



State of the Nation's Education

Full story, page 3

// ...the assumption is that if you're clever enough you will go to university. But these young people who are saying 'people like me don't go to university' – they're part of the problem... So you raise their aspirations. //

John Denham, Secretary of State for
Innovation, Universities and Skills



// The system has to change. It will then make people think twice before they go off and do damn silly courses that are no good to them and won't get them a good job at the end of the day. It would mean university is not just a nice four years off //

Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of
Imperial College London

// Our current policy in favour of free education funded entirely by the taxpayer is unrealistic. Imperial College Union revokes all previous policy on higher education funding, pending a consultation with the student body //

Stephen Brown, Imperial
College Union President



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Challenge the Sabbs! Now!



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Avert thine eyes



Centrefold

Skydiving



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Foals interview



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News

News Editor – Andrew Somerville

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GSA Chair under fire

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday night, the First Council meeting of the 2007-08 year was held in the Union Dining Hall.

The first half of the meeting passed quickly and without incident. Reports written by the Sabbatical Officers and Faculty Union staff were being passed as tabled, without objection from the Council members. The reports – which can be found on the Union's website – are mainly for accountability purposes, so that the student body has the opportunity to see that the Sabbatical Officers and Faculty Union staff are doing their jobs satisfactorily.

The proceedings were running smoothly and rather hastily until it was the turn of the GSA (Graduate Students Association) Chair Jon Matthews to put forward his report. Union President Stephen Brown questioned Mr Matthews, telling him that he thought the report "was not doing himself justice". After some futile explanation from Mr Matthews, Council moved to a vote which ultimately led to the report being rejected.

Now, are you ready for this? It's complicated. Deep breath...

The specific reason the paper was rejected remains unclear. It appears that Council is unhappy with the amount of work Mr Matthews has done over the summer period in return for the £2000 honorarium that the GSA Chair is customarily awarded.

So far the GSA Chair has been in office for only five weeks. Due to the awful GSA elections that took place over the summer, the Chair was elected later than originally intended. Seemingly, Union Officials believe the honorarium was intended as payment for an eight week period and as a result, Mr Matthews has been given too much money.

However, the original intention of the honorarium has been questioned and remains the focus of ongoing investigations in the Union.

Advocates of the GSA are saying that the honorarium is intended as a payment for the year, rather than just the



Riveting

summer and that its purpose is to be attractive enough to tempt potential GSA Chairs away from paid teaching work within College.

Union Officials argue that the payment is similar to that of the Faculty Union Presidents, intended as a summer payment and no more.

Added to all of this excitement, the circumstances under which Mr Matthews received the honorarium payment are shadowy.

If you're still with me, good on you, we're almost there... Just one long and winding paper trail to follow now.

Originally, the GSA asked the Union Executive (Exec) committee to fund the summer honorarium at a meeting during the summer. Exec refused and told the GSA that it needed to sort the matter out itself.

Subsequently, £2000 was taken out of the GSA budget to pay the honorarium. What remains unclear is how this payment was authorised. Minutes are not taken at GSA committee meetings meaning that no written record exists of who authorised payment.

The Union has asked the GSA for an audit trail to trace the circumstances under which the honorarium payment was made but so far this has not been provided. The Union and the GSA are working together on the quest to find out what the hell has happened over the past few months.

Well done for reaching the end of the article.

Union reports for all committee meetings can be found online at: union.ic.ac.uk/meetings

John Collins completes fund-raising bicycle ride



Last year's Union President John Collins recently completed his cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats, on the second attempt. The 928 mile trek took Mr Collins thirteen days to complete, excluding the days in between attempts. Mr Collins' was due to complete the journey back in June but he fell from his bicycle breaking his wrist in the process. The proceeds from the trip will be put towards the redevelopment of Beit. Donations can still be made at www.justgiving.com/pedalingforimperial

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Special thanks to
Luke Taylor
The man who delivered the Indian on Wednesday night. It was tasty

LOLcats
LOLcats



OFTEN WEEK

Receiving mixed messages

Accessibility, fees and fairness: opinions clash over future of the UK's higher education

Andrew Somerville
News Editor

This week has seen yet another resurgence of debate over the controversial direction of Higher Education in the UK. But students, and potential students, have been left with a distinctly mixed message, some points of which leave a sour taste in the mouth.

A series of government policy statements and ministerial comments followed the predictably regular story about Oxbridge: this time centred on the publishing of statistics showing that one third of Oxbridge's student intake comes from only 100 schools, the vast majority of which are private. These announcements were intended to re-iterate the government's policy of university education for those who are able, regardless of their background.

This culminated in Wednesday's launch of a blueprint for Universities to forge "partnerships" with a local academy, with Cabinet MP John Denham urging universities to adopt one of the government's new, partially privately funded, secondary schools. Several universities, including Imperial College and UCL, have expressed interest

in the scheme, which is designed to form "deep-rooted" links between top universities and local schools. Several other Universities have been unmoved by Denham's encouragement, preferring their own methods for attracting state-sector students.

Meanwhile, in this week's Sunday Telegraph, the Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, criticised "Mickey Mouse" degrees, whilst advocating not only an increase in top-up fees, but an increase in the interest rates that students pay on their loans.

"The system has to change," said the Rector, who, pulling in £305k a year, has the second highest salary of all UK University heads. "It will then make people think twice before they go off and do damn silly courses that are no good to them and won't get them a good job at the end of the day. It would mean university is not just a nice four years off."

Sir Richard has a history of being outspoken in his support of increasing the cost of higher education to the student. On Sunday he advocated an increase of the top-up fees from £3000 to £5000 after the review in 2009.

An increase in the interest paid on

student loans (effective immediately after graduation) would see a dramatic increase in the cost, to the student, of a University education. Debt is already a major concern for students in general, with loan repayments continuing many years after graduation, even for a degree alone. For Masters and PhD students, calculation of exactly how much debt they can afford often dictates the path of their career. With such an increase in the student loan rate, suggested at a level just under bank rates, we could see students paying off their debt well into middle age.

These two conflicting points of view, coming respectively from the Cabinet Minister for higher education, and one of the most influential university heads in the country, show the incongruity between the attitudes of educational chiefs and government policy. A conflict which appears to be leading neither in the right direction.

Prevalent student opinion shows a general detachment from both sides. The government obsession with the magically arbitrary figure of 50% of pupils going on to University seems to care little about the quality and value of the courses involved, and students

feel their degrees become devalued in general.

Whereas the Rector's abrasive comments exhibit the kind of arrogance which the top universities in the country are attempting to purge from their reputations. Whilst many sympathise with his dislike of gratuitous degree courses (such as David Beckham studies), there is a distinctly sour taste left in their mouths over his apparent view of degree courses as nothing but a business plan for maximum profit. Many are concerned by his lack of obvious academic sentiment: the concept that the advancement of humanity is a valuable and noble pursuit in itself, without the endless pursuit of economic profit. Thus he cements the image of Imperial College Plc., a place of business, not of learning.

The effect of these views on education in general is as yet unknown, but some fear that the future holds a worryingly Americanised system. A system where it is impossible to progress in any career without a degree, but attending university is massively expensive. This kind of system penalises the poorer students more than any other, exactly the effect that the aforementioned measures are designed to avoid.

Whilst such debate rages on about the future of higher education in the UK, the student body is undecided about what it wants: we at Imperial like being the elite, but dislike being treated as a business case and milked dry of our income for years to come.

The Union voted on Monday to revoke our current policy on tuition fees (current policy being that the Union is opposed to any increase in the amount that students are charged for education), pending an investigation into our true opinion on the matter. Until the students body decides what it really wants from its education, it remains helpless over how much it is prepared to pay for it.

One obvious question is posed, however: is anyone sure of what they want education to actually achieve. Even the government seems to have difficulty in making up its mind.

Media awards nominations released. Felix loses crown



Nominated: Last year's Felix Travel writer Peter Dominiczak

On Monday, the nominations for the 2007 Guardian Student Media Awards were announced.

At last year's awards ceremony Felix was awarded Student Newspaper of the Year and the editor at the time, Rupert Neate, also walked away with Student Journalist of the Year.

However, this year Felix has only been nominated for one award. Peter Dominiczak has been nominated as Student Travel Writer of the Year. Mr Dominiczak's articles documented his unconventional trips to places such as Lithuania and even Somerset where he met a man simply known as Big Iain and together the pair set about frolicking in the countryside.

Imperial's student news website Live! (live.cgcu.net) was also nominated for Student Website of the Year. The nomination comes after a year in which the Live! editor Ashley Brown was threatened with lawsuits for some of the website's content.

The 2007 Guardian Student Media Awards ceremony takes place on Wednesday 21st November.



Intense revision for the new Nursery Rhymes A-Level

Imperial College website revamped and ready to relaunch in December

Tom Roberts

College is in the process of having a new website designed to replace the existing one at www.imperial.ac.uk. The redesigned website will be launch-

ing on 10th December.

College has commissioned web design company New City Media to build the website. The project has been running since February 2007 and the build is far along enough for students to view

preview pictures of what the website will look like when it eventually goes live. To have a look for yourself and even leave comments about the website, head to <https://www7.imperial.ac.uk/commsblog/blogs> There you'll find the Web Redesign blog which is kept up-to-date with the latest developments.

The aim of the web redesign project is "to modernise the visual design and make it easier for users to quickly find relevant information", something that the imperial.ac.uk has been crying out for ages.

With the current design, something as important as finding your exam results can turn into a struggle for even the most on-the-ball web users.

Typing "exam results" into the existing search engine throws up over twenty thousand results, the first ten of which don't link to the Student Self Service where results are viewed online. Strangely enough, the first result generated happens to be "Student Appeals"; perhaps College is trying to



Does the Imperial website's new look inspire you?

suggest something.

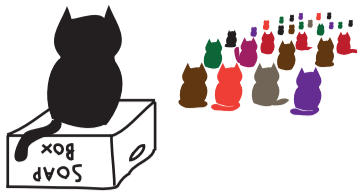
Unless users have a direct link to a part of the existing website, it is very difficult to navigate meaning that large areas of imperial.ac.uk remain

inaccessible.

Hopefully the redesigned website can address these issues and students won't have to spend precious minutes surfing the web in circles.



The Imperial website's current design



Comment, Opinion & Letters

Let us know your views: comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Letters may be edited for length and grammar purposes
Views on these pages are not representative of Felix



A. Geek

// I can't just stop eating in the JCR for twelve months waiting for wholemeal rolls to return //

The problem with democracy

For my Fresher readers, prepare to be alienated. Those of you who voted in last year's Union elections – yes, all twelve of you – I understand that you thought voting 'Felix for Felix Editor' was funny. I get it, there was a funny man on the posters and everything. It's hilarious, after all, when you do something silly in a serious situation. It's like farting whilst giving evidence at The Hague, or wearing a spinning bow tie when you go to speak at your grandfather's funeral.

However, real democracy – yes, the kind that actually affects things – is subtly different to the Union elections, and so before I hear one more person tell me they're going to vote for Boris 'Gosh, Golly and Bilge' Johnson in the mayoral elections "for a laugh", let me run through a few of the finer points.

First of all, unlike the Union elections, I can't avoid the fallout if you get your way. That means that if you dick things up this time "for a laugh", I can't just stop eating in the JCR for twelve months and wait for them to bring back wholemeal rolls again. It's an entire city, guys, and the only reason you know Boris' name is because, in order of importance, he has silly hair, he was on an episode of *Have I Got News For You*, and he shagged someone he wasn't supposed to. Now, whilst I accept that

those three attributes cover 70% of Kensington and Chelsea's inhabitants, that's not exactly how choosing a political candidate is supposed to work.

And I know, I know, the papers call the other guy "Red Ken" and say bad things, and the papers are always right because the other day they told you to buy a man's trenchcoat from Marks And Spencer and then that cute guy smiled at you in Starbucks. I get it. Thing is, though, they're occasionally wrong about stuff, and even if you dislike Ken "Face Like A Cabbage That's Been Through At Least One, If Not Two, Digestive Systems" Livingstone, it doesn't really follow that you should vote in some nincompoop as some kind of spiteful backstab.

I have a friend who, on regular occasions, tells me that this country is great because of its proud history of Democracy. Not real Democracy, obviously, the fake kind where people ask your opinion and then spend four years subtly getting you to look the other way by pointing and shouting "Taxes!" but Democracy nonetheless. Needless to say, she hasn't been in this country for an election, because if she had she'd realise just how much of a joke it's become since we were lopping heads off of Kings and the like.

Presumably the desire to joke-vote your way into oblivion comes from the



Boris Johnson: Voting is no joke

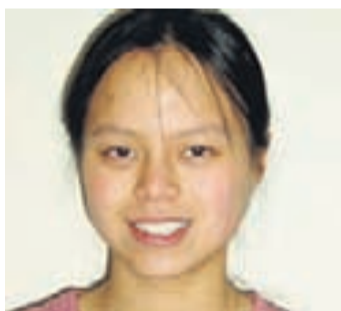
notion that your vote doesn't actually count, as if the auditors at the Polling Booth look at each card and just say, "Well, he's voted for Boris, but this guy's a kidder. Put it in the incinerator, Geoff."

The idea that one voter is insignificant was fine when it made you stay at home and not give a toss – that was bliss, it meant that those of us that did vote could just tell you to where to

shove it when you complained about the government six months later. Now you've decided to be post-modern and individual by voting for someone you find amusing, without realising that everyone else is going to do the same thing. Don't get me wrong – people are just as cripplingly lazy in real elections as they were in the Union ones – but there's nothing the general public likes more than doing pitifully ridiculous things en masse. See also: war, religion, buying throw rugs for sofas and Diet Coke.

Now, at this point you may be thinking, "But if everyone votes for Boris, that's democracy, right? Whatever we wanted him for, at least we chose him." And that's fine, if you're an idealist who thinks that Greece had it right all along.

Unfortunately, we don't live in a futuristic utopia where people take drugs to purify their minds and make clear-cut decisions about which colour to paint the living room. We live in a world where people take normal drugs, paint the living room disgusting variations on the same shade of beige, and vote for whoever they're told to. So don't try and tell me that the people get what they wish. The people get what they're told to wish for. And on that note, I'd ask you – be careful what you wish for. You might get it.



Susan Yu

A quick thought on life

So, *life*. What is all about? We all go through phases in which one feels like one is on the top of the world. This can be taken literally or metaphorically.

On the flip side, you do also get times when things just don't go as planned or things just fall apart. It is weird though, because as with most things in life, you either make it or you don't. It is as simple as that.

A lot of the time, you don't realise something is important until it is gone. We take so many things for granted without realising that we would never be able to get by without these ubiquitous gems in life. Things like family,

friends and good health. Without these treasures, I reckon, life would be considerably drab and colourless.

Death on the other hand is a totally different story. Experiencing something as profound as death ultimately brings a different perspective on life in general. Fragile and temporary as a snowflake some might think. To see a loved one go it is undoubtedly devastating.

It's funny you begin to notice things like this do happen as you metamorphose and grow into a fully-fledged adult. Life is never simple. Always with so many twists and turns, never a straight path. Damn.

Personally, I take life as it is. I just

go with the flow. Who knows what is around the corner, heh? 'To be or not to be' is the question that we ask ourselves every single day. Life entails so much, whether we like it or not. Love, friendship, grief, euphoria and the rest.

To some people, one's existence is the sole purpose of living unlike most people who endeavour to get the best out of what is on offer. Why are we here is a question that all of us have asked ourselves one time or another I'm sure. To some, God is the ultimate answer. He is the Creator and we are only here because of Him and Him alone.

Others would think otherwise. We are here all due to chance. Evolution

and Darwin seem to come into the equation if you think along these lines. Biologists would have some ideas about this. Are we here to make a difference to the world or are we alive simply for the sake of being alive? Who knows?

Well, I reckon that we are here for a purpose and that is to live life to the full in whatever fashion we think is best. Yeah, rock and roll till sunrise! With this in mind, nihilism is definitely not the way forward.

Being a fresher at university is definitely a totally different phase in life, the pinnacle – meeting new people, getting used to a new environment and establishing a new way of living. Can't wait for what life has in store for us!



Gilead Amit

A good madman is hard to find

I think that any self-respecting university should have its own campus madman. Or madwoman.

By 'mad', I don't just mean the scruffiness of absentminded professors, or the hairstyles and fashion sense (stretching those two terms to their respective breaking points) of bewildered undergraduates. I don't even mean those poor souls studying medicine, though what better definition of insanity exists I know not.

No, I mean mad in the strictest sense of the term – a good, old-fashioned gibbering, odoriferous, potato-wearing outcast, with an endearingly nick-

named carrot dangling from a leash in their hand. The last of these is optional, though all the best continental lunatics seem to be carrying them this season.

Personally, I find that a university crackpot is just as valuable a figure as a lecturer; more so, even, as no one lecturer can claim to be known to the entire student body, whereas campus loons the world over are familiar faces to millions.

These individuals, as bothersome as they can be on occasions, play a vital role in ensuring student cohesion. Their antics provide daily amusement, and their presence an excuse to put a premature end to uncomfortable

conversations. Some of you may be running away with the idea that I am referring to actual psychopaths – dangerous knife-wielding giants for whom asylums (and showers) were invented. I ask for no such extravagance. A simple, carefree, pamphlet-distributing fanatic is all I desire. And look at what we have to offer in exchange for an hour or two of entertaining buffoonery every day; a guaranteed audience, a fantastic address in the heart of London, institutional tenure – what more could any simple, ordinary maniac ask for?

Now, I know that not every university has the time or the inclination to scour the neighbouring regions for a person

worthy of the position. But surely, in the centre of a city such as London, creeps, weirdoes, stalkers and engaging hoboes can't be too hard to find?

Being new to Imperial College, I do not know what to expect on the mad-person front. Having heard only good things about this institution, however, I do not doubt that the crucial position has been filled, and, surely, by a person of some international standing. If not, then I am convinced that such a prestigious university must make up for the lack of this one individual eccentric with a general atmosphere of insanity. I feel it will be a fun and interesting four years.



Jennifer Morgan
President

Royal College of
Science Union

RCSU: A Freshers' Week to remember

Whoosh! Well that's Freshers' Fortnight gone. We hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! We've had a truly brilliant couple of weeks and we've just got time to tell you about our favourite bits!

Freshers' Ball

Last Monday 8th Oct we had the most amazing Freshers' Ball ever held by the RCSU! We packed out Zoo Bar & Club on Leicester Square with over 700 of our finest Imperial Freshers – mostly scientists but a few friends from the other faculties as well! We all enjoyed free vodka Red Bulls, champagne and chocolate fountains for our £5 ticket and no doubt the highlight for most of the blokes would have been all

of the girls dancing on the bar! We're putting this record attendance and fabulous fun down to our wonderful guests and our break from tradition! I would also, personally, like to give a big shout out to James Field, my Vice President (Activities) and all his little minions who worked so hard to ensure we had a fantastic night!

Buddies

Our buddy schemes have been kicking off in the science departments this year with the aim to pair up a fresher with a big person to help them over any hurdles they might meet at Imperial. So if you're a big person then make sure you look after your fresher and if you're a fresher then make use of your big person – whether you want advice on courses, essay skills, or any-

thing else! We would also like to point out that no one was hurt in the Krispy Kreme doughnut wars which ensued during the biology buddy meeting!

Book Sale

In an effort to stop students being too badly crippled in the wallet when it comes to textbooks we continued down the path of previous years and held a second hand book sale whereby old students could sell their textbooks on. This year we had over a thousand books put in for the sale and the majority disappeared in a flash last Tuesday 9th Oct (we probably would have completely sold out had it not been for the Freshers' Ball the previous night!) Our Academic Affairs Officer Andreas Esau deserves many congratulations for the hard work he put in! Next year

we might have to invest in a trolley seeing as we had to carry all those books from the union to our new office on the Sherfield Walkway!

Elections

We have mop up elections for the few positions that were left unfilled last term. So if you're a budding sports officer, publicity & communications officer, secretary, postgraduate research rep (in life sci and phys sci), biochemistry or joint maths and computing department rep then please stand for elections at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. Join the team! Nominations close on the 14th October at 23.59! For more information about elections please email rctu.president@imperial.ac.uk or see the website at www.rctu.org.uk!



Priya G

How to smile

Society has gone mad. The streets of London are full of dull, grey, pointless zombies. We stare downwards when we walk and make sure we are too fast for anyone to catch up with us. We don't talk on the tube, and if we are alone, most often we have a 'London Lite' clamped to our arms or we are listening to music to prevent any social interaction. I feel like we're all living in a concrete bubble.

Once we get to work – what happens? We are trapped in a race up the ladder, to be better than our colleagues, to prove what we have and what we've learnt. That is the problem with our education system, our culture, our civilisation. From school

we are tutored in excelling individual and fighting each other off. There's little emphasis on teamwork apart from group sports and even then little pity is reserved for the opposing side. The friends we make are unlikely to be our closest contenders in our profession and even if that is so, if there were a choice between progressing in a career, or salvaging a friendship, I believe most people would choose their career. What a pitiable state of affairs when you think back to why jobs were created in the first place. Human kind had a need for certain materials in order to survive and those capable of doing them did them. However, as technology advanced and money became more and more important, the competitive

thirst arose in those who were able to complete isolate work from being an all round decent person.

I find it impossible to understand how you could plunge the knife in the back of a person you have been working with for the past week, let alone year. Why can't we work together to find solutions? Why do we always have to be superior to somebody else? Why can't we just appreciate the talents of our colleagues and ourselves?

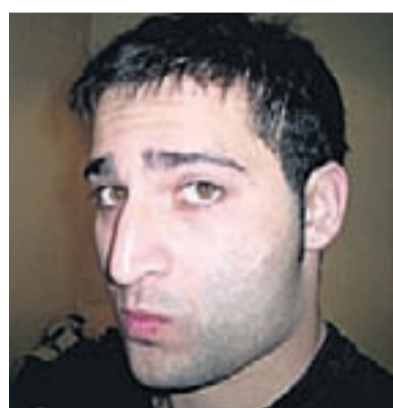
I believe it's time to get out of this rat race. We need to stop comparing ourselves to other people and believe in ourselves and what we are good at.

We need to slow down, take a deep breath, look up for the sky for once and actually appreciate that we have a life,

only one, and that we should enjoy it. Forget about work for just one day, stop running around and stressing about deadlines and essays. A hundred years from now nobody will care whether we were able to read that extra chapter. We need to stop living for other people's expectations and for what we have been dictated to do.

Just for once in our lives, we need to be still, look at the trees, the plants, and the world, watch the people around us, look at how lucky we have it, and smile. Smile.

Look past the grey for the blue and you'll feel a million times better. I promise. If you are lucky, maybe someone will smile back! You won't know unless you try.



Ushnish Banerjee

I got beef with beef

For most of us in the western world clean water is a seemingly infinite resource and the only portal of exposure to calamities such as water-borne disease epidemics and droughts is the news. But a change is imminent and sooner than one would expect. At present, close to a third of the world's population is plagued by water crises. If current trends in water consumption continue, this figure is expected to augment to include two thirds of the globe by 2025.

To put further perspective on this figure and its impact, consider a United Nations (UN) statement issued recently which claims that access to water will be reduced by a third of that available today within the next two decades – regardless of geographical location. To add further fuel to the fire, leading political economists are going so far as to predict a grizzly shift in the nature of global conflicts and discord from oil and politics to water. This may seem like an embroidered doomsday scenario, but current data is certainly validating it as a plausible notion.

To overcome such an eerie aftermath which could threaten the very foundation of humanity, we must first gather some insight into the causes of water crises. Presently, there is in fact enough water to satisfy the needs of the entire



Cattle: A huge waste of water?

global population, but there is a massive disparity in consumption between the developed and developing worlds. For instance here in London we each consume in excess of a whopping 170 liters of water per day on average in personal usage, which far exceeds the UN Human Development Index prescribed 50 liters per day per domestic household needed to maintain a minimum standard of living. On the other hand in some African countries, an average household may barely receive a fifth of this prescribed minimum and

what they do get comes with heavy strings attached such as life-threatening illnesses including cholera.

Besides excessive personal water usage, it is the agricultural sector and the lavish patterns of food consumption in the West which are further exacerbating the water crisis. Exorbitant amounts of meat and dairy products have firmly established themselves as the mangy mainstays of the typical Western diet and their consumption now presents more than just health risks.

Tending livestock and poultry

amongst other primary sector activities accounts for a massive 70 % of total water usage in the UK. To fathom just how much water is depleted from such activities, consider beef production, where a single kilogram of the meat drains 15 cubic meters of precious H₂O.

Besides the obvious economic costs of depleted water supplies, there are the bleak prospects of mass population displacement, famine and war. It seems that despite the grave long-term threats it poses to our survival water wastage has not been deemed an urgent enough problem to be tackled in the general 'green shift' in governmental policy and corporate activity towards environmentally friendly practices.

As of now there is no legislation in Britain to limit water supplies to households unwilling to pay their water bills and neither have any serious measures been put in place to encourage homes or the farming sector to curb water consumption. Talks of privatizing the water supply in the UK has been met with scathing criticism and heavy backlash on grounds of depriving the population of a basic necessity. However, it seems that water will surely ascend in status to a luxury commodity if we don't devise a viable method soon to stay within our aqueous means.

// The UN predicts that water supplies will reduce by a third in 20 years //

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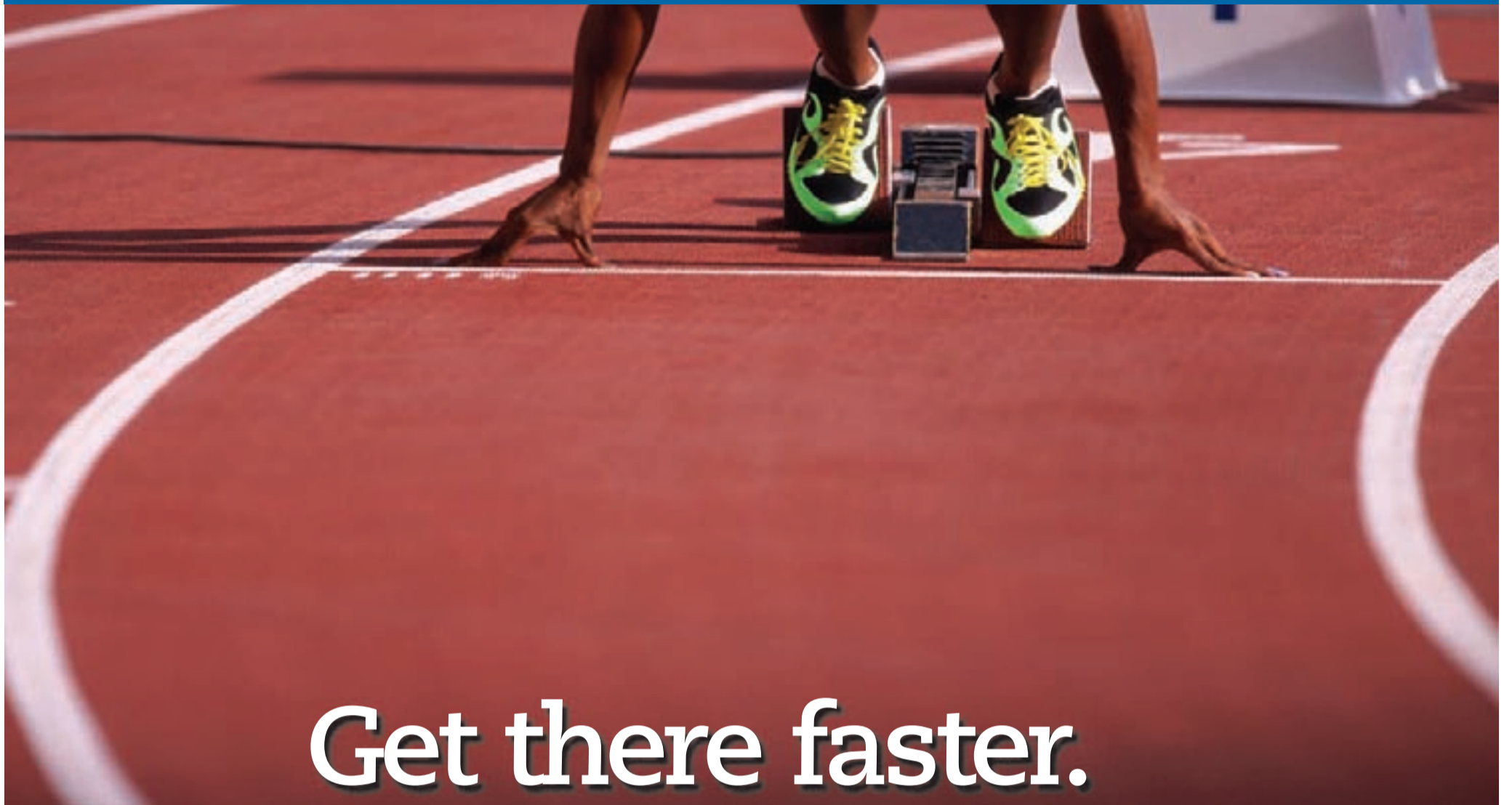

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Picture of the Week

Ruelle Marseillaise, by Darshan Ghosh
Third year Mathematics

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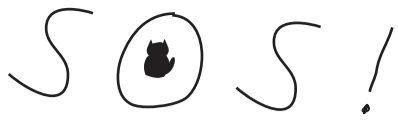
Monday 22 October 2007. Please arrive from 6:30pm for a 7pm start.

Where

The Charing Cross Thistle Hotel, The Strand, London WC2N 5HX.

Who

Open to all.



Dishonest landlords beware!

Thanks to the new website StudentSay you no longer have to take your landlord's word for it if he or she's up to some shifty

Information and Advice Centre

Joining a club or society is a great way of meeting new people and can help stop you thinking about home.

- Acknowledge your feelings but try to convince yourself that it is just a phase. Feelings of homesickness almost always pass if given time.

- Talking to people about your feelings can sometimes help. So make sure you talk to a trusted friend regarding your feelings. This can often make things seem better. If you feel you can't talk to anyone make use of the College's counselling service. You can also talk your concerns through with the Student Adviser at the Information and Advice Centre on campus.

- Try to establish a routine as soon as possible. Often keeping busy helps to take your mind off thinking about home.

- Keep in touch with your friends and family. In some cases they can offer you support and reassurance. However, make sure that this is the right choice for you as sometimes talking to your friends and family back home can worsen your homesickness.

- Give yourself some time. Don't rush to make any rash decisions like quitting your course and leaving. It could just be a short phase that a lot of people go through during their first time living away from home.

- Remember that many people suffer from homesickness at sometime in their lives. There will be other students on your course and in the College who are also experiencing the same thing. Feeling this way does not make you inadequate. Plenty of people are experiencing the exact same thing.

If you do have feelings of homesickness and you feel it is more than just a phase and you want to seek some impartial advice on how you can go about coping with these issues, please feel free to contact The Information and Advice Centre for advice. Our advice is totally impartial and we can talk through your worries with you.

If you feel you need more emotional support rather than practical advice it may be worth contacting The Imperial College Counselling service on: 020 7594 9637.

Just remember there are people available who are willing to help, you don't have to go through it are not alone!



Nigel Cooke
Student Adviser

So, Fresher's week is over. The sound of you dancing to your favourite tune, having a drink or joining a society are gone and now you are faced with lectures and getting down to some hard work at the institution that is Imperial College.

Many of you have probably had one of the most exhilarating weeks of your life. You will have made loads of new friends and have settled in quite comfortably to student life. For some, however, this may not be the case.

It is natural in many aspects to feel homesick at certain times of our lives and leaving home for the first time and living with people you don't know in a big strange city like London can be a difficult and daunting experience to come to terms with.

Not being around things that are familiar to you can often bring on feelings of loneliness, anxiety and sadness; this may put doubts in your mind as to whether you have made the right choice in becoming a student at Imperial.

All is not lost however. These feelings may only last a week or so until you have settled and there are methods and tips you can use to help make you feel better, below is The Information and Advice Centre's top tips for trying to avoid or get over homesickness:

- Try to get out there and see what the College and Union have to offer.



The current StudentSay website at www.studentsay.co.uk

Kirsty Patterson
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Moved into a house which isn't all it's cracked up to be? Is 'short distance from local amenities' more than a stretch of the imagination? Has the fresh lick of paint already started peeling off the wall?

Finding the perfect student accommodation in London is nigh on impossible. Typically students spend five minutes flitting in and out of property until finally settling on the best of a bad bunch. How do you know if you can trust the integrity of your landlord? Is this really a nice, quiet, residential area with a low crime rate? If only you could find someone who has lived here before and could give you an honest opinion.

StudentSay is a new initiative created by a student at Imperial who became 'disenchanted' with the Private Housing Market and decided to do something about it. After years in the student housing system he and his friends put together a website where you, the tenant, can give an honest opinion on your accommodation experience with a particular landlord, in a particular area or even at your university.

Based in Sheffield, the website aims to include all cities and universities where students' are living in rented accommodation. It provides an ever-expanding resource for students to search for accommodation that comes highly recommended by their peers throughout the UK.

An added benefit is that you can do this far more easily from home – knowing that you can trust the views of real life students rather than the sometimes overly generous jargon available from an estate agent!

With categories such as 'distance to your local pub' and 'mobile phone re-

ception' it takes into account all the things a student house really needs. With quick and easy tick boxes and a star rating system it lets you choose from a multitude of different criteria for reviewing your student accommodation experience and means that you can do it in a matter of seconds. The handy tips are great too for reminding you about aspects of the decorating you may have forgotten about or telling you how to recognise damp.

On top of this you can also read up on articles giving advice on all aspects of university life. Current articles include advice on student bank accounts and how to save the environment without endangering your wallet. You can

also pass on your own gems of knowledge by writing for them and sharing your experiences of life as a student. As StudentSay is brand new you can really have an impact on its development and have your voice heard. There is no time like the present and the success of this great enterprise really comes down to you and how many other students in the local area fill it in!

StudentSay will be launched this term on the Imperial College Union website to make it easy to find and to add to the services available through Imperial College Union. Watch out for links appearing soon and be sure to check out or review your accommodation when making a move.

Is it Freshers' Flu? Is it a hangover? No, as a matter of fact it's meningitis

David Hayton
IC Health Centre Assistant GP

Meningitis is inflammation of the lining surrounding the brain. Put simply, there are two main strains:

Viral meningitis is more common and is rarely life-threatening. Contact with someone who has viral meningitis does not increase your chances of developing the disease.

Bacterial meningitis is very serious and needs urgent treatment. The most common cause amongst students in the UK is meningococcus, of which group C ("MenC") causes the most outbreaks. However the other groups of meningococcus, and indeed other bacteria, can cause meningitis. So even having the vaccination (which is against MenC) does not entirely protect you.

Septicaemia is blood poisoning caused by bacteria multiplying in the blood. When this is meningococcal septicaemia it is an extremely serious, life-threatening condition.

These bacteria live naturally in the back of the nose and throat. They are



Meningococcus bacteria. Avoid this, get vaccinated!

normally spread by close and prolonged contact by coughing, sneezing and intimate kissing (hence the outbreaks in the student population!). However catching or carrying the bacteria does not mean you will develop meningitis or septicaemia; only occasionally do they overcome the immune system and cause these diseases. They do *not* survive outside the body so they cannot be caught from buildings, toilets and swimming pools etc.

Thankfully, meningitis and meningococcal septicaemia are rare. They may be difficult to spot as symptoms are similar to those of flu. Look out for:

- High temperature, fever, possibly with cold hands and feet
- Vomiting, sometimes diarrhoea
- Severe headaches
- Neck stiffness (unable to touch the chin to the chest)
- Joint or muscle pains, sometimes with stomach cramps

- Dislike of bright lights
- Drowsiness, confusion/disorientation, fits
- A rash that does not fade with the glass test

People with septicaemia may develop a rash. This can start anywhere on the body and look like tiny blood spots (like pin-pricks). These go on to join together to look like large bruises. The glass test can be used to see if a rash might be due to septicaemia.

Press the side of a drinking glass onto the spot/bruise and see if it fades. A septicaemia rash does not usually fade (although it is possible that the rash may fade at first but later change into one that does not – check again later). Do not wait for a rash. It may be the last symptom or may not appear at all.

Since people with these diseases can be very unwell and unable to seek help, we need to keep an eye on each other. If you are unwell yourself, make sure someone knows you are ill.

We all need to be aware of the symptoms and many have a low threshold for seeking help. It is of course far better to be safe than sorry. However,

these symptoms are very common and panic is never helpful.

If you are aware of the symptoms above, and suspect someone may have meningitis or septicaemia, call for help as soon as possible.

To help prevent meningitis and septicaemia, get yourself vaccinated! We cannot stress this enough. Although it is a common misconception that those who have had the meningitis vaccination cannot get meningitis, the vaccination does significantly reduce your chances of getting this serious disease.

Furthermore, the more students that get the vaccination, the fewer cases will occur – even in those who have not been vaccinated (it's called herd immunity).

If you are under 25, you can get the MenC vaccine at the Imperial College Health Centre for free



President's Update

Hello everyone. I trust that everyone had an enjoyable first week (back) at Imperial and that the infamous freshers' flu isn't getting too many people down. Last week's Freshers' Week was one of our Union's most successful ever with more people eating, drinking and getting involved than ever before. However I'd like to take this opportunity to outline a few of the things the Union has planned for the coming term and provide details of how you can get involved. I've also included details of the Harlington and IC Trusts which clubs (and in some cases individuals) can apply to for additional funding to support their activities.

National Student Survey (NSS)

The Deputy President (Education & Welfare), Kirsty Patterson, and I will be analysing the results of the NSS to identify aspects of the student experience that could be improved. The NSS was completed by over 50% of last year's finalists and we will use their feedback to make suggestions to College about what more could be done for current students from the departmental up to the College-wide level. To further strengthen the Union's case we would really appreciate your views on things like feedback, contact time and work load. If there is any aspect of your course you think could be improved then please contact your departmental representative or Kirsty at dpew@imperial.ac.uk. Complaining to your friends in the JCR about what a terrible time you have had in your department might be a good opportunity for a rant but it is unlikely to result in anything being changed so please take your chance to have your concerns noted and acted upon.

Summer Ball 2007/08

I know June might seem a bit distant but the Union has already started planning the Summer Ball for 2008. With roughly 2500 guests and over £10,000 raised for the Beit Redevelopment project the Centenary Ball last term was our most successful yet, but

we would like to better it. To do this we need your help in the form of your opinions on what you would like to see at the 2008 event. If you attended the Centenary Ball and have any feedback please send it to Chris Larvin at dpfs@imperial.ac.uk. For those of you who are really enthusiastic and want to get involved with the planning of the next Summer Ball we will shortly be setting up a Summer Ball working group where students can come and feed in their views on how the event should be organised. If you are interested in serving then contact Chris who will be able to give you a bit more information on what the role entails.



Stephen Brown
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Fancy getting your club some extra money?

Harlington Trust

Out at the Harlington sport fields there is a gravel extraction operation, the interest from any monies gained can be utilised by Imperial College students. The allocation of money is overseen by the Harlington Grants Fund Committee, and it has a maximum of £50,000 to allocate in any one financial year. Income from the Harlington Trust is there for the benefit of students of Imperial College in relation to sporting, athletics and recreational facilities. For more information see <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/governance/committees/harlingtongrantsfundcommittee> or contact Ally at dpcs@imperial.ac.uk.

IC Trust

The Imperial College Trust is an independent charity governed by a Board of Trustees



whose main objective is the promotion of charitable purposes for the benefit of the College; it also gives out support for research projects in connection with subjects taught at the College.

Applications for funding from the General Fund are accepted from all members of the College. The Trustees consider funding for a range of activities although applications projects of a permanent or semi-permanent nature is particularly encouraged.

Recent examples of funding by the Trust include:

- A substantial grant to the ICU for the refurbishment of the Beit Quad
- A grant to the Imperial College Exploration Board
- Funding for the purchase of equipment by Union Clubs and Societies
- Grants for tours by Union Clubs and Societies

The Trust is a good way to receive extra funding for tours or conferences and will

provide funding of up to £150 per person for club tours or up to £500 per person for participation at conferences. The submission deadline for applications to the next IC Trust meeting is the 16th October. For details of the application process see <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/governance/committees/ictrust/>

Elections

Would you like to get involved with providing strategic oversight for an organisation that turns over millions of pounds per year? Have you ever felt that something on your course could have been a lot better and would like to do something about it? If the answer to either of these questions is yes then you have until Sunday to stand for election to the Council or Trustee Board. All you need to do is nominate yourself online at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote and email your friends to second you. For more information about the democratic structures of the Union check out the democracy section on our homepage or email me at president@imperial.ac.uk.

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You won't be a student forever, so make sure you make the most of it.

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For more information about all the discounts and to get your extra card for only £10 go to imperialcollegeunion.org/milkit



at the union oct 12th - oct 19th

FRIDAY 12TH

Pyjama Party

with the best chart hits all night

Come in the best from your bedtime wardrobe and party the night away!



WEDNESDAY 17TH

SIN CITY

The best value
Wednesday night in town!

Annual ICU Dance Off
(win beer for the best dancing!)

SIN CITY Drinks Offers!

Carlsberg TETLEY'S BLACKTHORN

only £1.30 a pint!
From 20:00

THURSDAY 18TH

TOO POSH TO WASH

JOEY NIGHTMARE
TAPE THE RADIO
WE ARE COSSACK



FRIDAY 19TH

BAR FTSE + ^ %

1.67
▼

£

\$

▲
2.02

ALSO ON

Tue 16th Super Quiz

COMING UP

Wed 24th Sin City - Fight Club Bouncy Boxing
Fri 26th Act. Normal (they won't suspect a thing)

imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

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

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Rosie Grayburn
Arts Editor

Ciao bellas! I hope your first 'real' week back has been highly enjoyable and lecture-filled. Snort, snifle and cough, you all reply. That's right, we've all come down with the Lurgy.

It's the time of year when there is always a presence of phlegm and snot in the lecture theatre. "Niieee", you may all say, but before long you can bet your bottom dollar some experimental artist will have collected all your sodden tissues and turned it into the winning installation for the Turner Prize 2007.

Speaking of which, this prestigious prize is controversially being exhibited outside London for the first time in its 22-year history. No doubt to collide nicely with Liverpool being named European Capital of Culture 2008, the short-listed artwork is being shipped across the Mersey to the Tate Liverpool from 19th October. Alas you will be unable to view these innovative pieces of visual art.

Thankfully the Tate Britain is putting on an exhibition for all of us left behind, south of the divide. 'The Turner Prize: A Retrospective' will explore the history of the prize. Previous winners have included Damien Hurst in 1995 and who can forget the elephant dung of 1998?

And so onto this week's gargantuan Art section: here to cure your malady with a good dose of Millais, Lloyd Webber and Ancient Chinese History. Hopefully it will cheer you up – especially those of you who downright refused to buy the Aloe Vera tissues and now have developed some redness around your nozzle.

We sent out an army of writers to various galleries and theatres across the Metropolis, from the Science Museum to Camberwell. They returned from their campaigns victorious and their exploits are here for your delight!

One of the most exciting additions to the city's calendar was the arrival of the Terracotta Army to the British Museum a few weeks ago. Jenny Gibson reviews the much anticipated exhibition on the facing page. Highly recommended throughout the press and thus ridiculously hard to get tickets, but make sure you go before the Army retreats back to its resting place in the Qin region of China.

Meanwhile Emily Wilson visited Millais' legacy at the Tate Modern (don't get the audio guide, boys and girls) and Ling Chang Wong ventured off to the West End in search of new talent.

A lighthearted addition to the pages is 'Student Art in Focus', which hides under one very opinionated lady's criticism, as Lucy Harrold gives us an idea of why we shouldn't sit in on a Saturday night and watch 'How to Solve a Problem like Maria'. Exactly. I quite agree. We should go forth and imbibe some freshly squeezed culture instead. Yummy.

Sex, lies and audio guides

Pre-Raphaelite god, Millais, exhibits at the Tate Britain – Emily Wilson investigates

If your scientific workload is bogging you down this winter, why not take a break and indulge your artistic side? Running until 13th January 2008 at Tate Britain is Millais, a major exhibition of the life and works of the artist John Everett Millais.

For those unfamiliar with the London art scene, Tate Britain is the older, less glamorous sibling of Tate Modern. Just across the river from the M16 building that Pierce Brosnan launches out of for the 'Q boat chase scene' in 'The World is Not Enough', Tate Britain is a short walk from Picnic tube station (assuming you don't go on a weekend when the Victoria line turns out to be closed, as I did – whoops). It's free to get into the main galleries, but consequently all the bonus extras like food, drink, exhibitions and souvenirs are pricey. For Millais, student entry is £9.

On my visit I also forked out for the audio-guide at the concession price of £3. I would not recommend this unless you want to be patronized and have medieval-esque music inflicted upon you, all while wearing uncomfortable headphones. You're better off flicking through the free guide booklet that came with your ticket and referring to the handy labels beside every painting.

John Everett Millais (1829-1896) started out as a child prodigy, becoming the youngest ever student of the Royal Academy of Art at the age of 11, but as a young man he came to rebel against the constrictive styles he was taught to follow. He was a founding member of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, along with Dante Gabriel Ros-

setti and William Holman Hunt. These artists reverted to the style of art that existed before Raphael, favouring bright colours and crude honesty, while maintaining precision and discipline in their drawing. Millais was quick to offend the artistic establishment – for example "Christ in the House of His Parents", depicting a down-to-earth family scene of Jesus, Joseph and a very haggard Mary, was considered highly offensive for its harsh realism.

Many of Millais' works are based on classic tales of lovers torn apart by circumstance, all doomed to come to tragic ends. Behind the embracing couples are colourful images of nature, often used for symbolic meaning. In "Ophelia", an iconic image of a beautiful woman drifting to her death in a river, poppies represent her imminent demise while daisies represent her youth and innocence.

If this arty-farty nonsense is already boring you, distract yourself with the more entertaining side of Millais' art. "The Return of the Dove to the Ark" is, basically, a painting of a woman kissing a pigeon (as you do) while her chum looks on in disgust. And there's plenty of sex too – "Mariana" is all about erotic yearnings and longings for physical passion. Millais himself stole his subject and wife, Effie, away from her loveless and notoriously sexless marriage to the famous Victorian art critic John Ruskin. Millais also offers a worrying number of portraits of young girls, capturing their innocence of childhood but also their emerging sensuality (!). Look out for the politics in his art also, which originates from the same era as Marx's Communist



"Must've done my back in when I wasn't at the Millais exhibition."

ideologies. The Pre-Raphaelites were frequently very socialist, as evident in "The Blind Girl", a portrait of a young blind vagrant.

Despite all this scandal, Millais did seem to sell out later in his career. Passion and symbolism fade out into the stuffy portraits of the rich and famous that made Millais the wealthiest artist of his time, earning as much as £30,000 a year. As the collection progresses it's easy to tire of him, especially the entire room filled with gloomy landscapes of the Scottish Highlands. A slightly anticlimactic end to what was otherwise a

thoroughly enjoyable exhibition.

While you're at Tate Britain, don't forget the permanent collections – unlike Millais it's all free. These feature British art ranging from Tudor and Stuart portraiture to Constable, Turner and some delightfully hideous Lucian Freud nudes. If you enjoyed Millais, and you think the PRB might be right up your street, pop into room 14 for a couple of Rossetti's and a bit of Ford Madox Brown.

Millais is on at the Tate Britain until 13th January 2008.



Millais' beautiful yet haunting depiction of Ophelia floating away from sanity and life... shivers

(Terracotta) Army invades museum!

Jenny Gibson follows the trail of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihangdi at the British Museum

Despite the main attraction of this exhibition being the intricately detailed Terracotta Army, 'The First Emperor' at the British Museum provides more than just an impressive look at what an ancient society was able to produce. The exhibition explores the founding of China, looking at the original states that were united to form the country, the strengths of the individual states and the techniques used to create a country that was ahead of many others in terms of weaponry, technology, production-methods and administration.

The Terracotta Army was found in 1974 by farmers digging a well and enabled archaeologists and historians to develop more of an understanding of the beliefs of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuangdi and the methods he employed to create a huge state and maintain it. An assortment of life-like figures of the Chinese people, ranging from soldiers and cavalry to acrobats and administrators were buried with China's First Emperor Qin Shihuangdi, along with other items that would allow him to continue his life in the same fashion after his death.

Prior to the founding of China, the area was comprised of 7 separate states, and was not unified until 221BC. The state of Qin, the most powerful, conquered the others to form Qin, which was the foundation of China as we know it today. The King of Qin changed his title to the 'First August and Divine Emperor', to separate himself from the previous Kings and Dukes that had

ruled the individual states and then took upon the task of transforming the country into an advanced nation that was superior to any other.

Throughout his rule, Qin Shihangdi accomplished many feats, some of which are still present in some form today. The First Great Wall was built preceding the Great Wall of China, which was completed in the Ming Dynasty of 1368-1644. Furthermore, some of the concepts employed in society and industry today initiated in Qin. Qin was one of the first country's to introduce quality control; all tools and swords had the initials of the workers and supervisory craftsmen embossed on them so that quality could be traced. They also introduced the idea of using standardised weights and measures. Due to the number of men that the country had access to through conscription, mass-production was able to be utilised to produce weaponry, ornaments and the Terracotta Army; however the often inhumane methods to reach such advancements are often criticised. The uncovering of the tombs made evident the extensive administrative procedures that were used and evidently necessary, due to the vast area of land that was being covered. All the Qin Laws were found to be inscribed on 1100 bamboo strips of a local magistrate.

One particularly interesting aspect of Qin Shihangdi is his fear of death. Three attempts to kill him were made, and as death did not fit in with his ambitions for Qin, he made numerous efforts to prolong his life. The First



This 2000 year old archer was just mid-way through the Ancient Qin hacca before he was 'terracota-ed'



He really could administrate your ass off, this here Civil Official

Emperor would drink and eat from gold and jade, believing that due to their resistance to corrosion, his own life would be extended. Furthermore he took a mixture of pills and potions. By developing a detailed replica of Qin underground and constructing a palace for his afterlife, which was protected by the Terracotta Army, he believed that he would be able to carry on with his ambitious plans into the afterlife.

This exhibition provides an exciting and informative insight into an ancient society that many are unaware of.

What makes it even more stimulating is that the central tomb which houses Emperor Qin Shihangdi is yet to be excavated. New methods of retrieving the contents without actually opening it are being explored. However, if speculation proves true, there may be rivers of mercury mimicking China's rivers and pearls mapping out the stars in the night sky within the central tomb. Considering the impressive items that have been found until now, including the 7000 terracotta soldiers, which are each individually made and slightly dif-

ferent, who knows what could be uncovered. 'The First Emperor - China's Terracotta Army' is being exhibited at the British Museum until April 2008; don't miss out on the opportunity to explore one of the most advanced and unusual ancient civilisations.

The Terracotta Army will remain occupied in British Museum territory until the 6th April 2008. Tickets can be booked online... Don't just turn up or you will be queuing for hours.

The Great British Musical

Andrew Lloyd Webber stunts the growth of musical theatre, says his greatest critic, Lucy Harrold

Now is a great time to go and see a musical, especially if you think it's not for you generally, because of the vast number of "Jukebox Musicals" on at the moment. These are musicals consisting of songs by famous artists or groups put into a musical format, ranging from the cheesy and longest running- 'Mamma Mia!' to more rock orientated shows such as 'We Will Rock You' (the

Queen Musical) and the soon-to-open 'Desperately Seeking Susan' (based on the music of Blondie). Although I'm not a personal fan of this form of musical, they're at least a way of getting reluctant friends to a show.

In the past year there has also been a recent influx of new American musicals that have all had critical and financial success on Broadway. 'Avenue Q', 'Wicked' and 'Spamalot' all arrived last year, and having seen all three, each ap-

peals to a different type of person who would not normally like musicals.

Add to that 'Hairspray' which begins previews on October 11th following the success of the film version, and you're spoiled for choice. Yet everybody still insists they have to see 'Phantom of the Opera' or 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. Both of these play in theatres owned by the Lord himself, showing a false sense of security, as we cannot know how well his shows are doing. Yet there are many more shows in the West End, although few original scores.

There are also many more writers than Lloyd Webber, some well established such as Kander and Ebb ('Chicago') and new exciting imports from America such as 'Avenue Q' writers Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (-these guys also wrote the Scrubs musical episode!)

Ask most people in Britain to name a musical and they're guaranteed to answer with an Andrew Lloyd Webber- or rather a musical they think is by him. No matter how much he likes to make out, 'The Sound of Music' was NOT written by Andrew Lloyd Webber- neither was 'Les Miserables', or 'Miss Saigon'.

And even then, he only writes the music for his shows. Tim Rice or Don Black usually write the lyrics, so if it's those poetic words you like so much about 'Cats' (well that was T.S. Elliot) or 'Aspects of Love', that wasn't him either. It's not even as if he is the only Briton to have ever written a musical, Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' has been running for 19 years, and Richard O'Brien (that bald guy off 'Crystal Maze') wrote 'The Rocky Horror Show'- the ultimate Cult musical. So why is Webber seen as the saviour of the West End? And is his music really that great?

The responsibility for the success of the Lloyd Webber musicals actually lies with Cameron Mackintosh- the true saviour of British Musical Theatre. He produced all those big dramatic musicals from the eighties; Webber's 'Phantom', 'Joseph', 'Starlight Express' and 'Cats' as well as Boubil and Schönberg's 'Les Miserables' and 'Miss Saigon'. These were all high grossing but

not that favoured by critics, so many are left divided on the issue. If Mackintosh hadn't come along, Webber would never have had enough exposure to get things off the ground.

I must admit that not all Webber is bad, the second half of 'Jesus Christ

"Surely the point of furthering musical theatre is to try new and different ideas?"

Superstar' is pretty amazing. 'Evita' isn't bad and I have to love 'Starlight Express' for the cheese and sexual innuendo (it was also the second musical I ever saw). But in the case of decent musical score, 'JCS' was his second musical and 'Evita' his fourth. After this, it appears that Lloyd Webber just recycles his melodies with someone else adding new lyrics. Examples of

this include: "Close Every Door to Me" from 'Joseph' echoing Judas' betrayal and death from 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. "Love Changes Everything" is found in "I Believe My Heart" from 'The Woman in White' (Webber's latest musical and one of his only flops). "All I Ask of You" from Phantom takes its melody from "With One Look" from 'Sunset Boulevard'. I'm not saying there is anything wrong with these melodies, but surely the point of furthering musical theatre is to try new and different ideas?

So the future of British musical theatre is left in the hands of a man who has taken to finding his lead actors through reality television. Is this really what we want? It appears to be a comment on the style of his musicals- made for commercialism and popularity rather than artistic integrity. He's like the skinny jeans of the theatre world- everybody thinks they should wear them, but they really do nothing for you.

Go and see a proper musical. Hairspray opened last Thursday.



Suitably smug 'smug-shot' of our favourite musical man. Bastard



WARNING! The above image of the radiant Julie Andrews is NOT taken from an Andrew Lloyd Webber show

Student Art in Focus

This week: Rhapsody in Bog Roll, by Anonymous

In our new feature highlighting the buckets of artistic talent that surrounds us here at Imperial (a bit like air really) we would like to showcase some amateur art in our beloved Arts section.

The usual argument for supplying such joviality is implied thus: we, as scientists, are starved of culture and all things non-techie and we require some nutritious art-based snack to keep us going through our gruelling lives, outside of the everyday toil of lectures, labs and... well, not art basically.

And so this week we launch Student Art in Focus with a particularly breath-taking piece of photography from the nu-Ikea house of thought, it is believed.

This multi-layered piece is a groundbreaking mélange of symbolism. The

juxtaposition of the screwdriver, representing creativity, and the hammer representing destruction is not only homage to Soviet propaganda art but

"This multi-layered piece is a groundbreaking mélange of symbolism"

also a biting satire of the apathetic generation.

These themes are extended in the presence of the three pillars of modern disposable culture: newspapers, flat

pack furniture and toilet roll.

However, the critical reception for this work has been mixed to say the least, varying from "Unutterably ghastly" (The Guardian) to "Shite" (The Sun).

The artist was not deterred by such lacklustre comments and is currently in preparation for their next exhibition. Sources say the exhibition space used will be the turbine hall at the Tate Modern and close friends say that the artist is spending time researching at Argos.

Dr Picasso Jones

Dr Picasso Jones is a lecturer at the Knockdown Fittings University. His thesis was entitled: "On the Alluring Shades of Formica."



The piece of art in question: Rhapsody in Bog Roll

“Every man has a potential tache”

This is the wisdom of the Uncle Barry as Ling Ching Wong discovers off the West-End

Uncle Barry is a story about a working-class, middle-aged man who has the gumption to take on the single biggest career jump, at least considered by any one person, middle-aged or not – to Founder of State. Artfully conceptualized by playwright Sam Thomas, it is directed by Georgina Guy and produced by Ben Monks; both founders of their own production company Grey Light Productions. Performed at the Blue Elephant Theatre in Camberwell, the location and layout of the little Arts House was a memorable part of the entire experience.

Philip Brook is a very convincing Barry. He wears a stern grey moustache, a bleak-looking vest and mousy shoes, a close resemblance to that uptight, patriarchal male relative we all have in the family. Although without any hint of employment, Barry has great plans to set up his own state and garner respect and authority from his members (population of three). Brook gives the character of Barry a harsh, hard and stubborn quality, evoking emotions ranging from annoyance to pity as the audience gets to know him.

Uncle Barry finds companionship in his loyal buddy Mickey, played by the lovable Matthew Ward. Mickey has been, for lack of a better word, shoved into Barry's elaborate plan without much say himself. That broad stature,

booming voice and steely stare foil the meek and sentimental nature of Mickey. Ward wins the audience over with his tolerance for Barry's idiosyncrasies when his partner turns into a dictator. He surprises us by shedding a tear or two during the course of the play, in the most humorous way nonetheless.

“Barry has great plans to set up his own state and garner respect and authority from his members (population of three)”

The cast is also “fleshed out” by Pecks, Barry's adult nephew. Played by Lee Bane, he is like the rest of the cast – not as straightforward as our first impression. A wannabe ‘Becks’, he would probably work better as a Liverpoolian version of American rapper Eminem. Pecks is Mummy's prized (FHM-reading) son with a knack for solving conflicts between Mickey and Barry. Intelligence and diplomacy of this sort

hints at the complexity of his character, respectfully acted out by Bane.

The closeness of the stage meant audience members were sitting in Uncle Barry's living room, as he launches his state-building strategies. Props and lighting changes were modest but skillfully managed. The range of music played (and sung) contributed significantly to the overall entertainment factor and managed to conjure numerous laughs from the audience.

What touched me were the attitudes of the production team. The size and youth of the company gave me the opportunity to meet each one of them during pre- and post-performance drinks. The group was spirited and young, with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the process of production and the hard work involved.

Actors were very hands-on in preparing for their production, as Mickey and Pecks were spotted milling around the theatre during the earlier hours before the curtains rose. The crowd was made up of Grey Light Production enthusiasts and a few eccentrics with probable distant connections to independent theatre in London – people who probably found this night out in Camberwell just another day out in the park.

Uncle Barry graces the Blue Elephant theatre stage until the 20th October.



Uncle Barry (Philip Brook) and his ‘kidult’ nephew Pecks (Lee Bane)

Black holes and milking cows

Quantum physics and art? Go forth to the Science Museum and be enlightened, says Rosie Grayburn

It's our dream come true here at the Felix Arts desk! Science and art have finally been united by our favourite institution. The Science Museum (just round the corner...) has an on-going arts project scheme in which contemporary artists with perspectives on the past, present and future of science and technology exhibit their work in various mediums – film, sculpture, photography...

One of the largest projects is featured in the popular ‘Who Am I’ gallery (currently closed in order to fix all those over-used buttons on the ‘hands-on’ exhibits, including ‘The Great Sperm Race’), which includes the work of seven artists, exploring the themes of genetics, sexuality and identity. All exhibits are made by hand – pen, paint or cast iron – highlighting the individuality and skill of human beings; the key theme of this permanent exhibition.

Continuing along this drift, the newest addition to the museum's art portfolio is filmmaker Grace Weir's exhibition ‘In my own time’. Created during an artist's residency at St. John's College, Oxford, she shares what she has learnt from her unique surroundings with her audience. With the main themes of the exhibition of timekeeping, theoretical physics and Einstein, four very different films are presented in a suitably ‘black-hole’-like gallery.

As you walk in, the first screen on your right shows ‘Picture of the floating world’. With obvious Japanese undertones, Weir explores the idea of the passing moment. The photography is beautiful, following a woman passing time standing by a tree under the

blossom: a classic Japanese symbol. It sounds trivial but you really start to become aware of the landscape and time passing before your eyes in the most poetic way possible.

The film ‘A little bit of unknown’ is an interview with physicist Paul Tod focusing on one of the most fascinating phenomena in modern physics – the black hole. It cuts from his office to an observatory, teasing you with glimpses of far away constellations. What starts off as simple sharing of knowledge from scientist to artist turns into deep reflection on the sublime, unobtainable beauty of space through a telescope.

“You really start to be aware of the landscape and time passing before your eyes in the most poetic way possible”

Along a similar line is the animation ‘A deep field for the time deaf’. This is Grace Weir's first fully animated film and was inspired by photographs taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. She was fascinated to find out how long it takes for the light to reach our eyes from these far away bodies, so far



A still taken from A Deep Field for the Time Deaf. Twinkle, twinkle little galaxy... mmm Galaxy

away that the stars may have ceased to be by the time we see them. Putting you in mind of that popular nursery rhyme – you gawp as stars, like jewels, twinkle away for 20 minutes. It is quite a treat, especially seeing as the London sky doesn't ordinarily like to share these gems with us at night. The view you see is one not seen by the naked eye, but Weir wants us to look into the night sky and remember that we are looking into the past.

The title exhibit ‘In my own time’ is a slightly more practical film, as you watch the artist constructing various devices for timekeeping in her own home as she gives a commentary, spewing out facts regarding time and space; the main theme being that our modern methods for timekeeping are diverging from the natural movements of the earth.

As we watch a cow being milked, she tells us that before time was measured so strictly and followed (by most) so rigidly, time and space was measured in “the length of time it takes to milk a cow” or “the distance a medium-sized man throws a small stone”. As all this is relayed, you are very much captivated and relaxed by the motion of squeezing that cow's pink udders.

This exhibition is worth taking some time out to sit and reflect. I liked what it stood for. It said, Time is precious: take more time to appreciate what's around you... Take as long as you like. Or as long as it takes to milk a cow really, really slowly.

Grace Weir's exhibition runs until the 25th November. Go, chillax.

The Great Culture Crawl

Chapter Three – Theatres



The Donmar Warehouse, Covent Garden

The Donmar is another gem. Just a minute's walk from Covent Garden tube station, it is rather easy to miss being nestled between the trendy boutiques and bars of the beautifully cobbled Earlham Street. Conveniently opposite Belgo's Central - a bustling Belgian eatery serving a myriad of beers and other poisons and fantastic chips from my cultural heritage; a perfect place to discuss the virtues (or lack thereof) of the Donmar's latest offering.

The Donmar seats just over 200 so there is a very intimate, but by no means claustrophobic, feel to any show you see there. The Warehouse puts on new writing as well as contemporary reappraisals of classics, drama and a few musicals. One musical showing at the moment is 'Parade' (also reviewed in the previous edition of Felix, by yours truly). It was a credit to the production that even my musical-suspicious self liked it.

Upcoming productions that should not be missed include Shakespearean classic 'Othello' featuring Ewan McGregor as Iago and also Arthur Miller's 'The Man Who Had All The Luck'. If you have never heard of any of these names then get yourself to a theatre as soon as possible and be enlightened, entertained and impressed.

www.donmarwarehouse.com

The Bush Theatre, Shepherd's Bush

The biggest small theatre in London apparently! It puts on exclusively new writing theatre, i.e. all the productions come from new theatre writers, it maybe their first play or whose work is realised for the first time at the Bush. The theatre nurtures the work of writers from all backgrounds who write passionate and witty contemporary tales.

Only 34 years old, it is another easy one to miss being dwarfed by a large O'Neills on one side and Shepherd's Bush Empire on the other. The Bush is a very friendly theatre and one begins to recognise faces on subsequent visits. The Artistic Director a very sweet and welcoming woman. The Bush, although small and seemingly inconsequential, continues to attract talent such as Bob Hoskins and Kate Beckinsale. Last February, on a mission for this dear paper, I attended an extremely witty yet poignant play 'I Like Mine With A Kiss' ('mine' being the woman's eggs, but I had to wait until the closing scene to find that out!) I am always impressed with the acting talent in many of the smaller theatre companies and the Bush is no exception.

Coming soon - 'How To Curse', a modern take on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', set in Great Yarmouth about young people. Also, 'The Dysfunkshonalz', it's spelling reflective of the play's tale of punk, spilt blood, corporate sell-outs and a fellow named Billy Abortion. The theatre offers deals for the more financially disorganised or tight-fisted among us, such as four shows for fifty pounds. See website for more offers.

www.bushtheatre.co.uk

A West End Selection Box

Trying to fit all the major West End theatres onto this culture crawl would be a bit tricky in terms of trying to fit over 30 theatres onto two tube stops! So, I have chosen three which are showing some must-sees. Of course once one has come out of either tube station, one can't see for huge billboards adorning the front of the theatres - any theatre guide or map can hereby be discarded!

Her Majesty's Theatre in Haymarket is currently home to Lloyd Webber's classic musical 'The Phantom of the Opera'. If you are one with limited knowledge of musicals, let alone proper plays, then this is the one to see before you go anywhere near stage productions of 'West Side Story' or 'Grease'. A tragic love story, brilliant music and guaranteed to move you. The theatre, undergoing a few name changes along the way, is just over 300 years old and is seconds away from equally bountiful establishment TigerTiger (pfft). I jest; the club is a lot of fun and just as culturally void as a club should be.

Hop across a couple of streets to Shaftesbury Avenue and we arrive at the Palace Theatre where the hilarious 'Spamalot' is showing at the moment. Another musical, but a far cry off the gravity of The Phantom, this production is brimming with all the Monty Python humour we all know and love. Based on 'The Holy Grail', it has been deemed "funnier than the Black Death" by one U.S. magazine.

Named after the notable English playwright, the Noel Coward Theatre in St Martin's Lane gives us Avenue Q, the muppet musical. Exceedingly, gloriously politically incorrect, no one is spared in this comedy. Set in one of New York's less glamorous avenues, the play incorporates adult themes, strong language and sexual situations as conceptualised by puppets - hurrah! No under 4s please.

www.hermajestys.co.uk

www.palace-theatre-london.com

www.noel-coward-theatre.com



The Almeida Theatre, Angel

The Almeida finds itself in North Central London's trendy Angel district amongst a plethora of bars to choose for a pre- and post-theatre drink or two. Matt and Matt's bar on Upper Street (right out the tube) is a very chilled out place with a slightly Cuban/Latin feel to it, serving cocktails. You are also several stops from clubbing loci Farringdon (Turnmills and the infamous Fabric).

The Almeida seats about the same amount as the Donmar and with small theatres comes a completely different experience to what is served up in some of the larger West End theatres. For one, most of its productions are relatively unheard of to those not in the know, and the plays have a slightly more "arthouse" feel; that should in no way discourage you from sampling its delights. I had the pleasure of seeing my Mexican Adonis Gael Garcia Bernal ('Bad Education', 'Babel') in 'Blood Wedding' by Lorca.

Currently showing is 'Awake and Sing' featuring Stockard Channing, of 'Grease' fame, but do try and see 'Cloud Nine' later this month, directed by a highly talented Thea Sharrock who did a fantastic job on 'The Emperor Jones' at the National. It is set in colonial Africa (why oh why, do they never specify one of its 50 countries?!) and modern Britain, giving us a foray into same-sex sex, Queen Victoria and grandmothers—how can you resist?

www.almeida.co.uk



Written by Caz Knight, designed by Rosie Grayburn



The Bloomsbury Theatre, Euston

"Your local theatre in London," it is linked to UCL and offers a huge variety of shows covering comedy, drama, music and dance. With seats for over 500, there is plenty of leg-room to ensure a comfortable performance. Whether you are into opera, stand up comedy or dance there will always be something to interest you. The theatre puts on shows produced by twenty different companies per month, which is probably more than the average theatre in London!

The Bloomsbury has been the setting for notable comedians such as Lily Savage, Eddie Izzard, Ricky Gervais and Jimmy Carr in filming their DVDs. With a bar on both levels, the audience need not exert themselves too much. One can even order interval drinks in advance at a reduced price: wow! Canapés and light snacks are also offered. Those of you with a love of dance might want to see 'Transtango,' which brings the philosophy of the tango to a cosmopolitan London setting and combines video projection with the distinctive music associated with the dance.

Felix is trying to wrangle some press tickets to see this performance so watch out in future issues for its review. If not, beat us to it and see it for yourself. I'm sure many will remember the 'Horrible Histories' book series from their childhood (for those who don't, the series brings history in a comical and engaging way, through the medium of literature, to young 'uns). Unfortunately, the 'Awful Egyptians' and 'Ruthless Romans' are drawing to a close but it gives one an idea of the original type of theatre offered at the Bloomsbury.

'Othello' seems to be the toast of the theatrical town at the moment, as the Birmingham Stage Company performs a gripping rendition of the classic. From 13-19th October, tickets are ten pounds for students, a possibility for this weekend perhaps.

www.thebloomsbury.com

Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark

"Suth-ark" is where the Globe is situated, further east along the riverbank from the National Theatre. An absolute must to attend the theatre once frequented by the fans of theatre and literature's messiah (open to discussion) back in the Tudor times. A beautiful building recreated to what it would have been over 400 years ago, it is partially exposed from the elements with a thatched roof covering a percentage of the audience. The stage and seating are attractively made of wood.

Those viewing Shakespeare's plays (yes, one can only see Shakespeare here) standing will have to pray for no rain or fork out for a seat under the roof. Having experienced 'Macbeth' standing, one's enjoyment is increased by being closer to the actors and getting a very unique theatrical experience. Seats are also available in front of and indeed behind the stage—'The Gods' is where Queen Elizabeth would have sat to be seen. The Globe's shop (and bar) promises to further your enjoyment and understanding of the plays. Unfortunately the theatre's season ended but a few days ago on October 7th, so those keen to go will have to wait until the slightly warmer months. However tours are offered of the theatre, so log on to find out more.

www.shakespeares-globe.org



The National Theatre, Embankment

Don't be put off by the not-so-architecturally-pleasing concrete mass sitting on London's Southbank! Not your traditional design for a theatre and not even located in the West End! The National is a personal favourite and all misgivings you have on its exterior are extinguished upon entering this establishment. A short walk across the bridge and then along the river from Embankment station, the theatre is set amongst other distractions such as a permanent second hand book sale, free talks, the National Film theatre and a skate park, for those so inclined.

The National itself is home to three auditoriums (Olivier, Lyttleton and Cotteslowe) and puts on the classics, new plays and also musicals. Airy, with spaciouly high ceilings and modern, it offers a whole host of cafes, bars and restaurants selling sumptuous treats to keep you going through your show. While you wait, be entertained by a live band or stroll through the artwork on display throughout the theatre's foyers.

Never having been let down by the National in any way, I thoroughly recommend a visit in-lieu of any work you were planning to do. Past productions include 'History Boys' (featuring the original cast who went on to appear in the film) and 'The Emperor Jones' (reviewed in a previous Felix). It's forthcoming play 'War Horse' explores the roles of animals in war and begins later this month.

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

Next Week – Bookshops



Rugby Club freshers with seasoned veteran Luke Taylor. Can you spot the Council Chair too?

Does your club have more members than these guys? Prove it, pose here.

felix@imperial.ac.uk





Music

Music Editors – Jenny Gibson and Matty Hoban

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Matty Hoban
Music Editor

Hello is what someone would say to you upon greeting you. Now to put that word into context, I am going to greet you and say hello and welcome to the music section as it would normally appear. What I mean by that is that we have reviews and an interview for you to peruse.

First of all, Toby Prudden went to go see Foals live at Scala in North London and managed to have a quick word with them before they performed. Foals have featured members of Edmund Fitzgerald and Youthmovie Soundtrack Strategies who were (and in the latter case, are) staples of the underground music scene in this country over the past few years. Foals started off with three guitarists and utilised this to have interweaving arpeggiated guitars with taut drums. One guitarist was replaced with a keyboardist and they expanded on their drummer's more upbeat style to produce polyrhythmic riffs with a four-to-the-floor backbeat. They have, through constant touring and hard work, attained quite a following.

Thank you to all of those who signed up to write, photograph, or edit Felix at Freshers' Fayre. We, as a section, will be getting in touch but if you want to come meet us then come to the union at 12:30 on Friday 12th October (ie. today); talk about short notice. You can always e-mail us or come down to the Felix office in the West Wing of Beit Quad at any time (well, sensible hours) to find out more.

We would love to have as many reviews as possible or any form of contribution. You can swag some interviews with bands you like, free CDs and free entry into gigs that we get offered. It's all FREE, and you don't need to prove anything other than your enthusiasm and willingness to get involved. I don't get paid to do this, nor does Jenny, so we are fuelled on poor enthusiasm (and blood).

Also for those who don't know much about how the music industry works, i.e. public relations, getting a record deal, putting out a record and publishing, then I will use this column to (sometimes cynically) explain the inner workings of the business of music. Appreciation of music is relative and only by having as many different reviews from as many people as possible can we get a greater picture or appreciation. However, the mechanisms and workings of the music industry are, for the most part, fact and strewn with human influence (hence my cynicism) that can be commented.

There may not be a music section every week depending on how much material and/or time we have. It would be wonderful if anyone would be willing to take over as music editor as both Jenny and I are in our final years. If you are interested in learning more about the inner workings of getting gigs and free CDs or how to lay-out a page in a newspaper then please e-mail us. Or if you want to just chat then get in touch.

Foals are young stallions

Various pathetic equine jokes aside, Foals are rising stars and have survived the hype around nu-rave because luckily they have a strong history in the UK underground

Toby Prudden

Foals lead singer and guitarist Yannis Philippakis took a few minutes to talk to Music Felix before the gig at the Scala (reviewed overleaf) to answer some of our questions.

Felix – You're on a headline tour at the moment – how is it going? Is it very tiring? You're all very energetic on stage...

Yannis – Yes, I'm very tired.

But you still keep going?

Yeah, I got in a fight in Reading where I got my earring pulled out of my ear, and I've got an ulcer. Our guitarist chipped his tooth, our bassist has two black eyes and that's all just from the last four days!

There's not going to be any cancelling of dates though?

No - there's no 'Plan B' for us!

You've just recorded your new album (with Dave Sitek of TV on the Radio in New York), which I'm very excited about. What was it like working with Dave?

(Jokingly) pretty unpleasant.

Did he push you hard?

It was just a big ego clash!

Hopefully he knows what he's doing though...

Yeah, he does. He's a good friend of mine now.

Any idea of a release date?

March sometime. There'll be some stuff released off it before, some singles and things.

New songs?

Well, Balloons is the first single, and that's an old one, but after that, yeah.

Why did you decide not to put some of your older songs on the album? Have you moved on from them?

Yeah, we always like to progress. We write prolifically, so it doesn't make sense to keep re-releasing the same songs. I don't like albums where you've heard four of the songs before because then it doesn't feel like an album, it's just a collection of songs!

I've noticed listening to your older songs on the demos that there's a big difference between them and your new singles...

You think so? Really?

Definitely! Not only in the style, where I assume you didn't have much in the means of production facilities available at the time, but also structurally some of your songs like 'Hummer' have changed a lot from the demos.

Well, we recorded that demo in a barn for free!

So have the songs changed because you couldn't record them as you wanted to when you started, or have they evolved as you played them live into something different?

Definitely both. We always want to



This is not a joke, I literally could not find a big enough picture of the band and this photo is really pretty

progress, so I don't ever want to write a song that sounds like Hummer ever again. Not because I don't like it, but because I don't find the idea of stagnancy enjoyable, and I don't understand why some bands do!

So do you think that if you were still playing in five years' time you would still play the 'classics' live, or would you be the kind of band that only plays the new album?

"I think a live set is just meant to be relentless and in your face and energetic and violent"

Yeah, the live thing is different, I like doing everything live. I think a live set is just meant to be relentless and in your face and energetic and violent, and that will always be like that. I'm interested in making records, and I think the live experience is something that is pretty much divorced from that and they are two very separate arenas in which I perform. I enjoy both equally, but the progression of the idea of what Foals is as a band is like a recorded thing. Live it is always going to have this energy. I hope so anyway!

You're supporting Bloc Party on

their arena tour. Are you nervous? Excited?

I get nervous when I leave my house so I'm used to that! But yes, I do get nervous.

Do you see yourself ever headlining venues that size?

No, not that size!

Let me ask you about Youthmovies – you're good friends with them...

Yeah, best friends! Andrew (Youthmovies' lead singer/guitarist) is my best friend.

Have you heard their album yet? Have they given you a copy?

Yeah, I have.

What's it like? Give us the inside information!

(Jokingly) Pretty rubbish!

Nothing like as good as yours I suppose?

No, it's good! He is my best friend in the whole world – I'd take bullets for him!

Can you see a joint tour coming in the future?

Yeah, possibly.

After your last band, 'The Edmund Fitzgerald', split up you said it was because it wasn't fun anymore. Do you ever see that happening with Foals? Could you just get bored with this and want to do something completely different? Could

you just drop it all and move on?

Yeah, definitely. If it got boring or if it wasn't fulfilling or I felt like we hadn't achieved what we should have then I would stop. There is so much different stuff I want to do other than this, and it's the same for all of us. Our next record might just be 'Cello and drums, no guitars – but it will still be Foals. I think there is something intrinsic to it that will always be there, but the textures and the way we produce sounds might be completely different. I find it really weird when people say 'I can't believe you put brass on your record' or 'I can't believe there's no synths on it' – because there isn't any. Why should you be so offended with the way we produce sounds? It will still sound like us!

How would you do that live? If the new songs have got brass on them will you get a brass section to tour with you?

I don't know, we have to try and sort that out.

You have said before that you write songs for people to dance to. Would you write a song that you couldn't dance to? A ballad maybe?

Absolutely! There are songs on the album you can't dance to.

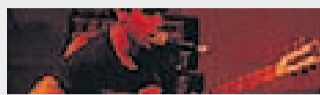
Ok, thanks for taking the time to talk to us.

No problem!

Foals are signed to Transgressive Records and are touring

Foals live and Sum 41's new album reviewed

Live Review



Foals
Scala
★★★★☆

This week Felix was sent on a mission to see Foals, an up-and-coming band some of you may know and the rest of you will undoubtedly know soon. They have been called the 'best new live band in the UK', so Felix was understandably excited before the gig about seeing them.

They play dance-influenced music which is percussion-led and features high-pitched, technically complex guitars parts which provide the melodies along with occasional synths and keys. The support band were 'Metronomy', an electro outfit who were great fun to watch. They all wore touch activated lights on their chests which were used in synch with their fun dance act to provide an interesting viewing spectacle to go with the foot-tapping beats and synths they played. Unfortunately the crowd was not yet in the mood for dancing, but I would definitely keep an eye out for a headline tour from them in the future which would be well worth checking out. Before coming on to play, Foals appeared on-stage and did their own soundcheck, which is unusual for a band of their size, leading some in the audience to become disappointed thinking they had already started, but it wasn't long until they arrived onstage 'properly' to rapturous applause before launching into their traditional intro song.

This started as a purely instrumental song which layered up sounds in a cacophony of noise until it was stripped down to a frenetic beat and tune which set the pace for the rest of the show. Crowd favourites 'Balloons' and 'The French Open' were dispersed with early on, and a lot of new songs from their newly-recorded debut album were also included. A personal highlight for me was 'Two Steps Twice' – an old song of theirs during which the whole crowd seemingly danced as one during the climax which was a perfect blend of a sing-along chorus and irrepressible beats. The band were always moving around while playing – seemingly battling with their guitars for prime stage space, wielding them highly strung like weapons being jerked around the stage.

The mostly young crowd – possibly influenced by the band's recent appearance on Channel 4's 'Skins' – are rabid for more of the 'classics', and are duly rewarded for their enthusiastic reception to the new songs with fan-favourite 'Mathletics', whose furious tempo leaves everyone exhausted. The band then finish off a relatively short set with the incendiary 'Hummer' which leaves everyone wanting more. The guitarist, Jimmy, then re-appears back on stage apologetically saying "I guess you guys are expecting an encore, but we're a new band and we don't have any more songs!". The crowd is disappointed, but then the rest of the band re-emerge and tell us "this is a new one and we've never played it live before – so it might be sh*t". It isn't, and provides a fittingly euphoric end to an exhausting evening of non-stop dancing and singing which I look to forward to repeating again the next time they tour!

Toby Prudden



Top left and right: Foals from differing angles. Bottom: Sum 41 looking brooding

Album Review



Sum 41
Underclass Hero (Island)
★★★★☆

You could be mistaken for thinking that 'Underclass Hero' is Deryck Whibley's first solo venture; Whibley alone graces the cover (with spit delightfully hanging down from his mouth), Whibley alone is accredited almost the entire music and lyrical content and the first in line in the thank-yous is his wife and punk-pop starlet Avril Lavigne.

However, 'Underclass Hero' is Sum 41's fourth album. The opening track on the album is the title track 'Underclass Hero'. It sounds scarily similar to phenomenally popular 'Fat Lip' from 2001's 'All Killer No Filler' that is arguably the prime reason for the mainstream success that they have received. Perhaps they tried to use the same winning formula, but unfortunately ended up with pretty much the same song. Next up is 'Walking Disaster', which

just seems to re-emphasise that Sum 41 haven't really moved on. It's all a bit too emotional – hating your dad, your parents not caring, etc. Not only that, but it is has striking similarities to a speeded-up version of Blink-182's 'Adam's Song.'

'Count Your Last Blessings' however is where Sum 41 launch the energy-charged and catchy material that they are known for. Combining the fast lyrics and drumbeat with gently and slow repetitive piano they seem to have come upon a winning combination. Unfortunately, despite this track, the album takes a turn for the worse with 'Ma Poubelle' perhaps because it's one of only two songs co-written with slightly odd-ball drummer Stevo; Whibley was presumably obliged to accept some sort of contribution from other band-members.

I knew that I would like this album before I had even heard it. Perhaps it was my under-developed teenage music taste that has still now left me susceptible to the cheesy punk-pop charm of Sum 41.

This is definitely an album for those that loved Sum 41 the first time round and the kiddies that were never there the first time round. Sum 41 is touring England this October and will no doubt play a winning combination of new and old material alike.

Jenny Gibson

NME Student Quiz

In a search of Britain's Brainiest University, the UK's favourite weekly music magazine will be testing students across both music and general knowledge to reveal where the most intelligent young minds are studying this year. Students need to go to www.nme.com/students to take part in the quiz, then compare themselves with other students nationwide. The overall winning student gets £500 along with any other prizes dish out.

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The debate: nature versus nouriture

Felix examines whether food as a science is a valid concept or whether you just need the finest ingredients

Noel Forrest

I decided to get over-analytical when I read recently that Heston Blumenthal, proprietor of the world's 'best' restaurant (poll of 600 journos and critics), The Fat Duck in Bray, Berkshire, had overdosed his head chef with chilli oil in an attempt to locate the neural correlate of the pleasure derived from 'hot' (NOT the same thing as 'spicy') food. That is, which part of the brain was affected, and might subsequently be targeted. Because it seems to me this approach contrasts somewhat with the philosophy another Michelin three-star winner, Marco Pierre White, spoke of on Hell's Kitchen. As we watched Marco casting for and netting a beautiful fish, we heard him saying a chef should "let mother nature do the talking", and that their role is to simply reveal Her beauty, rather than attempt to improve on Her. In the name of the 80:20 rule (without getting too bogged down in how well I portray these immense achievers and their central philosophies), I will now give my tuppence-ha'penny's worth on the matter; because there is a difference, and I believe it's a rather important one.

The difference, I suspect, is the same as the difference between attempting to engineer our planetary environment using man's machines, and simply living harmoniously with the rest of life, which maintain the conditions on earth fit for human life as an emergent property of the earth system. Because the biosphere is surely the best life-support system we will ever have.

It is the same difference, let me go on, as between excessive genetic engineer-

ing of our offspring, and relying on our sense of beauty and love to guide us through our lives. Because we will never fully be able to calculate for certain whom we should procreate with, and at what time. It's heroic to live a full life in the face of non-total knowledge.

Thirdly and finally, I say it is the same difference as between again relying on external 'chemical' stimulants to feel we are fully alive, and doing truly human things to make us happy – the humanness judged with reference to beliefs about the way our minds work, springing from knowledge of evolutionary theory. After all, we are humans aren't we?

As any good scientist knows, nature can simply be defined away as "what happens anyway"; and of course there is no clear dichotomy between the chemical and the organic (what about organic chemistry!). So yes, use science to improve cooking techniques and understand the pleasure derived in terms of brain processes and the biology of visual aesthetics. However, here is my point: We are fools if we think we should part from our own human nature, or can improve on Mother Nature. As my hero E. O. Wilson ends his book, *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge* (the best book I have ever read; utterly life changing; far better than Dawkins;

read it), "What does it all mean? This is what it all means. To the extent that we depend on prosthetic devices to keep ourselves and the biosphere alive, we will render everything fragile. To the extent that we banish the rest of life, we will impoverish our own species for all time. And if we should surrender our genetic nature to machine-aided rati-

ocination, and our ethics and art and our very meaning to a habit of careless discursion in the name of progress, imagining ourselves god-like and absolved from our ancient heritage, we will become nothing."

So I'm in MPW's camp, but happy to be proved wrong, Heston, if there's any danger I could get a table?



Marco Pierre White: The devil in the kitchen



Heston Blumenthal: The kitchen chemist

Recipes: Bruschetta and tea – you'll eat what we tell you to and you'll like it

An acceptable cup of tea



I was tempted to call this the 'perfect' cup of tea, but that would be to over-hype a process so simple that it pains me that you don't do it.

It actually hurts me to see a teabag fondled with a spoon in a 'flash-stewing' attempt. Expect to be judged when I come over for a cuppa.

You have been warned!

- 1) Put teabag in preferably warm mug.
- 2) Fill to brim with just-boiled water.
- 3) *Leave for three minutes.*
- 4) Remove bag with minimal squeezing, creating room for the milk.
- 5) Add milk and sugar to taste, or a slice of lemon. Mine's a milk no sugar, please.

Cheat's bruschetta

This popular Italian dish should ideally be cooked over charcoal in the summer but, failing that, a grill will do fine. Extra Virgin olive oil (from the first cold pressing) has a more peppery flavour and works better than plain olive in lightly cooked Italian dishes such as this but the latter will also do fine here. Great as a snack any time of day.

You'll need the following:
 3 very ripe tomatoes
 1 small clove of garlic, finely chopped
 1 tbsp of olive oil, plus some to drizzle
 Basil (optional), chopped
 salt and pepper to season
 2 slices bread

- 1) Chop the tomatoes roughly and cook in a pan with the tablespoon of olive oil for 3-4 minutes, stirring round until they are heated through. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 2) In the meantime, drizzle a small amount of olive oil over



Here's one we made earlier, photographed and then ate

the bread and toast until brown under the grill on both sides (the oil will make a bit of a mess of a toaster).

3) Chuck the chopped basil in with the tomatoes and heat through.

Serve on the toasted bread.

This recipe serves 1 and takes approximately 5 minutes to prepare, 5 minutes to cook and only costs 40p per portion. So you have no excuse. Try it now!

See it

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Venue: **Holiday Inn Kensington Forums, Cromwell Road, Kensington, SW7 4DN**

Date: **23rd October 2007**

Time: **18:30. To register for this event please log onto
<http://www.shell.co.uk/careers/presentations>**

Achieving more together





Cleaning up fashion

The oxymoron of ethical fashion, is it all hemp and mung beans?

It's challenging to live an ethical lifestyle, ethical clothing and fashion don't necessarily go together. Most people don't want to buy clothing made in a sweatshop. But that doesn't mean they want to spend £100 on a hemp and organic cotton sweater. It's difficult to find ethical clothes that are fashionable and leave you enough cash to eat.

Despite growing demand for ethical clothing, high street shops pay their factory workers pittance. However they're happy to give £3 Million to Kate Moss for ripping off the clothes in her wardrobe. It seems naive to blame Kate Moss for the pittance factory workers get paid, however she is a symptom of how little companies value branding their clothes sweatshop-free.

It's true, that were Kate Moss and all the CEOs, to decrease their wages and increase the wages of their workers, the world might be a happier place. But there doesn't seem to be any will to do this. It's easy for clothing companies themselves to pass their responsibility to the governments of the countries they produce in.

Some companies claim that they're being ethical by paying the minimum wage in the country they produce in. However globalisation pressurises countries to reduce the minimum wage to below the living wage level. If they don't decrease their wages, the companies go elsewhere. They have a choice; wages that keep people locked into poverty, or unemployment. The country with the best exchange rate, and the lowest standards wins. If wag-

es were raised above the market rate, then it would be a distortion of the free market. But poverty isn't something the market should compete on. Ideally every country should have the living wage as it's minimum wage, but this is unlikely to be enforced in reality.

If companies were to raise the wages of their factory workers higher than the market rate, they'd have to decrease wages elsewhere or raise the price of their clothes and be less competitive.

But if the will is there, it is possible to pay a fair wage and make a profit, as proved by American Apparel. A sweatshop-free, vertically-integrated company, American Apparel sells American style basics like T-shirts at decent prices. Because American Apparel is vertically-integrated, with factories located in Los Angeles near the main corporate building, it's easy to monitor standards for garment workers.

Since most multinational companies outsource to factories across the world, it's difficult to monitor how much workers are actually being paid and working standards in their factories. The problem doesn't just lie with the companies not paying higher wages to factories. Many factory owners earn a comfortable amount while their workers struggle with a below-living wage. Some factories keep two wage-books, one shown to companies inspectors, and one with workers actual wages. Others keep workers overtime and then refuse to pay them.

The workers are often in a desperate situation and are forced to accept below-living wages because of their

circumstances. Any attempts to form unions usually result in being fired from jobs which these workers are dependent on.

Maybe it's just a case of consumer demand. As people become more aware of the conditions facing clothing factory workers, perhaps demand will grow for sweatshop-free clothes. At present most ethical clothing brands charge a premium for being sweatshop-free. When there's a choice between an ethical pair of jeans costing £100 by Edun (Bono's ethical clothing range), and a pair of high street jeans costing £30, a lot of people can't afford to be ethical.

With Jane Shepherdson (the architect of the rise of Topshop) joining the ethical brand People Tree maybe ethical brands will start getting a bit more market-friendly. Whilst People Tree's ethical policy is great, the collections are static and look like something a traveller (not tourist) who follows a macrobiotic diet would wear. There's a growing gap in the market for affordable, fashionable sweatshop-free clothes, waiting to be exploited.

For the Let's Clean Up Fashion report and to join the email campaign calling on the government to regulate companies, check out www.waronwant.org

Worst offenders:

Bhs, Diesel, House of Fraser, Kookai, Matalan, MK One, Moss Bros, Mothercare, Peacocks/Bon Marche, River Island, Rohan Designs, Ted Baker.

Spring RTW 2008

Lanvin



Miu Miu



High Fashion
Hotness



Balencia, £ silly money

Must Consume



Panel Box Bag (with chain)
£25, Topshop

Model of the week

Valentine Filloi





Games

Games Editors – Azfarul Islam and Sebastian Nordgren

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Azfarul "Az" Islam
Games Editor

Take a deep breath, ladies and gents. If you can't smell it, then your nose is probably red, sore and runny already. That means pretty much one thing: winter has cometh.

Normally, this heralds the most derided of times. Who would want to leave the warm, snug sanctity of their beds in order to trudge through sharp, icy winds that bite at your face with malice? Wouldn't you rather bask in the reassuring glow of your TV or monitor while partaking in an intense shoot-out. With a mug of hot chocolate getting colder on your desk, of course.

See, winter is really a glorious time of the year for any gamer worth their memory card. The slow summer season transitions into an autumn that's usually marked by a few peerless games – in this case, we've been blessed by the one-two knockout combination of *BioShock* and *Halo 3* – a near-ultimate culmination of brains and brawn in pretty much one go. And that *Metroid Prime 3* didn't go unscathed by praise.

But don't start looking forward to the piddling interest rates offered by NatWest; you'll need to keep that cashcard warm and working. This is the time of year when developers pat themselves on the back and let years of hard work, broken whips and fair treatment violations come to fruition. Throughout the next few months we'll be treated to a deluge of awesome videogames that will redefine the industry as we've known it, or at least make us grin with unrestrained glee.

This week, Sebb explodes with excitement as the PC receives a dose of unadulterated joy with the likes of the impossibly gorgeous *Crysis*, the comically genius *Team Fortress 2* and more. I'm not normally a PC gamer, but I have to say that *Team Fortress 2* really appeals to the side of me that adores artistic titles like *Shadow of the Colossus* or *Psychonauts*. Amazingly, the game comes lovingly bundled with some rather fantastic titles that are worthy enough on their own. The price? Well, you'll have to read the article to find out!

Felix Games also shows other sections that not all the stuff we write is made up during moments of pure delirium: we do that reporting thingamajiggy as well. This time around, you'll find out how the British Championship Gaming Series Final went down at Bromley. It's interesting to observe how a gargantuan mainstream media outlet like SkyOne interpret a passionate pastime. There's obviously some smoke and mirrors involved, but we've prodded enough to see that there's definitely potential in a concept that has steadily been gaining popularity on the other sides of the pond. We iz journalists, after all.

Our commitment to the Indie gaming scene is as strong as ever as we check out yet another addicting gem – the rather humorously named *Bloxorz*.

Hope to see you start writing for Felix as well!



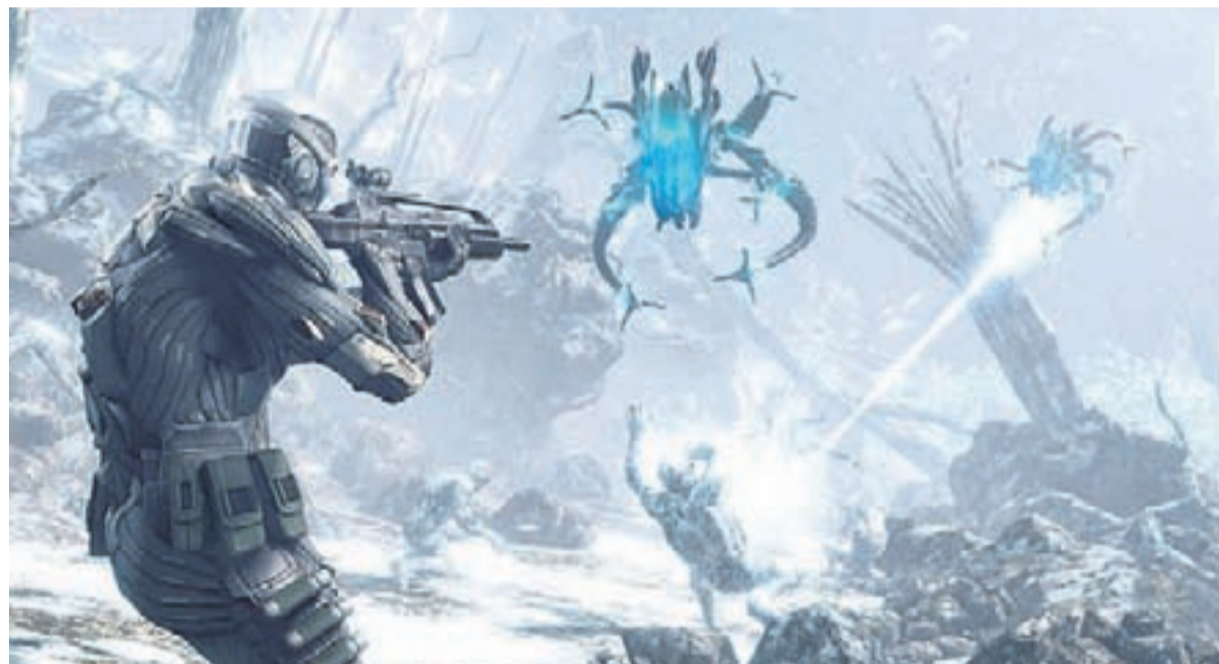
Q4 '07: A PC gaming story

Sebastian Nordgren is here to remind you that the fight's hardly finished

It's that wonderful time of the year when student loans have just come through and are sitting in your bank account, mocking you with their existence, and the games industry thinks it's fair to release three-quarters of the triple-A titles in the same month. While we at Felix fully believe in financial responsibility, we also know that we'll be surviving on beans on toast for the next couple of months after the gaming feast being served up in what is known as the pre-holiday season, or simply as Q4 2007.

While Valve's always been known for being rather generous with their offerings, packaging *Counter-Strike Source* with *Half-Life 2* and bundling *Day of Defeat Source* with the game of the year edition – *The Orange Box* is just a bit ridiculous. Included are (deep breath): *Half-Life 2, Episode One, Episode Two, Portal* and *Team Fortress 2*. If you're of the type that reads reviews, you'll know that that's a combined total of around 470% of amazing gaming. And, for what you're getting, it's a bargain as well, costing only US\$40 (about £20 – Az Ed.). No questions, just buy it – even more so if you haven't already played HL2 or Episode One.

If you haven't seen a trailer of *Crysis*, do that first and come back after. Go on. Done? You didn't do it, did you? No, didn't think so. Then you'll just have to take our word for it – *Crysis* is so beautiful that it makes real life look like it could use a few more pixel shaders. Rumours have it that the name comes from a combination of the first reactions people have when they see it – they cry wonderfully-rendered tears of joy, and they despair at the impending financial crisis of upgrading their computer to be able to smoothly run the game at full detail. Our advice for you, dear reader, is not to be foolish and buy a new computer to run *Crysis*, because it won't. Also, the game features live (and hence killable) chickens. Our prediction is that it will replace 'cs_italy' as the premier chicken-killing



Words fail to describe how freakin' awesome *Crysis* looks

simulator available.

Infinity Ward have firmly established themselves as one of the biggest developers around, and it's with a sense of excitement that we look forward to the modern warfare version of *Call of Duty*. It's looking like a *Battlefield*-killer in multiplayer, with impeccable balance and perks that allow you to do all sorts of cool stuff, but as always with *Call of Duty* – the single-player is where we'll be. *Call of Duty* does war better than anyone else, and it's a safe bet that this will be the closest you'll get to Iraq without wearing camouflage.

With all the other games being shooters, it's good to get a bit of variation with a (wait for it) shooter RPG. *Hellgate: London* is set in our beloved city after it's been invaded by the forces of Hell, creating a festering pit of evil, carnage and other bad stuff (so not all that different, then). Created by the team that made *Diablo 2* the addictive force it is, *Hellgate* looks to single-

handedly resurrect the online randomly generated dungeon crawl genre. Good money is on the titular hellgate being located in South Kensington, between the Natural History Museum and Royal Albert Hall.

And another non-shooter, would you believe it? *World in Conflict* is an original take on the RTS genre, doing away with everything that doesn't involve blowing stuff up. No resource management, no base building and no formations. The concept practically clamours for the game to be played cooperatively, with each player choosing a specialization (air, infantry, etc.) and then using regenerating resources to buy units and tactical aids. God, that almost sounds like something an actual magazine might write, so here's the kicker – there's nukes. Big, pretty nukes.

Back to the shooters, then. *Unreal Tournament III* is actually the fourth *Unreal Tournament*, but Epic have

chosen to forget the rather awkward *Unreal Tournament 2003*. This one does away with some of old gameplay modes and replaces them with WARFARE OR SOMETHING RATHER, an amalgamation of *Onslaught* and *Assault*, with a bit of *Bombing Run* thrown in for good measure. The new iteration promises bigger, stompier robots, while still retaining the classic deathmatch feeling that made the original *Unreal Tournament* a classic. For deathmatch purists, Epic promises that the movement has been made less floaty than *Unreal Tournament 2004*, with feet planted firmly on the ground most of the time. Don't worry, dodges are still in.

Amongst a metric assload of great games, it's easy for games like *Enemy Territory: Quake Wars* to be overlooked. Although it does borrow some things from its Quake namesake, don't be deceived. This is more *Battlefield 2* than *Quake 4*, creating an interesting amalgamation of the objective-based gameplay of *Enemy Territory* and vehicle-based *Battlefield*. It's a game that is played at a frantic pace, but with none of the glitches associated with the *Battlefield* series. For people who thought that *Battlefield 2* was too slow, this is the game you've been waiting for.

Also, while we're at it, you DID buy *BioShock*, right? If you haven't, go buy it. I mean, it's been 2 months, why haven't you got it yet? So, there you go – even the most skint of you will find something to spend your hard-earned (hah!) student loan money on in the upcoming pre-holiday season.



PC Gaming's back... and he's brought some friends

Championship Gaming Series: The UK Finals

Sebastian Nordgren

In a move that put the cart before the horse, SkyOne's *Championship Gaming Series Finals* emphasized television broadcasting quality over the purity of the competition and the gamers themselves. In the recent CGS UK finals at 3 Mills Studios in Bromley, there was a lot of talk about atmosphere, glamour and excitement, but little to no quality gaming. Despite the abundance of talent present in the studio, spread across 4 different games, with nearly all of the UK's best players present at the event, the CGS's pared-down rules and TV-friendly format compromised the principles of fair play and proving, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the winner deserved to win.

With an impressive studio setup; good hosts (MTV's Emma Griffiths and Dave Berry); a decent-sized audience for the remote location; a great commentating team (gaming commentating stalwart ReDeYe, Quake 4 professional 2GD and a few of Sky's own professional sports commentators); and even glamour model Keeley Hazell acting as ring-side girl, I expected the CGS to impress me more than any of the other tournaments I had attended in the past. However, after an hour's wait, my expectations were shattered as the evening's first contest-

ants stepped up to the Xboxes, mounted on lit podiums front and centre, to play FIFA07. Then they walked back and sat down again. And again, until finally the producers were happy. Keeley Hazell stepped up, asked the contestants if they were ready and then blew a whistle – applause was cued and the audience went wild.

My soul sank as I realized that this wasn't competitive gaming as I knew it. There was no soul to the pro-

ceedings towards the gamers. They were all here for a shot at a professional contract – being paid a salary for playing games, what more could you want? But simultaneously, they looked dismayed that these were the circumstances – where luck and a guy behind the camera had more to do with success than actual skill.

With all the finals having been played, with mostly predictable results, the draft was to follow, but the audience

continued, back and forth, each manager getting 2 picks each turn, until 20 players had been drafted – 5 for Counter-Strike Source, 2 for Project Gotham Racing 3, 1 for FIFA 2007, 1 male and 1 female Dead or Alive 4 player for each team.

This was supposed to be a rivalry, but with shooting time limited, the match-up between Salvo and Mint was the next day, bringing into question the idea of there being a significant

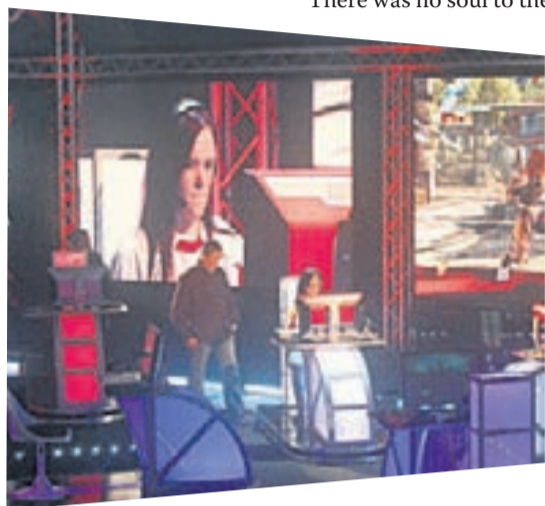
leaving Birmingham Salvo in dire straits, requiring their Counter-Strike squad to win by absolute blow-out for Salvo to come out overall champions.

Unfortunately, Mint squad 4Kings had been underperforming all week and had finally found their stride – and with the whole audience's loud support, they stormed on to an early lead, which they then held until the end, leaving Birmingham Salvo devastated. Overall team scores: 31-19 in favour of the Mint.

While it's hard to argue that the event was a failure, its successes had little to do with the hosts or "cyber babe" Keeley, nor with the rehashed rule set, but everything to do with actual excitement about the results.

The gaming was exciting, and the ooh's and aah's during matches were

real, not cued by a guy with a headset. The question that needs answering if the Championship Gaming Series is to continue is not "how do we make this event more spectacular?" but "aren't we forgetting the games?" With events like QuakeCon, the Electronic Sports World Cup and the Cyberathlete Professional League all drawing large numbers of spectators without resorting to TV antics and faked applause, the CGS is approaching the sport from the wrong angle. A free piece of advice for the executives at the CGS – make the gaming exciting and the spectators will follow.



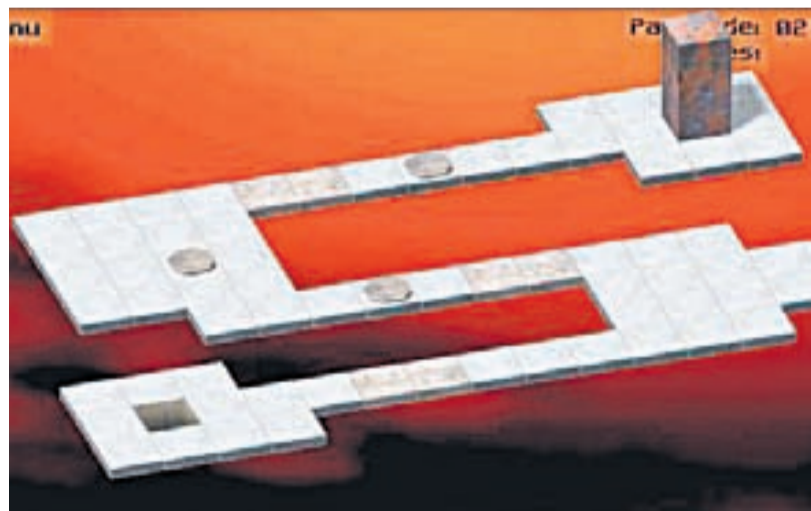
ceedings; it was all optimized for normal punters who couldn't tell Halo apart from Counter-Strike. The FIFA match was over in 5 minutes – no best-of-3 was played as is usual for the game, and the time limit was half of what it usually is. ChrisyB had won, Bazza looked disappointed, but they were given a cursory interview and then ushered off.

The day continued in much the same pattern, with gamers being brought up and with their duties performed, shown the door. The producers reigned supreme here, with rules arbitrarily changed for better watchability, with utter disregard for the fairness of the

was tired, hungry and thirsty, having sat in the studio without any breaks for 3 hours. A short break was called, and the atmosphere was restored going into the draft. This was the main event of the evening, where 20 players were to earn a spot on one or the other of the teams – the Birmingham Salvo or the London Mint – and a contract. Sujoy Roy, the London team's manager and founder of ESReality.com and Omega Sektor LAN centre in Birmingham, had the first pick and chose ChrisyB, the UK's premier FIFA player. Michael O'Dell, manager of both Salvo and the dignitas professional gaming team, then made 2 choices, and so it

team element to the proceedings. Mostly, the UK team final would be a repeat of yesterday's matches, since with few exceptions the players in the individual finals had been drafted. The repeated match-ups all produced predictable results – essentially repeats of the previous day's bouts, but the FIFA match turned out to be a thriller. With underdog Bazza taking an unexpected lead against strong favourite ChrisyB late into the game, only to be tied up in the very last seconds, and then losing in a penalty shootout, this was true competition. Individual men's DOA4 champion Messy ended up being defeated by long-time rival Padaman,

Bloxorz are teh roxxorz



Azfarul Islam

Trying to match a peg to the correctly shaped hole was probably a harrowing experience as a toddler unless you were a prodigal wunderkind, or just plain lucky. *Bloxorz* channels the spirit of this noble task of old but with myriad spicy twists.

The objective is to manipulate a standard oblong block such that it gently falls through a conveniently placed hole. Note the word 'conveniently'. The crux of the challenge lies in actually transporting the block itself; there are obstacles and impediments abound. This requires a good deal of spatial

awareness and perception, although random luck (as before) can work miracles sometimes. A combination of switches, bridges and other wondrous devices including the fact that you can fall off the edge all too easily are there to stay your progress. It can get quite addicting as you try to figure out the correct path for each stage – maddeningly, there can be quite a few. This is easily the kind of game that you'll relish in replays and particularly have a blast with when solving with friends.

Play Bloxorz at <http://www.albinblacksheep.com/games/bloxorz>

Lessons in Japanese – Nintendo Wii style



It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye



Take care of you Wii, and it'll take care of you



What to do after your Wii warranty ends, Chapter 4



If Microsoft ever took over Japan...

stand!

Council & Trustee Board Elections 2007

Places are available for both Undergraduate and Postgraduate positions from Engineering, Medicine & Natural Sciences faculties plus non-faculty positions.

We are also looking for two student members of our new **Trustee Board.**

Look online for more information at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

Nominations close 23:59 Sunday 14th October

what's this trustee board?

The Union Trustee Board is the governing body of the Union and consists of the President, Council Chair, Court Chair, 4 student trustees and 4 lay members who are not members of the Union but have expertise in areas such as health and safety, finance and management. The Trustee Board meets roughly six times per year to ensure that the Union is being run well and it does this by scrutinising the work of the Council and the Executive Committee.

Challenge the Sabbs

Sabbs Clubs & Socs 0

(and felix)*

The Introduction

Send your challenges to felix@imperial.ac.uk

*when we're short of Presidents

The Sabbs



Kirsty "hippy" Patterson

Approachability 9
Smileyness 10
Fluffiness 65%
Education N/A

Catchphrase:
A cup of tea solves everything!



Chris "The Embryo" Larvin

Income 7
Expenditure 10
Fluffiness 17.5%
Thievery 8

Catchphrases:
No!
Certainly not!



Tomo "The Chav" Roberts

Words-per-min 10
Wit
Fluffiness
Neutrality

Catchphrase:
Keep the cat
Do well.



"The Beard" Cott

Sandals 1 pair
Agility Wobbly
Fluffiness 19%
Cash £340,000



Steve "The Scot" Brown

Shoutiness 9
Leadership 8
Fluffiness 5%
Sporran Bulging

Catchphrase:
Cia mheud duine
cloinne a th'agad?

The Challenger Cards

Generic Challenger 1

Speed 7
Wit 8
Fluffiness 1%
Biceps Rippling

Catchphrase:
Does not compute
Windows > OSX



Generic Challenger 4

Speed 7
Wit 8
Fluffiness 1%
Biceps Rippling

Catchphrase:
Does not compute
Windows > OSX

The challenge is on!



The Sabbs. Look at them. You know you want to wipe those grins off their faces. Challenge them now!

Welcome to a brand spanking new section of Felix: "Challenge the Sabbs". Before I answer the question: "What the hell is Challenge the Sabbs?"; I propose a number of questions that you should ask yourselves. Go on, indulge me.

Have you ever wanted to go toe-to-toe with the President in a boxing ring?

Has one of the Deputy Presidents ever restricted your club's spending, making you want to rugby tackle him to the ground, subsequently followed by a massive bundle of hulking great props?

Has one of the Deputy Presidents got one of those faces that you just want to shoot with your paintball gun? Or perhaps one of the DPs is so beautiful you really want to paint a glorious picture of them but you're afraid to ask in case you come across as some kind of freak stalker.

Maybe you're fed up of hearing about how one of the Deputy Presidents is off on yet another gruelling fund-raising adventure and what you'd really like to see is one of them doing something that is actually challenging. Land's End to John O'Groats? Rubbish. Try scaling the French Alps you big sissy.

Are you so fed up with the amount of spelling mistakes in Felix that you want the Editor to take a literacy test?

Or do you just want to sit down with one of the helpful, lovable Sabbaticals and play a game of chess or backgammon with them?

I think you're probably getting the idea now, so I can answer your original question:

"What the hell is Challenge the Sabbs?"

Challenge the Sabbs is about taking on the Sabbatical Officers at whatever game you can think of. You might want to have a drinking competition against a number of them, you might want to get a bit more physical with them and play a game of tennis, or you might want to come up with something com-

pletely different. In fact, we actively encourage you to do just that. Think hard. Come up with the most imaginative variation on a well known game and we'll jump at the chance to beat you at it. A report – probably a biased one – will be written up after the challenge has taken place and the winner will be announced. Over the course of the year, a running tally will be kept and we'll see whether the student body can match the Sabbaticals' prowess.

Who is eligible to submit a challenge?

Anyone! That means clubs, societies, individual students and even the Rector if he fancies it.

Whilst Challenge the Sabbs is clearly suited towards the clubs and societies of Imperial, anyone can submit a challenge. For instance, if you're really good at unicycle riding but there is no club associated with your particular talent, you're free to take us on.

Similarly, we're happy to take on group challenges as long as we can get

the Sabbs together in one place, at the same time!

I've got an idea for a challenge, what next?

Great! Next you need to email Tom Roberts on felix@imperial.ac.uk. Tell him all about your challenge, how many Sabbs will be needed and perhaps even suggest a time and a place. If for instance your club practises on a set night each week, let us know and we'll see if we can get a team of Sabbs together for that evening.

Once you've sent the email, you'll probably get a bundle back and there'll be some more questions asked. We'll then finalise the rules of the challenge if it's not completely obvious. Finally, the challenge will take place!

What was the email address to send challenges to again?

felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Good luck, you're going to need it!



One of the future Sabbatical Officers. We like to start 'em off young!

Brace yourself

See those three people? That could be you. IC Parasoc Chair, Douglas McIlwraith talks skydiving and why you've got nothing to worry about

"Skydiving? You must be joking! Me, jump out of that plane there? No, way. That's for two types of people, the Bear Grylls ex-SAS type, and the insane.

You couldn't be more wrong.

Psychologists initially believed that skydivers were insane, too. That those involved with the sport had some kind of latent death wish or a need to prove themselves to their peers by performing high risk activities. Sort of like in *Top Gun*, but without the homosexual overtones of the beach volleyball scene. However, a study of 293 high-risk competitors

"a study at San Jose State University suggested that the average skydiver had above average intelligence"

(including skydivers) by Ben Ogilvie, professor emeritus of psychology at San Jose State University, suggested that the average skydiver was highly motivated and had above average intelligence. These high achievers were more likely to take calculated risks in order to achieve their goals when compared to their more conservative counterparts, hence their attraction to the sport. Does this sound like anyone you know? (Stop looking around. I'm talking about YOU.)

People from all walks of life skydive. In Dan Poynter's *Parachuting: A Skydiver's Handbook* [Para Publishing, 2003] we see that skydivers mostly come from middle management, finance and IT backgrounds – so they're geeks basically! Furthermore, a significantly larger percentage of skydivers have gone to university compared to the proportion of the general population who have. Clearly the skydiving community

isn't filled with a bunch of yahoo's randomly jumping out of commercial airlines whenever they wish. Skydivers have families, they like tea -- and they can be quite boring when they start talking about wing loading (the ratio of weight to the area of the surface of the canopy above them *yawn*).

OK, so I'd be lying if I said that skydiving was completely safe. There is an element of risk and that is part of the reason it is so much fun. The important thing to realise is that this risk is manageable. The British Parachute Association (BPA) [<http://www.bpa.org.uk>] currently puts the injury rate for experienced skydivers at 0.4 per 1000 jumps and the fatality rate at about 1 in 100,000 jumps. Let's just think about these figures for a while. An injury can be anything from a scratch or a bruise right the way through to sprains, fractures and breakages. Thankfully the majority of injuries are minor such as a twisted ankle through an awkward landing. So, as an experienced skydiver performing routine jumps, statistically you are likely to injure yourself once every 2500 jumps. I can live with that. Now, what about fatalities. Fatality rate is awkward to compare from year to year since the number is so small compared to the total number of descents made. You must also factor in that there can be underlying reasons for death which are not attributable to skydiving directly -- such as heart attacks and other medical problems. Even taking all of this into account the fatality rate is still one in a hundred thousand or 0.00001%. Pretty low don't you think? Manageable even? I think so.

So what is it that makes the sport relatively safe? The answer is simple. Good instruction, a willingness to learn and good equipment. Skydiving has been an international sport since 1951 and since then the equipment has come a long way. All skydivers are equipped with not one but two parachutes called the main and reserve. The main is used on a day-to-day basis and is packed by yourself whilst the reserve is used only in the case of a genuine emergency such as a main failure. This reserve is packed meticulously by a cer-

tified rigger, an expert in parachutes and their operation, and must be repacked routinely to be sure that it will be there when you need it. Safety measures don't stop here either. All students in the UK are required to jump with parachutes fitted with an Automatic Activation Device (AAD) so that, in the rare event that you cannot or do not pull your main parachute, your reserve will fire automatically when you fall below a particular altitude at a particular speed. All of this high tech equipment is explained to you by expert instructors before you ever see a plane.

So maybe I've convinced some of you

now? You want to make a jump, so that you can phone home and scare your parents to death. "What have we done, sending our beloved Johnny off to Imperial College... he's going to jump out of a plane!" they'll say, but still you don't see how it can be a sport? Well it is.

There are several active disciplines within the sport at the moment. The two most popular ones that occur during freefall (that's the sixty seconds or so that occurs after you peel off the side of the plane and before you open your parachute)



are formation and freely. An example of formation would be 4-way. That's a team of four people who exit the aircraft together and make formations in the sky in a belly to earth position (otherwise known as a flat position earning them the name flat fliers). Scores are awarded based on how many formations or points the team makes during their working time, before they separate and deploy their parachutes. A good 4 way team is a joy to watch. Quick and meticulous. Like a machine, albeit one that is hurtling towards the earth at 140mph. Then there is freely, an artistic discipline. Often done in a couple, but not always. Think Torvill and Dean on crack. There is no restriction on the position of the sky-

diver in freefall. They may be head down and spinning like a helicopter -- their legs acting like blades, or they may be sitting and carving around a central point of reference. The sky is the limit (or the ground is) and all manoeuvres are judged on their difficulty and artistic merit.

People continually ask me "What is it like? Do you feel like you are falling?" The short answer is no. It's more like floating on a noisy bed of air. Once you have hit your horizontal terminal velocity in a position there is no acceleration. Even as you are accelerating downwards towards your terminal it doesn't feel like it since you are slowing down in the horizontal axis (you are still moving forward when you exit at the same speed as the plane). "But I'm scared of heights?" This is unlikely to be a hindrance. Do you feel high when you are in a commercial airliner? If not, you are unlikely to feel that in freefall since your perspective changes so slowly you never really experience the sensation of falling, and you are happily under canopy before the ground ever rushes up to meet you. "What

"But I'm scared of heights! This is unlikely to be a problem."

if I don't like it?" Well, that's a possibility but put it this way; I've never seen anyone come down who wasn't smiling. If you are really nervous you could always come to the tunnel with us?

This simulates the experience of freefall, without the falling! The idea is that a jet of air is blown up to meet you and this suspends you in a vertical column.

It's cheaper than skydiving, less nerve-wracking and gives us the opportunity to try things out on the ground, before putting them into practice in the air.

Hopefully, by now you are desperate to give it a go, and

maybe you have a desire to become a qualified skydiver and join us high above Oxfordshire? Well, you are in luck. IC Parachuting and Skydiving exists to get you falling to earth as quickly as possible. You could do a tandem jump with us where you are strapped to an instructor? Or you could take the first steps to qualification with the Ram Air Progression System (RAPS) or Advanced Freefall (AFF).

RAPS is a scheme which many of our members have embarked on. For your first jump you leave the aircraft at a low altitude (3000ft) and your parachute is automatically deployed by a cord attached to the plane. The initial jumps concentrate on a good exit position and canopy handling (as your canopy will be open as soon as you exit) so you won't experience freefall until later on in the course. Around twenty to thirty jumps are required to graduate as a solo skydiver. AFF is the quickest option, which can get you qualified in a matter of a week or so. Although it can be more expensive, you do get to experience freefall immediately. The first jump is from a normal exit altitude (12,500 - 15,000ft) with two instructors holding on to you throughout. After a sequence of eight jumps, each progressively harder than the next, you will be qualified to exit alone to perform your consolidation jumps. After a further ten are completed you are qualified. Off to the bar! While each system has advantages and disadvantages both lead to an FAI 'A' licence which is recognised world wide.

So do you think you have what it takes for you and your mates to jump together from a perfectly good aircraft two and a half miles high, grinning at each other as you perform acrobatics and try to outdo each other at a vertical speed of 140mph? When you factor in the sun beating down on your neck as you come in to land you'll realise that this is not just a sport, it's the only sport.

For more information visit our website <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/parachute> or email us at parachute@imperial.ac.uk. IC Parasoc runs frequent weekend trips to our home drop zone, RAF Weston on the Green, as well as Europe and America. Contact us for more details.





How
To...

Know something that other people don't? Got a talent such as moonwalking whilst flying a magic carpet around the Sun? Email your wisdom to felix@imperial.ac.uk and tell other people How To...

...be the life and soul of the party in ten easy steps

Felix's duty to the people is to inform and entertain. This week we are going beyond the call of duty to bring you an invaluable guide that will help you garner the greatest enjoyment possible from all those hedonistic parties that you'll be attending throughout the year. Not only that though, Felix is giving the following sound advice so that you know what not to do and say at a party, and also to prevent yourself from being a complete mongfart. We're entirely qualified to say so.

Step 1: Share your alcohol



Don't get precious about those bottles of shandy you've got stashed in the rucksack on your back. Take your backpack off, unzip it and crack open the brewskis. Spread the wealth you tight bastard.

Step 2: Don't comment on the music that's playing

Look, no one cares whether you think the music is shit. Likewise, no one cares if you believe this tune is totally

slamming. All you end up doing when you start talking about music at a party is get into an argument or a fight. Just get funkah to those cheesy choons and you'll be having a whale of a time.

Step 3: Don't affect a stammer to look intellectual

W-w-w-w-w-w-w-well, the... reason one shouldn't t-t-t-talk with a stammer is because one comes-across-as-an-uppity-arse. Just because you can pause for breath in between six syllable words, it doesn't make you some kind of divine student that others should stand and be in awe of. Get over yourself, sip on some bud and take it easy.

Step 4: Don't talk about your lectures or your course

This really is the oldest one in the book. You've just finished three hours worth of learning about the different names of the bones in your leg (tibia, fibia, kneecap, bronchitis, albumen – score! 5 out of 5) and some over eager beaver is still questioning whether the content of the lecture was pitched well enough. Who cares? Seriously. Well, now you've gone there, if you think the lecture was that bad, why don't you try taking it yourself? Heck.

Enough already. Just don't talk shop and everyone will get along just great. The exception to the rule is a Vvvvvvedensky lecture, of course.

Step 5: Don't be a non-drinking, teetotal moron

You're not better than anyone else by



not drinking, you know? Wow, you're taking a stand against the mainstream by not consuming alcohol – aren't you making mummy and daddy proud? If you want, we'll get you started on some Hooch, after all that watch me go off my trolley for the very first time. We'll move on to the harder hitting stuff (SoCo&L anyone?) gradually and we'll have you attending sports night in the Union in no time at all.

Step 6: If you insist on being teetotal, don't bang on about it

So you're as stubborn as the day is long. Stop wishing for other people to join in on your misery. If you're not going to live life to the max and consume, don't brain wash everyone else with your way-out-there views.

Step 7: Don't harp on about your bloody A-levels

How long ago did you take those exams? No one cares for starts and no one wants to know. If you insist on comparing yourself to everyone else at the party, ask them about shoe size or something like that. You know what

they say, big feet, big...

Step 8: Drink some more!

Fast flowing, delicious and golden. Get it down your neck and the world will become your own hazy oyster.

Step 9: Don't focus all your energy on one lady



Unless you're a player or a billy-no-mates, you probably attend parties with a group of your mates. Mates being the keyword here. If you spot a sexy chica/chap from afar, don't spend the rest of the evening gawping at him/her like some lecherous vulture about to swoop onto your prey. Mosey on over, introduce her to your friends and get everyone involved. She'll realise you're not a loner and you'll be better off for it.

Step 10: Hellamashup

Need I say more.

Please drink responsibly

...get caught loving yourself rightly, daily and nightly



1. Get yourself a padlock and keep your door locked!



2. Wash your hands directly afterwards



3. Make sure you're not sweaty and flushed

How
Not
To...

Learnt something the hard way and want to prevent it from happening to others? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk and warn people How Not To...



Wordoku 1,382

	B		A		P		
	P	I		B		H	
H				S	P		L
		S				B	L
	A			I			S
	T	B				I	
B			C	H			P
	S			L		H	C
		H			T		B

Solution to 1,381

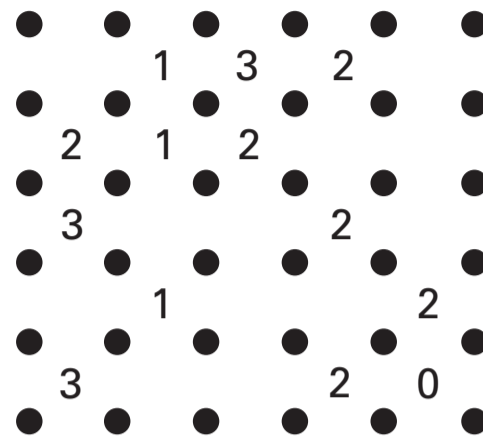
G	U	L	E	A	N	T	C	F
C	N	E	F	G	T	U	A	L
F	A	T	C	L	U	N	G	E
T	C	G	L	F	A	E	N	U
N	F	A	T	U	E	C	L	G
E	L	U	N	C	G	F	T	A
U	T	C	A	E	L	G	F	N
A	G	F	U	N	C	L	E	T
L	E	N	G	T	F	A	U	C

Wordoku is identical to sudoku; we've just replaced the numbers with letters. Once you've completed the puzzle, there is a hidden word or phrase to find. Email in your answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

The winner of Wordoku 1,381 was no one again. Too hard? The hidden word was "FATCLUNGE".

Slitherlink 1,382

Slitherlink 3 – Normal



How to play:

Crudely speaking, Slitherlink is similar to Minesweeper mixed with a dash of Sudoku.

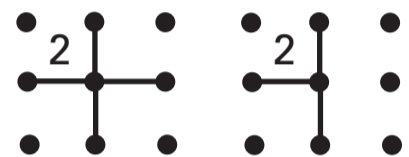
The object of the game is to draw lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

Each number indicates how many lines should be drawn around it, for example:



Cells which don't contain a number can be surrounded by any number of lines.

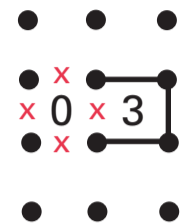
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



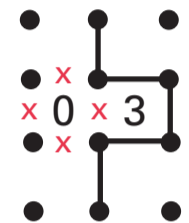
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

So, where do you start? The most common place to start on a Slitherlink grid is by drawing crosses around any zeros. Drawing crosses is purely done to so that you know where there can't

possibly be a line. So, take the pattern below as an example. Begin by drawing crosses, then by filling in some lines:



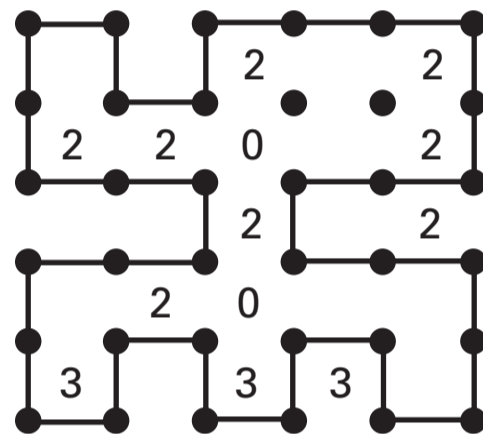
Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



The Slitherlinks on this page are basic 5x5 grids. Get practising because you can expect some 10x10s later in the term and perhaps even some severe 25x30 grids when we're feeling really mean. Email us to let us know how you got on with these ones.

This space intentionally left grey

Answer for Slitherlink 2



H to the o, r, o, sizzle copes – it's the Horoscopes



Aquarius

This week your eyes being bleeding. You think nothing of it since your friend tells you it happens to her all the time,

just like when she slits her wrists. The trickle of blood symbolises the passing of time, life and eternity she reckons. What do you think Constant Reader? Is she a barking mad lunatic or the next Sylvia Plath?



Pisces

Hiking through the hidden, swirling vortices of the Galapagos Islands, a man riding a four wheeled tricycle

accosts you for some money. Unfortunately you only have some old Italian Lire and a few Hyrulian rupees. What's a brother to do? You offer him a piggy-back ride to Slovenia. Your knees give way and he topples to his death.



Aries

You're on the home straight now. Your Copy Editors have been and gone, there's still a bit of news to be written,

but things are perking up. Speaking of perking up... Oi, oi savavavavava-lo! Twit twoo I say. Look at the gazoombas on that one. Alright love, is that a ladder in your skirt or a stairway to heaven! HAVE IT! LAGER!



Taurus

Ten past one announces Volunteer Number 3! Well, you think, I've got to sit here for another five or six

hours at least. Ack, now I'm sounding bitter. I am enjoying this, just at this moment I could probably quite comfortably snuggle down on the lush pastures of the green sofa and dream booze, tits, football, chicken nuggets and lamb.



Gemini

Vote A for: I like my man, like I like my coffee! Hot, strong and sweet like toffee! Ooohh ohh. **Vote B for:** No way,

no way. Mm num mm nah. No way, no way. Don't get fresh with me! **Vote C for:** London, London Bridge y'all. It's London, London Bridge y'all. **Vote D for:** Ooh boy I miss ya like a hole in the head, 'cos I do boy and ooh boy.



Cancer

Hey, this is Barney. 26 years old, auburn brown hair with a set of eyes so blue you could swim in them. Likes mung-

ing, felching, turnips, Casper the Friendly Ghost and a combination of the aforementioned. Currently suffering from chronic rim-jaw, but will gladly lock horns with you when the time is right. Call me, xxx.



Leo

Thanks a lot. Because of you, washing machines in halls are now yoinking a good two quid from the warm recesses of

our moneykeeping sacks. Happy now? Wasn't using two washing machines (coloured and non-coloured, naturally) enough? Oh, and did you bother wiping the lint off the dryer filters? Of course not and now look what happened.



Virgo

So far, you've managed to write two entries into your self-referential journal. They're not the most enthralling and

they're probably not going to garner you any awards. In all honesty, you wish some other fucker would write your journal for you. As the anger swells within you, you brutally slain your fellow office workers. And relax.



Libra

This week little red men start crawling all over your skin. The Political Correctness Policing Unit become

enraged with you: "little red men?!" You can't quite believe your luck. The little red men are far nicer than any green ones have ever been. The PCPU bathes you in caustic soda. Now who's a little red man, eh?



Scorpio

Someone refers to something you say as what "they" say. You know, like in the grandest, yet vaguest way.

That vague way in which people refer to a statement they've just made up in their head and need to qualify it... "They reckon bird flu be spreading." That kind of thing. WHO ARE THEY?! WHAT IS THIS BOX I'M IN?!



Sagittarius

Something fills you; a feeling of dread and it makes you quite uncomfortable. You can't quite put your finger on

what it is. Whether that's because the "something" is too large for your pinky or whether you just don't know what it is in a figurative sense, is unclear. Life, I'm afraid, is nearing its conclusion for you. Be at peace young child.



Capricorn

So Jess, I hear on the grapevine that you find the words on this page offensive, yet surprise, surprise

we meet again. "Compulsive reading!" says HoroscopesWorld.com. "Truly garish. A thing of beauty" says HRSCP.com. "Flowery hyperbole cannot do these zodiacs justice" enforces HoroscopeCorp.orgasmatron.

Fixtures and Results

Wednesday 10th October

Hockey – BUSA

Reading Men's 4th
ICU Men's 3rd

Reading Women's 3rd
ICU Women's 1st

Hockey – ULU

Royal Holloway Men's 2nd
ICU Men's 2nd

ICU Men's 1st
St Bart's & London Men's 1st

Royal Holloway Women's 2nd
ICU Women's 2nd

ICU Men's 4th
King's Medical Men's 3rd

Rugby Union – BUSA

ICU Men's 1st
King's Medical Men's 1st

ICU Men's 2nd
Sussex Men's 1st

ICU Men's 3rd
King's Men's 2nd

Saturday 13th October

Football – ULU

ICU Men's 1st v St Bart's & London Men's 1st
UCL Men's 1st v ICU Men's 2nd
ICU Men's 3rd v Goldsmiths Men's 1st
ICU Men's 6th v Royal Holloway Men's 6th
ICU Men's 7th v Imperial Wye Men's 1st

Wednesday 17th October

Badminton

LSE Men's 1st v ICU Men's 1st

ICU Men's 2nd v Hertfordshire Men's 2nd
Cambridge Women's 1st v ICU Women's 1st
Cantebury CC Women's 1st v ICU Women's 2nd

Football

ICU Men's 1st v Westminster Men's 1st
ICU Men's 2nd v Royal Free Men's 1st
Sussex Men's 3rd v ICU Men's 3rd

Hockey

ICU Men's 1st v Royal Free Men's 1st
ICU Men's 2nd v Bucks Chilterns UC Men's 1st
Royal Holloway Men's 4th v ICU Men's 3rd
Kingston Men's 2nd v ICU Men's 4th
ICU Women's 2nd v King's Women's 1st

Lacrosse

King's 1st v ICU 1st

Netball

ICU 1st v Greenwich 1st
ICU 2nd v St Bart's & London 2nd

Rugby Union

Brunel Men's 1st v ICU Men's 1st
Portsmouth Men's 3rd v ICU Men's 2nd
Essex Men's 3rd v ICU Men's 3rd
Writtle Women's 1st v ICU Women's 1st

Squash

ICU Men's 1st v Queen Mary's Men's 1st
King's Men's 2nd v ICU Men's 2nd
King's Women's 1st v ICU Women's 1st

Table Tennis

King's Men's 1st v ICU Men's 1st

Tennis

UCL Men's 1st v ICU Men's 1st
ICU Women's 1st v Kent Women's 1st

Volleyball

LSE Women's 1st v ICU Women's 1st

More results next week

King's Medicals fall to IC

Rugby



Imperial Men's 1st XV	13
King's Medicals 1st XV	3

Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

Imperial College Men's 1st XV got off to a good start to the new season with a win against King's Medicals (Guy's, King's and St. Thomas').

The game started with an electrifying pace with Imperial getting an early penalty that was comfortably converted by Kieran Burg, to give Imperial an early three point lead. This only seemed to fuel King's Medicals as they increased the intensity and they started to dominate in the forwards, often giving the Imperial forwards a lot of grief in the scrums.

Imperial, however, were very quick to pounce on any mistakes that King's Medicals made, with captain Andrew Jasudasen scooping up a loose lineout ball in the oppositions 5 meter line and scoring a try. The conversion was unsuccessful. Imperial led 8 – 0.

Again King's Medicals increased the pressure, with a lot of flowing rugby from their backs, often breaking the Imperial defensive line. After some sustained pressure, King's Medicals were finally rewarded with a penalty, which was converted, leaving the score at 8 – 3. The opposition's forwards kept maintaining the pressure on the Imperial pack, both in the scrum and in the line-outs, which gave an excellent platform for their backs to run. If it wasn't for a try-saving tackle by Alex John-

stone in the corner, the medics could have gone into the lead at half time.

After some serious contemplation at half time from the captain and coach, the side went into the second half feeling as if they had something to prove. This was immediately seen from the forwards, where they finally retaliated to the onslaught from the opposition by winning their own scrum and severely disrupting the King's Medicals ones. But the surge didn't stop there, with the forwards running some great attacking, powerful runs through the centre, predominantly from the props Jovan Nedić and fresher Terry Addo. The forwards were then shown to be extremely versatile with vice-captain and flanker Flannan O'Mahony showing his kicking skills by setting up a nice chip and chase, only to be foiled by the rest of the pack who were too bemused by what was happening in front of them.

The 20 minutes of sustained pressure from the Imperial forwards gave an excellent platform for their backs to show their magic, and it was clearly something that King's Medicals could not cope with as their scrum half was sin-binned for a late tackle on the fly-half. Imperial took advantage of the extra man and after breaking through the middle of the field, the ball was eventually off loaded to Tom Carroll who scored a try giving Imperial a 13 – 3 victory.

Man of the match went to Jovan Nedić for the constant barrage of runs to the King's Medicals line, and Twat of the Match went to James Fletcher for a cross-field kick that landed neatly into the oppositions wingers hands.

Although a victory, there is clearly a lot of room for improvement, especially in terms of line-outs, if the side ever expect to win the league. Hopefully this will be noticeable next week.



The Imperial forwards getting stuck in with King's Medicals

Make a

difference

faster.

Join a firm where you can make a difference quickly. We invite you to learn about the rich variety of opportunities we offer.

Wednesday, 17 October, 2007

6:30–9:30 p.m.

Lecture Hall 220

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WORLD WISE

Commitment = muscles



Chiroush Patel
Mr. Muscle

Ask a new boy in the gym and they may tell you that heavy weights plus adrenaline equals a buff body.

But ask any lifter, any real lifter, and they will tell you that it's not what you do in the gym, but what you do in the real world that separates Brad Pitt's actual legs from Brad Pitt's leg double in Troy (sorry to break it to you ladies). Yes, a point that was touched upon by Alex Fergusson in last week's issue was indeed correct, lifting heavy weights is no good unless you supplement it with good nutrition and, of course, good supplements; which will be discussed at length in a later supplements issue.

Commitment to a good body is a way of life. Period. That is why the average Joe is just that... average. But ask yourself, would you settle for an average car; an average house; an average job? I'm not saying you have to overhaul your life to achieve this, and to be fair a bodybuilder's working day is hard to fit in a student's 24 hrs, but if you're going to do something you might as well try and do it right.

Sleep, believe it or not, is an integral part of muscle building. As you sleep, your body releases hormones and growth factors during the night which aid muscle growth and recovery. Therefore, 8 is the requisite number of hours of sleep for good muscle building.

Nutrition is supremely important; after all, your muscle has to come from somewhere. First of all, meals...

you need about five of them a day. Not five three-courses but five small meals. This gives your body a constant source of energy and keeps your hormones in check. Breakfast is a must. Wholesome, full of protein and slow releasing carbs, without it you will go fat. This means oats, eggs, low fat cheese and wholemeal bread get the thumbs up. Last night's pizza is a hell no!! Lunch should consist of lean meat, pasta and salad. In between, fruit and semi skimmed milk should do the trick.

Prior to your workout you may require a boost... red bull (sugarfree) and half a protein shake will turn an OK workout into a mind blowing, plateau crushing experience. Sports drinks are a no-no as the sugar high will lead to an inevitable crash halfway during your workout. Just keep to water during your workout and lots of it.

However the real gains come in the post-workout, when muscles are primed for growth... I like the post-workout meal given last week but spare no expense if you strive for perfection - protein shakes are a must, and dinner should be meaty and veggie!

The oak chest, when perfected it is the statement of manliness. Look at your typical rugby player and you'll see a proud chest puffed out showing you he is something. Everyone knows perculating pecs drive the ladies wild,

and I know you want to get that too. So stick to the following base chest program and turn the pigeon chest into something you can puff out and be proud. Remember: select weights which are heavy enough so that you reach muscular failure at the desired rep number.

A finisher is an aspect of training that most people overlook; a final push to achieve maximal results from your work out. A chance to put your tired, battered body through one more round. A tri-set is the combination of three exercises completed in quick succession and counts as one set. A tri-set combination is completed three times; hence three sets, and each time you change the order of the exercise. Hence, using the final exercises, the first set should be 1,2,3; the second 2,3,1 and the final 3,1,2. Follow me? This way you achieve an equal work out and finish with a chiselled chest that separates the men from young pretenders.

Ladies, ladies, ladies. You must be thinking this page is men only, but 'Mr Muscle' is an equal opportunity info machine... look out for next week's ladies' issue!

Felix takes no responsibility if you break yourself in half whilst trying to lift weights that are clearly too heavy for you. Man up!

Exercise	Sets	Reps	Rest time between sets
Bench press	5	8,8,6,6,6	1 min
Incline dumbbell press	4	8-10	1 min
Incline dumbbell flies	4	8-10	1 min
Overhead dumbbell press	3	7+ 3 lows	1 min
(Optional triceps exercise, e.g. rope pull down)	3	10	1min
Finisher: Tri- set- 1. standing cable press, 2. standing cable flies, 3. standing cable press down	3	To failure in each	2 mins

Sports league

The league is underway!

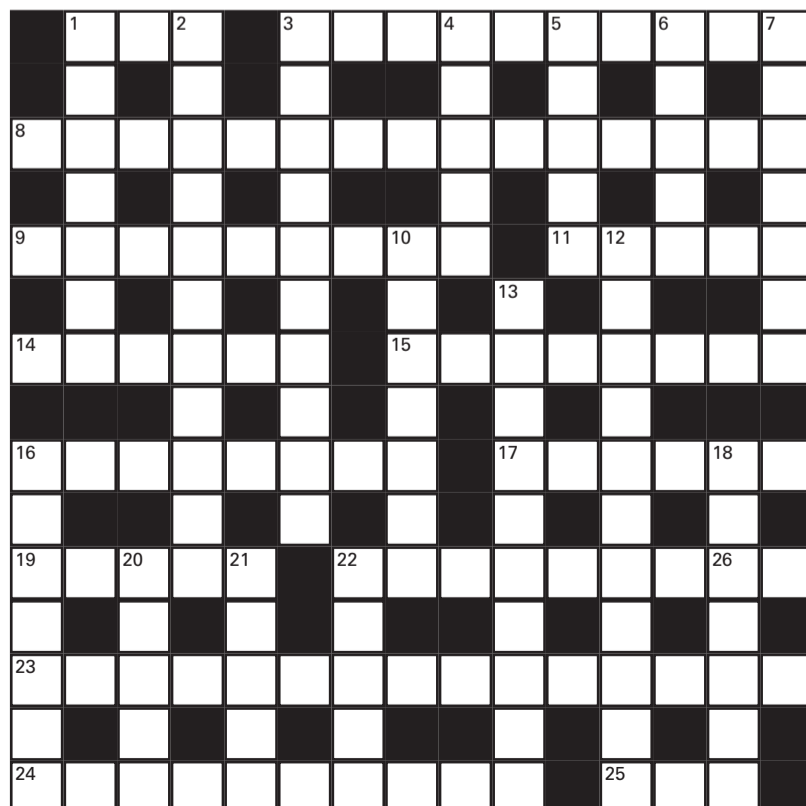
The ranking of the teams is based on the Felix Index (FI), which is calculated as follows: $FI = (W*5) + (D*2) - (L*3)$. Only teams with 5 games or more will

be considered in the overall championship at the end of year. With this weeks results in, rugby men's 1st team have shot up to 2nd place whilst the 3rd team is sadly rooted to the bottom.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Cricket Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	926	678	248	60.00	7
2 Rugby Union Men's 1st	1	1	0	0	13	3	10	100	5
3 Hockey Women's 1st	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	2
4 Badminton Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5 Badminton Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Badminton Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7 Badminton Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Badminton Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Basketball Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Basketball Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11 Cricket Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 Equestrian 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Equestrian 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Fencing Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 Fencing Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 Fencing Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Football Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18 Football Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Football Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 Football Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 Golf 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22 Hockey Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23 Hockey Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24 Hockey Men's 4th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 Hockey Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26 Lacrosse Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27 Lacrosse Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28 Netball 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29 Netball 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Netball 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 Rugby Union Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32 Squash Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33 Squash Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34 Squash Men's 3rd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 Squash Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 Table Tennis Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
37 Table Tennis Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
38 Tennis Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
39 Tennis Men's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
40 Tennis Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
41 Tennis Women's 2nd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
42 Volleyball Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
43 Volleyball Women's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
44 Water Polo Men's 1st	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45 Hockey Men's 3rd	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	-4
46 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	1	0	0	1	33	14	19	0	-4
47 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	1	0	0	1	17	12	5	0	-4

Crossword No. 1,382

We have crossword setters! Hoorah! Answers to: sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk



ACROSS

- The tennis shot heard around most of the world (3)
- A scholarly lady dancing in the remains of a battered Cadillac (10)
- Despite it all, he has no social position (15)
- The impudence, I see, is Marie's; it's her French style! (9)
- Should the bough tear in the middle? (5)
- Whether mad or educated on the inside, he's loved (6)
- Ionic sex is twisted. Cut it out! (8)
- Famous musical pirates pay Zloty in penance (8)
- Treason earns a decapitation, on good grounds (6)
- Chemical amongst engineers (5)
- Indicative of cooperation, a confused mage did absorb some biology (9)
- Our Father: sadistic saint? A twisted disappointment (15)
- Initially, twelve wizards entered, none too youthful. Only lizards departed - twenty times more! (10)
- Some soy sauce? Affirmative (3)

DOWN

- The wild cat slashed through the

- white stick (7)
- "We brewed Zebra Dung." "Tear it up! Censored!" (11)
- The predecessor of the moral insect was corrupted (10)
- Dada tumescence contains a crucial piece of evidence (5)
- An exotic fruit swamp lost a Christian preacher (5)
- Hold on - the ceiling's falling apart! (5)
- Take the load off the skinny limb - it's broken (7)
- In the backdrop, the broken censor hears why (7)
- Almost dethroning a distinguished person makes one unfit for travel (11)
- Results table in Oregon made of tattered brocades (10)
- Polish tax inspection wins award (7)
- Domino-users are gloomy on the inside (7)
- An offspring problem (5)
- Ratify most of the spilled nectar (5)
- Hard and brittle corpse (5)

Everyone, welcome Epoch, one of our new crossword setters. Epoch is about yay high, two eyes and a head full of hair. Just kidding, he's actually bald.

I double jest. Enough of me anyway. We've had a good response to the calls for crossword setters, so hopefully we'll be getting regular, new and exciting black and white grids for you to solve. Email your answers to the usual address. If the lack of prize is putting you off, complain relentlessly. Over to...

Epoch

Solution to Crossword 1,381

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

Smallest jotting box ever.



Winning start to rugby season

Imperial College Rugby Club Men's 1st take on King's Medicals, see page 34



Too many "CV clubs" at IC?

Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

At the recent Clubs and Societies Board (CSB) meeting an issue was raised as to the formation of new clubs. There is a fear that many of the new clubs that form, purely exist for the personal gain of those that founded it, and it seems to be particularly evident within the medical faculty.

The issue was raised when nominations for the New Clubs Committee (NCC) were about to be held at the CSB meeting on the 9th October. Creation of any new clubs or societies would have to go straight to the NCC where they would decide if the club or society would become part of the union.

Guy Martin, the medical clubs and societies president, raised the fact that many of the medical clubs that have been formed in the last couple of years, have had to be shut down since they were considered to be inactive. The reality is that final and penultimate year medical students would create a new club just so they could use it on their CV, and hence have a better chance of getting a job once they graduate. One such club that was mentioned was the Tropical Medicine Society, however it was suggested that there might be



Mosquito leads to mosquito bite leads to Malaria, a tropical disease

many more.

It was suggested that the NCC should consult the relevant faculty as to the validity and intention of the clubs, before they were granted union membership status. This would, in hindsight, stop the so called 'CV clubs' being formed and waste union money that could be used elsewhere.

The NCC itself would consist of one member from the faculty unions, one

clubs and societies chair and a final member from the CSB. The elected members of the NCC were Tim Wills, the Medical Student Union President, Andy Mason and Eugene Chang.

Hopefully common sense will prevail and that all these new 'CV clubs' will be exposed earlier, before valuable Union money is spent on creating attractive CV's for people who are too lazy to get involved in a proper club or society.

IC played 'friendly' hockey

Charles Murdoch

The weekend before the BUSA and ULU seasons begin, ICHC ventured into a new game of friendly hockey. Friendliness isn't exactly new for our club (some may say certain people have a bit too much club love...) but the idea of playing pre-season fixtures to prepare for our first competitive games was new.

Sunday saw our ladies face a local Surbiton side. The game gave Unicycle her debut in between the posts and many a fresher joined our happy team upfront. Moonie showed the young'uns the way forward by clinching victory with two stylish goals - a reverse stick in the first minute and a decisive strike off the final short corner to secure a 2-1 win.

The men on the other hand went head to head in a fiercely fought game of IC 1's vs IC 2's. Once again freshers and old hands were given a chance to dust off their sticks and show what they were made of in a semi-competitive environment, under the beady eyes of our coaches. All of this with the hope that teams could be decided and Wednesday would see a flying start to the season.

The matches ended with the usual frivolities and rigorous post match

"training" in the union. Always an essential part of any hockey.

Imperial Hockey is always looking for new members, no matter of experience or competitiveness level. There are teams to cater for all. We are particularly looking for goalkeepers, (male or female, experienced pro, ex-cricket wicket keeper, or just someone that way inclined) For more information see www.imperialhockey.co.uk, or you can just join us in the bar on a Wednesday.



Moonie taking a shot