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# felix

The student newspaper  
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# Queen's Lawn off-limits for six months

College erects largest marquee ever put up on campus to occupy the Queen's Lawn until October at the earliest

**Andy Sykes**  
Editor-in-chief

The Queen's Lawn will be unusable by staff and students until at least October, as the College have decided not to disassemble the marquee that provides extra function space for events during the summer term and beyond.

In previous years, the lawn has seen marquees be put together and taken apart as needed, allowing students to use the grass during the stressful exam period for some well-needed relaxation in pleasant weather. This year, however, the marquee (which occupies almost the entirety of the lawn) will remain in place throughout the summer term and into the start of the next academic year.

The reason for this change in policy is that the College has a number of Centenary events planned besides the usual functions, such as the Summer Ball (renamed to the Centenary Ball this year). The marquee has been trumpeted by the College's press department as the largest ever assembled on campus; Sir Richard even saw fit to mention its majestic proportions at his graduation address in the Great Hall on Wednesday.

The College has internally booked events planned until 25th October; there are, however, large gaps between some events (almost a month

between 11 May and 8 June, for example) where the marquee could have been disassembled so students and staff could use the lawn. The College has indicated that it will be looking for external bookings, no doubt using the prestige of the institution to attract a substantial fee. So far, nine external bookings have been provisionally booked, with more likely to follow; these will occupy the marquee for a total of 23 days.

The marquee has already caused some problems for students: Dram-Soc, who had planned to put on a play on the lawn during this term, are now restricted to the small strip of lawn facing the Sir Alexander Fleming Building.

The Lawn is one of the last green spaces available to staff and students at the College; Princes Gardens, once a gorgeous leafy retreat, has been reduced to a shadow of its former glory by the nearby building works on Southside, and the loss of the bar there.

One positive aspect of the marquee is that it will provide covered space for next year's Freshers' Fair, something that was sorely lacking this year due to the Beit building redevelopment.

The last event using the marquee is on the 25th of October, and the College have said it will not be dismantling it until December, at which point the lawn will be re-turfed.

**Above: students lazing about on the grass during the summer in previous years. Below: the colossal marquee**





# This week's stories

What little has been happening while you've been revising

## Felix last week

First up, an apology from us. Felix didn't go out last week, for a number of reasons, including an editor on leave for personal reasons, and a serious shortage of staff (due to exams and other reasons). We're sorry; it won't happen again.

## Who will be the next rector?

Sir Richard Sykes, the current rector of the College, will be departing at the end of next year. However, his replacement is due to be announced in July, and rumours abound about who will replace Sir Richard as head of the ninth-best university in the world.

Initial rumours that had been circulated to Felix suggested that Lord Browne, the now departed chief executive officer of BP, might be offered the post. However, you cannot fail to have noticed Lord Browne recently suffered a horrendous fall from grace; an injunction was denied on printing details about his private life, which revealed that he had been involved in a four-year homosexual relationship with a Canadian, Jeff Chevalier, and had lied to a judge about how he had met Mr Chevalier.

Lord Browne has also accepted "moral responsibility" (avoiding any notion of legal responsibility) for an explosion at a Texas oil refinery which killed 15 people and injured 180 more. The Mail on Sunday revealed that the company, under Browne's directions, had placed an 'accounting value' of £10m on an employee's life.

So, if not Browne, then who? Felix hears that the College management would prefer someone with more of an academic background than Sir Richard, who spent most of his life working for GlaxoSmithKline as a businessman. In fact, Sir Richard's style was initially criticised as "too business-like", with the rebranding of 2003-4 perceived as him attempting to mould the College into a business.

The name that Felix has heard



Southside construction delayed?

mentioned is Professor Sir David King, the current Chief Scientific Advisor to the government. King is an outspoken supporter of the IPCC's findings on global warming, and has called climate change "one of the greatest challenges facing the UK today".

A working group was formed by the Union to be a forum for discussing what kind of rector the students would like next, but this has come to naught. It is unlikely that the College will take any notice of student demands on this front, and that instead the process of selecting the next rector will remain completely opaque.

## Southside delays

Felix has learnt that full opening of Southside is likely to be delayed until the end of October, which may cause problems for the hordes of incoming freshers. The College is relying on Southside to be complete in time for the start of the year, as it is currently suffering from a dearth

of available accommodation.

Felix reported last term on how the twin rooms in the building are too small for habitation by two students, but it now seems that they will be used as doubles (despite being the size of some single rooms in other halls).

In related news, plans to redevelop Eastside (Linstead Hall) in a similar fashion to Southside, using the same prefabricating techniques, may be put on hold as the cost of the project has become prohibitive.

## Imperial 3rd in Guardian ranking

Imperial has been placed overall third in the Guardian's ranking of UK universities, despite surveys showing the College suffers from poor student satisfaction ratings.

The Guardian rankings include data from the National Student Survey; Imperial was rated the lowest out of the top 35 institutions. Reasons cited include poor teaching and extremely high workloads.

# UNITE halls left without Internet

## Andy Sykes

The already dubious Internet connections supplied in the £130-a-week Unite halls across London went down for almost an entire week during crucial revision time for some unlucky students at either Orient House or Piccadilly Court. Angry students could be heard screaming with rage at the painfully slow connections and multiple timeouts whilst trying to access past papers of lecture notes to revise for impending exams.

The fact that both halls are at least 40 minutes travel away from college made it all the more frustrating for students who have few lectures this term (and therefore no reason to be in college), and who take the sensible decision to revise in their rooms rather than the 30-degree library. They are encouraged by their departments to download course material from the Imperial College website for revision, as well as check emails at least twice a day in case of important information regarding tutorials, exams or revision classes.

Connectivity has now been restored in Unite halls according to u-want (the Unite ISP) technical

support, but during the 'upgrade' numerous students have had their network port blocked by the ISP due to 'suspect virus infections' which we can only assume they are using as one of the excuses as to why their '40x faster than dialup' internet connections were going slower than a 1980s modem.

Some frustrated residents of the Unite halls claimed to be "losing the plot and were considering destroying their PC's" they were so aggravated by u-want, although other students seemed to see the brighter side claiming "At least I'm not wasting all my time looking on Facebook instead of working for my exams".

Incidentally, connections in Unite halls costs £27 a month for a 2Mbit, port-restricted connection with a maximum of 3 devices allowed per user (Imperial students don't pay this directly but it is unknown if the £130 a week rent incorporates the cost of internet). Compare this to Be-Broadband who offer 24Mbit, unrestricted access for £24 a month, or even other Imperial College halls who are directly connected to the ICT network for free (~10Mbit). You don't need a maths PhD to work out who's getting ripped off.



Do u want it? Tough, it doesn't work very well

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## Plus ça change

"Channel 4's recent broadcast of Martin Durkin's "The Great Global Warming Swindle" demonstrated admirably that the media has little issue with generating controversy purely to serve its own purposes, even if those responsible for the content have a history of complaints upheld against them by the Independent Television Commission."

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## Disgruntled

"Sir Richard Sykes is probably quite pleased with himself at the moment: independence for Imperial College and a listing in the top ten of world universities. But, via Felix, I would like to ask him the following questions."

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CENTRE PAGES

## Werner Herzog

"As German cinema has been creeping into the limelight in the last few years (the Oscar win of *The Lives of Others* – even if controversial – being the just reward for their recent "exports") I turn to look at one of the major German directors of the 20th century."

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## Tootsie Roll

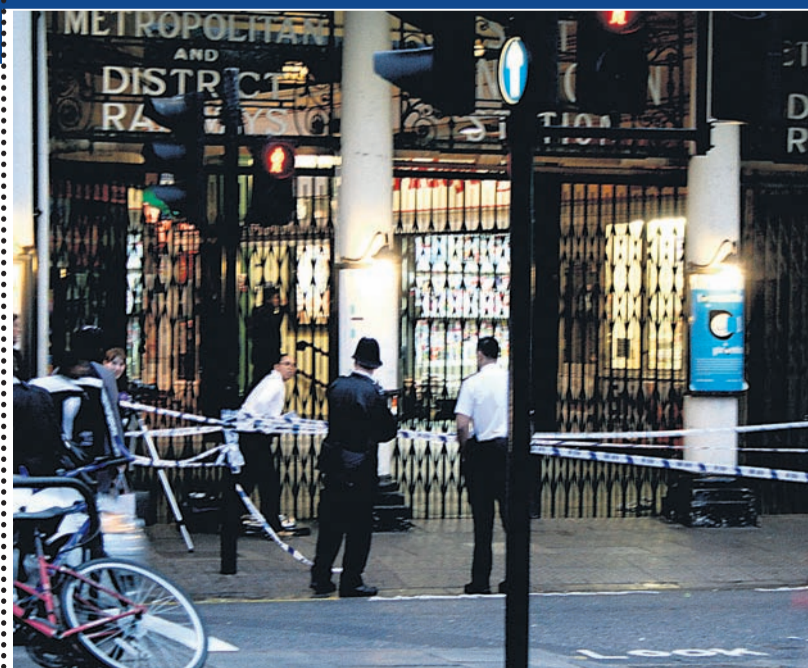
"Hearing that the mighty Bugged Out were planning a super awesome mega Ed Bangers party in some sort of underground car park near Old Street I couldn't possibly resist the temptation to go and check it out."

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## Off the rails

"I tell you what – I'm kind of glad we have digital watches. And not just digital watches, but Annie Lennox too. And processed cheese. See, I'm not glad we've got these things individually, but the whole "modern" package is pretty appealing. Mainly because it stops me from scrabbling around amongst ferns, foraging for food, while bludgeoning others to death with pieces of flint."

PAGES 10 & 11



Metropolitan Police surround South Kensington station after a fight between two men led to a stabbing



# Atmospheric physics: spooky!

An interview with Imperial's Professor Joanna Haigh starts off this issue, which focusses on climate science

Ceri Perkins

In 2001, IC's Professor Joanna Haigh was the only female Professor of Atmospheric Physics in Britain. Ceri Perkins went to meet Prof. Haigh to find out about her research and discuss her views on the current climate change debate.

## What attracted you to study atmospheric physics? What is the focus of your current research?

I did a physics degree many years ago, at the end of which I thought that I never wanted to do any physics ever again! When I sat down to consider what it was that I actually enjoyed, I realised that it was studying the environment, and in particular the weather. I'd actually had a weather station in my back garden since my school days – I was a real geek! I took an MSc in Meteorology at Imperial, and followed that with a DPhil in Atmospheric Physics at Oxford. It was very theoretical, but it's amazing how motivated you can be when you have a personal interest in the topic!

My current research covers transport of solar radiation in the atmosphere. Specifically, over the last few years I've been looking at the relationship between solar irradiance and climate.

## Do you think that the prospect of tackling the climate change issue is attracting more women to the subject?

Our research group certainly attracts a larger proportion of female PG students than any other research group in physics at IC. I put it down to the fact that women are more attracted to environmental issues. I think it's also a case of women seeing other women doing well in the field, which generates interest. We support each other!

## What do you see as the role of climate scientists?

Our job is to explain and understand the fundamental science going on, and to relay that information to policy makers. Climate prediction needs to be based on solid science, not politics and polemic.

## How have you seen public attitudes to the climate change issue change over time?

That area has become much less

pleasant; the debate has become polarised. You've got environmental activists on one side, and people who deny the existence of a problem, or at least one caused by human activity, on the other. Currently, there doesn't seem to be much of a middle ground where we can outline frankly what we do and don't know. On the basis of what we do know, we think that human activity is influencing the climate, but this understanding includes error bars and uncertainties. It's difficult to put over to the public these uncertainties.

## Do you think the press have had a significant role in polarising the debate?

Yes, but then that's the way that they always do things. People have exploited the press. The press do have a tendency to exaggerate, but they don't fabricate stories.

## It has been argued that Global Climate Model (GCM) predictions are weak as they fail to account properly for spatial variations in cloud thickness, or the extent to which radiation is reflected by ice at the poles. Where do you stand on this?

It is very difficult to simulate clouds. I agree that the spatial resolution in the models is not good, and that the detailed physical processes of cloud formation are not well accounted for. Whilst the models do have reasonable representations of many features, such as the Inter-tropical Convergence Zone and El Niño, others, for example the diurnal variation of tropical convection clouds over Africa, are less well described. Representing the physical properties of ice is also difficult. The question is to what extent we can use model predictions as a basis from which to respond to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The physics as we know it is in there and we do know that models of the current and historical climates correspond well to observed and measured values. This allows us to place reasonable confidence in the models' predictions.

## What about the arguments which blame climate change on natural variability and long-term cycles?

Clearly there is natural variation: we're dealing with a hugely com-



Not at all scary really, despite our feeble title (though that picture of the sun could intimidate weaker minds); Professor Haigh researches the relationship between solar irradiance and climate

plex system. Using data from both very long runs of models – where we can look at the internal noise in system – and oxygen isotopes in ice cores, it would appear that changes over the last 50 years have been outside the bounds of natural variation. There may have been larger temperature changes in the past, but these changes occurred over much longer time-scales.

## Is it possible to tackle climate change at the governmental level, or does the action need to come from individuals? Are initiatives such as carbon emissions trading really just token gestures which detract from the real issue: that people's energy consumption habits need to change?

It most definitely needs to be tackled on a personal level, but the government has a role to play too. People have little choice in how their power is generated. It is unlikely that there will be any real difference made without government litigation. The smoking ban is a great example of where legislation can give people that little push in the right direction.

## Even if the USA and Australia were to join up, is Kyoto enough?

No, it's not. Even if GHG emis-

sions were capped at today's levels, warming would continue for well over 50 years due to the inertia in the oceans.

## Why are certain areas of the public still resistant to the idea of climate change?

A mixture of reasons. Principally, people don't like to be told what to do and they don't like the idea of changing their behaviour. They don't make rational decisions based on the bigger picture, they just think about how changes will impact upon them personally. There is also a political angle which sees people with business interests resistant to being told that industry is partly to blame for the changes we're beginning to see.

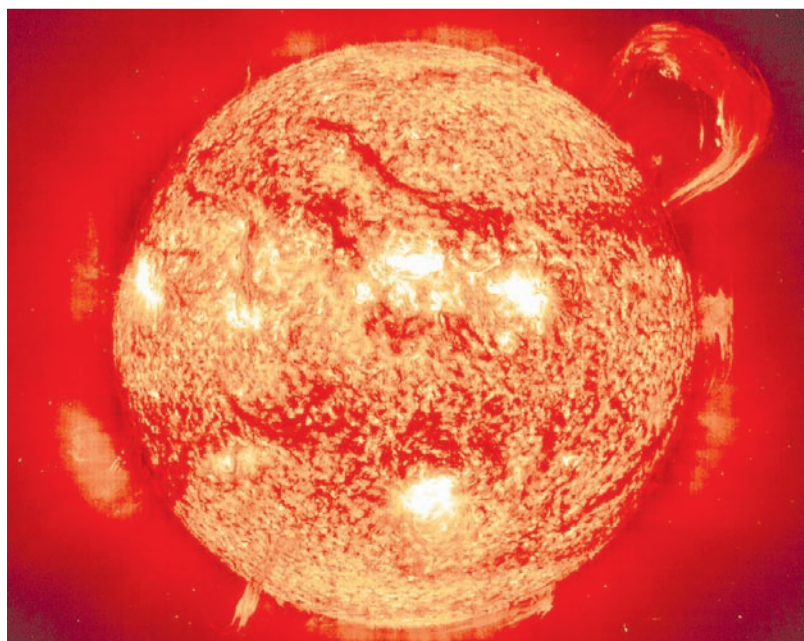
## Recent research by Henrik Svensmark suggests that the seeding of tropospheric clouds by cosmic rays may be responsible for climate change, not anthropogenic GHGs. This has also been picked up on Channel 4's "The Great Climate Change Swindle", and in Nigel Calder's book "The Chilling Stars: A New Theory of Climate Change". Where do you stand on this?

You've got to turn the argument around. If this is responsible for

the warming over the past 50 years, then why haven't we seen similar effects in the past? This isn't to say that solar phenomenon have no effect. Our understanding of the effects of the 11-year solar cycle on climate, for example, is statistically robust, but we can't explain Global Warming over the last 150 years through solar activity alone. The cosmoclimatology article is a gross simplification of the original research, although the simplification in this case was actually done by one of the authors of the original article!

## What is your response to people who claim that science is not joined up enough? Do you think that greater integration of the different disciplines would have anything to offer the climate change debate?

Yes, in the sense that we might know how to direct our understanding to the areas where it is of most use. But we do need to exercise caution when taking that attitude. So-called 'Earth System Models' which take into account the atmosphere, ocean, biosphere, economics and everything in between run the risk of propagating errors as each part of the system is subject to its own uncertainties.



Can YOU take the heat? A SOHO image of our nearest star



# Clouding the issue: cosmic rays

Cosmoclimatology claims cosmic rays affect cloud cover; CLOUD, an experiment at CERN, will investigate.

Edmund Henley  
Science Editor

Cosmoclimatology is one of the more contentious theories invoked to explain global warming. Still a minority view, it contends that one major contributor might not be man-made, but natural – that the interaction between the sun's magnetic field and cosmic rays might be affecting the clouds, and hence the climate. At a very simple level, it likens the atmosphere to cloud chambers, the very early detectors used to observe sub-atomic particles. To test this theory, scientists at CERN have constructed CLOUD (Cosmics Leaving OUtdoor Droplets – as ever in science, a rather forced acronym), a modern equivalent to these detectors, which will be subjected to an artificial cosmic ray shower from the particle accelerators there.

Before describing the experiment though, it's worth having a quick look at the theory. Cosmic rays are mostly protons (though sometimes heavier particles or nuclei) often originating outside our solar system, which have been accelerated to high energies – in some cases possibly by supernovae. The most energetic can exceed  $10^{20}$  eV, about the same energy as a well-bowled cricket ball – fairly hefty for something so much smaller. Because they are charged, cosmic rays are affected by magnetic fields, such as that of the sun – its field contains structures which can act as magnetic barriers to the particles.

It's well-known that the sun goes through an 11-year cycle, during which sunspots become more frequent, before disappearing again; it's less well-known that this is also tied in with the sun's magnetic field. As the cycle heads towards solar maximum, when sunspot number increases, the solar magnetic field becomes more complex, affecting the cosmic-ray shielding structures, so that fewer cosmic rays reach the earth. When the solar cycle heads towards a minimum however, the situation is reversed: the shielding effect is not so strong, so more cos-



A supernova remnant. CLOUD will investigate the contentious claim cosmic rays from sources like these could affect cloud formation, and hence be a significant contributor to global warming.

mic rays reach earth.

But how would this cyclic variation in cosmic rays affect the climate? When cosmic rays impinging on the earth reach the troposphere, the layer of the atmosphere between the ground and approximately 10km altitude, they often collide with air molecules, creating ions. Cosmoclimatology maintains that these ions may then be able to affect the formation of the nuclei around which water vapour condenses (or freezes), to form the droplets (or ice particles) which make up a cloud. Or they may change the atmospheric chemistry affecting the presence of vapour.

There have been some results, hotly contested, which suggest that low-level clouds (below about 3km) may be more frequent when there are more cosmic rays. An increase in the number of such clouds would reflect more of the sun's light, leading to a cooler climate. But why would this be linked with global warming? From both historical measurements of the Earth's magnetic field, and records of iso-

tope abundances (such as  $^{10}\text{Be}$ ), it is thought the solar magnetic field may have increased over the last hundred years, and cosmic rays encountering earth subsequently decreased, creating fewer low-level clouds to cool the planet, and hence leading to an increase in global temperatures.

However, much of the evidence cosmoclimatology adherents claim supports their theory is disputed by other scientists. And crucially, the mechanisms by which cosmic rays may eventually create cloud condensation nuclei are unclear. CLOUD, a £6.2 million experiment, is designed to address this uncertainty, investigating (over 8 years) if and how these mechanisms occur. At its heart lie two chambers, a 0.5m diameter cloud chamber, and a 2m reaction chamber, which can be filled with a variety of gases found in the atmosphere, and whose temperature and pressure can be altered to recreate conditions anywhere in the troposphere or stratosphere. Water vapour super-saturation levels of around

1% will also mimic nature, making CLOUD rather different from classical cloud chambers, where saturation levels were hundreds of times higher. Lastly, electric fields matching those in clouds can also be generated.

CERN was chosen as it can generate a particle beam matching the energies of the section of the cosmic ray spectrum thought to be relevant – the whole experiment can be flooded with a beam of muons and pions with energies from  $1\text{--}3.5 \times 10^9$  eV, and with fluxes between 1-10 times the cosmic ray levels. This beam can also be turned off, allowing researchers to observe the experiment under conditions where only “natural” or background cosmic rays are present.

A whole host of detectors surround the two chambers, including CCD imagers and Mie scattering detectors (to observe any droplet formed), mass spectrometers, and trace gas analysers – ensuring the effort expended to create this precisely tuneable experimental atmosphere is rewarded, with lit-

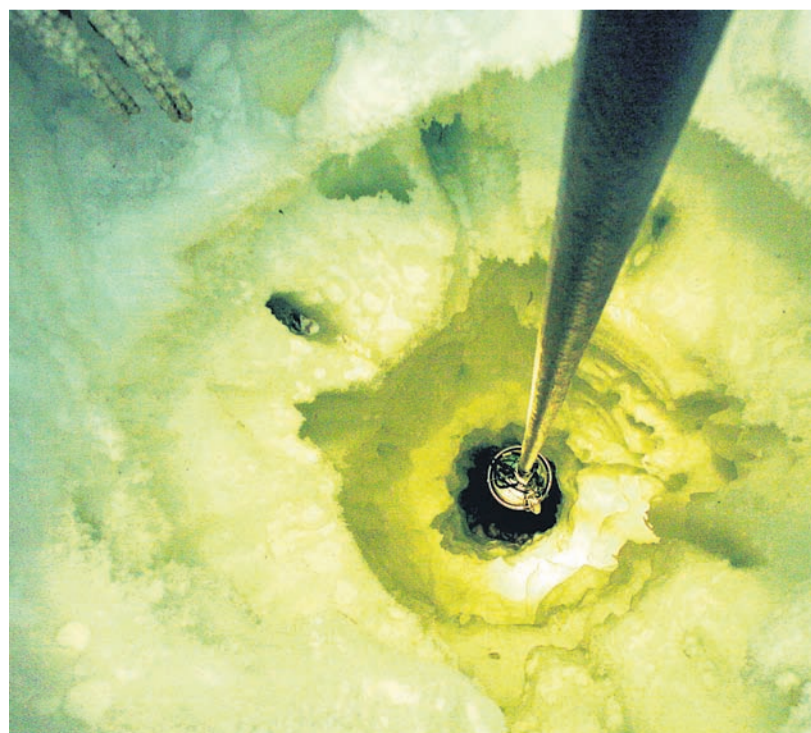
tle of what is going on escaping observation.

The researchers hope to use these observations to clarify how ions created by cosmic rays affect various processes, such as the creation of condensation nuclei from various trace vapours (eg sulphuric acid); how these condensation nuclei grow to become cloud condensation nuclei; how these are then activated when water vapour is present; and the formation of ice nuclei.

CLOUD suffered a postponement due to funding issues with CERN's flagship LHC experiment, but a prototype detector finally started initial operations last October. Initial results from the prototype are expected this summer, and results from the full experiment are expected in 2010.

Since the political will to address global warming is finally being mustered, on the basis that most evidence to date suggests it is anthropogenic, a theory which absolves humanity of even part of its responsibility in causing the warming needs to be tested very vigorously, and CLOUD will do just that for cosmoclimatology. Such testing is important not only to address the legitimate concerns of other scientists, but also to allay the equally legitimate concerns of the public and politicians – that policies with wide-reaching effects are based on the best science available; and to give the lie to fears there may be an establishment scientific view which dogmatically dismisses alternative explanations, without testing their validity. Not investigating, and leaving an appearance of doubt, risks providing fodder to those on the extremes, who thrive on skewing science to support their agendas.

So despite the controversial nature of the science it is investigating, the progress on CLOUD should be welcomed, even by those who suspect it is looking for effects which are of little or no importance. For even if CLOUD comes up with a null result, money will not have been wasted, as the principle of science will have been pursued.



Shafted. Muon fluxes at IceCube are linked to temperatures 10km up

An interesting counterpart to the cosmoclimatology theory is being investigated by Oxford's Dr Scott Osprey, amongst others. At a talk at Imperial a few months ago, he presented some initial results, which are obtained by turning the cosmoclimatology concept on its head: rather than looking at the effect of cosmic rays on climate, he's one of a team of researchers investigating the climate's effect on cosmic rays.

A shower of high-energy muons (a heavier version of an electron) is caused by the collision of primary cosmic rays with air molecules near the Upper Troposphere Lower-Stratosphere (UTLS) boundary, a region about 10-20km up. However, the probability of collision should depend very much on the air density (denser air provides more targets for the primary cosmic rays) – and hence, by the ideal gas law, muon production should also depend on air temperature.

Muons which result from such collisions are routinely observed at

particle detectors around the world, such as MINOS (USA), MACRO (Italy), and IceCube (Antarctica). The latter facility is a collection of spherical detectors on cables longer than the Eiffel Tower, like beads on strings, hanging down deep shafts in the ice. Like MINOS (and to a lesser extent MACRO), it is in fact designed to monitor the flux of much lighter neutrinos, but to do this researchers need to remove the signal caused by muons – not an easy task according to Dr Osprey. However, when it is done, this separation yields a by-product, a count of muons generated by cosmic rays.

Comparing the flux of high-energy muons (above  $10^{12}$  eV, as they live long enough to interact with the air) with ECMWF temperature data (a data set which combines observations and modelling to provide global coverage), Dr Osprey found there was a strong link between the temperature at the UTLS and the muon flux. When asked by Felix, he noted these results were not mere correla-

tion; supported by good physical grounds, they show a strong causal link, making muon flux more than just a proxy of the temperature at the UTLS.

Being able to plumb the atmosphere remotely over one detector, taking its temperature using muons, is all very well, but Dr Osprey also pointed out that using several detectors in different locations may be much more interesting, as it will allow meteorologically meaningful parameters, such as wind (which depends on temperature gradients), to be investigated.

And lastly, it's interesting to note his results really are looking at the effect of the climate on cosmic rays, and not the obverse – the high energies of the muons he was looking at meant they originated from cosmic rays which would themselves be energetic enough not to be greatly affected by the solar magnetic field, and so unlikely to be playing a role in any cosmic-ray induced climate variation.



# Science, conscience & controversy

Who's swindling who when it comes to the debate over global warming?

Adam Kaye

Channel 4's recent broadcast of Martin Durkin's "The Great Global Warming Swindle" demonstrated admirably that the media has little issue with generating controversy purely to serve its own purposes, even if those responsible for the content have a history of complaints upheld against them by the Independent Television Commission.

So what? Does it matter if, for example, a producer knowingly misrepresents those who are asked to contribute to his programme in order to stir up discord? Is it wrong to report what many would consider to be propaganda knowing that the majority of those for whom you claim to speak would take a different view? Some might argue not. However, the extent to which the debate over global warming is being used as a platform for polarizing public opinion represents a dangerously cynical move by much of today's press – a move which is not without its consequences.

At the heart of the issue lies science's fragile relationship with the public. On the one hand, science is seen as a risky, costly, incomprehensible pursuit; out of touch with daily life and out of reach to anyone but those already admitted to its community. On the other, science is humanity's best effort yet to truly understand the world in which we live; its benefits to society as diverse as the questions it seeks to answer and its processes transparent. Yet the very existence of these two opposite views of science is as much of a product of the media as are any of the scientific controversies reported on the TV and in the newspapers.

Since the 1960s, when the liberal movement brought about a loss of faith in traditional figures of political and institutional authority, scientists have had an increasing role



Happy as a cloud. But is the representation of science in programmes like "The Great Global Warming Swindle", and the media at large worse than nebulous? Misleading even?

as a class of professional experts able to mediate on social relations. Policy makers have subsequently resorted to delegating an escalating number of problems to those scientists considered able to give their 'professional' and 'expert' opinions. While there is much to be said for the resultant rise in the public awareness of science, the way in which this is handled in today's media culture can be at best, damaging and at worst, deceitful.

Journalistic attempts to be objective often make use of balance by allowing a variety of opposing views to be heard. Although this undoubtedly increases the news interest of a piece, it often has the effect of reducing the subject at hand to something similar to party politics. For politics itself, this is not necessarily a good thing. In the case of science, however, it runs the risk of trivialising the amount of specialist knowledge that is required to pass valid scientific judgement on the issue

being discussed. What is worse, a limited use of balance runs the risk of seriously endangering the objectivity of the piece.

There is no doubt that much of the latest scientific research is hotly contested and that significant debate does occur, both publicly and privately, between scientists with opposing viewpoints. In the case of global warming, a host of theories exist whose validity is challenged by many within the scientific mainstream (for instance the effect of cosmic rays [see opposite page], the shutting-down of the Gulf Stream, and positive 'carbon cycle feedback' loops where carbon dioxide is released from warming permafrost, sea beds and/or soil). Additionally, it is practically impossible to dissociate the political and scientific issues that make up the ongoing debate over the effects of climate change. Despite this, there are certain basic understandings, made clear in the International Panel on

Climate Change's recent "Summary for Policymakers", whose validity is supported by the overwhelming majority of the international scientific community. The facts of the report are stated each with their own degrees of uncertainty – an uncertainty based on the quantitative evaluation of the margins of error involved in the measurements and calculations used, not an uncertainty based on the subjective views of those who produced the report. This key difference is crucial to understanding how the scientific and media worlds differ in their representations of reality.

What can be said, then, of those who exploit any scientific uncertainty surrounding global warming solely for the purposes of generating controversy in the public domain? In the case of Martin Durkin's documentary for Channel 4, one contributor, Carl Wunsch, wrote that the misuse of his remarks in the programme was 'close to fraud',

that his 'professional reputation was damaged' and that he had been 'duped' into agreeing to be filmed under the terms by which he had initially been approached. Professor Jo Haigh of Imperial College [interviewed overleaf] was one of several of the UK's leading climate scientists who made their opinion of the programme clear in a letter to the Observer. "We defend the right of people to be sceptical, but for C4 to imply that the thousands of scientists and published peer-reviewed papers, summarised in the recent international science assessment, are misguided or lying lacks scientific credibility and simply beggars belief."

In allowing the debate over climate change to continue on the level aired by "The Great Global Warming Swindle", Martin Durkin, whether deliberately or not, plays directly into the hands of an industry who stands to gain by distracting the public from one key issue. This issue is that the economic and industrial framework of the world today is built around our ability to extract and use fossil fuels. Said industry, and society as a whole, must be made to account for the ever-increasing extraction of these fossil fuels, the amount of pollution generated by their consumption, the likely effects of this pollution, and the reasons behind planned financial investment in infrastructure built solely for the purpose of further fossil fuel extraction. We need to be able to recognise those parties whose interests are promoted by the voices who continuously shout controversy in the face of climate change and move the debate to their doorstep. Above all though, we need to maintain a clear understanding of who is being swindled and who is doing the swindling. Our ability to look back on the 21st century with a clear conscience will depend on it.

## Rock and Roll



My hump, my hump, my hump. Yuck, what a nauseating beast.

Edmund Henley

The physiological and psychological impact of vehicle design was one of many thought-relating talks at Imperial's recent Neuroscience research day – Felix went along to find out more.

Spatial orientation is a very basic biological requirement, according to Professor Michael Gresty, of the Division of Neuroscience and Mental Health. Even the most basic lifeforms need to be able to orient themselves with respect to their environment, so they can respond to, say, a chemical gradient. It's even more important for higher organisms, like humans, which operate in a more complex environment. As a result of being such a fundamental priority, Gresty said maintaining one's orientation can often take precedence over other cognitive processes. This can be fatal in certain situations – apparently 12% of aircraft crashes (rising to 30% for military helicopters) can be attributed to pilot disorientation, despite them nominally being trained to cope with this. Gresty and his collaborators set out to investigate how spatial and verbal tasks were affected by disorientation, strap-

ping test subjects into a pivoting chair, with a screen displaying an apparent view of the outside world. They found that when the screen showed a world which pivoted with the right frequency, but in the wrong direction (the floor came into view when the chair tilted backwards), subjects' spatial test results were very poor. But this was an insidious effect, as even professional pilots weren't aware what they were seeing was absurd (virtually none of the audience members, watching a video of the tests, noticed this either, until it was pointed out). Hence they couldn't quarantine the poorer test results stemming from disorienting motion by, for example, placing less trust in those results, as they weren't aware the motion was significantly different from non-disorienting motion.

Professor Gresty then passed on to motion sickness, which apparently affects about a third of any vertebrate population. In up to 10% of people, it's disabling, and can be a cause of death in ambulances, as patients experience further stress, and induced blood pressure change, due to the ambulance's motion.

Part of the issue turns out to be the frequency of the motion – it

seems we are able to cope with motion which induces high-frequency oscillations, such as riding a horse; or with motion where the oscillations are slow, such as those on an aircraft carrier. But at intermediate frequencies (around 0.2 Hz), such as those experienced in luxury cars, small ships, or when riding a camel, many of us become nauseous.

By strapping more test subjects into a different chair, which could be oscillated back and forth, and tilted too (just seeing it was enough to make this reviewer feel queasy), Gresty and his colleagues found this critical frequency exists because of the way people experience motion. Low-frequency oscillations are perceived as being tilted, whereas higher frequencies are perceived as true oscillations; and the body has mechanisms, such as rolling the eyes or flicking them laterally, designed to reinforce this perception. However, at 0.2 Hz, Gresty found there was a transition between the two types of experience, with the test subjects' eyes both rolling and moving laterally, suggesting motion sickness is due to the body's mechanisms for coping with motion being confused. A good reason not to volunteer for trials like these!



## Trustee Board Consultation Launched

### Delivering better governance for our Union

Who is ultimately in charge of ICU? Is it the President? The Sabbatical team? The Executive Committee? The Union Council? Or is it even the College itself?

There is a saying in legal circles that if you ask two lawyers a question then you'll get three answers. After months of squabbling with the College's barristers and solicitors over the legal status of ICU and the implications of the recently introduced Charities Act on our Union, we have come to the view that this old adage is entirely correct.

### What's wrong with ICU's governance?

Unlike most students' unions in the country, ICU is technically a legal part of Imperial College, although this matter has been debated for nearly a decade. This unusual legal arrangement has never really been a problem because the Union Constitution and unwritten etiquette has meant that the College

has largely kept its nose out of our affairs. They are mandated by the Education Act to keep an eye on our finances and elections, but the same act restricts their right to barge in and fire the whole Sabbatical Team without a decent reason.

This year a new bill of parliament that governs how charities are run will become an Act. This act, known simply as the "Charities Act 2006", will call for large students' unions to register independently as separate charities from their parent institutions. After much discussion it has been agreed that ICU, in spite of its unusual legal position, should register as a separate charity and this is exactly what we intend to do.

### Putting trust in Trustees

However, charities are, as defined by this Act, usually governed by identifiable, small, highly skilled Boards of Trustees. Currently ICU has no Trustee Board of any kind, except perhaps (depending on which lawyer you ask) the Imperial College Council, which has just one student member. This is a situation that,

in the words of our legal expert, "is a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs".

We want to use this opportunity to strengthen the democratic pillars of our organisation whilst ensuring that the nitty-gritty tasks of running a complex charity are effectively executed. We want to allow for students to lead our Union but be supported by experts from diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise. Most importantly of all, we want our Union to retain its autonomy from the auspices of the College so that our members, Imperial's students, can set out a vision for the future of our organisation. Finding a model that strikes a balance between democracy and pragmatism and romantic notions of independence and realism has not been easy, which is why it has taken us nearly a year to complete a complex governance review that has touched almost every part of the central functions of ICU. However, we now have a proposal that has been warmly received by every committee and focus group that has seen it so far.

### The big idea

We are proposing that the Union establishes an identifiable, apolitical, highly skilled, relatively small Board of Trustees to act as the ultimate governing body of ICU. Underneath this body we suggest that the powers of the Union Executive to pass new Union Policy be transferred to the Union Council, thus strengthening our most democratic committee and clarifying its role as the paramount policy making body in the Union. It is further recommended that the Union Court's role as an independent and apolitical judicial body should remain and be strengthened. This creates a tripartite governance structure with a sovereign "Privy Council" body at the very top.

The Trustee Board would be unlike any other Union committee and be tasked to do all of the boring but highly necessary governance tasks that no other Union committee currently undertakes. This Board would meet six times a year and would consider financial strategy, long term planning, risk, human resources issues and anything functional that requires a vision that extends beyond the 12 months that a President remains in office for.



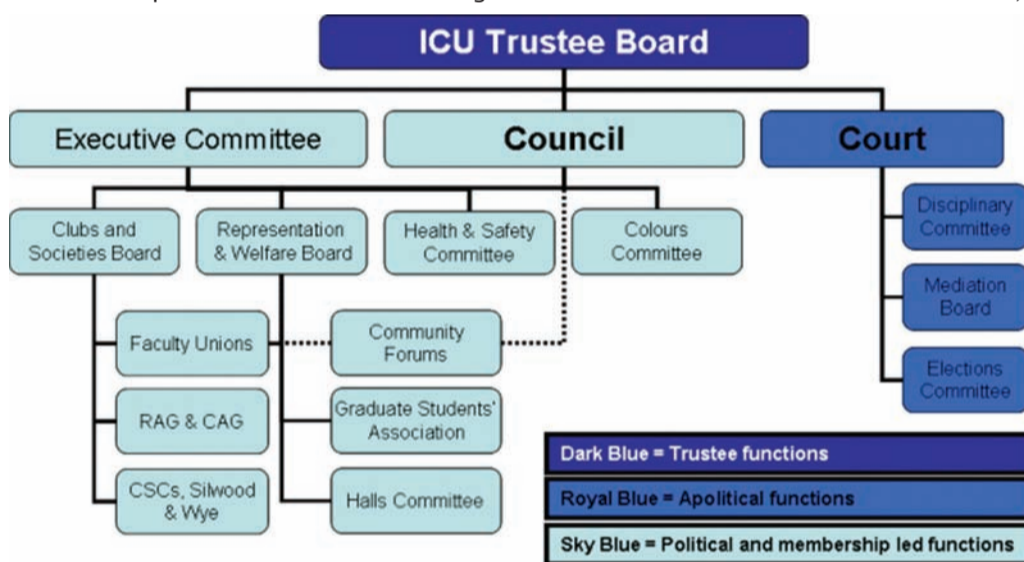
**John Collins**  
President  
president@imperial.ac.uk

### What do you think?

Last week the Union Council discussed these proposals in detail and the intention is that they will be formally considered at the next Council meeting that will be held on May 21st. If everything goes well, we could see the first meeting of this body next term and notable improvements in the way the Union is governed over the forthcoming year.

We welcome and indeed strongly encourage students to let us know what they think about these proposals. Granted, governance is not the most exciting topic we have dealt with this year, but it is important that we get this right.

If you want to express a view on this debate then you can, attend Union Council at 18:30 on May 21st in the Union Dining Hall, Beit Building, South Kensington, write to your representative on the Union Council - a list of representatives can be on our website or write to the Union President, John Collins.



## Nominate your Friends for a Union Award

Union Colours are awarded to members of the Union in recognition of their service, contribution and dedication to the Union.

There are 5 types of awards in ascending order of recognition: Half Colours, Full Colours, Outstanding Service Awards, Imperial College Union Fellowships and the Imperial College Union Distinguished Fellowship. Half and Full Colours are awarded to individuals who have made a positive contribution to the general life of the Union in an extraordinary fashion over the course of the year.

Recipients of the Outstanding Service Award will have displayed continuous outstanding achievement across a broad spectrum of Union activities. Fellowships are only awarded to those Full Members who have served the Union in a selfless and dedicated manner which is both exceptional and beyond reproach over the time they are at Imperial.

If you think someone in the Union deserves recognition for their service then nominate them for the above awards. More information can be found at [imperialcollegeunion.org/colours](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/colours).



## Pedaling for Imperial Students

Our very own President John Collins has decided to stop asking for everyone else to raise money for the Centenary and instead raise some himself!

John will be cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats the week after the Centenary Ball. All money raised from this epic journey will go towards the Beit Masterplan.

What we need from you is your sponsorship! The Beit Masterplan is a project to renew the Union Building and the first stage of this project is almost finished, with our new central core sporting a new lift. However there is still more to be done mainly the moving of our Student Activities Centre to the main building.

John will be cycling almost 1000 miles and aims to complete this within two weeks, so why not sponsor him 1p a mile?

more info at  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/pedal](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/pedal)





# Comment & Opinion

## What is wrong with this College?

For all the acclaim Imperial College has received (9th best in the world, ranked first for some subjects in the UK), all is not well with this place. An ex-student calls out Sir Richard on some of the worst aspects of here

Dear Sir,

Sir Richard Sykes is probably quite pleased with himself at the moment: independence for Imperial College and a listing in the top ten of world universities.

But, via Felix, I would like to ask him the following questions:

1. Does he think that the heavy drinking culture at Imperial detracts from its image?

2. Does he think the poor quality and paucity of student accommodation at Imperial detracts from its image?

3. Does he think that the absence of a proper arts faculty at Imperial detracts from its image?

4. Does he think that the relative lack of female students at Imperial detracts from its image?

I would answer 'Yes' to all these questions.

I was fortunate to live in Lillian Penson Hall for one year - a University of London Postgraduate Hall of Residence in Paddington. There were 470 students there from 77 dif-

ferent countries. They were mostly studying non technical subjects at the other constituent colleges of the University of London. It was fantastic - a real intellectual and social hothouse. By breaking away from the University of London, Sir Richard has lost out on such opportunities.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Lee  
Materials 1986-1990

Andy Sykes replies,

*I'd thought I'd reply to this, as it is highly unlikely Sir Richard would deem to address your questions.*

*Firstly, some background: I've been at this College for five years. I've had friends who have been here for longer. Before I sat down to write this, I asked them what they thought of their experience here. Almost all of them had a negative view of the College, varying be-*

*tween a vague indifference to outright hate. I'd consider myself in the latter category.*

*Firstly, Mark is right about the heavy drinking culture. Whereas at other universities, the drinking culture is a little more moderate (after the natural excess of the first year), here drinking seems to be a reason unto itself; we drink to get drunk.*

*Secondly, the selection process for this place tends to skew the population badly, reducing the diversity of students we get. My view is that most people have few, if any, interests outside their main area of study. These people tend to be either very smart, or very good at working. Both of these seem to hamper social ability; I've had countless conversations with random students from around the College who cannot manage to maintain eye contact while talking.*

*Conversations often consist of such riveting topics of lecturers we like, what courses were hard, and what investment bank we want to work for. It is not what I'd call a*

*intellectual and social hothouse in any way, shape or form.*

*The College piles work on its students, and proclaims this to be good. Apparently, this will make you a better scientist, when in fact all it does is make you a quivering, stressed wreck by your fourth year. You're given very little free time, by design, and the vast majority of what you must do is either rote learning or mindless, uncreative drudgery.*

*Only very late on in your degree are you given a chance to work alone and on your initiative. This tends to generate boring, incredibly focussed people.*

*This lack of free time means that any sense of community here suffers horribly. This ties in with a lack of an arts faculty; arts students tend to have more time, and more creative faculties, which seem to bind a student population together.*

*Clubs provide the only outlet, but even these seem flawed. Most are intimidating, difficult to get into, and often run by an 'old boys' net-*

*work that, to a fresher, is rather off-putting. Don't get me wrong; many are fantastic, but I begin to feel these are the exception rather than the rule.*

*The College is split on gender and race; you can see it everywhere you look. Integration is minimal. Overseas students stick with overseas students, and home stick with home, effectively creating two co-existing colleges. Admittedly, this is a symptom of broader society, but the effect is heightened by the smaller population here.*

*This is not a University; it's too narrow-minded and repressive to be called that. You're supposed to meet people here that you'll befriend for the rest of your life, and it should be one of the most liberating experiences you'll ever have. Can you honestly say that these two conditions have been satisfied? When I look at the experiences old friends have had in other universities, I feel jealous.*

*I regret coming here, and I don't think I'm alone in feeling that.*

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## Sub-Warden Position Beit Hall

A sub-warden position is available in **Beit Hall**.

The responsibilities include pastoral care of 310 undergraduate students, and organising the social life of Beit Hall, within a team of 8 Wardening staff. The position will involve significant commitment of time, energy and responsibility during evenings and weekends. No payment is available, but rent-free accommodation is provided within the Hall. The post would best match a PG student but all members of College with more than 15 months remaining full-time student registration or employment contract are eligible. The position is available from August 2007.

To apply you must complete an application form. Application forms and further information can be downloaded from [www.union.ic.ac.uk/halls/beit/](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/halls/beit/)

Informal enquiries are welcome – please contact Dr Tamer Zaki on [t.zaki@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:t.zaki@imperial.ac.uk).

Deadline for receipt of applications:  
**18:00 on Friday 1st June 2007.**





Christina Weller (biology), Christina Keating (ISE) & Valeria Ventura (biochemistry)

The office is now covered with feathers thanks to these young ladies.

Think you've got what it takes to appear here?

Email: [pages3.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:pages3.felix@ic.ac.uk)





# I, Gamer



**Michael Cook**  
Games Editor

Freedom, then. In fairness, it's not STALKER that's made me think about it this week – more that Felix's press day is the last day of my exams for the year. The last day. Time off. The end.

But it's a bit scary, you see. Because it's the end – no direction. No cramming. No deadlines to meet, no direction. Of course, I can do anything I want now – free to imbibe, inhale or whatever else people do when they have nothing else to. But I don't want to, because there's nothing to suggest it's worth it.

Freedom can be a bit too free sometimes. A bit too restricting in how open it is. Paradoxical though it might seem, since freedom is all we strive for, and it's sure as hell is what I've wanted since revision started, but within a week I'll be unsure of what I'm doing. And then what?

I've not played STALKER yet, but I've heard plenty of stories of people just playing with the world – setting up fights between groups just to see how the AI handles it, and the kind of free-spirited experimentation that reminds me of the first time I played Deus Ex. They've made friends and enemies, had emotions evoked in them, and feel like they wove a story.

Since last week, where we covered some of the top Indie games, I've played both Facade – which we did cover – and Masq – which we didn't. Two games that use complete freedom as a way to engineer a new kind of challenge. Masq offers four choices at each stage, and has a wide variety of different endings. Facade offers an infinite choice at each stage, but only about three endings.

Which one is more satisfying? For me, it's Facade – the ability to feel my choices are unique, even if I see the same ending quite often. In life, we make choices uniquely, but only see an ending once. Being restricted in our immediate choices is less immersive than being restricted in our end result.

And yet games like STALKER don't entirely fulfil me. I'm more likely to fire up Max Payne or Halo and play a story through to the finish – linear as hell, but at least I've got direction, at least I'm experiencing what the designers knew I would.

Maybe I'm predictable, or maybe I just know what I like. Either way, I think I need a summer job.

# This Week In Videogaming

S.T.A.L.K.E.R. wants to set you free. But isn't it much cosier in these chains?

I tell you what – I'm kind of glad we have digital watches. And not just digital watches, but Annie Lennox too. And processed cheese. See, I'm not glad we've got these things individually, but the whole “modern” package is pretty appealing. Mainly because it stops me from scrabbling around amongst ferns, foraging for food, while bludgeoning others to death with pieces of flint.

Capitalism – for all its flaws – does have the saving grace of giving us something to do.

Naturally, way back when, we had nothing. It was a case of eat, or be eaten; avoid missing ball for high score; collect the dots and avoid the ghosts. But as civilisation developed, we moved on. WE had scientific compounds to escape from, gangs to run missions for, princesses to save. We had reached a design pinnacle. We were *enlightened*.

Lately, though, gaming in particular has suffered something of a fall. We've got our priorities wrong, you see. Games like Grand Theft Auto gave us a sense of freedom, and we thought we'd like some more. So they tore a few walls down here or there. Endings multiplies, and then disappeared completely. Protagonists became duplicated, and then entirely customisable. Diablo's dungeon searching gave way to aimless wandering around Tamriel. Leagues and ladders were replaced by endless, meaningless death-matches – and always on *bloody Zanzibar*.

It's the old days again, the bad days. We've come full circle, and to put it lightly it's a bit of an anticlimax.

It was the fault of multiplayer, in part. Playing against humans is visceral, and very immediate. It was natural to want more, but the more player vs. player you put into a game, the less organised it becomes.

When it's done well, freedom is just as liberating as the name implies. Take *EVE Online*, for example, the seminal sci-fi MMO where the game is so open-ended that there's virtually nothing in the huge expanse of space that isn't caused or created by the players themselves.

There's no bleak, directionless gaming here, though – here, there are inter-corporation wars, huge political debates, and betrayal on



Half-Life 2's single-player was horribly linear - but it was supposed to be. Beckett would be proud.

an unimaginable scale. Scandals such as the blueprint-smuggling EVE employee, or the in-game coup that cost a *real-world* equivalent of \$16,500 damage, are headline stories for gaming sites and publications.

But EVE is a special case, and these glamorous events are not everyday. Sign up for a trial, and you'll more than likely find that freedom in EVE's deep space is very realistic indeed – empty, and devoid of much point.

Where have the real gaming landmarks come from in the last few years? Not through the unique moments stumbled across in a non-linear wasteland. It was those

shared moments, those *holy-shit-Master-Chief-is-riding-a-frigging-bomb* moments. It was when Aeris died (OMG spoilers, indeed). It was when you first held the gravity gun, when Link first hopped onto Epona, or the first home run you hit in Wii Sports.

It's why we remember the Doom Marine, and not the Pong paddle, why we cherish the Nova Prospekt outskirts more than Q2DM6, and why we tell people about holding Yorda's hand with more emotion than we tell them about holding a shotgun in FEAR Combat.

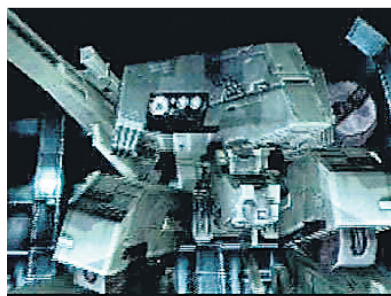
Life isn't about what we uniquely experience – it's about what we share with others. IT's the con-

nection we make through things we all went through. It's like being in 'Nam, but less impressive. And more controversial.

Fortunately, linearity isn't dead yet. Half-Life 2's episodes continue to entertain, LucasArts are pushing into new realms of epic storytelling, and designers like Miyamoto, Kojima and Mikami still firmly believe in the power of the narrative.

But linearity is a dirty word now, associate with oppression, unfairness and plain bad design. Open-ended games like *Spore* are poised to hit linearity right out of the park. And then all we'll have left will be memories of processed cheese, and a battered copy of *Deus Ex*.

## “And That Bit When...” The Top Moments You Didn't Miss



### MGS – Metal Gear Rex

You'd killed supernatural snipers, powerful psychics and a tank, but nothing quite matched the first moment the missile-firing, metal-scraping bitchmother itself kicked into life, and you suddenly realised you'd need a bigger pistol.



### Medal of Honor – Omaha Beach

It wasn't just a great gaming moment, it was the first of a new generation. People died, and your gun couldn't do a damn thing. You couldn't do a damn thing, except not get killed yourself. A genre-defining moment.



### Wind Waker – The High Seas

The sheer vastness of the ocean in Wind Waker was enough to make the garish visuals and new controls all better. The beauty, the crispness, the simplicity. It was Zelda, but with a special kind of polish, that promised a great game.



### Halo – The Maw, Pt. III

You're belting through the guts of a 2km-long *bomb*, and the world is fittingly going to hell. An epic soundtrack is bursting above the roar of the warthog, and time is running out. Frustrating, overlong, but unbelievably awe-inspiring.



# STALKER – Shadow of Chernobyl

Click. Click. Click-click. Clickclickclickclickclickclick. Sebastian Nordgren heads into the zone

It's a rare thing indeed to find a first-person shooter with a soul, which makes it all the more valuable when it does turn up. In recent years, such games have been few and far between, with only *Half-Life 2* really making the cut for me. *S.T.A.L.K.E.R. – Shadow of Chernobyl* (Stalker from now on, sod the 6 full stops) is a game with a soul, and one which oozes atmosphere. Set in Chernobyl, the site of a horrific real-world nuclear accident in the 1980s, the game instantly has a dark and eerie air to it, and this is the game's strongest selling point throughout.

The game exudes authenticity – NPC's converse in Russian, groups sit around campfires strumming guitars and humming quiet, mournful tunes and even when speaking to the player, all have a thick Russian accent. The Zone, the vast area around Chernobyl which has been taken over by various creatures unknown to the rest of the world, is both lively and deserted at the same time.

Ramshackle dwellings and communist-era concrete blocks house a world that was abandoned hastily, but still remains. Dolls, handbags and broken home appliances litter the Zone, a constant reminder of a place that was abandoned hastily.

And yet, all this atmosphere surrounds a game that feels solid and well-built in all the right places. Guns sound and feel *right*, explosions shake you, bullets hurt and even the most lowly enemy can kill you if not dealt with correctly.

This is another aspect of Stalker that draws you in – a constant feeling of vulnerability that permeates the game. The story isn't the main reason to keep playing, the need to survive is. This is survival horror in its truest sense, a game where you aren't being funneled through corridor after corridor, triggering a set of scripted events over which you have no control.

Enemies react well to your actions and fight their own battles even without your intervention, which makes you feel mortal. You are not Freeman, you are not the divine hand of God – a fact that the developers highlight by putting Gordon in a cameo role. In fact, expect to die a lot when you get flanked by an enemy you didn't know was there



**S.T.A.L.K.E.R.'s engine underwent several bouts of re-engineering, before reaching its final state. But it's the AI that brings the world to life.**

or walk around a corner into a blast of shotgun fire. It's a refreshing change to play a game that is actually difficult, that doesn't hold you by the hand and doesn't apologize when it places you in a situation that will get you killed over and over and over again until you get it. This aspect is especially emphasized in story-critical sections, which tend to be underground – where a careless move will result in your quick and violent death.

However, Stalker isn't perfect and – even compensating for the elevated expectations that five years of development and the most ambitious ideas of the past decade bring – there are some definite disappointments. The RPG element of Stalker is mostly left undeveloped and feels unfinished. While rum-

maging through the many stashes of equipment available sometimes pays off, these rewards are usually very temporary. Artifacts and suits can be gained purely from doing the main quest lines, and after you find a good choice of artifacts there's no reason to change.

The lack of side quests was also irritating, despite the fact that very, very few of these resulted in a meaningful reward. Most result in a cash reward in a game with very little to buy. By the time you can buy a weapon from a trader, you'll already have upgraded past it.

But for me the main disappointment ended up being small bugs and cut corners. The PDA is nice, but the inability to have full control of your current mission was annoying, and map markers just do not go

away, ever. Main quest locations are still marked on your map long after you've completed that objective. Enemies respawn quickly, making for irritating and unnecessary fire-fights when just running through an area.

The biggest flaw, however, was the division of the Zone into smaller areas. While it does divide the game up into levels, the developers still approach the game as a fully opened one in an undivided game space.

This leads to a lot of time-consuming running back and forth through as many as four different areas for one quest, with an extensive load time between each of them. A quick-travel option would have been appreciated to fill the void that axing vehicles from the game left.

Stalker really is an amazing game despite my complaints, but it feels unfinished and desolate (in the bad way) in some areas that rub the player the wrong way.

My conclusion, then, is that while Stalker stands on its own rights as one of the best shooters to come out in the past decade, Stalker 2 will be an earth-shattering experience. Merely filling in the blank areas of Stalker and adding all those features that had to be removed will create a game that is massive, compelling and utterly captivating.

But as with all of these great gaming experiments, it needs the support of gamers. Is Stalker worth it? Yes. But more importantly, you should buy Stalker so that GSC Gameworld can go on to create that perfect sequel.



**S.T.A.L.K.E.R.'s development team took a trek right into the heart of Chernobyl as part of the game's research. Some of the team are above, with the main reactor behind them.**



# Werner Herzog: An Old New Wave

Stefan Carpanu explores the beauty of cinema past by contemplating German maverick, Werner Herzog

Stefan Carpanu

As German cinema has been creeping into the limelight in the last few years (the Oscar win of *The Lives of Others* – even if controversial – being the just reward for their recent “exports”) I turn to look at one of the major German directors of the 20th century.

Werner Herzog, born in Munich on the 5th of September 1942, is perhaps one of the most unusual film directors – and people – you can come across. His story is so bizarre, that you might well think it the result of a very imaginative mind: born in a mountainous area in Bavaria, avid of hiking since the age of 14, he did not come into contact with technology until he was 17 – when he first used a telephone. He worked part-time as a steel welder during high-school and made his first film at the age of 19.

These experiences shaped his movies to a large extent, as Herzog went on to shoot some of the most vivid and haunting imagery ever to be seen on film. He is credited as part of the “New German Wave” in cinema, which existed between 1960 and 1980, and included the likes of Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Wim Wenders.

So how does Herzog’s work and his conception of art stand up to the “rigours” of the 21st century? Well, I reckon the word “boring” may come to mind at one point or another. But that is only because many people are not used to the poetic dualism of his films. For instance, his remake of *Nosferatu* is more an analytical look at the hideous condition of the lycanthrope, him bearing the loneliness of eternity, the qualms of addiction, the perpetual isolation,

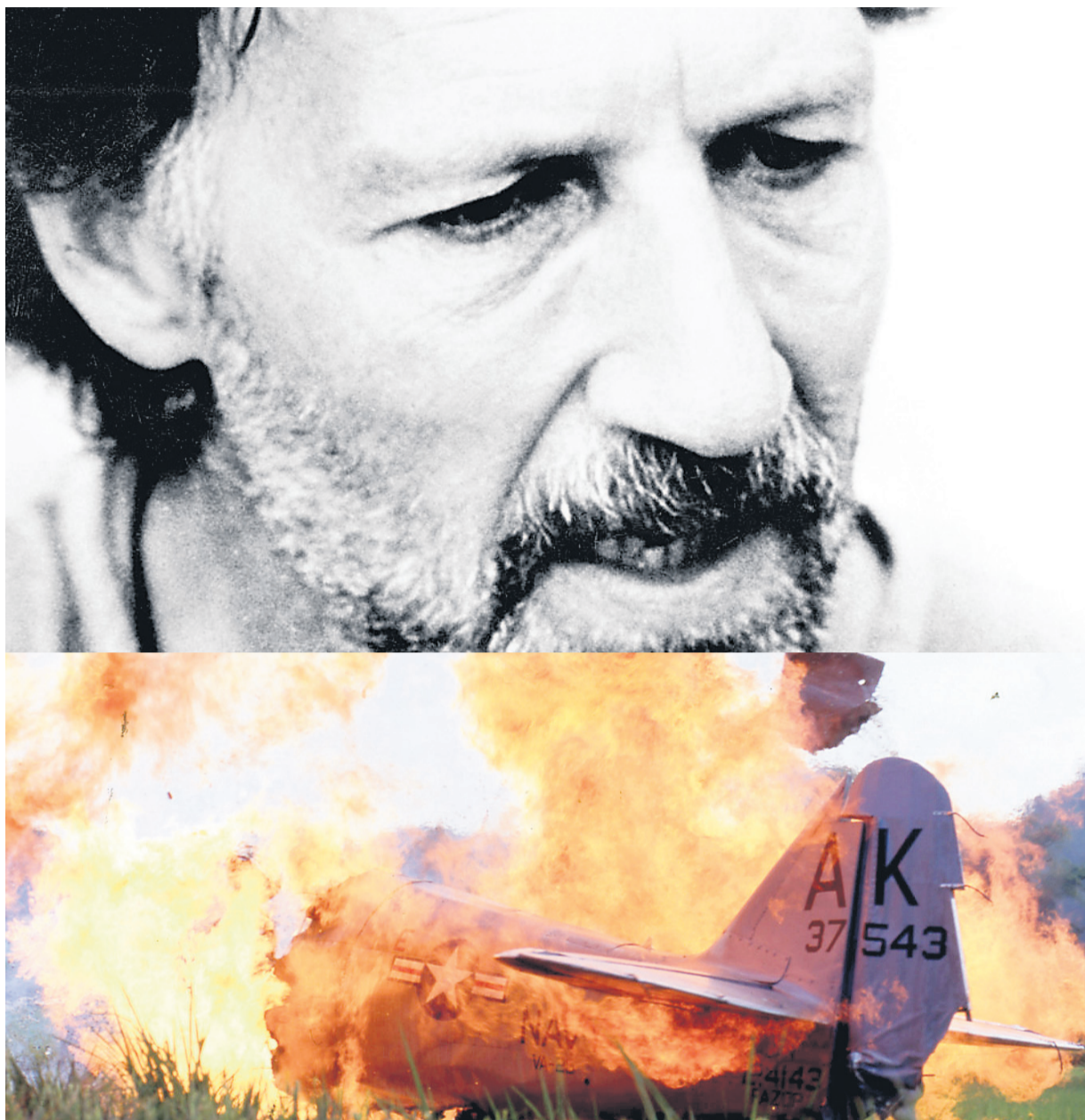
rather than being a blood thirsty, vicious creature. Chances are, you’ll end up feeling bad for the guy.

Herzog’s acclaimed masterpieces *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* and *Fitzcarraldo* are a joy to gaze at, sublimely shot in the Peruvian rainforest. This made them not only beautiful to look at, but also immensely difficult to conceive. Filming in the jungle, alongside a madly eccentric (but also exquisite) performer like Klaus Kinski, in such a remote area of the world was a challenge often greater than the film itself.

It is amazing how the stories behind the making of his movies turn into a work of art of their own. There is a special vibration to it all, thoroughly caught on film in the documentary about the “love-hate” relationship between Herzog and Kinski – *My Best Fiend*. Herzog’s take on documentaries is also absorbingly original, as they often transcend the factual realm and dazzle, with the essence of life and art shining through. Perhaps one of the best documentary films ever made, *Grizzly Man*, the sad story of two activists who lived amongst grizzly bears, takes on a depth so unexpected that its beauty can but leave a deep impression.

This year, his first major fictional film in years is supposed to premiere, if it manages to disentangle itself from financial difficulties. *Rescue Dawn* stars Christian Bale and looks at the story of a pilot shot down in Vietnam (what imagery I sense already!) who goes through an immense ordeal in his fight for survival.

Film is beautiful, they used to say. Watching Herzog’s works will tell you why.



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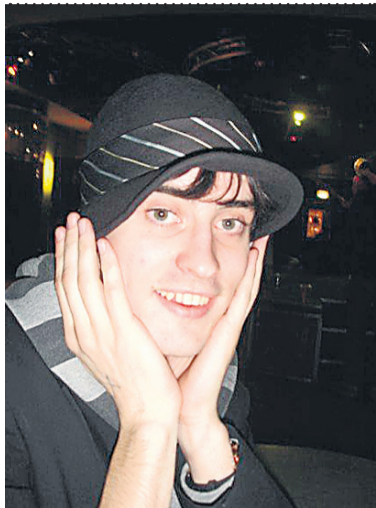
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*I have  
a new  
photo!*



**Gregory Mead**  
Nightlife Editor

**H**ello! As you may have noticed, the nightlife section has been rather sparse these last few weeks, so, to make up for this I've given you a new photo of me that you can pin up on your wall/keep in your locket/put in a frame etc. The reason why I'm not doing nightlife so much now is mainly because I don't have time to lay out the pages and organise all the reviewers all by myself.

Basically what I'm saying, is I need help, I need an assistant nightlife editor! Ever since Alex left me I've been lonely, I need someone who likes getting sent free stuff from clubs every day, who likes the infinite fame of being involved in *Felix* and who will either help lay out the pages or help organise reviewer guest list places. Don't worry, it won't be until after the exams, so if you are interested, email us at the address at the top of the page.

In the meantime, read the wonderful reviews our dedicated writers have thrown together for us. Bugged Out and Egg Club, both great places.

# Felix does the Tootsie Roll at Canvas Kings Cross

Uffie, Feadz, Busy-P and the mighty Justice take hold of Canvas for the biggest and best Ed Bangers party yet. We couldn't not go with such a great line-up

**Bugged Out Warehouse Party**  
Canvas  
Friday 19 January  
★★★★★

Hearing that the mighty Bugged Out were planning a super awesome mega Ed Bangers party in some sort of underground car park near Old Street I couldn't possibly resist the temptation to go and check it out.

Well, it turns out the car park venue fell through a week or so before the event so they swiftly relocated to the mighty Canvas in Kings Cross. Perhaps a good move, perhaps not - I was hoping for a more 'underground' feel to this event making a welcome change from the standard super club type atmosphere common with this type of music, but oh well - I wasn't planning on buying drinks anyway so the £4 bottles of beer at Canvas made no difference to me!

We arrived early (10:30pm) anticipating a huge queue but to our surprise (and dismay) the place seemed deserted, had we arrived at the wrong venue? Confusing. Eventually it turned out we were at the right place, but were unfashionably early. 30 minutes of waiting around we were finally in! Hooray, the DJ playing the opening hours was ok, playing a mix of the standard electro and indie we all expected along with some rather dubious nu-metal/classic rock re-mixes.

Taking a seat on a sofa we looked around the place. Now glad it wasn't in some scummy car park, we admired the lovely decorations around the place, somewhat pointless we reasoned, since soon nobody would be able to focus on it anyway. On that note, we made our way to the dance floor for 5 hours of pounding electronic beats.

Uffie made her appearance first, and had definitely improved her live performance since we saw



her at last, actually able to sing the lyrics and engaging with the crowd much more, albeit by letting a horde of pilled up guys grope her breasts and babble into the microphone when she passed it to them, she gave quite a fun show, passing the stage to Feadz who delivered a perfect set the almighty Justice to follow onto.

Playing from 2am till 4am, the French duo kept the almost 1000 revellers more than happy during the course of the night.

They were almost as good as when we saw them at Our Disco but I think that's just down to the atmosphere (it was very hot at Canvas).

Busy P ended the night off, so we left it at that, walking home in the early morning light, recovering our normal heartbeat and looking forward to 15 hours of restless sleep.

Simon Haywood



**Clockwise from top:** The potty mouthed Uffie - French, but seemingly sporting shaved armpits. Justice - One guy does the work, the other waves his arms. Busy P - Manages Daft Punk and owns two watches.

## Egg Club

The lovely Egg Club near Kings Cross were kind enough to invite us to the opening party for their new garden and outdoor terrace, and what a great night it was.

The new look garden was decorated with large flowers/giant bumble bee theme, and boasts the largest outdoor bar area of any club in London.

The DJ's were great, downstairs playing funky house, with the two floors above playing a selection of House and Indie-Electro.

Headlining the event was the House producer Sebastien Leger, playing a super set till 6am, along with a host of other big name DJs keeping guests entertained until nearly midday the next day! We didn't quite last that long though.

## New residency at The End this month

**Border Community Residency**  
The End  
Saturday 12th May  
Preview

Mark your diaries, cancel your plans - as Saturday 12th May heralds a very important date in The End's clubbing calendar.

James Holden launches his Border Community night at The End - joined in the main room by Nathan Fake doing a special live performance and Dominik Eulberg. James Holden's previous sets at the club for Cocoon and Circo Loco have made The End's main room seriously kick off - so to say we are excited about having him take over

the club on a regular basis is an understatement.

If there's one producer who can be relied on to buck the trends and do what the hell he likes, it has to be James Holden. In a current climate that seems obsessed with stripping tracks down to the bare bones, he manages to produce tunes with such depth that you could get lost in them - even equipped with an ordinance survey map, satellite navigation device and homing pigeon. In his DJ sets he rips tracks apart and splices them back together giving you snatches of what you thought you knew, before taking you somewhere else entirely.

He set up his Border Community label in 2003 with the intention of releasing "music that doesn't fit into a

category". And he certainly seems to be fulfilling his aim: releases on the label jump from peak time techno to floaty ambient downtempo material, but all with a beautiful, slightly wonky, distorted feel and a nod to something more ethereal and other-worldly.

James Holden will head up the line-up at each Border Community night, joined by some of his fellow Border Community cases and like minded guests. At the first party, very special guest Nathan Fake will be performing live. Nathan's debut album, 'Drowning in a Sea of Love' released in 2006, was a spine tingling collection of almost psychedelic-sounding surreal electronica, with stand out track 'The Sky was Pink' getting a fine reworking by

James Holden and becoming one of the biggest underground anthems of last year.

Completing the line up in The End is German techno wizard Dominik Eulberg, whilst Kieran Hebden aka Four Tet gets all experimental on us in the lounge. Up in AKA, the Luke Solomon's Little Creatures residency, with guest Chris Duckenfield, digs up the finest discofied house and techno for your drinking, dancing and listening pleasure.

The launch promises to be a night of some of the most forward-looking, mind blowing music around - Border Community adds another fantastic night to Saturday night's 'As One' parties at The End & AKA.

Look out for a review in and upcoming issue of *Felix*.



Imperial College London

# Centenary Ball

Saturday June 16th 2007

[imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball)



**VERNON KAY**  
**PENDULUM**  
DJ Set & MC Verse  
**EMMA GRIFFITHS**  
**ANDY ROURKE**  
**ETON ROAD BEN MILLS**  
**BLAKEY CHASE & STATUS**  
**JULIA HARRIS THE RAT PACK**  
**SCOUTING FOR GIRLS DJ ELLES**

buy your tickets online now from  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/ball](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/ball)

**LAST CHANCE  
TO GET EARLY  
BIRD TICKETS!**  
All ticket prices go  
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The Imperial College London Centenary Ball is a fund raising event with all proceeds going to the Beit Masterplan which is one of the Imperial College London Centenary Projects.

100 years of living science





# Wordoku 5-ish

Complete the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 square contains the letters A,C,E,F,G,L,N,P and U. E-mail your solution to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) including the hidden 9-letter word by **Tuesday 9am**. We will randomly select a winner to receive either a 128MB USB stick or a crate of beer. You must claim your prize within a week.


		A			E		U	
C			F				N	
	P							G
P				A			L	
			E	U	L			
	E			N				C
U							C	
		C			A			L
	F		G			P		

Jotting pad


Last week's word was **gitweasel**, cleverly hidden on the diagonal. **Matthew Fleming** spotted it, though.

# This Week's Sermon


## Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

 Thou shalt not steal if there is a *direct* victim. Thou shalt not worship pop idols or follow lost prophets. Thou shalt not take the names of Johnny Cash, Joe Strummer, Johnny Hartman, Desmond Decker, Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, or Syd Barratt in vain.


## Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

 Thou shalt not think that any male over the age of 30 who plays with a child that is not their own is a paedophile – some people are just nice. Thou shalt not read NME. Thou shalt not stop liking a band just because they become popular.


## Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

 Thou shalt not question **Stephen Fry**. Thou shalt not judge a book by its cover. Thou shalt not judge Lethal Weapon by Danny Glover. Thou shalt not buy Coca-Cola products. Thou shalt not buy Nestle products. Thou shalt not go into the woods with your...


## Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

 ...boyfriend's best friend, take drugs, and cheat on him. Thou shalt not fall in love so easily. Thou shalt not use poetry, art or music to get into girls' pants – use it to get into their *heads*. Thou shalt not watch Hollyoaks. Thou shalt not attend an open mic night and...

## Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

 ...leave as soon as you've done your shitty little poem or song you self-righteous prick. Thou shalt not return to the same club or bar week in, week out, just because you once saw a girl there that you fancied but you're never gonna fucking talk to.

## Aries (21 Mar – 20 Apr)

 Thou shalt not put musicians and recording artists on ridiculous pedestals no matter how great they are or were. The Beatles were just a band. Led Zeppelin – just a band. The Beach Boys – just a band. The Sex Pistols – just a band. The Clash – just a band.


## Taurus (21 Apr – 21 May)

 Crass – just a band. Minor Threat – just a band. The Cure – were just a band. The Smiths – just a band. Nirvana – just a band. The Pixies – just a band. Oasis – just a band. Radiohead – just a band. Bloc Party – just a band. The Arctic Monkeys – just a band.


## Gemini (22 May – 21 Jun)

 The next big thing? **JUST A BAND**. Thou shalt give equal worth to tragedies that occur in non-English speaking countries as to those that occur in English speaking countries. Thou shalt remember that guns, bitches and bling were never part of the...


## Cancer (22 Jun – 22 Jul)

 ...original four elements (of hiphop) and Never. Will. Be. Thou shalt not make repetitive generic music. Thou shalt not pimp my ride. Thou shalt not scream if you want to go faster. Thou shalt not move to the sound of the wickedness. Thou shalt not make...


## Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

 ...some noise for Detroit. When I say "hey" thou shalt not say "ho". When I say "hip" thou shalt not say "hop". When I say, he say, we say, make some noise – kill me. Thou shalt not quote me happy. Thou shalt not shake it like a Polaroid picture. Thou shalt not...

## Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sept)

 ...wish your girlfriend was a freak like me. Thou shalt spell the word 'phoenix' P-H-E-O-N-I-X not P-H-O-E-N-I-X regardless of what the Oxford English Dictionary tells you. Thou shalt not express your surprise that Sharon got off with Brad at the club last...

## Libra (23 Sept – Oct 22)

 ...night by saying "Is it." **Thou shalt think for yourselves.**  
And thou shalt always... thou shalt always... kill.

# Felix Crossword 1,379

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

Send your answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) or bring this page down to the *Felix* office in the West Wing of Beit Quad by **Wednesday 9am**. Each week, we'll choose a winner and give them the princely sum of **ten shiny British pounds**. If they turn out not to be shiny, we will personally polish them for you. If they turn out not to be British, we could all be in very deep trouble. They will be British, though. That's a *promise*.

# Scarecrow

## ACROSS

- 1 With a degree in degrees (9)
- 9 A good man - one like Peter, perhaps? (5)
- 10 Brainwashing before current time on short ogre (4,7)
- 11 Divide a dumber country (7)
- 13 Tested enough in state (7)
- 14 Well, apparently it's in harmony (5)
- 15 Acid turned within interior or a gauge for it (9)
- 17 A mercenary, a soldier and a queen (9)
- 19 Epic surrealist goes back around me (5)
- 20 Dish is so dry in city (7)
- 22 A coward in the know (7)
- 24 Pay attention to distilled essence (11)
- 25 Havoc always surrounds the outspoken (5)
- 26 Pregnant former wife's thickener is grand (9)

## DOWN

- 2 Lift to a sound level (5)
- 3 Akward countries and a company with a broken hut (7)
- 4 Teased brown volunteers talk endlessly for one quarter (9)
- 5 German culture moves suddenly (5)
- 6 Muslim setter criticises Imperial (7)
- 7 Opposing ideas leave the french in doubt for a short stretch in Hong Kong (11)
- 8 Setter and an oriental communist roamed about (9)
- 12 Revival of messy canine arses (11)
- 14 Explosion above a river flowing up (9)
- 16 You don't need to be filthy rich, but it helps (4,5)
- 18 For example, a relic at war (7)
- 19 Stupid dictator returns to be in charge (7)
- 21 Unquiet jump is a fraction of 9 (5)
- 23 Devoured in the neat enclosure (5)

It's been far too long since we've had a proper crossword in these pages - all of our setters have been busy with other commitments (revision, exams, life, etc.) for quite some time.

But at last, here's one with real clues. Hopefully enjoyable ones, too. It's probably the best one I've written all year, and it shouldn't be too hard, either. Nor too easy, of course.

If anyone has the time or inclination to set a crossword or two over the coming weeks, please get in touch with Felix - we'd appreciate any additional setters we can lay our hands on.

Scarecrow

The sermon writer.





## Cricketeers thrash City's brightest

Thilina Ambepitiya

Imperial 1st XI vs  
City University 1st XI

Imperial: 210-9 (Loveridge 52\*, Ambepitiya 50) bt City University 209-9 (Ullal 30-4, Gibson 31-3) by 1 wicket

Having enjoyed our time abroad, it was time for the competitive season to begin, but unlike last year our promotion in the BUSA league meant tougher opposition. First BUSA game, City 1st XI.

We were off to a quick start courtesy of our yellow Imperial College Union minibus, fully kitted out with a tape player and wireless. Anura Malaweera (Honey Monster) quickly ceased upon the opportunity to play a Pop Mix of Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun". Anura was promptly moved to the back seat.

Soon enough we arrived at what appeared to be City's home ground i.e. an uncut wicket, no boundaries or pitch markings. In fact, it was a field.

Unfortunately we couldn't bring our lawnmower to the game, but City were adamant that they could get it ready in time (of course they couldn't). We attempted to sneakily fit our 50 over game on an adjacent ground unnoticed. Unluckily for us, the 2 other teams who had hired out the ground were on the ball. They shrewdly noticed the extra 22 players warming up on their ground. Sure enough a forfeit was in order. However whilst signing the relevant documentation, the City captain got a call from one of his clan; another ground was available.

Cutting a long story short (no pun intended), we elected to field first in a reduced 35 over per side game.

Zirgham "Zippy" Afridi bowled an incredible reverse swinging dead straight low beamer which took the City opener with the 1st ball of the innings. Perfect start; that is until City's lower order (2 and 3) came to the party.

Almaher "I have no nickname" Shelley and Zippy kept them quiet for a while, but they soon got stuck into the rest of the bowling. That is until Gibbon (Luke Gibson) stepped up to take their opener with the first ball.

City, not content to have 2 batsman on the pitch at any one time, decided to call out a 3rd person to run for their unfit number 3, needless to say the confusion of having an extra batsman was too great for the City boys. He was promptly run out by the length of the pitch.

Pranav "Baby Face" Ullal and Gibbon continued to bowl with great distinction. City batsmen were dropping like flies, finishing with a score of 209 off their 35 overs; a score which deserved "bare" respect.

The pitch was terrible, you could bowl a bouncer or a pea-roller if you pitched the ball on a good length. Both Kyle "Santa" Santos and "I have no nickname" succumbed to the latter.

Meanwhile Thilina "The Machine" Ambepitiya continued to smash the ball to all parts. Abeetha "Pingpong" Perrera offered some support, before he attempted to pull a yorker.

Vaibhav Weeman Kumar ran to the crease, eagerly anticipating his first ball of the season.

The very next ball Leon "Abdul" Loveridge came in and consequently built a partnership with The Machine; that is until Thil supposedly middled the ball to the keeper, ending his greatest inning in 4 seasons for IC (though he did have the consolation of a half century). Honey Monster thought the



"The Machine" pauses on his way to a half-century for a brief staring match with the ball

best way to cheer the captain up would be to race Leon to one end of the pitch. This did not work. Anura was run out by 2/3 of the pitch. Well done Anura.

But as batsmen continued to be triggered, the real star of the show came to the fore. It was nail biting

action as it came down to our last pair. Loveridge showed his true class crunching a 4 to shepherd IC home to a 1 wicket victory. Pitch invasion.... what a legend.

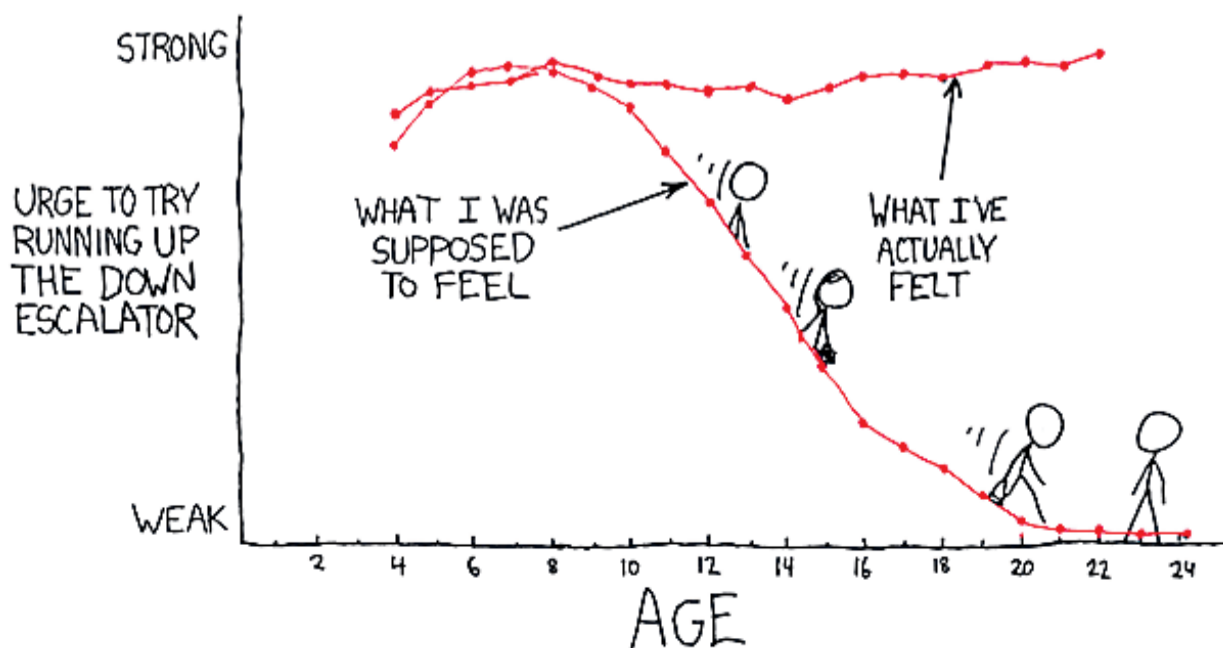
This was the best run chase in IC history, 6 an over on a poor wicket against brass opposition was no

mean feat. This team showed a true 'never say die' mindset. At no point did they give up, at no point did they doubt themselves; they were strong, stronger than any other previous IC team. This was the Machine's Machine. There's a lot more to come from these boys.

xkcd

www.xkcd.com

### Escalators



(the last time I tried this, I got hit by a slinky going down at double speed)

### CD Tray Fight

HEY. HEY! STOP RETRACTING MY CD!



I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN MY COMPUTER PHYSICALLY STRUGGLES WITH ME. SURE, I CAN OVERPOWER IT NOW, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A FEW SHORT STEPS FROM HERE TO THE ROBOT WAR.

(this is silly, of course; the real enemy will be born in the network)