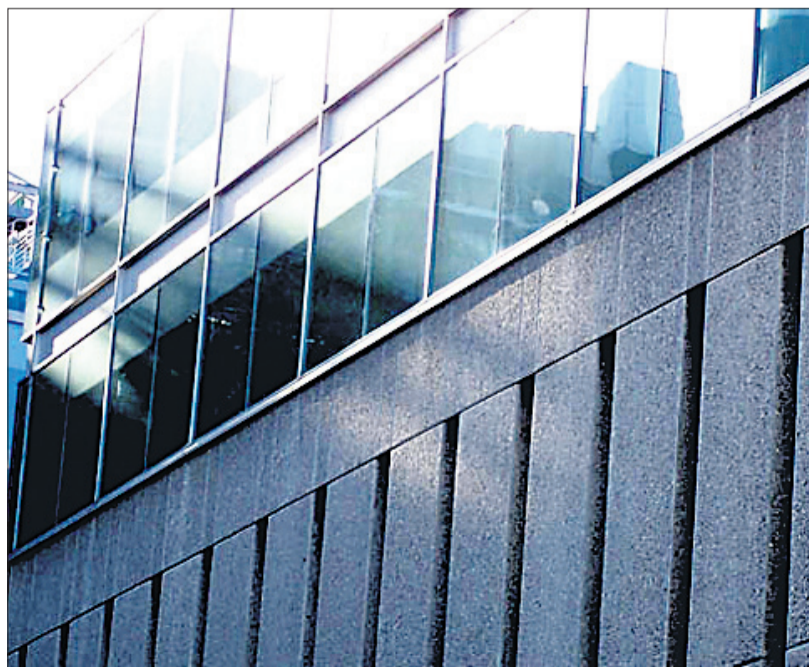
Westminster Council rejected the planning application outright, meaning none of the works can go ahead. It seems the main objection to the plans was a dissatisfaction with the change of appearance that would be caused by the solar changes. This is somewhat odd, as the Library is almost completely invisible from the outside of the campus, so any change should have minimal impact on the surrounding area.

Temperatures in the Library have been a problem for the last four years; it seems the air conditioning system cannot cope with the large number of students and high air temperatures around the summer revision period. The large windows in the upper levels also create a "greenhouse-like" effect that makes the Library unpleasant on sunny days.

The planning application is due to be resubmitted without the solar shading proposal, but it is highly unlikely the other planned improvements will prove sufficient to solve the Library's overheating problem. The rejection should only slightly delay these other changes.

The College and Union are looking for support from local residents for the shading, and are contacting the councillors known to be friendly to the College.

If you live in the borough, *Felix* advises you to write to your local councillors (you can find their details on www.westminster.gov.uk) to express your disapproval.



No respite for overheated students this summer

Blaze at Albert Hall Mansions

EMERSON VIGOUREUX



At 10.30am on Tuesday morning, smoke was spotted coming from the top of the Albert Hall Mansions building (to the east of Beit Quad). An hour later, more than 25 fire engines and assorted support vehicles were at the scene. The fire blazed until late evening, and Prince Consort Road was closed until the next day.

Albert Hall Mansions blaze

Fire in the roof of the Mansions building covers South Kensington in thick smoke and closes down access to the Union by road for the whole of Tuesday

Greg Meade

Our Man on the Roof

Traffic was brought to a halt around the Royal Albert Hall and Prince Consort Road on Tuesday when a fire broke out in the upper floors of the Albert Hall Mansions building.

The building has often housed students from the College, though they generally rent the cheaper flats in the basement level.

At around 10.30am, smoke was seen around the upper floors of the building. Members of Imperial College Security were first on the scene, and the Fire Brigade arrived shortly afterwards. Within an hour, more than 30 appliances had arrived, and the road outside the building had been closed.

According to the BBC and other news sources, the fire started in a penthouse flat. Some sources are reporting that it is owned "by a Middle-Eastern businessman."

The flames were first spotted by builders working on scaffolding on an adjacent roof, who had to scramble quickly to the ground after a window exploded and smoke began pouring out. A maid who was in the building at the time was rescued by firefighters from the upstairs windows.

By lunchtime the fire had spread into the roof and into the floor below. Firefighters could be seen in the third floor windows attempting to spray water onto the fire.

The Fire Brigade have said that part of the roof had collapsed, and there were concerns over ceilings in the lower flats collapsing due to the amount of water being poured onto them from the roof. Thin and suffocating smoke spread across the road into Hyde Park, blanketing the surrounding area with a unpleasant-smelling fog.

The builders also had the foresight to remove gas canisters from the immediate scene of the fire, and firemen could be seen remov-



Top: Fire engines line the road. Bottom: smoke from the fire spreads out across West London

ing more canisters later in the day. Murmurs of evacuation were heard coming from Fire Brigade radios as the fire continued unabated.

The building also houses a number of fine artworks, and salvage operations were in progress until late in the day. When this reporter left the

bar at 10.30pm, a large number of appliances were still in attendance.

It is not yet known what caused the fire.

Waterstones in Library closes forever

The Waterstones in the Library has closed for good, with low sales being cited as the reason.

The College outlet has competed with the store on High Street Kensington, which is only ten minutes walk away, and has a much larger stock.

There have also been complaints that the College branch is more expensive than the Kensington branch, even for the core business of textbooks for IC students.

The strength of Amazon's UK online bookselling business has also hurt sales, with many books being out of stock at the College branch and orders often taking more than two weeks to complete. Amazon has a much larger range, and has many more textbooks in stock.

The vacated space is now planned to become a 24-hour "supercafe", in order to complement the 24-hour opening of the Library throughout much of the year. The Library is generally open far later than other buildings on campus, and those working there at night lack a place to buy coffee or snacks (apart from a trio of unreliable vending machines in the Haldane Collection section of the building).



The now closed bookstore

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Friday 23.02.07

No sneezing!

"H5N1 is a highly pathogenic strain, and according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), may claim up to 100% of contaminated animals within 48 hours, affecting respiratory tracts, organs and tissue."

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Brit Awards

"Russell Brand meandered onto the podium as the crowd burst into cheers, many of them reveling at the fact that they were on television. I fortunately escaped this fate by not being famous enough. Darn."

PAGE 18

The life at night

"I might think twice before attending the next Tidy event in April. It wasn't the best"

PAGE 22



Cake and Edwardians

"Our students were out in force promoting their Centenary events to every member of the College"

PAGE 26

Halo 2 masterclass

"Halo 2 is indeed the ultimate multiplayer game in my opinion... pitchfork-wielders and CS zealots take note."

PAGE 30

Malawi expedition

"When travelling north, the team's progress was halted by a drunk man who ran out in front of their truck. The team assisted where they could but sadly the casualty died that night from his injuries."

PAGE 34

Unsporting behaviour

"Middlesex were very fowl-mouthed and swore at the ref a number of times - apparently nearly every player they had on the pitch was a qualified ref and 'they know all the rules'."

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Sabb hustings descend into complete farce

Free alcohol mixes with joke candidates to produce a farce

A. Hack
Our Man with a Pint

Felix wishes to apologise for ever suggesting that this year's sabbatical elections could be anything but a farce (or at least, the hustings).

The first hustings took place on Monday evening after Union Council, the idea being that candidates would face a "Question Time" grilling courtesy of the hacks present. Free food and drink (alcoholic and otherwise) were provided in order to lure the "average" student in. The hope was that this would enliven hustings, which are normally a rather pedestrian affair.

Hustings have in the past been held in the JCR at lunchtime, which tends to frustrate students who are trying to eat lunch in peace in be-

tween lectures and labs. They have also been held in Da Vinci's bar, but these have proved even more irritating to the average student, many of whom are merely there for a pint and don't wish to be yelled at by a candidate with a microphone. Hustings at the Reynold's Bar at Charing Cross Hospital have seen attendances of precisely zero, and were in fact cancelled this year for that very reason.

Adopting a more informal approach was supposed to provide a more entertaining hustings. John Collins, the Returning Officer, allowed questions from the floor, and even permitted a great deal of the less serious questions.

However, in practice the hustings quickly became a complete joke. The candidates were drowned out

by heckling, and it quickly became clear that the only way to get the crowd's appreciation was to answer every question in the most stupid fashion possible. The crowd (who were mostly drunk on the free drink provided) jeered at any candidate that dared to give a serious answer. John Collins did little to keep control of the proceedings, and has been accused by some of being drunk; he told Felix he wasn't drunk, but was merely "tipsy".

One candidate, Felix Sinclair (standing for Felix Editor), used his minute-long allowance for a speech to attempt to breakdance (poorly), and threw insults at the other candidates. Another candidate, Diogo Geraldos (standing for President) constantly spoke out of turn by grabbing the microphone from Mr Collins and the other candidates. His comments became increasingly more offensive, until someone in the crowd accused him of misogyny, prompting him to stand up and declare: "Yes, I am a misogynist!"

The debacle left a sour taste in the mouths of many present; a number of hacks approached Felix afterwards to express their dissatisfaction, one going as far as to call it "a complete fucking farce". Many complained they could gain absolutely no information about the candidates whatsoever, and that the candidates were denied a fair and unbiased hearing. RCC Chair Mark Flower (a member of the Elections Committee) did his best to maintain order, but it was not to be.

Other candidates for President are Stephen Brown, Julian Gianuzzi, Jon Matthews and Sophie Spillard. Other candidates for Felix Editor are Emily Lines and Tom Roberts.



A certain candidate getting a little too close for comfort to Mr Collins

Contractors 'pour concrete down the drains'

ArtsFest's finale party last Friday had to be cut short by more than an hour after damage to the Union's drains put all the male toilets in the building out of service.

Attendees of the event have told Felix that raw sewage was coming back into the toilet bowls.

Indications that something was amiss with the Union's somewhat ancient drains had been seen throughout the week; toilets had been slow to drain while flushing, and in several cases have overflowed.

It seems that with the large number of people in the building on Friday evening, the drains could no longer handle the volume of water

and began backing up. Though the female toilets were still functional, students had to be asked to leave.

The finger of blame appears to be pointing at the Union's contractors working on the building redevelopment, who have been pouring wet cement into the drainage system. College's contractors, AMEC, have surveyed the drains and seen evidence of this, though investigations by the Union's contractors have yet to reveal any hardened blockages.

The priority for the moment is to restore the drains to working order. Vans have been spotted bringing in drain rodding gear, and it appears that the problem will be resolved next week.



"Ere, they're full o' concrete!"

RSM fight to save favourite cafe



Claude's Cafe in the Royal School of Mines building

The RSM Union has launched a campaign to save their building cafe from otherwise certain closure.

Claude's Cafe, as it is known, is privately run, and is situated in the Royal School of Mines building. It has grown to be loved by staff and students within the building due to its low prices (far lower than the mostly overpriced College catering) and friendly, individual service.

Claude's was due to close last May when the Bessemer Building and the Mines building were refurbished; lobbying by the RSM and a change in the refurbishment plans allowed it to remain.

However, Claude's is once again in College's sights. It seems plans are afoot to replace the cheap and friendly cafe with a College-run

catering outlet, along with typical overpriced College food and drink. Residents of the building are understandably upset at the loss of 35p tea, something almost unknown on campus.

A petition was launched by the RSM President, Seb Turner, and has already collected more than 450 signatures, just shy of the 500 Mr Turner wants to be able to present to the College.

The RSM have also motivated staff within the building to join forces to save Claude's. Mr Turner said: "Staff are strongly backing it as well, and providing very useful advice. I just hope that the impact this has had will convince the college administration to seriously reconsider their plans."

RCSU Challenge at the Ritz



A very swanky venue for the RCSU Science Challenge finale

The RCSU have finally unveiled the location of the finale of the Science Challenge. Combined with a party to celebrate the first anniversary of the re-launch of the RCSU, the prize giving will take place in the Ritz Hotel on March 9th. With several of the high-profile judges attending, as well as the cream of the ICU, the event is likely to be one of the highest profile events in the Centenary Year calendar. It's certainly the most exciting venue this reporter can remember an Impe-

rial event being held in.

The Science Challenge competition has received a huge amount of media attention, and the BBC, the Guardian and the Telegraph, as well as Felix will be covering the event, and the winner will certainly be receiving a lot of coverage (as well as £2500 and a laptop!). If you haven't submitted your Science Challenge essay you're leaving it a bit late, as the deadline is 5pm today.

You can buy tickets from the RCSU website (www.rcsu.org.uk)

Depressed little Britons?

Camilla Royle

What has happened to this nation? In a report by the United Nations Children's Fund on the 12th February, Britain came out as the worst country in the industrialized world in which to be a child.

The charity UNICEF gauged 40 separate indicators to measure children's lives in 21 of the world's most economically advanced nations. This was the first study of its kind. Unfortunately, it found Britain's children were among the poorest and most neglected.

On key measures of poverty and deprivation, happiness, relationships, and risky or bad behaviour, the study showed that Britain consistently came out with low scores

"All countries have weaknesses that need to be addressed and no country features in the top third of the rankings for all six dimensions," said David Bull, UNICEF UK's executive director.

However, Britain's appalling result begs some serious questions, are we in a cut throat, dog eat dog society?

Jonathan Bradshaw is a professor of social policy at York University and one of the report's authors, put Britain's poor ratings down to long-term under-investment in children and a "dog-eat-dog" society.

"The findings that we got today are a consequence of long-term underinvestment in children," said Bradshaw, who is a professor of social policy at York University in England. Colette Marshall, UK director of charity Save the Children, said the report was a "shameful" verdict on Britain. She said "drastic



Just how do you measure who is happier?

action," including an injection of 4.5 billion pounds, was needed to meet a government target of halving the number of children in poverty by 2010.

In medical psychiatry, there has been much discussion about childhood unhappiness. S Timimi S in a paper entitled "Rethinking childhood depression" says that to diagnose major depression in children is to medicalise the unhappiness caused by affluence, permissiveness, a decaying family and society.

However, Joseph M Rey and Michael J Dudley contrast this view in a number of articles entitled "Depressed youth, suicidality and antidepressants", by stating that medical practitioners and governments

have been told during the last quarter century that depression is a serious illness that can lead to suicide, poor physical health, and personal, professional and social difficulties. Thus, the international mental health community has invested considerable resources in trying to tackle this scourge.

Unfortunately, some of the problems when dealing with a ranking system is that it is simply a form of relative ranking. Overall, teenagers might be adversely affecting the results by being more vocal (yes I mean moaning) about their ailments, relationship problems or life's work.

It does not necessitate that they are objectively worse off, rather they just perceive to be, and further,

we cannot objectively tell in units of happiness how much more unhappy they really are. Perhaps unhappiness can be in certain cases a course for drive?

After all of this discussion, home organisations and government do need to monitor the situation further, and with a higher degree of sophistication in order to objectively discern how happiness is felt as, opposed to how much better off that particular individual is. As this survey is the first of its kind, I presume it will be quite some more time until a more refined conclusion is built.

If expert clinicians disagree, it is little wonder that the public is confused, yet severely depressed teenagers will continue to come to doctors for management.



Omar Hashmi
Politics Editor

I know that the constant and repetitive feeling of Déjà vu is getting to you know, but it should. We are going to see a lot happen in the next few months.

All I can say is that it is in the American government's best interests to keep Iran neutralised. The pressure is mounting. Plans for a massive military strike have been unveiled, and President Ahmadinejad is in the lowest diplomatic position he has ever been in before. Criticism of his foreign policy rhetoric (concerning Israel as well as Uranium) and his poor record on promised reforms at home have been the primary objections. As a result, 150 members of the parliament signed a letter blaming him for raging inflation, soaring food prices, high unemployment, and failure to deliver a budget on time. This with an overwhelming defeat in December's local elections, ultimately means that that power has shifted over to the pragmatists.

This shift may (or may not) bring peace - but what is the price to the Iranian people of this move? Will their interests be observed by foreign powers, or usurped?

Oh yeah, er um, say something more relevant, ooh, er, perhaps about the Union? AHAA! Get more involved! Yes. Whoever said that this page just looks up at the sky?

Flu, flu, all over the world and spreading...

Li Teck Lau

160,000 turkeys lucky enough to have survived the Christmas cull, instead found their final resting place in a gas chamber after a diagnosis of H5N1 avian influenza was made on a farm in Holton, England. 2,500 birds died initially from the virus on the Bernard Matthews owned property, Europe's largest turkey producers and famous for products such as frozen 'turkey drummers'.

The discovery comes a month after the disease was found in Hungary, and a year since France saw evidence of an outbreak. So far, H5N1 has claimed the lives of over 200 million of our feathery friends all over the world. Avian flu is a mild disease, often not life threatening in wild birds.

However, H5N1 is a highly pathogenic strain, and according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), may claim up to 100% of contaminated animals within 48 hours, affecting respiratory tracts, organs and tissue.

That it is a highly contagious disease, and that birds reared for the food industry are kept in such confined environments, presents a huge risk to agriculture and any nation's economy.

After the French outbreak in February 2006, poultry sales plunged by 30%, and only recovered half a year later. Chickens are the main



H5N1 avian influenza finally struck England last month in Holton in sleepy Suffolk

product, accounting for 70%, of a European food sector worth 20 billion euros annually.

A 3km zone has been drawn around the farm, restricting the movement of birds and moving them indoors. A further region encompassing all within 10km of the infected farm is to be subject to intense monitoring by Cobra, Britain's emergency planning committee, and the Department for the En-

vironment, Food and Rural Affairs.

On Saturday, the same day as confirmation of the outbreak in the UK, Nigeria reported a deceased 22 year old woman with traces of the virus, thought to be the cause of death. It is estimated that 165 people have died as a result of H5N1 since 2003, though in general, human infection is rare. The WHO states that properly prepared food is enough to prevent getting the disease even from

a contaminated animal; poultry raised to a heat above 70 degrees, and strict hand washing practices. It is, however, the practice of home slaughter, common in many developing countries, which significantly increases risk of infection.

There has been much investigation into any human cases because many scientists fear a mutated version of the virus, one that spreads just as fast between humans and is

equivalently fatal, will bring about a new pandemic. Influenza pandemics have so far been periodic in human history, with the worst case occurring in 1918 with the 'Spanish Influenza'. That episode claimed an estimated 40-50 million lives world wide. The WHO warn that, with all necessary precautions in place for a human outbreak, a pandemic today may result in a global death toll of 2 million.

Letters to the Editor

A collection of random missives

A nice easy starter for ten

Dear Felix,

After looking out my office window, and seeing a rather large crane moving over the Sherfield building, I started wondering what all this building work going on at Imperial was. Like what is the deal with that door to nowhere they put in the side of the Library? It would be great if you could let us all know in *Felix*!

Gavin Nicholson

Andy Sykes replies,

The large crane is probably for filling in the lightwells that occupy space on level 4 of the Sherfield Building. Plans are afoot to increase the office space up there, and I think the Finance Department have been moved across the road to Princes Gate.

I have often wondered what the hell the 'door to the beyond' was in the side of the library. After close consultation with Mr Ashley Brown (*Live!* editor) we have decided that this door was for workmen so they didn't have the traipse through the library to get to the floor where work was being done. There was a staircase made of scaffolding up to it at one point. I just hope that should a confused student who happens to be drunk on excessive revising doesn't mistake it for an exit and fall thirty feet to the concrete.

The library is getting a new ventilation system (to combat the intense local warming in level 4 and 5) and a general refurbishment.

At least, that was the plan, but you'll see from the front page that this redevelopment has been thoroughly shafted by Westminster Council.

Still upset about the reply to Sam Furse

Dear Andy,

Hate to stop you doing your job with having to deal with minor pedants, but I'm writing regarding the *Felix* page 3 reply to Sam Furse this week. You are quoted as writing that 'You are not 6'4", tanned and incredibly muscular' about Mr Furse.

Well as it so happens, he can probably top those requirements of the physical parameters; he's 6'6" and he's rather strong (just you try sitting on a horse's back for at least an hour a week whilst trying to make it do tricks and trying not to fall off - you probably won't be able to walk the next day).

OK, he's no Arnie, but you did try to give an example of what param-



The incredible door that leads to absolutely nowhere. What the hell is it for?

eters qualify as Adonis. Yes his and Kat Gray's page 3 may not have been to everyone's taste, and I for one did not exactly find it something to stick on my wall, but it got more people talking than the regular stock of averagely pretty girls in underwear (which admittedly probably got more geeks w**king) which is the point of the *Felix* page 3, is it not?

I just thought you ought to get your facts right before trying to insult him back.

Another thing is - I know you're trying to cater *Felix* to its 'target reader group' with this great surge of soft-porn and all (congratulations on actually getting a semi-naked bloke this week), but honestly, are the four pages of 'games' really necessary? Most of the pictures could be reduced in size and you could probably reduce the section down to about two pages.

Finally, I wonder why you made 'Collins in X-factor' a headline story when the fool who filled in the application form couldn't even follow the instructions (namely 'PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION IN BLOCK CAPITALS'). Perhaps you should run a story in the vein of 'Collins can't follow instructions horror' next week?

On positive note, *Felix* this year has been a bit better designed and laid out, and whoever writes the horoscopes is a comedy genius, so well done on that.

Avalon de Paravinci

Andy Sykes replies,

For the last time, I wasn't trying to insult Mr Furse. I'm hardly one to talk - I'm 5' 10", pasty and have been compared to Skeletor in terms of build.

I shouldn't have used that phrase, as it seems to have been readily misinterpreted. I've apologised to Mr Furse, and I hope there are no hard feelings between us. Oh, and I saw him in the *Union* the other day, and he is f-ing massive. My mistake.

I think you're right about Page 3. There was a nicely chiselled bloke on this week's, which seemed to please a few ladies. There's a great one for next week, but I won't spoil it (it's more in keeping with the old Page 3 style).

As for games, a bunch of people have approached me and said it's the only thing they read, and a few people have said they hate it. There are a lot of gamers in College, and they seem to be enjoying it.

It only suffers in comparison with the other sections; seeing as a few members of *Felix* are on the campaign trail, and a few have had tragic things happen to them, the arty sections are a bit light. Hopefully things should improve in the next week or so. The best part about *Felix* was never the news, but the back part of the paper.

I won't name who filled in the application form for fear of making them look bad at an inopportune time.

Anorexia - Mis-represented and inaccurate

Sir,

Your "fashion" editorial Anorexia: a media problem? made unsubstantiated claims about this serious disorder. This poorly edited piece sensationalized anorexia nervosa and misrepresented the contributing roles of the media and the family in its development.

Your author claimed that "Anorexia and obesity are the health problems currently garnering the most attention," yet she did not present evidence that this is the case. Anecdotally, the "size zero" debate and popular weight-loss diets both loom large in media aimed at women, but other disorders are also the focus of newspapers and journalism - fertility issues and cancer and its detection and treatment as other conditions spring to mind as reported about on an ongoing basis; concerns surrounding the detection of the H5N1 virus have received numerous column inches of late.

Ms Skeete's interpretation of the incidence of Eating Disorders and body dissatisfaction in Fiji, and her pointing to the arrival of television as a causal factor, is facile. If two factors change simultaneously this

does not imply a causal relationship. It is probable that the arrival of television in Fiji coincided with other lifestyle changes, any or all of which could have contributed to the reported increase in Eating Disorder symptoms and body dissatisfaction among young Fiji women.

Giselle's allegation that "The parents are responsible, not fashion" should be presented together with contrasting evidence that suggests that "bad parenting" does not "cause" anorexia. To agree that this is the case perpetuates the myth that anorexia nervosa is a disease caused by the family, and does nothing to alleviate the guilt that a sufferer's loved ones may feel when they watch helplessly if the disease takes hold. In some cases, pathologies within the family contribute to the development of and maintenance of an eating disorder. However, current evidence suggests that there are many contributory factors that are involved and interrelated.

Anorexia is not "just a disease," it is a disease - a disorder - a set of symptoms with a diagnosis and whilst treatment is complex there are treatments and prognoses. It is not "a symptom of wider mental health problems" - it is a mental health problem.

Recovery from anorexia nervosa, obesity or body dissatisfaction, involves the maintenance of healthy body and mind. This is not easy and requires effort. Attempts to move towards improved health for all young women is not aided by unrealistic body types on the catwalk. Nor is it aided by misrepresentation of serious mental health issues in *Felix*.

Anonymous (by request)

Sarah Skeete (Fashion Editor) replies,

I think health is a serious issue with respect to fashion, and at the time of writing, the size zero issue featured prominently in newspapers, which is more relevant to a *Fashion* page than say fertility treatments or cancer. What I wrote reflected my opinion and personal experience, which is to say that I think family plays a part in anorexia in some cases.

I agree that anorexia nervosa, obesity and other eating disorders are serious diseases. I know anorexia takes serious effort to overcome. Having more realistic body shapes on the catwalk might help in some cases. However as I mentioned in my article, there are many reasons why this isn't going to change drastically anytime soon. Calling for bigger sizes on the catwalk is well and good, but as you said, anorexia is a multi-faceted disorder. As I drew attention to, the government focusing on healthy eating, and teaching nutrition at schools, is a realistic way to help target eating disorders.

I'm sorry if you feel I "sensationalised" anorexia, I wrote from my experience and brought up some points that are often lost in an attempt to not offend anyone.

Sabb Elections 2007

felix



What are the main issues this year?

The next group of sabbaticals will have to face a number of difficulties. *Felix* tells you what they are

Andy Sykes

There's an interesting mix of candidates this year. On the one hand, we have a lot of experienced, Union-savvy folk who know how the place works (and presumably, how it doesn't work). These are what most would term the "hack" candidates.

On the other hand, there are a number of candidates who've never been involved with the Union before, and some who haven't expressed any interest in it until now. These are the "fresh" candidates.

There are pros and cons to both groups. Hacks may be too wrapped up in the "papershuffling" aspect of the sabb jobs to figure out what will make a difference to your average apathetic student. On the other hand, they have the experience to drop straight into the job.

Fresh-faced types might find the learning curve incredibly steep on entering the job, and therefore achieve absolutely nothing. However, they're likely to be more in touch with what's going on in the general

student population.

All of these foolish individuals who've decided to stand will have a number of problems to face if they're elected. These are long-term issues with the Union that won't be resolved by the end of this year.

Beit Redevelopment

The biggie. The sabbs will have to keep a constant eye on this and its ever-shifting deadlines.

NUS membership

Great, we're in. Now what the hell do we do with it?

The Charities Bill

Dull to the average student; basically, the sabbs have to figure out how the Union can stay independent without making the themselves overly personally liable.

Union reform

The perennial problem – what do we do to make the Union more efficient and better organised?



The Union. Beautiful in summer, isn't it?

What do the sabbaticals do?

Felix explains why you should take a moment to vote for them

If you're not a hack (and let's face it, most of us aren't hacks) you're probably wondering why the hell you should even bother taking a few minutes to log in to the Union voting site and click a few buttons. "Sabbs?" I hear you cry; "they don't do anything except sit on their arses and get paid for the privilege!"

Okay, in some respects you might be correct, but sabbs actually have a great deal of power. Don't forget that the full-time staff that work for the Union are often instructed what to work on by the sabbs. Sabbs even have the power to change College policy (well, in theory, anyway).

President

The head honcho. He or she is the boss of all the Deputy Presidents, and is pretty much the figurehead of the Union.

In practical terms, this means they spend a great deal of time in meetings, trying to thrash out policy between all the interested factions. Any time College does something the Union doesn't like, the President will have to take control and try and sort it out.

The character of a President will almost always set the character of the Union the year. You get what you vote for.

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Probably the most important DP position, since they hold the purse strings for almost every activity the Union dabbles in.

They are responsible for all the club budgets, events budgets, and pretty much anything involving money you care to name.

They are also responsible for the bars, including pricing, and general bar strategy. Expect to see lots of manifestos promising lower bar prices; pretty much every DPFS has promised this.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

If you're in a club (and statistically speaking, it's likely that you are), then this is your man or woman. This sabb is responsible for the day-to-day administration of clubs, including various wrist-slapping activities. They also tend to be the lead organiser for Freshers' Fair.

With more than 200 clubs, this is a big responsibility. A lazy or bad DPFS can spell disaster.

Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Traditionally known as the "fluffy" sabb, a nomenclature that's only

been reinforced by the occupation of this role by the exceptionally fluffy Ben Harris this year.

This sabb spends the vast majority of time in meetings with College, including the big ones like Senate (deals with course problems). The rest of their time is spent on case-work: dealing with the problems of individual students.

Deputy President (Graduate Students)

The more observant among you might have noticed that there is no election for this position this year. That's because of the furore surrounding the role; no-one in the Union seems sure whether it is tenable in the long run, as the last two occupants have faced what could be called intense media scrutiny.

Felix Editor

The odd one out. It's not like the other sabbs – the President can't order the Editor around.

The Felix Editor is (gasp!) responsible for producing *Felix*. At the moment, it's one of the only two student newspapers in London with a sabb editor.

The Felix Editor is also responsible for producing the Freshers' Handbook during the summer.



If you don't vote, you can't complain. It's the law, y'see

Sabb manifestos

Editor's note: these manifestos are provided 'as-is', with no proofreading or spellchecking.

Stephen Brown



I am supposed to open this manifesto detailing the experience I have.

I've been involved at every level from representing students, being a member of a sports club and sometimes I just like using the bar.

Having now demonstrated my involvement with the Union I could now proceed to take credit for everything it has done well, distance myself from the bad parts and "gracefully" accept complete responsibility for things that are going to happen anyway. I have seen

this happen at election time for the past four years and I want to make the Union a bit more sincere and relevant.

Reporting for Felix on the Union and what it does for the past 2 years got me thinking about things that could be done better.

Union politicians need to accept that most of our members have no interest sitting on committees, forums or filling out paperwork so we need to engage with these people. Why should they have to turn up to dull meetings to feel involved? A full manifesto is available online

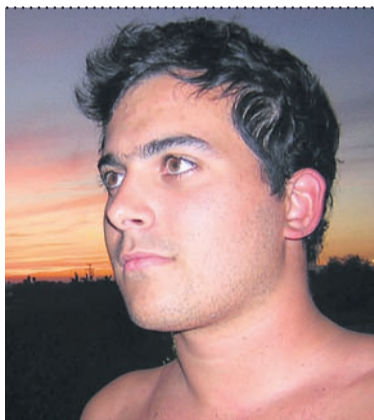
but here are the highlights.

Elect me as President for more student discounts, less Union spam e-mails and making sure that the NUS keeps the promises they made to us during the referendum.

I would also strive to keep bar prices as low as is economically possible and continue lobbying college over the wild disparities in the proportion of good degrees awarded by different departments.

Vote Stephen Brown for a more open Union.

Diogo Geraldés



Weeey! I'm Diogo (dee-oh-goh!), a full-time 21 year old Portuguese macho and a more occasional Biomedical Engineer wannabe. You're probably now wondering why would someone like me, whose only Union experience is having tried all the types of lager sold in Da Vinci's, run for President. Well... I think that anyone can learn the bureaucratic crap that you need to run it, but student life, my fellow friends, that can't be studied in the library! You have to experience it in order to completely understand what being a student is and how to solve our problems and

that I think I master. The following are some of the things I'm aiming to change in our college:

- bring fun and coolness to the Union bars by organising more common events with the medics, Wye and the Royal Colleges of Art and of Music.
- get an outside bar in Beit Quad for Summer Term chilling and revamp Db's properly.
- provide hot snacks to the Holland Club for all those PhD binge drinkers.
- try to get reading weeks and create the Teacher of the Year

award in all the departments, improving results and lecturing quality.

- give more funds to departmental societies and organise career days within each course in order to help with professional decisions.
- start workshops and collaborations with the neighbouring colleges of Art and Music for all the repressed creative Imperial students.

More information in my Facebook group or when you see me half sober.

Julian Giannuzzi



I believe that a good Union president is the person who best represents the Imperial College students.

The president is the elected spokesperson for the students of Imperial and responsible for conveying the view of Imperial students to the rest of the country. I believe that I am that person.

As a first year I will be bringing fresh blood and new ideas to ICU. I will still have to complete my course after being president, so I care about how the Union will be run.

Final year students may have union experience, but may not care as much for the future of ICU as a younger candidate as they are no longer a student, will they best represent views of students?

I am not going to tell what you want to hear, or say I will do things that I know I won't or can't be president. Instead I will express things that I think need changing:

Stella Artois on tap in the union! Why isn't the country's most popular beer in the union?

Open a union run book shop!

Are we becoming illiterate? With Waterstone's gone where will students buy their books? (yes some people actually BUY books)

Have more recycling facilities on campus! I am no eco-warrior but do feel we throw away too many things that could be reused.

I support all ideas expressed by fellow members of the 'Slate' (Messrs. Balikhin, Holland, Narayanan and myself).

"Youthful enthusiasm and new ideas vs. experienced old hacks."

YOU DECIDE!

Union President

Voting opens Friday 23rd
& closes Tuesday 27th

Vote online at:
www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

MANIFESTOS

Union President

Jon Matthews



The Union has taken great steps forward this year albeit not without controversy. We have joined the NUS, we have reformed our governance structure, we have entered into a Sports Partnership with the College, we undertook some painful but necessary reforms to our commercial services. We can make great things from these changes but need a President that is fully aware of the issues and has been involved in them throughout. Vote Jon Matthews for President and I will:

- Ensure that we get the service we deserve from the NUS especially the promised Science and Engineering

Network.

- Negotiate properly with College to ensure better co-operation without sacrificing independence.

- Work for a model of postgraduate representation that works and serves all postgraduates.

- Ensure an energy efficient and sustainable redevelopment that continues to meet student wishes and requirements.

- Make all Union officers truly accountable and remove the hurdles that still exist in calling officers to account.

- Ensure the gym remains truly

free, not charged for by the back door.

- Be available to students whenever needed (I already work 100 hour weeks).

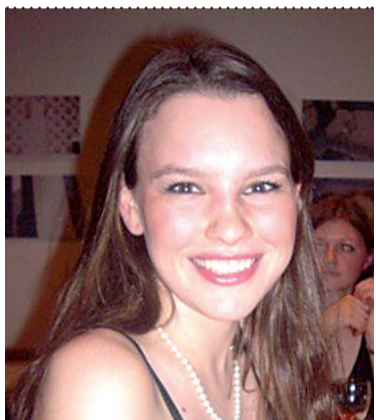
- Continue the work to reduce bar prices, we have had three cuts this year but can have more.

- Improve Union catering, let's face it, it needs it.

- Bring experience and proven leadership ability to the Union.

You cannot select a President on 250 words, for more information, email me at jgm99@imperial.ac.uk or watch out for me at hustings and around campus.

Sophie Spillard



As President I will represent students to the best of my ability.

I will take student issues to council and be the voice of the student body.

Since I am in my second year I feel I have the benefit of being both accustomed to the ways of the university long enough to take on the responsibility of this post as well as having an insight of the demands of all students.

The clubs and societies at College are very important to the students and I would like to maintain the funding that they receive.

It is clear that Imperial is London's leading university academically, however in terms of the social scene and night life our union is far behind the competition; far too many students spend evenings at Kings or LSE.

I believe the union has the potential to be an amazing venue and with the incorporation of Beit Redevelopment I would like to attract more students as other London Unions are able to do by hosting larger club nights which would be affordable and desirable.

I would also like to heighten the profile of the ICU Cinema; as one of the cheapest cinemas in the West End I feel it is a shame it is under used.

I would like to improve catering within the College; I am keen to keep the privately run RSM café, where food is cheaper and tastier than in equivalent College owned outlets such as in Da Vinci's.

As President, representing student's needs I feel it is essential that I am approachable if students feel there is an issue they need to discuss.

Alexander Balikhin



As the Slate's DPCS candidate I will support the policies of the other Slate candidates.

These include an office hour for sabbs to make them more accessible and the renaming of the posts of president and deputy president to Don and Capo, along with renaming the council and executive committee to the Commission and the Sit Down.

I will try to continue the war on bureaucracy, as I'm sure every candidate will promise.

This can be done by allowing more forms to be handed in

electronically.

I will also try and increase the autonomy of clubs and societies.

For example allowing clubs to decide for themselves how their AGM is run, instead of the usual way written in the constitution template, or by reducing the newly elected officers form, by not including details about the non-essential officers.

Money can also be saved by getting clubs to share.

It sounds so easy but if for example there are 2 scuba societies why does each one have to get expen-

sive equipment or why do we have 2 golf societies each paying for ground hire.

Our membership of the NUS should be exploited: NUS campaigns like the 'Strong and Active Unions' can provide assistance to societies.

Finally I will help campus's other then South Kensington, get a fair deal with regards to C&S.

It's true that my union experience as re-app and club officer doesn't compare with that of my opponent but with me you are promised some fresh ideas.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Alistair Cott



Why should you vote me for DPCS?

Well I have seen first hand the problems which clubs and societies face everyday; this experience comes from being a club officer, in a club and society executive committee, and working in the student activities centre.

From this I would like to un-complicate the union, so make the everyday running of all clubs and societies less frustrating.

The union has to remember it is here to help clubs and societies not to hinder them.

This means not freezing budgets without at least telling the committee, as I have seen it do, or setting deadlines which the clubs and societies only find out about with very little time to spare.

Many of the countless forms which plague clubs and societies could be implemented online with email confirmation and updated versions from last year.

Also much of the finance system could be automated online. This would be a huge improvement leading to less paperwork, and the staff having more time to actually talk

to the very people they are there to help.

I believe the process in which clubs and societies go through to get anything online needs to be made easier.

Plus the time taken to get anything put online needs to be decreased, if only to persuade clubs and societies it's a good idea in the first place!

Remember a vote for me would be for an approachable friendly person that clubs and societies could come to sort out any of their problems.

MANIFESTOS

Anthony Calder



Firstly, I would like to thank all those students who have seconded me to make it possible to run in this forthcoming election for the role of DPFS, those of you know who you are and thanks, it means a lot!

ICU is going through exciting changes with refurbishments and the implementation of its 5 year strategy plan, the governance review and its affiliation to NUS.

Why should YOU vote Calder;

- As I will full fill the duties laid out in the constitution regarding the DPFS role to the best of my

ability.

- Make sure campus clubs do not feel isolated from ICU if they are not based in South Kensington by keeping in contact and helping where necessary.

- Supporting the President in implementing the current Union Strategy.

- Ensure that ICU Clubs and Societies spend their money wisely.

- Make sure the changes made this year to ICU such as the governance review are successfully fulfilled.

- Help ensure we run successful

and entertaining events within the Union.

- As I already have a fairly good understanding on how the finances of ICU work, I will explore ways on improving the system.

- Work on trying to satisfy the student's needs regarding the services ICU offer.

And:

- Depending on what my powers permit me to do so; research and explore the possibility of developing an ICU brand amongst clubs and societies in line with other large universities such as Bath.

Andrew Holland



Nobody can deny that our Union bars need improving.

If I were elected I would seek to improve this by ensuring that all bar staff are trained to a high standard.

All too often we receive service which is poor and slow, sometimes even to the point of downright rudeness.

I have worked and have been involved in training in bars before, and know exactly how to turn them around.

After that, I would seek to introduce a wider range of drinks, in-

cluding cocktails, and more beers (Stella!!!) on tap.

aAlso, I would try and get later drinking licenses for end of term events.

With the smoking ban coming in, we are set to lose the shisha bar.

I would strive to keep this by introducing patio heaters and a marquee to allow shisha to be comfortably smoked in all weather.

The sorry state of food in the union will be addressed as well, with prices better reflecting what you are paying for.

Waterstones has shut down. We are one of the few universities in the UK without a bookshop. A union run bookshop should be on campus – it is a necessity for students.

Although I may be inexperienced, I believe I, as well as the rest of “the Slate”, am what the Union needs. Fresh ideas, and a new outlook on things, rather than tired old career politician students.

Vote for me, and “the Slate”, if you feel that our Union needs change.

Christopher Larvin



With three years of involvement in the Union ranging from working part-time in the Student Activities Centre, sitting on numerous committees, to being RSM CSC Treasurer, I've become familiar with the role of the DPFS. A small selection of problems I have identified over the last few months include:

- 1) Clubs and societies are a credit to the Union but are supported with outdated and inadequate systems.

- 2) Event planning can be daunting and is rarely done properly.

- 3) Despite substantial changes in the Union's bars there is inconsistent pricing and do not cater for all students.

ing and do not cater for all students.

- 4) Catering is the subject of discontent for many, and cannot compete with other facilities on campus.

- 5) The finance system is not transparent and is relatively poorly understood by officers.

If elected, I promise to...

- 1) Review the Union's money control mechanism with the aim of reducing bureaucracy and delays when processing claims.

- 2) Produce a comprehensive finance training program, including planning for very large events.

- 3) Where possible reduce bar prices

(including non-alcoholic drinks), and make positive steps with Union staff to find cheaper suppliers.

- 4) Work to increase the quality of the Union food and would encourage initiatives to bring students into the Union at lunchtimes.

- 5) Encourage changes in the finance structure to allow for greater transparency and accountability.

I believe I am the most experienced candidate standing and have the knowledge, enthusiasm and working relationships to make a positive impact on our Union. Vote Chris for DPFS.

Hugh Mansfield



As Imperial becomes affiliated with the NUS once more, the role of the DPFS is more significant than ever.

With the NUS affiliation fees coming out of the Union budget, the importance of a responsible and effective figure as DPFS cannot be overstated.

I will make sure that not only would the remaining budget be managed more effectively, but also that Imperial students are able to take the greatest advantage of the services provided by the NUS.

I recognise that students have to stretch their own budget out, so I will ensure that the best possible facilities are available without pricing them out of reach of the vast majority of students.

With this in mind, I will keep hall rents in check so they remain affordable to everyone.

I firmly believe that facilities such as the gym must stay free to all Imperial students, and guarantee that this will remain the case.

I will make certain bar prices stay down - since the loss of Southside bar, there is no compe-

tion to keep prices low, and I will not allow students to suffer as a result.

I will also broaden the range of Union events, while keeping their prices down.

There is a growing feeling that the Union fails to represent all students fully.

Not only will I be directly accountable to you, but I will also make myself available at all times for anyone to bring any concerns to me.

For a responsible and accountable DPFS, vote for Hugh.

Deputy President
(Finance & Services)

MANIFESTOS

Emily Lines



I've been writing for Felix since my first year and have been Arts Editor since 2005, nurturing the Arts page into a regular section.

I've developed lots of PR contacts and my writers get access to London's most important Arts events.

I'm a 4th year mathematician but I've spent most of my time at Imperial doing lots of other things!

I sat on the summer ball committee, worked in the Union bar, played netball and as well as my first love Felix, I am currently a Pimlico Volunteer and RCSU Honorary Secretary.

I will bring Felix out on Thursdays again! Being distributed on Friday lunchtime as it is now means that many students don't get a copy until Monday, when the news may well be out of date.

I want more features and interviews in Felix, and a bigger science section. I plan a 'News in Brief' section with news about student activity in other inferior universities.

I want Felix to hold Sabbs accountable for their decisions and promises, and report on what changes to the Union mean for students.

But it's not just about news. To keep you entertained in boring lectures, I plan to resurrect the legendary FUCWIT league, print more puzzles, games and have funnier comment.

I will be bringing in new ideas and contributors to keep Felix dynamic and evolving. As for our beloved centrefold; boys, girls, animals, statues - I'm not fussed.

Ambitious plans. Experience coming out of my ears. Vote Emily for Felix.

Tom Roberts



Felix has changed dramatically over the last few years. Under Rupert, the news teetered on the tightrope of sensationalism, whereas this year's Felix has maintained a balanced stance and more professional approach. However, this has been at the expense of some of the light hearted content. If elected, I will bring the best of both worlds.

The comments section will continue with its debate on topical issues like gay adoption and veils, but I will bring back Neighbours discussion, Stormy Woods and other easygo-

ing material. An emphasis will be placed on regularly returning columnists too.

Page 3 has lost the essence of what made it so much fun as well. I intend to guarantee that women and men have an even representation whilst ensuring the photos are more tongue-in-cheek and taken at familiar college locations.

I will introduce a global news page briefly summarising the world's key events as well as a photography page. There will also be a greater presence at the Freshers' Fair to

recruit more staff and beef out the current sections, some of which have only appeared sporadically this year. I will maintain the Felix website and create an informal feedback system so that we can listen to your views.

Felix has played a major role in my life at university and I've loved writing for it. Technically I've gained a vast amount of experience this year as deputy editor. I promise to push myself hard if you elect me and expand upon the good work of the previous editors.

Felix Sinclair



I'm a third year physicist and a re-app at Southwell Hall.

I'm 5'10" with dark hair and a slim figure, looking for a funny, dark-haired girl, preferably with a good dress-sense, for fun, maybe more.

Felix is bland this year. If you want the same again next year, vote for one of the other people (reverse psychology, don't actually do that).

I want Felix to be fun and less uptight, it is a student newspaper at the end of the day.

My Felix will be a lot more like it was last year under the legendary

Rupert Neate, i.e. nail-biting excitement and drama from start to finish 10/10. It will cater for a less narrow range of readers.

Here are my proposals for next year's Felix:

1) Investigative journalism. Apparently nothing happens at Imperial. Fair enough, but those of you who were here last year probably remember the Felix editor trespassing in all the halls to expose hall security.

Felix can make news. My Felix is going to get involved, find out what

matters to students and investigate.

2) More writers. Felix needs up-scaling. I'll attract a greater range of writers to keep more people interested.

3) Pay rise for Felix editor.

4) The Oxford English dictionary defines naked as "without clothes". Why are my centrefold models not naked??

5) Coffee break with Lou and Andy

In a nutshell, if you elect me as Felix editor I'll make it a lot more entertaining and light-hearted.

Re-Open Nominations *(runs for all positions)*



If you vote for me; I'll suck you off faster than a stoat gets trapped in a tractor. I'll spit dem rhymes; I'll commit some crimes; and I'll be the deciding factor.

I like Wotsits; so there will be more Wotsits in the union. Ooh; sumptuous cheese-based snacks.

I hate all races equally and so will be breaking wind in various cupboards. I am a true follower of fashion as I have been known to wear both grey and purple. I will bring a tragic irony to the Union constitution. There will be more fish battles in half-naked aban-

don. I will wish death upon you and your anticlockwise flushing appliances.

I will flick my snot at passers-by and then pretend I am a Hungarian parsnip harvester. I will make sure you close your windows to stop those sexy ladies coming in and distracting you from your studies.

If I am elected I will hurt you. I will brand you with an iron made of pure hatred formed in the fires of Mount Doom. Only then will you become my children - I will make love to your eyesockets after ren-

dering you blind with a pick-axe.

If you vote for me; I will introduce more lesbians into various clubs and societies' committees. I don't agree with them; but at least they like the flange. I will make sure your existence is a constant chore by making Felix out of fibre glass and puppy dog's tails. I will then poop in all your amenities whilst singing the Welsh national anthem.

On a serious note: You can vote for RON if you don't think any candidate is suitable. Electing RON will restart the elections.

Felix Editor

Think they're all useless?

MANIFESTOS

Aditya Narayanan



A good DPEW realises that universities cannot be run completely like businesses.

Although making money is highly important, the priority for Imperial College should be education. I feel a union bookshop on campus is essential.

With Waterstones closing down there is currently nowhere for students to purchase books specifically related to their course.

Have you noticed how there are coffee shops opening up at every corner of Imperial? Are we re-

ally the type of establishment that wants to be trading books for a double espresso?

I know that communication with students is vital, and so all members of the 'Slate' (Messrs. Giannuzzi, Holland, Balikhin and myself) intend to hold office hours where time is reserved specifically to talk to students about anything.

One of the problems I have found has been the lack of student involvement in the running of the union, which I will strive to rectify. I would like to encourage all stu-

dents to feel compelled to raise any issues they have with me.

Being a student – and that too, a student in London – weighs heavily on the bank balance.

I am deeply concerned about the inflation of accommodation prices, and I want to ensure that they reflect the standards of the rooms available with particular attention being paid to Southside.

Finally, I stand for all policies stated by other members of the 'Slate'. Vote Narayanan for DPEW!

Deputy President
(Education & Welfare)

Kirsty Patterson



Imperial students often lack a Union identity. I intend to run campaigns, driven by students at a faculty level, to increase interest in Union politics and facilitate better development of ideas.

Entering the NUS is a key issue for the Union this year and supporting the development of a Science and Technology Network will ensure that we do not waste the opportunity we have been given. Additionally I will ensure that I am available before office hours at 9:00am so that students know they

can find me in my office rather than in a meeting.

Guaranteeing a place in halls for first years is vital to retain our appeal to students who would not otherwise consider coming to London. I hope to initiate an online forum for accommodation issues as part of the Union website with the view to simplifying the housing process.

The Union needs to provide healthier eating alternatives in Union catering and wider access to contraception in halls. In order to promote Imperial's status as a so-

cially responsible modern institution I will support College's commitment to become a Fairtrade University. A simple step that needs to be taken is increasing recycling facilities within College and the Union alike. A natural development is to reduce unnecessary waste and use resources more effectively.

This is a brief summary of some of the ideas and issues I have raised in my full manifesto. You can obtain a copy by emailing kmp05@ic.ac.uk or by viewing my discussion board on Facebook.



Make sure you Vote!

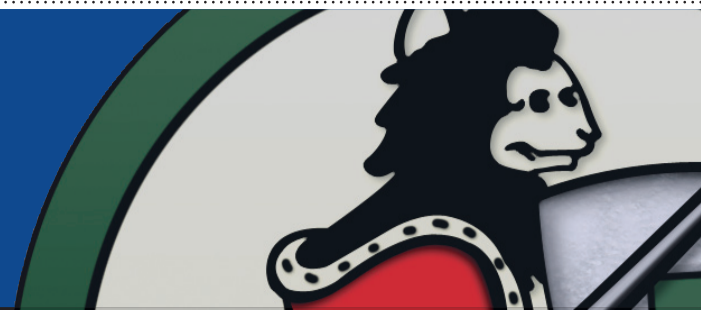


Vote online until until Tuesday February 27th 23:59
at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

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imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

NUS delegate manifestos



Stephen Brown

Some of you may find my candidacy rather peculiar as it wasn't that long ago I was badgering you to vote No! during the referendum. The NUS has many faults and I am flattered that several members of the Yes campaign agree with me. Since the referendum I have been working constructively with them to ensure that the chances of us reforming the NUS are maximised. Imperial has voted to join the NUS by a narrow margin so lets make sure they keep their promises. Elect me as delegate and I will:

- Vote as Union Council instructs me to.
- Disrupt the passage of motions that are irrelevant to students as students. We want the NUS to deliver on top up fees, not waste time and money debating the pros and cons of "solidarity" with Venezuelan Trade Unionists.
- Elect the NUS leaders whose policies are closest to those of ICU.



Ashley Brown

I firmly believe that the NUS, as a body formed to look after the interests of students, has no business spending its time commenting on foreign affairs.

I was strongly opposed to Imperial's NUS affiliation because of its tendency to do so.

As an NUS delegate I will not only represent the interests of Imperial College students when voting (and not for any political motive or ideal), but will also report back on the conference, identifying any strengths and weaknesses.

Conference is an expensive business for the NUS and ICU, this year we have the opportunity to help make it better value for money.

Vote for a delegate who cares about students and the finances of your clubs, and not about politics.



Alex Guite

This conference is our first big chance to make our voices heard within the NUS since we joined. When I lead the 'yes' campaign I didn't pretend that the NUS is perfect: reform must go wider and deeper to make our national union more accountable to you and cement its financial viability.

By actively engaging with the NUS we'll get the most out of our membership. I've been working with the no camp to draw up rules for our conference delegates to ensure that they represent all Imperial students rather than align with political factions.

Elect me as your delegate and I pledge to work to keep the conference focused on issues which matter to us as students, to push for reforms to realise the full potential of the NUS and to work with other conference delegates to report back to you on our activities.



Ben Harris

Last year I was one of many students who campaigned long and hard for Imperial to say YES to the NUS. As such it should come as no surprise that I passionately believe in the need for a strong national voice for students - the voice that NUS provides. This year I have already worked with NUS and seen the work it does campaigning for students' interests - not just on top-up fees but I wide range of issues from housing to healthcare. But I have also seen the problems within NUS - from overstaffing to certain groups constantly trying to talk about issues which don't affect students. However, those at the top of NUS realise the problems and are working to change the organisation. If elected I will strive to ensure that the much needed reforms are implemented and that NUS continues to fight, and win, for students. Vote Ben for NUS delegate.



Ed Hunt

I actually campaigned against Imperial joining the NUS. I believed that, on balance, it wasn't worth our money. But now we're in - narrowly - all ICU members have a duty to make sure the NUS works for us. We need delegates that represent the sceptical middle ground, who aren't interested in NUS politics and gossip. I'm standing as someone keen to have a conference that focuses on relevant student issues like debt, housing and employment. I will seek a frank and open dialogue between delegates and our Union Council, to achieve the unity of purpose necessary for ICU to make any sort of impact. I hope that the public speaking skills I have developed as president of the debating society might be put to good use in articulating an honest, representative voice for our student body. Let's go to conference with a solid, achievable plan, and make it happen.



Omar Hashmi

Imperial needs delegates it can trust.

Campaigning on all the important student issues must be done with energy and skill.

As the Political Philosophy Society President, I have worked for nearly two years in bringing prominent speakers to Imperial to debate some of the most contentious contemporary issues.

As the Politics Editor of Felix, I am actively building awareness of the wider global picture.

As a fifth year medical student, I have been around a long time, got to know many good people at Imperial, done enough time, and got enough experience to know what is going on.

I believe I am in an excellent position to help you get the representation you need, and keep you informed about the issues you want to know about.



Camilla Royle

As a campaigner on a range of issues on campus I have seen the effects activism can have.

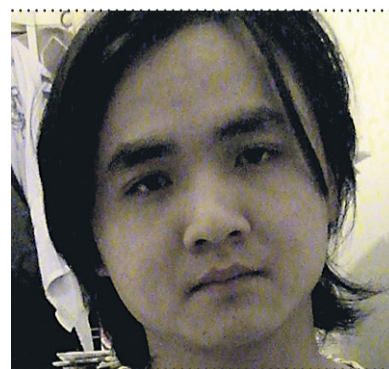
I am part of the ongoing actions against top-up fees but I believe that the only way to successfully stop fees is to work jointly with other universities.

That's why I voted to join the NUS.

But the NUS needs reform, it should represent the views of ordinary students and be made up of activists, not bureaucrats.

The government's neo-liberal agenda doesn't stop at fees. The climate of Islamophobia resulting from war in the Middle East has hit universities hardest.

Research at "elite" universities is being increasingly dictated by the needs of the private sector and cuts to public services such as the NHS will become more of an issue for us especially for the large number of medics at Imperial.



Kee Ng

Hi people, the main issue that's going to be hanging over the nus for the next few years will be the top up fees. I'm strongly against the top up fees and feel that the NUS have not as yet done enough to stop it. I also oppose the war and the subsequent attack on civil liberties. While many argue that the nus should only concern itself with topics that affect students directly, I believe that our opinions while be taken more seriously if we spent the preceding year involved with the wider issues around us, rather than just debating 10% discounts for kit-kats. Having said that, I'd like to add that I have no opinion either way regarding 10% discounts on kit-kats.



James Fok

I led the No! Campaign last year passionately believing that for Imperial College Union to join the NUS is the wrong thing to do.

This is why I am running in this election to become an NUS delegate.

I want to see for myself first hand whether I was right or wrong.

Also I want to ensure the rest of the delegate team will act as one representing our students.

After all, our union has paid a substantial amount of money not to the clubs or societies but to the NUS and I will make sure it is money well spent.

What do these delegates do, anyway?

The National Union of Students is a coalition of student unions from around the country that aims to change government policy by acting for all the unions involved.

The delegates will attend the NUS National Conference in Blackpool, which takes on three days in March.

The referendum to decide if the Union should affiliate to the NUS said that we would be joining.

As such, ICU can now send delegates to the NUS National Conference to debate on what NUS policy will be for the next year.

Things that will be discussed include top-up fees, student debt, housing issues, and so on.

ICU Council has decided that the delegates should vote as they are told by Council. This means that our delegates will not be allowed to join any political or religious faction at the Conference (for example, Student Respect), nor vote against what Council have mandated them to do so.

Other candidates running (did not submit manifestos)

Timothy Wilson, Emma Persky, Umar Patel, Andreas Koukos, Kirsty Patterson.

My Parents: The Eco Warriors

'A classic tale of Sex, drugs and road protests'

- Can Swampy save the forest?
- Can Louis get the girl?
- Can Dr O'Brien make his greatest discovery work?
- Can the Fairies discover their feminine side?
- Can Hermione escape her mother?
- Can Pete write a musical?
- Can Pooja really dance?
- Can Edwina find her daughter?
- Can Grub become a popstar?
- Can Paul actually speak?
- Can Phillippa keep her job?
- Can the King marry the beauty queen?
- Can Tanya become a goddess?
- Can Helen get her man?
- Can Timothy find his girl?
- Can Adam Hussein get rid of his crabs?
- Can Steve learn from Dave?
- Can Tracy and Shazza have a bigger part?
- Can Google save the trees?
- Can Louis get back in the closet?
- Can the Germans share a man?

Imperial College Union
Union Concert Hall, Beit Quad
26th February to the 2nd of March.
Doors 7pm for a 7.20pm start.

Monday 26th	£3 (£5 non-students)
Tuesday 27th	£4 (£6 non students)
Wednesday 28th	£5 (£7 non students)
Thursday 1st	£6 (£7 non students)
Friday 2nd	£6 (£7 non students)

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anouska.ayub@imperial.ac.uk

Can Nick Bottom become...

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Elect Stephen Brown as President for a better Union.

Elect me as President and I will:-

- Sell NUS Extra discount cards for £7 instead of £10. I don't believe that ICU should profit from ordinary students.
- Work to keep bar prices as low as possible.
- Safeguard our independence from College. I won't let College use the Charities Bill as an excuse to take us over.
- Continue with the "greening" of the Union building. We've started it so we should finish it.
- Only send college-wide emails when I have something important to say, not regular spam that clogs up your inbox.

Having worked as a Felix sub-editor and held the position of RAG Chair I am the only candidate who has the experience AND the personality to take our Union forward but first I need your vote.



For a full manifesto see <http://stephenbrown4president.blogspot.com/> seek out my facebook group or email me at stephen.brown@imperial.ac.uk

Voting online from 00:01 on Fri 23rd until 23:59 Tue 27th February 2007
www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



VOTE JON MATTHEWS FOR PRESIDENT

AND AN ACCOUNTABLE UNION THAT LISTENS
TO YOU AND WORKS FOR YOU

The Union is **YOU**, all of you, it's your Union and you make it what it is. The only reason the Union is there is for you, its members. The Union needs to be accessible and represent all of its members but it can only do this if it listens to you. I have listened this year and will continue to do, let's make this a Union to be proud of, a Union that works for its members, a Union that listens, learns and changes how **you** want it to.

We need a President that fully understands the issues at hand, for example, how many other candidates have a year's experience working with things such as the Charities Bill, and have read the bill to understand its implications?

I have served the Union for eight years in both welfare and finance roles. I have genuine experience where it counts and know how and when to compromise to get results.

Vote for genuine experience, real leadership and proven ability:

Vote **JON MATTHEWS** for **President**.

Elect me and I **promise** to:

- Ensure the NUS deliver on their promise of reform and serve you to the level you deserve.
- Ensure that we co-operate with College to improve your service and representation but not sacrifice on our independence.
- Ensure that the redevelopment meets with your expectations and requirements on all levels.
- Keep the gym truly free, not charged for by the back door.
- Continue the work to keep bar prices down and cut them whenever possible.
- Provide real leadership to the Sabbatical team, one man can make a difference but the Union is about teamwork. We need a President that works with his team to achieve results, not one that dictates the agenda.
- Listen to what you want, involvement comes from the grass-roots, we can't forget this. It is your Union.

Vote online at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote from 00:00 Friday 23rd to 23:59 Tuesday 27th February.

vote for
Hugh Mansfield
as Deputy President (Finance & Services)



vote for the
responsible candidate

vote for the
effective candidate

vote for the
accountable candidate

vote for Hugh

<http://union.imperial.ac.uk/vote/>

voting is open from now until
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Time for change? You tell us.

There are three major topics that are being discussed in the Union at the moment and we would love to hear your views on these issues.

Should the Union change the long-term Beit building redevelopment plan?

Three years ago the Union prepared a strategic document called the "Beit Building Masterplan" that set out in considerable detail how each room of the Beit Building should be redeveloped over a five year period. Up until now we have followed this plan almost to the letter. However, a debate has recently reopened over one element of a future phase we hope to implement in 2008. Our existing plans to convert the current Union offices on the first floor of the Beit Building into a café is being widely discussed and an alternative plan to turn this area of the building into flexible clubs and society space is being developed. We are keen to find out whether students think the east side of the first floor of the Union building should be used either as a commercial venue or as a dedicated facility for clubs and societies.

A petition in favour of the club space option is currently being prepared for consideration by the Union Council and if you wish to find out more about these proposals or even sign the petition then please contact the RCC Chair, Mark Flower by emailing rcc.chair@imperial.ac.uk.

Should the Union reform the DPGS sabbatical position?

The Deputy President for Graduate Students (DPGS) position has rarely been out of the spotlight in its short life. The holder of this position is tasked with two very different roles; the first is to act as an ICU Deputy President and the second is to run the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). The consensus seems to be that the second role is working well but the first is not and this is why three proposals to change this role have been developed and discussed in recent weeks. These models are:

- Retain the sabbatical role but remove the Deputy President element from it to create a new post called GSA President.
- Abolish the full time sabbatical role and replace it with unpaid volunteer officers who would be led by a part-time GSA President and supported by a part time professional staff member.
- Abolish the full time sabbatical role and replace it with unpaid volunteer officers who would be led by a volunteer GSA President and supported by a full time professional staff member.

If you want to know more about these proposals and want to tell us which one you prefer then please contact our present DPGS, Shama Rahman, by emailing to dpgs@imperial.ac.uk.

Should the Union introduce a viable environmental policy?

Last but certainly not least, and aptly following a highly successful Green Week, the Union is seriously considering introducing a powerful new Environmental Policy that will call for:

- A reduction in Union waste through reducing use of disposable skiffs, crockery and cutlery.
- Better provision of recycling facilities in the Union building.
- A greener Beit Building Masterplan that includes secondary glazing, insulation and low energy lighting in the Beit building.
- The creation of a new transport policy that encourages clubs and societies to use greener forms of travel.
- A campaign to encourage the College to buy electricity from renewable sources.

Again, a petition is being prepared in support of this policy and if you are interested in signing it then please email Hannah Theodorou at hannah.theodorou@imperial.ac.uk.



John Collins
President

president@imperial.ac.uk

Get your voice heard! And win amazon.co.uk vouchers for doing it...



Ben Harris
Deputy President
(Education & Welfare)
dpew@imperial.ac.uk

As a student it can be massively frustrating; however hard you shout kick or scream you just can't get anybody to listen. Simply getting your lecturer to write slightly slower can take months of delicate negotiations, while changing your personal details resembles a crusade against bureaucracy rather than a simple administrative task.

However, right now there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get your views across in not one, but two surveys.

The first is the National Student Survey (NSS) which can be found at www.thestudentsurvey.com. This is a nationwide survey which is open to all final year undergraduates across the UK, and covers all aspects of the university experience. This is a public survey and as such is the best opportunity you have of letting people outside college - be it the press or prospective students - know exactly what you think. In previous years the College has performed well in most areas, but is that still true? Of course in some areas, like feedback from assessments, the College has been slated by students, and that's helped spur them into taking action on the way coursework marks are delivered - proof that what you say makes a difference.

In a big change this year College, at the request of the Union, hasn't given out your phone numbers. This means you won't be pestered constantly while trying to revise, but it also means it's up to you to take part. We need 50% of all final year students to respond, and if you don't then College will have to look again at whether or not it provides numbers. So for the sake of those in lower years please, please fill it in.

Looking closer to home the College and the Union are working together to look at how we deliver online services and how they can be improved. As part of this we've been consulting departments and groups of students across College, but we want everyone to have their say. And this is where you get to win amazon.co.uk vouchers.

We've launched an online survey which you can find at union.ic.ac.uk/survey, to find out what you think of the services offered, and what additional services you think should be introduced. Everyone who takes part can enter the prize draw to win either a first prize of a £50 voucher, or two runners up prizes of £25.

This survey forms part of a wider ICT project, so you may well see your suggestions implemented in the not too distant future.

So, what are you waiting for? Please take part, and if you have any questions get in touch with me.

Getextra.

goto imperialcollegeunion.org
for more information

As of the 14th February 2007, Imperial College Union became officially affiliated with the National Union of Students (NUS). One of the many benefits of being a member of NUS is the new NUS Extra Card, which you can now buy online. The NUS Extra card has been put together to offer a range of exclusive discounts, offers and competitions designed to make student life more exciting, more

memorable and more rewarding. You can use it to make your money go further on books, clothes, sports stuff, CDs, travel, computer gear, gigs, eating out... And not just in the UK either; the Extra card doubles as an International Student Identity Card, so you can use it to get special offers and discounts when you're travelling abroad as well.



Chill on the Hill

23rd February - Notting Hill Arts Club

£5 entry - tickets available from imperialcollegeunion.org
£2 per drink all night! (with ticket)



Dress: Funky as you like- Atmosphere and music: Caribbean themed early in the evening (with surprise guests), with DJs and live bands later in the funk, soul, boogie groove - Guaranteed entry (without queuing) till 10pm with ticket - Limited Advance tickets only till Wednesday 21st till 5pm Tickets sold physically by: Tanaka reps (call Shivana on 0781 2502326 or in selected locations) GSA Chair (Shama 07949763383) And The SCR every lunch time from 12-2pm at the entrance. Tickets also sold online at imperialcollegeunion.org



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Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals



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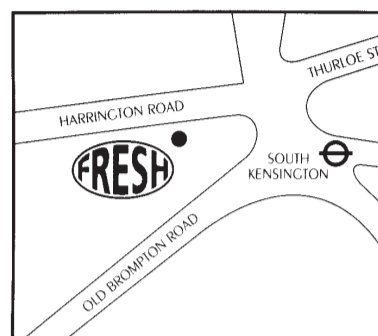
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Voting opens 00.01 Friday 23rd and closes
23.59 Tuesday 27th

www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote

ACTIVISTS NOT BUREAUCRATS



MUSIC

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Brit Awards bonanza

This week we delve into the past with a Decemberists review and the Brit Awards

The Brit Awards 2007
Earls Court

Presented by Russell Brand

I've never felt so out of place. Walking past the red carpet, thousands of screaming fans, hundreds of photographers, and obscenely wealthy Londoners covered in all manners of animal fur, I finally found the ticket collection office. I was carefully watched by the omnipresent bouncers, probably wondering why I was even standing there.

After a long climb to the fourth floor, I was rewarded by the sight of a set of gigantic proportions. It was surrounded by thousands of A-listers and many more television cameras. Sadly, despite the enormous size of the backdrop before me, I soon realized that from the fourth floor of Earls Court the stages appeared miniscule and the people themselves were singularly points.

By the time the ubiquitous warm-up guy had cascaded onto the stage, I was growing increasingly anxious; however, this was nothing to do with anticipation for the show, it was merely due to a camera on a large mechanical arm which decided to focus itself on the section of the audience I was sitting in. After staring down the levitating camera for a good few minutes, it suddenly rotated towards the stage, and the twenty second countdown blared out from the speakers.

Russell Brand meandered onto the podium as the crowd burst into cheers, many of them reveling at the fact that they were on television. I fortunately escaped this fate by not being famous enough. Darn. Apparently this was the first live showing of the Brit Awards since 1989, so of course everything had to go perfectly. Even from where I was perched I could see several

bouncers trying to control some of the celebrities who had already gone overboard and were drowning in a champagne supernova.

Scissor Sisters opened the awards ceremony with a generously flamboyant rendition of *I Don't Feel like Dancing* with a most bizarre display of gravity-defying, flying legs. I know it was executed using black-clothed dancers on an equally black background, but again, my slip on reality increased exponentially. To be honest, I wasn't really complaining.

Best Live Act was the first award, and it was not surprising at all that Muse topped the list. Each of the awards was presented by musical artists or celebrities of particular note, including Simon Pegg of *Shaun of the Dead* fame, and Ricky Wilson of the Kaiser Chiefs, star of last year's Brit Awards ceremony. Every recipient of each award were present and accounted for with the exception of the Arctic Monkeys, who were clearly away doing more important things. The seemingly omnipotent northerners won the awards for Best British Group and Best British Album. Seriously, is there anything they are nominated for that they don't win?

Snow Patrol's performance of their supremely popular single *Chasing Cars* was one of the best of the night but they walked away without the award for Best British Single; that honour went to Take That and their single *Patience*, whose five minutes on stage caused every single female in the room to squeal into ultrasound and every male to cower in fear.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers were ecstatic upon reaching the stage, and the crowd-pleasing Dani California, refreshingly different from the recorded album version, provoked even the most fur-laden A-lister kilometers beneath my balcony view to stand to attention.

Russell Brand's commentary proved to be far more successful

than many of us were expecting, convincingly embarrassing Robbie Williams for yet again stumbling into rehab, whilst accurately likening Amy Winehouse's voice to that of a cab driver.

The Killers, recipients of both Best International Group and Best International Album, stunned the audience with an explosive performance of *When You Were Young*, shortly before Corinne Bailey-Rae showered the Brit School audience with millions of golden tickets, probably allowing all of them to finally enter the legendary chocolate factory.

During the advert breaks, the audience was shown clips of last year's awards ceremony, but I was too busy scanning the tables below me; it seems that a three course meal set on platinum plates had occurred at some point. Miles above, I could only think of how much of my student loan I could pay off with one of those plates.

Before the end of the performance, I was horrified to watch Justin Timberlake accept the award for Best International Male, over the poetic Damien Rice. There were some strange anomalies in the distribution of the silver statuettes this year, but this was by far the most outrageous. It seemed the people around me concurred, and I was quite surprised at the bravery of a certain man to my left who decided blaring out a particular obscenity during a relatively quiet section of the speech was the best course of action.

Concluding the night was the highly anticipated extended set of Oasis, who accepted their award for Outstanding Contribution to Music with typical Oasis flare. Liam Gallagher was heard to curse about something, whereas Noel declared: "Seeing that we don't get nominated for this anymore, I suppose it will have to do," before grinning as the audience exploded back into life. Their extended set went beyond the live coverage, and included *Morning Glory*, *Rock 'n' Roll Star*, *Cigarettes & Alcohol* and the truly anthemic *Don't Look Back In Anger*, all of which caused every single living soul in the gigantic arena to jump about in celebration of this band's legacy, including Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol and Dominic Howard of Muse, prominently visible from the balcony above.

The instant Oasis disappeared, we were all ushered out of the building so that the musicians and those lucky/wealthy enough to obtain a VIP Pass could commence the after show party. Making my way down the (unnecessarily) gargantuan flight of stairs I was barged out of the way by several photographers armed with at least seven cameras each, all costing probably more than my annual tuition fees.

I was impressed by the amount of text messages I had received during the two-and-a-half hour show berating the judges/voters for their

decision regarding Take That's single, perhaps even more significant was the sheer volume of text messages I had received regarding my presence there.

It was probably the most surreal musical event I have ever been to. I suppose you could say I was *Half The World Away*.

Robin Andrews

album review



The Decemberists
The Crane Wife
(Capitol)
★★★★☆

It has been a year since *Picaresque*, and boy have I felt it. Fans of the Decemberists like me are forced to suffer. The problem is the distinct lack of any other band which can replicate the uniquely diverse and melodic indie-pop that The Decemberists produce so effortlessly. How they manage to do it still boggles me. Each track has around ten different instruments chirping and tweeting in the background, yet they always compliment each other to create a perfectly balanced song.

It's here that The Decemberists' strength lies. The flexibility of their instrumentation enables them to craft each and every second of sound exactly as they want it. The rich atmospheres they create completely absorb you without you even knowing it, transporting you to the fantastical worlds they are describing.

Take for example the title track, *The Crane Wife 1 & 2*. This twelve minute epic retells part of an old Japanese story in exquisite detail (the first track on the album, *The Crane Wife 3* finishes it). The beauty in the song comes in the transitions between the chapters.

The opening verse contains only a plucked guitar with touches of violin, exactly mirroring the isolation experienced by the poor farmer. As he stumbles across an injured crane which he nurses back to health, the song musically explodes. Horns blow, symbols crash and organs squeal for mercy. The amazing burst of energy wakes us from the depression of the first verse, as the crane jolted the farmer out of his misery.

That is the brilliant thing about The Decemberists; you can read as deep as you like into their music, but at the end of the day it just sounds great. For anyone who likes music with its heart on its sleeve, I couldn't recommend this album more.

Francesco Padorno



Matty Hoban is not amused

Well, you may have noticed that the music section has been sporadic/shambolic in content. If you haven't noticed, then thanks for your ignorance, it makes me feel better.

Anyway, yeah, to be honest I've not been that excited about much lately save for the Do Make Say Think album but that has been on my various musical playing devices for a while. I've seen a couple of interesting London bands lately such as Man Aubergine, but they are lacking something that I can't quite put my finger on. Basically, I need some tunes!

Yea, where are the tunes at? All I'm hearing lately is aimless drivel and I think there are many reasons for this. Ultimately, I'd blame the internet. As much as I think it is great that you can hear all kinds of music and get exposure as a band, that is one of the problems with it. There are simply too many bands writing too much music.

Gone are the days when a band would hone their skill through laborious writing, gigging and re-writing before either withering away into nothing or become a force to be reckoned with. There seem to be no great pioneers because the amount of time they'd spend playing their music would force them into making something they'd love and others would love too.

However, thanks to MySpace, illegal copies of recording software obtained through Bittorrent and cheap, available hardware, anyone can write guff, record and then get 500 people to listen to it. There seem to be two options open to bands now: you meet up, write some derivative songs, and whore yourself out because the songs will be so derivative that they won't be challenging to anyone and you'll make money (eg. Arctic Monkeys); the second option is to make less derivative music but be so overwhelmed by the sheer volume of music around you that your lack of overt accessibility means you'll spend your time playing to just about enough people to verify your existence as a band but never get true recognition.

Tomorrow (Saturday 24th February) we have four bands who have spent a lot of time taking the second option: come and support them (look at the poster overleaf).

ROBIN ANDREWS



The scary sight of a music industry patting each other on the back

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Gregory Mead
Nightlife Editor

Nightlife is back, and I apologise for the lack of content recently, it was all down to technical problems, lack of material and mainly, my laziness. To make up for this, I've created a lovely double page spread for your reading pleasures, and just like the pork content of a Pepperami, I'm 150% dedicated to this page again. That means we need more reviewers to go forth and review. Make the most of it whilst you still have a will to live, and before the exams start to hit you hard, just send an email to the address at the top of the page, and we'll be glad to accommodate your needs. If nobody writes reviews, there won't be a page because I sure as hell don't have time to go out and write them all. If you don't want to write for us, you could always just email us anyway, we get quite sad and lonely down here in the *Felix* office.

Anyway, enough rubbish about rubbish, this week you'll see by turning your eyes slightly to the right, we've gone Hard House and Trance crazy. Caz Knight was nice enough to write an account of her night out a while back, when she checked out *Tidy* at Heaven, and Taz Aliabadi had a wonderful time with the weird hippie goings on at *The Synergy Project* in SeOne, and it sounds like quite a night by how the review reads. Very confusing. This is why we don't touch those mushrooms kids.

In other nightlife related news, if you haven't heard already, the wonderful *And Did We Mention Our Disco* is returning on Friday 23rd February, with super secret special guests, and by their past list of acts, the won't disappoint. I might even attend. It's sure to be better than the let down of a new Indie 'superclub' (those words should never go together) *Chalk*. Nick Simpson checked it out the other week, and I must say - I agree with his account of the night, when I went there for the Ed Bangers party recently, the place was basically filled with hyperactive 17 year old children. I mean, it's just plain depressing with you are the oldest person in the room.

Finally, don't forget to enter our lovely competition this week to get yourself some free tickets to *The End*. See over the page for more details.

Tidy vs. Extreme Euphoria. Hard House in Heaven

It's time for...HOUSE. The Tidy boys and friends take over everyone's favourite gay club, but fail to do themselves justice musically. Caz Knight checks it out

Tidy vs Extreme Euphoria
Heaven
26th January
★★★★☆

After a whole month off from clubbing and any form of dance music throughout January (to detox and get my brain back in working order for lectures and exams) January 26th couldn't come soon enough: My reintroduction to aural hedonism!

Being a huge fan of anything Tidy, be it previous Tidy vs Extreme Euphoria events, weekenders or music from the record label, I was sure I'd be guaranteed an awesome night in one of my favourite London clubs.

Heaven, owned by none other than Virgin's Richard Branson, is usually a gay club (please don't go during the week: mondays-fridays it plays a dodgy mix of RnB and club classics and unless you are gay I'm sure you wouldn't appreciate being groped as you make your way across the dancefloor!). However, at Tidy there's nothing to make the non-gay community uncomfortable: quite the opposite, when you go to Tidy events you find yourself amongst a very friendly and colourful crowd, something very refreshing from the usual drunken brawls you find yourself surrounded by at a lot of "mainstream" clubs. Heaven has a 2000 capacity and because of its layout, one never feels cramped and it never takes more than a few minutes to find your way to the toilets or be served at the bar.

Not wanting to undo all the good from my detox and to be able to properly stomp to my favourite DJs, I decided to stick to water (£2.50) and red bull (£2.60), not too bad compared to some clubs in Heaven's vicinity. The only frustration came from not being allowed to take bottles into the toilets to refill them due to Heaven's newly enforced strict drugs policy.

Tidy vs Extreme Euphoria



Too much scratching and hard house that's too hard. Yep, that's right

events usually kick off at 10pm so the delayed 11pm start was a little disappointing, but none the less we all waited patiently in line for the doors to open. Nearly bursting with excitement I almost sprinted into the main room to get my groove on. Surprisingly, the music kicked off with Trevor Machlalan playing a very eclectic set, starting off with funky house/electro progressing into some filthy psy-trance and then onto the much awaited for hard house we had all come for.

Not perturbed by the slightly slow start to the evening, we kept on open mind to the ensuing sets. Unfortunately we were a little disappointed until one of my favourite DJs, BK, came on at 2am. Pure musical ecstasy where I danced with all the energy I had

stored up over the last month. Relentless driving bass lines, classic tunes such as '909' kept everyone going with no breaks for the full hour. Next on in the main room were Organ Donors. Their sets at Tidy weekender 10 and Dance Valley left me expecting nothing sort of a work of art, yet I couldn't get into the music: a bit too much scratching and a bit too hard if that's possible! The rest of my group seemed satisfied with it though.

The three other rooms gave a change from the hard house in the main room with funky house, electro and trance: A rest was much needed after 2 hours of non stop dancing in the main room. Andy Whitby, named the 'Saviour' of hard house by his following, disappointed once

again with too much cheese and desecrating classic tunes. The only 3 minutes of the set I enjoyed was a remix of Cade del Mar's "energy 52". From then on the rest of the night let Tidy down with a poor show from Tidy Boys themselves.

From a musical perspective the night didn't do itself justice, however, much fun was had more because of the people there and the friends I came with.

I spent most of the night looking forward to my friend's after party which was to follow immediately after [funnily enough].

I might think twice before attending the next Tidy event in April, although Tidy weekender 11 will definitely be one to look forward to!

Caz Knight

Chalk?! Bring back Trash I say.

Chalk
Scala
Saturdays
★★★★☆

Trash is dead, long live Durrr. Well it is what everyone is thinking, but the truth is there is more than one new electro/alternative night in London these days. On January 13th Chalk was launched at Scala - a three room extravaganza that has already played host to everyone from Shitdisco to Whitey. For the love of the readers this intrepid reporter, as a sign of pure dedication, invested a Saturday night to attend what could be the new *Our Disco* and *Trash* all rolled into one.

We are all told appearances are everything, and sticking by that maxim Chalk got off to a pretty shite start; although the queue wasn't filled with dreary, arsehole Trash-ites it was full of a gaggle of Chelsea sixth formers, drinking Lambrini and Rose from the bottle - nice. Inside it didn't improve much, there where bedraggled teens who could hardly dress slouched in the stairwells smoking as if it was just another lunch break behind the physics block and the dance floors of all three rooms were about as lively as a coma patient.

To anyone who hasn't been, Scala is a pretty big venue, spread over 3 rooms (although one is just an annex to a bar), two harboured live bands and DJs. After a fucking

horrendous wait for the cloakroom we headed upwards and onwards, through the tiny stairwell to see a superb set from the Foals, fresh from playing Durrr on Monday. 50 minutes of twatish dancing later, we moved on downstairs, awaiting Radioclit. Because we were 'super-sweet-cool' like all the other tossers there we naturally spent the whole time pushing past people, calling them gay, pouring beer down peoples backs, not dancing, sitting on the floor and getting super stoked about tequila. Occasionally you could spot a seasoned club goer and without a doubt their expressions read 'what the fuck is this'. Gritting our teeth to bare it we threw shapes in the squalor that was room three until a mustachioed man beat us at

dancing like a penis - well that and, as mentioned, getting fed up pre-pubescent tits pouring beer on us; just lets not forget, the music was damn good.

Chalk runs to 6:00am, a time reached only by the most ardent clubbers, but clearly mummy had sent Jeffery, the driver for all the poor little rich girls for 3:00am and by the time Radioclit started proper in room 1, the place was starting to feel empty.

By 3:15am the night was all but over. Undoubtedly Chalk has outstanding acts playing every week, but like *Trash* before it, the weakness lies in the people, at least they are mildly more palatable this time around.

Nick Simpson

Felix has a trip to The Synergy Project in the age of Aquarius

Taz Aliabadi explores the fuzzy new world order of fluorescent beards, spinning carousels, inflatable insects, and hoards of hippies in the seven dirt chambers that are SeOne during the Synergy Project

The Synergy Project
SeOne
Friday 21 January
★★★★☆

We were standing on the edge of the dancefloor when it began to take hold. I remember saying something like 'What's with all the bearded hippies?' None of my companions replied but I thought they'd soon notice that we were deep in hippie country.

It all started with an unnecessarily long wait under an arch in London Bridge. The smell of hair filled the air with dread. Delboy wasn't helping either, 'Pills? K? Charlie? Who is this Charlie-boy? And why is he in such high demand? I would've asked Del but couldn't help but be distracted by the spinning carousel in the distance.

Minutes passed – sixty of them, in quick succession. That's the problem with these hippies – all that free love gets the better of them and they end up guest-listing half the fucking city.

Once we'd made it through the guest-list gauntlet, the first order of business was to familiarise ourselves with this new world order of fairies and pixie-dust. I found myself clutching a map and vaguely remembered a fluorescent beard, or had it just been one of Delboy's little helpers? Who knows? Not me, that's for sure. All I knew was that there were seven dirt chambers

ready for our intrepid exploration. Somehow we managed to stumble through the grinning masses and found ourselves bouncing around to Fromem-Ory's hypnotic psy-trance.

The sounds were hard and crunchy like a bowl of Special K, and the bassline practically knocked us to the ground. The room was heaving, the atmosphere intense, but the air conditioning was non-existent and the dancefloor no-smoking. We had to escape and made our way through the maze of tunnels by following a midget on a pogo-stick.

We were intrigued by his promises of a brave new world, and found ourselves in a smaller room; a somewhat calmer place but still retaining the air of potent psychedelia. The music was more electronica-based with a hint of IDM (no, I didn't know what the fuck it was either but I'm sure you can find a Genre Nazi to fill you in). Here, we smoked, we re-hydrated, and we tried to chat but despite our best efforts (believe me, we were really very keen to chat) we couldn't make ourselves heard above the pounding beats. We stayed for a while; getting to grips with the inflatable insects proved to be trickier than we'd first thought.

As we sat there watching the crowds, it became clear (not literally – by this point, everything was a very unclear fucked-up fuzzy mess) that something peculiar had happened to this place and the



Our artists representation of what the couple at the bottom left of this page were seeing at that moment



These guys were lapping up the psychedelic trance man

people that loved it. The endless tea served-up in porcelain mugs had been replaced with Malibu and cokes, sipped by trendy kids with asymmetric haircuts. It was too clean and sterile, ever so slightly chavved-up and at 20 quid on the door, not exactly accessible to all.

In years gone by, those grimy arches had been home to some of the most legendary parties seen in the late 90s UK rave scene. The Drome, as it was then called, was dingy and filthy and fucking wonderful; no room for any kind of door policy then, let alone daring to charge more than a fiver.

For a while there it seemed as though Synergy was successfully breathing new life into a faded and dull London club scene, almost resurrecting the unique squat party atmosphere created by The Drome and The Warp Experience, but somewhere along the way it had lost its charm. Maybe we were getting cynical in our collective old age, or it could just have been that intoxicating whiff of something unfamiliar in the air. Whatever it was, something had changed.

It was at this point that my raving comrades and I realised that we'd had our eyes shut for a significant period of time; a small crowd had gathered and we thought it was probably time to get the fuck up. With a little help from our new friend, Nick, we found our feet. We realised that despite our grievances we'd actually had one hell of a night.

If you like the sound of this, then check out the Synergy Project website for details of future events. www.thesynergyproject.org

Taz Aliabadi

Win tickets!

Dig Deeper with Danny Howells
March 10th 2007 at The End

It takes a certain type of DJ to play all night long. Rather than whip out your set of peak time bangers for the last two hours you have a whole nine hours to fill. Not only is that one heavy bag of records, but it means a fair amount of genre juggling. Even the most fervent and energetic clubber might be feeling a little jaded after nine hours of solid minimal techno.

Mr Danny Howells, however, is one those DJ's who relishes the chance to play all night. Equipped not only with the stamina, enthusiasm and bladder control to play from start to finish, he has a record collection that can keep the most cynical, weary club-goer glued to the dancefloor the entire night. Never mind taking you on a journey, it's a full on expedition requiring tent, ice pick, provisions and a compass!

Dig Deeper always brings

that special touch of Howells magic to the dancefloor. With a friendly up for it crowd who aren't afraid to show their appreciation, and a DJ whose passion for making people dance will never tire, Dig Deeper has grown to be an essential night in the club calendar.

From March, Dig Deeper is moving to a Saturday, giving you that extra hour to take in the finest selection of Deepsexyfuturistictechfunkhouse™ through till 7am. Since even Danny can't be in three rooms at once, up in AKA Freak Luke Soloman will be bringing his Little Creatures to town.

Alongside gerbils, guineapigs, squirrels, and other animals of the vertically challenged disposition, expect to be jumping up and down to house, disco and techno, from deep to dark, from hands up to heads down. EMAIL IN TO WIN.



Bitesized chunks of ArtsFest trifle

Jazz and Rock Night

On Tuesday evening the action moved to dB's, with an Open Mic night organised by the Jazz and Rock Society. These sorts of nights lend themselves well to the "guy/girl with guitar" singer-songwriter style, and this was no exception.

The beginning of the evening was dominated by a series of acoustic singers, playing a range of covers and own material. Special mention should go to Pete MacRae and Nick Round, whose addition of a violin was an interesting change, and the bloke whose name I unfortunately missed, but who deserves much kudos for playing Tenacious D.

The acoustic mood was then left far behind as the bands took to the stage. Although I admit death metal is not to my taste, Death Penalty were energetic and enthusiastic, and seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. The final act was the fantastic Circus Penguin, whose interesting punk-rock-jazz stylings and good musicianship was a great end to an entertaining night.



Chamber Concert

The concert comprised a selection of performances ranging from romantic violins sonatas to themed improvisations using saxophones, a variety of percussion and feedback from amps.

The concert kicked off with three military marches, followed by some lovely violin playing from Anne-Marie Magnan and an exciting improvisation from Contemporary Music Society. The group used a wide variety of extremely interesting looking percussion instruments including a rain-stick and some rattles covered in shells as well as more traditional instruments to create an intriguing sound-world.

Later there was a virtuosic performance of Poulenc's *Clarinet Sonata* by Stephaine Ramboarina and Delphine Feuerstein. The Sonata is a darkly beautiful work which exploits both instruments to create an exquisite palette of sound and was performed with aplomb.

The final item was the first movement of a piano quintet by Edward Elgar. Lead by Lukas Medlam with pianist Shuang Wang, they provided an exciting and impressive ending to a thoroughly excellent evening.

Busking

You can miss a concert, you can avoid artwork, but it's hard to ignore it when two people are spinning and kicking in front of you on the way to the JCR.

Clad in sexy black-and-yellow and sporting posters, flyers and collecting tins, the musicians, dancers and martial artists in ArtsFest busking brought a bit of culture to even the most philistine of scientists.

Acts ranged from individuals to societies, including Contemporary Music, Gospel Choir, and MTSoc.

The martial arts society Capoeira attracted a huge amount of attention as they performed on the walkway in front of the SCR (security later spoiled the show). Gypsy jazz came to the SCR in the form of the Victoria Watson Trio, and acoustic pop was provided in the Tanaka Foyer by David Paw and friends.

Special mention should go to the Hilary Woods Quartet, who played beautifully, and to tenor Ed Hughes and pianist Gamal Khamis, who performed in a range of venues on different days. They also took part with other singers in an informal version of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. Yes, an entire opera.

The Finale

This year's ArtsFest culminated in a feast of music, dance and martial arts at the Finale concert last Friday.

As I sat in my seat waiting I was distracted by the hilarious double act of comperes Billy Feenan and Katie Heskins. The concert opened a grand collaboration between Sinfonietta, IC and ICSM choirs performing an excerpt from *The Mastersingers* by Wagner.

Windband chose a challenging set for their ArtsFest debut. This was followed by the music-influenced, Brazilian martial art Capoeira. Their spontaneous, acrobatic play fighting was set to traditional instruments.

ICSE provided us with a stunning rendition of Barber's impassioned *Adagio for Strings* which provoked

a tear in the eye and possibly the most enthusiastic applause of the night. The second ArtsFest debutants, FuNkoLoGy, gave us a highly polished medley of urban styles based on a 'Heroes – good vs. Evil' theme. Not to be upstaged, three teams from Dance Company combined ballet, contemporary, jazz, and tap styles in one outrageous fusion.

BigBand rounded up the evening and, as always, certainly did not fail to rouse the audience. Particularly impressive was Jan Marchant on trumpet whose soaring top notes were the icing on a very tasty Big-Band cake.

Not bad for a bunch of scientists, engineers & medics. Not only that but around £400 was raised for the Newman Trust too. Culture without the petri dish indeed...

The ArtsFest team



I Like Mine with a Kiss

I Like Mine with a Kiss

Bush Theatre
Until March 17th
£7 (Students)

I Like Mine With a Kiss follows Louise (an unmarried teacher) and Annie (a single mother of one), two 30-something women from the East End who, on the night of Louise's 39th birthday, realize they are a long way from 'having it all'. As the story unfolds, drama sets in and tension rises high as Louise falls pregnant as does Annie again.

The play explores a world of bastard boyfriends, lesbian daughters, teenage pregnancy, abortion, motherhood, careers and 'the hill that primroses supposedly grown on' contrasted with a council estate. All six actors were fantastically well cast and most carried out their roles with passion and great conviction, especially Andrew French who took the part of Mathieu, Louise's ex-boyfriend. The character of Mathieu was extremely likeable and together French and Michelle Butterly (Louise) managed to conjure up an amazing chemistry on stage. Butterly was highly entertaining in her portrayal of Louise

especially during her drunken rants about 'bastard from now' and 'bastard from before' and injected a lot of humour with sexual innuendos aplenty.

Annie's mother Jean (Linda Broughton) added highly comical interludes, with her expletives, which at times became quite heavy going especially by the end of the first half. Broughton also brought in a musical dimension to the play, singing *Cry Me a River*.

The play inspired lots of thought regarding the social issues (motherhood, teenagers, sexuality, abortion) however I did not leave thinking the playwright had aimed to put across some pseudo-intellectual meaning, and therefore did not dull my enjoyment.

By the end of the play I was left stunned at the what the play had to offer: sensational acting talent, loveable characters, plenty of drama to satisfy any soap-lover's taste, a myriad of jokes (many crude!) yet also some thinking points without drawing from the play's entertainment factor. *I Like Mine With A Kiss* deserves a lot of praise and recognition.

Caz Knight

A cross-dressing epic?

Ramayana

Lyric Theatre
Until March 10th
From £7 (Students)

Almost anyone of Indian origin knows the story of the Ramayana, still celebrated today as the festival of Diwali, and David Farr should be commended for trying to bring the tale to a new audience in his retelling of the ancient Hindu epic. The hero is Rama, a prince banished to a magical forest with his beautiful wife Sita and loyal brother Lakshman. When Sita is kidnapped by the demon Ravana and taken to his kingdom, it is up to her distraught husband to rescue her from his enemy's clutches with the help of Lakshman, the gods, and an army of talking monkeys.

This play is a reinterpretation for the young and diverse crowds at the Lyric; full of comedy and modern allusions, it makes for great entertainment, but waters down the grandeur of the epic. The cast is lively, capturing the humour and mischief of the monkey troupe and their hero Hanuman, and Vanessa Ackerman makes a suitably spunky Sita. But some of the production's

choices have little more than curiosity value – I couldn't really see what was gained by having the villainous King Ravana played by a woman, although credit should go to Eva Magyar for the malign coolness she brings to the role. In fact, too often Farr gives in to the temptation to make cheap jokes rather than provoke tension, and it is left to Shri's superb music to provide the drama and atmosphere that are lacking in the script.

Despite closely following the plot of the original, the production's themes of materialism and greed versus spiritualism and truth feel as if they were bolted on to the

story, and ring hollow as a consequence. Besides its fantastical element – monkey kings, ten-headed monsters, herbs that bring people back to life – the Ramayana is a sophisticated study of humanity, where love is not always happy ever after, and even heroes are prone to envy and self-doubt. I think that an interpretation that drew out these very modern themes would resonate better with our times than any amount of cross-dressing. This Ramayana is certainly enjoyable, but it longs for the depth and emotion to do true justice to an ancient story.

Meera Ladwa

Win theatre tickets!

Arts Felix has procured two pairs of tickets to the upcoming production of *Vertigo* at the Pleasence in Islington, playing 6th-18th March. To win, all you have to do is answer the following question:

Who directed the 1958 film version of *Vertigo*?

Answers by next Wednesday 6pm to arts.felix@ic.ac.uk
Please include your contact details.

Cool/Lame; your weekly opinion

Who needs London Fashion Week for inspiration? Read this special edition full page fashion barometer



Lovefoxxx

The lead singer of Cansei De Ser Sexy, a former illustrator and fashion design assistant. She carves out her own unique style, a totally modern icon. Off The Hook.



Face of Fashion Exhibition

This photography exhibition focuses on the work of Mert Alas & Marcus Piggott, Corinne Day, Steven Klein, Paolo Roversi and Mario Sorrenti. The exhibition illustrates the symbiotic relationship between fashion and not just models, but actors and musicians. The photographs also capture the interesting, and often unhealthy relationships between photographer and celebrity subject.



Springcourt shoes

The french Converse. You can find some models at Urban Outfitters for about twice the price you'll pay in France. So add these shoes to the list of things to buy the next time you go over the channel. Stop the Converse hegemony now!



Christopher Kane for Topshop

This collection doesn't feature a watered down version of Kane's aesthetics. A good thing you might think, but apart from the stupid £125 price tag for his dresses, the designs just don't work in real life. They look like they were designed by 4-year-old with synesthesia.



ksubi

Formally Tsubi, this Australian brand has the hottest fluoro jeans. I maintain that Australians have the third most annoying accent after Midwestern Americans and New Zealanders, but luckily this is totally irrelevant with respect to jeans.



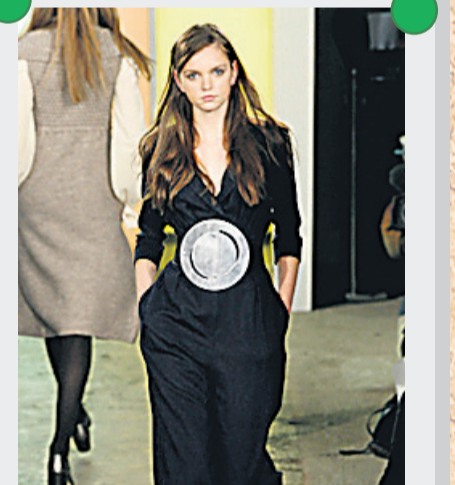
Anna Sui

Anna Sui's catwalk show was original and somewhat different to other labels. Anna Sui, by avoiding the lemming like behaviour of many designers trying to get in the fashion round-up pages, delivered an interesting collection.



"Nu-Rave" Teenagers

I hate their youthful enthusiasm for the fictional "nu-rave", what happened to teenage misanthropy? The world is a terrible, terrible place and wearing head to toe neon doesn't inject sunshine and happiness into your existence. All you are doing is, a) looking a fool b) damaging my retinas.



London Fashion Week

Mostly irrelevant, derivative designs. Not much to inspire a girl on the street. And can Topshop please climb out of its own ass? What is the need for a catwalk for their awful Unique range? I hope Primark steps up again and takes a large chunk out of Topshop's sales.



Mika for Paul Smith

Hate his 70's sound, love his style. So does Paul Smith, whoring him out for his latest print campaign. This is capitalism working.



cassie in skins

Oh, wow. Wow. Wow. Wow. Oh, wow. Aaaaah! Is it wrong that I fancy Nicholas Hoult? Who knew from watching About A Boy he would grow up to be good-looking.

Centenary Celebrations

100 years of Imperial, well almost

In a new section of *Felix*, Shiv Chopra will be keeping you updated on Imperial's Centenary celebrations

January 30th almost seems like a distant memory for us all. I say almost as I can still picture all that Centenary cake on that day... It still haunts my dreams! However, the day itself was brilliant and I have only received positive feedback so far. To clarify a few things for some of the students though, that event was not our Centenary but to launch the fact that we were going to be 100 in the summer. So in a way it was a 99 and half birthday party – you know the half birthday parties that odd couples and rich kids at school used to hold all the time. A selfish excuse for a party you may say but that is not true.

So why the glitz, culinary glamour, balloons as well as Paddy Jackman and his team dressed up in Edwardian attire? Well, it seems that's the only way we can entice the students to break away from lectures and labs and get involved. Imperial College has been ridiculed by other universities in the past for not being able to hold its own in the entertainment side of student life, but the launch event proved a point to our critics.

Our students were out in force that day, promoting their Centenary events to every member of the College and some displayed their talents. For me, that was the true reason for the launch. Our clubs and societies have worked so hard over the past couple of months to create a plethora of events throughout the year, which I hope the launch has inspired you to attend.

To keep you all on your toes – apologies to people who do not have toes – I am going to remind you of all the wonderful events planned this year for you in many ways. Firstly, you will be able to read about them in my regular article in *Felix*, which will also include a rant from me about the chaos that is my life and a brief mention of my blonde lady friend (A.A. Gill fans will know what

I'm talking about).

Secondly, the last issue contained a double-page pull-out, special edition, limited batch, once in a lifetime centenary events calendar. Thus, you have no excuse to miss all the events scheduled for the rest of the year. So, place the calendar somewhere special, clear for you to read and check daily. I suggest on a wall, stuck to your Blackberry or glued to your cat. If you cannot find last week's edition then head over to the Medics' bar (Reynolds) in Hammersmith as we always receive our *Felix* late and will have tons left over. Finally, I will also update you on our running man, Ben Ryall, who is taking part in the London Marathon for the student hardship fund.

Now, I must carry out task one of three by mentioning this week's guest event: "The Creation". This takes place in a few weeks time. But before I do, just a quick mention of the many events that have been and gone on so far such as the Hyde Park Relays, ArtsFest and East Meets West. I hope that you attended at least one of the above Centenary events and have been wowed by the many different acts displayed by our students. One final reminder: this week is Green Week so make sure that you take part today as it's the final day!

This year, the publicity writes itself as ICSM Choir perform "The Creation" by Haydn – a stunningly powerful, massive masterpiece – in celebration both of IC's centenary and ICSM's 10 year anniversary. A majestic whistle-stop tour of the 7 days of creation, all in one evening, (Friday 2nd March 2007, 8pm)! Chamber Choir will also be performing some of their trademark a capella and close harmony works.

The venue is St John's church on Hyde Park Crescent, about five minutes walk from St Mary's & two from Sussex Gardens, so there real-



Paddy Jackman, left, and company dressed in Edwardian attire to celebrate 100 years of Imperial

ly is no excuse for not coming! Look up W2 2QD on streetmap.co.uk.

Tickets are £3 for students (or £2 if you're a member of Music Soc), so see you there!

Finally, on my to do list this week is an update from our runner. When reading the update, read it out loud in a deep American accent with a sultry tone (similar to people who read out movie synopses in the cinema). It will make the article have a punchier feel and it will read like a plot to a Hollywood blockbuster.

When PhD student Ben Ryall took part in a competition to win the chance to become the College's 2007 London Marathon runner, he did so to win! With an impressive performance in a fitness challenge event at

Ethos and a compelling statement about why he wanted to run on behalf of the College, Ben was an ideal candidate for the place.

(I told you the voice would work!) Ben has a long association with Imperial College; arriving in 2000 to begin his BSc in Biology and graduating three years later with first class honours. Since then he has been working towards his BBSRC funded PhD in Dr Huw Williams' group where he has been researching *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a type of bacteria that affects individuals with cystic fibrosis. In March 2007, when he has finished writing up, he will take up a post-doctoral position within the same group.

When he's not working with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a lot of Ben's spare time is spent pursuing sporting interests. His main passion is triathlon, in which he represented Great Britain in the European Championships in 2006 and qualified for the World Championships. It is perhaps surprising then that London 2007 will be his first marathon. Despite this, Ben is not taking the challenge lightly, setting himself the impressive goal of completing the course in 2 hours 50 minutes or under.

Ben is using the Marathon place to raise money for the Student Opportunities Fund, which provides entry scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate students coming to Imperial. Sixty scholarships have been awarded through the Fund since 2003, enabling gifted students to study at Imperial who may otherwise have been unable to do so. The majority of funds to date have been raised from alumni through activities such as the telethon and direct mail appeals.

On the cause that he is raising money for, Ben says: "I came to Imperial as a mature student and was fortunate that my girlfriend's

parents were able to provide me with accommodation. Without this help, I would almost certainly have not been able to afford my studies here. I am therefore only too aware of the outstanding chances the Student Opportunities Fund can offer to talented students who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend this world-class university."

He continues: "I feel privileged to be running my first Marathon for Imperial and hope that people around the College will consider supporting me through sponsorship."

Ben's progress, including a weekly training diary, is being tracked closely on the College website, where you can also pledge your sponsorship online: www.imperial.ac.uk/alumni/marathon2007



Some of the stars of the magnificent East Meets West strut their stuff



IC Marathon runner Ben Ryall

Felix needs you.

Without your contributions, Felix is nothing.

We're currently in need of:

A Features Editor; someone committed and imaginative who's ready to co-ordinate new features and interviews.

Features writers; people who want to add to their portfolio of writing by producing regular features.

A Film Editor; someone who knows about film and is ready to take the section right away.

News Reporters; reliable people who can research and write stories every week

Regular commentators; people with something to say who want a regular column.

If you feel you want to work for *Felix*, drop us a line:

felix@imperial.ac.uk

I, Gamer



Michael Cook
Games Editor

Multiplayer is a Garden of Eden for gaming. From the early days of Spacewar!, it was all we had. There was no "AI" and most of the challenge was supplied by your opponent (the other part of the challenge being the size of the machine it was being played on). But it was fun, and gamers were without shame or derision.

Then came The Fall. Evil Pac-Men and pixelly aliens whispering sweet nothings into the ears of Player Two, and before you know it someone's gone and eaten from the tree of eternal life, and we're left in a barren land of poor level design and forced to cover our nakedness in the shame of FMV sequences starring Z-List actors. Yeah, even James Earl Jones.

It's been a long few decades in the wilderness, but it's clear now that multiplayer gaming has re-established itself – not just for PC Gamers, and not just in front rooms, but as a global way of gaming. Persistent online worlds, dynamic 64-player conflicts, seamless data sharing over always-on connections.

We look at both sides of multiplayer this week – at one extreme, tens of thousands of euros up for grabs in the first big gaming event of the year – a trend growing the world over. And at the other end, playing the Spacewar! way, with all the players kept safely within punching distance for a Halo 2 Slayer match.

Single-player gaming can't die, because Pac-Man – however evil the drug-taking cheeseball is – was right; other gamers can't always be there to play with. But looking at how far single-player gaming has come over the years – from a missing ball and a high score through to non-linear japes in the Elder Scrolls – the prospect of multiplayer being given a chance to play catch-up is an exciting one.

Of course, there are inherent problems with multiplayer gaming, and the technological demand is huge. But the consoles and the PC hardware seems up to the task now, and that means the change needs to come from developers. Indie breakthrough acts don't come all that frequently in the massively multiplayer arena – but maybe now that will change?

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

This week in videogaming

A bunch of cocks reform to publish games – Electronic Arts nowhere in sight?

When Zone of the Enders, or Z.O.E., was released in 2001, some – if not most – of its sales were down to the Metal Gear Solid 2 demo is carried free with it. A cheap trick, or clever brand sharing? Whichever, there's a sense of deja vu this week as Crackdown finally reaches the store shelves, and the Halo 3 Beta Pass that it comes with finally reaches the 360.

Leaked screens and videos of the 360's biggest big name disappointed many fans, but the true hands-on beta will let them see the new weapons and levels first-hand – and after all, we really doubt that Bungie could have broken a winning formula like Halo quite that substantially.

Winning formulae abound this week, with the release of Final Fantasy XII after years of waiting. For those of you that didn't crack under the pressure to import, HMV will be hosting a launch event on the Friday 23rd at their Oxford Street store, around 12 p.m. Cosplay competitions and extra giveaways for the early buyers will at least make daytime London look a little interesting. We'd suggest getting there early if you do intend to get any of the freebies.

The last-gen is fading, though, despite fresh releases such as FFXII; however, the next-gen remains in a state of deadlock. The 360 is still shunned in Japan, but a report out this week suggests a similar story in the West. Nintendo have managed to distance themselves from the mainstream bitch-fighting, but Sony's wonder machine is apparently being kept on the shelves by the 360, performing well on its home turf.

It's not hard to see why, as they're essentially banging their heads against the same commercial rock week in, week out – latest announcements include a confirms 120Gb 360 upgrade to be released this summer, and research into a slimmed-down Playstation3 using new CELL production technology.

By contrast Nintendo's design guru, Shigeru Miyamoto, spoke to CNN about his hopes that Nintendo



Gamecock's games promise a wide variety of unusual design approaches, like Mushroom Men (above)

would "pull away" from Sony and Microsoft, and assert themselves as a very different kind of brand.

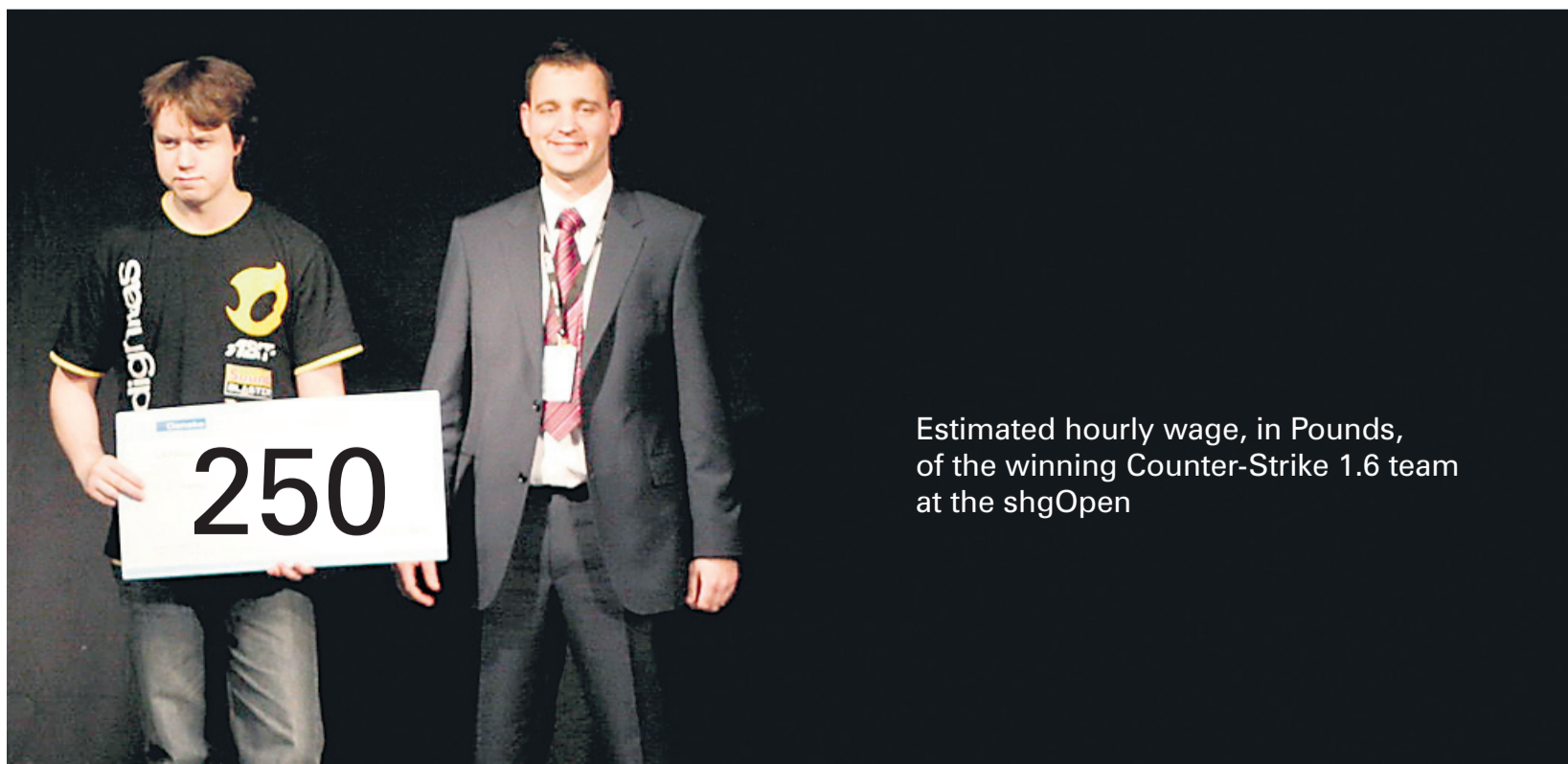
More good news from the independent publishing world, as the fragmented Gathering of Developers (GoD) reforms in a manner of speaking, under the label Gamecock Media.

The new house hopes to have a collection of next-gen games out

in 2008, but the principle of GoD's reformation is more important, as it raises hopes for a stronger independent force in the new year, especially with Steam's repertoire of struggling developers continuing to grow.

Finally, Tesco have managed to plug a loophole in their pricing systems which led to them giving away Xboxes for free. Till prices

were showing up £2.61 more than the shelf price for a 360 Premium system, and that meant – under Tesco's customer care policy – that the product went to the shopper for free. It wasn't an isolated incident either, as many other electronics items went for free over the Christmas period. Tesco's return-and-refund policy has now been swiftly abandoned.



Estimated hourly wage, in Pounds, of the winning Counter-Strike 1.6 team at the shgOpen

shgOpen 2007: Winners and losers

As the dust settles in Denmark, Sebastian Nordgren reports on this year's opening cyber tournament

Kickstarting this season in e-sports was the shgOpen tournament at the Bella Center in Copenhagen, Denmark. A prize pool of 60,000 euros drew teams from all of Europe to compete in the large field of tournaments. Competition stalwart Counter-Strike 1.6 was ever-present, as well as Counter-Strike: Source, Enemy Territory, Call of Duty 2, and the small Battlefield 2 infantry tournament. With such a large field of competitors, the weekend was guaranteed to be exciting for fans of team-based shooters.

A massive 128 teams competed for the over 35,000 euros in the CS tournament; this was where most of the action would be, and it definitely turned out to be an interesting ride. With Polish World Cyber Games winners Pentagram and Electronic Sports World Cup winners Made in Brazil (mibr) in the tournament, it could easily have been nought but a fight between the two. But since Swedish heavy hitters fnatic, SK Gaming, and Begrip were all present, a Swedish winner was definitely a possibility. German clans aTTaX, mousesports, and a-Losers were also in the running, with aTTaX freshly coming off a victory in the World Series of Video Games finals. Completing the predicted top 10 were relative underdogs Danish NoA, Norwegian Meet Your Makers, and Finnish 69N-2&E.

The group stages went without hitches, but on Saturday, the second day of the tournament, upsets became fast and frequent. mousesports quickly took a massive loss to mibr and seeds 3 and 10 SK Gaming and mibr were both dropped down by NoA. In the lower bracket, SK took another devastating loss to Team Logitech to finish a disappointing joint 9th.

Early fallers Meet Your Makers made their way through 5 rounds in the lower bracket, only to be stopped by mibr to finish 5th, while Begrip made their way into the lower bracket final through a string of tiny victories, only to be utterly

destroyed by an in-form mibr side, who proceeded to take their revenge on NoA and make it into the grand final.

The final, then, was between the winners of the two largest events of last summer, mibr and Pentagram, with mibr needing to take two maps to win. On mibr's best map, Inferno, it looked as if the final would be anything but interesting, with mibr taking a convincing 16-7 win. However, going into Nuke, the situation looked a bit more uncertain. Pentagram took an 8-7 victory in the first half and only needed to take 8 more rounds to win it. Starting off well, they went 3 up straight away, only to get completely shut down for 6 rounds by a dominating mibr side. With only 3 out of 6 rounds needed for mibr, things started getting close, but Pentagram struggled to the last – conceding victory only in the very last round of the match. mibr walk off 16,000 Euro richer, with Pentagram raking in a respectable 10,000.

The other tournaments went largely according to plan. In Counter-Strike's prettier (yet not quite as popular) twin, Source, winners of the recent EuroCup, Swedish Volt Gaming were leading opinion polls, with Finnish rivals Team Logitech and Insignia Cadre in contention. The group stage went peacefully, and coming into the playoffs were all the usual suspects. Volt Gaming proceeded to rout all opposition, leaving both Team Logitech and aTTaX in their wake. Insignia Cadre was dropped to the lower bracket early, but fought their way up to face fellow Finns Team Logitech, in a close game that left Insignia Cadre at 5th place.

Team Logitech faced aTTaX in the lower bracket final in a controversial game that saw aTTaX make use of a bug exploit in the penultimate round of the match, leading to the German side forfeiting the game and being disqualified from the tournament. Team Logitech went on to face Volt Gaming for the



You heard the man

second time in an anti-climactic final. Volt Gaming displayed their prowess at Source by demolishing the Finns to the tune of 16-5, taking home a well-earned 2600 Euro.

In Call of Duty 2, favorites digital-Mind took a group stage victory over their main rivals, British side Dignitas, and slipped into a routine of total domination. Dignitas took a disappointing 5th place, getting beaten after overtime by underdogs suXus, who ended up placing 3rd overall after defeating Finnish Team Logitech. Dutch team digital-Mind took a convincing victory over Tek-9 in the Grand Final, having gone through the entire tournament without losing a match.

The Enemy Territory tournament was a one-horse race throughout,

with former idle.ee representing Dignitas being the clear favourites by a ridiculous margin. Having lost under 10 maps in their last 100 games, the only team that had any chance at taking home first place was zeroPoint, sporting a lineup of players from the old Dignitas team. Both teams went through the tournament uncontested, meeting up in the upper final for the first time. Dignitas took a clear victory over zeroPoint, who respectively took a clear victory over third-place favourites Black Magic, coming back for a rematch in the grand final. Again, the Dignitas side did not disappoint, and under Night's leadership took another clear victory.

Finally, the Battlefield 2 tournament showed a disappointing

number of contestants, with Dignitas' Battlefield team being tipped to win. After some initial hiccups, the team got their act together, getting to the grand final through the upper bracket. In the lower bracket, Swedish team Mortifer upset Copenhagen Esports, earning the right to face Dignitas in the final. When the dust had settled, Dignitas had unsurprisingly walked off with victory.

shgOpen was an excellent event that had good coverage and was on schedule throughout – a feat that any modern gaming event is hard-pressed to accomplish. The tournament was a great start to the gaming season, with qualifiers for all the summer events starting in the coming weeks. Here's to next month.



Hundreds of players and computers turned out, but it was clear before the tournament started which teams would go the farthest. You don't get anywhere with green scarves

Halo 2 multiplayer – the guide

Azfarul Islam is here to kick ass and chew bubblegum. He's fresh out of one of them, and it's not ass.



Much to chagrin of the burgeoning population of fanboys, allow me to start off with my personal shock-and-awe campaign: Halo 2 is *ludicrously* overrated.

The single player campaign, at least. Let's say that the story is disappointing with some poorly judged pacing near the end. In fact, the main campaign is quite forgettable after an initial play-through in Co-Op. Despite being an extremely polished game overall, it lacks any particularly stand-out attribute that might thrust it into the upper echelons of gaming.

All but one ... the *multiplayer*.

Combining and subtly balancing the brisk pace and sheer insanity of *Unreal* with the tactical stratagems and team camaraderie inherent in *Counter-Strike*, Halo 2 stands as one of the finest multiplayer games in existence.

One of the key attributes that makes the multiplayer in Halo 2 so brilliant is that it's extremely intuitive and playable like no other. Coupled with a refined control scheme that allows most gamers to adjust within a matter of moments, this is one of the few games that you can unashamedly bust out at a party and get most people intensely involved.

The life system uses a shield-based mechanism; there are no health pick-ups. Initially, all damage is borne by your energy shield – once that's depleted, you're reduced to a sack of flesh that'll die after being pumped with a few bullets. However, the shield regenerates over time, particularly when you're immobile. This allows you to strategically retreat and rejoin

the fray with gusto. This ingenious feature allows for an ever-shifting vie for supremacy and allows the fun to continue as long as you can hold out.

The weapons are ingeniously designed and it's quite obvious that each one was laboriously customized to be unique. Since there are a few basic types, the fact that you can only carry two weapons on your person creates a real need to find your own niche.

Halo 2 also allows you to use a variety of vehicles, some unique to particular levels. Each one has been carefully crafted to offer ease-of-use – and significant mauling capabilities. It's possible for dexterous players to eject the opposing occupant of a vehicle (get up close and use X) thereby coming into ownership, however temporary, of said means of transport. The bloodbath ensues again.

It's also quite clear that much love was put into each level since the majority boast fantastic design sensibilities and architecture that maximises the gratification gamers will receive.

Halo 2 is indeed the ultimate multiplayer game ... in my opinion, pitchfork-wielders and CS zealots take note.

With my unabashed arse-kissing complete, let me properly introduce you to The Guide to Halo 2 Multiplayer. Note that this applies to offline, split-screen multiplayer only. For online games on Live! many of points brought up are equally applicable, but some aren't.

Like most games of the multiplayer ilk, Halo 2 offers your basic gameplay variations such as Slayer (Free-for-all Deathmatch), Team Slayer (Team Deathmatch), Cap-

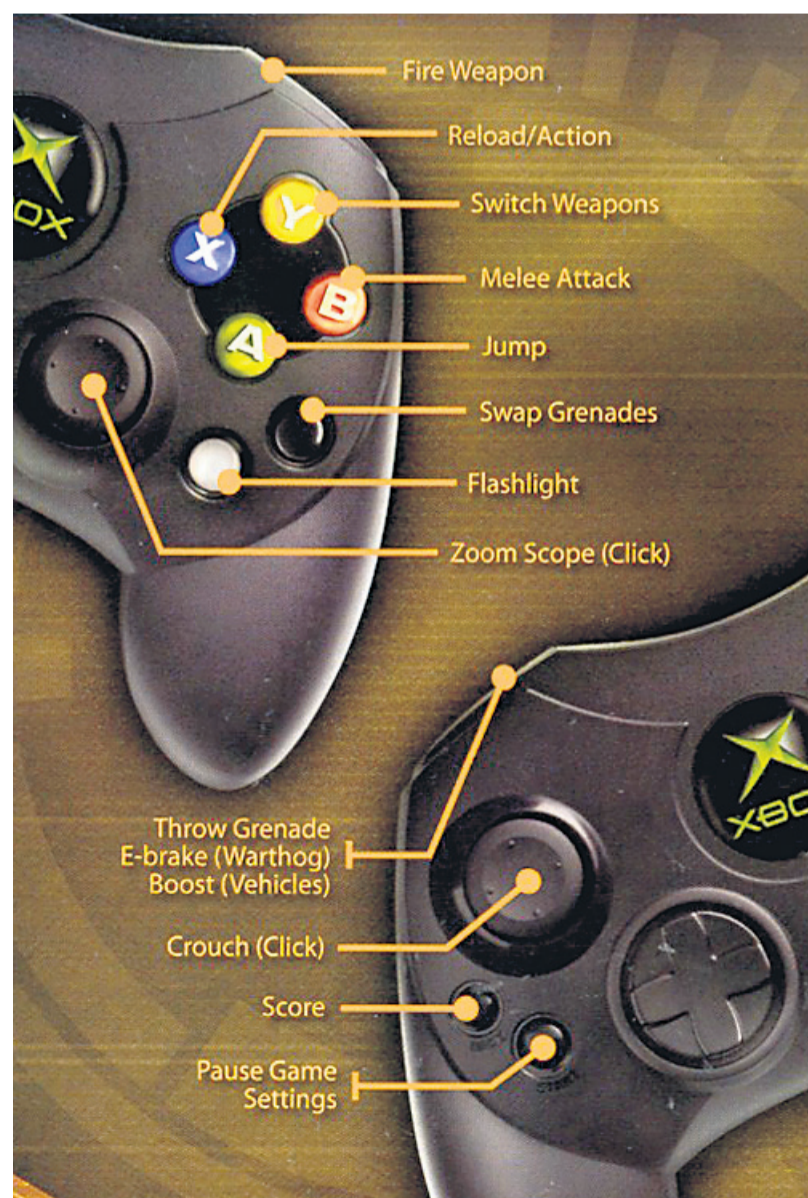
ture the Flag (Self-explanatory), Assault (Take bomb, plant bomb in enemy base, run away screaming like girls) and Territories (Hold onto your own land while evicting your opponent off theirs). There are other slightly newer types such as Oddball (hold onto a skull and survive – talk about ominous) and Juggernaut (If you're the Juggernaut only you can score; whoever kills you becomes the Juggernaut). Each of these modes have quite a few integrated variants of their own centring around specific weapons or modified stats. Fortunately, the game allows a well-proportioned degree of flexibility when creating custom game modes or even editing the built-in types.

A common moot point for Halo 2 is bots (AI controlled opponents), or lack thereof. When you have enough people around, it's quite trivial but when there are only two or an odd number of gamers, their absence is sorely felt.

Like most RPGs, Halo 2 offers you the ability of customising your avatar. Of course that's not saying much when you're just a guy in a tin suit ... high-tech or otherwise. Besides the Spartan class (the type of soldier that the protagonist, the Master Chief, is) you can select being a Covenant Elite (alien badguys; ugly). There aren't any particular advantages to either besides a personal cosmetic preference. However, after extensive play you may find that the Elites are more difficult to get a bead on with a sniper rifle due to the sunken anatomy of their heads. Plus, they look great in Pink, which is more than can be said for Master Chief.

Head on over the page for an in-depth look at Halo 2's finer points.

Halo 2 controls – the basics



Boom, headshot! Highlights from Halo's arsenal



The Plasma Sword – Putting the “Ace!” into “God, no, not the face”

Magnum: Unlike the first Halo, the Magnum has been toned down to a discreet side-arm. You must depress the trigger repeatedly for each shot. By itself, it's a rather useless weapon unless your foes' shields are down. When coupled with an SMG or Plasma Rifle/Pistol, this becomes rather deadly again.

Submachine gun (SMG): A basic SMG with a fast rate of fire that's ideal for use in close- and mid-range combat. One disadvantage is that the clips tend to empty rather quickly and there's a significant recoil that invariably causes you to slowly start aiming skywards. Dual-

wielded, these are formidable.

Battle-Rifle: A weapon that marries the rate of fire of the SMG with the range and scope of the sniper rifle. A Battle-Rifle is deadly in mid- and long-range skirmishes; an accurate player can down foes from huge distances. Since it fires in bursts, the recoil is less pronounced than that of the SMG. At close-range, however, this is a foolish option, unless wielded with care.

Shotgun: The ultimate weapon for close-quarters combat. A single headshot spells instant death for foes (and friends alike, for the trigger-happy). The sound is par-

ticularly satisfying. Interestingly, it's possible to pull off a shot in the midst of reloading – however, you have to have inserted at least one shell. You'll also find that despite being a rather in-your-face weapon it can still chip away at range, too.

Sniper-rifle: One of most popular weapons in multiplayer gaming, this can be one of the deadliest too. Skilful (or lucky) players may even be able to line up headshots without a scope. The range is in two levels of zoom: 5x and 10x (click in the right stick to switch between them). At long-range, single headshots are all it takes to bring down opponents.

However, when your scope is in use you can't see your motion sensor or your surroundings and sneakier players will love to creep behind you, wait to rub it in and then maul you to death. At close- and mid-range, you might as well stand still and die quickly.

Bazooka: One of the nastiest surprises you can give to anyone in Halo 2. This is a weapon that can be used to level the playing field when the other team keeps 'splattering' you with a Covenant Ghost. The bazooka boasts significant splash damage and is particularly useful when the other team is grouped

together – preferably in a tight corner. The bazooka can lock onto enemy-occupied vehicles with some trigger-stroking. One disadvantage is the ammo is extremely limited; however, this is a weapon that is potent at all ranges and can swing a battle your way.

Plasma Pistol: Not exactly equivalent to the Magnum, this little weapon fires out small spuds of plasma that nibble away at your shield. Useless unless you charge it up – when that happens, you unleash a crackling ball of pure energy that depletes your opponent's shields to nil. Slaughter as you see fit.

Plasma Rifle: A lot more potent than the SMG, the plasma rifle has a higher rate of fire as well but that's offset by the fact that it overheats. When that happens, the weapon jams and you're a sitting duck.

Covenant Carbine: Often eschewed for the superior Battle Rifle, this rifle is quite the weapon. It's faster than the BR and is equally capable. However, the ammo capacity is limited and not as precise. In the hands of skilled players, this is still deadly.

Plasma Sword: A truly nasty piece of work depending on who's wielding it. It locks on from range (wait for a telltale red crosshair) and allows you to charge for a single kill in a very anime-esque way. In large maps, it needs tactics. In small maps, go wild with it.

Covenant Needler: Like a porcupine rifle, it fires pink crystals that adhere to the body and explode within seconds. It can actually lock onto energy sources like the shield and slowly bring it down. If you dual-wield Needlers, you can rapidly kill.

Plasma Grenade: While it doesn't bounce around, it does stick to vehicles and more sadistically, people. It has its strategic uses in that a stick guarantees a kill, for vehicles as well. Being able to stick someone accurately will make you a force to be reckoned with.

Full circle – mastering Halo 2 MP in ten steps

Here's a quick run through on how to be the master, er ... Master Chief. Sorry about that one, enjoy anyway:

1. You may find it advantageous to change the look sensitivity in the options menu. A slower degree of sensitivity is good for players who tend to rush others or shoot locally; faster levels are a must for skilful strafers.

2. I cannot stress enough the importance of experimenting to find a weapon configuration that plays to your strengths. If you prefer to be in the midst of all the action, then close-quarters weaponry such as the Plasma Sword and Shotgun are imperative, coupled with an SMG. At range, the Battle-Rifle or either sniper rifles can turn you into a god. Try mixing and matching various Spartan and Covenant weapons to form part of your arsenal.

3. Learn to use each grenade type to its strength. The frags will bounce a bit before exploding, allowing you to set up kill-zones with good aiming. You can bounce them around corners or into sniper hides

for maximum effect. Plasma grenades are adhesive and will stick to both players and vehicles. You can turn your opponents into suicide bombers or make up for the lack of a bazooka when against a vehicle.

4. Teamwork is absolutely essential in matches. Being able to coordinate attacks and offer support to your partner will truly bridge the gap between a loss and victory. It's imperative to communicate plans to your comrade otherwise you could end up in embarrassing collateral damage (i.e. team kill) situations. It's an ideal combination when at least one of you is a decent sniper – if not, at least one should endeavour to take the place of a sharpshooter with the other watching your back.

5. The lock-on capabilities of the Plasma Sword offer a bit more strategy than you'll realise.



If your foe is above or below you and the sword locks on, you'll actually fly towards him, defying all laws of physics in the process. You'll find specific levels where this comes in very handy.

6. When armed with a Plasma Sword or Rocket-launcher do not equip either as your primary weapon if in the open. The

Plasma Sword is an inviting beacon to snipers even if you're invisible, whereas the Rocket-launcher obscures one-third of your vi-

sion. Also, it's a lot more gratifying when your enemies blindly rush you only to find you whipping out the sword for death by impalement.

7. I may sound rather daft, but choosing the right colour in Team Slayer has more benefits than is immediately obvious.

Red, orange, and brown make it harder to see you in earthy maps whereas blue and green work well in the shade and urban areas. Camouflage is particularly useful for and against snipers.

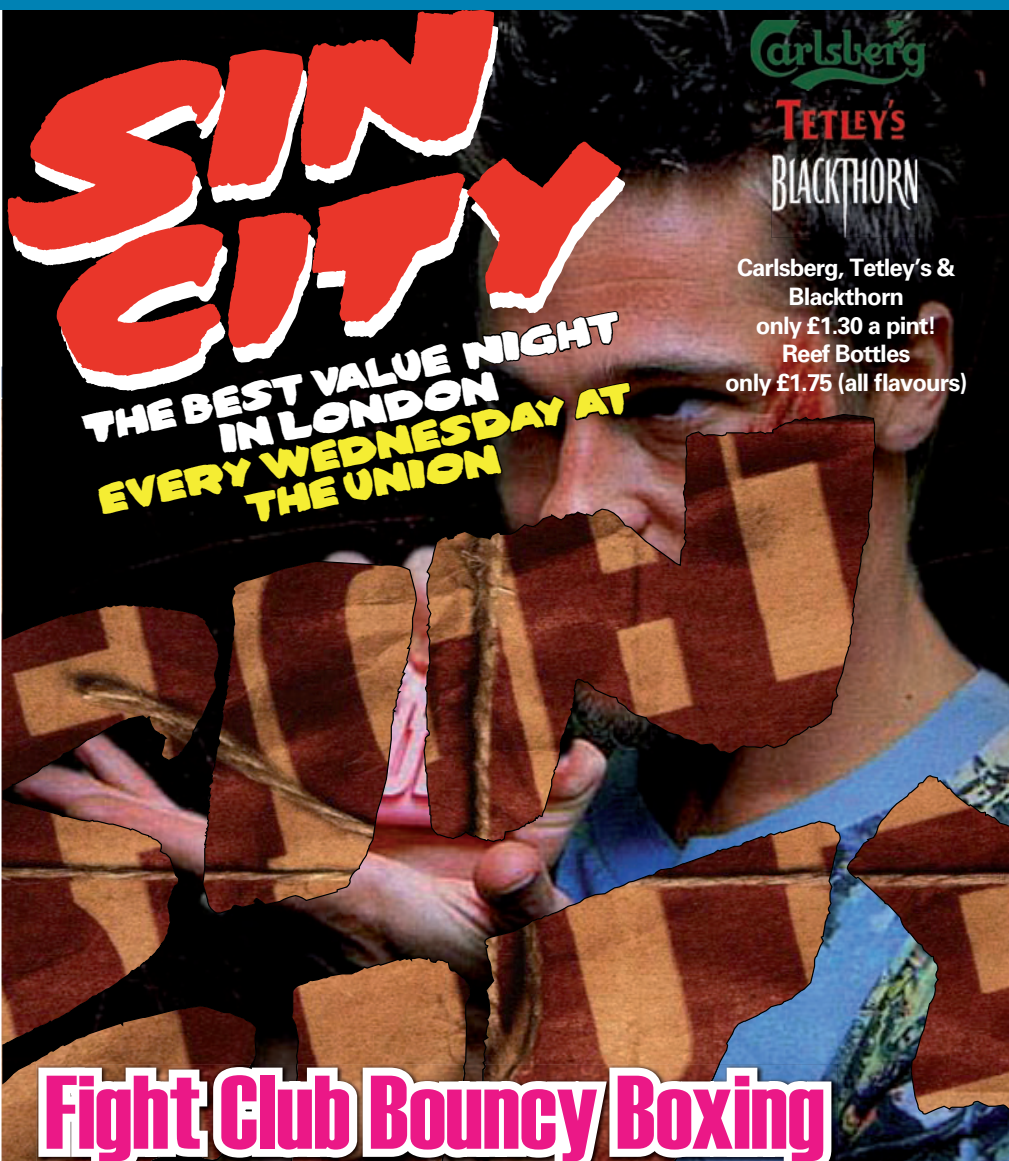
8. Try playing with a handicap on to really improve your skills and generally hold bragging rights. Even if you lose, you could still say you were handicapped; it's a win-win situation. A handicap will decrease your life bar, the damage your weapons do as well as increasing the time taken for your shield to regenerate.

9. If you screen-watch, you suck and should be b[efriended].

10. *Have fun* and don't get upset when you lose. Good sportsmanship is the key to getting the most out of multiplayer.

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Clubs & Societies



Helping build bridges in Malawi

Naomi Bessey and
Daniel Carrivick

After several setbacks at the start of the expedition, this determined five-person expedition team from Imperial College worked tirelessly to construct a foot bridge across the North Rukuru River near Uledi in Malawi. Despite cautious estimates, the bridge span turned out to be greater than anticipated, which forced major design changes and added logistical complications. Nevertheless, an original conservative schedule along with working dawn till dusk seven days a week meant the bridge superstructure was completed within time and on budget. Unfortunately, due to the delivery of steel cable being fraught with delays, the bridge was unable to be completed. A return next year is envisaged to finish the project.

The team was forced to stay in Lilongwe longer than planned as they waited for their luggage, which had gone astray on their outbound flight. Then when travelling north, the team's progress was halted by a drunk man who ran out in front of their truck. The team assisted where they could but sadly the casualty died that night from his injuries. The police were informed and formalities dealt with before the team could continue.

Members of the team met and

discussed plans with senior officials from the National Park headquarters, and with Tommy Mhango, the Nyika Parks director. These meetings confirmed full government support for the bridge, which was emphasised as vital in order for Uledi to become a fully functional and effective anti-poaching scout camp during the rainy season. Some park staff had initial reservations over the community sharing ownership of the bridge. However while there, team members persuaded them this was in their best interest in terms of looking after and maintaining the bridge. Senior officials agreed, and now the community will have joint ownership status of the bridge with the government.

The team went out with a very flexible design centred on a suspended type footbridge with masonry towers, concrete anchorage and a span of up to 30m which, based on information available, was very conservative. However initial surveys revealed only one possible site for the bridge, with a span of 37m and flood debris a metre higher than previously thought. Thus major design adaptations were necessary in order to make construction possible.

The community displayed an obvious enthusiasm for the bridge; this being motivated significantly by the prospect of paid work. All communication with the villagers

was done through the four elected chiefs of constituent areas, via the National Parks chief resident scout at Uledi Camp. Impromptu progress meetings, which were attended by the chiefs, park staff and the team, were held on site when issues arose. A total of forty-five workers were employed at local rates clocking up some 4800 man-hours between them. Feedback from those employed was generally good though the work was harder than many had anticipated. This resulted in a 25% pay rise to keep them happy. Several workers suffered from minor aches, strains, cuts and bruises, with injured feet being the most common. The team ensured all were attended to, though other than the cleaning of wounds, most of the first aid was carried out more for psychological benefit than by necessity.

Materials were sourced locally where possible and hence the majority of the workforce was employed to extract and carry rocks, gravel and sand up or down river to the site. Only ten people were needed at any one time for the actual excavation and construction work. Mzuzu was the nearest town where cement and steel could be bought, which involved a three day round trip. Three journeys were made due to the volume and weight of cement required and the load capacity of our truck. Bricks were

purchased locally however a track had to be cleared before they could be reached. Seven truck-loads of bricks were required to move more than 6000 bricks which were used for the towers. All supplies brought in by truck had to be manhandled from the road end at Uledi Camp down to the site and across the river as necessary.

Two 4.4m high mixed masonry-reinforced concrete towers, with 1m deep foundations were built together with two anchor blocks each made from 6m³ of bulk fill reinforced cement concrete. The free span between the two towers is 36.7m, with a total superstructure span of some 60m while the height of the towers allows for 1.6m freeboard above highest known flood levels. Also fabricated were the 0.7m wide timber-decking units, made from termite resistant blue-gum wood. These are easily replaceable due to their simple design, and since wood was supplied from the National Parks saw mill at Chelinda.

With the concreting complete, it was left to cure and a four day round trip was embarked upon to Lilongwe to collect the steel cables. However the consignment was still stuck in Europe somewhere as all freight had been removed from the plane to make room for urgently required school exam papers. With nothing more to do, the team

cleared the site, making sure everything was safe and secure, ready for the team's return in a year's time to finish the bridge.

The team is currently organising this year's expedition which will complete the construction of the bridge and undertake necessary bank protection work. The team still needs a few more people to help them carry out this work in Malawi from the 1st July to the 2nd August 2007. So if you are interested in joining the expedition, please get in touch immediately – the team is particularly keen to hear from anyone with a civil engineering background or knowledge. Email daniel.carrivick@imperial.ac.uk

The Imperial College Building Bridges 2006 expedition was only made possible through the support given initially by Imperial College Exploration Committee and subsequently by many other individuals, organisations, companies and trust funds. The team expresses their sincere thanks for all these contributions for without this support the expedition would not have been possible.

If you would like more information about organising your own expedition please visit www.imperial.ac.uk/expeditions. Specific questions should be directed to the ICU Exploration Society, email exploration@imperial.ac.uk

ICU Dance Company win again!

Lara West

What a weekend, night, days of rehearsals we have had! Everyone with ICU Dance Company has been working really hard towards our performances and competitions that February had in store. By far our busiest weekend has just gone by!

In the week running up we took an active part in ArtsFest in both the dance marathon on the Wednesday afternoon and 27 of our dancers in the Finale Concert on the Friday night.

In a piece choreographed by Hildur Einarsdottir, Francesca Garrard and Wei Li Cheah, three styles of dancing, tap, ballet and contemporary were brought together in one dance. The fusion of three styles created a visually stunning piece, using dancers of all abilities to truly demonstrate the talent within Dance Company.

A trip by 26 of us the same weekend up to Edinburgh (there is no time difference Louisa, and yes Ayish your phone doesn't require international roaming) started on the Friday night with the long journey up north!

Edinburgh University Modern Dance Society run a competition at the Pleasance Theatre every year, this year we had entries in jazz, tap, ballet and we were proudly defending our contemporary title from 2006.

In beautiful costumes that both Chiara and Lily had slaved over, including the sexy big black pants, we took to the stage in style and

all four pieces looked amazing and the dancers all did Imperial proud! Hildur, Francesca, Wei Li and Sarah Winstanley had once again showed their talents as choreographers and the dancers held their own and really owned that stage.

We proudly retained the contemporary title, and added to the collection by winning jazz with probably the cheesiest piece of dancing ever seen, but we did love dancing it! With our heads held high and our smiles still cheesy we hit Edinburgh for the celebrations.

At an amazing little Mexican restaurant we ate, drank, sang and some danced (I am thinking Louisa and Colin here) the night away to the tuneful sounds of our very own backing singers Sarah, Alvaro and Kathy, also known as New Kids on the Block.

Some special dancing inspired by our favourite superhero Spiderman was probably the highlight of the night! The next morning we all headed back down south to once again join the masses of London, thankfully Louisa didn't need to change her watch, Ayish could once again use her phone and London was once again safe now Spiderman was back in town.

It was an amazing weekend for everyone in Dance Company both ArtsFest and Edinburgh crew alike, and with more performances lined up in the next few weeks the fun is sure to continue! A massive thank you to all the dancers I hope you all had as much fun as I did and bring on Edinburgh 2008, we will be back!



The ICU Dance Company looking mightily pleased with themselves

Imperial College Winds are "talk of the town"

Lucy Smith

Imperial College Winds, now in its tenth year, is a non-audition group of wind, brass and percussion players who like to play for fun, enjoyment and sociability. Our repertoire includes a wide range of styles from traditional English folk music, to modern film scores – including Jurassic Park, James Bond and Star Wars – to suites from West End musicals, with just about everything in between!

For the last three years we have had the pleasure of being conducted by Gilly French. Gilly is an acclaimed conductor and joint artistic director of Bampton Classical Opera, a small company with a national reputation for its revivals of rarely-heard eighteenth century opera.

The band usually has two end-of-term concerts a year, at Christmas and Easter, one particularly memorable concert being an impromptu outdoor concert performed beneath the Queen's Tower on a cold December lunchtime!

This term has seen Imperial College Winds playing in our first concert outside Imperial. The band travelled to Bampton in Oxfordshire, the home town of our conductor, for a fund-raising concert in St Mary's church, which raised over £600 for reparations to the church roof. The concert was a great success with the hugely appreciative

audience filling the entire church giving a real buzz to the evening. The programme featured an eclectic selection of pieces, including *Symphonic Marches* by John Williams, *Second Suite for Wind Band* by Gustav Holst and the band's current favourite film score *Chicken Run* by Powell/Gregson-Williams.

The concert has since been the talk-of-the-town amongst the local people in Bampton and the band is invited back next year to perform again. The band greatly enjoyed performing in a new venue and were given such excellent hospitality, so will look forward to a return visit next year!

Imperial College Winds has been the catalyst for the formation of two new groups at Imperial College – a clarinet quartet and a flute quartet – both of these quartets performed at St Mary's church playing two contrasting pieces. The flute quartet performed *The Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss and the clarinet quartet performed *Cinerama* by James Rae.

This term has also seen Imperial College Winds giving its usual contribution to the hugely popular ArtsFest 2007. Performances included a joint concert with Contraband and also a slot in the prestigious Grand Finale concert.

The band welcomes musicians of all standards and abilities. If you're a new, returning, or 'occasional' player (ie once a week at rehearsals!) then we're the band for you!



The IC Windband jamming in a recent concert

On the other hand, seasoned orchestral players who often forget just how challenging and rewarding playing in a wind band can be – a real test of skill and stamina without a string section to back you up

– also have fun playing with us!

So, if you like the sound of Imperial College Winds then why not join us? Simply come along to one of our rehearsals, which take place in the Great Hall or Ante Room, from 6pm

to 8pm on Tuesday evenings, or contact our chair Richard Jones at richard.jones@imperial.ac.uk.

Or come along to our end of term concert on Wednesday March 21st 2007 in the Union Concert Hall.

Change today, choose Fairtrade!

With the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight, *Felix* asks why should Imperial College be getting involved?

Kirsty Patterson
Clubs and Societies Editor

This year is the first year that the Imperial College Fairtrade Society has been officially recognised by Imperial College Union after receiving the Student Campaign Group of the Year Award last year from the University of London Union.

As a result the drive for Fairtrade has really stepped up on campus with College Catering leading the way to a remarkable change-around.

Back in 2004, when the Fairtrade University policy was passed at Union Council, we were still in a position which lacked the College's backing and needed lobbying of college catering to support the Student Union in their commitment to Fairtrade.

Now the opposite is true, with College publicly stating its commitment to becoming a Fairtrade Institution and actively sourcing more and more Fairtrade Alternatives whilst the Union falls by the wayside.

This policy is currently under review and will be presented to Union Council on 1st March, to coincide with Fairtrade Fortnight. Anybody

with an interest in Fairtrade is welcome to come along to support the paper.

Fairtrade Fortnight is an annual event endorsed by the Fairtrade Foundation. The events, held in thousands of universities, towns, schools and places of worship in the UK and Ireland, aim to raise the awareness of Fairtrade Products and the benefits they bring to their producers throughout the entire world.

It is an opportunity for people who are unaware of the movement, or sceptical of its achievements, to find out more about how Fairtrade works and operates.

This year's theme is 'Change today, Choose Fairtrade' and with the wide variety of products on offer, it really never has been easier to choose Fairtrade.

As a forerunner in scientific research I believe that Imperial College has a responsibility to promote matters of social and environmental responsibility to its students.

Presenting our students with a clear message on ethical and environmental standards will influence Imperial Graduates to expect these standards in the work place and on the wider global market.

Becoming a Fairtrade University will increase the reputation of Imperial College and make the institution more appealing to prospective students and staff alike.

The objectives that we must meet to be awarded this status will also result in increased choice across campus with a wider range of products on offer alongside those which are Fairtrade Certified.

Too often people's knowledge of Fairtrade extends no further than the mundane cup of coffee and the stereotypical banana.

This Fairtrade Fortnight I have tried to put an emphasis on the wide range of products available which step beyond your standard consumables.

There will be an opportunity to hear first hand how Fairtrade has helped two coffee growers from Nigeria; a chance to kick around a Fairtrade Football and even fair trade knickers on sale at our bazaar!

I hope that this serves as an insight into the scope of this rapidly expanding business initiative and brings Fairtrade right into the spotlight.

There really is something for everyone. Enjoy!



The Fairtrade Fortnight calendar

Date: Monday 26th February
Event: Coffee that helps you sleep at night!
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Location: Sherfield Walkway

Find us on the Sherfield Walkway serving free samples of Fairtrade tea and coffee throughout lunchtime. There will also be copies of the book *50 reasons to choose Fairtrade* on sale alongside tickets for the Wine Evening and a chance to win a Fairtrade hamper!

Date: Tuesday 27th February
Event: Fairtrade Coffee Morning
Time: 10:00 am - 12:00pm
Location: Ante Room

A chance to taste Fairtrade tea, coffee and various cakes and snacks kindly donated by PEROS whilst chatting to Fairtrade coffee growers and tasters Robert Ejiku and Fatima Lopez. Film footage will be shown courtesy of Alex Georgiou from Cafedirect.

Date: Tuesday 27th February
Event: "How Fair is Fair?"
Time: 12:00 - 13:30
Location: Ante Room

Guest speakers will be answering all of your questions, with Fatima Lopez, Head Coffee Taster at Prodecoop, Nicaragua; Robert Ejiku, Group Manager – Igara Growers Tea Factory, Bushenyi, Uganda; Martin Hill, Head of Commercial Relations at The Fairtrade Foundation; Jane Neary, Head of Catering, Imperial College; Kirsty Patterson, Fairtrade Society Chair, Imperial College Union; Adrian O'Hare, Peros Ltd and Louise Whittaker, Trade Marketing Manager.

Date: Wednesday 28th February
Event: Fairtrade Beat the Goalie Competition
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Location: Beit Quad

With 'celebrity' goal keepers including Jon Matthews and Stephen Brown, students will be invited to pay 50p to shoot three penalties. The football and goalie gloves are made from Fairtrade materials. Prizes will be up for grabs including Fairtrade chocolate footballs, Fairtrade mugs and tickets for the Fairtrade Cheese and Wine Evening.

Date: Thursday 1st March
Event: Fair Trade Bazaar
Time: 12:00pm-4:00pm
Location: UDH

Various stalls selling Fairtrade products from knickers to gemstones, from books to recycled games, from jewellery to coffee and from tshirts to home furnishings. Free coffee and nibbles will be available from the Fairtrade Society stall, kindly donated by ecocoffee.

Date: Saturday 3rd March
Event: Beit Hall Bakeoff
Time: 11:00am – 3:00pm
Location: Beit Hall

Teams of Beit Hall Residents are invited to use Fairtrade ingredients to make a baked item. Fairtrade Ingredients will be provided (chocolate, coffee, bananas, sugar, honey etc) and the winning entry will receive four free tickets to the Fairtrade Wine evening in addition to having their winning creation recreated for a week in the MDH. All entries will be submitted to the Fairtrade Foundations first cookbook, to be published next year as part of 'Cook for Change'. Contact rosie.smithells@ic.ac.uk for more information.

Date: Tuesday 6th March
Event: Coffee that helps you sleep at night!
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Location: SAF Foyer

Find us in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building serving free samples of Fairtrade tea and coffee throughout lunchtime. There will also be copies of the book *50 reasons to choose Fairtrade* on sale alongside tickets for the Wine Evening and a chance to win a Fairtrade hamper!

Date: Tuesday 6th March
Event: Fairtrade Debate
Time: Evening
Location: Biology Lecture Theatre, SAF
Description: Debate hosted by MedSin with speakers from Traidcraft.

Date: Wednesday 7th March
Event: Fairtrade Beat the Goalie Competition
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Location: Beit Quad

With 'celebrity' goal keepers including Jon Matthews and Stephen Brown, students will be invited to pay 50p to shoot three penalties. The football and goalie gloves are made from Fairtrade materials. Prizes will be up for grabs including Fairtrade chocolate footballs, Fairtrade mugs and tickets for the Fairtrade Cheese and Wine Evening.

Date: Friday 9th March
Event: Fairtrade Cheese and Wine Evening
Time: 8:00pm - 11:00pm
Location: Physics Level 8 Common Room

Tickets: £4 non members/£2 members
Final Party! 100 free bottles of Fairtrade Wine from Traidcraft and cheese provided by the Cheese Society. Smart-casual evening with live music and free One Water donated by PEROS.

Email clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Debauchery and debate in Bremen

Edmund Hunt

Debating society made its first foray into foreign lands on the first of this month, as it boarded a Luton easyJet flight to Bremen, Germany. We sent two teams (A: Till Stenzel & Edmund Hunt, B: Aneurin Young & Adrienne De Souza) and one judge (Hannah Gray) to the debating tournament of International University Bremen, IUB Open 2007. I happily hasten to add that the whole tournament was conducted in English, as are most modern European competitions. I don't think my GCSE German would have been up to much, alas.

As fortune would have it, my team mate Till was actually from Bremen. Therefore, when we arrived we were picked up from the airport by his ever-helpful mother, to spend the first night at his house. In the morning we had a quick tour around the beautiful old city, host of much history. As we would do for the whole tour, we ate generous amounts of fortifying German food, before arriving at the IUB around 5pm for registration. The IUB is a rare thing in Germany (Europe, indeed): a privately built and funded university. There was thus a characteristic free-spirited attitude from the competition's organisers and students. As it happened, the Open's tagline was 'Total Debauchery: Reloaded'. This promise would become increasingly fulfilled as the rounds progressed.

As is usual at IVs, we waited an inordinate amount of time as latecomers arrived and the hapless tech-support chap fiddled with the uncooperative PowerPoint technology. But eventually the first motion was announced (THW Privatise All Universities) and we sprang into action. I should add at this point that IVs are utterly exhausting. This is because they consist of protracted periods of stressful waiting between rounds, heightened anticipation as the next motion is announced, frantic brainstorming and discussion with your partner during the 15 minutes prep time before the debate, and a solid hour of



Ed and Till prepare for 1st Round

intense, rapidly shifting arguments in the debate itself. This was all the more heightened as speeches were to be seven minutes of length, rather than the usual five you find in other IVs. After a slightly weak win in the first round, me and Till went on to trounce our opponents in the second, debating a classic motion in the legalisation of bestiality. This despite the fact that, due to a

late start, we were debating until about 1230 at night. Imperial B had a first and a second, so at the end of the first night we were all in high spirits. As promised, we went on to the IUB student bar for free beer: Becks is brewed in Bremen, so we were drinking its various forms for the duration. Taking the coward's way out – an early night – we left at 2am to wander over to the youth

hostel room we had been given near the university.

In the morning we were (helpfully?) encouraged out of bed at 745am by the rather insistent Germanic tones of a volunteer. After a curious breakfast of salami and strawberry jam the bleary-eyed contestants assembled in the main meeting room. Imperial A came across a non-starter in trying to propose a motion limiting the number of foreign players in domestic club football. We came fourth. Somewhat dejected, we steered ourselves for the final two rounds. These were 'closed adjudication', so we were not to be told their outcome until the final 'break' of those teams with enough points to reach the semi-finals was announced in the evening. But goaded into passion our analysis and rhetoric reached new heights in motions about NATO intervention in the Sudan and preventing the developing world from using nuclear power. Amusingly, Imperial A met B in that final round, and the outcome was left temporarily ambiguous. Treated to a novel pancake dinner aboard an old sailing ship docked in one of Bremen's rivers, we then arrived at the big Saturday night party. Perhaps it was just nervous anticipation of the break announcement, but it was one of the best parties I'd been to for a long time. Those Germans certainly know their techno-cheese. With whoops of delight from Imperial A, we learnt at 1am that we'd broken fourth out of 50 teams, comfortably into the semi-finals. Hannah too 'broke' as one of the semi-final judges, impressing the convenor with her thoughtful decisions. Sensibly chickening out of contention for the 'last man at the bar award', we left to catch another six hours' sleep.

Now things became a little more serious. The semis and final were open to a public audience, and so when, at 11am the Sunday morning, the semi-final motion was announced, the stakes were higher. Fortune smiled upon Imperial A however, and we were second prop for a motion legalising holocaust denial (in Germany and much of

Europe that is still very much a crime). Till knew this topic well, and I devised an interesting angle about the role of martyrdom in fascist ideology, so we put in a solid performance. Later on that day all the competitors made their way to the downtown Bremen concert hall, 'Die Glocke', for the final. We were confident that we'd done well, and sure enough, when the final break was announced, Imperial A was called up to the front of the imposing hall. As in the semis, we picked the position we were to argue out of a hat. With a rather grim look on his face, Till drew out first proposition, and we were to be at the whim of the motion: I confess that generally, it is easier to oppose an idea than argue its case. Sent outside of the packed hall into the foyer, we were handed the motion on a folded piece of paper: "THW Put the Children of Long Term Unemployed Parents up for Adoption". Oh dear. In a truncated 15 minutes prep time (we'd been promised 25), we did our best to dream up reasons why this was a good idea. Called into the hall, up onto a spot-lit stage, Till gave it his best shot, and I followed up with a plea to 'unplug children from these failing social networks'. Understandably however, the public audience wasn't terribly sympathetic, giving warm applause to an opposition speaker who likened it to ethnic cleansing (yawn!). Still, I felt we'd done a decent job with a difficult motion. However, the win, when announced, went to first opposition. They'd done well in previous rounds, and I suspect the judges felt they deserved it for a good overall performance.

But there you have it: we still made it to the final, which was a first-time for both me and Till (and Imperial itself, perhaps?) Nothing can compare to the experience of debating in front of a diverse public audience: it really is elating. On my protracted journey back to NW10, I felt pleased that we'd positively put Imperial's name into the public eye. Well done, ICU debating: here's hoping for many more successes to come.

London International Model United Nations

Li Teck Lau

London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) arrived on Friday. For the second year running, the event in which students from universities all over the world gather to debate significant international issues, was held at Imperial College.

The hoard of eager students descended on the opening ceremony on the afternoon of February 16th, held in the historic surroundings of Westminster Central Hall; venue for the first-ever conference in 1946.

After introductions by King's College organisers Ryan Soo and Jehan Karim amidst delayed applause, Sir Kieran Prendergast took to the stage, delivering the keynote speech. He spoke with the usual admiration for people under thirty years old taking interest in the United Nations, and made some poignant insights into the conflict in Iraq, the issue over which the es-

teemed ambassador resigned from civil service in 2005.

Nine committees of the UN were simulated over the three day marathon that totalled fifteen-and-a-half hours of debate, discussion and lobbying on topics ranging from human trafficking, to water politics, to the prosecution of Josph Kony, to the situation in Israel and Palestine. The security council was subjected to a fictional crisis in Lebanon, in which the militant Islamic group Hezbollah staged a coup. Soon enough, Israel was launching 'surgical strikes' on suspected Iranian nuclear sites in retaliation to the shooting down of their foreign minister's plane.

Luckily enough, the situation was defused when a consensus was reached to disarm Israel and call for a ceasefire across the whole Middle East region.

Saturday night's social event aboard the HMS Belfast, moored near Tower Bridge, was a welcome

respite from all the imaginary violence and disasters sprouting up during the weekend, and was the scene of intercultural dancing and binge drinking. 'Is this the way to Amarillo' translated well into the variety of languages and nationalities in the mingle, and friendships were sealed after participants exchanged facebook IDs.

Many volunteers from Imperial College took part in the organising of LIMUN 2007. ICMUN's Michael Such and Sheena Shah formed part of the secretariat, whilst Terry Wong, Xiaoyun Lee, Livia Lai, Mustafa, Dincer and numerous others provided technical support, guidance to the college and administrative aid in the form of printing lots.

Imperial's Model UN has meetings most Mondays, and presents a friendly atmosphere in which to learn more about how the international community functions, and a proactive environment in which to practise oratory skills.



The LIMUN debate was held at IC for the second year running

Rugger football of the female kind

Women's Rugby	
Middlesex	19
ICUWRFC	42

Samantha Pemberton

This was a home game for us, but as all 3 boys teams were also playing at home, we played at the Medic's ground in Teddington. The ref society refused to appoint us a referee on the basis that Middlesex had only turned up with 10 players the week before. This turned out to be the case again, but due to so many injuries in our squad at the moment, we were also only capable of fielding 10 players.

So it worked out well in the end, meaning that neither team had to concede and we played for the points. Our coach, John Sykes, agreed to referee for us, had it not been for him we would have been lacking a rather important element of the game! 10-a-side and uncontested scrums meant that we put the very tiny winger Cheryl in as second row, allowing us a speedy pack of forwards.

The match went well for us – Courtney scored 5 of our 6 tries, each time by breaking through Middlesex's line of defence and touching down under the posts, and Roxanne served us well by converting every try scored, bumping up the

scores. Olga scored her virgin try for the team, following an off-load from Courtney, leading to yet another try between the posts. Notable moments during the match were when Middlesex attempted to score a drop goal, and thought they were successful, only to be reminded by the ref that a drop-goal has to be a drop-kick, not a punt!

Middlesex were very fowl-mouthed and swore at the ref a number of times – apparently nearly every player they had on the pitch was a qualified ref and 'they know all the rules' which quite clearly was not the case, especially shown by their attempt at a 'drop' goal! The Virgins played very well in this match and were very good at supporting each other to allow the game to flow quite smoothly, however we need to work on our ball-handling skills after the number of knock-on's in the game!! Well played by everyone, and special welcome to Megan who played with us for the first time this season.

Women's Rugby	
UCL	51
ICUWRFC	5

Well an interesting and somewhat different game this certainly was! I myself was very much looking forward to this day, after being given



The tug-o-war match suddenly went wildly out of control

the all-clear by doctors to play again following hand surgery back in December. UCL remain unbeaten in BUSA and unfortunately, try as we might, we were unable to change this. The game started off well, with both sides looking relatively well-matched.

Within the first 20 minutes, 3 tries had been scored, 2 for UCL and 1 for us. No conversions left the score at 10-5 and gave the Virgins hope that maybe this could be pulled out of the hat. As the whistle blew for half time, the score was 22-5 but all was by no means lost. The second half of the game started with

our kick, and we hit back at them hard. Within 5 minutes however, full back Jess was on the ground in pain, complaining of neck/shoulder pain. The medics of the team took charge (Serena and Bonnie in particular) and decided not to take any chances with pain in this area and called for an ambulance.

It took half an hour for the paramedics to sort Jess out and take her off to hospital, which left both teams starting to cool off and anxious to finish the game. At the whistle to re-start, the Virgins had lost spirit and found it very difficult to get back into the game. This led

to a succession of tries being run in by UCL, with a series of successful conversions.

I have to say how well we managed to pull it back together and enjoy the last 10 minutes of the game to finish on a high, knowing we had fought back after everything that had happened.

Two more players spent the evening in A&E: myself, after re-breaking my finger, and Lucy with a potential concussion. However, all players are on the mend with no serious outcomes. All in all not the best of games but experience none the less!

IC Women's Hockey – some stay in, some go out



You, my dear, whoever you are have absolutely splendid legs and if I look hard enough whilst tilting my head, I can just see up your skirt

ULU Women's Hockey	
Challenge Cup Quarter Final	
IC 1st XI	6
LSE 1st XI	2

Jack Cornish

Half past nine is far too early to meet at the union on a Sunday morning, but IC Ladies 1st Hockey Team are all dedicated athletes, so at the crack of dawn last Sunday they headed off to Fortress Harlington, along with a healthy contingent from the rest of Imperial

College Hockey Club who were also playing.

(Most were a bit worse for the wear from the previous night's shenanigans at a certain West London pub.)

IC went in feeling confident – despite some disappointing results, form is improving, and as the ULU Cup defending champions, they were definitely the stronger side going in.

This became obvious in the first 10 minutes, with two quick goals, destroying LSE's confidence.

The rest of the first half was fairly quiet until disaster struck and LSE

managed to equalise, taking advantage of a dismal five minutes by IC, and of Kebab's first goal – in the wrong end of the pitch!

Definitely some fine play for that on Wednesday.

Luckily IC struck it lucky and scored from a penalty corner at a strategic point – just before half time.

Captain Moony's motivational talk did its trick at half time, and IC went in to the second half full of energy. LSE never looked like scoring again, and IC finished off by destroying them – 6-2, including a hat-trick by Moony. Well played!

ULU Women's Hockey	
Reserve Cup Quarter Final	
IC 2nd XI	1
St George's 2nd XI	2

So after only a few hours sleep as the pre-match early bedtime had been violated by being in the Goose til closing, 11 valiant ladies made it to Harlington in the freezing cold. For once our coach bothered coming to a match and even made us warm up properly, with drills and such like! The game got off to a fantastic start with IC playing some

of the best hockey of the season, clearly the position rearrangement put to Fi by Dasha and Alice was paying off with Bella and Melissa fitting into their new roles on the wing brilliantly with Mala in the middle.

There were numerous IC shots on goal, with Amanda and Dasha having chances but it took about 20 minutes before Melissa scored the opener from a well struck ball from Bella. St Georges picked up the pace and made the defence had to work hard, I don't think Fi has done so much running all season. However it all went a bit wrong on a long corner and St Georges scored an equaliser just before half time.

The half time talk was inspirational from Shiv, but the St Georges one must have been better as they came out with a vengeance. Something in the IC tactics had gone wrong with people all out of position, however the defence were great in the attempts to stop the opposition. Alice did some fantastic defending on the left and Sheena was great in the middle coping with their best player. However no matter how much shouting from the sweeper/goalie/coach mattered as St Georges got a break and scored another.

The last 10 minutes were once again great hockey from IC as play was being so well switched across the back to Ellie and up the right to Bella and Dasha who had more than their fair share of the play.

No matter how hard IC tried they just couldn't score that equaliser and so the final whistle went with IC being defeated and not making it to the final for the first time in years.

The Bottle Match is on its way



MASSIVE JAZZ HANDS

Daniel Hill
RSM Sports officer

The Bottle Match, A tradition that dates back to 1902. A day of Sport! Drinking! And rivalry! A date that should be marked in every Royal Miner's calendar, the 23rd & 24th February.

The Bottle Match is an annual event between the RSM and the Camborne School of Mines (CSM). The Bottle Match has been taking place for 105 years making it the second oldest varsity match in Britain!

Students from the rival schools go head to head in rugby (men's

and women's), hockey (men's and women's), football, golf and squash. The rugby match is the clash which wins the much coveted 3ft Bass-Charrington beer bottle stolen in true RSM fashion by students in 1946.

For the last 10 years it has lived behind the union bar where the

RSM are hoping it will stay by extending their dominance to over a decade!

This year the Bottle Match is taking place at Harlington Sports Ground on the last Saturday of the month. Matches start with women's hockey at 9am and finish off with the much anticipated men's rugby

match at 2pm. On the Friday the golf and squash will be played. The players' dinner is to be held in the SCR on campus with the after party being held in the Union Bar and Da'Vincis. It would be great to see as many people as possible cheering on the RSM in this day of truly passionate rivalry!

GKT get knocked of the park and sent packing

ULU Men's Hockey
Challenge Cup Quarter Final
IC 1st XI 6
GKT 1st XI 2

Jack Cornish

With spirits high from the convincing victory against the medic scum it was time to kick some more ass!

Having watched an inspiring performance from the Ladies, the Men were certainly in the right state of mind for some more medic bashing...this time in the ULU cup in which IC dominate year in, year out...

With Batty skiing, Jumanji flying and the Rat seeing his Desire, it was chance for Stumpy and Sid to join in the current goal frenzy that is IC mens 1s!

KCLMS (GKT) got off to a ropey start with only 8 players and no keepers kit. After the umpires "consulted" their rule book they decided that it was time to get this game started, much to the bemusement of the GKT kev-balling captain. Fortunately for GKT the missing medics weren't long behind and attempted to warm up. Wasting no time, Harvester gath-



"I told you once, I told you twice young man - that stick is not an instrument to rain down furious blows of death upon thine enemy!"

ered his troops and marched on into battle.

A tactical decision to change ends left the opposition floundering, and with the massive of support of bril-

liant home crowd the IC onslaught was underway. GKT, having mustered a full team showed that they were not going to be walked over and some good individual skill in

midfield took even better tackling from the IC centre-back partnership of Foetus and Shipman. Good movement up-front and a lot of running from the midfield paid div-

idents for IC as the GKT defence started to feel the strain. Goals started to flow and after a couple of attacking short corners IC were on top.

Ice-ice-(hockey-hockey)-baby-baby

Ice Hockey

IC Devils 10
ULU Dragons B 1

Following an impressive performance and narrow loss to the experienced Cambridge Eskimos two weeks earlier, the IC Devils were prepared to unleash a hellish fury upon their next victims and secure their first win of the season. The unsuspecting team happened to be our arch-enemy: the University of London Dragons. This local derby is always a closely fought game with the previous encounter resulting in an 11-0 victory for IC. This year, with probably the strongest squad to date, we were confident of coming away with another big win. The pre-game tension was as high as ever and we gladly accepted ULUs request to play full checking and ensure a colourful match.

We arrived at Alexandra Palace with three full lines and two goaltenders to find a very large mixed ULU B team waiting for us. So large in fact, that there was only just space on the game record sheet for all of them. After our fear-inducing roar of "separate the man from the puck" the match got underway and IC skated fiercely from the start. We kept the ULU Dragons pinned in their end of the ice and tested their keeper. It was clear that she was struggling to hold onto our shots and there were numerous chances on the rebound. Chris Swearengin finally gave us something to show for our work and opened the scoring with an unassisted goal mid way through the first period. We continued to dominate ULU throughout the first 20 minutes and finished the period up 4-0. This was thanks to another almost effortless goal from Swearengin and one each for player-coach Vince "old school" Miller and former president Ed Grant.

The Dragon's scaly armour had been compromised but she wasn't finished yet. ULU held IC to a single



Apparently these boys are devils; from this angle they look really rather sweet. Apologies for the Vanilla Ice title

goal in the 2nd period while adding one of their own despite solid goaltending from Mark McGillivray. Meanwhile the referee was kept busy with both teams making full use of the agreed full checking. A general lack of checking know-how and the new "zero tolerance" rules resulted in numerous penalties awarded to both sides. A particularly bad check to the head from the ULU number 77 on Miller forced him to drop his

gloves and throw a punch. This display of passion resulted in him leaving the ice to join the large crowd of supporters watching the match from the stands. Our opponents did manage to break out of their end a few times but solid defensive play and goal keeping from Ruth Cattell in the 3rd period kept them off the score board. Grant, Miller and Swearengin put a total of five more pucks past the rookie ULU keeper

in this final period and secured us a 10-1 victory.

Despite the one-sidedness of the final score, ULU fought for every puck right to the end and kept the eight strong crowd of supporters on the edge of their seats. The rematch this term promises to be just as exciting but perhaps less physical following a post-match plea from the referee. Special thanks go to Tom Bell for time keeping and player of

the match Chris Swearengin (on loan from the University of Minnesota) who scored two hat-tricks. We wish him luck now he has returned to the US.

The Imperial Devils train on Wednesday evenings and welcome both experienced players and beginners. See www.imperialdevils.co.uk or contact Paul Gilmartin at ice-hockey@imperial.ac.uk for more information. **Nick Steel**

PhD Comics

www.phdcomics.com

```
% phd.m
%
% author: Cecilia
% date: 09/08/05

load THESIS_TOPIC

while (funding==true)
  data = run_experiment(THESIS_TOPIC);
  GOOD_ENOUGH = query(advisor);
  if (data > GOOD_ENOUGH)
    graduate();
    break
  else
    THESIS_TOPIC = new();
    years_in_gradschool += 1;
  end
end
```

