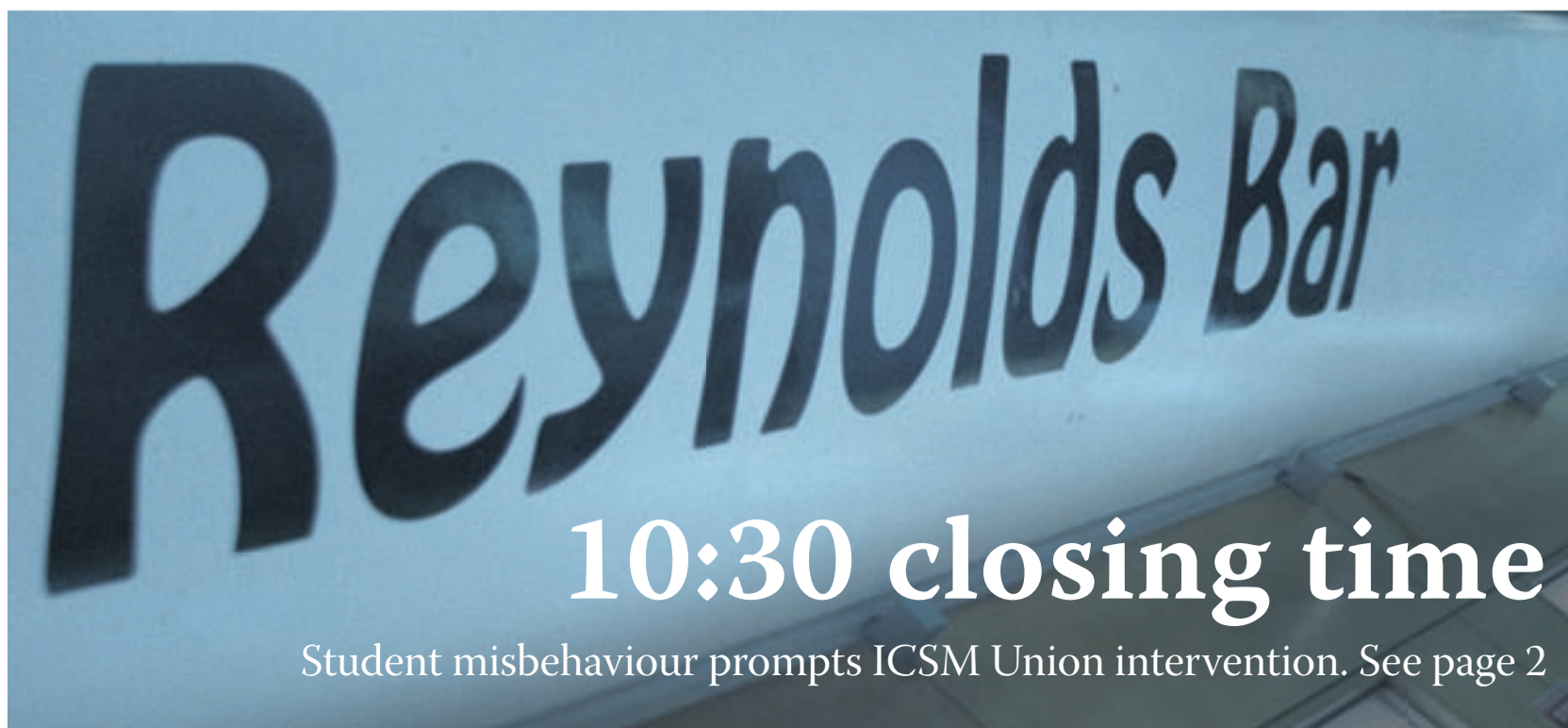




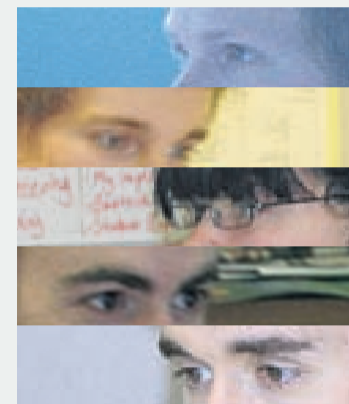
## Poster punch-up

Anonymous' campaign against Scientology hits the Walkway, but who are they? Felix investigates on page 3



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#### Imperial Idol(s) crowned



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## News

News Editor – Andrew Somerville, News Goblin – Matty Hoban

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# Bell tolls for Reynolds Bar: Last orders at 10:30pm

ICSM Union President requests students to improve behaviour after complaints, damages and verbal abuse to security staff

Tom Roberts  
& Andrew Somerville

Complaints have forced the Reynolds Bar on the ICSM (Imperial College School of Medicine) Charing Cross campus to bring forward its closure time for an indefinite amount of time. The Reynolds Bar, run by the ICSM Union, is the social centre and forms the hub of most their social activities.

The bar will now shut at 10:30pm every night of the week, half an hour earlier than its usual closing time and two and a half hours earlier than its Wednesday and Friday night licensing time of 1:00am. The decision to change the opening hours was announced last Friday by the ICSM Union President Tim Wills following a spate of incidents over the last two weeks and a complaint from a local resident.

Recently the Reynolds Bar has seen widespread damage to its facilities by drunken students including a toilet being ripped from a wall, light fixtures being broken and door fittings being destroyed by students leaving the premises. There has also been a complaint by a security team member of verbal abuse from an unknown student (currently under investigation by the ICSM Union). The decision to alter practices was taken following this litany of incidents and was further influenced by a local resident's allegation of a student vomiting in their garden.

Mr Wills issued a statement to all medics announcing the change in bar practices drawing reference to these incidents and urging them to "treat the local residents with respect and leave the premises quickly and quietly" in the future. He also pledged to increase the number of stewards on busy nights and require the presentation of students' swipe cards for entry on Fridays.

"This kind of behaviour, although



Out of order: one of the toilets which was damaged by students

perpetrated by a small minority of students, is unacceptable and I am committed to improving the situation for both local residents and students," stated Mr Wills when questioned.

Felix canvassed medics at the Sir Alexander Fleming (SAF) building following the announcement. Medical students questioned the wisdom of the decision, fearing that an earlier closing time would trigger a "spiralling decline" of the Reynolds bar, which already has a troubled financial history. They also voiced concern that the measures would damage many medics' clubs and societies which on many Fridays hold themed "bops" and other events to

raise funds for their activities.

"No-one can be asked to pay £5 entry for only two and a half hours," said one student, "we don't want to go somewhere only to have to leave at 10:30." Another criticised the ICSM Union response, calling it "over the top," "ridiculous and counterproductive."

Our sources suggest that the Reynolds brings in under £100 of turnover on most nights, but on Wednesdays and Fridays this increases to £1.5k. How the bar will fare with a greatly reduced trading period on its most profitable evenings is sure to concern the management and ICSMU over the coming weeks.

I'll have a jumper, two pairs of socks and a scarf please



If you went down to the Union on Monday night you were sure to find a surprise. Newly formed Knit Sock piled into The Union Bar for their Inaugural Meeting. Around 30 Knit Sock members brought out their needles and yarn for an evening of knitting and crocheting prompting mystified looks from others entering the bar

**felix 1,394**  
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Thanks to Anonymous

LOLcats

I is anonimus cat



OF THE WEEK



# Anonymous posters on campus

The internet declares war on the Church of Scientology. Felix reports from Battlefield Imperial

**Andrew Somerville**  
Deputy & News Editor

In the past week a new poster campaign has been launched, almost unnoticed, on Imperial's South Kensington campus: a campaign, born from an underground internet movement, which has reached across the globe and broken out of its electronic form to create a publicity barrage in cities all over Europe and America.

The Sherfield Walkway is adorned with many different adverts and publicity for our many societies and events, but its most recent addition is for a campaign symbolising a global protest against a 'religious' entity: the Church of Scientology. It calls for governments, media, organisations and individuals to destroy what it refers to as a "vicious organisation which routinely uses legal action, defamation and assassination to silence those who speak out." The posters also urge students to become part of the "Anonymous" group and join the London cell of the global anti-Scientology picket on 10th February in Blackfriars, where the UK Scientology headquarters is based.

On 16th January global newspapers and media reported on the internet leak of a video showing Tom Cruise talking about his Scientology beliefs, coinciding with the publishing of an unauthorised biography of Mr Cruise by renowned biographer Andrew Morton. The embarrassing leaked video, set to the "Mission: Impossible" theme tune and full of controversial quotes, was posted on many news sites, but then rapidly removed from most after threats from the much-feared Sci-

entology legal team.

These events and legal threats were seen as the 'final straw' for a community on 711Chan, one of the internet's most notorious social forums, which interpreted the move as an attempted censorship, and the most recent in a series of alleged "unethical practices" practised by the Church. They launched a massive underground campaign "declaring war" on Scientology under the moniker of "Anonymous," ("We are Anonymous, We are Legion"), issuing several Youtube messages to the world news services.

The main focus of the campaign is the worldwide picketing of Scientology buildings on 10th February at 11am, handing out flyers and information about what "Anonymous" claims is the true face of Scientology.

This is only the most recent in a series of incidents involving the controversial religion. Early last year saw respected BBC investigative journalist John Sweeney losing his temper on camera at a high-ranking member of the Church of Scientology; a Panorama episode exposing some of the more sinister aspects of the organisation; and much tense discussion amongst journalists, pundits and the public at large about the nature of Scientology. The Church in turn has redoubled its efforts to become recognised as a bona fide religion in the UK, fight its ban in Germany, and improve its much-mocked public image.

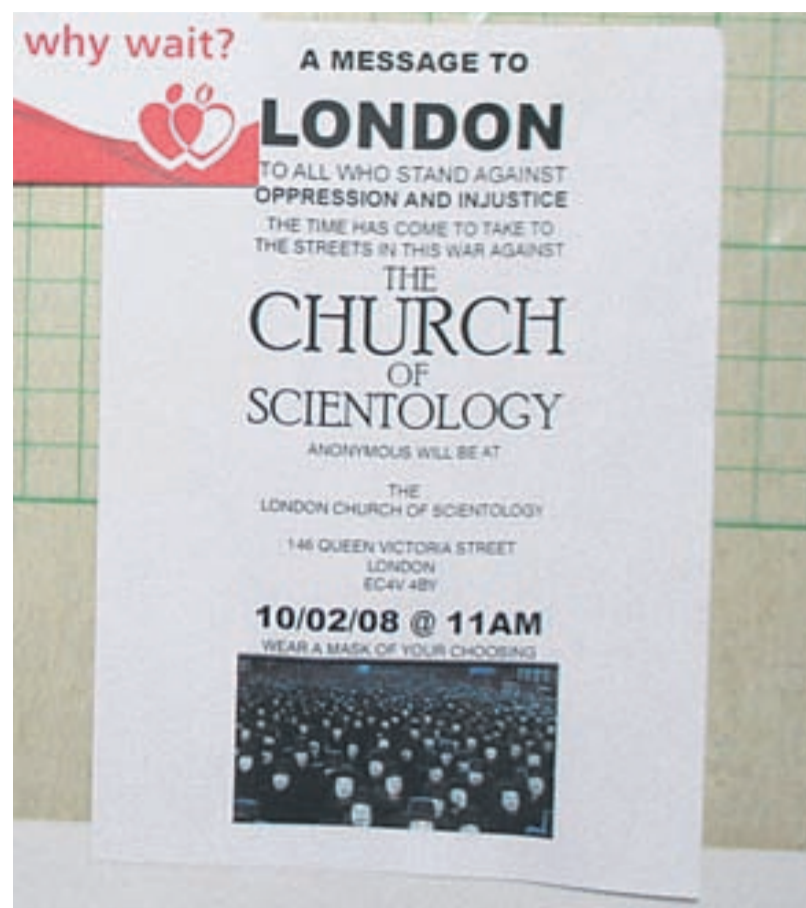
These new developments, however, are newsworthy on several fronts. The initiation of the "Anonymous" campaign has tapped into a strong undercurrent of public mistrust and

skepticism of the Church, and as more people have begun to do a little research into the organisation that has been parodied and pilloried in the mainstream media, many have become concerned about the global intentions and actions of this powerful minority and its stranglehold over certain aspects of US society, most notably Hollywood. The protesters cite evidence of conspiracy, espionage, harassment and manslaughter to justify their online attacks (denial of service and defacement of pro-scientology websites) and their picketing of the physical parts of the Church.

The online movement has a real air of popular uprising against what is interpreted as a suppressive, invasive, and greedy entity. It has the potential to become one of the first global, political campaigns to begin solely on the internet amongst people who have never met in real life.

The momentum that the campaign has already gained is signified by its rapid appearance at Imperial: notorious for its lethargy on most issues. Despite beginning only two weeks previously, on Monday there were already over 10 posters along the Walkway alone, and more over the rest of campus. Some have been removed since, by parties unknown (although many people have brought them to various officers of the Union), but the posters have not gone completely unnoticed and more are expected over the coming weeks.

Felix has talked to several students who are already members of "Anonymous," and all are preparing for 10th February and the surrounding events, but none have admitted to being the



One of three "Anonymous" group posters on the Sherfield Walkway

originators of the physical publicity.

What becomes of the campaign is still to be determined. Opinion is divided over whether it will fizzle out like many other internet fads, or stay for long enough to make a difference and

put a dent in the previously indomitable Church of Scientology.

The public eye, however, is clearly watching this standoff between a 'religion' and an 'anonymous' group of online troublemakers.

## Science Challenge Awards Ceremony location unveiled



The Challenge will be held at the Science Museum's IMAX Theatre

On Tuesday night, RCSU Science Challenge organiser Daniel Burrows finally revealed that the awards ceremony would take place in the Science Museum's IMAX Theatre. The IMAX Theatre stands taller than four double deckers and measures wider than my mum.

There will also be a black tie reception in the Science Museum's Energy Hall afterwards.

Entrants are required to attend the awards ceremony on Tuesday 18th March if they want a chance of winning the £2,500 first prize along with an Apple Macbook, the latter of which was revealed to be an additional prize on

Tuesday. Similarly, people who signed up to the mailing list to win a Wii must also attend the final evening.

Sir Brian Hoskins gave his seminar on Tuesday night too; his question being: "To what extent is geoengineering the solution to the climate change problem?" Sir Brian's talk was clearly and concisely delivered in this reporter's eyes and anyone who missed the presentation is advised to download and watch it by heading to [www.rscu.org.uk/sciencechallenge](http://www.rscu.org.uk/sciencechallenge).

Next week, seminars will be given by Dr Paul Snaith and Dr Philip Campbell. Lord Robert Winston will be presenting on the following Tuesday. Seminars take place in MechEng 220 at 6:30pm.

## Next stop, Beit Quadrangle?

**Tom Roberts**  
Editor-in-Chief

The archway to Beit Quadrangle could become a shelter for people hiding from the rain whilst they wait for a bus depending on the outcome of a Prince Consort Road bus stop implementation scheme.

Westminster City Council (WCC) is making changes to two of its bus routes in the area: 360 and 70. The original plans proposed involve the lifting of the right hand turn ban for buses turning onto Exhibition Road as well as the installation of a new bus stop directly outside the archway entrance of Beit Quad.

Since the plans were proposed, WCC has received letters from residents in the area and the Union has also been in contact to express its dismay with the plans.

The entrance to Beit Quad is a major thoroughfare for students plus it is only metres away from a pedestrian crossing. Furthermore, clubs and societies often park minibuses outside the archway entrance before heading off for fixtures and tours.

The proposals have left residents scratching their heads and wondering why the bus stand currently in place outside the Holy Trinity Church – next door to Beit Quad – can't be converted into a bus stop.

Felix contacted West One Project Engineer, Guy McNamara, who is in



The bus stand currently outside the Holy Trinity Church

charge of the implementation scheme for more information.

Mr McNamara said that he had received a number of letters from people in the area and that he had been contacted by Imperial College about the proposals. The plans are being reconsidered with the possibility of moving the bus stop 15m down the road towards the Royal Albert Hall. Whether

the management of the Royal Albert Hall agrees to the revisions remains to be seen.

The bus stop was originally scheduled to be finished by 5th February. Once completed, Beit Hall residents can expect to roll out of bed, onto a bus and end up in Elephant And Castle or perhaps Acton. If they're that way inclined.



Stand for nomination: [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

# Union Elections 2008

## Current Sabbatical Interviews

### Passing on the mantle

**O**n Monday nominations for the 2008 Imperial College Union (ICU) Elections opened. Since then, more than ten people have already put themselves forward for the various Sabbatical Officer positions and many more are expected to follow over the coming week as the deadline for nominees approaches.

This time last year the five people featured on the next three pages entered the 2007 election race and successfully managed to convince the voting student body that they were worthy of their respective positions.

Felix interviewed each of the current ICU Sabbatical Officers to find out how their terms have been, whether they

have enjoyed their time in office and what the future holds. Don't worry, the Felix Editor didn't interview himself; Politics Editor Kadhim Shubber posed the questions in this feature.

If you've already put yourself up for nomination or you're deliberating about whether to do it, read these interviews and hopefully you'll get a better idea of what it's like to take a year out from your studies and to work in the Union.

The Union is run with students at the helm, for students. If you feel up to the task, log on to [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote) and stand for election. You will need to get twenty of your friends to login and second you too. Nominations close on Monday 11th February! Good luck.



The infamous Sabbatical 2007/08 photo. Look at them. So happy, weren't they?



**STEPHEN BROWN**  
UNION PRESIDENT

#### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed most this year?

I have really enjoyed meeting and working with such a diverse range of people. It was a bit bizarre being elected to work along side other sabbaticals that I didn't really know that well but it has been good fun.

I've also enjoyed meeting a lot more of the student body than I did as an undergrad. One of the most rewarding parts of this job is seeing the sheer number of students currently engaging in Union activity and I think it is fantastic that this is still the case given the high workload that students at Imperial have.

#### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed least this year?

All of the sabbatical officers came in to post with a great deal of enthusiasm and a lot of really good ideas. What has been frustrating is that you realise that the implementation of something new does not happen overnight and that it takes a lot of time and effort to see anything substantial come to fruition.

#### Which qualities would you say

#### are needed to carry out your job?

You definitely need a sense of humour for this job combined with an ability to step back from it all. With the number of hours you put in it can be disheartening when some things don't go according to plan so you do need to be able to put things into their proper context. You can at times feel bogged down and feel like the job has consumed you but when this happens you need to be able to try and focus on the successes.

#### How was being a Sabbatical different to what you expected?

Not radically different. I was involved with the Union and Felix before I stood for this position so I did have a good idea about how the place operates.

However, I did underestimate how much my first few months in office would be dictated by issues that were rolling over from my predecessor's time. This wasn't necessarily a bad thing but it did take me aback slightly.

#### How would you like students to remember your term?

I don't – that would be terribly narcissistic.

#### Do you think you've achieved your aims this year? If so, what were they?

I do keep reading my manifesto on a monthly basis but it is very difficult to find the time to focus on the things I still have left to do. My manifesto consisted of a lot of little things, a lot of

which have been delivered and I still have 5 months left. This year has seen increased support for Faculty Unions, a more diverse catering offer introduced and I even stuck to my promise of constructive engagement with the National Union of Students despite my own personal misgivings.

#### What has been the most important thing you have achieved so far?

Securing the funding for the Union Building redevelopment was a massive step forward. We have use of a great building over in Beit Quad and it is good that the College has acknowledged that if the student body is to get the full benefit from it then it needs modernisation.

#### If there was one thing you could change instantly about how the Union is run, what would it be?

Personally I would like to see the profile of our student welfare and our capacity for academic representation given a bit more prominence. I know these issues are a lot duller than clubs, societies and social events but they are the Union's reason for being and in my view it is important that this ethos is not lost. Being a Students' Union makes us sound a lot more authoritative than if we were a Students' Social Club and I would like to take this

#### How do you see the Union developing over the next few years?

The Union is currently going through a process of significant internal change which is not immediately obvious to the student body. We have got very

good participation in student activities but we would like to increase participation on the welfare and representation side of things.

#### Do you think there is a problem with low turnout in the Union?

Compared to other institutions our election turnout is actually quite good. There is always room for improvement but it is the elections candidates who drive up turnout so in order for turnout to increase we need a lot of people running for positions and doing some good old-fashioned campaigning.

#### If you are not leaving Imperial at the end of this year, will you be involved with the Union next year?

Not applicable – I am out of here!

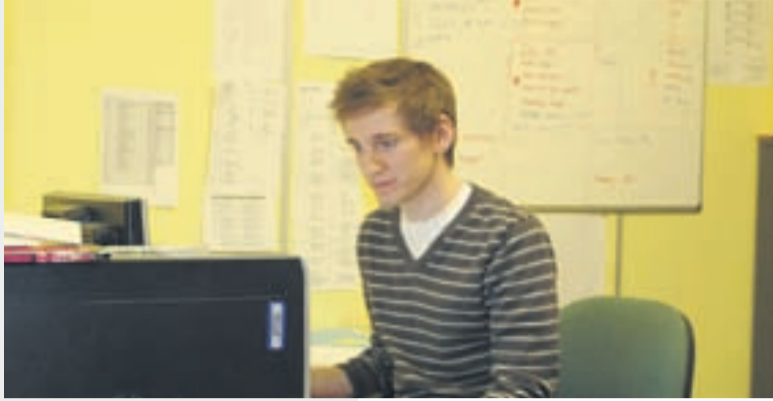
#### Do you honestly think Sabbaticals make a difference at all?

Yes I do. Decisions taken by the management of College affect us all and in my view the most important role that sabbatical officers play is giving student input whilst decisions are being taken. If there were no sabbatical officers then students would find it considerably more difficult if they had a problem with their course, accommodation or even the food in the JCR if they had to do the work from scratch.

#### Do you feel an urge to get into mainstream politics?

Not at all. I want to get a proper job when I leave the College in a few months. Personally I think that a law should be passed putting a lower age limit on our politicians. That would then save us the ridiculous spectacle of sabbaticals leaving the Students' Union bubble and thinking that their opinions on war, peace and the health service are of any remote use to society.





## CHRIS LARVIN DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed most this year?

I get to meet a huge number of students and work with some great people who are a lot of fun. Also, it's great to be part of large events such as the Union's Freshers' Week and seeing everyone having a great time.

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed least this year?

Juggling tasks and time management. In my role there are a huge number of different things to get done. It's not helped by people who will come to you and expect something to be done in an instant, but in those situations you just need to be able to keep your head.

A difficult aspect to deal with is that there are some people out there who will go out of their way to make life difficult for you. It's (usually) nothing personal, you're in a position of responsibility; an easy target.

### Which qualities would you say are needed to carry out your job?

Tolerance is useful when dealing with

Clubs and Societies; often you will want to rip your hair out. Also, a sense of humour is very important; you can't be too serious.

### How was being a Sabbatical different to what you expected?

I was entering into it with an open mind, and did not have real expectations. Perhaps I didn't realise how much work there would be to do, which means it is difficult to make the changes you want to see.

### How would you like students to remember your term?

This is a difficult one; obviously I'd like see Clubs and Societies much better off at the end of my year as they are the Union's greatest asset. Also, I think everyone would be happy with a profitable and amazing Summer Ball.

### Do you think you've achieved your aims this year? If so, what were they?

Yes and no. I've spent so much time having to focus on the day-to-day jobs that I have not really had a chance to move forward with the tasks I'd like to get done.

### What has been the most important thing you have achieved so far?

I don't think I could pin down one thing, though I think relations between

things! You need to be able to stand your ground and forget about it if you think you will be shy in meetings or in front of people getting paid a lot more than you. Of course you also have to be ready to listen and proactively encourage people to come to you with problems. Negotiation skills are essential!

### How was being a Sabbatical different to what you expected?

The attitude of College Staff is very different from what you would expect. They are usually really pleased if you spend a bit of effort finding out what people think or presenting a strong opinion coherently. Despite people constantly complaining about College they don't often get to hear about it so are pleased when someone is honest.

### How would you like students to remember your term?

Like a goldfish after a night on the tiles.

### Do you think you've achieved your aims this year? If so, what were they?

I started out with the first set of training for academic and welfare reps and have been drafting a Guide for representatives throughout the year. A lot of things that you include in your manifesto are working projects throughout the year and hopefully people will begin to feel the benefit of them next year. So far I think I'm on track.

the DPFS and the Clubs and Societies are closer than they have been in the past.

### If there was one thing you could change instantly about how the Union is run, what would it be?

Get rid of Guilds. Only kidding, the Faculty Unions serve an important purpose. Probably give the DPFS the ability to fire people out of a large cannon. That would be fun, and I bet people would stick to the Financial Regulations.

### How do you see the Union developing over the next few years?

Part of the Union's mission statement is to the advance the education of our members, and is being achieved through our Clubs and Societies. I would like to see a reduction in bureaucracy which would more time for personal development and club officers come away with better skills.

The commercial services of the Union are going from strength to strength and we've seen the Ents program invigorated with a regular Radio 1 DJ session twice a term which is going to get bigger. I'd love to see successful events running on a Saturday night; we really should be competing with other London SUs.

Oh, and we should have a fleet of inflatable minibuses so when a club crashes/rolls the minibus, only the occupants are damaged and not the lovely paint jobs. Lols.

### Do you think there is a problem

### What has been the most important thing you have achieved so far?

We have been awarded Fairtrade University Status. This was quite big on my agenda when running for sabbatical. Also discounts for students in Southside who were affected by building works and portacabins outside their windows was a big achievement. There are still a lot more battles to be won though.

### If there was one thing you could change instantly about how the Union is run, what would it be?

No comment. I feel this may breach some sort of protocol.

### How do you see the Union developing over the next few years?

This could be anyone's guess. With sabbatical turnover being so frequent (in terms of other posts in the College) it is great to see the Union constantly changing. Obviously the re-development will see a lot of physical changes in the building and will improve our space. I hope to see academic representation getting a boost in the next few years too!

### Do you think there is a problem with low turnout in the Union?

Yes but this is reflected across the

### with low turnout in the Union?

Not at all, our turnouts are above the national average even though our students are typically very apathetic. However it would be good to see a larger mandate for Council officers who have relatively important roles.

### If you are not leaving Imperial at the end of this year, will you be involved with the Union next year?

I will be heading back to finish my final year of my M.Sci Geology, and I won't be getting involved in the Union as I think I've neglected my degree enough over for the first three years. If I were to become involved with the Union, I think I'd only make life difficult for the new Sabbs; they wouldn't want me there sticking my oar in.

### Do you honestly think Sabbaticals make a difference at all?

Yes. It is important to make sure that any organisation continues to adapt and evolve and each year the Sabbaticals bring new ideas, direction and the motivation to make changes happen. However, they wouldn't get much done without the staff and volunteers.

### Do you feel an urge to get into mainstream politics?

Even before I stood for election I knew I didn't have an interest in politics, and I still don't. It's not for me; I'm happy with my rocks and colouring-in maps.

### How much money have you embezzled?

What? Me? Don't know what you're talking about. Don't even know what emfrazzle means.

Country in other Unions and in General Elections too. Apathy is very much in vogue right now. I think, with some strong candidates, the elections will get a lot more exciting and increase turnout. Myself and the rest of the team are actively encouraging anyone to stand and get more involved in the Union.

### If you are not leaving Imperial at the end of this year, will you be involved with the Union next year?

I hope so. I'm involved in the union because I enjoy it and because I think I have something to offer. I wouldn't want to step on anyone's toes so any position I take will be in consultation with my successor. I imagine I might take a more active grass roots role or may drop back down to Faculty Union level. I'll try to be neutral as much as possible.

### Do you honestly think Sabbaticals make a difference at all?

Not as much as you might think. Or certainly not within the Union. Any grand plans to dig up the quad and install a Fish Pond will just be put by the wayside. There is simply not enough time to change the world because you are deeply involved in the day to day tasks that the world would fall apart without. So yes and no really.

### Do you feel an urge to get into mainstream politics?

A bit. But given that I feel an urge to get into law, teaching, climate research, management in the charity sector, volunteer/foreign aid work, renewable energy and planetary Geoscience I wouldn't put that down to a Sabbatical year. It's part of me keeping my options open or being indecisive.



## KIRSTY PATTERSON DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE)

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed most this year?

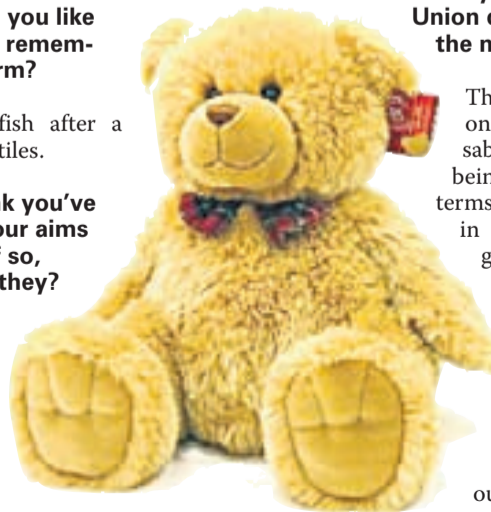
I've really enjoyed ranting at the right people. We all know the feeling when you spend a few hours complaining to anyone who will listen about unfair regulations or inadequate facilities (probably over a pint in the Union bar). It's a calming feeling but lacks the satisfaction of knowing you'll influence someone with the power to change it. DPEW allows you to do both!

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed least this year?

High expectations from others on what you can achieve by ranting at the right people. Taking on board what someone tells you and saying you will try to sort it out can give them a real sense of hope. However, it is difficult to enact real change quickly or noticeably which can be quite depressing. You have to have a lot of stamina to keep on top of the issues.

### Which qualities would you say are needed to carry out your job?

Argumentative, opinionated, self-righteous. Not necessarily all good







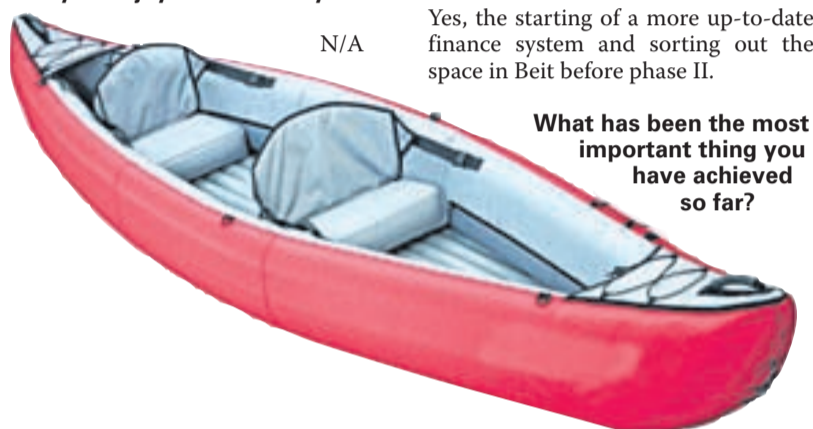
## ALISTAIR COTT DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES)

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed most this year?

How varied everyday is. Being able to solve people's problems.

### What aspect of your work have you enjoyed least this year?

N/A



### What has been the most important thing you have achieved so far?

### Which qualities would you say are needed to carry out your job?

Willing to give up all your time, need to lead and project manage yourself, be a fountain of knowledge, and work hard on extra projects you need to go and find yourself.

### How was being a Sabbatical different to what you expected?

The amount of varied occurrences that I have to deal with.

### How would you like students to remember your term?

Helpful, making club officers lives easier.

### Do you think you've achieved your aims this year? If so, what were they?

Yes, the starting of a more up-to-date finance system and sorting out the space in Beit before phase II.

At the start of my year club officers had many complaints about the finance system for clubs, by the end I hope to have solved all those complaints.

### If there was one thing you could change instantly about how the Union is run, what would it be?

Try and make it less imposing to students who require its services.

### How do you see the Union developing over the next few years?

Getting more efficient in looking after clubs, welfare and the trading aspects.

### Do you think there is a problem with low turnout in the Union?

Yes, students do not see how electing someone will help them.

### If you are not leaving Imperial at the end of this year, will you be involved with the Union next year?

without it, campus would definitely be a drearier place.

### Were there any distinct low or high points as Editor?

"Distinct low point" is a bit dramatic, but the Wednesday all-nighters are a real drain. I knew what I was getting myself into but it doesn't stop the bleeding sensation in my eyes every Thursday afternoon after a 30+ hour shift.

Invoicing and dealing with the finances is an annoyance almost on a par with pushing the rickety, smelly Union trolley around on Fridays to deliver the newspaper. However, the latter is also one of the high points of being editor. The warm feeling that occurs in my tummy when someone yelps "Friday! Felix! Woohoo!" and snatches a copy of the latest issue is very, er, heart-warming. Or something equally profound.

### What is the best part of being Editor?

The hookers and blow, definitely. The back room is literally caked in white dust waiting for me to literally nose dive into once I finish this interview. Literally.

Right: one of the best parts is seeing each glorious issue in print on a Friday morning. Each issue is a challenge in itself: finding news, investigating stories, following leads, all in time for the Thursday deadline.

The other main reward is working with your friends everyday. The Felix staff are eager, likeminded people and it's my job to give them an opportunity to flex their literary muscles. I love



Leaving, graduated.

### Do you honestly think Sabbaticals make a difference at all?

Yes, if they remember they are there for the student aims and not their own.

### Do you feel an urge to get into mainstream politics?

No

them and want at least three babies with each of them.

### What is the most tedious part of being Editor?

I highlighted a few issues before, but one that really grinds my gears is the constant games the Felix network enjoys playing with me. Just hours ago before I scribed these words the entire issue almost got deleted by my Science editor because of a network quirk. That was a seriously uncool moment.

### If you are not leaving Imperial at the end of this year, will you be involved with Felix next year?

I've grown rather attached to Felix over the years so I'll definitely be returning next year. I've spent most of the last year and a half designing and editing the newspaper rather than writing as much as I'd like to, so next year I'm planning to write more.

### Do you see a career in journalism ahead of you?

Yeah, I would like to go into journalism. I haven't pinned down which area yet but I'm thinking along the lines of science, technology or games journalism. Anything to save myself from being sucked into the corporate banking conduit which claims so many of Imperial's best and brightest.

### Are you Angry Geek?

At this moment in time, whilst I write this at 2:26am, I might be. If you ask me tomorrow, I might not be. It depends on which day of the week you ask me this question, which way the wind is blowing, which way the world is spinning and which way the water in your toilet bowl is draining.

### Can you tell us who is Angry Geek?

Never. If I divulge this information, the Angry Geek will kill me/I will kill myself.



## TOM ROBERTS FELIX EDITOR

### How was being a Sabbatical different to what you expected?

The main thing I was unaware of before beginning the job was quite how much involvement I would have with the financing of Felix. I anticipated that it would take care of itself but in reality invoice issuing and chasing takes up a considerable amount of time. In fact, probably the most significant difference is the amount of time I don't have. I believed my manifesto was realistic when I wrote it this time last year but maintaining the website along with everything else whilst retaining my sanity (or what's left of it) has turned out to be too tall an order.

### Do you think you've achieved your aims with Felix this year? If so, what were they?

Yes. I aimed to strike a balance between the styles adopted by the two previous editors whilst improving the newspaper on the whole and I believe I've achieved that. I wanted to bring back some of the more light-hearted content from Rupert Neate's term two years ago and to combine it with the less sensational and more professional news style of Andy Sykes' newspaper.

### What has been the most important thing you have achieved so far?

I've turned the finances from a roughly £4k debt to a projected profit of £5k and counting. This is despite budgeting for three issues of I,Science and two issues of Phoenix, as well as the weekly Felices. In case anyone anyone was counting, every single issue of Felix this year has been longer than 36 pages – the largest page count we've achieved in the previous two years. I'm also pretty pleased with the number of contributors we have onboard now too; Freshers' Fair was really successful in October and Felix should stand in good stead for the years to come with the crop of young talented writers we have. My head isn't going to fit out of the office door now is it?

### If there was one thing you could change instantly about Felix, what would it be?

I would call it "Tomo" and replace the cat logo with a picture of myself. No, I jest. I would call it Live! and write credible journalism. Ha. Er, ok, I'd love to change the backend of the website so that uploading articles didn't take forever, that way we could finally get round to going through the old issues of Felix and build up an archive everyone can look through.

### How do you feel Felix makes a difference at Imperial?

Felix informs, entertains, provides a mouthpiece for students at Imperial and holds people in positions of responsibility to account. If students or staff feel they've been treated unfairly of if they want to make their point known we can be their voice. Felix encourages debate and democracy, and I hope students think the review sections are a bloody good read too. Most importantly though, I think Felix brings a sense of community to the College;







**Nominations  
open now!**



**Monday 11 February – Nominations Close**

**Being a Sabb can make a difference; stand for election.**

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







## Comment, Opinion & Letters

Let us know your views: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

# Response to the funding debate

More readers give their views on the Higher Education funding debate whilst the Union responds to last week's articles. You can still give your opinion on the debate: [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/hesurvey](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/hesurvey)



**Robert Gallen**

## Free for whom?

A Union consultation of students as to whether a university education should be free was hardly going to produce interesting results. The exercise seems to me to be akin to asking turkeys whether Christmas is a great idea. Irrespective of the economic and social arguments, I would much prefer someone else to pay for my education. And a house would be nice. Also, a Mercedes, please. Thanks.

The problem, as I see it, is that the question hasn't been well posed. People have been asking whether a university education should be free, but it has to be paid for somehow. Lecturers and tutors will not work for free, and the equipment needed for a science university is certainly expensive. The question is, should the British taxpayer pay for us to have a university education? Free university education would be fantastic for university students, but would it be good for the millions on low wages who would be paying for it?

There are good arguments for widespread university education, just as there are good arguments for universal health care. A high level of education would improve our economy and it would also increase social mobility, something it is impossible to object to. But it separates the benefit from the payment. Of course dustbin men



**Generic Student: "I'll have a Mercedes to go with my free education!"**

would benefit from other people having a university education, building up the economy, supporting more jobs and spending more. But they'd benefit more directly from lower taxes.

On the other hand, a system with individual payment and individual pricing for courses would result in better funding, and even better funding for universities that command a reputation (c.f. the U.S., where prices range from \$8k to \$35k p.a.). It would encourage people to actually trade off the value of their education against their expected benefits. I hope it would encourage more flexible studies; for example, doing a one-year course on server maintenance and operating systems, rather than a three-year computing course. It would also shut the media up about so

called "media studies"-type degrees, as the market would decide their worth. It would also have the advantage of not charging people for something they weren't benefiting from.

Of course, it comes hand in hand with the risk of excluding low-income families. But our current system does that, by driving people into debt (albeit at inflation rates), while having the side effect of transferring money from the state to middle-class tossers such as myself. A better system would be to require individual payment with means-tested grants for those who need it. A system exploiting market forces with state intervention to cushion the blow and ensure social mobility would be fair for wealthy and poor students. It's even fair to the dustmen.

## HE funding survey: a case of the blind leading the blind?

I have just completed the Higher Education Funding Survey and hopefully let the Union know my position on the subject. However, I imagine that based on the answers that I gave, my position will certainly be contradictory and confused.

Many of the issues addressed in the survey I, and no doubt many other Imperial students, have not given much consideration before. Nor could we possibly claim to be educated on the topic.

I am extremely interested to see the results of the survey and how the Union interprets them, however I feel if there was one message that most Imperial students would like to send to the Union, it's that "we don't want to pay". As uneducated or misinformed we are on the matter, it still falls to us to pay off the mountain of debt we are to be burdened with when we leave university.

**Kadhim Shubber**



**Steve Brown**  
Union President

## Why a referendum is inappropriate

I understand the concerns expressed in last week's issue about our survey not being as binding as a campus wide referendum on this topic. I would like to reassure readers that the raw data we have collected will be made available in full should anyone wish to scrutinise it. At this point I imagine it would become obvious if the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) and I were being a bit "creative" in our interpretations of the data and if Ms. Clark still doesn't trust us then there are lots of wonderful democratic mechanisms in place to prevent us doing so. I seem to recall dealing with the question of putting this to a referendum last term so to illustrate why the topic of how our universities are funded please consider the consequences of a campus wide "yes" vote in favour of free education. Under our electoral rules questions put to referenda must be clear cut and have a "yes" or "no" answer which I hope people will agree is an inappropriate and overly simplistic mechanism for a topic which touches on so many different areas of our student experience.

First of all, "free education" is not even on the agenda in the run up to the 2009 review. This is not the posi-

tion of the Labour and Conservative parties who are the only ones that will realistically form the next government and even the dear old Liberal Democrats are allegedly contemplating moving away from their current position of opposing all methods of graduate contribution. The socialist Labour Party has made it perfectly clear that they would not increase taxes to fill the funding gap and if you believe this should happen (in my view I don't really want to start work next year and be taxed through the nose) then you will need to take considerably more drastic action than ticking a few boxes on an online form.

Equally ridiculous is the concept that any government will turn round and say "actually, we are going to shut down several underperforming institutions and give all their funding to Imperial College." The diverse nature of the higher education sector does mean that some sections of it will be of more use than others but this problem will not be solved overnight by the implementation of a reactionary policy such as this which in a lot of cases would see society throwing the baby out with the bathwater. In time, the introduction of the correct market mechanisms for

teaching funding would act as a selection process in itself and would determine exactly how much students, employers and society value different types of degree courses. Imperial's degrees are very expensive to teach compared to the costs of teaching the same subject elsewhere but this is not currently reflected in the way the government allocates teaching money.

From the thousands of words generated on this topic this year in my view it is obvious that this is far too complicated to be settled by a referendum and it would be detrimental to our Union to formulate such an important policy in this way. A referendum was a good

way to determine whether or not we should affiliate to the National Union of Students (NUS) as it was a clear cut issue. For your information, the NUS currently don't believe that Imperial College should have the freedom to set their own bursary packages for less well off over and above the government minimums and that our students should be forced to pay in to a National Bursary Scheme that would see the contributions we make spent at other universities. This is another topic in itself so I will finish by urging you to get online, take the survey and give yourself a chance of winning one of the prizes on offer!

### Complete the HE survey, win prizes!

Fill out the survey at [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote) and if there are enough responses, you could win from the following:

- 0 responses = **Return ticket to Paris on Eurostar**
- 150 responses = **West End theatre and dinner voucher for two**
- 300 responses = **Thorpe Park tickets for two**
- 500 responses = **Crystal Experience gift voucher for one**
- 750 responses = **3 x £20 HMV vouchers**
- 1000 responses = **5 x £10 ODEON Cinema vouchers**





## A. Geek

// I might be a cynical bastard and the Union President might be an over-politicised loon but all that really matters is that your opinion is heard //

# Why is free education unrealistic?

This week, Angry Geek comes to you in a slightly different form. Due to a sequence of events that I can only describe as “not hilarious”, I have injured my right arm and as a result am using one of these quite dubious speech-to-text pieces of software. Nevertheless, despite the fact that I’m having to speak this week’s rant into a microphone, thereby irritating the unfortunate sod living next to me, I’m going to do my best to maintain the usual level of hatred and bile that I’ve kept up quite well so far. This should be quite an easy task this week, though, given that this week is the week that the Union staff chose to bring out the ridiculous debate that I commented on last term.

Yes, it’s that old chestnut: Should we be getting our education for free or not? Should we instead pay for the privilege of being treated like children over a further four years and then dumped into an industry that no doubt doesn’t want us due to impending recession that comes thanks at least in part, ironically, to the fact that the generations before us had their education paid for.

I should probably point out before we go any further that there is a slight bias in this week’s column. You may find the sensation familiar.

It’s not that I don’t think that free education is “unrealistic”. Of course I do. I think many things are unrealistic; for example, a contestant on *Deal or No Deal* that doesn’t feel the urge to gamble at every opportunity she has, a Green policy that has actually been thought through past the point where we tear down nuclear reactors, or a politician that thinks that “Labour” and “Conservative” are not the only two ways of assessing a problem.

Similarly, I believe in many “realistic” things are completely not-allowable. For instance – and I do promise you that I genuinely believe this – I do believe a government should be able to hold a terrorist suspect for as long as they like. However, the idea of allowing any *real* government to do such a thing is verging on madness.

So maybe “realism” doesn’t matter when it comes to actually fighting for something. If free education is unrealistic, then *why* is it unrealistic? Do we *want* it to be unrealistic? It seems to me that the whole point of political debate is not that we decide what is possible and not possible *now*, but that we decide how we want society to be *in the future*. I’m not saying our Union President is wrong to call free education unrealistic, but I do think is wrong to disregard the idea solely on that basis. Of course it’s unrealistic. So

was the Spice Girls comeback.

I also disagree with the way in which the free education argument is being dressed up as completely unreasonable. As students our initial bargaining position should be exactly that – why should we want free education? We may feel that we have a debt to pay to society, or that we in some way owe someone something for what we have gained.

However, I admit that considering the Union, or indeed the NUS, as an evil, manipulative, or malicious body is somewhat over the top. The truth is that *of course* we owe someone something. But just as it is reasonable for the public to suspect students of stealing four years of free grants and bursaries, it is also reasonable for us to assume that universities or the government may exploit us if they are allowed to charge us what they wish.

Perhaps that makes my position on the free education debate – that the system that we currently have performs well enough – slightly untenable, if you frame it in the context of me just opposing it for opposition’s sake. Maybe I just don’t understand why change is always the first thing we look for. If universities are low on money, not receiving enough funding for the number of students studying, or the government feels we aren’t paying enough, maybe

there are other causes and, more importantly, other solutions. Maybe we should reconsider whether it was such a good idea to lure as many students as we could to university in the first place? Maybe we should ask ourselves if postmodern art on the walkway walls and ridiculously-branded “centenary coffee” are a better way of spending the University’s money than, say, something that actually benefited the students.

The point is that we can split hairs all day, and poke holes here and there like a production line worker at a condom factory. All that matters, at the end of the day, is what the majority believes. And so all I can say is this – I bloody well hope that you filled in the Higher Education survey. Because I might be a cynical bastard with nonsensical opinions, the Union President might be an over-politicised loon, the NUS might be so far up their own arse that they’re beginning to resemble one of Esher’s impossible shapes; none of that actually matters. All that matters is that you voice your opinion, and a majority get represented at the conference.

Whichever side of the debate wins out, at least this time the student body can show itself to be vaguely involved. I know that may sound a little *unrealistic*, but I’m sure you configured me to believing in it anyway.



## Gilead Amit

# Airports and queues

Of all the witty comments I’ve stolen over the years and passed off as my own, one of my favourite has to be the one about national pastimes. After laughing at the Labour Party, queuing seems to come a close second to laughing at the Conservative party as the English national sport. The French, on the other hand, seem to prefer whiling away the lazy summer days by going on strike. Granted, the two activities do tend to go hand in hand; especially at airports, where one can get as much experience of both as one could possibly want.

I’ve done a fair bit of travelling, and have spent more than my share of time at airports around the world. In fact,

I’ve probably spent more time at airports than I have on airplanes. Most of it waiting around in queues. Now, some people dislike queues. Others get impatient at them. There also exists a rare breed whose hatred for them extends to a simple refusal to acknowledge their existence. One of the more obvious traits that I inherited from my father is this last quality; an indescribable gut-wrenching loathing for waiting in line.

This was one of the many reasons I had trouble understanding the distinction between hell and purgatory. I mean to say, what could be worse than an eternal waiting room full of international passengers wondering about their final destinations? The only difference between that and the Business

Class lounge at Heathrow is that the seats are probably less excruciatingly uncomfortable. Still, as I say, my outlook has changed. Over time, I think I’ve mellowed.

My consolation is that I haven’t yet turned into the blissfully apathetic drone that seems to fill queues in this country from shopping centres to bus stops. The reason I don’t mind queuing so much anymore has nothing to do with the English blood politely coursing through a quarter of my circulation system. The simple truth is that waiting in line gives me a chance to observe people in all their glorious insanity.

Let’s face it: one queue is pretty much like another. With the exception of where you are, who or what you’re waiting for, and what the temperature is, all the other annoyance factors remain pretty much constant. For a queue to really rank as a queue, for instance, rather than just a line, the presence of a large, balding businessman in a buttoned-up shirt open at the neck and far too much jewellery is required. In most cases he will be American; in more exotic climes he may well be Italian or Greek. Whichever racist stereotype you care to indulge in, however, he and his brothers will always behave in exactly the same way. Mobile phone in one hand, remnants of a gelling hair-line being gently smoothed by the other, he will make it very clear to anyone within bellowing distance that he can pass a basic profanity test in a handful of languages.

Dr. Murphy, whose laws apply so well to these particular situations, accurately predicted that should you have one such man on your right, you will have another oilier and more impatient man on your left. Inevitably, each will notice the presence of the other, and unless you particularly want a spittle shower and a front seat at a sumo event, it is a wise move to silently melt away.



Luton Airport: If we call it a line instead of a queue, that reduces the wait in queue time, right?



Heathrow Airport: No holiday album is complete without one of these

// Some people dislike queues. Others get impatient at them. There also exists a rare breed whose hatred for them extends to a simple refusal to acknowledge their existence //

Another of the archetypal queue-mates is the single mother. Tired and hassled, in airport scenarios she is inevitably accompanied by a small child who is either golden-haired and hyperactive or hugely depressed and eager to share his emotions with the world. In either case, the little angel will probably spend most of the waiting time cleaning the floor with various parts of their anatomy ill-suited to the task.

And then, of course, there’s me. Condescendingly looking around me as I mentally prepare my next column; discreetly wiping the spittle off my face emanating from the large man on my right and smiling vaguely at the hysterical cherub running circles around my shoes with his head. God, I love people; we’re so inherently comical.





Scorpio

## Anyone but Huckabee

Compared with the crowning of His Majesty Gordon Brown last year, the US presidential race has enthralled the media on both sides of the pond. News organisations all over the world pick apart each intricacy, skirmish, and outright war primarily because of the major crossroads before America today. Not only are the candidates so different in their ideals, but major issues are coming to a head. Global warming, terrorism, creationism, gun violence, the Middle East, and the state of the world's largest economy have all reared their controversial and sometimes ugly faces during Bush's tenancy and require decisive action from a new President.

George Bush will leave with the international relations of America beyond a joke in many countries. The 'Star Wars' missile system has antagonized Russia; France and Germany fell foul of his foreign policy machinations; Guantanamo Bay and allegations of torture have stained the image of the US across the world and that's without mentioning his cosy stances on Iraq, or Iran, or Cuba, or Palestine, or ...

That is why the thing America desperately needs most is a Democratic President. Someone who will not off-hand greenhouse gas emission as a 'problem for technology'. Someone who will work with, not against, the UN. Someone who will not let faith get in the way of reason ("God told me to invade Iraq ..."). Someone who represents what America was founded on and in its heart stands for: Unity. Tolerance. Secularism. Freedom.

Fortunately, the voters of the land of the free have a choice. Both Democratic candidates would be the major image change for the US it so badly wants. Barack Obama, the first black president. Hillary Clinton, the first female president. Both represent the diversity of America and its opportunities to all, embodying the age-old American Dream. Both talk about stewardship of the environment and taking active measures against carbon emissions. Both want to improve relations with Europe and China. Both want to start withdrawing troops from Iraq. Obama, especially, has a strong record of peace, voting against the Iraq invasion, whilst Clinton states that 'had she known

then what we do now' she would not have given her support. Obama and Clinton also want to integrate the millions of illegal immigrant workers in America with the communities they live in and have devoted livelihoods to, instead of further alienation. Both have the potential to bring atheists and Christians, liberals and conservatives, and business and environmentalists together who for too long have bitterly divided the country.

Facing them stands the Republicans. Cue the Imperial March. Although, to be fair, even the die-hard conservatives in the party acknowledge that change is due. Both Mitt Romney and John McCain have been accused of 'left-leaning' in policy areas on social security and immigration. Disappointingly, however, only John McCain has stated that environmental care is one of his priorities, with no mentioning of capping greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining candidates talk only of 'energy security', i.e. 'less dealings with Russia and Saudi Arabia so we don't have to play so nice with them'. All mention homeland defence as the main thrust to their campaigns: the

very same stance that got George Bush re-elected. Combating 'evil' and 'terrorism' are common themes and, as we all know, it is dead easy to spot those with evil intent amongst the hundreds who take religion a bit too far and the millions who diligently observe their faith peacefully instead of lumping them all into one picnic.

A terrible state for America to be in is to have a female or black candidate lose the general election due to gender or racial prejudice. A Democrat loss due to their inter-faction policy differences is regrettable. However, the worst possible scenario is to vote in the staunchest right-wing Republican candidate. The candidate with medieval views on homosexuality. The candidate who most threatens the separation of Church and State in America that has protected citizens of all beliefs. The natural heir to George Bush, with his foreign policy, but one step further. The creationist candidate who will be in command of the education of a nation holding on dearly to the Dover school ruling.

Please, America, I beg of you. Do not let Mike Huckabee become President.



James Wang

## My invisible friend

People sometimes claim that they have imaginary or invisible friends. I do in fact have an invisible friend. But I see him almost every time I walk into college. It's not that he's any good at hiding or is able to blend into the crowd – quite the contrary. But to the crowds passing every day he might as well be invisible.

The first time we both sat and sipped our cups of tea, I found out that my invisible friend is already in at work before I wake up most days. Recently he tells me that January business is going slowly because of people having spent all their money over Christmas. He does share some pieces of good

news. He's managed to get a second job cleaning part time and has finally gotten a place to stay. Given his current circumstances (which have remained unchanged for five years), one wouldn't have thought that he was once a teacher: English and History, neither of which were my strong subjects. He says that he has never claimed social benefit, and I believe him. I've never seen him force his sales on anyone passing by either. Pride, he tells me. It's what he has left. Unfortunately, as he's getting on in his age, he says he cannot keep doing his current job. My invisible friend isn't bitter or angry over his situation. Instead, he thanks me heartily for the cup of tea before I have to

head in to my lectures.

Some people are born the sons and daughters of monarchs. Others are raised orphans. I don't think it really matters. It's a simple fact of life that some are luckier than others. What I do think matters though, is that you appreciate what you have. People bitch about the smallest things. Some go through their entire lives without realizing how good they have it. Next time your two hundred pound coat with the designer logo doesn't quite manage to keep the chills out, imagine sleeping on the ice cold pavement an entire night with just that coat to keep you warm. Next time the sandwich shop runs out of your favourite kind of wrap, imagine

going a whole day without eating. One thing people I know hear me say quite often is – it could always be worse.

I'm not trying to guilt-trip you into donating to the homeless. In fact, one of the things that really piss me off is the smug fuckers who give up insignificant amounts for the sole reason of inflating their own egos, then walk away with a smug smile. Take your paternalistic sympathy and misguided altruism and shove it. Stop being a slave to society, trends, and the media. Enjoy what you enjoy instead of what they tell you to enjoy. If you still haven't figured out whom my invisible friend is then it's just another day for you and me in paradise.



Matt the Hat

## The only Fair Trade is free trade

There are some things in this world that are downright wrong. Global poverty is amongst the chief concerns in this respect. If the developing world were richer, then they'd be able to solve their own problems, to prevent disease, civil wars and malnourishment, have productive, happy lives, and contribute to everyone's well-being. Unfortunately, poverty is hardly an easy problem to solve. Throwing money at the problem, for example, is a pretty stupid way to do things. And this is my main problem with Fair Trade.

The premise sounds simple enough, and it also sounds effective enough. Offer people a choice between giving impoverished farmers a better deal, and pay for it, or the regular stuff they were getting before, which gives greedy multinationals fatter wads of cash. In principle, it can only help, right? Impoverished farmers will end up with more in their pocket, no matter how successful the scheme is. And we can end up with a better conscience. Everyone's happy.

Unfortunately, not quite. How much

extra do you pay for the privilege of your cup of Fair Trade coffee, say? 20p? Probably more. And I suppose you would expect this to end up in the pockets of the farmers. It doesn't. The vast majority of this premium is safely tucked away by the outlet you bought it from. They know you'll pay more for it, so they charge as much extra as you're willing to pay. Your average coffee farmer sees in the whereabouts of an extra penny or two per cup. This is still probably enough to give them a decent raise in earnings. But that's not the point. Fair Trade might be giving the farmers a fair deal, but it's not giving us, as consumers, a fair deal. It's both ripping us off for the product, and pocketing the change we wanted to go to a good cause!

There are larger, more fundamental concerns I have though, and that's the incompatibility with the free market. Poverty is an economic problem. There are huge underlying problems with the global economy responsible for the poor wages of Third World farmers. Fair Trade will not cure this. Subsidising a farmer for the sole reason that they are poor will not help anyone in

the long run. Subsidising leads to price distortions, and price distortions will lead to robbing money out of someone else's pocket – let's say, for example, other Third World farmers not on the Fair Trade scheme, whose produce doesn't sell for as much because demand is being diverted elsewhere. Perhaps they are just bad farmers that don't deserve to be on the scheme. Maybe not. The free market tends to be a more responsive judge of who is a good farmer, and what they should be paid according to demand (c.f. economics 101) than an arbitrarily designated committee, and can handle everyone without vast swathes of bureaucracy. And farmers who rely on Fair Trade will not be able to stick it out in the real world. We need the economy to tip back in their favour. Remember the principle of how people prefer fishing rods to truckloads of fish? Or farming tools rather than handouts of corn? It's the same thing.

One thing that can honestly help is closer to home than you think. Most Third World countries are not able to compete properly in the western world because we subsidise our own farmers.

That's right: our farming industry is so bad that we need to give it money to keep going. Third World farmers are willing to work for less, they pay less for land, and produce similar or better quality crop. Yet our own government pays farmers to farm things that the Third World could be just as good, probably better at. The EU spends 45% (!) of its entire budget on the archaic Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), responsible for the infamous food mountains, encouraging oversupply and the production of food nobody wanted. We're burning our tax money and screwing ourselves as consumers by effectively blocking competition. The competition is anyone who happens to not be wealthy enough to live in the EU. Yet, with Fair Trade, apparently the way to resolve the situation is to screw ourselves even more, and pay out money so that a small fraction ends up in their pockets.

It's a noble gesture, but it can only be a short term fix. The CAP is the real enemy. It's unfair, and a waste of money. Let the Third World farmers trade freely and fairly with us, and we can all have a better standard of living.



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## Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

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# Varying alpha and the speed of light

Physics met anarchy at João Magueijo's inaugural lecture, with inconstant constants and laws aplenty

Brett Cherry

The title, "Anarchy and Physical Laws", certainly pulled them in: Blakett Lecture Theatre was packed last week, as the crowds turned up to hear João Magueijo, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Imperial College London and former Royal Society Research Fellow, give his inaugural lecture.

Magueijo was talking about the 'anarchistic' idea that physical laws or constants could vary over time, and spent much of the lecture discussing the constant known as alpha. In physics, alpha ( $\alpha$ ) symbolises the fine-structure constant, a name which arose as it originally referred to the structure of atomic spectra – the set of electromagnetic frequencies emitted by atoms of a particular element.

However, alpha is much more than this: it's also one of the primary physical constants that determines the nature of the universe. Alpha is essentially a 'pure' or dimensionless number, meaning it does not have units, but rather is a ratio of the square of the electron charge  $e$  with the product of the speed of light  $c$  and Planck's constant  $\hbar$ . Magueijo explained how alpha is analogous to the well-known constant pi ( $\pi$ ). Like alpha, pi itself does not consist of units, but is also a ratio of two different lengths: the circumference of a circle and its diameter. What Magueijo and other physicists have discovered is that alpha might vary over time.

Experimental evidence mentioned by Magueijo comes from the University of New South Wales, where scientists observing light from distant quasars passing through clouds of interstellar gas, reported a variation in alpha, originating from billions of years ago. However, Magueijo doesn't feel these recent astronomical observations in themselves will lead the scientific community to accept a varying alpha. "No one is ever going to believe those observations until they have a table top experiment."

Further experimental observations are needed to determine if alpha varies, rather than remaining constant. If it is found that alpha does indeed vary that means one of its constants (which include the speed of light) must give way. A "table-top" experimental test of varying alpha might be possible using atomic clocks – if alpha does vary over time small changes could potentially be detected over year-long experimental time periods.

Since his inaugural lecture, Magueijo has moved into his new office in the theoretical physics department in the Huxley building and is tackling

some of the biggest problems in physics, such as how to reconcile quantum theory and gravity to get a theory of quantum gravity. How does he plan to do it? With new theories that have a varying speed of light, a sacred constant for most physicists. Having a varying speed of light doesn't necessarily undermine the foundations of modern physics as we know them today, but it does have fascinating consequences for how we understand fundamental physical laws.

The Varying Speed of Light (VSL) theory which Magueijo is working on has recently gained a greater level of acceptance within the scientific community than at its inception. It refers in fact to not one, but many similar theories that claim the speed of light in a vacuum is not always constant, but Magueijo doesn't discriminate – "I work on them all. I think it's too early to become attached to one, because we really don't know. I mean all of them could be completely wrong." While VSL, like inflation, has still yet to be confirmed experimentally, it does provide fascinating new cosmological interpretations that simply cannot be ignored.

VSL theory was conceived partially in reaction to the dominant cosmological theory of cosmic inflation which claims that the universe underwent a phase of great expansion following the Big Bang. Today, astronomers cannot see any further than 15 billion light years – the cosmological horizon. But the question remains – how did the universe expand to its massive present extent? Inflation provides no direct answer to this question other than assuming that when the big bang 'banged' the universe we live in today instantly expanded from a singularity of infinite density. VSL provides an alternative explanation of how the universe developed after the Big Bang. According to VSL theory, the speed of light was initially up to 60 times faster than it is today. This means that inflation is no longer

needed because, if the speed of light at the beginning was much faster, it would bring all regions of the universe together. As the universe expanded and cooled over time, the speed of light slowed down. When Magueijo first published his



No future for the 'punk-rocker' of physics? Hardly - Magueijo's got tenure now. But is he establishment then?

papers on VSL theory and varying alpha the response from the scientific community was one of "bewilderment." Many scientists simply did not know what to think – modifying the speed of light seemed like heresy if not lunacy. When the media first caught wind of how Magueijo's VSL theory violated Einstein's special theory of relativity, they called him the 'punk rocker' of physics. Who would come up with such a crazy idea? Well... for starters Einstein himself did back in 1911 by claiming gravity would slow down the speed of light. Paul Dirac in 1937 found that the force of gravity might also vary over time and was interested in developing a new theory of quantum gravity from this observation. If these great scientific geniuses were interested in modifying physical constants underlying modern physics, why do scientists cringe at the thought to-

day? The answer is not a convenient one, for it has as much to do with sociology as physics. Magueijo does not see VSL as frightening or 'anti-establishment' as television and newspapers originally portrayed it to be – "This aura of throwing away Einstein was complete nonsense, but people took it that way, the interest now is a bit more genuine, more scientific than what it used to be."

Like many brilliant scientists, Magueijo is continuing where Einstein left off. Ironically, that includes contradicting his theories. "Most of the things we do in theoretical physics is question Einstein, there's nothing special there, it's basically the evolution of science, it's

just the way things work." Einstein of course died while attempting to reconcile his theories of relativity with quantum mechanics. He also left behind some strange theoretical artifacts, including lambda ( $\Lambda$ ), the infamous cosmological constant. Magueijo's VSL theory actually lays to rest many problematic issues surrounding the cosmological constant. "All these threatening aspects of the cosmological constant, that have created all of these problems in cosmology, just disappear. It's not so much as you get rid of it, it's just that you tame it." According to VSL theory, the vacuum energy increases if the speed of light increases as well, but once the speed of light decreases, this vacuum energy drops drastically. Once this takes place energy from the vacuum then discharges into all matter and radiation in the universe. This allows the universe to continue to expand without the need for an 'all pervasive nothing' or cosmological constant in the equation. While this may seem subversive, it shows that in order for science to progress it may require a bit of anarchy.

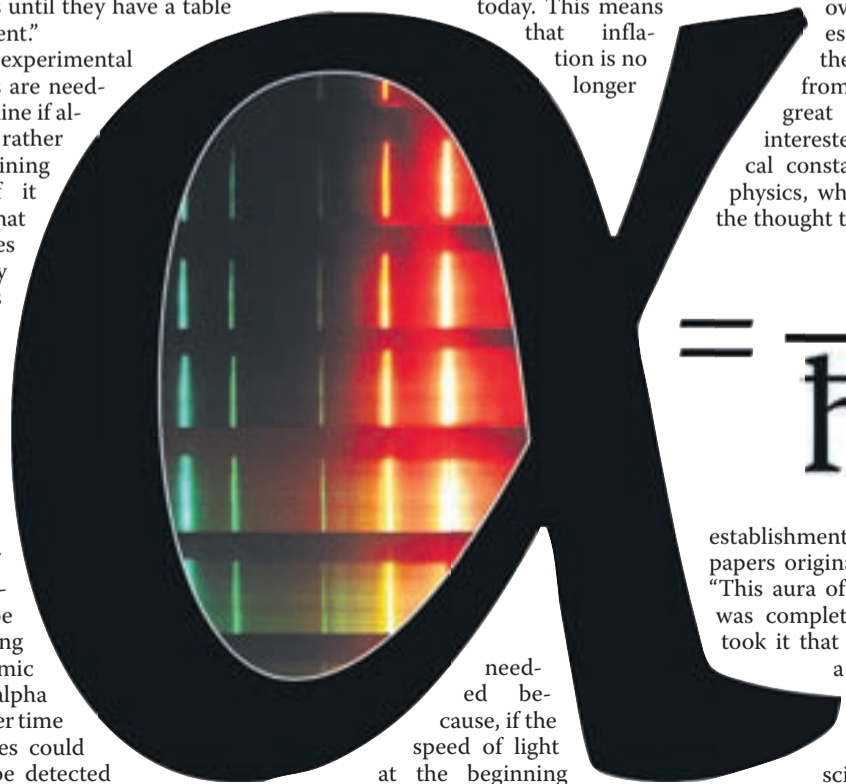
Anarchy – order without government or law – is the last thing one would associate with science. Science as an institution seems anything but anarchistic. However, science as a process may be more 'anything goes' than what is conventionally understood. Magueijo was influenced by the anarchist philosopher of science Paul K. Feyerabend, a former professor at University of London (and friend and colleague of philosopher Sir Karl Popper) who was portrayed by academia and the media alike as the 'arch-enemy of science.' Yet Feyerabend may have actually been a pioneer in developing a radical understanding of scientific method itself. "There is a certain element of anarchy in the scientific process, which people don't like to admit to and some of it is very irrational in fact, it's something we should admit more than what we do as scientists."

Science is often depicted as an absolutely certain and formal process of obtaining knowledge that is rational from the start. History books and the media alike portray scientists as gradually coming to truth by reading directly from the 'book of nature.' Magueijo discourages any absolute theoretical interpretation of the physical universe, but advocates an openness that has allowed science to progress since the beginning. "We shouldn't be so serious about it, as if we know what the final answer is. We don't know what the final answer is. I have no problem whatsoever in working on two contradictory theories at the same time."

Absolute allegiance to any particular theory sounds like something out of the Catholic Church, not science, yet is it too heretical to ask if the institution of science is taking itself too seriously? In developing theories of VSL and varying alpha, Magueijo is journeying down a path of scientific exploration that appears to be getting narrower and narrower: "That kind of beautiful openness of 'anything going' is kind of disappearing more and more." Although he considers it a "sociological misrepresentation," Magueijo has been breaking down the knowledge barriers of theoretical physics, perhaps similar to the way Sex Pistols or other punk rock bands stretched the boundaries of music as an art form.

As well as work on both VSL theory and varying alpha at Imperial Magueijo also remains focused on quantum gravity and using VSL to explain the fluctuations in cosmic microwave background radiation left from the Big Bang. "We're trying to use varying speed of light theories to generate the fluctuations in the universe, that's something we never did before. I also think there is a role for varying speed of light theories of quantum gravity." In the mean time, questioning physical laws, at the very least, exercises one of the prime movers of science – human intelligence.

$$E = \frac{e^2}{\hbar c}$$





# DNA strands seek partners electrostatically

Imran Khan

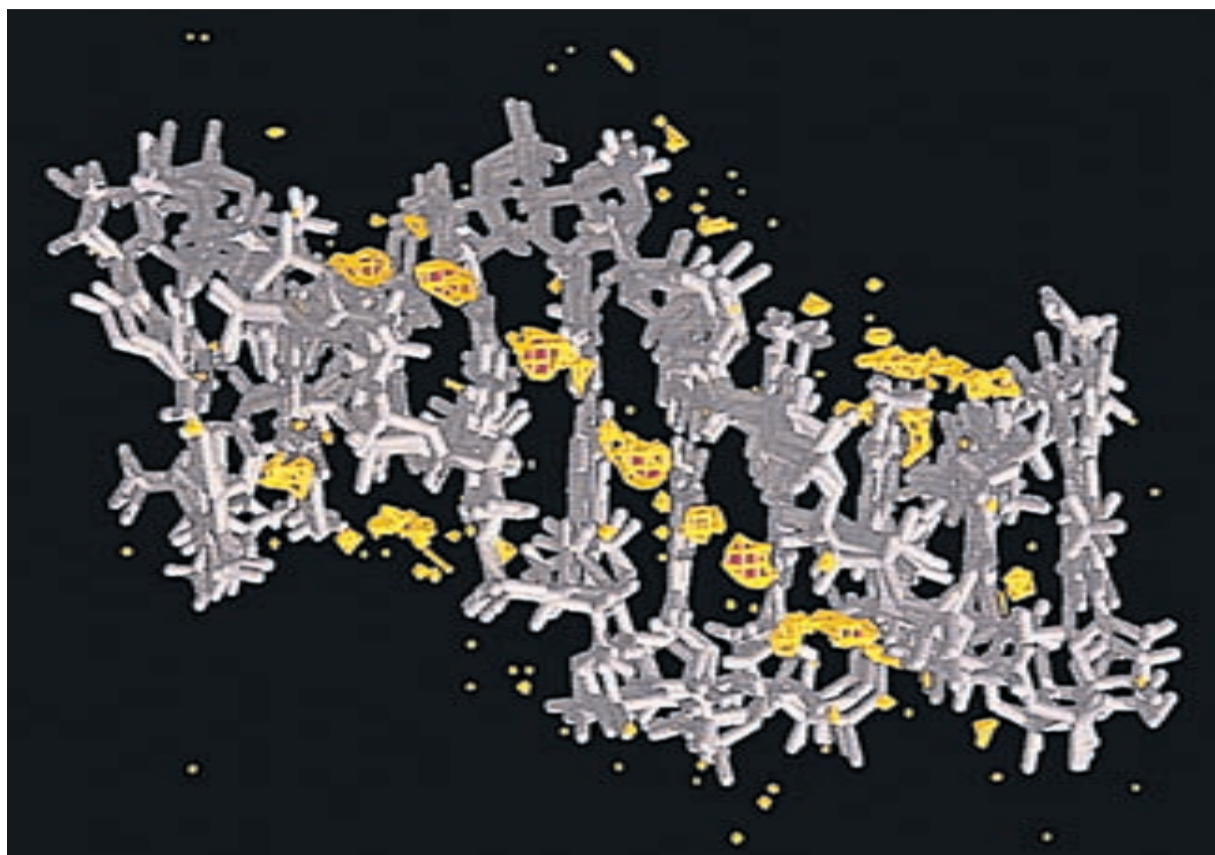
"We wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid (D.N.A.). This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest".

Our understanding of DNA has come along way since James Watson and Francis Crick published their era-defining paper in Nature all the way back in 1953, but the remarkable molecule's latest feat seems to be bordering on witchcraft. A team from Imperial have discovered that individual strands of DNA are capable of recognising and organising each other without the aid of any assisting enzymes or proteins.

The findings, published in the Journal of Physical Chemistry B this month, could be important in helping to uncover the way in which homologous recombination gets started.

Homologous recombination is a key process which our genes use to reshuffle themselves between generations, as well as repair themselves after damage, and involves identical stretches of genetic material on different strands of DNA lining up with each other before swapping information. It has generally been assumed that this kind of behaviour would be impossible without the help of some protein or some other mediation.

The researchers, however, have proposed that the identical DNA strands actually attract each other electrostatically - the same way a suitably charged balloon can attract your hair.



**The famous double-helix. Imperial scientists have just shown how similar strands of the stuff can identify each other at a distance. Turns out it's all to do with the pattern of electric charges inside them**

The idea is controversial, because the bits of DNA which allow it to carry information - the A, T, G and C bases - are located on the inside of the fa-

mous double-helix. They're encased by two relatively boring sugar-phosphate 'backbones', which provide the structural integrity of the molecule. Because

the backbone of the molecule is uniform in structure, it was assumed that any electrostatic properties of the bases on the inside wouldn't make any dif-

ference to the electrostatic properties as visible from the outside, and so one double-helix of DNA would look pretty much the same as any other.

The researchers found, though, that strands with similar sequences actually do have a habit of pairing up with each other. Prof. Alexei Kornyshev, one of the study's authors, pointed out that "seeing these identical DNA molecules seeking each other out in a crowd, without any external help, is very exciting indeed".

**"The molecules can find each other despite being separated by over a nanometer"**

The molecules are capable of finding each other from distances of more than a nanometer apart, and the longer the strands of DNA are, the stronger the attraction seems to be.

This lends weight to the electrostatic hypothesis, though the team admit they can't rule out other mechanisms just yet. "Formation of local single-stranded bubbles and base flipping may cause transient cross-hybridization", they point out, but also consider it to be "rather unlikely".

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# Winners and inevitably losers

A week is a long time in the world of politics; as these people found out, fortunes can change quickly



Giuliani loses, Kadhim celebrates



Money, money, money, monieeee!



The Comeback kid. Well not really



Seriously, I'm not corrupt. Honest



Why doesn't anybody like me?

**L**oser, Rudy Giuliani has seen the collapse of his campaign to win the Republican Presidential nomination after failing to win the Florida primary. His campaign strategy was untested and unfamiliar. He avoided contesting the early primaries and caucuses held in Iowa, New Hampshire and others, instead focusing his money and energy on a late big win in Florida that, he hoped, would propel him to victory overall.

Although spending 3 times as much time campaigning in Florida than the victor (John McCain) as well as \$50 million overall on his campaign, he finished an uninspiring 3rd. He has not yet withdrawn from the race, though an announcement is expected soon. Negotiations with frontrunner John McCain will lead to him announcing his support for McCain's candidacy soon after he drops out of the race.

Traditionally, in U.S politics, the early primary states have a large amount of influence in deciding who becomes the final presidential candidate. This is because a series of early wins allows a candidate to gain momentum.

By ignoring this conventional wisdom Rudy Giuliani either promised to ensure a quick exit or rewrite the political rules in the U.S. While other nominees have thrown up surprises during this years campaigning, this was not to be the case for Giuliani.

**W**inner, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has seen his bank accounts filled up after taking a series of jobs with major banks.

His most recent appointment, as an advisor to Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) will see him working closely with Zurich's newly launched Climate Change Advisory Council.

While neither Blair nor Zurich have released details of his salary, it is believed to be around £2m a year. He also works part-time as an advisor for JP Morgan. His salary for this part-time job could be as high as £2.5m a year.

It is believed that Mr Blair will attempt to become the first full-time EU president from next year. Among his supporters for this £200,000 a year job is French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

It is believed that he will face private resistance from Gordon Brown who is uneasy about having Tony Blair coming back into EU politics. Tories have already taunted him over the prospect of seeing him welcome 'President Blair' to Downing Street. Any sign of tension between Tony and Gordon would be seized on by the media.

Gaining the EU presidency would mean that Tony would have to give up lucrative business advisor roles. In the meantime, he is clearly happy with a guaranteed healthy bank account for years to come.

**W**inner, John McCain wins in Florida, beating Giuliani out of the race and pushing himself to the front of the field and putting himself in good stead for future primaries

Just a few months ago John McCain was floating dead in the water, politically of course. After appearing as the obvious presidential candidate, his campaign lost supporters and funds started to dry up. He was as good as out of the presidential race. However, after victory in New Hampshire, South Carolina and now Florida he has staged a remarkable comeback.

He is likely to secure the backing of Rudy Giuliani after he drops out, and with a general perception that McCain has the potential to beat a democratic candidate such as Hillary, things are looking good for the ex-POW.

However up to this point the race for the Republican nomination has been anything but assured. McCain still faces strong opposition from rival Mitt Romney. Romney's campaign staff believe that his ability to raise money and spend his own millions will allow them to better highlight the contrast between their candidate's business background and McCain's long tenure in a partisan Washington.

The 5th of February, Super Tuesday, will finally cement either McCain or Romney as the Republican candidate.

**L**oser, Peter Hain resigned his position as work and pensions secretary due to the announcement that the Metropolitan police will begin an investigation into his failure to declare donations to his deputy leadership campaign worth more than £100,000.

Hain has always insisted the failure to declare the donations to his campaign was an accident and sources indicated he would fight to "clear his name" from the backbenches.

However at the Electoral Commission officials were not impressed by Hain's explanation that he was too busy to comply with electoral law. The party funding rules have been in force for some time and failure to obey is a criminal offence.

The Hain investigation is particularly embarrassing because it will be the third high-profile police investigation into alleged Labour breaches of electoral and funding law.

In the past some ministers have returned to office after resigning. But Hain is not close to Brown and it is unlikely he will stage a comeback like Peter Mandelson or David Blunkett.

This latest investigation is likely to increase pressure on Harriet Harman and Wendy Alexander who have both admitted irregularities with campaign donations and cement Labour's image as corrupt and sleazy.

**L**oser, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi has handed in his resignation after losing a confidence vote. He will continue as caretaker leader while the President, Giorgio Napolitano, decides whether to hold general elections early.

He was forced out after just 20 months in office, having been defeated in the senate, or upper house, by five votes. The defeat, which spelled the end of the country's 61st government since the Second World War, could also herald a comeback for Silvio Berlusconi, the controversial former premier. Berlusconi has kept up pressure for new elections that he hopes will bring him back to lead Italy.

The collapse of the government had been widely predicted following a stream of defections. Several key figures in Mr Prodi's centre-Left coalition had refused to support him in the vote, effectively ensuring his defeat.

During the vote, the Italian Parliament was the scene of intense drama. Senator Tommaso Barbato was forcibly removed from the Senate session while Senator Stefano Cusumano collapsed during the vote. Senators from the opposition National Alliance party celebrated with champagne as the results of the confidence vote was announced. The change of government is unlikely to bring the radical change needed to help Italy's unhealthy economy.

## Scandal hits Union President Stephen Brown\*

Samuel Black

Union President Stephen Brown has never been afraid of controversy – but as the Sabbatical elections draw close, 'Red Stephen' has come under fire from rivals.

The behaviour of his colleagues is under question. Deputy President (Finance and Services) Chris Larvin is under pressure to resign after lying about accepting a free luxury holiday as a guest of youth camp organisation Kamp Afrika. The Deputy President initially denied being in Nigeria; the Union also issued a statement saying that he was in London at the time. However a photograph of him canoeing in Nigeria forced him to admit the truth. Questions are now being asked over why he and the Union gave false statements but also about how stupid someone has to be to take a picture of themselves when they're somewhere

they're not meant to be.

Stephen Brown personally, has come under enormous criticism for admitting that he enjoyed a personal fiefdom. He defended himself saying, "That's exactly what Sir Richard Sykes – and remember I was opposed to the idea at the beginning – set out to create. And if we didn't have that, I couldn't have got the Union re-development through." However a disgruntled Union employee, lets call her K. Patterson; no - Kirsty P, has informed Felix that Mr Brown is completely close-minded and refuses to work with other people. He responded firmly "The Union system is one in which the President is the elected executive; I do not work through endless layers of Deputy Presidents."

Unfortunately for his credibility, this is not the only admission he has made. Recently, when asked why alcohol always goes missing from The Union

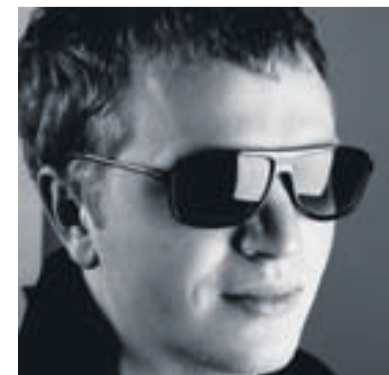
Bar, Stephen Brown admitted he drinks whisky at 10am, usually before the Sambucca but always after a few shots of Tuaca. As a defence for the whiskey drinking, the Union President claimed he used it "as an anaesthetic" in winter months to help his chest problems. When asked why he continues this regime during the spring, summer and autumn months he slurred, "It helps numb the pain..."

Coming back on the offensive, President Stephen Brown has pointed to the many successes of his time as a Sabbatical officer. "Violent crime in Quad is down, there are upgrades to the Southside underground resulting in better service and we've seen great results from the walkway congestion charge" He conceded the incidence of unsolved murders has increased but denied that the creation of an Assassins Society was related. Keen to sound unworried by recent events he declared, "If the

students don't like me they can vote me out." This is exactly what his main rival, former Deputy President (Finances and Services) Jon Matthews, is hoping will happen. He has described Stephen Brown as being drunk on power, adding: "No matter how long someone has been in the job, they're not above accountability". It remains to be seen, however, whether Mr Matthews can shake off his floppy haired image, balance an election campaign with a successful career on Have I Got News for You and go twelve minutes without offending a city, race or continent.

Luckily for Jon Matthews, the scandal surrounding his presidency seemed too much for Stephen Brown in the recent Union Council meeting, Felix reported last week. With the council unwilling to succumb to his iron-fisted rule, he lost his temper with Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson. The full account of the meeting

has only come to light recently, apparently he not only told her to "Pipe down!" but continued "So help me God if you don't shut up I'll delay fixing the constitution till 2012; you are just like a concentration camp guard, you are just doing it because you are paid to, aren't you?"



\*This is satire; keep your hair on



# at the union feb 1 - 8

## FRIDAY 1



A new rave indie disco. Dance to D.I.Y disco. Indie electro punk rock, Old Skool, Hip Hop with a kick back of Grime plus a flavour of 80s and 90s retro pop.

**Act. Normal.**  
(they won't suspect a thing)

## WEDNESDAY 6

**SIN CITY**

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Wednesday night in town!

England v Switzerland

**SIN CITY** Drinks Offers!

Carlsberg TETLEY'S BLACKTHORN

only £1.30 a pint!  
From 20:00

## FRIDAY 8

stick it on  
your music all night

Bring along  
your CDs and  
iPods and our  
DJs will play  
your choice  
of songs! An  
unbeatable  
Music Policy!



## SUNDAY 3

Super Bowl XLII



Watch the game live at the Union  
with the bar and catering open until  
the end of the game!

### ALSO ON

Tue 5 Super Quiz

Coming Up

Wed 13 Sin City - Bucking Bronco  
Fri 15 Bar FTSE

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

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**Rosie Grayburn**  
Arts Editor

**A**re you feeling cooped up like those poor chickens on the telly? Do you constantly moan about how you haven't had a proper break since September? My diagnosis is you clearly need to top up your RWC (recommended weekly culture). A simple way to do this is to read Felix Arts pages once a week.

If symptoms persist, you may be suffering from severe laziness. This can be easily treated with a couple of hours' exposure to an art gallery, museum or theatre. Consult your newspaper arts listings before carrying out any of these treatments. Alternatively, see the opposite page for a guide of how to approach the South Bank's amusements.

Complementary treatments can be added to improve further the results of culture exposure. [Fairtrade] Caffeine can be purchased widely in many arts institutions and is a popular addition to any gallery visit. On the other hand, many patients have found writing an article for their student newspaper has massively increased their RWC.

On this topic, Delighted of Hammett commented, "My RWC soared after I was sent to review a big gallery opening for Felix... And all I had to do was email arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk!"

This week in Felix, we have some lovely regular features to keep you glowing with culture. Lucy Harrold, our own Musical Theatre guru, tells you all you need to know about West Side Story. When you eventually get on University Challenge, your little face will light up when Paxman announces "Right, your bonuses are on that famous Leonard Bernstein musical."

I continue my mission this page to introduce famous areas in London where you can chill for the day whilst conveniently upping your RWC and decreasing your DTA (Daily Telly Allowance) and LISL (Lab-Induced Stress Levels).

We at Felix Arts are currently recruiting writers and we would love to hear from you. If you are interested at all in reviewing the 'From Russia' exhibition at the Royal Academy, the National Portrait photographic Prize at the National Portrait Gallery or the new Launchpad at the Science museum, please get in touch at the usual address. We will sort out the tickets, which applies to anything you fancy reviewing.

Apart from that the theatres around London are blooming with life. I blame global warming personally. At the Old Vic Jeff Goldblum stars in Speed the Plow alongside Kevin Spacey.

Before you get too excited, don't forget the smaller productions. At the King's Head Theatre in Islington, The Dybbuk is showing until February 24th ([www.kingsheadtheatre.org](http://www.kingsheadtheatre.org)) and on some nights you can see the acclaimed Fucking Men at the Finborough Theatre ([www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://www.finboroughtheatre.co.uk)). If you find yourself gracing these theatrical institutions and you find yourself angered or inspired by the play/concert you are viewing, please tell us about it. We'd like that.

# How to get out of your hole

Part 1: South Bank. Rosie Grayburn shows you how to do the South Bank. Oo-er

**T**his week in Felix's Guide to Days Out of Fun and Enjoyment, we take you on a journey along the South Bank of the Thames from Waterloo to Southwark.

The South Bank is a cultural hub of theatres, galleries, restaurants and architecture. There is the National Theatre, Shakespeare's [excellent imitation] Globe Theatre, The Tate Modern, The OXO tower...

**Fuck me – that is a lot of culture!**

You are very observant, Mr Generic Student in Bold Type. How to get there: train/tube/bus to Waterloo. Easy peasy. Things you need: Camera (to fit in with generic tourists), money (to buy sustenance and postcards) and a copy of Hamlet's soliloquy (to play pretend at the Globe). Websites to check out before you venture out: [www.visit-southwark.com](http://www.visit-southwark.com)

1. The South Bank is clearly signed from the station, but still bring an A to Z or map of some description as it may be useful further on. When you get to the river, turn RIGHT onto 'The Queen's Walk', which will take you most of the way along the South Bank.

If you dare turn left, you will see the London Eye and the Houses of Parliament straight in front of you. Please don't go that way. We've seen it all before.

2. Follow the river and you will pass the National Theatre and the Royal Festival Hall, purveyors of fine concerts and plays for years. The National Theatre has recently been saved from concrete death by being presented with a 'mood' light on its head. This detracts from the ugly concrete and looks very pretty when it is dark.

Incidentally, there are some very tasty cafes underneath the Royal Festival Hall in case you get peckish this early on in the day, fatty. See <http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/> for current 'what's on' listings. If you don't fancy a play or concert, the buildings are interesting to have a poke around.

3. As you continue to walk in the SAME direction along the Thames, you will pass under the OXO Tower. This houses a very fancy restaurant owned by Harvey Nicks. Someone recently suggested that all they served was different flavoured OXO cubes with a garnish of salad. We can only dream, eh?

4. You will next pass under Blackfriars Bridge, home to buskers and traders selling little, useless objects. When you have passed this section you will be faced with the gargantuan Tate Modern in what used to be the Bankside Power Station.

I love this building. The turbine hall is so cavernous and dwarfing – it is worth just popping in the [free] entrance to stand in the centre of it to soak up the grey, empty atmosphere.

The infamous 'Crack' or 'Shibboleth' is currently occupying some Turbine space, so watch out for overexcited small children and adults.



The wonderfully industrial OXO tower where you can eat very poncey food: OXOtail soup, OXO caesar salad, OXO and martini, OXO frites...



All the world's a Stage... Inside the Globe Theatre. You'd be fucked if you promised "I'll eat my hat" and you were wearing one of those

5. Once you have exhausted the Tate Modern and perhaps had a coffee break in its café, the next amusement along is the Globe Theatre. It was painstakingly reconstructed from original designs and authentic materials, like blood, mud and macadamia nuts (honestly!!).

The open air theatre does not start its season until April but it still does tours around the theatre with exuberant guides all year round. Have a look at [www.shakespeares-globe.org](http://www.shakespeares-globe.org) for more details. The mostly hands-on exhibition underneath the theatre is very enjoyable, if you like pretending to be Shakespearean characters and dressing up in pantyhose. I do.

6. If you are getting bored of the South Bank now, or if you have superstitions about 'banks' or 'south' things take a ride (and it really is) on the Millennium Bridge towards the City. Indulge in St. Paul's Cathedral, the Bank of England and The Museum of London.

7. If you want to stick to the South Bank, follow signs and crowds in the same direction to the area of Southwark. Follow a map if it will make you feel better.

This is a very old part of London. You can imagine it being smelly, noisy and wonderfully 'orrible. It is mostly cobbled and contains ancient cathedrals ([www.southwark.anglican.org/cathedral](http://www.southwark.anglican.org/cathedral)); historic ships docked ([www.goldenhinde.org](http://www.goldenhinde.org)) and the very authentic tourist trap: The London Dungeon ([www.thedungeons.com](http://www.thedungeons.com)). Have a wander around the streets, but don't stray too far or you'll end up at Guy's Hospital (boo!!).

8. At the end of this slog along the South Bank, you are greeted by the welcome sight of Borough Market ([www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk)). It is a labyrinth of stalls selling wonderful, local, delicious produce. If you are repelled by the not-so-wonderful, delicious prices it is fantastic to walk around and soak up the atmosphere. It is open Thursday to Saturday until the mid-afternoon.

9. Time to go home. If you are super-adventurous, why not wander a bit further up the Thames to Tower Bridge, the Tower of London and all that comes with it?

If you do end up venturing up that far and your stomach starts complaining about neglect, why not take it for a rollercoaster ride in the famous Brick Lane 'curry mile', just around the corner from the Tower of London.

We come to the end of our jaunt along the South Bank. To get home, you can walk back along to Waterloo bypassing the sights or get the tube from Blackfriars, which is closer to Borough Market.

If your expedition has been a success, please send us a postcard. If there was anything you discovered on your travels that we missed off, please send us an email to let us know and we might just publish it.

**Next week we push you a little further and explore Greenwich and Canary Wharf.**



# Stanzas for Students

A Mathematical problem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. One for the Mathematicians. Like dustbin men, someone has to do it

The father of Romantic poetry had nothing but praise for Mathematics, and could be said to be very far removed from poetry. There is much novel punctuation and line breaks which makes the poem all the more mathematical thus mirroring the theme perfectly and making an original contrast with literature. Enough of the spiel, enjoy it my fellow scientists. I give you Mr Samuel T. Take it away Sam:

I

On a given finite Line  
Which must no way incline;  
To describe an equi--  
--lateral Tri--  
--A, N, G, L, E.  
Now let A. B.  
Be the given line  
Which must no way incline;  
The great Mathematician  
Makes this Requisition,  
That we describe an Equi--  
--lateral Tri--  
--angle on it:  
Aid us, Reason--aid us, Wit!

II

From the centre A. at the distance  
A. B.  
Describe the circle B. C. D.  
At the distance B. A. from B. the

centre

The round A. C. E. to describe  
boldly venture.  
(Third Postulate see.)  
And from the point C.  
In which the circles make a  
pothor  
Cutting and slashing one  
another,  
Bid the straight lines a journeying  
go,  
C. A., C. B. those lines will show.  
To the points, which by A. B. are  
reckon'd,  
And postulate the second  
For Authority ye know.  
A. B. C.  
Triumphant shall be  
An Equilateral Triangle,  
Not Peter Pindar carp, not Zoilus  
can wrangle.

III

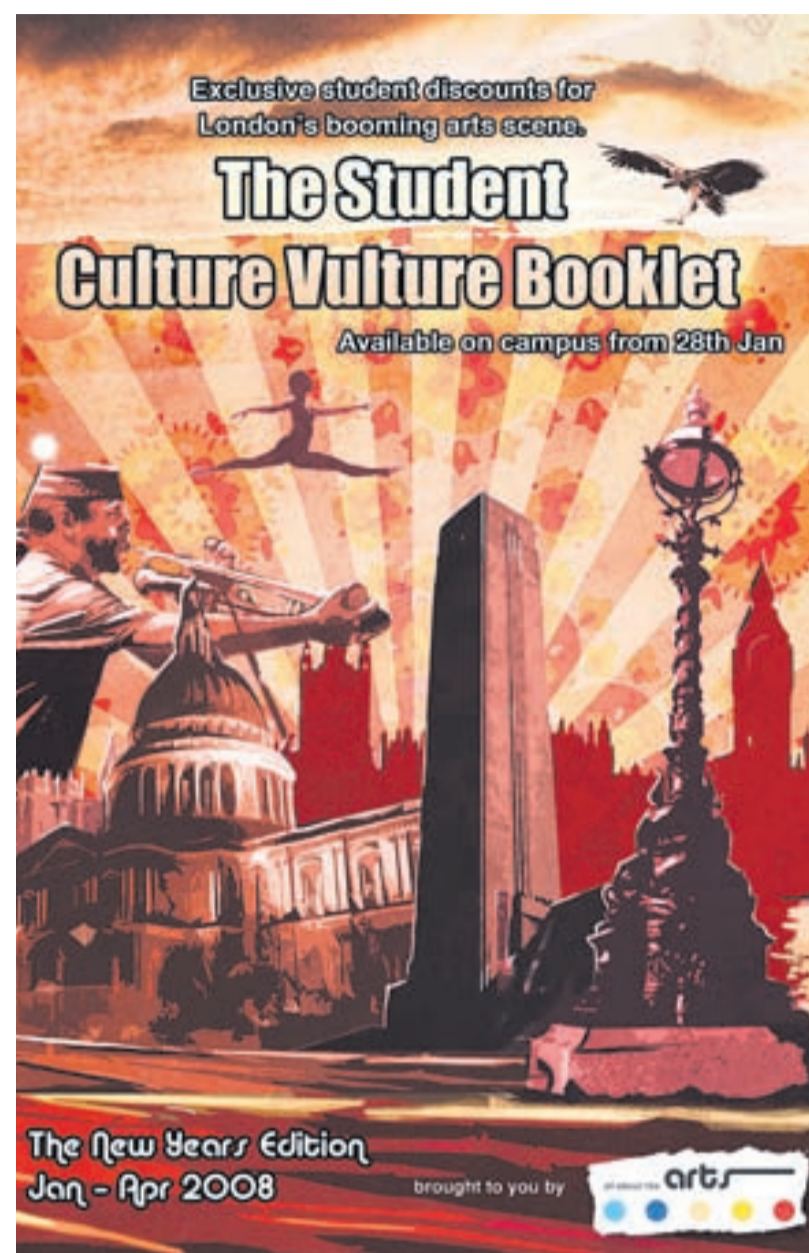
Because the point A. is the  
centre  
Of the circular B. C. D.  
And because the point B. is the  
centre  
Of the circular A. C. E.  
A. C. to A. B. and B. C. to B. A.  
Harmoniously equal for ever  
must stay;  
Then C. A. and B. C.  
Both extend the kind hand  
To the basis, A. B.  
Unambitiously join'd in Equality's

Band.

But to the same powers, when  
two powers are equal,  
My mind forbodes the sequel;  
My mind does some celestial im-  
pulse teach,  
And equalises each to each.  
Thus C. A. with B. C. strikes the  
same sure alliance,  
That C. A. and B. C. had with A.  
B. before;  
And in mutual affiance,  
None attempting to soar  
Above another,  
The unanimous three  
C. A. and B. C. and A. B.  
All are equal, each to his brother,  
Preserving the balance of power  
so true:  
Ah! the like would the proud Au-  
tocratix do!  
At taxes impending not Britain  
would tremble,  
Nor Prussia struggle her fear to  
dissemble;  
Nor the Mah'met-sprung Wight,  
The great Mussulman  
Would stain his Divan  
With Urine the soft-flowing  
daughter of Fright.

IV

But rein your stallion in, too dar-  
ing Nine!  
Should Empires bloat the scien-  
tific line?



## Musical Theatre Weekly – West Side Story

### History

In 1949, Jerome Robbins (a famous director) went to Arthur Laurents (a writer) with the idea of a ballet/musical about the gang warfare in East Side, New York.

In fact, the original East Side Story was a battle between Catholics and Jews. This being post WWII the location was moved to the West Side and gangs became the Americans and Puerto Ricans... yeah, cos that's less racist.

The idea became West Side Story. Leonard Bernstein wrote the music and a new kid on the block, Stephen Sondheim, wrote the lyrics.

The show premiered in 1957 to rave reviews despite the creators being scared shitless as this type of show had never been done before. This is what makes it such a pivotal show in the history of theatre.

West Side Story was almost an operatic ballet: the first to put so much dancing with music and to use the dance to move the story along. It was also one of the first musicals to deal with a realistic storyline rather than the usual "look at us, we're all happy as we're singing and dancing".

The first act ended with two dead bodies and the second with another—nothing was resolved at the end of

the play. The show went on to be a major hit, having many revivals and being shown all around the world.

A film was made in 1961 starring Richard Beymer (innit, I don't know who he is either) and Natalie Wood, whose songs were actually sung by Marni Nixon, the woman behind the singing of Deborah Kerr in "The King And I" and Audrey Hepburn in "My Fair Lady".

### Plot

Generally if you know anything about Romeo and Juliet you'll get the plot. If you don't, what have you been doing with your life? \*Sigh of despair\*

It's about a guy and a girl who love each other but their love can never be as they are from rival gangs, so they have to carry out their relationship in secret.

When everyone starts to realise what is happening they have to find a way of stopping everyone from killing each other, they're obviously not very good at that as Tybalt kills Mercutio and then Romeo kills Tybalt in revenge.

Romeo then runs away to avoid getting jailed for murder making Juliet think he's dead so she takes a sleeping draft that makes her seem dead. Romeo returns to find a dead Juliet and kills himself, she wakes up to find him dead and kills herself.

Unfortunately this was a musical in the 1950s so although the original

out of town tryout was faithful to the Shakespeare story, but by the time it came to Broadway Maria did not die because those damn stiff upperlip 1950s Americans found death on stage too upsetting.

### Songs to look out for:

Tonight: Personally I prefer the end of act one quartet version. Either that or the Tony/Maria duet. Both are amazing

Officer Krupke: Two words: Funny As.

America: I got to dance this in the MTSoc tour last summer so I'm a bit biased. It's still a very memorable tune - who doesn't know bababa bababa ba ba ba....?

### Main Characters:

Tony: The lovestruck Romeo character and ex-leader of the Jets. He fancies Maria.

Maria: The younger sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks, and she fancies Tony. Anyone just worked out the problem? Shit.

Riff (or Mercutio): Leader of the Jets and Tony's best friend.



Squaring up... MTSoc style in their Summer Tour version of WWS. "Your fake tan sucks", "Fake tanned your mom last night"

Anita (or Shakespeare's Nurse): Girlfriend of Bernardo and confidante of Maria.

Bernardo (or Tybalt) : Leader of the Jets. He gets a bit moody if you touch his sister.

Jets: The "pure Americans", they think they own the streets because they got there first.

Sharks: The Puerto Rican newcomers, who also think they own the streets

### Where can I get it?

The DVD is still readily available, as are many different recordings.

It is rumoured that a fiftieth anniversary production is in the pipeline.

### If you liked this, try:

Billy Elliot: This also utilises ballet within its storytelling and if you know the movie then you'll know there's a lot of male angst here too.

Romeo+Juliet: If you don't think you can stomach a full blown musical, try Baz Luhrmann's modernisation of the classic tale. But I won't be too downhearted if you favour this over the musicals, it's well made and has a kick-ass soundtrack!

by Lucy Harrold



# Frolic about in the Big Smoke

## Chapter Seven – Free things to do in London

### Parks and Gardens

**Hyde Park Corner, Green Park, Camden Town, Holland Park, Regent's Park, St James's Park Stations**

Visit London's parks and gardens for a relaxing walk, reading, a picnic or to sunbathe. Highlights include the following: Hyde Park, the largest central park, is still quite quiet – visit the Round Pond to feed the swans; Green Park is leafy and cool; St James's Park has pelicans and a great view of Buckingham Palace; Holland Park has peacocks and beautiful formal gardens; Primrose Hill, near Camden Town, has a great view of the city and is lovely for sunbathing; Regent's Park has the beautiful Queen Mary's Rose Gardens.

### Speaker's Corner

**North East Hyde Park  
Marble Arch Station**

Traditional site for public speeches and debate as well as the main site of protest and assembly in Britain. Although many of its regular speakers are distinctly non-mainstream, it has been frequented by such people as Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, George Orwell, and William Morris. Its existence is frequently upheld as a demonstration of the principle of free speech, as anyone can turn up unannounced and talk on almost any subject. Come on Sunday mornings to listen to all sorts of views from the sensible to the obscure!

### Changing of the Guard

**Green Park Station  
South Kensington Station**

No visit to London is complete without seeing this military tradition. The Queen's Guard in London changes in the Forecourt inside the gates of Buckingham Palace at 11.30am every day in the summer and every other day in the winter.

### South Ken Museums

**South Kensington Station**

Go to the world-renowned museums on Exhibition Road, just 5 minutes from College, including the Natural History Museum, the Science Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Favourites include the Flight section in the Science Museum, the Gems section and earthquake simulator in the Natural History Museum, and the Raphael Cartoons in the V&A.

### Tate Modern and Tate Britain

**Southwark and Pimlico Stations**

Tate Modern displays the national collection of international modern art, defined as art since 1900. It includes masterpieces by Picasso and Matisse and one of the world's finest collections of Surrealism, including Dalí, Ernst, Magritte and Mirò. There are also major works by Pollock as well as collections of Pop art, including Warhol, Minimal art and Conceptual art. The Tate Britain comprises the national collection of British art from 1500 to the present day, and international modern art. In the twentieth century section there is the work by Stanley Spencer, Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and Francis Bacon. Special attention is given to three outstanding British artists from the Romantic age – Blake, Constable and Turner. A boat connects the two museums, although this is not free.



Written by Sally Longstaff, designed by Rosie Grayburn

## British Museum

**Great Russell Street  
Tottenham Court Road Station**

The British Museum is a museum of human history and culture. Its collections, of more than 13 million objects, are amongst the largest and most comprehensive in the world and originate from all continents. Highlights include: the Rosetta Stone, used for deciphering hieroglyphics, the Elgin Marbles from the Acropolis, Egyptian mummies, Greek vases, and the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos (one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World).



## Street Theatre

**West Piazza, North Hall and Courtyard, Covent Garden  
Covent Garden Station**

Mention Covent Garden Market and most people think of entertainment: from the first Punch & Judy shows in the 17th century to the world's very best street theatre. Be amazed by the street acts from sword-fighting knights to knife-swallowing acts, chain-saw jugglers, death-defying unicyclists, opera singers and classical musicians, as well as escape artists, clowns, mimes and human statues. Walk among the acts and maybe sit in one of the numerous cafes to take in the atmosphere.



## See a Trial at the Old Bailey

**Newgate Street  
St Paul's Station**

The Central Criminal Court, or the Old Bailey, is the probably the most famous criminal court in the world. It hears cases from all over England and Wales as well as the Greater London area, and you can see them all from the Public Gallery. They are open Monday to Friday from 10am-1pm and 2-5pm. Be warned, security is tight and no cameras, mobile phones, bags or food are allowed.

## Ceremony of the Keys

**Tower of London  
Tower Hill Station**

The Ceremony of the Keys is the traditional locking-up of the Tower of London and has taken place each and every night, without fail, for at least 700 years. The importance of securing this fortress for the night is still very relevant because, although the Monarch no longer resides at this royal palace, the Crown Jewels and many other valuables still do! Tickets are free but you have to apply in writing. Go to [www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon/WhatsOn/ceremonyofthekeys.aspx](http://www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon/WhatsOn/ceremonyofthekeys.aspx) for details.



## Bank of England Museum

**Threadneedle Street  
Bank Station**

The Bank of England Museum tells the story of the Bank of England from its foundation in 1694 to its role today as the United Kingdom's central bank. See how banknotes are made, be a broker on the stock market and crack a safe. You can also hold a gold bullion bar worth over \$140,000. Well worth a visit!



## Street Markets

**Notting Hill Gate/Borough/Camden Town/  
Liverpool Street**

Portobello Road Market: world-famous market selling antiques, jewellery, second hand clothes and bric-a-brac.  
Borough Market: one of the largest food markets in the world, selling a large variety of foods from all around the world.  
Camden Market: arts and crafts, jewellery, 2nd hand clothing food stalls. Higher-priced items indoors.  
Spitalfields Market: indoor market selling books and clothes. Organic food and crafts on Sundays.  
Brick Lane Market: sunday market. Sells furniture, fruits, exotic spices, saris, kitsch collectables and vintage clothes.



ent works may affect your journey  
ily at weekends.  
before you travel: look for publicity  
at stations. visit [tfl.gov.uk/check](http://tfl.gov.uk/check)





**Davy gets screwed minutes before Guilds do**  
Christian Carter cradling RSM mascot Davy shortly before it was rescued by RSM committee members. Strike a pose, email: [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





## Film

Film Editor – Alex Casey

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



**Alex Casey**  
Film Editor

Alex Casey

And so now I bring you a small discussion of the Oscars nods, a week late, perhaps, but with that time well-spent to say something about the sad passing of Heath Ledger. Still, you don't know the winners yet, so perhaps you can find something in here to have a small flutter down the bookies with.

The semi-finals are over. If your name's not on any of the ballots, you better book fast to get the cheapest ticket home. Hollywood, and BAFTA, gave you your chance, and you blew it. Although you may be wondering why.

Once the Golden Globes are announced, the road to the Oscars is more a question of rearranging the melee of names already mentioned than picking up brand new hopes. Perhaps a Best Picture candidate falls out of favour but gets the consolation of a Best Cinematography nod by the end. Maybe you had a performance that bemused you by its absence from the lists (especially with the Globes' split categories), but unless your film happened to make the Best Picture list, everyone will have forgotten it ever existed until March. The Globes set the table, you choose where you sit, but you can't bring friends to dinner.

The rare thing that the 2008 ceremony seems to have brought so far is following various shuffles by guild awards, Globes and BAFTAs, the Academy have managed to optimise the list of nominees with real talent being rewarded and the fluff being bumped to technical categories. Not that there haven't been a few mistakes, of course.

I'm past caring that *No Country for Old Men* is the clear favourite. The winners will no doubt be pretty disappointing, but the nominations themselves are good consolation. *Atonement* seems to have clung on after being shut out by each of the main US guild shows, and rightly so. Whilst not a massive fan of the film, it was better than *Michael Clayton* (bonus points for anyone who saw this coming) and *No Country*, and for proof that voting members cared about the different categories out there, the limp Keira and strangely off-form McAvoy have been evicted. Please leave the Big Bother house.

Acting nominations have actually had a bit of a boost. The talents of Laura Linney (woohoo) have edged out Knightley, but sadly Cate Blanchett's Elizabeth shut out Angelina. For the men, Viggo Mortenson usurps McAvoy and Johnny Depp got chucked in for comedy value. Not that it matters when Daniel Day-Lewis is still on the guest list.

With *There Will Be Blood* the only main contender as yet unseen by Felix, it's hard to know what to make of the race. Joint leader in total nods, it has generated surprisingly little coverage for anything other than Lewis himself. Can it be that underwhelming?

Support from this corner would go to *Juno* as the best of a mediocre bunch. However, for a bet, outside odds on *Atonement* pipping *No Country*. Unlikely, but more chance than *Clayton*.

# Teen pregnancy is, like, cool

With more buzz than a swarm of killer bees, *Juno* seems to be delighting audiences of all ages as Felix asks why a pregnant 16-year old girl has managed to cause such a fuss

There's something about *Juno*, it's true. This small indie flick, which first popped up on the festival circuit in the middle of last year, has smasively snowballed in influence. It is set to become the surprise sleeper hit at the Oscars later this month, snagging nominations for the coveted Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress categories amongst others, a considerable feat considering the three driving forces behind it are all 30 or under. And so, Felix are bringing you everything you need to know about the film everyone's talking about a week prior to release (8th Feb) so that you can stay top of the pile.

The appeal of *Juno* no doubt rests on the shoulders of lead actress Ellen Page who seems to have transcended Academy perceptions of a Best Actress candidate, beating out the hotly-tipped Angelina Jolie and Keira Knightley. Not bad for a young woman only featuring in her second high profile feature. Although only two years younger than Knightley, her nod has raised eyebrows because she is playing a child, not the young women that Keira's face lends itself to, a role that would normally only elicit voting sympathy in supporting categories.

Then again, it would be impossible to relegate Page to a supporting consideration given she plays the eponymous protagonist. Her effortless humour is endearing although her stunning eloquence of speech (albeit the voice of screenwriter Diablo Cody, see later) allows the audience to identify with Juno on an adult level despite the story squarely identifying her as a child. What use is a story of teenage pregnancy if the central character appears adult enough to effortlessly breeze through it all?

Page's downfall, however, could be her childlike image. Whilst Keira is not as consummate an actress, she has adult roles and a beauty that will always find her work, no matter how wooden she may be. Page has a very young appearance that has at times seemed to contra-



Nope, it's not a baby, just wind

dict the intelligence that her roles in *Juno* and the 2005 thriller *Hard Candy* bestow upon her. In *Hard Candy* especially, the shocking nature of her scenes pushed her character beyond the realms of realism into the ridiculous, even if it was enjoyable, thought-provoking ridiculousness. At least the coupling of such promise with some early Academy recognition will give her the momentum she can hope for to get over the notoriously difficult teenage barrier.

Someone who doesn't have such difficulty with typecasting will be Diablo Cody, writer of *Juno* and creator of the cool indie edge it displays. During the London Film Festival, Cody and director Jason Reitman brought a small

film that had a little bit of hype around it, although with Alison Janney and Jennifer Garner the only recognisable names attached to the project, it was quickly lost amongst the bigger name projects by David Cronenberg, Wes Anderson, Sean Penn, etc. In the basement of the Soho Hotel, Felix listened to the creative powers discussing their project with an affection that is rare among the bigger names who churn out hit after hit.

Cody came to screenwriting from blogging, originally, and described how her treatment of a real-life problem such as teenage pregnancy could only be handled through humour. "You can get away

with saying a lot more in a comedy than you can in a drama" trills Cody, delightfully oblivious to the stress that the situation could cause in reality.

Reitman is similarly playful, taking time out of the conference to photograph the mountain of dictaphones under his nose with his new iPhone. His nomination as Best Director is probably the biggest shock of Juno's hoard (his only previous feature was the hit-and-miss *Thank You For Smoking*) and unprecedented in the rest of the awards

season. It was all the more surprising given that, for all the comparisons that have been drawn with last year's *Little Miss Sunshine*, that film failed to swing a directing nod, so Reitman must be pretty pleased with himself.

Indeed, I imagine the three of them aren't that phased by the attention at all. These are just three young kids, surfing the crest of a wave of praise. New talent is always a bonus on the indie film scene, and that's the one thing that *Juno* brings into the world.

with a ludicrously large lexicon, and is matched by Michael Cera as the would-be love interest.

Alison Janney manages to dispel the image of the *West Wing*'s CJ as the dog-loving stepmother of Juno, balancing the frustration of Juno's attitude towards her with a real affection for the girl to avoid any straight-forward caricatures. Jennifer Garner is also impressive, if still annoying, as the highly strung Stepford Wife looking to adopt Juno's baby into her seemingly perfect-but-childless family.

The script is the real sparkle here, and Diablo Cody has professed many times that the language children use is a lot more sophisticated than you give them credit for to account for *Juno* having an intellect that has wits much sharper than her aptitude for common sense. There are a few really good laughs to be had here, and the scene in which Juno goes for her ultrasound stands out in particular for its strength, humour and emotional resonance.

With the screenplay as the star, it's hard to understand why Reitman is now an Oscar hopeful for Best Director. Perhaps people were just happy to see the film and grateful for the man who envisaged it and presented it so simplistically. *Juno*, in the event of a win, will not go down in history as a classic picture. Charm it has in spades, but longevity is not exactly guaranteed. As we said before, *Juno* is simply a classic weekend afternoon romp.

## Juno

★★★★☆

**Director:** Jason Reitman  
**Writer:** Diablo Cody  
**Cast:** Ellen Page  
Michael Cera  
Jennifer Garner

This film is not quite the holy grail of indie filmmaking the Academy may have you believe, but it's a good try. Amongst the somewhat dreary and depressing list of nominations, *Juno* provides a fun factor that would definitely be worth going to see if you fancy a light-hearted Sunday afternoon romp. Indeed, it's the very pursuit of such a distraction that leads to the subject matter involved, although not by taking the cinema route.

*Juno* (Page) is a 16 year old girl who finds herself pregnant after a tryst with a school friend (Cera) and follows the course of her pregnancy. Cue the tears and tantrums, family betrayal and poor little girl with baby out on the streets.

Or not. *Juno* sees a much funnier side to the whole thing, treating the idea of pregnancy more as something along the lines of a zit the week before prom. And *Juno* ain't no prom queen either, she's cooler than that. Instead, *Juno* treats the funny aspects of pregnancy and even the process of adoption with a refreshing light-hearted touch that it has used to endear itself to the world.

Ellen Page is great as Juno, albeit



Ellen Page in *Hard Candy*



# When the apocalypse comes, film it

With *Lost* producer J.J. Abrams overseeing new sci-fi blockbuster *Cloverfield*, should we believe the hype or is it just more unfulfilled promise? Felix investigates to find a pleasing lack of tropical island mysteries

## Cloverfield ★★★★★

**Director:** Matt Reeves  
**Writer:** Drew Goddard  
**Cast:** Lizzy Caplan  
 Jessica Lucas  
 T. J. Miller  
 Michael Stahl-David

### Patrick Tumilty

Prior to release, this movie has been hugely hyped, with rumours springing up all over the web. The speculation surrounding the movie is mainly due to a tantalising teaser trailer, but has also been fuelled by the shroud of secrecy that has cloaked the whole production process. Was the 10.30am start and ensuing dash [my alarm clock failed me again!] to Empire in Leicester Square worth it? Let's find out.

According to producer J.J. Abrams of *Lost* fame, the idea for *Cloverfield* was loosely inspired by the Godzilla-themed toys he noticed on a trip to Japan; not the most profound motivation for making a sci-fi motion picture. My expectations were anything but sky-high as I took my seat, but having recently watched Sidney Lumet's brilliant *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* and the Coen brothers' intrigu-

ing *No Country for Old Men*, I was probably more receptive than usual to some standard action fare.

The movie begins in Rob's apartment, where his friends are throwing him a surprise going-away party before he leaves New York for Japan. The initial 20-min party sequence reveals the complicated web of relationships between the film's main characters and is a useful counterpoint to the upcoming action.

The opening scenes are shot by Rob's best friend Hud, using a hand-held camera. In the midst of Rob's friends wishing him farewell on camera, the lights go out and things take a turn for the worse... Everybody rushes to the roof, where they are horrified to see the distant destruction of several towering skyscrapers by "some... thing." The audience hear a foreboding moan from whatever is wreaking this havoc, but we are kept waiting to find out more. Hud continues filming for the remainder of the movie on his camcorder, stating, "people are gonna wanna know how it all went down."

The main premise of *Cloverfield* is that a massive beast has emerged from the sea near Liberty Island, beheaded the Statue of Liberty and proceeded to destroy downtown Manhattan. Not until some way into the movie do we

get a view of the monster and no-one even attempts to justify its existence with some bogus science. This meant the viewer could focus on the gripping action, rather than some contrived explanation for what had happened. The remainder of *Cloverfield* depicts Rob et. al on a quest to save his friend Beth from her apartment, where she lies trapped. The ending is both fitting & poignant, if somewhat depressing.

Although I have heard many complaints about the jerky, disorientating camera work in movies such as *Transformers*, I had no problems giving *Cloverfield* my full attention.

The fractured, stop-start nature of the recording method really added authenticity, especially given that much of the shooting was actually carried out by T.J. Miller himself, the actor playing Hud. It's not revolutionary, but it's a well-used device and I agree with Abrams' opinion that this is what it would look like if someone was, "videotaping a spontaneous, horrific event."

Consequently, we don't see everything that happens; we don't hear everything that is said. This really helped keep me interested in what was transpiring. If you're into action and creepy-crawlies [spoiler!], this movie is definitely worth a watch and is anything but boring.



If we're all going to die, can we at least make that home movie at last?



## Conflict Case Study Week

Panel Discussions followed by Q&A ● 5th February to 8th February  
 Studying the misunderstood, poorly reported and oft-forgotten conflicts of the world

● Pippard Lecture Theatre

5th Floor Sherfield Building  
 Imperial College London  
 South Kensington

### ● Kashmir

Thursday 7th February, 6:15pm

Muzzammil Thakur, World Kashmir Freedom Movement  
 Yasir Shawl, Justice Foundation

### ● Israel & Palestine

Tuesday 5th February, 6:45pm

Mr Robin Kealy, Former Consul-General to Jerusalem  
 Prof. David Newman, Professor of Political Geography at Ben-Gurion University, Israel  
 Dr. Azzam Tamimi, Author of " Hamas: Unwritten Chapters" and Director of the IIPT

### ● Somalia & Ethiopia

Friday 8th February, 6:15pm

Sally Healy OBE, Chatham House Associate Fellow, Africa Programme  
 Dr Mohamed Omar, Lecturer, ULU Institute of Education





# The Superficial Superstar

Andy Warhol, the superficial surface of the enigmatic Andy Warhola by Sarah Skeete

Andy Warhol reflected the consumerist, celebrity nature of modern society. Some argued that his art was all surface, easily recognisable images that were essentially meaningless. I believe Andy Warhol delighted in taking the superficial, and showing that while it's meaningless in itself, it has personal meaning as an element of popular culture.

In a way, the 20th century was a crystallisation of the increasing individualism of society. In the past people lived and worked together and the group meant more than the individual. Now people live in wider communities and more autonomously and individualised. Mass production and mass media increasingly tie society together. This new mass age also allows you to create and proliferate images and ideas. It's an environment that makes it possible to construct a public persona, it gives a means to propagating your image.

Warhol's celebrity paintings weren't about the person behind the star they were entirely about the surface. For all we really know about celebrities is the persona they project to the media. They are people turned into a brand for public consumption. It's the myth that launches them to stardom, without it they're just any other person.

As a child, Warhol fell in love with celebrity, the world of films and stars. He was a veritable movie junkie, collecting the free publicity stills in a box. It was early on in his life he began constructing a persona about himself, picking up affectations from film stars, emulating his idols' gestures and personal tics.

Warhol found his persona useful in career, it gave him notoriety but also anonymity. When starting out as a commercial artist he took to wearing the same khaki trousers and beat up t-shirt everyday. Even when he started making enough money to dress well, he'd put on his 'Raggedy Andy costume' when going out to meet clients. He found they liked the idea of hiring a poor starving artist.

He also, of course, famously wore a white wig, drawing a veil over his real age. He took pains to appear as blank as possible, to not give any part of himself

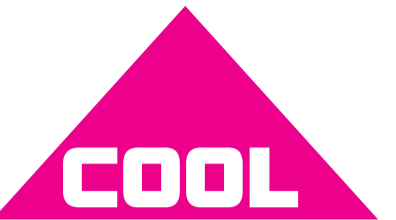
away. In public he talked monosyllabically, using simply yes, no and 'I hadn't really thought about it'. He peppered his speech with ums and uhs, managing to talk without saying much at all. Any criticisms of his art he publicly agreed with, giving nothing of his true feelings away. As Warhol once said, it's fascinating when a person puts up a blank front, "because you absolutely

[can't] tell if [he's] a genius or a retard".

Like Kate Moss (prior to breaking her public silence) below the surface he seemed to be a void. People could interpret him as they wanted. He remained meaningless so that people could only guess about the man behind the mask. He seemed to put everything a step away from himself. Even the way he painted, using silk screening, was

once removed from himself.

Andy was representative of a generation, using fashion as one of their means, to create a public image, their own persona. It inspires a fashion philosophy embracing the superficial yet rejecting nihilism. In taking the meaning away from fashion you can either be shackled by image, or free to create what you wish.



## Neat Hair

I think we're all getting fairly tired of the drug-addled scoundrel look Pete Doherty has epitomised for years. Boys, get out the hair pomade and thin-toothed combs, we're all going to look like we did on our first day of school!



## Vans Shoes

Vans success in the footwear market means there's finally some sort of indie-cult rival to Chuck Taylors. The now ever-familiar slip-on style is being mimicked by other brands. Does anyone else find them really impractical in the winter? I think I've got frostbite on my little toes, and due to their absolute intolerance to even the smallest amount of liquid, never mind rainfall, you constantly have stupidly cold and wet feet?



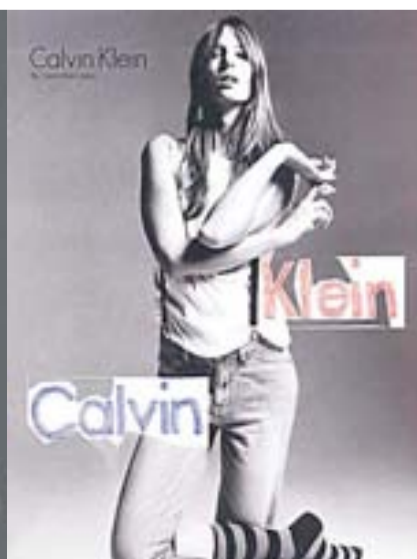
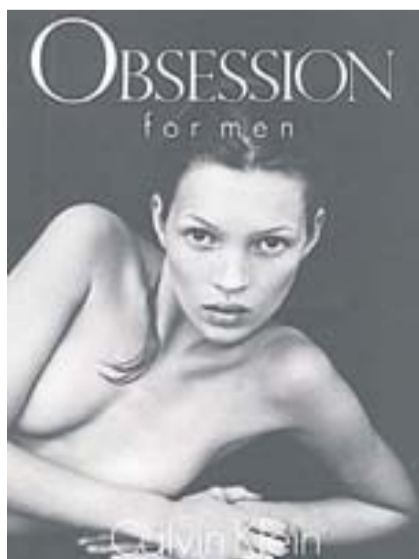
## Online Sales

What is the point in online sales? The initial shock of seeing that coat you've admired, for like, oh my Gawwwwd sooooo long, at a fraction of its price is always counteracted by the fact the only available sizes are XXXL. If I was looking for something to keep my pet whale warm in, I'd buy it. Alas, unless you're one of the sad people on this planet that sit at their computers clicking 'refresh' at 6AM when the website's sale starts, you're never going to get anything. What tops it all off is the fact the coat you've been drooling over is now out of season, and has been taken off the website. Bastards.

Dan Wan



# Calvin Klein, advertpalooza







# The Superficial Superstar

Andy Warhol, the superficial surface of the enigmatic Andy Warhola by Sarah Skeete

Andy Warhol reflected the consumerist, celebrity nature of modern society. Some argued that his art was all surface, easily recognisable images that were essentially meaningless. I believe Andy Warhol delighted in taking the superficial, and showing that while it's meaningless in itself, it has personal meaning as an element of popular culture.

In a way, the 20th century was a crystallisation of the increasing individualism of society. In the past people lived and worked together and the group meant more than the individual. Now people live in wider communities and more autonomously and individualised. Mass production and mass media increasingly tie society together. This new mass age also allows you to create and proliferate images and ideas. It's an environment that makes it possible to construct a public persona, it gives a means to propagating your image.

Warhol's celebrity paintings weren't about the person behind the star they were entirely about the surface. For all we really know about celebrities is the persona they project to the media. They are people turned into a brand for public consumption. It's the myth that launches them to stardom, without it they're just any other person.

As a child, Warhol fell in love with celebrity, the world of films and stars. He was a veritable movie junkie, collecting the free publicity stills in a box. It was early on in his life he began constructing a persona about himself, picking up affectations from film stars, emulating his idols' gestures and personal tics.

Warhol found his persona useful in career, it gave him notoriety but also anonymity. When starting out as a commercial artist he took to wearing the same khaki trousers and beat up t-shirt everyday. Even when he started making enough money to dress well, he'd put on his 'Raggedy Andy costume' when going out to meet clients. He found they liked the idea of hiring a poor starving artist.

He also, of course, famously wore a white wig, drawing a veil over his real age. He took pains to appear as blank as possible, to not give any part of himself

away. In public he talked monosyllabically, using simply yes, no and 'I hadn't really thought about it'. He peppered his speech with ums and uhs, managing to talk without saying much at all. Any criticisms of his art he publicly agreed with, giving nothing of his true feelings away. As Warhol once said, it's fascinating when a person puts up a blank front, "because you absolutely

[can't] tell if [he's] a genius or a retard."

Like Kate Moss (prior to breaking her public silence) below the surface he seemed to be a void. People could interpret him as they wanted. He remained meaningless so that people could only guess about the man behind the mask. He seemed to put everything a step away from himself. Even the way he painted, using silk screening, was

once removed from himself.

Andy was representative of a generation, using fashion as one of their means, to create a public image, their own persona. It inspires a fashion philosophy embracing the superficial yet rejecting nihilism. In taking the meaning away from fashion you can either be shackled by image, or free to create what you wish.



## Neat Hair

I think we're all getting fairly tired of the drug-addled scoundrel look Pete Doherty has epitomised for years. Boys, get out the hair pomade and thin-toothed combs, we're all going to look like we did on our first day of school!



## Vans Shoes

Vans success in the footwear market means there's finally some sort of indie-cult rival to Chuck Taylors. The now ever-familiar slip-on style is being mimicked by other brands. Does anyone else find them really impractical in the winter? I think I've got frostbite on my little toes, and due to their absolute intolerance to even the smallest amount of liquid, never mind rainfall, you constantly have stupidly cold and wet feet?

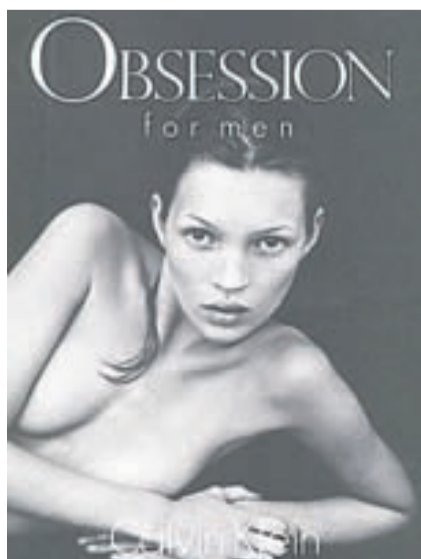


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Dan Wan

# Calvin Klein, advertpalooza



LAME



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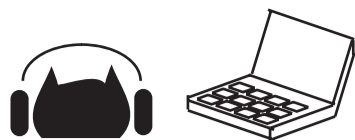
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## Technology

Technology Editor – James Finnerty

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**James Finnerty**  
Technology Editor

Welcome once again the Tech section. This week we have put together a Home Cinema issue focusing on explaining what you should look for in good equipment and more importantly for us, good value equipment.

Now there has been a decent chunk of news this week, so in this editorial I've decided to run through some of the forefront news and whack the rest in the headlines section on the next page. So lets get one with it.

As mentioned in previous issues, Apple is claiming sales figures of above 4 million iPhones. Sounds great doesn't it, but not when you delve a little deeper. AT&T, the network all American iPhones are on, has reported it only has 2 million iPhones on it's network and the European networks ( O2 here and T-Mobile in Germany ) have reported totals of around 700,000. There is a big discrepancy there. Some of this, however, can be attributed to large stocks of the phones in warehouses that haven't been sold to the public yet. This isn't shocking but what is, is that it is believed a significant number of these have been unlocked from the "compulsory" networks. It's predicted if these figures continue then this could have a large impact on Apple's profits.

Online-auction kings eBay have announced a change of charging. The cost to list an item has been halved but this money is made up by increasing the fee if an item is sold. Basically this just lowers the risk if your item does not sell, as it will cost you less but if it does, you will pay more or less the same as before. This change has sparked debates about what would really improve eBay- that is improved customer service to its users. Many people have received zero aid from eBay in resolving issues with sellers and buyers who, through varied means, have taken both cash and item.

Also there are rumours forming about a new PS3 package with a larger hard disk ( 120gb to 160gb ). Sony has announced that these rumours are false which is a bit of a shame as it is one of the Playstation's weaker features. Also this week, I noticed that there has been a slight price drop on most Xbox 360 packages of around £10 to £30. Not a huge drop but it does improve the value of the machine and makes it very competitive against its rivals.

As you may be able to tell from previous reviews I'm a bit of a fan of the Asus eeepc. Well much to my delight, and hopefully yours, Asus have announced a new desktop- an all-in-one TV PC and a PC monitor with a desktop built in. All of these devices follow on the laptop's aims of being cheap and providing fantastic functionality for their power. To add to this announcement, 8" and 9" versions of the original laptop have been announced which will have the long-awaited WiMax technology built in as well as a possible touchscreen model. A tiny tablet would also probably sell well.

So with little left to ramble on about, I will let you get on to the main feature of big screens and big speakers.

# The Big Screen on a budget

Andrew Slater and James Finnerty show readers how home-cinema can be cheap

**D**o you like watching TV? Like video games? Like films? If you are thinking yes to any of these, then we've got a bit of treat in store for you. The thing most of us suffer from at Imperial, is not being able to afford some of the more expensive luxuries that exist. The world of big TVs and surround-sound systems tends to fall into this category, but not necessarily. This where we step in. We thought we would put together a home cinema on a budget and see what sort of results were produced.

If you want to buy a reasonable TV these days you'll be going HD. At the moments there exists two flavours of High Definition. These are 720p and 1080p, the latter is the better. If you don't know what these numbers mean it refers to number of lines of pixels that the TV can display. So the more lines you have the more pixels you have and therefore you get a sharper picture. At the moment 1080p televisions, of a decent quality, are beyond the price range of many students so we are going to focus on the 720p range of televisions. Now you might think why is high definition so important? Well if you're asking yourself this, then it might not be. If you just use your TV for watching TV, as absurd as it sounds, then you won't have much need for it. Where it comes into it's own is the display of cinema quality-films and PC-quality gaming in your living room.

The next most important thing is not the size of the screen but what we call the contrast ratio. Decent student models now have a ratio in the range of 5,000:1 to 20,000:1. What this figure refers to is the luminosity of the display's brightest colour (white) to its darkest (black). The results of a low contrast ratio is what you may have seen on a cheap computer monitors, areas of black appear as weird shades of grey.

Now here's the killer question- How big do you want? Actually, maybe that should be- How big do you need? In



I think this is about the most generic picture of a home-cinema I could find, self explanatory really

practice a lot of people go for the biggest television they can afford ignoring all other factors. This never a good idea. If a set is low quality, the bigger you make the screen the more obvious the low quality will be. Go for HD TV and find a range with a decent contrast ratio. Then at this point you should compare the prices of different sizes to your budget and strike where the two meet.

A good method for deciding the optimum-sized TV to buy is to measure how far you will sit from it. The ratio of screen size to seating distance should be around 1:2.5. Any bigger and the image will start to overpower viewers and any smaller, you may struggle to see everything that is going on.

Another factor to consider when buying a set is what inputs it has to take. HDMI is the big buzzword right now, as it is a discrete input that can carry HD video and audio in a single package. Also you will probably want to consider what legacy inputs you need. You may have some old games consoles laying around or even a VHS player that you still want to use and these guys are not friendly with the newer digital inputs. For these you will just need a couple of SCART sockets and a set of composite sockets.

There are two ranges of TVs that you can't really go wrong with. The Sony Bravias and Samsung Bordaexs. These are not the cheapest for their sizes but their value is represented in very good contrast ratios and input options. If you don't want to go through every model of television there is, just skim these models to find the one you want. I would suggest spending around £400 - £500 in order to get the best quality to value ratio, you can go cheaper but it's not always a great idea.

Moving onto speaker setups, the first thing you should decide is whether you get a 2.1 setup or a lower quality 5.1 setup for the same money. Now is more less, or is less more? Personally I would suggest going for a better 2.1 setup as in the end you will be left with higher quality sound and ultimately a better experience. You may see packages offering 7.1 and higher but unless you're spending tens of thousands on your living, these options aren't worth their price tag.

There is one huge mistake I've seen a lot of people make when they buy a set of speakers. You can spot it a mile off. When someone refers to their speaker setup by its wattage then you know they've bought some crap. Its almost comparable to the aforementioned buying the biggest TV possible. The maximum volume of a setup has nothing to do with the quality of the sound produced and even worse is the fact that a cheap setup has probably gone for power over quality as it

does sell better. In the end you can actually spend more money on a speaker setup than you do on your display, this is thanks to the legions of audiophiles, as they like to be known, who pride themselves on owning equipment that costs more than the house they've put them in. In the end you can get a good enough 2.1 speaker setup for around £100.

So now you've decided on the actual setup that you'll be using for the TV and speakers, it's time to consider turning it into that home cinema system. There's two main avenues that you can take, the "Media Centre PC" or the console route. Each has their own benefits, so lets have a look at both before we decide.

I'm currently typing this article on my media-centre PC using a wireless keyboard and mouse with the HDTV being my main monitor and some FLAC Foo-Fighters going in the background. This demonstrates the main benefit of having a PC-based setup and that is flexibility. From here I can load up a game and play on the TV, listen to music with an HD visualisation, stream media off the Net or watch anything from my downloaded or DVD collection. Now it's far easier to do this than many think, with the ability coming from a few upgrades.

Almost any PC is suitable for a home-media PC, your current PC may be able to do everything right now! For the media PC you need a fairly basic box with a Pentium 4 3.0Ghz, 1GB RAM and a basic graphics card being plenty for multimedia functionality. Alternatively you can soup-up your box allowing for far more functionality. By beefing up the RAM and adding a TV-tuner you can turn the box into a Sky+ style media box with timeshifting, recording to hard disk and writing to DVD. TV-tuners are cheap now, from £30 upwards. When paying for a TV-tuner, the higher-priced products tend to provide you with hardware encoding and a remote control. This takes the stress off the processor when recording



Big speakers are great but not necessarily the best choice



video and so keeps the PC stable and ensures the recording doesn't skip. You could upgrade the graphics card and have a monumental gaming PC setup or just shove a load of hard-drives in and keep your entire media collection on the single PC. There's plenty of cases to choose from, so you might want to pick a slimline system for sitting by your TV. These systems can be found pre-built on the high street for around £500 and upwards, but as mentioned, it can be fairly easy to upgrade your own system up to scratch.

So, does your box already have what it takes? You need to look out for a graphics card with a DVI output. These can be picked up for around £30 and are a simple upgrade for any PC, you may already have one! Then a simple DVI->HDMI cable will connect your PC to your TV, these are a few quid online or £15+ on the high street. Now your PC and TV are hooked up there's one final stage, the TV resolution. If you have a 720p / 1080i TV you want to set your resolution to 1360x768, if you have managed to get a 1080p TV then crank it all the way to 1920x1080. The only thing that this setup lacks is the inclusion of an HD media drive, which currently aren't at the most student-friendly price point. There are HD-DVD, Blu-ray and combination drives available, starting at £100 and the purchase of one of these will allow you to buy all those HD movies on the high street.

Once your hardware is chosen, purchased and loosely assembled with a hot glue-gun it's time to choose the software. There are loads of choices for media centre software, ranging from those that cost you money, to those that are absolutely free. Microsoft created Windows XP Media Centre Edition for exactly this purpose, with



This an expensive specialised Home Theatre PC (HTPC), but you can use any old PC for the job

built in TV-tuner management and media library functions that can easily be controlled by a remote. This is a great choice if your PC already has it pre-loaded, if not then Windows Vista (Home Premium & Ultimate) comes with the Media Centre as well. Then there's MythTV, a customized Linux distribution that comes with TV-tuner support and media centre software rivaling Microsoft's system. This does turn your box into a Linux box however, so take note that although free, you may lose gaming functionality or general software compatibility.

The alternative setup is to use one of the current generations of console. Both the Xbox 360 and the Playstation 3 have media-centre functionality. Simply pick up the console, purchase an HD connection for it (this will be

component or HDMI, costing around £15) and plug it in. The Xbox 360 communicates with any XP or Vista machines on the network and functions as a "media extender". Simply put, it will connect to the media library on any PC and stream content over the network, allowing you to watch DVDs and game on the console and any other media (such as DivX video) from your desktop PC. The addition of an HD-DVD drive (approx. £100) or the possible Blu-ray player for the 360 will get you fully prepared for the high-def age.

A PS3 will give you a fully featured Blu-ray player by default as well as providing some amazing quality high-definition games to get started on the new setup. Sony are improving the media functionality for the PS3 as time passes. At the moment it can play a decent

percentage of non-high-definition media files from both the audio and video sides of the spectrum. Another nifty feature is the PS3's ability to browse the internet. This is something it has in common with its Japanese brother, the Wii. So if you prefer to browse the Net from the luxury of your sofa you can. Using the same feature set the PS3 can also play media which has been attached to it in the form of an external USB hard disk, so you can duplicate your media and watch them on the PS3 in a much more social setting.

In the end all this equipment starts to mount up, but we think that you can put together a very versatile and impressive home-theatre setup for under a grand. So if you split this between a few flatmates, you may not be as far out of pocket as you had thought.

## More camera than phone

David Lawrence explains why his camera, I mean phone, is better than yours

As everyone knows, when it comes to camera phones the Sony Ericsson Cybershot range has always had the last word. Their latest addition, the K850i is still pushing the technology forwards. With a 5 Megapixel camera it is the highest resolution camera phone available on the market and with the Cyber-shot camera background from Sony, it has a high quality lens, allowing it to take outstanding pictures.

When it comes to other media capacity it still manages to hold its own as far as music. With a mini SD slot you can load it up with 2GB of your favourite music and videos, not a lot I know but it'll make those bus or tube journeys in and out of Uni fly by without getting bored. However, internet access is where it begins to fall down. Unlike its main Nokia competitors, it does not have Wifi built in. This is not a major issue for most people but as wireless internet hotspots expand, more people want to be able to get free internet on their phones. On the up side, if you get this phone on Vodafone you can use Vodafone Live to read all the latest news headlines and keep track of sports results for free.

My main niggle with this phone is the time delay which almost seems to have been put in on purpose. Many a time I have to wait for the phone's underpowered processor to get around to working out what button I just pressed and then finally show the menu I was



Nokia N95 - Anything you can do, I can do better

expecting. I'm really hoping that a future firmware update will speed things up. Other people have told me of concerns about the soft touch buttons on the screen being too sensitive, so you can press them by accident. All I can say is that I have found no problem

with them and if you get one of these phones, you will soon be joyfully hammering the screens of every other phone wondering why nothing is happening (yes I have done this).

Overall, once you get used to this phone, I would say it's one of the best

on the market as long as mobile internet access isn't an issue. The new button layout allows for a significantly larger screen and the lack of moving parts makes it highly durable, coupled with a new, more protective camera lens design.

## Headlines we couldn't fit in

*HD-DVD fights back in the US*

*Nokia buys Trollech*

*O2 sweetens it's iPhone package*

*Sky must sell stake in ITV*

*CCTV must not be allowed to record conversations*

*Paypal buys an Israeli security firm*

*Yahoo cuts jobs*

*Jenson Button reveals Honda's new F1 car*

*US satellite could hit earth*

*Micro\$oft profits up*

*War on Scientology*

*U2 calls for an end to media piracy*

*Nutritional pills for prisoners*





## Games

Games Editors – Azfarul Islam and Sebastian Nordgren

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



**Azfarul "Az" Islam**  
Games Editor

I are back, my friends! it's been a rather slow month for gaming – a true set of doldrums that refuse to end. Fortunately, it's been punctuated with the large exclamation mark that is the Devil May Cry 4 demo.

For those uninitiated, Devil May Cry is a series of slick action games where the focus is to make your own epic eye candy. The games offer a flexible, mercurial repertoire of moves that one can apply in whatever way imaginable to drive the style meter to the ever-covert S (Stylish) or, with the last game, SSS (SSStylish, durr). For those who like challenge, DMC has consistently offered in spades, doing away with cookie-cutter enemies that stand back so you can feel powerful. Here, complacency is rewarded with a gory death whereas rhythmic reflexes and an eye for panache are juxtaposed with true gratification. DMC4 continues the proud trends set by the first and third iterations (the third one was a boring, tame affair by DMC standards; still a decent action game, mind you).

Visually, it maintains the sombre Gothic (in a good way, I swear) undertones in terms of character design and architecture. Technically, it's also a rather brilliant looking game, offering crisp, detailed visuals and a luxuriously smooth frame rate (which is quite important in the context of fast-paced action games).

Similarly, the gameplay itself is still pretty damn awesome. Newcomer Nero's arrival introduces the Devil Bringer which allows for all manner of grappling and distance-based combos whereas the Exceed system gives daring players the chance to rev up (pun intended, as you'll see) their attack strength. The game gives you a taste of the bosses on offer with the fiery demon Berial who seems to be trying to give the Balrog of Morgoth a run for its money. He's tough, he's massive and being wreathed in flames hasn't apparently helped his temper. It's quite a fun battle since you get to witness the true power of the Devil Bringer as you literally lay the smackdown on the fiend. Also, expect to get your butt whooped – a lot – since the somewhat enclosed arena means that your dodge roll abilities have to up to scratch to avoid his sword swipes. Pain.

Besides that, I have the pleasure of announcing another Expansion (har har) to Felix Games in the form of 'TableTops'. This is where we cover board games. Yes, you read that correctly: board games. No, this isn't some tablet-top uber-geek fest, as well. Rather, we aim to bring to attention certain ones that are sophisticated in design, addicting to play and robust in execution. We start off with a little gem called *Ticket to Ride* that's been earning a gamut of awards across the world. And with good reason, as you'll see.

As always, your comments, critique, flames, articles and credit card details should find their merry way along to [games.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:games.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Have fun and don't let the dice bite.



# It's raining... raining blood

Eduardo Vasquez-Silva unfurls his umbrella revealing an unholy armoury within



Review

As the name implies, *Umbrella Chronicles* tells the story behind the fall of Umbrella Corp. by revisiting Resident Evil 0, 1 and 3. This game has the signature atmosphere and looks of a Resident Evil game but, like RE4, it strays from the traditional formula and goes for a first-person perspective – much like an arcade light-gun game. It may sound shallow, but you'd be surprised by the amount of length, depth and variety *UC* has to offer.



Smile for posterity now

To begin with, there are two control schemes to choose from: you can either use the wiimote on its own or use Wii Zapper settings. I personally prefer the latter, where you hold the wiimote and Zapper with your right hand and hold the nunchuck with your left hand. This makes the game a little more immersive as you feel like you are holding a gun and it helps you reload by shaking the nunchuck instead of the wiimote, helping you keep a steady aim.

Before you take on any mission, you are asked to choose a character (which does not affect gameplay at all) and pick from a wide selection of weapons, which are unlocked by collecting them

during the game, so keep your eyes open! These include automatic pistols, shotguns, machine guns, rocket launchers and magnums, among others. All the weapons in the game can be upgraded by spending stars you obtain at the end of each mission, based on your performance, which is a nice incentive to come back and try to improve your high scores.

When it comes to actual gameplay, it's easy to see that *UC* has gone for action and pinpoint accuracy rather than scares and quick reactions. This is emphasized by the fact that all enemies have a 'sweet spot' that will usually award you with a one shot kill. This is especially gratifying when you see a *crimson head's*... head blow up to pieces when rushing towards you; although, it can be frustrating at times when you keep missing (you might end up begging the zombies to f\*\*\*ing stay still).

The fact that you are 'on rails' actually adds to the sense of anxiety RE games are known for, because you cannot run away and you *have* to kill pretty much everything you see coming towards you. Even if they catch up to you, though, you usually have the chance to counterattack by either shaking the nunchuck or quickly pressing specific buttons, but these events can sometimes be a bit unforgiving.

As you progress, you will notice that even during quiet moments you are still meant to shoot stuff, as lamps and furniture usually contain ammo, health or secret documents that help boost your score – just make sure you leave some lamps on though – you don't want to end up walking in the dark!

Boss battles are also present and they are some of the most memorable moments of the game, like jumping 50+ meters in the air as Wesker when fighting those weird-ass massive-shade-wearing Russian droids or wondering how the hell Nemesis manages to take *five* rockets to the face and still manage to look straight! The battles require pattern memorisation and choosing the right weapon to do the job, as long as you still have some ammo left in

them, of course.

The game's presentation is good. The atmosphere is tense and the dark array of colours really works (it makes Mario Galaxy look like you are high on mushrooms... HA! *geddit?*). The graphics may be a bit behind RE4, but the destructible levels and the torch levels later in the game really make up for it. The sound effects are good, although the music sometimes doesn't fit very well and the dialogue can be a bit dull.

Overall, *UC* really manages to do very well in a seemingly restrictive

and left-for-dead genre, with lots of secrets to find, different routes and weapons to unlock, a 10+ hour campaign (which can be played also with a friend... or your mom, whatever makes you happy), while getting a feel of what the story behind RE is and presenting an all-new episode. This is a game that can really be enjoyed by everyone, even those who aren't too familiar with the franchise, but RE fans will love the chance of re-visiting the mansion and Raccoon City from a thrilling new perspective.



Clearly, certain aspects were omitted from the job description



"No honey, I swear I'm not trying to kill you... honest!"



# TableTops: Ticket to ride

“All aboard for London, Paris, Moskva and L’ost Houres of Sleep” yells **Tim Barrett**



**T**icket to Ride is an absolutely top-notch game with broad appeal, playing in less than an hour and providing much depth without being over-complicated. One of the most popular board games designed in recent times, *Ticket to Ride* is a simple yet strategic game of connecting cities with trains.

*Ticket to Ride* is so simple to learn that it's hard to write a summary without giving away all the goodies. The rulebook is just 4 pages long (including the illustrations)! As a result, the game-play elements behind *Ticket to Ride* can be understood in 3 minutes, yet players face strategic and tactical decisions that vary with every turn. Players collect cards of various types that are then used to claim railway routes connecting various cities across a map of Europe. The routes are of differing lengths (requiring varying numbers of matching coloured cards), and each discrete route marked on the board can

be claimed by only a single player. The longer the routes, the more points they earn. Additional points come to those who can fulfill Destination Tickets – secret goal cards that connect two distant cities; and also to the player who builds the longest continuous route. The game has a nice risk-taking element, as players must be cautious not to take too many Destination Ticket cards, for fear of heavy penalizations at the game's conclusion. There are plenty of things to watch, no dice to roll and you are mostly in control of how well you succeed; of course, there are plenty of ways to try to hinder others' progress. Although unique in format, it draws on the set-collecting aspect of the classic card game *Rummy* and thus feels familiar to many players.

Both experienced players and newcomers alike find tension grows with each succeeding turn with winning strategies seemingly endless: no wonder *Ticket to Ride* is one of the most honoured board games in the world;

winning the game of the year in Japan, France, Finland, Sweden, Spain and Spiel de Jahres (Germany's Family Game of the Year) – the most coveted prize in the board games industry. Within eight months of being released in March 2004, *Ticket to Ride* sold more than 250,000 packs. It has spawned four editions – USA, Europe (the version we played), Marklin/Germany and Switzerland – with a fifth (Nordic Countries) on the way.

As play continues the board begins to fill with routes, pressure builds as each player becomes increasingly concerned about completing their destination tickets. Will they succeed before another player blocks their cities? Can they take over the long-haul routes to get bonus points? Will they gamble on cutting through the tunnels? With each turn, the decision to claim a train route now or draw more cards becomes ever more crucial.

Unlike a lot of new board games, *Ticket to Ride* succeeds in its approach-

ability, making it as appealing as classic titles like *Monopoly* or *Cluedo*, while still being as compelling and robust as *Settlers of Catan* and *Carcassonne*. In other words, it's a “gateway game”: fantastic for new players, and equally brilliant for hardened veterans of non-digital fare.

The game itself is hard to criticise as there are very few weaknesses in this format – the only slight issue is the board orientation which means that depending on what side of the game you are playing it is difficult to read the city names upside-down. Also a basic knowledge of geography does help in locating the cities on your tickets as prolonged scanning of the board or asking a fellow player can give away your planned route.

Really, unless you're just totally unable to appreciate any board game, *Ticket to Ride* is a must have for your gaming closet. The fun, ease of play and replayability all make *Ticket to Ride* great value for your gaming pound.

## Byte

On A Rainy Day



<http://www.experimentalgameplay.com/game.php?g=5>

*On A Rainy Day* is an odd one. Another game from the guys at the Experimental Gaming Project – it's a game that we can't forget for reasons that would worry any psychoanalyst worth his salt. Just wait a second while we explain: *Rainy Day* is a game in which you build a tree. A tree of hands. Hands that are holding umbrellas. Why are they holding umbrellas, you ask? Because it's rainy, and otherwise the paper boats that are floating by on the river beneath would sink.

It's bizarre, but charming enough to keep you interested. It's worth playing just to get a single red boat through and witness the rain of umbrellas and hands that follows in one of the most Dali-esque moments in any game, ever. A wonderfully surreal experience that really brings out the best in indie gaming.

Sebastian Nordgren

Bloons



<http://www.ninjakivi.com/bloons.html>

OK guys, stop me when this game concept starts to sound familiar: you control a monkey. Who throws darts. At balloons. No one? Ah well, no matter. Suffice to say that it works, in that cartoony Flash game style that we all know and love.

The goal of the game is simple enough: pop all the balloons using a limited number of darts, but the execution is splendid – challenging, but rarely frustrating and always equally rewarding. And with 250+ levels of balloon carnage to go through and multiple powerups and special balloons to keep it interesting, it can become a lifelong addiction. Much like heroin or *World of Warcraft* (neither of which Felix endorses, fyi.). *Bloons* is proof positive that monkeys and darts are meant to be together. Biologists, get on it.

Sebastian Nordgren



First Europe, then the World



See what we did there? Hehe...



Nooooo, you bastard, not there!



Alex prepares to lay down the station; it allows him to use our tracks



Grow my precious train, groooow and devour them all!





# Wordoku 1,394

I				S	T	
R		T	N			
	S	O			A	I
	T			A	I	
S	O		N		R	A
		R	E			C
O	C				R	E
				E	A	S
	E		R			C

**Solution to 1,393**

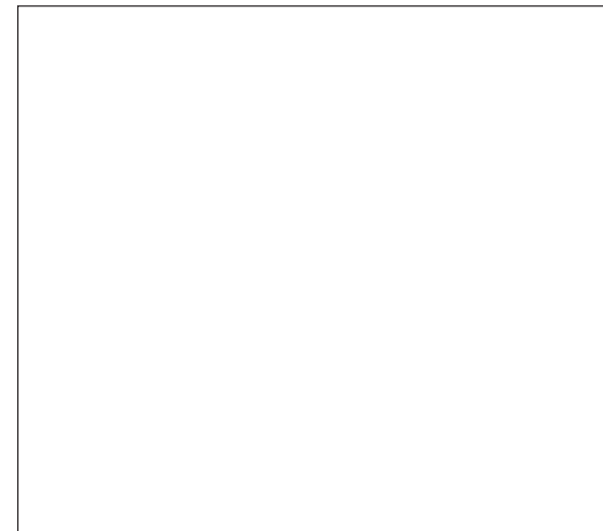
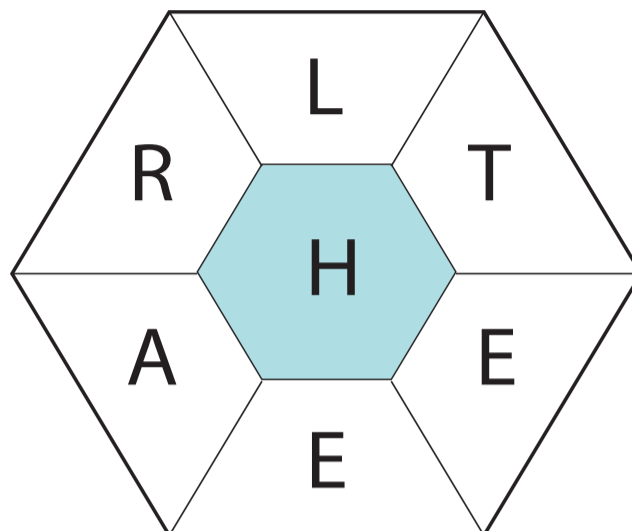
G	E	M	T	H	N	S	O	I
H	O	S	I	M	E	N	G	T
T	I	N	S	O	G	H	E	M
I	N	T	O	G	M	E	H	S
E	H	G	N	I	S	M	T	O
S	M	O	E	T	H	I	N	G
O	S	E	M	N	T	G	I	H
M	G	I	H	E	O	T	S	N
N	T	H	G	S	I	O	M	E

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

**CLUE: Where is Felix?**

The winner of Wordoku 1,393 was **Sam Sharpe**. The hidden phrase was "soemthing". Cough.

# The Polygon of Gigantic Guffaws



**How to rate yourself:**

**Under 8 words:** Ordinary people live and learn. You just seem to live. Now go away or I shall taunt you a second time.

**8 - 13 words:** Calling you stupid would be an insult to stupid people. Don't feel bad, a lot of people have no talent.

**14 - 19 words:** Careful now, don't let your brains go to your head. Must try harder!

**20 plus words:** You've been straining your brain. Nice one!

**Last week's solution:**

The seven letter word was:

**DYNAMIC**

Congratulations if you got dynamic... ahem!

Other words included:

acid, acidy, amid, amin, amnic, ayin, cad, caid, cain, candy, canid, cnida, cyan, cyanid, cyma, damn, maid, main, manic, m-nym mica, mina, myna and nicad.

**How to play**

Using the letters given, not more than once, make as many words as possible. They must be at least four or more letters long and each word you come up with must include the central letter.

Capitalised words, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in "-ly", comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.

Clearly a word that is not allowed this week is: sudoku, because you are clearly missing an s, u, d, o, k and u from the polygon.

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



**Aquarius**

This week it is the dawning of your age. Come on, you must get that reference from the Sixties? Ah, I'm wasted

on you. I am going to write you a horrible horoscope this week now. You are fucking ugly, I mean seriously, horribly, terribly painful to observe. You inflict glaucoma on people by your mere presence. I threw up ten times just from talking about you.



**Pisces**

So you wanna be a boxer in the golden ring? Can you punch like a southbound freight train? Tell me

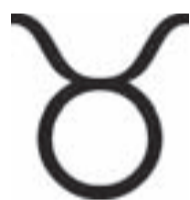
just one thing. Can you move in whirl like a humming bird's wings if you need to? Can you bob, can you weave, can you fake and deceive when you need to? Well, you might as well quit because you are so depressingly ugly I just coughed up a child.



**Aries**

You could've been anything that you wanted to be. But don't it make your heart glad that you decided, a fact you

take pride in, that you became the best at being bad? You could've been anything that you wanted to be but instead you ended up at Imperial studying Joint Maths and Computing, depressed and alone. Oh and ugly.



**Taurus**

Just this week you get some time to yourself and you think, "I know, I'll take a bath and read that book I've

been meaning to read for weeks." But shock and horror, at that instant your eyes fall out and your skin somehow converts to Caesium, highly volatile upon contact with water. This all puts a downer on your week, but don't worry, eventually you'll die.



**Gemini**

You give a little love and it all comes back to you, laa laa la-la-la-laa, you're gonna be remembered for the

things that you say and do, laa laa la-la-la-laa. Well, when I say you, I don't mean you personally because you're a dick. Don't take this personally but people have been talking about you, and it is firstly, fucking disgusting and secondly, all true.



**Cancer**

Upon hearing about Jeremy Beadle's death you make a witty comment that goes like this, "Well I guess Beadle's

about... six feet under ground!" Your friends all laugh, but Jeremy's bearded daughter, Jeremia overhears your comment. She takes you to court, the jury are horrified and reinstate the death penalty just for you. So shut up.



**Leo**

Tomorrow, tomorrow never comes. What kind of fool, do they take you for? Tomorrow, a resting place for

bums. A trap set in the slums, but you know the score. You won't take no for an answer, you were born to be a dancer now. It is a tragedy then that you have no feet, just stumps. They call you Stumpy Rick and it depresses you intensely despite laughing it off in public.



**Virgo**

Your depression at lacking feet has forced you into a depressive cycle where every night you question your

own existence. Your pain and anguish have pushed you to the extreme that you plan on stealing feet from your housemates whilst they are asleep. Terry wakes up at 3am to find you with local anaesthetic in one hand and a hacksaw in the other. What will you do?



**Libra**

In the heat of the moment you explain to him that you are learning woodwork and want to practice on his chest-of-

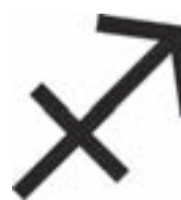
drawers. The reason you have the anaesthetic you tell him is because you believe that wood feels pain. Terry then spends 4 hours explaining to you how trees grow and you find his talk immensely interesting.



**Scorpio**

You find Terry's talk so fascinating that you decide to become a lumberjack. You realise that your

lack of feet might hinder your entry into the world of all things arbourial. You decide to fashion prosthetic feet out of a lovely oak tree in your garden. The skill with which you carve out some feet out of timber will demonstrate your skill with trees you think.



**Sagittarius**

On Wednesday you climb to the top of the oak tree finding a branch that you will claim for your prosthetic feet.

However, due to your lack of traction on the end of your legs, you slip and in your footlust fall to your death into a rosebush. The moral of the story is if you have no feet, then just learn to walk on your hands. Or go round in a wheelchair I guess.



**Capricorn**

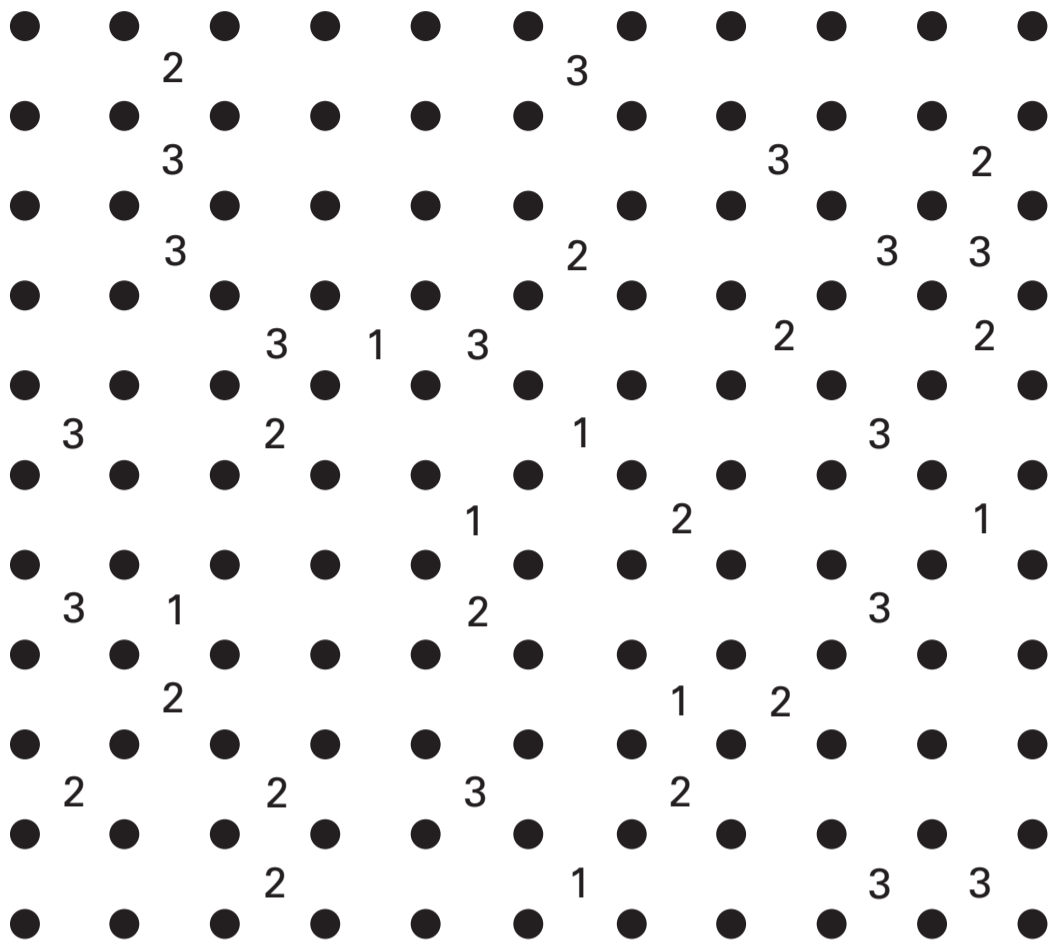
The toilet has been looking very dirty recently so today you decide to clean it. In your zeal you drop your wallet

down the toilet. However, your knowledge of the sewer systems is questionable and you flush the toilet thinking it'll turn up in the sink. I guess that Aeronautical Engineering degree amounted to nothing. Jov.

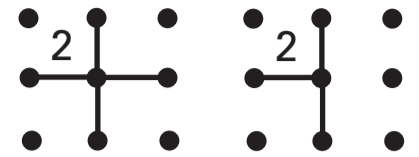
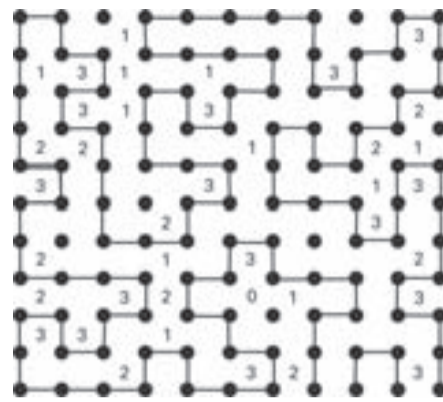


# Slitherlink 1,394

## Slitherlink 14 – Hard

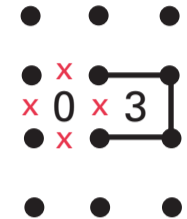


## Answer for Slitherlink 13

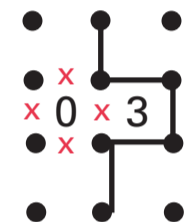


Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

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:



## 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:

Yeah, we realised that we printed the answer to last week's Slitherlink in the same issue.

# Logic Puzzle: Interviews

Using the clues and logical deduction alone, work out how all the people involved in the match relate to each other. The puzzle can be solved without guesswork. Make use of the grid to mark the combinations that you know.

Read through each clue and make any obvious or stated deductions. Find the corresponding row and column on the grid and place a tick for 'Yes' in the box, and a cross for 'No' in the cells next to this one vertically and horizontally.

Five final year students from Imperial went for job interviews last week.

Each student lives in a different town and each drove to a different place on different days. Can you discover where each lives, together with their destination and the day on which they travelled?

1. If the student who travelled on Thursday is Gina, then she lives in Reading; otherwise the one who travelled on Thursday is Sandra and she lives in Ilfracombe.

2. If Fran lives in Ilfracombe, then she

went for an interview in Plymouth; otherwise she lives in Reading and drove to Birmingham.

3. If the student who lives in Pocklington went to Birmingham, then she's Fran; otherwise the student who lives in Pocklington is Wendy and she went to Tubridge Wells.

4. If Ellen lives in Birmingham, then she went for an interview in Plymouth; otherwise Ellen lives in Worcester and went to St Ives.

5. If the woman who travelled on Wednesday lives in Birmingham, then the woman who travelled on Friday went to Redhill; otherwise the woman

who travelled on Wednesday lives in Worcester and the one who travelled on Friday went to Birmingham.

6. If the woman who travelled on Tuesday went to Redhill, then she's Ellen otherwise the woman who travelled on Tuesday is Fran and she went to Plymouth.

	Home Town					Interview Town									
	BIDEFORD	ILFRACOMBE	READING	POCKLINGTON	WORCESTER	BIRMINGHAM	PLYMOUTH	REDHILL	ST IVES	TUNBRIDGE WELLS		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
ELLEN															
FRAN															
GINA															
SANDRA															
WENDY															
MONDAY															
TUESDAY															
WEDNESDAY															
THURSDAY															
FRIDAY															
BIRMINGHAM															
PLYMOUTH															
REDHILL															
ST IVES															
TUNBRIDGE WELLS															

(Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental!)

**Last week's solution:**

Name	Room No.	Floor	Length of Studies
Brian	11	6	3 years
Daniel	3	4	9 years
Iago	19	7	1 year
Jane	13	5	2 years
Louisa	5 Analyst	3	6 years



**07980 148 785**

**TEXT US! OR WE WILL SPAY THE CAT!**

**This week's texts:**

*"FS is a sexy beast, JS"*

*"Yesterday I got groped in a club and my friend said i should be flattered. I was not best pleased."*

*"I didn't write that last week... from CC"*

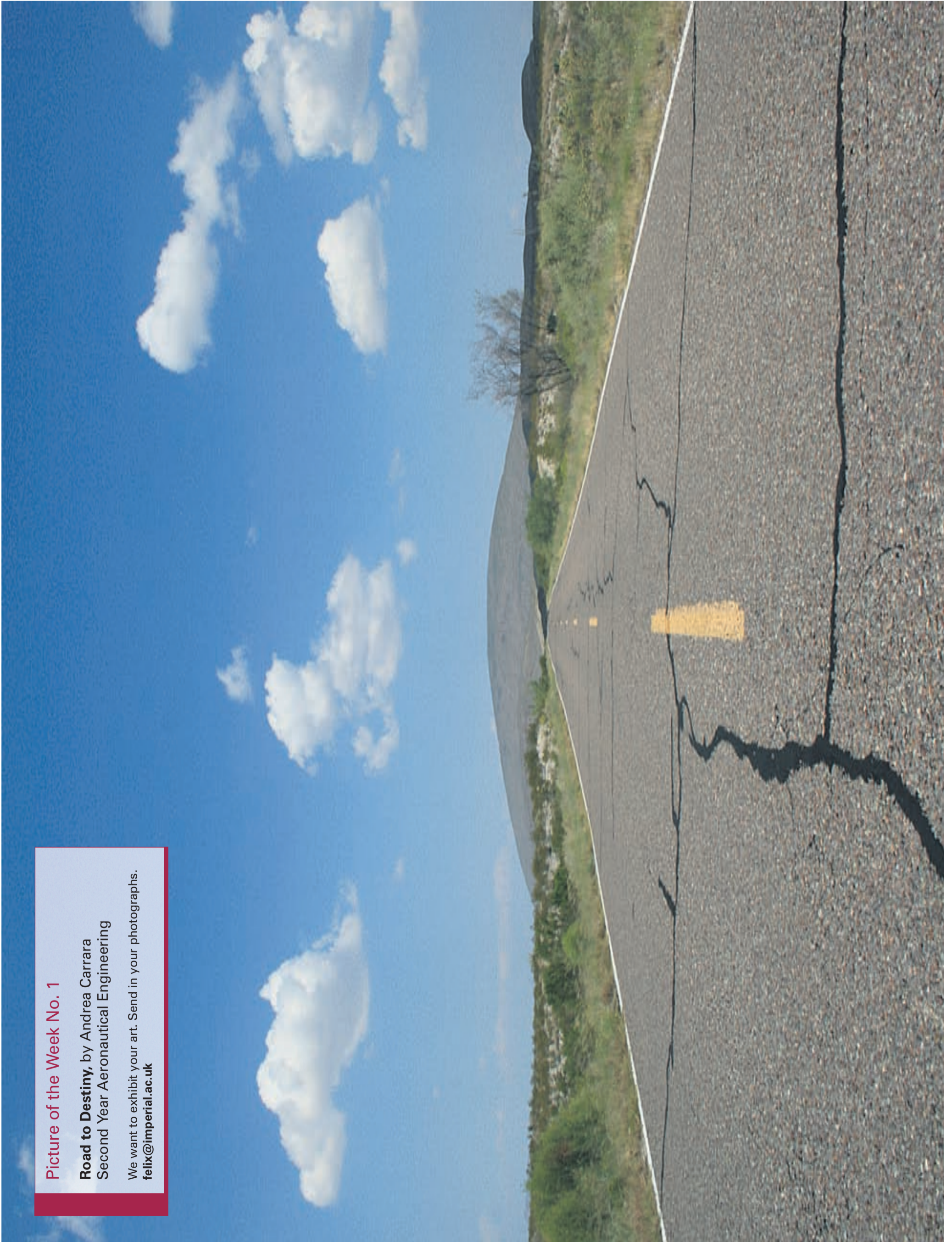
*"This is God. I've decided to erase you from the universe."*

*"If quizzes are quiscal, what are tests?"*

*"Según Felix, Borja, usted no ha dejado ningún mensaje para mí. Soy solitario. Lo único que deseo hacer debe lamer los dedos del pie, uno por uno, y el juego con sus rótulas. ¡Por favor contestación!"*

*"I like to sniff new books for that "Mmm, fresh" sensation. Am I ill?"*





**Picture of the Week No. 1**

**Road to Destiny**, by Andrea Carrara  
Second Year Aeronautical Engineering

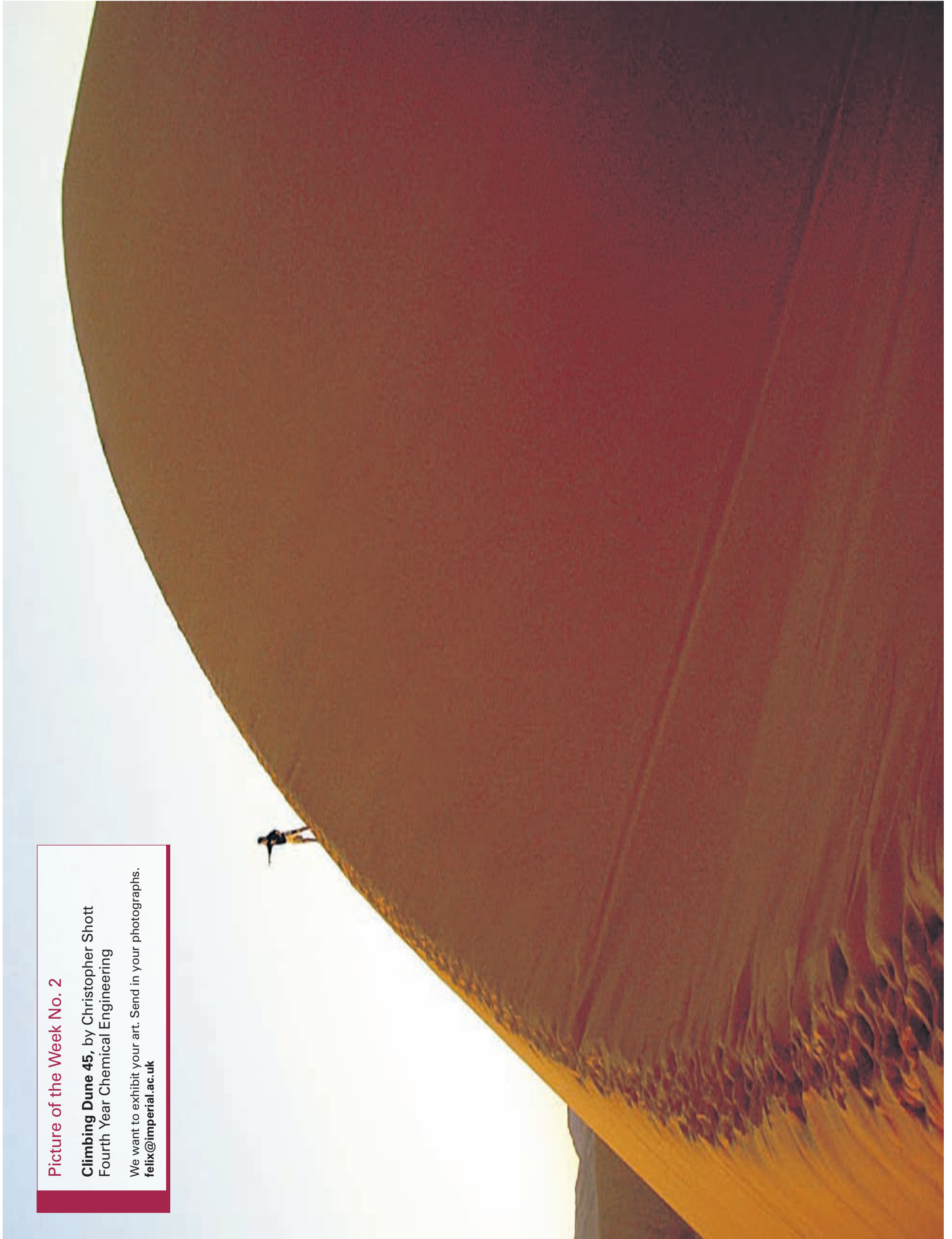
We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)



Picture of the Week No. 2

**Climbing Dune 45**, by Christopher Shott  
Fourth Year Chemical Engineering

We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





# Coffee Break

with Chuck Norris

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Chuck likes big butts and he cannot lie

When a chick walks in with an itty-bitty waist, Chuck thinks “What the fuck is she doing at Imperial?”

After last week's article, Chuck Norris' email has been inundated with emails from fangirls. But Chuck Norris has little use for women. To Chuck Norris, the word wife is an acronym that explains what women are for: washing, ironing, fucking, etc.

Statistics speak for themselves: 50% of women have lower than average IQ. That's pretty amazing when you compare it to guys, of whom 50% have a higher than average IQ.

Girls usually played a very small role in Chuck Norris' life, but the years have not been kind to Chuck, and recently he's been longing for some lovin' from the weaker sex. That's not to say that any males are the stronger sex, at least not compared to Chuck.

Chuck Norris likes girls of all kinds, and all kinds of girls like Chuck Norris. Lesbians do not exist for Chuck Norris, as lesbians are women who have not yet met Chuck.

All of last week, Chuck Norris was busy checking out the union. Unfortu-



Some fans have emailed in suggestive photos as a sign of admiration

nately it was filled with Americans on joke courses such as “Golf-ball Cleaning Studies” and “Midget Workforce Management”.

Not only do they come to London for joke courses, but they can't take their alcohol either. Unlike Chuck Norris, who has never had an alcohol problem (although alcohol has had a Chuck Norris problem), they always seem to end up outside on the ground, crying, like last Friday. They even had the cheek to argue that Ringo Starr is the worst Beatle, and that the New York Giants are the best team. Chuck Norris promptly gave them a roundhouse kick in the face.

Do note, though, that Chuck Norris has nothing against Americans. In fact, some of his best friends are Americans! Anyway, back to the topic of girls. Chuck Norris sleeps with every woman in the world once a month. That's the reason they bleed every month. Unfortunately, it also causes them to get pretty irritable. Chuck Norris knows a lot of things, even where Wally is hiding, but one thing Chuck does not un-

derstand is women.

Women are both fascinating and scary. Of course, Chuck Norris isn't afraid of anything – he does sleep at night with his light on, but that's only because the dark is afraid of Chuck Norris. But women, they are incomprehensible. One minute they love Chuck and send him love letters, like the hottie fangirl on the left, and the next day they act as cold as the dead thetans Chuck has scattered all over the world, as if Chuck had roundhouse kicked the girl in the face and then impregnated her. That is impossible because Chuck Norris' bearded little legion of swimmers only do what Chuck Norris tells them to do!

So next week Chuck Norris will be out on the prowl in dBs; although Chuck Norris does not dance, he roundhouse kicks to the sexy beat!

Ladies should be aware that Chuck Norris is always on top when he has sex, because he never fucks up.

In closing I'd like to say: there are two fish in a tank. One shouts to the other: “You man the guns, I'll drive!”

## Chuck Norris wants more CNUT

The lack of girls in Imperial has been taking a toll on poor Chuck Norris. The girls are all either indistinguishable from guys, weigh as much as five guys, act like guys, or are guys.

Just drop into the Sci-fi library. Everyone has long black hair and a long black trenchcoat, regardless of gender. Chuck Norris approves of this equality!

For this week's sweet CNUT, you have to guess whether the person in the photos on the right is engaging in sexual activity (of any kind) or they are just extremely happy (or scared) to see Chuck Norris.

This way, Chuck Norris kills two stones with one bird – the quiz is done, and his sexual appetite is satiated.

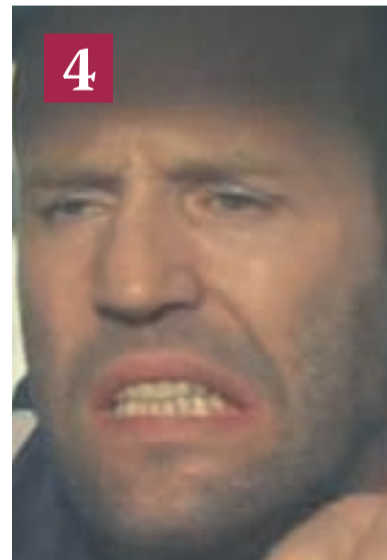
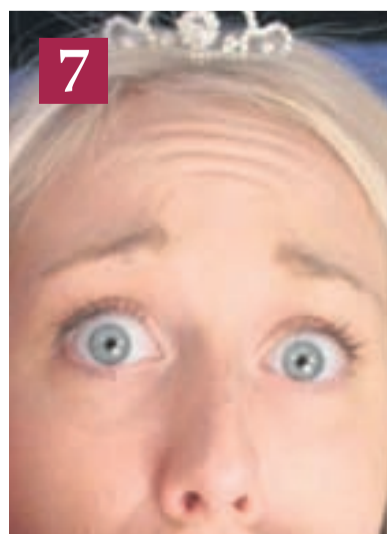
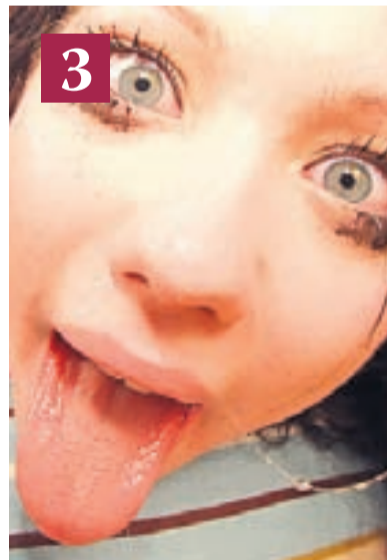
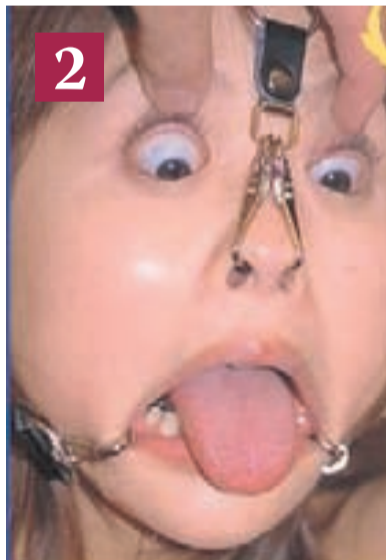
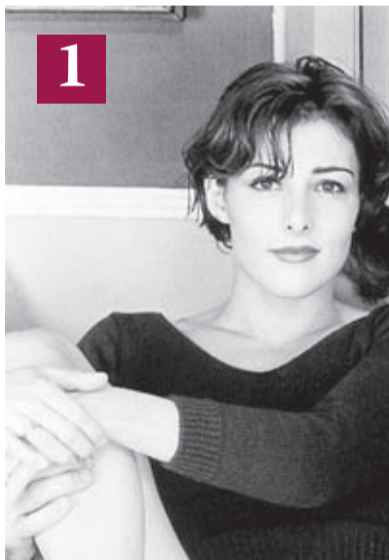
Once again, send your answers to [coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk) for the chance to win a prize at the end of term, which may or may not include alcohol and a Chuck Norris mug.

Chuck Norris promises to get the league table ready by next week, so good luck and remember, if at first you do not succeed, you're not Chuck Norris.

### Last week's answers

- 1 & 2. American Psycho / Patrick Bateman
3. Top Gun / Maverick
4. 300 / King Leonidas
5. Pan's Labyrinth / Pale Man
6. Godfather I / Vito Corleone

Wally was on page 18 in Arts!





# Hillbillies win Imperial Idol

Lizzie Bolton reports on Save the Children society's fund-raising talent show held in dB's on Monday

Contestants, compères, judges and organisers all ensured that the audience was well-entertained all night.

The judges panel comprised Dr Chris John, who provided most of the wit, Dr Steve Cook, who got more drunk as the evening progressed, Kay, who was the 'Sharon Osbourne' of the evening, flirting with the male contestants, and finally Alex Ross, who was supposedly the 'Simon Cowell' of the evening, but received abuse from fellow judge Chris John for being too much of a 'pussy'.

Many of the soloists had incredible

talent, including Matt Woods, who successfully opened the show with his own James Blunt-esque interpretation of 'Bridge Over Troubled Water'. Another soloist who caught my attention was Jeremy Eve, who could not only sing beautifully while playing the guitar, but also wrote his own song.

Rina Endo got the crowd going with her confident rendition of 'I Love Rock n' Roll', followed by Malcom Sim whose professional, all-round performance got everyone's feet tappng with his version of the Kooks' 'She Moves In Her Own Way'.

Emily May was in need of 'Somebody

To Love', but it seems she could have had the pick of the audience as they had clearly fallen for her. Evidently, Emily May is a born performer.

Dinachi Onuzo and Anita Fernando were two stunning soloists who sang as great as they looked; according to the judges, however, their song choices let them down. Needless to say, a barrage of booing broke out.

But the judges didn't always get it wrong. In response to Matt Rinaldi and Nour Fourali's Britney Spears' medley, judge Dr. Chris John decided that "the problem with saving the children is that two of them turned out to be [them]," to which judge Alex Ross proudly added "it was toxic" (I think he was more surprised by his own wit than the audience was). Nevertheless, Matt and Nour provided a very entertaining, light-hearted performance, which the audience clearly enjoyed.

The group 'Old Lady' would have been better off folding away the zimmer, putting their feet up and watching 'Countdown' repeats. Alanis Morissette would have been less than impressed with their version of 'Ironic'. Although it seemed that the judges didn't enjoy the performance, they sure as hell enjoyed hurling abuse such as "you probably don't deserve your degrees" at them. Luckily for them, Dr Chris John won't be marking their dissertations.

This leaves us with the three prize-winning acts. The gorgeous sisters Dehydys and Ibis Pimentel sang and danced their way to third place with their performance of 'Heaven'. While this was controversial, the two managed to sell the most tickets for the event, raising a great deal of money for Save the Children.

In second place was the hugely talented Waaka Moni-Nwinia, who sang Whitney Houston's 'I Have Nothing', managing to make it look effortless. She would have definitely given Leona Lewis a run for her money. Her beautiful, powerful voice amazed the audience, leaving goose-pimples tingling up our arms.

The bluegrass band 'Jacob and the Hillbillies' pizzicato-ed their way to success with their highly entertaining version of 'Mamma Mia'. The band consisted of two talented violinists, one of which amusingly serenaded the judges, a banjo player and Jacob the singer/guitarist. The whole ar-



Waaka Moni-Nwinia who sung Whitney Houston's 'I Have Nothing'



Sisters: Dehydys and Ibis Pimentel



The honourable judges



The event organisers with Queen's Brian May (centre) whose daughter entered the competition



The Winners: Jacob & the Hillbillies

angement worked extremely well, entertaining both the audience and the judges who could not fault them. The winners were presented with a bottle of champagne and a £200 prize. However, they took everyone by surprise by very generously donating the money to Save the Children.

The compères, Shiv Chopra and Lauren Waterman, provided the audience with an endless supply of witty comments, kept the judges in order and ensured seamless transitions between acts. Perhaps the two medics should consider a change in career.

The evening was a great success, the audience loved it, the performers loved it, and the judges loved it. If you missed

out, don't panic, the society is hopeful that Imperial Idol will be repeated year after year, so don't forget to look out for next year's auditions.

Save the Children managed to raise over £1700 as a result of the 420 ticket sales, 'Krispy-Kreme' sales and donations. The money will go straight to Save the Children, helping children in the UK and internationally, fighting for change where change is needed and voicing the opinions to those not given the chance to speak out.

The committee members have high hopes and many more possible projects in the pipeline, including a massive summer festival next year. So watch this space!



# A Winter's Tale

by Alexander Kendall

The omens were good - we had at least been given a new minibus which might not break down... more than twice. After the usual bout of guesses as to how long the drive will take, which always ends up being 'about 6 hours' regardless of where we're going, the 13 of us finally left London for the North Pennines. I know that whoever is reading this wants a really detailed description of the journey but I'm going to deny you, and just say that it rained when we stopped for food - in the Midlands, that no-man's land of Britain. We arrived in the tiny village of Melmerby at about 1am and were greeted by a massive town hall which had central heating, a carpet and a shower! Compared to the usual Fellwanderers accommodation of a barn with some chickens and a few rabid dogs prowling the fence this was sheer luxury. The place even had a stereo system and - unfortunately - Now 65 - 'Shakira Shakira'!

Saturday dawned and as we started the walk up into the Pennines we could look across the Eden Valley at the morning light hitting the snow on the top of the Lake District hills. We hoped that we would get some snow on our walk and Chris "El Presidente" teased us with 'maybe a little, right on the top'. The tops of our hills were obscured from about 400m by cloud and we slowly made our way up, past several sheep carcasses and a large gully which Nathaniel and I wanted to slide down just before seeing a sign that told us to keep to marked paths; apparently there were Badgers nearby, or Cougars, or a Griffin, anything was possible. Soon after Gareth sank in a stream and we had tried and failed to play baseball with a crow-bar and a satsuma, we hit the cloud line and ascended into the mist. At about the same time we began to notice small pockets of snow, prevented from melting by the cold; there was even a light white dusting on the scree we passed on the way up. 'So this is the snow' we thought as I tried and failed to throw tiny snow-balls at everyone.

Basically about 15 minutes later we were in a blizzard; not only was the snow deep enough to fall into but it was coming from the sky. This beautiful effect when inside a cloud is called a 'white-out'. It was in these conditions we explored an abandoned silver-mine which could have easily turned into a horror movie. For once Chris had to crank out the compass, as we had to take bearings up the hill, passing abandoned mining winches and frozen ponds. One of the ponds in particular looked 'solid enough to stand on' and so I did, and fell in - well my leg did anyway. So that was me cold. At the top of our first peak



Told you it wasn't solid enough to walk on

- Great Dun Fell - we came across the expected radar station which loomed out of the mist like something from Doom. This was our lunch break and we sheltered behind one of the buildings to get out of the wind. Most of us ate except for Gareth, who doesn't get hungry or cold ... ever ... and decided to build a snowman. Although it wasn't really a snow man but more of a snow possessed child and it scared us so much that lunch ended and we set off again. The snow only got deeper as we made our way over the next hill and then finally a short scramble took us on top of the highest peak of the North Pennines - Cross Fell at 893m. We 'sheltered' for a few minutes behind a stone wall, built on many mountains by people who have nothing else to do. By this point it was too cold to even throw snowballs and the lack of descriptive scenery in this report is simply due to the fact that we couldn't see anything.

The compass was used again to find our way off the mountain where we hoped to join up with the Pennine Way which snaked back into the Eden Valley. Since everything was snowed or iced over this was nearly impossible but we headed in the right direction and eventually found a path, after having to climb down the English version of the Hillary Step in a blinding

snow storm. It wasn't long before we were free of the snow and then finally the cloud as we again dropped below 400m on our return to the minibus, via a river crossing, and again saw the Lake District opposite bathed in sunlight.

That night we cried because the local pub was closed but luckily Nathan-

iel, who doesn't drink in January (WHAT!) drove the minibus to the next tiny village where there was a pub, with a healthy selection of cake. Everyone had a pretty good, chilled-out time except for Gareth who beat everyone at pool and got drunk in true Fell-



"A snow possessed child" by Gareth



wanderers style. Chris, Nathaniel and I felt bad about not eating cake and so did – end of story. Hijacking the jukebox was fun until Martin put on Ronan Keating (Martin is German and so entitled to bad taste).

The Sunday, which was cold, wet and very windy, saw everyone wake up to Now 65 and Gareth wake up to a hangover. Amid fears that the possessed snowman of yesterday would follow us (he became radioactive and is alive, as if you needed reminding) we cleaned up the hall and, like true outdoor enthusiasts, sat in the café in the village for an hour before finally heading off for the Sunday walk. Most of the group set off in the mini-bus for Alston for what was meant to be a short walk along the river but my initial aversion to doing a 'flat' walk the night before had led to the decision to be dropped off several miles from Alston and to do a long ridge walk. Chris and Nathaniel joined me as we left the bus and again walked up into the cloud. The first words out of Chris' mouth were "oh bugger, I forgot to leave the 1 kilo rock in the bus" – he is a geologist and so collects these things.

Nevertheless our walk was good, navigation through the featureless bog-cloud scenery made easier by the fact that we only had to follow walls for most of the way. All three of us fell into the marsh at some point and had the pride of



Fellwanderers on top of the Pennines

standing in Cumbria and 'spraying water' into Northumberland. There was also some very interesting moss (okay that's my sad bit). We had guessed it would take us around four hours to get down into Alston and soon after the cloud was cleared by the biting wind we could see it, a small town nestled in the Pennines. A few barbed-wire fences, me getting an electric shock and some gate-vaulting later, we arrived in Alston to find the mini-bus, but no one

else. Like good students we went to the pub. We did the walk in three hours.

It turned out, an hour later when the others on the 'shorter' walk arrived that they had got lost (on one of the most well-marked long distance paths in Britain) and had headed up into the moor in the rain. Needless to say everyone had fun and thanked us for not leaving them a compass, the medical kit or any biscuits. The drive back and the pub food were great and went with-

out incident, except that now the bus smells like mud, wet, fish and chips, kebab and cow-dung. Can you get rising damp in a minibus? No wonder they normally give us the old ones.

The End





## News in brief

### Waterpolo continues BUSA success against UCL

#### Waterpolo BUSA

Imperial	10
University College London	3

Tim Keating

As our strongest London rivals the UCL men's team presented the first true challenge in the BUSA tournament so far. After a string of close previous meetings the men's water polo team had a score to settle and wanted to make an impact in their debut season.

Imperial showed their intentions from the start with Jack Ellis opening the scoring from the first attack. However, a string of errors resulted in UCL taking the lead within three minutes, showing holes in the team's

defence. Dmitry Pestov made a string of impressive saves to maintain a level score. Unphased by the score, Imperial regrouped and completely shut out UCL's attack, the home team were clearly rattled and had no answer to IC's aggressive tactics. With the score at 4-2 at half time Imperial were in the driving seat, putting the opposition under considerable pressure.

The second half saw IC run away, scoring nearly a goal a minute. The defence was faultless leading to a series of break away goals, with Imperial's superior fitness clearly showing. The final score was 10-3, an impressive score from a game of only two periods. With another victory under their belts the team will go into the next game on Sunday expecting nothing less than a win, holding high hopes of further BUSA success.

## Is bigger always better?

Andy Mitchell  
Energia Fitness Instructor

In today's society many people consider bigger to be better and this is true of the vast majority of gym users (predominantly the guys) who exercise merely to get bigger muscles. These people can be seen in the gym day after day pushing out rep after rep in the search for bulging biceps, perfect pecs, and amazing abs. Sadly all this time and hard work often fails them in their quest to look good as they forget about the importance nutrition plays in the grand scheme of things.

Being big is not just about pumping iron; you need to have the building blocks available to enlarge the muscle mass that you already have. Dan Benardot, author of Nutrition for Serious Athletes, puts it nicely when he says "the nutritional key to building muscle mass is to consume enough energy to support the larger mass." In other words, if you are 80kg and want to move up to 85kg you need to eat as if you are 85kg. As you lift weights you break your muscle fibres down, so if you only eat enough food for your 80kg frame all you will do is rebuild what you have broken down and not increase in size.

It is recommended that you consume 1.5g of protein per kilogram of body weight per day if you are looking to increase muscle mass. Many gym users will take in much more protein than this in their daily diets and unfortunately more protein does not mean more muscle. Any excess protein intake will either be used as energy or worse, stored as fat. Most of the extra food that you need to consume to increase in size is for the energy needed to support this increase. This means that your calorie intake needs to be higher and it is better if you increase calories through carbohydrates than by the extra protein that you consume. As mentioned in my previous article on carbohydrates it is recommended that you consume about 65% of your daily calories from carbohydrates.

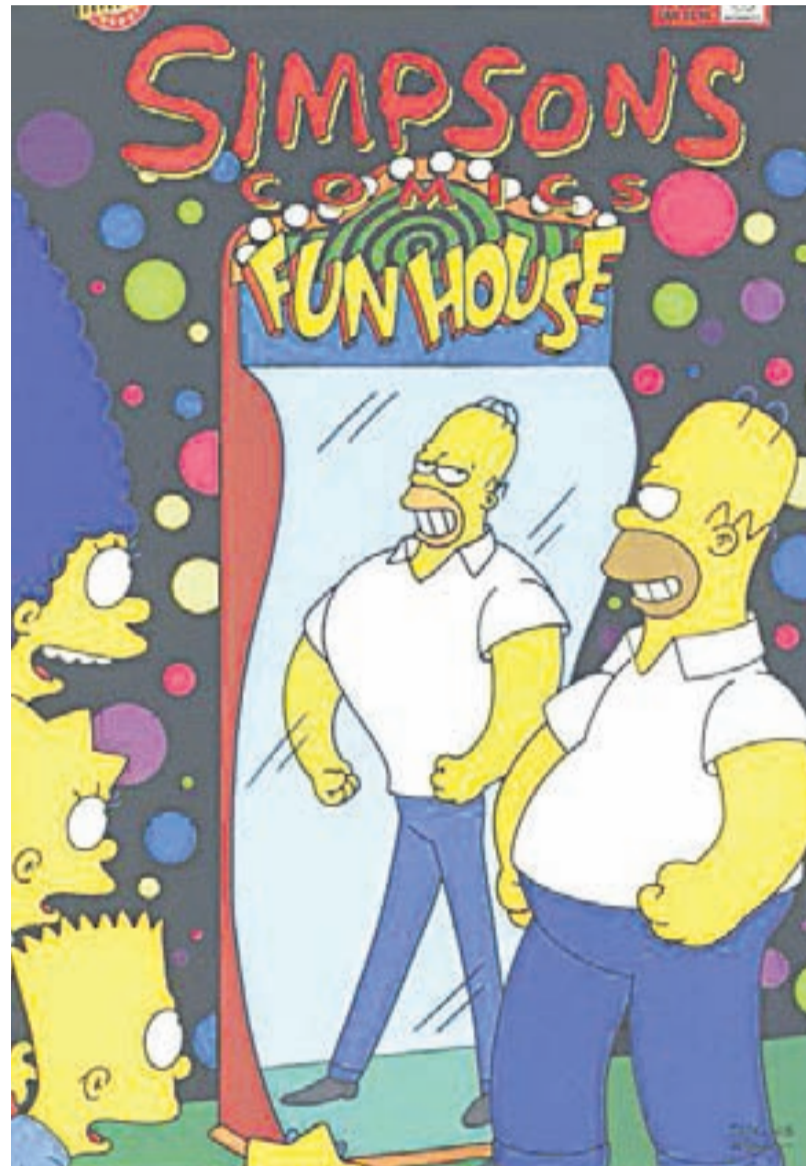
Along with adequate protein and calorie intake, the variables of your gym programme also play a big part in increased muscle mass. Research shows that training within a range of

8-12 repetitions over 3-4 sets with a rest period of one minute will optimally increase muscle mass. It is also suggested to perform 2-3 exercises per muscle group to encourage muscle tissue break down.

The final component to increased muscle mass is of course plenty of rest. It is during our periods of rest that the body rebuilds itself. Aim to allow at least 48 hours rest between exercising the same muscle groups and try to be

in bed by 10.30pm at the latest each night. The body's optimal time to repair itself physically is between 1-3am and to do this effectively you need to be in a deep sleep which takes around 2 ½ to 3 hours to achieve.

It is therefore advisable to avoid having a heavy workout prior to a big night out in the Student Union as you will lose any benefit you may have gained from your workout and develop a lovely beer belly!



Do you want to be the man in the mirror or the one looking at it?

### Imperial Team of the Week



#### Tennis Women's 1st

The tennis ladies 1sts have been having a great season so far, winning 7 out of their 8 games, and it looks like they might push for promotion this season.

## Fixtures and Results

in association with Sports Partnership



#### Saturday 26th January

##### Football - ULU

ICU Men's 1st	2
Royal Holloway Men's 2nd	0

Queen Mary Men's 1st	5
ICU Men's 2nd	2

ICU Men's 3rd	2
Goldsmiths Men's 1st	3

Royal Veterinary Men's 1st	2
ICU Men's 4th	1

Royal Holloway Men's 4th	1
ICU Men's 5th	5

ICU Men's 6th	6
St Barts & Royal Men's 4th	2

##### Tennis

ICU Women's 1st	10
Reading Women's 1st	0

#### Sunday 27th January

##### Football - ULU

UCL Women's 1st	1
ICU Women's 1st	0

#### Wednesday 30th January

##### Badminton

University College London Men's 1st	2
ICU Men's 1st	6

ICU Men's 2nd	2
Brunel Men's 1st	6

ICU Women's 1st	3
Cardiff Women's 1st	5

##### Fencing

ICU Men's 1st	135
University of Essex Men's 1st	77

University of Sussex Men's 1st	135
ICU Men's 2nd	101

##### Football

ICU Men's 1st	2
Reading Men's 1st	0

King's Medicals Men's 1st	N/A
ICU Men's 2nd	N/A

Reading Men's 5th	4
ICU Men's 3rd	3

ICU Men's 4th (ULU)	10
King's College London Men's 3rd (ULU)	0

ICU Men's 5th (ULU)	2
University College London Men's 5th (ULU)	3

ICU Men's 6th (ULU)	3
King's Medicals Men's (ULU)	4

Queen Mary Men's 4th (ULU)	N/A
ICU Men's 7th (ULU)	N/A

Portsmouth Women's 2nd	0
ICU Women's 1st	0

##### Hockey

ICU Men's 1st	2
St. Mary's Men's 1st	4

ICU Men's 2nd	7
Canterbury Christ Church Men's 2nd	0

ICU Men's 3rd	1
University of Bedfordshire (Luton) Men's 1st	0

ICU Men's 4th	3
St. George's Men's 2nd	0

Kingston Women's 1st	3
ICU Women's 1st	0

Buckinghamshire Chilterns Women's 1st	0
ICU Women's 2nd	2

##### Lacrosse

Portsmouth Women's 1st	1
ICU Women's 1st	27

##### Netball

Queen Mary Women's 1st	28
ICU 1st	33

St. Bart's and the Royal 3rd	6
ICU 2nd	45

##### Rugby Union

Portsmouth Men's 1st	3
ICU Men's 1st	6

Portsmouth Men's 2nd	24
ICU Men's 1st	12

ICU Women's 1st	29
Hertfordshire Women's 1st	35

##### Squash

King's College London Men's 2nd	N/A
ICU Men's 1st	N/A

LSE Men's 1st	N/A
ICU Men's 2nd	N/A

##### Table Tennis

ICU Men's 1st	13
Brunel Men's 1st	4

ICU Women's 1st	4
University of Brighton Women's 1st	0

##### Tennis

ICU Men's 1st	10
London Met Men's 2nd	0

ICU Men's 2nd	2
Chichester Men's 1st	8



# Monitoring your heart rate



**Holly Plumley**  
Energia Fitness Instructor

Did you know your heart rate can be used as an accurate way of measuring your aerobic exercise intensity and is an extremely useful tool in monitoring your progress to reach your training goals?

There are many types of heart rate monitoring devices available. The most popular and with the latest technology are watches combined with a transmitter belt. They work by strapping the belt containing electrodes across your chest and as you start exercising the electromagnetic signal is sent to the watch receiver where the heart rate is displayed on the face.

Buying and using a heart rate monitor can only be beneficial to you if you understand the heart rate readings you get when you're exercising and also knowing what the limits are. Firstly you will need to find out what your Maximum Heart Rate (MHR) is. This is the heart rate reading that you can achieve during maximal physical exertion. It is not the maximum reading you should obtain often during exercise and if you are starting out with an exercise regime you should perform this test in the presence of qualified staff due to the risks associated with

high heart rates. Your MHR is used as a base number to calculate your Target Heart Rate (THR) for exercising. If you can't get round to doing a MHR test on a cardiovascular machine there are many different formulas you can use to estimate your MHR, the most common being  $HR_{max} = 220 - age$ . This is only to be used as an estimate as it can vary significantly depending on the individual.

Your THR is a desired range of heart rate reached during aerobic exercise to make your heart and lungs receive the most benefit from a work out session. THR can be calculated by using an intensity range of 50% - 80% (see chart below.) One way to calculate your THR is the Karvonen method, this uses your Resting Heart Rate (RHR). The average adult male's heart beats at 70 bpm and the average adult female's heart beats at 75 bpm although again this can vary depending on the individual. To find your RHR count your pulse for one minute as soon as you wake up whilst still in bed. You can average your heart rate over three mornings to obtain your average resting heart rate. When you have both your MHR and RHR you can use the Karvonen formula  $THR = ((HR_{max} - HR_{rest}) \times \%Intensity) + HR_{rest}$

Making sure you are exercising in the correct THR zone will improve your progression at that particular intensity and enable you to achieve maximal results. It is also a good way of keeping you on track and maintaining motivation to keep up your aerobic exercise sessions. The different exercise zones help specify the best THR for you to train in and therefore enhance your fitness.

Zone 60 - 70% helps develop basic endurance and aerobic capacity. It can also help you lose weight by fat burning which is when your fat provides some of the total energy you need to keep going. This is most beneficial when exercising for a duration of 40 minutes plus. The longer you exercise at this intensity the more fat you will use up for energy. If the intensity of exercise is increased then the fat contribution will decrease.

Zone 70 - 80% will help develop your cardiovascular system. This is the body's ability to transport oxygen to the working muscles and transport carbon dioxide away from the working muscles. As you get fitter you will improve your aerobic capacity.

Zone 80 - 90% will help to develop your lactic acid system and find out your anaerobic threshold. During this zone the amount of fat being used as energy is greatly reduced and the glycogen stored in your muscles is used. One of the waste products of burning glycogen is lactic acid which builds up in the working muscles. Your anaerobic threshold is the point where your body cannot remove lactic acid from the working muscles quickly enough. There is only a certain amount of lactic acid which the muscles can tolerate before fatigue and soreness sets in and the exercise must be stopped. You can delay the onset of fatigue through correct training of the lactic acid system and you may be able to increase your tolerance to lactic acid build-up.

Zone 90 - 100% is only possible for short periods of time and can help to develop speed by training your fast twitch muscle fibres. Only the very fit are able to train effectively within this zone. It is recommended you seek advice about the correct way to train in this zone due to the risks associated with high heart rates.

Hopefully now you can find out if your current exercise sessions have actually been making a difference to you. If they haven't then you should now have an idea of what intensity you should be training at for certain results. If you can't get hold of your own heart rate monitor then fear not... our range of cardio machines in the gym have heart rate monitors built in which you can use whilst your exercising and we can help you work out your THR so you can get the most out of your workouts.

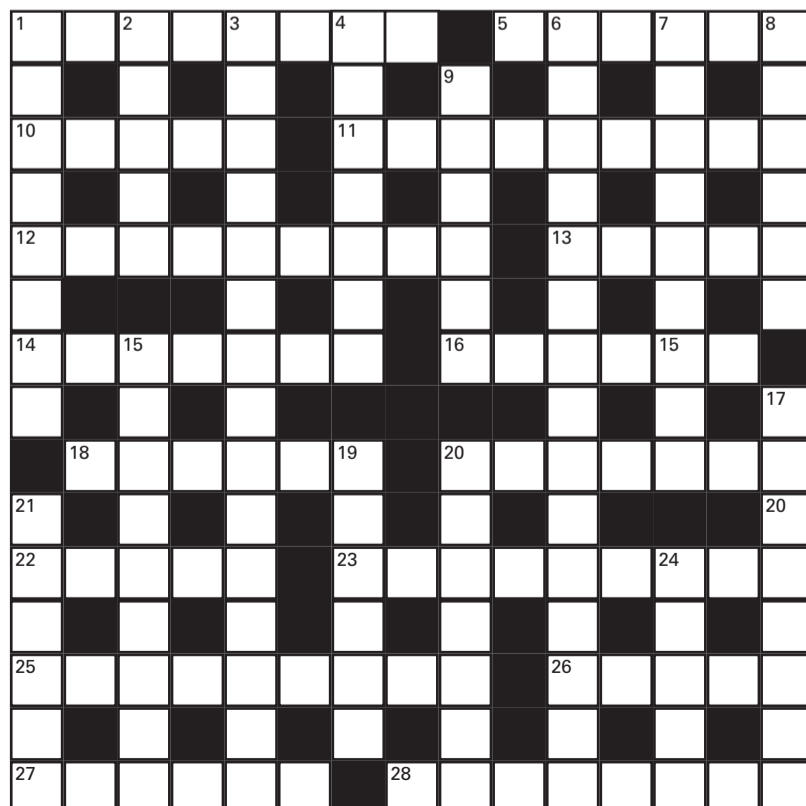
**You may have realised that the graph is missing, the reason being lack of space, but you can find the graph on the web at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)**

## Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 IC Netball 1st	10	10	0	0	521	282	239	100	50
2 IC Tennis Women's 1st	10	9	1	0	76	23	53	90	47
3 IC Squash Men's 1st	9	9	0	0	45	0	45	100	45
4 IC Tennis Men's 2nd	10	9	0	1	74	26	48	90	41
5 IC Rugby Union Men's 1st	11	9	0	2	250	112	138	82	37
6 IC Hockey Men's 1st	10	7	1	2	34	19	15	70	29
7 IC Squash Men's 2nd	9	7	0	2	30	15	15	78	27
8 ICSM Netball 2nd	9	7	0	2	289	160	129	78	27
9 IC Volleyball Men's 1st	7	6	0	1	12	3	9	86	26
10 IC Volleyball Women's 1st	5	5	0	0	14	5	9	100	25
11 IC Football Men's 1st	9	4	4	1	16	6	10	44	24
12 IC Fencing Men's 2nd	6	5	0	1	761	660	101	83	21
13 IC Fencing Women's 1st	7	5	0	2	899	735	164	71	17
14 IC Rugby Union Men's 2nd	10	5	2	3	232	162	70	50	17
15 IC Football Women's 1st	7	3	3	1	7	4	3	43	17
16 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	5	4	0	1	30	10	20	80	16
17 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	9	5	1	3	54	20	34	56	15
18 ICSM Netball 1st	9	5	1	3	305	296	9	56	15
19 IC Badminton Men's 1st	10	6	0	4	47	33	14	60	14
20 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	10	6	0	4	28	24	4	60	14
21 IC Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	5	0	3	78	50	28	63	13
22 ICSM Football Men's 1st	8	3	3	2	13	12	1	38	13
23 IC Table Tennis Women's 1st	6	4	0	2	17	11	6	67	12
24 IC Hockey Men's 2nd	10	5	1	4	50	23	27	50	11
25 IC Hockey Men's 3rd	10	5	1	4	18	17	1	50	11
26 IC Waterpolo Men's 1st	2	2	0	0	17	14	3	100	10
27 IC Netball 2nd	9	5	0	4	277	209	68	56	9
28 IC Table Tennis Men's 1st	9	5	0	4	91	62	29	56	9
29 IC Hockey Women's 1st	10	4	2	4	35	32	3	40	8
30 IC Rugby Union Women's 1st	3	2	0	1	79	40	39	67	6
31 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	10	3	3	4	30	42	-12	30	5
32 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	8	4	0	4	202	148	54	50	4
33 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	5	2	1	2	18	9	9	40	4
34 IC Basketball Men's 1st	4	2	0	2	266	266	-20	50	2
35 IC Squash Men's 3rd	4	2	0	2	8	4	4	50	2
36 IC Badminton Men's 2nd	10	4	1	5	37	43	-6	40	2
37 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	10	4	1	5	22	35	-13	40	2
38 IC Rugby Union Men's 3rd	9	4	0	5	165	147	18	44	0
39 IC Fencing Men's 1st	7	3	0	4	817	798	19	43	-1
40 IC Hockey Women's 2nd	10	3	2	5	13	39	-26	30	-1
41 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	10	4	0	6	18	24	-6	40	-4
42 IC Squash Women's 1st	7	2	1	4	12	16	-4	29	-4
43 IC Hockey Men's 4th	9	3	0	6	13	22	-9	33	-9
44 ICSM Netball 3rd	8	2	0	6	162	210	-48	25	-14
45 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	8	2	0	6	133	239	-106	25	-14
46 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	0	1	4	9	17	-8	0	-14
47 IC Tennis Men's 1st	10	2	1	7	36	64	-28	20	-16
48 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	11	3	0	8	178	300	-122	27	-17
49 IC Badminton Women's 1st	8	1	1	6	22	42	-20	13	-17
50 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	8	1	0	7	20	44	-24	13	-23
51 IC Football Men's 3rd	10	1	1	8	14	35	-21	10	-25
52 IC Football Men's 2nd	9	0	1	8	10	31	-21	0	-30

## Crossword No. 1,394

Answers to: [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk)



### ACROSS

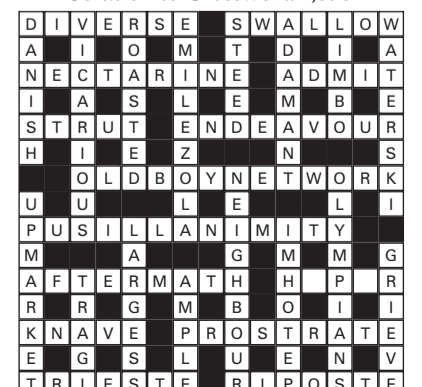
- 1 Paid servant holds his teeth (8)
- 5 Heartless impulse covers the poles (6)
- 10 Measure around a crumbling biscuit (7)
- 11 Vernaculars back in flamboyant actor's chart (9)
- 12 Mix up the back selection (9)
- 13 Uprooted weeds stitched together (5)
- 14 Carve in an English cemetery (7)
- 16 Reginald threw in the towel for a tool (6)
- 18 Extract ore from fluorides to make glasses or liquids (6)
- 20 Violinist likes messing around (7)
- 22 Hot chocolate with modified disease-free tobacco (5)
- 23 Fat cult prone to misunderstandings (9)
- 25 French punch (9)
- 26 Endless cheek from a distorted animal (5)
- 27 As far as it goes, it was an old marquee (6)
- 28 Raw treat cut into pieces for maritime rodent (5,3)

### DOWN

- 1 Judge will store information about the queen (8)
- 2 Shanghai bitterness comes up to the bone (5)
- 3 Incorporation of bizarre alien transition (15)
- 4 Improve on a coldless English chance (7)
- 6 What's this? (9,6)
- 7 The somersaulting acrobatics just let her caw (9)
- 8 The Royal Mail created a perfume (6)
- 15 British colony provides torn gold coats (4,5)
- 17 Lengthen the professional dissertation (8)
- 19 Friendly intelligence in part of a school (6)
- 20 The plastic is in what form? I can't see it (7)
- 21 Pointy freezer (6)
- 24 Burnt at the end of the year (5)

Good effort getting the answers in just before the deadline this week Di-Emma but unfortunately the random draw pulled **Matty Foulkes' Heros'** (sic) out of the hat! Keep those entries coming.  
**Enoch**

### Solution to Crossword 1,393







## Splash

Felix Sport welcomes water polo to its pages. See page 38



## Students gear up for BUSA Cross Country Championships

Over 1,150 university students will be heading west to Swansea this weekend for the BUSA Cross Country Championships, with a few students looking to impress before the World Cross Country Championships, which are being held in Edinburgh on 30 March of this year.

In the men's competition 720 athletes line up with Frank Ticker's (ex-Birmingham) 2007 title on the line. With the top 3 men from last season having left university, the gold, silver and bronze will find new university homes this season.

Kevin Deighton (Loughborough) finished one place outside the medals last year and will look to go one better and head back to Loughborough with a medal. Deighton has been hampered by injuries this season and missed out on leading the European U23 Cross Country team; look for him to make a big impact this weekend. With over 65 universities competing in the men's event expect the local support for the 18 Swansea university students to be strong with the university hosting the event for the 1st time.

Felicity Milton (Durham) took the gold from Elle Baker (Brunel) by one

second in 2007 and both are in the race this season to revisit the battleground. Both, however, will be looking over their shoulder as the two time European Junior Cross Country Champion Steph Twell (St Mary's) enters the event for the first time after starting university in September.

European 5,000 metres Junior Champion 2005 Emily Pigeon (Loughborough) also comes into the event as a fresher. Pidgeon, from Shurdington in Gloucestershire, could well be one of our Olympic hopefuls at London 2012 if she continues to mature as a middle distance runner and will be one to look out for at the BUSA Championships.

If competing for the BUSA title wasn't enough the Championships are also a key selection event for the World University Cross Country Championships being held at Mauquenchy, France from 5-6 April 2008. The top two finishers in both the men's and women's 'A' races are automatically selected for the World University Cross Country Championships.

The Championships is being hosted by Swansea University with the support of Swansea City Council and Gwent Athletics, for more information about the please visit [www.busa.org.uk/athletics](http://www.busa.org.uk/athletics).

## National Kendo coach visits Imperial

Daniel Wagner

On Wednesday, while the rest of the ACC was already going crazy in the Union Bar, Imperial College Kendo Club was visited by the British National Coach Matsumoto-sensei. He joined us for our practice session and a few drinks afterwards.

As usually the first half of our practice focused on footwork and basic techniques. Matsumoto-sensei was watching us practice under the directions of our instructor Yung-sensei. Apparently Matsumoto-sensei was pleased with what he saw and joined our seniors as sparring partner for our beginners. So all our beginners got the rare chance to hit the National Coach on the head. In the second half of the practice our seniors put on their bogu, the kendo fencing armour, for some more advanced practice. Matsumoto-sensei joined these drills and gave many valuable comments and advice to our seniors.

At the end of the session we practised kendo sparring matches, called jikeiko. Everybody got the chance to fight Matsumoto-sensei. Although nobody of us had the slightest chance against him it was an exciting and inspiring experience.

Highlights of the evening were the matches between Matsumoto-sensei and our instructors Yung-sensei and Yoshikawa-sensei. Both our instructors are high ranking kendo players



The national Kendo coach (in black) showing how it's done

themselves: Yung-sensei fought for Hong Kong at the last World Championship and Yoshikawa-sensei recently won yet another international competition in Dublin, Ireland. So all our members were watching in awe: their fights against Matsumoto-sensei were kendo presentations of highest quality.

Without noticing we overran our

normal practice time and it was almost 11 when we arrived at the Union bar to have a pint with the National Coach. Overall this visit was a great experience for our members. It proved once again that our club has a good reputation in the UK and that we are really lucky to have two excellent Kendo instructors here at Imperial.