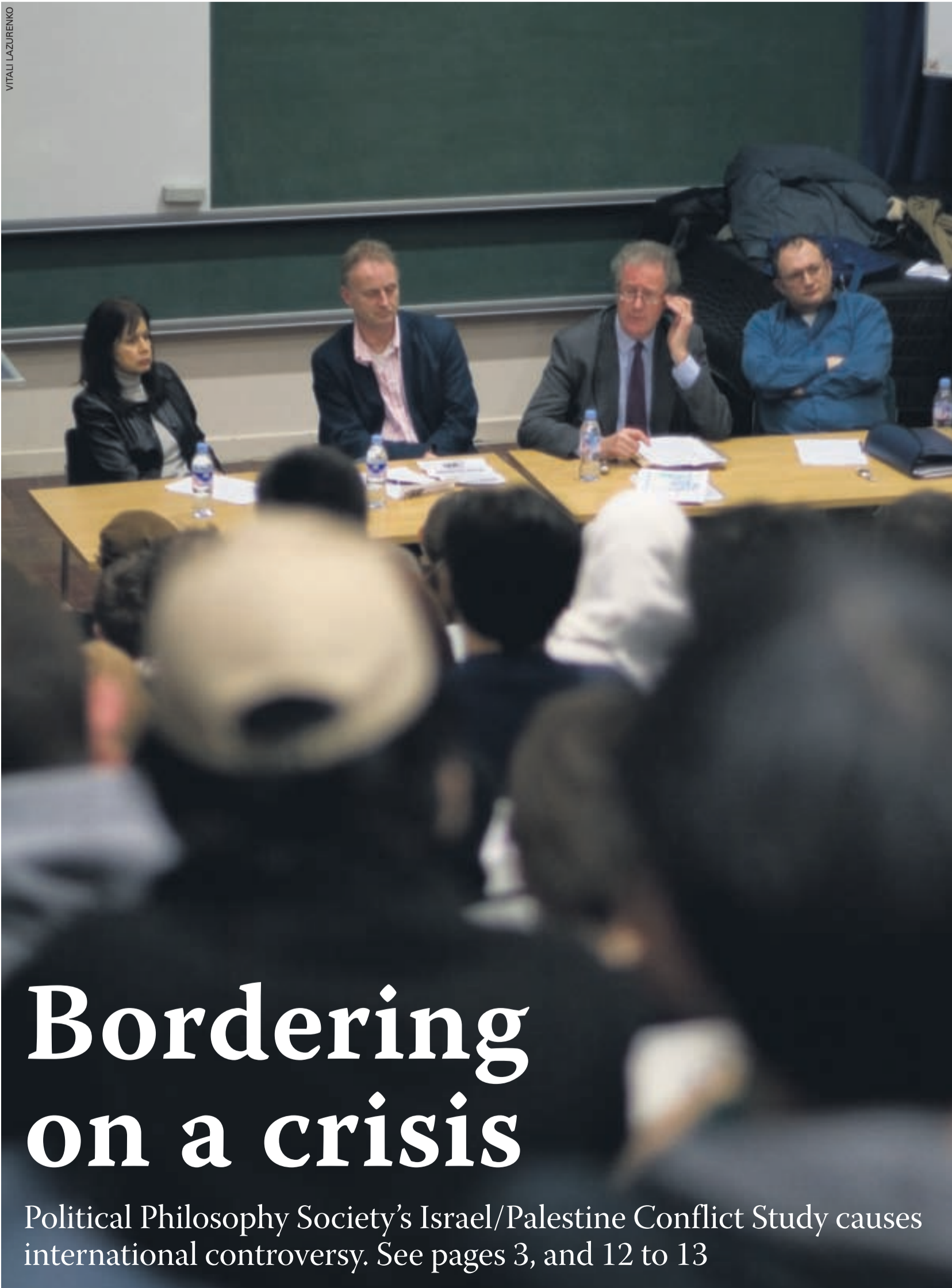


felix

The student newspaper of
Imperial College London

Issue 1,395
Friday 8 February 2008
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VITALI LAZURENKO

Bordering on a crisis

Political Philosophy Society's Israel/Palestine Conflict Study causes international controversy. See pages 3, and 12 to 13

Inside

Music returns



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Nightlife returns with competitions



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Arts Fest



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RTS Fest



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GSA election results: zero to two postgraduate heroes?

GSA Chair and Treasurers successfully elected but nominees running for Secretary positions withdrew from election

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, the Union announced the results of the most recent Graduate Students Association (GSA) election. Kilian Frensch became the new GSA Chair and Yinka Bisiriyu is the latest GSA Treasurer. However the GSA Secretary post remains unfilled after both candidates withdrew midway through the election.

The GSA represents postgraduates at Imperial including PhD and Masters students, by voicing their concerns and needs to the Union, the College and nationally. However, the association has been non-existent since November when the previous Chair, Jon Matthews, resigned in dramatic fashion after Union Council rejected two of his reports deeming his work over the summer break unsatisfactory. His resignation left the GSA committee without any members. Postgraduate representation suffered further still last term without a permanent Postgraduate Co-ordinator staff member present within the Union.

Mr Frensch was the sole nominee in the race for GSA Chair beating RON (re-open nominations) 111 votes to 19. The contest for Treasurer was very closely contested, however, with four votes separating Ms Bisiriyu and her closest rival.

Turnout has increased slightly since the last election, going from 111 to 130 votes in the GSA Chair election compared to the last election. 211 votes were cast in the Treasurer election but with over 4,500 postgraduates at Imperial College the overall turnout remains very poor with less than 5% of the electorate voting.

Hopefully, if Mr Frensch's ambitious manifesto is anything to go by, the GSA will bring some tangible change



The new GSA Chair, Kilian Frensch and his 'Roger Moore' eyebrow

for postgraduate students. In it, he says he wants to "gain 'student status' for writing-up students" in order to waive council tax and to allow them to use College's facilities, since PhD students in their fourth year lose swipe card access. He also states that he will campaign to "allow research students to keep income from scholarships that exceed standard paying rate" and to "re-gain pay taken from Mathematics PhD students when they were underpaid."

Unlike his predecessor, Mr Frensch will have a Treasurer for support and with the recent appointment of a per-

manent Union Postgraduate Co-ordinator the GSA appears to be getting back on track. The Union President, Stephen Brown, told Felix that now the GSA has a core team from which it can build on, it will be left to its own devices and to find itself a Secretary to complete the GSA trinity.

If Mr Frensch achieves everything he set out to do, he will be one of the greatest student representatives ever. Even if he brings only his first promise to fruition he will have resuscitated the GSA, which has been flat-lining for a while. Defibrillate away Kilian!

IC Canoe Club in minibus crash with Mercedes-Benz



At midnight, on their way back from a recent weekend trip to the Lake District, the minibus driven by IC Canoe Club was struck in the rear by a Mercedes-Benz. A female passenger in the Mercedes-Benz was taken to hospital as a result of the accident, however no one else was injured. The Union's legion of minibuses will be depleted for at least two months due to the extent of the damage; the chassis could be written-off due to the incident.

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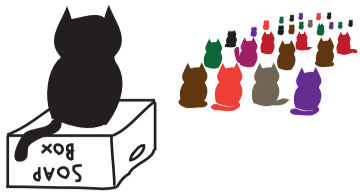
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OF THE WEEK



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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



A. Geek

Ammar Waraich and me

The hand's healing up well, thanks for asking. The week's been fairly painless, other than the constant wanking jokes I've had fired at me every time I explain my injury. Good god. Anyway, as I slowly regain the use of my hands and finish adding everyone who made that joke to the torture list, I find myself reading Felix properly for the first time in a week. I know, I write for it, but frankly that makes me less likely to bother reading it, all right? I spend literally minutes every week churning this stuff out, thank you very much, when all you can manage is to gurn at the text during a Friday afternoon lecture. And then complain, or something.

Naturally, I turn to my stuff first. There's something weird about going over what you've written, because it's only then you realise just how shit it is. But what struck me even more strongly was just how shit the rest of it was. I mean, the comments section is burgeoning with, you know, comment. And that's great. I'm all for people giving their opinion. It's just that it's all pretty much bollocks. Check out last week – page one includes two tits discussing whether we'd rather pay thirty thousand pounds this year, or in five years' time. Then there's me, a self-obsessed cretin with a beret and a copy of *A Very Short Introduction To Sounding Like A Philosophical Tit*. You've got Master-of-the-Overextended-Analogy Mr. Amit throwing another (admittedly loveable) literary curveball at you, and Samuel Black – Captain Pseudonym who would probably marry his pen name if he loved it any more, although that would merely force him to change his name to it, thus negating the entire point of it.

And Noel Forrest! Mr. Forrest of Felix 1393 – the doors rotate slower than the Earth? Slower than the Earth, which rotates at *more than nine hun-*

dred miles an hour, Mister Forrest the scientist? What kind of fucking irony is that, exactly?

Truthfully, I enjoy the comment section. I think of us as the Felix equivalent of Have I Got News For You – a few disgruntled regulars who try to be quick-witted where they can, and take the piss out of the guest writers where they can't. But if this is your favourite section of Felix, then you're wasting your fucking time. All of you, in fact, are wasting your time. Except Ammar Waraich.

That name probably doesn't ring a bell, because you don't look at a writer's name all that often, and if you did read the articles I'm about to talk about then the writer's name was probably the last thing you were interested in. However, if you don't regularly read as far back through Felix as the Travel Section, then I implore you to hunt down the last few weeks of back copies and take it all in, because the most gripping journalism of Felix's year may have just passed you by.

Hang on, the hyperbole machine's just stalled. While I try and restart it, just go and have a look at one of the past weeks. Mr. Waraich is a medical student, who took it upon himself last summer to do a placement for a month out in rural Kenya. Far from being full of white people in khaki chasing leopards with cameras and suchlike, it turns out that rural Kenya is actually in pretty bad shape. Not the kind of bad shape that you see on the news – there's nothing immediately awful going down out there, not some horrible disaster occurring that BBC News 24 hasn't managed to pipe into your eyeballs. It's just sitting there. Festering, almost.

If you can choke down my Schadenfreude, I'll elaborate a little – his exploits in Kenya take him quite far afield. Off the beaten track lies, amongst other things, death, suffering, knife-edge



The good doctor: A picture from Ammar Waraich's (left) trip

survival, lack of resources, more death, more suffering, and yes, it's Africa, we've all seen Live Aid, right? We don't need to see another trip around that big place with the trees.

The thing is – as with all student journalism – there's something different about seeing someone who isn't intentionally trying to publicise something, being put up against the reality of the thing in question. That's why Emily Wilson's critique of art in London is so frequently hilarious, and it's why Ammar's experience of being a doctor in Africa is so absolutely fresh and cutting. He tells you that he was angry with people for not following what he saw to be common sense – only to find that it was poverty and exploitation that had forced them into such situations. He tells quite harrowing stories about how he failed to save lives by a matter of minutes.

We all know people who've been on gap years and whatnot, and probably read their pisspooor attempts at chronicling it, but even the furthest journeyman did little other than lay some

bricks on a floor or talk very loudly in English at bemused children. Ammar's account is powerful, honest to a fault, and illustrated by some of the finest images I've seen. I can't criticise it. I can't be cynical or harsh. It's just great journalism, and it puts whining shits such as myself to shame.

This is what being a student is about – seeing the world with eyes that aren't jaded by experience and bias, seeing it first-hand and relating it to others. It makes me thoroughly proud to be a writer, and simultaneously ashamed of my incapability to match his frankness. As we sail on into Valentine's Day like an elephant on a Hornby train at the edge of a rather pink minefield, clutching closer to our loved ones and cursing our inability to spend a banker's wage on a diamond the size of our genitalia, I'm not asking but *demanding* that you go and hunt his writing down. It defines, for me at least, what it means to be young and free in this world. Something that, by reading his words, you may come to cherish even more.

// Naturally, I turn to my stuff first. There's something weird about going over what you've written, because it's only then you realise just how shit it is //

Leave Britney alone!

The recent spate of celebrity deaths is causing no end of concern for the average citizen. First Heath Ledger was cruelly ripped from our bosoms and now Jeremy Beadle joins the toll. It feels like only yesterday that Richard Whiteley shuffled off his mortal coil. I mean who's next – Terry Wogan?

It is hard to come to terms with these emotional bombshells but, given time and the right sort of support, perhaps a few sensitively compiled retrospectives, one hopes to be able to scabble together some sort of a life without Heath and Jeremy.

However, it is impossible to achieve such a remote objective when there is a small but persistently vociferous minority of people who seem to think it very funny when famous people bite the dust. Not least of these is the bulbous freak-ball Charlie Brooker, who, in this Monday's edition of G2, digs another foot and a half towards hell as he spews his indiscriminate ill-will over the dead bodies of the recently departed. His latest attempt at humour involves him advocating a text mes-

sage notification service called 'eVulture' to advise customers of recent celebrity deaths. He dares to recommend this to us, the caring public, jibing in his feckless, irresponsible manner with his fat, stupid lips that "if you want to be notified the moment the Milk Tray man winds up in a box of his own, then eVulture is the service for you". Does

Brooker know for sure that the Milk Tray Man is still with us? What if he found out that the he'd died in a skiing accident or something? Perhaps that might wipe the gaping smile off his pile-of-dog-turd-with-two-pokes-for-eyes-and-a-smear-for-a-mouth face?

But no, without stopping for breath or moral fibre, the rancid pus-flow that

is Brooker goes on to callously point out that he could make money out of these poor, real people's misfortunes. This is, of course, just the latest in a series of "I hate, I hate, I hate" diatribes from the mealy-mouthed mother-freaking Brooker in a desperate transparent ploy to garner support for his twisted celebrity-hating cadre. Only very recently was he found to be taking the piss out of Jimmy Saville.

Even Britney Spears isn't safe as he glibly sneers his way over her psychological imbalances, or as most people with the glimmer of a conscience would call it, humanity. I implore those who feel that our celebrities need to be given our love and support to help them stand up tall and proud upon the earth and walk about with dignity and respect.

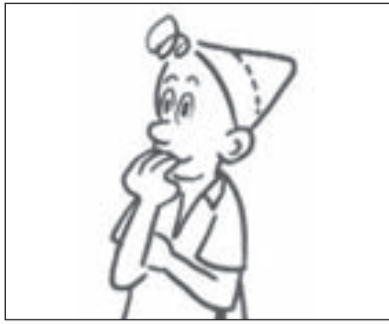
I implore you and exhort you to find the malicious Brooker, to hunt him down, and to kill him and all his loveless cronies. Then when you are standing over his body with a bloody sword in one hand and his mobile phone in the other, text all of your friends and smugly notify them of Brooker's passing.



David Stewart



The shocking website asking visitors to predict the date of Britney's death to win a PS3



Gilead Amit

Read between the headlines

I'm foreign. As a consequence, I don't like Marmite, have little patience for scatological innuendo, and speak more than one language. Despite this, I think I'm adapting fairly well to the customs of this sceptred isle. In one thing, though, I continually display my ignorance; and that is when it comes to choosing newspapers.

Every country has its own wide selection of newspapers: those catering for all colours of the political spectrum, those dedicated to the entertainment-seekers, and those designed for the sports-mad. Yet few others countries have the same national divisions along paper lines. Here, you are judged immediately by the sort of newspaper you read. Choose a paper and your position is carved in stone. You will be accepted by fellow readers of that newspaper and have your position ridiculed by everyone else. In this country, the choice of

print media defines the person.

My situation is further complicated by the fact that I have not yet understood these subtle distinctions. I still don't know which newspaper represents which position. Even more problematically, I'm not even sure which position I hold, or would like to be seen as holding. My knowledge is really very limited. When I walk into a newsagents' with a friend, which paper do I pick up? This one has a fairly conservative-looking typeface but uses three exclamation marks in the headlines. That one has a heavily pixelated picture of what I can only imagine is a sinning celebrity; this one has a completely pixel-free version of the same picture. Which one to choose? Is the Guardian a good choice for a cynic with little interest in sports and even less interest in economics? Will the Independent satiate my craving for celebrity gossip? Can the Spectator rival the

Times on Sunday for theatre reviews? Will the News of the World be proof-read this week? Which paper should I take? What to do?

The names stare at me from the rack. The Guardian. The Times. The Daily Telegraph, the Daily Mail, the Evening Standard. I take a wild guess and assume that the Star and the Sun are not the most literary of choices. I have also learned (the hard way) that Metro and the London Paper are not for the discerning newsreader, but that really doesn't narrow the field.

All I really know is that everyone loves jumping on the Daily Mail – figuratively and literally. I have no idea myself, of course, but I think I may get funny looks later on if I admit to reading it. Better leave it. How about the Times? Ah, now obviously I know about the Times. This is the Rolls-Royce of newspapers, even though it has been reduced to tabloid format.

The intelligent man's newspaper. Or is it? Maybe it's become too popular. Maybe that's the latest fashion and I'm just jumping on the bandwagon. I don't like being a follower ... I should be a trendsetter. Choose a paper that no-one ever reads, like the Observer. Or the Financial Times – meaningless numbers, statistics, and symbols backed by incomprehensible pseudo-theory. I am studying physics, so it should be right up my street.

What's the fashionable man about town reading this winter? Do I decide based on font size? Number of pages? Breast size of centrefold? Complexity of crossword? Percentage of paper given over to the sports section? Number of swear words in the headlines? Or should I decide based on something as pedestrian as price?

In all honesty, I can't decide on a real newspaper to read. I think I'll just stick to Felix.



Omar Hafeez-Bore

Cleaning the cover

What's the opposite of blind? No, not 20/20. The other end of the spectrum, like when Weirdos yank your eyeballs out, lick them and suck them before squeezing them (now lubricated, so it's easy) back into your eye sockets for you to see the world through the eyes of a Weirdo. Well, I feel like I have been Weirdo-d by Photoshop.

Everywhere I look, Design gets there first, fooling me with its trendy curves, well-chosen font and minimalist colours. Or its sexy, macro-shot, soft-lit Chicken McHeartAttack. Or its comforting, wood-panelled homely feel reminding me of my days spent catching butterflies and frolicking gaily through my grandad's corn-field while he took a midday siesta underneath the old apple tree. In Birmingham.

My Incredible Imperial Intellect (III) deduced a long time ago that the real world was in hiding. Every now and then I think I get a glimpse of truth

only to realise that the girl is only sobbing like that because EastEnders taught her how Sadness Looks. It all gets a bit vague. Once though, I saw a sleeping tramp! But I was so mortified at the Gritty Real World Drama that I quickly graffitied his face with my my biro, covering it in ironic dollars. How terribly LOL. I took a photo and photoshopped it just to be sure.

It seems we are wading through a man-made veneer. There is so much comment, image and reverse-neo-post-modern-not-reallyness that getting to golden nuggets of actual truth is exhausting. By the way I'm a Muslim. Stop. Wait.

I say it because even my beloved faith has been coated with a cultural varnish. One that needs to be stripped.

On the one hand we have the incredible unifying effect of a common religious tongue and a consistent criterion of belief. Stealing its glory is a forced synonymy between Islam and the arabesque (or pakiesque). I don't see the Pope rolling around in sandpits or

sitting on radiators to celebrate the historic land of Nazareth. Similarly there is a cultural cage of sands and snakes, camels and caravans, turbans and Taliban that surrounds Islam in the modern psyche. It alienates me as a Muslim too.

It does injustice to the universality of Islam's message. Of course there is the Sunnah, the importance and adherence to the actions of the Prophet (pbuh) as an example unto humanity, coming with it things that are superficially linked to Middle Eastern culture; but for deep contentment there requires a harmony between faith and one's environmental and social framework.

What is the red pill? To unplug from this alienating Matrix of media and image to intellectual Terra Firma? Knowledge. Proper, bookish facts. And fighting fire with fire: a generation carving a new niche in a new habitat.

And thus I come subtly to Islamic

Awareness Week. Some misguided mistake put me in a position of responsibility (and power*), and I am ecstatic to see the rappers, the clean aesthetic, the history of 'Islamic' invention and the multitude of ethnic backgrounds involved, as well as the decision not to hire out snake charmers and camel costumes. As aforementioned this is partly fighting fire with fire, pitting one bit of cultural flab with another, but hopefully they'll fight it out (as flab tends to) into neutralisation and get us to see past the blubber to some kind of truth beneath. One that we can all read with untainted spectacles, and be that little bit more wise for it.

*Uncle Ben/Huda

Islamic Awareness Week runs from the 18th February with the Exhibition in Sheffield Stairway on the Monday and Thursday. (Literally) Unmissable.



Giramondo

Have some balls

My rainy Tuesday started with a rather predictable headline "Malawi severs links with Taiwan" scrawled across the BBC website. As some of you may be aware of the problem across the Taiwanese strait, it is not uncommon to see developing countries switch recognition between Taipei and Beijing. While this should have been a proud honoured political statement by Malawi to declare their stance of political ideology akin to UK standing behind US in international issues, Malawi's moves have now been reduced to mere squabbling over which side they can squeeze more financial gain out of. Rumours of the Marshall Island following suit are also being reported.

What really annoyed me wasn't really the move, I respect people for choosing their sides and in a harsh world – yes – the abandoned side gets hurt. But what really fucked me up was the statement the Malawian officials

made a day before the announcement: "Malawi had only recently denied it had switched its allegiances from Taipei to Beijing". I mean, for goodness' sake, have some guts and balls to say you are going to do whatever you think is right. Don't go around telling people you are one thing, and then backstab them afterwards – stab them there and then – make your word accountable. How can any nation be of any integrity if they go back on their word?

In some ways the US defiance of the UN and invading Iraq is better: they've got the guts to do so. No wonder some nations stay small and insignificant.

In some ways I admire Chavez, Ahmadinejad, and Juan Carlos for saying what's on their minds rather than some politically correct shyte. Be direct, state your point, and say the unsayable! How satisfying was it when the King reprimanded Chavez to shut up!

When will we hear the Fukuda tell the Chinese to "just drop the past!"? Or when could the Latvians tell the Russian to "sod off" about some statues?

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The communications intern will report to the Communications Assistant and will work with the communications team to build the profile of IMC UK by developing our current website. Duties will include:

- Updating the IMC UK website on a regular basis
- The post holder will be responsible for supporting the communications assistant on a range of communications activities including print, electronic and web-based media, press and supporting the coordination of various outreach events
- Responsibility for any other administrative and general duties assigned to you by the Communications Assistant

Requirements

- Graphic Design and IT Skills
- Knowledge of InDesign and/or QuarkXpress Dreamweaver
- Strong interest in the humanitarian sector and a willingness to learn

If you are interested in the role, contact Laurence Holmes. Telephone: 020 7553 4069 or email: lholmes@imcworldwide.org.uk



Jonas Neubert

// I think everyone of us should find out enough about Fairtrade to make a conscious decision as to whether to buy Fairtrade footballs or not //

Weighing up the cost of fair trade

Everyone who digs deep enough in Felix every week to get as far as this page probably also noticed that Imperial has recently become a Fairtrade University. Among other things this has to do with the fact that every coffee you buy on campus (as well as every tea and many of the other treats supplied by College Catering) is Fairtrade certified. As a member of Imperial's Fairtrade Society it surprises me regularly to see how many of those coffee and tea drinkers are completely ignorant about the meaning of the term Fairtrade. So I was glad to see that someone has enough interest in the topic to raise it in the last issue of Felix where "Matt the Hat" expresses concerns about how fair Fairtrade is to the consumer and whether free trade might be fairer than Fairtrade. These are two interesting questions but I think Matt missed a point on both of them.

Why are Fairtrade things always so much more expensive than the "normal" stuff? Well, to start with: They aren't. When Imperial's coffees became Fairtrade two years ago the price didn't rise. And if you go to the supermarket you will notice that sometimes the Fairtrade coffee is in fact cheaper than the non-Fairtrade. Admittedly, these are exceptions.

There are cases where retailers want to earn from people's consciousness about issues such as Fairtrade. For a cup of cappuccino which I was told

costs more than £2 on the high street, the farmer sees 1.5p on average. If the Fairtrade version costs more, this is for three main reasons: the fraction of a penny the farmer gets more for his product, the higher cost of distributing Fairtrade products because they still have a smaller market and last, but definitely not least, the retailer's greed. If the latter takes over, even I as a Fairtrade supporter would advise you to vote with your feet and walk to a different coffee shop.

Now Matt asks where the free market is in this case. I don't know how he could miss it! Having the choice between two different products, Fairtrade and non-Fairtrade, and the choice of where to buy either, how could the market be freer and fairer? As opposed to the EU, Fairtrade does not subsidise producers. Let me explain this with the example of Fairtrade footballs (yes, they do exist). 90% of the world's footballs are produced in Pakistan and while no one counted it is believed that a good 30% are produced by child labourers. I have the option of buying the cheap football made by a child who will never go to school and one that is made by an adult who earns a wage that I would consider appropriate for making me a football. And there is the factory owner who has the choice of employing children and paying them next to nothing or fulfilling a range of criteria to become Fairtrade certified. This is the free market with two products competing for demand. Subsidies are nowhere to be



Brown gold for some; fair trade can help make it profitable for all

seen in Fairtrade. Just ask yourself: Is it a subsidy if a Jaguar X-Type is more expensive than a Ford Mondeo?

Fairtrade should also not be confused with charity. Matt remembers the principle of "how people prefer fishing rods over truckloads of fish". Giving people the fishing rods is exactly what Fairtrade does. When farmers use the Fairtrade premium they are paid to make their production organic so they can sell it for higher prices, the Fairtrade premium was like a fishing rod to them.

Matt is right about one thing though: since Fairtrade relies on the free market we need the economy to "tip back in their favour". In plain English that means if we don't buy Fairtrade foot-

balls no one will produce them any more. That's why I think everyone of us should find out enough about Fairtrade to make a conscious decision as to whether to buy Fairtrade footballs or not. And if you don't need a football, it also works with coffee, or tea, or chocolate, anything you can dream of!

Having said this I will use the last few sentences of this letter to shamelessly plug the current campaign run by Imperial's Fairtrade Society. Because we want to raise awareness of Fairtrade we invite everyone to ask their question about Fairtrade (critical comments phrased as questions are also very welcome). I won't mention all the cool prizes you can win by taking part on www.imperialfairtrade.org.uk.

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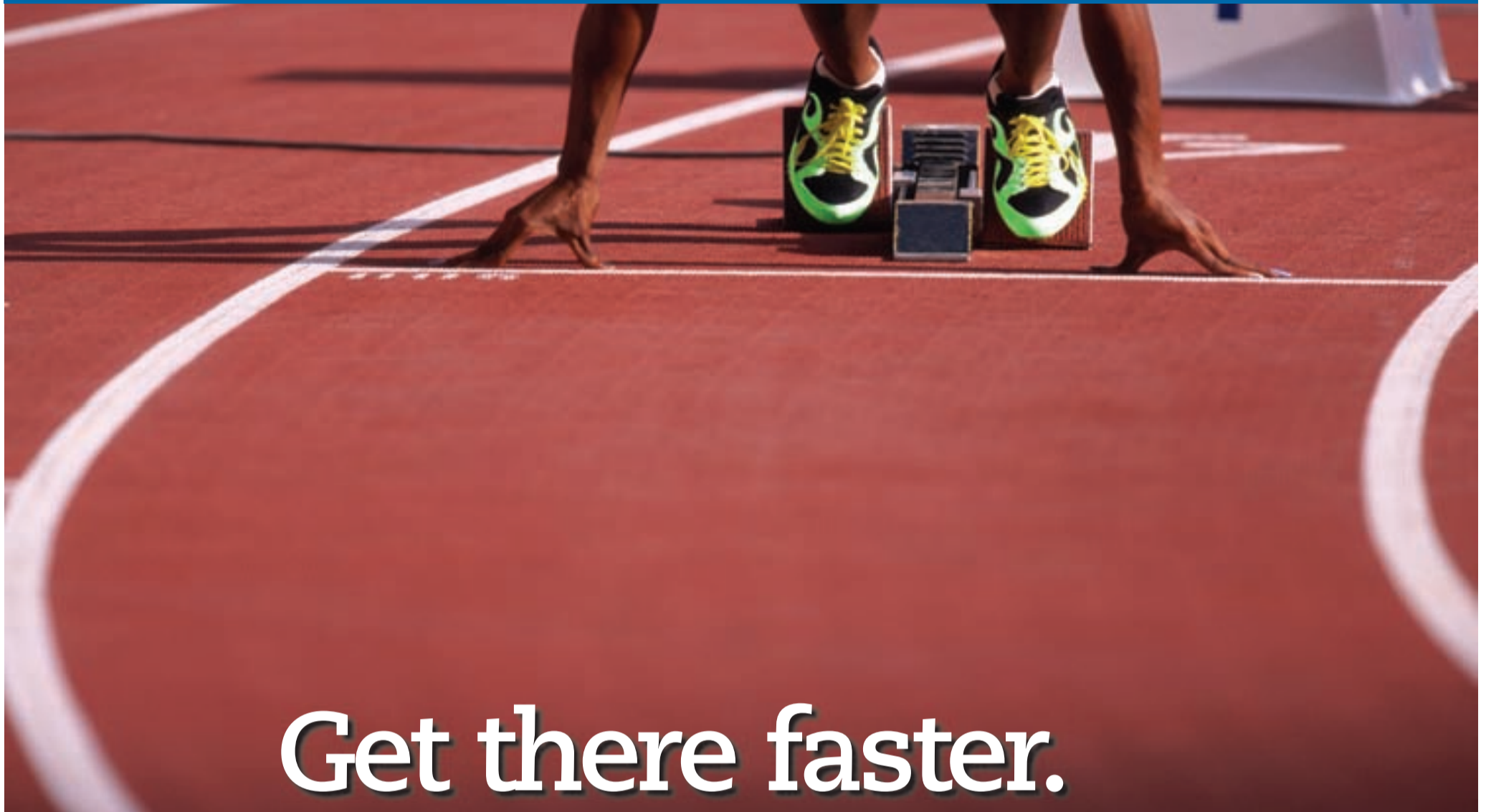
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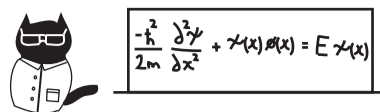
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Hot science: Cold prevention at IC

Sally Longstaff reports on how a team at Imperial is leading the way in tackling the common cold, by infecting mice with rhinoviruses. Great news for asthma sufferers, but cold comfort for the sniffly mice...

Earlier this month, a team of scientists headed by Imperial's Professor Sebastian Johnston announced in *Nature Medicine* that they have successfully infected mice with rhinoviruses for the first time.

It had been previously thought that these viruses, which cause about 75% of common colds, could only infect humans and chimps. Professor Johnston, from IC's MRC/Asthma UK Centre in Allergic Mechanisms of Asthma, says: "Until now it has not been possible to study rhinovirus infection in small animals. This has been a major obstacle to developing new treatments and there is currently no effective treatment for rhinovirus infection."

The reason for this "immunity" of other animals to rhinoviruses is mainly due to a binding molecule, found in 90% of rhinoviruses, called ICAM-1. This is found on the surface of human cells and it is this that the viruses use as a receptor to bind to the cells. Other smaller animals do not have this receptor, and so as Professor Johnston says: "the virus couldn't infect the mouse cell because the receptor (acting like a door key) couldn't get into the cell." His team modified the receptor in mice, allowing the infection into the cells.

Over two weeks, the mice were then studied for any symptoms and had their lung fluid analysed for the presence of mucus proteins and interferons, cytokines and chemokines – proteins produced by the immune system



in response to infections.

Whilst rhinoviruses are at worst an inconvenience to most of the population, they can have severe and even fatal consequences for some. For asthma sufferers like myself they can trigger asthma attacks, pneumonia in people with weakened immune systems, and chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

The team combined exposure to

the virus with an allergic reaction to ovalbumin (found in egg white) and observed that the mice showed similar symptoms to humans when asthma is worsened by a viral infection. At present the only preventative measure for virally-induced asthma attacks is to use steroids, only partially effective.

As the mice responded similarly to humans, this leads to hopes that they

could provide models of rhinovirus infection, which the researchers conclude could be useful when investigating treatments for both the common cold and asthma. These findings could also develop further, aiding research into other conditions, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The research was funded by the Medical Research Council, Asthma UK

and GlaxoSmithKline. Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, chief executive of the Medical Research Council, said: "This important and fundamental discovery will enable us to understand the effects rhinoviruses and common colds have on our health. It will open up new paths to finding treatments which have been delayed for many years and provides us with the opportunities for further breakthroughs in the future."

This experiment is of great interest to the scientific community, and many newspapers and other publications have lauded this as a "breakthrough". Mice are often used as models of disease and to test treatments. Because previously the rhinovirus was only able to infect higher primates, this made research difficult. By finding a way to infect mice, this study represents a very significant step forward.

However, animal models of human disease are a very early step and it may take many years for new treatments to become available. A significant obstacle, amongst other problems, is that viruses have many different strains; developing a treatment that will cure every cold will be nigh on impossible.

It is also important to consider the risks of overprescribing medication. The common cold, as mentioned, is a mere irritant to most of the population, and only dangerous to a few. The widespread use of medications to treat common colds may lead to the development of resistant strains – potentially threatening to the most susceptible.

The 2004 tsunami, the ionosphere, Arecibo and the STFC: all connected?

Edmund Henley

I'll warn you at the outset that this is rather a navel-gazing article, as the topic for today's story has been chosen for somewhat ulterior motives. I'll reveal those motives at the end, when it's time for some editorialising. In the meantime, it's high time for an explanation: how could the ionosphere and the 2004 tsunami possibly be linked?

On the face of it, it is hard to see how one might affect the other. The 2004 tsunami (triggered by a magnitude ~9.2 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra on the 26th of December) powerful as it may have been, occurred at sea level. The ionosphere, an electrically conductive layer of the atmosphere (the highest one, in fact) lies far above, between 85-600 km altitude. And though it forms the upper edge of the atmosphere, potentially linking it to events lower down, it is also the lower edge of the magnetosphere – the bubble-like region

which Earth's magnetic field carves out of the solar wind, a flow of plasma streaming outwards past us from the sun. The ionosphere's location and conductive nature means that changes in the solar wind and magnetosphere, such as those associated with aurorae, can have significant effects on the ionosphere.

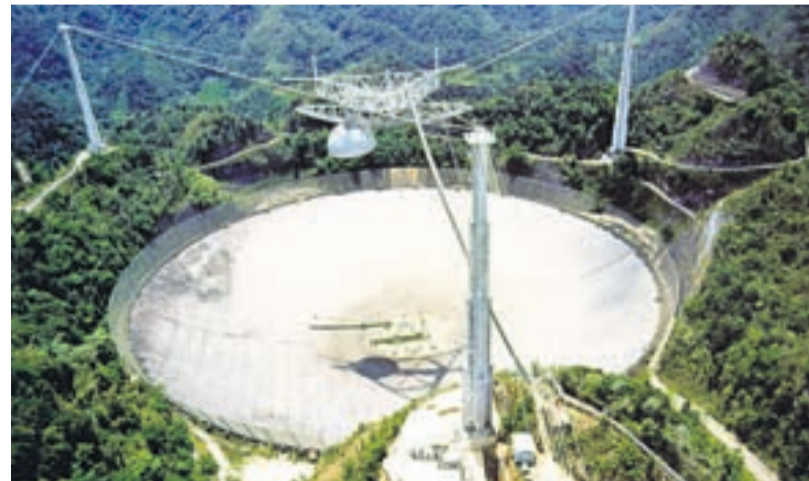


Another main cause of change in the ionosphere is also due to the sun: radiation. The ionosphere is electrically conducting because radiation at frequencies from UV and above ionises the neutral atoms, leaving a cloud of ions and electrons. Though these attract each other, and so should potentially recombine, the atmosphere at ionospheric altitudes is so tenuous that this cloud of charged particles can persist for long times, as a plasma, providing the generation mechanism – the sun – is visible, offsetting any losses due to recombination. At night, when the sun has no effect, the number of charged particles decreases greatly. Some of you may have had practical experience of this, if you listen to long-wave radio stations: the signals bounce off the ionosphere, at an altitude where the number of free electrons floating around causes that layer to become opaque to radio waves, and act like a mirror instead. As this altitude changes over the course of a day, it affects the range of radio signals: a higher layer means signals from further away can be picked up.

However, ionospheric changes are also due to atmospheric effects, which may in turn be due to changes all the way down at the surface. And it's this type of mechanism which American researchers publishing in the *Journal of Geophysical Re-*

search a few weeks ago think might explain their observations. They were using the Arecibo radio dish on Puerto Rico to probe the ionosphere around the time of the tsunami, and found that about 25 hours after that event, an unexpected rise and fall in one ionospheric layer occurred. Unusual, because it occurred at night, and when there was little magnetospheric activity, immediately ruling out two of the above causes for ionospheric changes. Nor did it look like this was due to waves caused by a storm – there were none nearby at the time. Instead, Lee et al. suggest that the tsunami waves on the ocean caused associated gravity waves (nothing to do with space-time: these are waves due to fluid parcels being displaced into regions of different density – gravity or buoyancy acts as a restoring force, causing oscillation about an equilibrium) in the atmosphere. The effects of these gravity waves leaked into the ionosphere, causing the variations seen at Arecibo, and also by various GPS satellites, which are sensitive to the electron content of the ionosphere.

What has this got to do with the Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC), the body which funds astronomical, space science and particle physics research in the UK? Keen readers of science news amongst you may have spotted that the STFC is going through a funding crisis at the moment – there's an £80 million hole in its budget, which threatens swingeing cuts in many areas. Notably in the

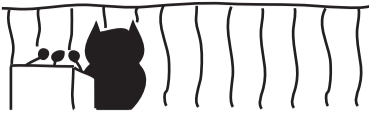


Dishy: the Arecibo radio telescope is really rather a looker

research area which the above study belongs to: STFC has said it will "cease all support for ground-based solar-terrestrial physics facilities". This is where I need to confess something: I might not be entirely objective here, as my research area involves looking at part of the magnetospheric system. My area does not directly look quite so threatened, yet for various personal reasons, I see the loss of UK solar-terrestrial physics ground facilities as a blow.

You see, the UK is really rather good at solar terrestrial physics, and puts its facilities to good use. I almost went to do my Ph.D. at Leicester, a particularly strong institute currently under threat, as I was attracted to their way of view-

ing the complicated interactions from the solar wind all the way down to the atmosphere as one cohesive system, which needs to be treated as such to be understood. The above study is a nice example of energy transfer between regions covered by different funding councils: the STFC above, and the Natural Environment Research Council below. At a time when we recognise the need to understand the processes affecting climate, surely it is foolish to squander world-class expertise in an area interacting with climatic science, merely because the funding councils define a remit boundary at a particular altitude, a boundary which is flouted in at least this case, and likely in others?



The results of Super Tuesday!

Last Tuesday voters in 24 states went to the ballot box to vote in Democratic and Republican primaries



Starting at top left – John McCain, Mitt Romney, and Mike Huckabee

After Super Tuesday, John McCain has cemented his position as front-runner for the Republican nomination. However the race is not over, with Mike Huckabee's surprise performance turning it into a 3-horse contest.

John McCain won the big states, New York and California, as well as 7 other states giving him a total win of 511 delegates. His performance positions him as the front-runner but certainly has not ended the race. There were mixed feelings at the McCain camp after the victory. While he told the crowd "Tonight, I think we must get used to the idea, that we are the Republican Party front-runner", he was also cautious, speaking in terms of a "long way ahead". Mr McCain has good reason to be cautious, he is still treated with suspicion by Republican conservatives who believe him to be soft on the Democrats and somewhat of a maverick. Super Tuesday has shown us that Republican conservatives are still not willing to embrace McCain, preferring

Romney and Huckabee.

Mitt Romney certainly had a bad night on Tuesday. He is significantly behind John McCain in terms of delegates. He won 7 states but only accrued 176 delegates as a result. The McCain campaign team has certainly tried to portray Romney as out of the race, by releasing a memo penned by McCain strategist Charlie Black. "With Mike Huckabee still a factor in this race, particularly in the South, and many contests moving forward proportional, the math is nearly impossible for Mitt Romney to win the nomination," he wrote.

Mike Huckabee is a thorn in the side for the Romney campaign. By directly competing with Romney for conservative support, Huckabee has split the Republican conservative vote and given McCain an opportunity to extend his lead. It is becoming very likely that Huckabee is staying in the race, precisely to prevent Romney from winning the race. While Huckabee and McCain do not agree on all of their policy, they do share a dislike of Mitt Romney



From left – Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama

The race to secure the democratic nomination remains neck and neck after a largely inconclusive Super Tuesday for Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. Their wins are largely balanced and it doesn't seem too unbelievable to suggest that the nomination might still be contested at the Democratic National Convention.

Hillary Clinton won 8 states, 5 less than Barack Obama. However included in these states were the big prizes such as California and New York. Therefore the number of delegates that she won was 582, 20 more than Obama. The Clinton Camp was extremely optimistic after Tuesday's result. Clinton campaign spokesman Doug Hattaway had this to say, "The voters defied the pundits' expectations again, we're excited about beating the perceived momentum that Obama had." With Clinton still garnering support from female voters she certainly has cause for celebration. The night did throw up some cause for concern, the Clinton camp

was focused on winning the big states, ignoring the many smaller states that went to Obama. In addition, Obama did well even in the states he lost, and in the democratic system where every vote counts this could prove to be important as the campaign continues.

The Obama campaign had a mixed night. While there is certainly no grounds to suggest that he isn't a serious contender, there is the feeling that Obama's supporters were hoping for a knockout blow that would push them firmly into the lead. Instead the 'campaign for change' has really bought more time in a race that seems to favour Hillary the longer it goes on. There is some concern that despite the momentum Senator Obama had built up in the previous week, he was unable to turn it into a decisive victory. However this is unlikely to dampen optimism amongst Obama's campaigners and with reports that he raised more than \$1m a day in one recent month Barack Obama is definitely still in the race, and there is no indication that a clear winner is going to appear any time soon.

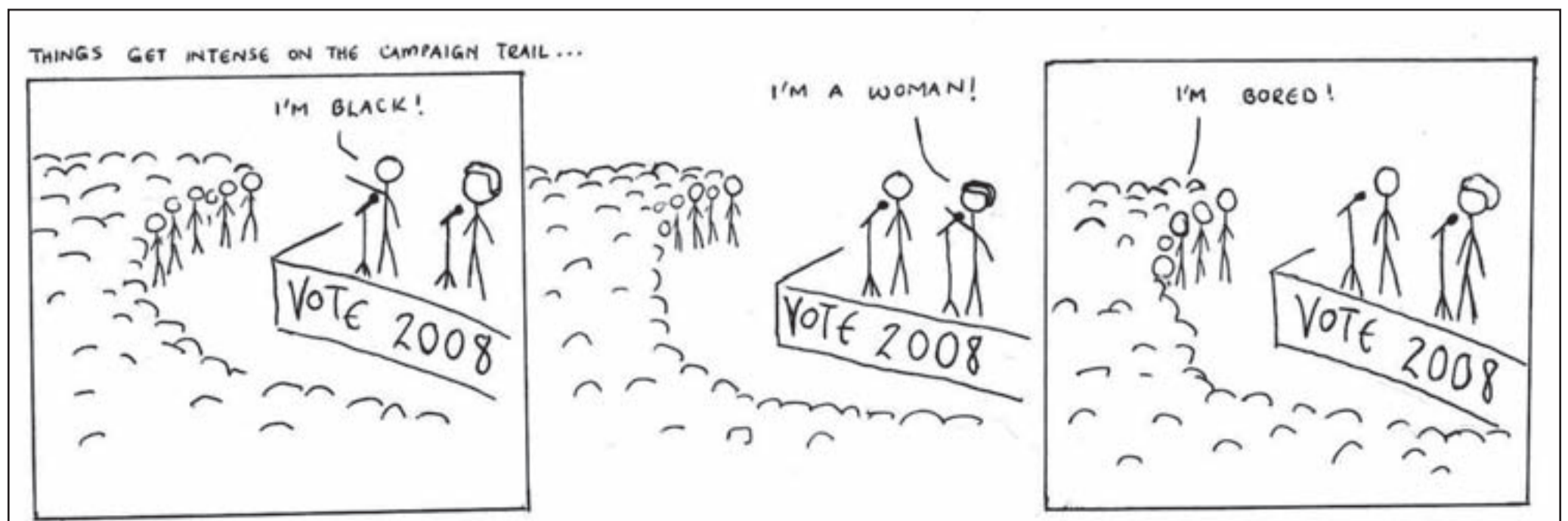
How does it all work?

Presidential election Primaries and Caucuses are basically two different methods of accomplishing the same thing. They are, simply, a way in which each political party (Democratic and Republican) lets voters around the U.S. choose their party's presidential candidate. More technically, presidential primaries and caucuses are the way that delegates or representatives from each state, are selected to go to the party's national convention.

The party's national convention is usually held the summer before the presidential election. Each party chooses a presidential nominee based on how representatives from each state vote at the convention. Both parties select their delegates based on the primary or caucuses vote in each particular state – the delegates represent the views of the voters in the state.

At the Republican party convention, a winner takes all system is used. The candidate with the most votes in a states caucus or primary wins all the delegates that the state sends to the national convention. However at the democratic convention, a different system is used. The number of delegates each candidate receives is proportional to the number of votes received in each state primary or caucus. The number of delegates that each state can send to the national convention is determined by party rules. The state's population, number of elected officials in office and past support of party candidates is considered to decide the number of delegates.

Dry Wit & Tonic



Life: just death and taxes

Abioye Oyetunji

Despite the UK being one of the most capitalistic countries in the world, it has never been particularly anti-tax. That's not to say people enjoy paying taxes or wouldn't mind their own particular burden being reduced – they are human, after all. Instead, there simply isn't a particularly strong belief that taxes should be low and there is remarkably little protest at the government raising taxes openly, introducing new ones or using stealth measures to increase taxes. The British people appear to have made their peace with tax in a way that Americans (rightly, in this writer's opinion) never will.

There is one type of tax, however, for which this rule is blown out of the water. Despite being a tax that affects a remarkably small proportion of the population in any significant way there is surely no tax that is more despised throughout the country than that on estates worth over £600,000 (\$1.2m). Doing my research for this article, it was difficult to find a source (bar the government) that would discuss this issue without making a shamelessly political point on why inheritance tax is so awful. Those who argue against the tax are incensed by its role as a "double tax": they claim that the benefactor is taxed once upon earning the money and then again on death. This is being rather pedantic. The sufferer of the tax in the second instance is the heir, not the person who has died. Labour MP Stephen Byers argued that inheritance tax is "a penalty on hard work, thrift, and enterprise". I fail to see how this is the case for inheritance tax but not for income tax, capital gains tax, and every single other type of tax that has ever existed. I will not make the point that inheritance tax is a good thing; on the contrary, I consider anything that forces a person to part with their property (e.g., tax, robbery) to be a necessary evil at best and just plain evil at worst. My point, rather, is to take a step back and consider this tax relative to other taxes. My point ... is that inheritance tax is probably the least offensive of all types of tax.

First, let us put on our practical econ-



Yes, they're US Dollars, but you try find a high resolution photo of the good old Pound Sterling

omist hat. One of the reasons capitalists believe in low taxes is that tax discourages innovation, hard work, and investment. It is self-evident that the greater the financial reward that people will get for their work, the harder they will work. The hard work-low tax relationship applies for virtually every type of tax ... except inheritance tax. Inheritance tax does very little damage to the country's economy relative to all other types of taxes. Worse still, a lack of inheritance tax potentially has a negative effect on the economy – why work and contribute to society when one can live off one's inherited estate? It is strange, but there seems to be little reason to attack this tax in the name of fiscal efficiency.

Thinking more ideologically and less practically, let us consider "fairness", indeed an important factor when considering the need to force people to part with their property. Again, I must stress that all tax falls into the same bucket on this. Private property is an inalienable right and all that. But there must be measure. It is, surely, more inappropriate to force a person to

part with property personally earned through hard work than property "earned" by mere virtue of birth. I suppose this argument does not extend to lifetime gifts as I do not consider these different from a salary. It is, rather, based on the fact that inheritance represents a person trying to influence events on Earth that occur after their death. Something about exercising one's rights after one's demise is simply a bit more woolly than exercising those same rights while still alive – we all believe in the lifetime right to vote but what if someone decided to bequeath a vote to their favourite political party for an election held after their death? Is this really all that different?

Lastly, I shall espouse an argument that I would not myself ever pay heed to, on the basis that it is selfish, but is one that many might find influences their feelings on the matter. Quite frankly, unless your parents are particularly wealthy and you plan on remaining in a relatively low-paying job, you have much more to personally gain from cuts in income and capital gains tax than you do from inheritance tax.

As alluded to earlier, a mere 6% of British households pay a penny of inheritance tax and the majority of these pay a small amount. The average bill last year was £100,000 and the median is undoubtedly lower. This may seem like a lot of money but it really isn't for the wealthiest 6% of Britons when compared to their personal lifetime income, especially for having done nothing whatsoever (and having received £850,000 in the average case). The only people who are really significantly affected by this tax are the tiny number who have windfalls of over £5 million coming to them (and if one is really worth that much, then one is a fool if there isn't a clever Mayfair tax lawyer ensuring that tax bill never comes).

I cannot in good conscience promote inheritance tax as a good thing but I will stand by my view of it as a best-of-all-evils tax. This transcends party politics; the left seem to love taxes anyway and the right should concern themselves about taxes that hit the hard-working than those that hit the merely fortunate. I don't expect many to agree with me, but I suppose I never do.

Fresh, delicious scandal



Samuel Black
Political Know-It-All

I'm almost drooling, delicious scandal, intrigue and misinformation ... Sorry, I'm just thinking about Tuesday's Political Philosophy Society's Israel/Palestine discussion.

Due to Dr. Azzam Tamimi being uninvited, there were whispers of protests. Luckily Islamists did not protest outside the Sherfield building, but still it was pretty tense. I began to suspect the bearded people sitting around me ... maybe they were going to start waving placards about free speech – hold on, Muslims supporting free speech, yes, reader, I too was confused.

Proceedings began with an explanation of this whole uninviting somebody business. Basically "speaker replaced ... blah blah ... irresolvable differences blah blah". All very boring until I heard the Jerusalem Post being accused of poor journalism. Hey, it was suddenly getting interesting!

Unfortunately, the talk itself was tame. More scandal did however arise: Ghada Karmi read a statement condemning the treatment of Dr. Azzam Tamimi. She said that it was "unacceptable to treat a good scholar in this way" and that if she had known the truth surrounding the uninvention she "would have withdrawn from the talk". I still had no idea what this 'truth' was.

Finally, when the Q&A began, I got some GODDAMN ANSWERS! A crazy man in the audience accused the PPS of deceiving Imperial students and said they should clarify just what the fuck is going on. He then directed a question at guest speaker David Newman: "Is there any Israeli who is man enough to share a platform with Tamimi?" It was beginning to sound like a pre-fight press conference. Mr. Newman explained everything, and I got the feeling the PPS didn't quite want him to explain. He told us that HE in fact withdrew from the talk, when he found out who Dr. Azzam Tamimi was. Essentially David Newman did not want to share a platform with a man who has said he was prepared to be a suicide bomber. He then told us that he did not ask for Tamimi to be removed, just that he wouldn't be attending if Dr. Tamimi did. Good job of laying the controversy right at the feet of the PPS.

What the Jerusalem Post did to incur the wrath of Imperial's PPS was publish an article stating that David Newman had withdrawn. The PPS was trying to keep the whole affair about which speaker to choose under wraps and the Jerusalem Post ruined all that by writing about it. While uninviting Dr. Tamimi was not an attack on free speech it would seem that the PPS doesn't appreciate the free press. If you were hoping for a shifty finances or internal tensions scandal, don't worry I'm sure there'll be plenty of all that from the Union. See next page for further information on the event.

News from all over the known world

Li-Teck Lau

In case you couldn't stomach reading more than a string of 50 words on politics, here are some stories from across the known world.



Chad under attack

Chad's capital N'Djamena was stormed last Saturday in an unsuccessful attempt by rebels from the east of the central African country to oust President Idriss Deby. The event sparked an escalation in insurgent activity which the government of Chad claims have been aided by its troubled neighbour, Sudan. French President Nicolas

Sarkozy reasserted his support for Deby's government and pledged to assist militarily in the former colony should it be further threatened.



Eavesdropping

Jack Straw, the UK's Justice Minister, came to the defence of fellow Labour MP Sadiq Khan whose conversations with a terrorist suspect in prison were said to have been recorded, stating that such news was an attempt to smear Mr. Khan. Recording or bugging members of Parliament is in contravention of the so-called 'Wilson Doctrine'.

Italian turmoil



Italy is facing more political troubles after President Giorgio Napolitano dissolved the country's Parliament last week, sparking an election within 70 days by constitutional decree. It follows the loss of a vote of confidence on Prime Minister Romano Prodi in January, who subsequently submitted his resignation. Problems began nearly a year ago when Prodi's government failed to gain support in Parliament for the funding of Italian troops in Afghanistan.

New Year snow storms

Commuters all over China battled against severe weather as many millions made their way home over the last week for the New Year celebrations through some of the worst snow storms the country has seen in recent times. The year of the Rat was welcomed in on Thursday on a calendar based on lunar observations. President Hu Jin Tao made visits to some of the worst-hit regions. Some four million residents in Chenzhou, a city in Hunan province, spent the celebrations without electricity, as electricians and the military worked extra hours in an attempt to restore essential utilities shut down by the winter storms.



Conflict Case Study week begins

Imperial's Political Philosophy Society's Conflict Case study week begins with a talk on Israel/Palestine

Kadhim Shubber

The Imperial Political Philosophy Society, on Tuesday night, held a discussion on the Israel/Palestine conflict. They invited three guest speakers to give their views and answer questions from the audience: Robin Kealy, former Consul-General to Jerusalem; David Newman, Professor of Political Geography at Ben-Gurion University; and Ghada Karmi, Research Fellow and lecturer at the University of Exeter. Each spoke at length on this controversial conflict. Felix has already run articles by myself and others on the issue; the purpose of this article is to give those who did not attend a feel of the interesting ideas put forward, and those who did attend a chance to reflect on a fast-paced discussion.

Robin Kealy began the proceedings with some background on the negotiations that have gone on in the past and his experiences as consul general to Jerusalem. In true diplomatic nature he treated the events and issues with care. At the forefront of his argument was what he believed to be the barrier to progress in this conflict: previous attempts to bring the sides together failed because they were not compre-

hensive in their scope. He highlighted the Oslo Accords as a symbol of this problem, and although both sides were brought together in negotiations, the real intractable issues, such as Jerusalem, refugees, Israeli settlements in the area, and security and borders were not addressed. Mr. Kealy was clear about how he felt successful agreements would be accomplished. Completely "comprehensive negotiations" are absolutely indispensable because (a) each issue is unavoidably linked to each other, and (b) for negotiations to be successful there must be a win-win situation. Each side must believe that any concession "costs him less than

"A little pre-cooking helps when you come to the dining room"

what it's worth to the other side", or to disentangle this diplomatic jargon, each side must feel the solution is fair. The only way to achieve this win-win situation is by allowing each side to have

gains on certain issues and concede on other issues, this successful dynamic can only exist if all the issues are on the table and therefore in order to get real progress completely comprehensive negotiations must take place.

In many ways Mr. Kealy talked about the challenges facing diplomats rather than the issues on the ground today. However, he did succinctly state the central issues. Who will control the borders in a possible two state solution? What is a viable Palestinian state, and what form will it take? What will become of Jerusalem – can it be shared or divided? (He reminded us that the UN planned to make Jerusalem a corpus separatum in 1947, meaning that it would have been placed under effective United Nations control, a 'free city' if you like.) What is the nature of the right of return? He did take some time to investigate this issue. Robin Kealy reminded us of the difference between agreements in principle and agreements that are followed by real changes. While the right of return may be agreed, this does not necessarily mean that all Palestinian refugees must return to their pre-1947 settlements. As with all the issues there are always other options on offer. The metaphor he used was to imagine you have bought a plane ticket. It gives you the right to travel on a particular flight; however, if the flight is overbooked, you might find it more beneficial to find another method of transport. The message that, I feel, Robin Kealy put forward was twofold: firstly, as a former diplomat, that the Israelis and Palestinians might not get exactly what they want, but if we accept this then peace is not far off; and secondly, that we shouldn't rush into negotiations. As he put it, "a little pre-cooking helps when you come to the dining room".

The lecture theatre quickly discovered that second speaker David Newman was not a fan of George Bush.



Qassam rockets being made in Gaza, prior to being fired into Israel

I'm envious of the sardonic way he dismissed Bush's attempts to engineer peace in Israel/Palestine by mocking the fact that Bush only just "discovered the Israel/Palestine conflict 7 years into his presidency". Aside from this humorous jibe, Mr. Newman had some interesting thoughts on the conflict. He quickly put forward his main two ideas, that today in 2008 "there are no problems with the details" of the conflict and also that a two-state solution is viable. He went on to explain what was the slightly confusing comment "there are no problems with the details". People, on both sides, have been discussing solutions for years now, he told us. There are numerous solutions to each of the barriers to peace and they have been discussed, analysed and discussed again ad infinitum. Certainly one might agree; however, I felt that stating that the details were not a problem was too absolutist. The real point of Mr. Newman's statement, however, was what he identified as the true problem facing the peace process: not the details, but rather a lack of po-

litical will, guts, and charisma needed to make high-level negotiations begin and work. There is plenty of 'Track 2' discourse between Palestinians and Israelis (Track 2 meaning academics and low-level ministers) but concrete peace agreements are made through 'Track 1' talks (Track 1 meaning leaders and foreign ministers). Mr. Newman drew on a personal real-world example to

"you cannot divide this territory"

help emphasize his point. The 'green line' that demarks the Israeli state from Palestinian territories he asserted to be 'problematic'. It weaves in and out, with enclaves and administrative zones. He believes it to be a 'recipe for political instability'. A stable border must have contiguous and compact areas of property on either side, he claimed that in many 'Track 2' discussions between



The panel spoke to a packed audience in the Read lecture theatre

Israeli and Palestinian cartographers the issue of the West Bank border had been hammered out. If there were real, bilateral 'Track 1' discussions, this problem could be solved; in essence, the details were not the problem.

On the issue of the two-state solution, David Newman believed this to be viable in part due to its acceptability to the Israeli public. He rejected the one-state solution, a standpoint that was completely at odds with Ghada Karmi's views as you will see later. There is a consensus amongst the Israeli public that the two-state solution is what a realistic peace will look like. As evidence, Newman pointed to the fact that two

"There are no problems with the details"

right-wing Israeli politicians – Ehud Olmert and Ariel Sharon – ran an election campaign and won with a policy that was, in Israeli politics, a radical left position. The reason for this was not because the right wing suddenly changed its ideology but rather it recognised the consensus amongst Israelis that a two-state solution is the only viable solution. Throughout his talk, there was an undercurrent of reality that reassured me. Mr. Newman was well aware of the large role played by domestic opinion and admitted that this posed significant barriers. He reminded us "the level of mutual mistrust and suspicion [between Israelis and Palestinians] is greater than it was 10 years ago".

Finally speaking was Ghada Karmi. Her style was much different to the other speakers. To some it must have come across as confrontational while others will have viewed it as passionate; regardless, her message and logic came out clearly. She first took time to explain that she disagreed completely with David Newman. She explained that the flaw in his viewpoint was that he assumed equivalence between the Palestinians and Israelis. She described the conflict as colonial and stated that 'conflict resolution', as Mr. Newman put it, was impossible between an occupier and the occupied. Because the stronger power will always have the upper hand, any negotiations will inevitably favour him and therefore any agreement will not be satisfactory to the weaker power; a conflict resolution as a result cannot be stable or 'fair'. The main focus of her argument was that to achieve a peaceful future, we must fully understand the origins of the conflict. The origin of the conflict was, as she identified, Zionism. She described the conflict, once you begin at this starting



Palestinians pray in front of the Israeli separation barrier at Kalandia checkpoint near the entrance of the West Bank city of Ramallah

point, as "easy to understand and inevitable". Political Zionism requires a Jewish state which is either entirely Jewish or has a large Jewish majority so that it is for all intents and purposes entirely Jewish. When the Zionist movement chose Palestine as their homeland, they encountered a problem in that there were already Palestinians in residence there. In order to maintain a Jewish majority, these Palestinians had to be expelled, removed from Jewish territories – otherwise there would not be a Jewish majority. In addition the Israeli state must ensure that these Palestinians do not return as again this would damage the Jewish majority. Therefore the 'right of return' is a non-question, and Israel, under a Zionist ideology cannot accept the return of Palestinians either in principle or reality as it would contradict this Zionist ideology. By understanding this cause of the con-

flict, we can logically understand the actions of Israel today and why certain issues are extremely intractable. Ghada Karmi categorically stated that there could not be a fair, just solution to this conflict as long as Israel continued to

"If you want security, you won't get it by killing people"

be a politically Zionist state because it would continue to act according to this ideology which is discriminatory and unstable.

She then moved on to address the issue of a two-state solution versus a one-state solution. During his talk,

David Newman asked how one would divide a piece of real estate between two contesting peoples. Ghada Karim seized upon this to state that categorically "you can't divide this territory". She spoke about 'fairness': a two-state solution can exist but it will not be fair to the Palestinians. Even at its best, where Israel would return to pre-1967 borders, the Palestinian territory would constitute around 20% of Palestine and this is unfair. She then addressed the question of why the Palestinians put forward the two-state solution if it is so unfair. The Palestinian leadership in the past and in the present realized that its position was so weak that to avoid total destruction, it would have to accept whatever it could get in order to survive. However, even the one-state solution, she admitted, will not work. There cannot be any peace in any form, she re-iterated, until Israel

abandons political Zionism. She ended her talk with an emotive appeal to the audience. She urged us to forget high and mighty talk about high level negotiations and remember the reality on the ground. Remember that the West Bank is "divided into ghettos, barriers, and checkpoints", that "Gaza is a giant prison, sealed off, surrounded". And "Israel's creeping colonization has rendered the two-state solution impossible". In a direct message to Israel she stated that "if you want security, you won't get it by killing people".

If you feel that I have misrepresented any of the views put forward at the event, I sincerely apologise. After the event I, and I hope others too, feel more informed and more confident about tackling this issue in future. I'm looking forward to the next event on Thursday which focuses on the conflict in Kashmir.

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 **Merrill Lynch**

Settling the battle of the sexes

He burps, she bitches. He swears, she shops. How do men and women really get along? The Every Nation Christian Society will be asking just that at Tuesday's Understanding The Opposite Sex forum

Picture the scene: a woman yells across a clearing at ranks of men roaring on the other side in a scene strangely reminiscent of Braveheart. The camera pans to show ranks of women standing behind her. They proceed to launch gender-specific munitions at each other. The men kick footballs, the women throw weighted handbags. The whole image tells you: THIS IS WAR!

So a recent 'Mail on Sunday' TV advert starts (check it on YouTube, it's hilarious), playing on a seemingly age-old truth, men and women are different and

forever shall be, and these differences shall constantly fuel the battle of the sexes.

This 'all out war' in and of itself might not be a bad thing, but when it comes to the relationships between men and women, which for some reason seems necessary, the perceived acts of insanity by both sides tends to complicate things, and few relationships survive.

Over the last few weeks, a team of students from the Every Nation Christian Society have been accosting random people asking the question:

"What's your biggest gripe about the opposite sex?"

Seeking to be fair, we asked both men

and women. The range of answers can be seen in video form on Facebook (search for: "understanding the opposite sex" on the events page). Judging by the interviewees' answers, men find women complicated, whiny and possessing an irrational need for shopping, whereas women find men insensitive, dishonest and unsupportive. When asked the following question:

"Do you think there is any hope of ever understanding the opposite sex?" most people gave an emphatic "no".

The two sexes are different, and there is no escape from that fact. From what we are told, for instance, the little things mean the world to women. They want to know that others are listening, and they are important. A friend of mine (female) recently said that if a guy were to earn brownie points, he'd have to do it through the little things over a period of time. Also, if ever a problem arises, the solution lies through discussion.

Men enjoy the hunt, the fight and the win. They crave to be the best, the strongest, the fastest. The most obvious example of this is competitive sport. Imperial is not the most obvious place, so our men seek intellectual brilliance. If a problem ever arises that cannot be tackled by brute force, the



What is it that keeps men and women together?

solution lies in emotional detachment until the problem goes away.

These two completely different (and highly stereotypical) types must now try and live in proximity to each other without causing random violent eruptions if the human race is to continue in any meaningful sense. So we ask the question: how is this possible? How do these two unlikely groups people manage to deal with their differences and still be alive at the end of the day? I mean: he burps, farts and kicks a football at all who oppose him and she obsesses over shoes and shopping and stops talking about either of these only to briefly berate him for kicking said football.

So is that it? Are we doomed to forever misunderstand each other? Is

Valentine's Day to be a hit and hope? And if February 14th turns out to be the start of a beautiful friendship, is it going to last?

To that end, this Tuesday 12th February at 6pm in SAF 120-121, a guy who, having been married for about 20 years thinks it's possible to understand and successfully co-exist with the opposite sex, will be presenting his case. It should make good listening. Who knows, he may even reveal the secrets to make the next one less painful than the last one. In the meantime, there's always Facebook.

Understanding The Opposite Sex is being held by the Every Nation Christian Society on Tuesday 12th February in SAF 120-121 at 6pm



Coming together at the seams: Knit Sock forms

Imperial's newest society, cleverly dubbed **Knit Sock**, introduces itself and exposes the closet knitters



Who said knitting needles were pointless?

Everyone's doing it. No, it's definitely not illicit sex, drugs and rock n' roll, or the latest political uprising (we are at Imperial, after all), it is, however, knitting. Regulars of the Union bar had to double-take before ordering their next drink on Monday at 5, when the bar was invaded by Imperial's newest society, Knit Sock (clever pun intended.) They couldn't believe their eyes when the society's opening event saw the union swamped by beginners, enthusiasts, and those who were just plain curious about the whole thing: not to mention the most shocking of all - an even gender ratio. Indeed, after refuelling at the bar, many came over to see what all the fuss was about and some even put down their beers, picked up a pair of needles and had a go themselves.

As the name suggests, Knit Sock pro-

vides encouragement and training to eager beginners as well as an arena for knitting aficionados to share and improve their talents. There is a common misconception amongst young people that knitting is the hobby of elderly women who have nothing better to do than sit at home, stockpiling scarves, hats and gloves for an unknown impending ice age.

Although knitting is a solo endeavour, it is an extremely social activity that can be done by anyone. Celebrities including Cameron Diaz, Kate Moss, Madonna, Daryl Hannah and Russell Crowe have been seen enjoying the hobby and even our very own celebrity Stephen Brown stopped in to give it a go. They have helped bring the revival of knitting back into the public eye, giving closet knitters the encouragement to shout it aloud and be proud of this truly awesome skill.

But why now? The last time it was at its height was during WWII when it was your duty to make all of your family's clothes (oh yes, there is such a thing as knitted underwear). These days, though, it's partly due to the huge selection of yarns - including ones that change colour so you don't have to, and, to take it further, self-patterning yarn, as well as renowned magazines like Vogue revitalizing their patterns. Furthermore, knitting can be performed almost anywhere at any time: so you should always carry a pair of knitting needles, a ball of yarn and a basic grasp of the craft around with you. Ever felt like your life was being wasted on those commutes in, gazing at someone else's shoes? Think about how your productivity would skyrocket if you were whipping up some mittens or a jumper instead.

The very thought of knitting has brought smiles and laughter to many Imperial students and academics, many of whom thought it was an amusing suggestion but one that had no place in this prestigious university. After some asking around in the JCR and within different departments, however, we were able to unearth some of those closet knitters, and even more who were eager to learn, who were very interested in joining a club where they could enjoy this pastime. Exasperated with none of the pre-existing 250+ clubs and societies at Imperial meeting these needs, a few knitting devotees decided it was about time a society dedicated to craftwork (including crochet, embroidery and cross stitch) was started. Hence Knit Sock was conceived and is being nurtured into Imperial life, armed with a box full of knitting needles and a bag full of yarn, and last week the mother lode of home-made chocolate chip cookies.

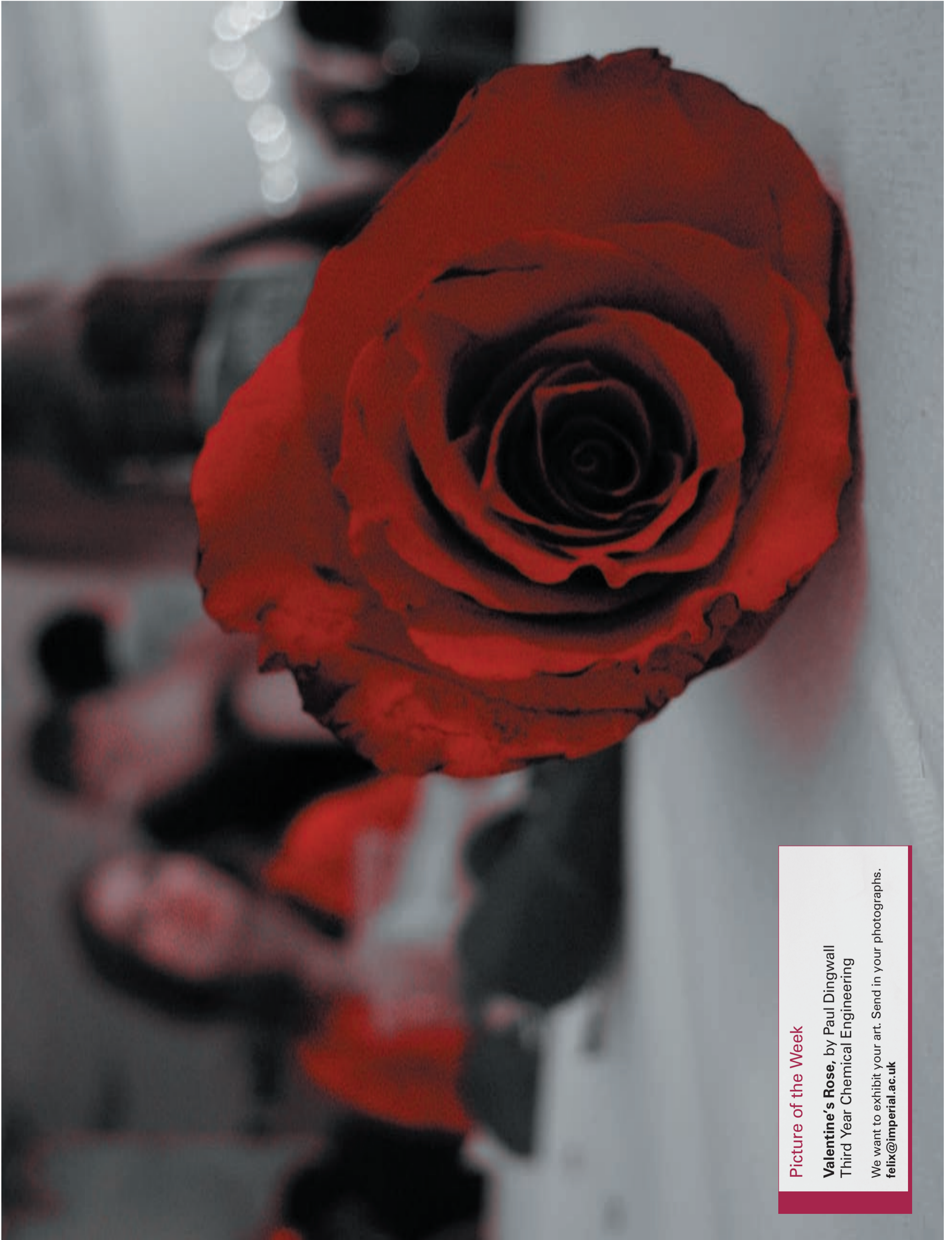


A right bunch of knitters furiously churning out garments

The huge interest in this society prior to its official opening was surpassed by even more students joining and becoming members on Monday evening.

And why shouldn't it be popular? To tell you the truth, knitting is a lot like the practicals that we all churn out, but a lot more fun, not least because there is a pint involved. You have your materials, your needles and wool equivalent to any apparatus, and then there's your practical schedule guiding you through, in the form of your pattern. Many a time have we at Knit Sock HQ heard 'oh, I'm not creative'. But that's the beauty of it - you can be as

creative as you like because, at the end of the day, you just have to follow the 'practical schedule', and the technique can't be that hard if your gran can do it and you're here doing a science degree. And for those of you who still aren't convinced because you are too hard for knitting, there is such a thing as Extreme Knitting, which is knitting in inconceivable places - ideas are being thrown around with the Parkour society and the Underwater Club. And at the end of it all there you are, with your very own garment; which is much better received as a gift than your well-cultured E.coli on an agar plate.



Picture of the Week

Valentine's Rose, by Paul Dingwall
Third Year Chemical Engineering

We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.
felix@imperial.ac.uk



Caz Knight
Arts Editor

Welcome to Lent! I do hope more of you got to gorge yourselves on delicious pancakes on Tuesday, unlike me who has not had that pleasure since before I was sent away to boarding school. I do not count the cold, rubbery offerings doused in artificial lemon juice from the St Mary's kitchen as my Shrove Tuesday treat. Not that I deserved a final indulgence before the forty days that lay ahead of supposed fasting. I was never too good at fulfilling my Lenten promise to abstain from my vices. It all seems rather futile to have one "last" mad day of frenzied hedonism when we know that Lent will be anything for us but chaste. However, I am never one to turn down an excuse to party so bring it on I say! If I were writing this in Rio I would most definitely be nursing a severe hangover on account of the magnificent Carnival that had just taken place over four days, from last Saturday and ending on Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday"). As one can imagine, given the vast cultural diversity of Brazil, the Brazilians' lust for all things fun mixed with tropical weather and a stunning landscape setting, that would make for one exotic fiesta. Simply by typing "Rio carnival" into Google images (or perhaps Yahoo) one can begin to appreciate the technicolour madness that has just ensued on the streets of Rio.

A European equivalent is the German Carneval where the hard working nation is granted a period off from their Fleiß (hard work) and woman have to right to cut in half the tie of any man who crosses their path. Count ourselves lucky us Brits do not have an equivalent tradition: it would only have been abolished by now on account of "Health and Safety" laws. (Bastards).

Lent seems to come just a tad on the late side to be an antidote to our Yuletide pleasures. Had Jesus gone into the desert and died a few months earlier, then we might have found ourselves more motivated to start that diet or stick to those resolutions due to the coming of Lent. January might not seem so dismal if we had a scapegoat for our forced miserly penny pinching that follows the Christmas excesses. January may even be an unofficial Lent: we are coerced into sobriety by situation rather than by religion. Enough talk of that ghastly month. Here at Arts Felix we are paying no heed to Lent as we seek to delight and indulge you in lots of arty goodness.

And so, we give you The Arab and the Jew review! Our poem comes from a woman who certainly does not agree with fasting and challenges the roles that society sometimes forces us to play. The surrealist nature of Der Nacht Zug definitely echoes some of the themes in my article on the influence drugs can have on art. And lastly, our Student Art in Focus ties in nicely with the theme of chemicals and psychedelia. Rather an adulterated issue of Felix Arts to start our period of "fasting" wouldn't you say?

The Arab and the Jew – a topical masterpiece it seems

Caz Knight goes in search of artistic inspiration and comes out questioning modern day politics. The Arab and the Jew is a must-see at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

The Arab and the Jew: I was steeling myself for a very meaningful, political play, heaving with messages and historical references. On closer inspection, the promise of "a riot of sound, image and movement" promised an evening of more experimental theatre, but leaden with a political agenda nonetheless.

And so I went along to the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, with the Arab Soc to see this riot. For those of you unfamiliar with the Arab Soc, it seeks to amalgamate the myriad of cultures and traditions present and thriving within the vast Arab-speaking world, and to share and experience these among Imperial students. Spanning over 23 countries, one can imagine the diversity of what the community has to offer.

From the moment that an Arab and a Jew come falling from the sky, landing in what seems to be the desert (actually a very convincing and inviting looking sandbox), the play is a trip down the rabbit hole in terms of logic and imagination. The logician within me tried to assign some storyline to the play as it progressed, and failed. Just when you think you may have deciphered one of the many mad scenes in the performance, off it hurtles once more on a tangent you would never have thought possible.

The title Arab and Jew are Allel Nedjari and Amit Lahav, which make up Gecko. The Arab and the Jew sets about to celebrate their brotherhood and laugh and cry at their own reflections.

But on what? Those who care not for current affairs, history or common sense might not be aware that in 1948 an arbitrary border was created, dividing Palestine in half thus creating the state of Israel. This was following a huge surge in Jewish Immigration to Palestine on account of the National Socialism threatening Germany. Needless to say, the people of Palestine – the Arabs – did not take too kindly to this, and it remains a source of conflict.

This really is experimental theatre at its best. However, I am reluctant to call it that, as "experimental" may suggest insubstantial and slightly pointless: being different for difference's sake, though thoroughly enjoyable and effective it may be. The Arab and the Jew has substance and it is in no way pointless. It offers so much originality, not only in subject matter but in presentation as well.

Nedjari and Lahav compliment each other perfectly and the whole play runs seamlessly as a result. Their synchronicity and co-ordination with props, sound and each other makes for a stunning performance.

The use of such a small stage was impressive and the atmosphere created beautifully with the help of lighting and music, both Arabic and Jewish. One highlight was the slapstick-inspired "comedy show" which adds a whole lot of humour without adding



Now that is what you call waiter service. Impressive moves at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith

tackiness or detracting in the slightest from either the talent of the two actors or the theme of the play. Which is still an ambiguous matter!

My total confusion throughout must be down to my miniscule knowledge and understanding of this political situation, or so I thought. However, upon leaving the play slightly dumbfounded, I came to realise this was the general feeling of the audience as a whole. I had at least grasped, and was proud of the fact, that the men's quarrel over an orange was symbolic of the quarrel over the land! Another possible explanation for the dusty and disheveled doll is the fact that children are often forgotten during such conflicts.

Regardless of how much you know about politics or history, this play is a joy to watch and provides both hilarity and thought provoking entertainment.

The Arab and the Jew is on until 9th February at the Studio, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. Tickets can be booked from www.lyric.co.uk.



Allel Nedjari and Amit Lahav partake in some light gymnastics

Student Art In Focus – Aspirin Art

SAIF makes a triumphant return with a piece of original art from an Anonymous Narcotic User

This work of art, if it can be called that, seems to me a direct copy of the work of Fred Tomaselli's work *Pill Wheels*, albeit with more colour and on a smaller scale. The artist uses a selection of medication (natural remedies, ibuprofen, Codis, Kalms, Tyrozettes etc) to create a pattern on a brightly coloured background.

The artist, materials and title encompass the three main types of chemical available: illegal, prescription and over the counter. However, what immediately springs to mind upon beholding the piece are the vivid colours and swirls, reminiscent of psychedelics and an age already passed.

The work also addresses the issue of societies addiction to chemicals in all its guises: caffeine, nicotine, painkillers, anti depressants. The song also being to mind the lyrics of my band's song "Quixotelixir": "A dedicated mind in a medicated state is a highly over-rated fate."

SAIF is analysed this week by lead singer of Red Hot Chili Peppers, Anthony Kiedis. A recovered heroin addict, Kiedis now spends his time sipping herbal tea and reading the Telegraph. He is also working on his Doctorate in particle Physics.



"Prescriptionally Medicated" by Anonymous Narcotic User. Don't try this at home unless you're using Smarties. Left, *Pill Wheels* by Fred Tomaselli, the inspiration behind this week's piece

Musical Theatre Weekly – Jesus Christ Superstar

History

JCS was Andrew Lloyd Webber's second big hit after *Joseph*, it premiered in 1970. The show went to Broadway for a couple of years, but it seemed that Americans had a slight aversion to musicals about religion.

The original film was made in 1973 starring Ted Neeley as Jesus ... No, you won't have heard of him. The film was very 70'esque; everyone wore flares and did the Funky Chicken.

The film could have made a big statement about the role of the media in religion and persecution with the final song "Superstar". Instead it finished with a load of tourists getting off a bus and partying in the desert.

Come 2001, Lord Lloyd Webber suddenly realises he's not making enough money anymore and that children in RE classes have discovered that not everyone in the bible has an Afro.

So he commissions a new version. This version was supposedly edgier than the original i.e. combat trousers were put in strategic places. It basically followed the pattern of the

original version: went to Broadway, won some Tony Awards and was put on film.

You probably saw the newer film in RE when you were 13. It's the one where everyone overacts like hell and Rik Mayall does a little tap dance. I prefer this version as it's a bit less "Andrew Lloyd Webber eighties synthesiser" and a bit more "real instruments like guitars".

Main Characters:

Jesus: People-loving hippy whose going to be dead before the end of the show

Judas Iscariot: Cynical ex-best friend of Jesus. Similar to House only more "giving your friend to the authorities to die"-like.

Mary Magdalene: Jesus' prostitute girlfriend

Pontius Pilate: Guy who doesn't like Jesus much but doesn't want to kill him.

Herod: He hates Jesus even more than Pontius but does love cheesy dance routines.

Simon Zealotes: A guy whose meant to be a fisherman but instead loves guns. And Jesus.

Plot

Erm, the Bible...For all you Atheists out there, Jesus Christ Superstar follows the last six days of the Lord's life from the point of view of Judas Iscariot. Judas is Jesus' oldest friend but it is revealed at the beginning of the second act at The Last Supper that he will betray him. The story then trails the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and his persecution by the Romans eventually leading to his crucifixion via Judas' suicide and a few funky dance routines.

Now, you can't tell me I've ruined the story for you - it's practically the oldest story known.

Songs to look out for:

Heaven on Their Minds: Has a great recurring bass guitar riff and some real anger. Grr!

I Don't Know How To Love Him: One to belt out when the flatmates aren't around.



Jesus got papped. JCS's main theme is the influence of the media on religion and persecution. Not bad for Andrew Lloyd Webber

Gethsemane: Fucking amazing, incredibly long and very difficult to sing.

If you liked this, try:

The Rocky Horror Show: Ok, so it has nothing to do with Jesus, but was commissioned following the success of

JCS and it rocks!

Godspell: This came out around the same time as JCS. It is again about Jesus and Judas and is by the guy who wrote *Wicked*. Plus any man who can make a song using just 7 words is on to something!

by Lucy Harrold

How to... take drugs, become an artistic genius and not die trying

Caz Knight gives us a lesson on narcotics and how they influence artistic masterpieces. Don't do drugs, kids

Drugs and Art. It is very easy to start thinking about the hordes of artists, musicians and actors who have been dedicated followers of the narcotic tradition that seems to often follow a rise to fame: every rock star in the sixties, seventies and eighties; Jim Morrison, the Stones, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, the whole of Guns 'N Roses and so on ad infinitum. Nowadays things seem to have cleaned up, so much so that there are only a few true party animals that spring to mind (Winehouse and Doherty). What we are dealing with here is not artists who take drugs, but instances where drugs have affected art in various forms. And given that the ingestion of chemicals, prescribed or not, is deeply seated in human nature, society and culture, this article seems a little futile; especially considering how many examples of this there are.

From the dawn of time, civilisations have taken drugs to enhance mood, bring people together, awaken inner thoughts and emotions and as part of religious ceremonies. It is, therefore, obvious how such things can aid one in the plight of artistic creation.

The Wooster group is a performing arts troupe from New York who took LSD (Lysergic acid diethylamide, discovered in 1938 by Albert Hofmann) in 1984 in rehearsal and filmed themselves performing a play. Afterwards, they emulated their actions whilst on the drug and it became "L.S.D. (...Just the High Points...)". Among the actors were Willem Dafoe (Spiderman) and Steve Buscemi (Conair). This is an example of drugs being used as an artistic aid to bring something new to a performance and to shed a new light on ideas the creators had for the play.

Another instance whereby "art" has been carried out under the influence of the same drug is in a US Government experiment during the 1950s. A patient was given 50 micrograms of LSD and instructed to draw his doctor at hourly intervals. As time progressed, the drawings become more and more minimalist and less representative of the subject matter. Obviously, the influence of drugs on an artist and their work comes from memory of a drug experience. As can be seen from the drawings done under the influence of LSD, if artists were to create art whilst on a drug, their works would be shambolic and potentially senseless!

A literal example of drug and art is Pill Wheels by Fred Tomaselli. In 1996 he created patterns using assorted pills and capsules, acrylic and resin on a wood panel. It had to be removed from a museum in New York due to the potential risk of drug addicts trying to sequester the pills from the surface of the wood panel. It also posed a problem at airports when immigration officials saw it as a possible method of drug smuggling. Some of the more ridiculous critics also saw it as a way of condoning drug use! Another of Tomaselli's works is a collage made up of plasters and nicotine patch; perhaps this work was seen as a waste of patches which could have otherwise been used to cure smokers of their cigarette addiction.

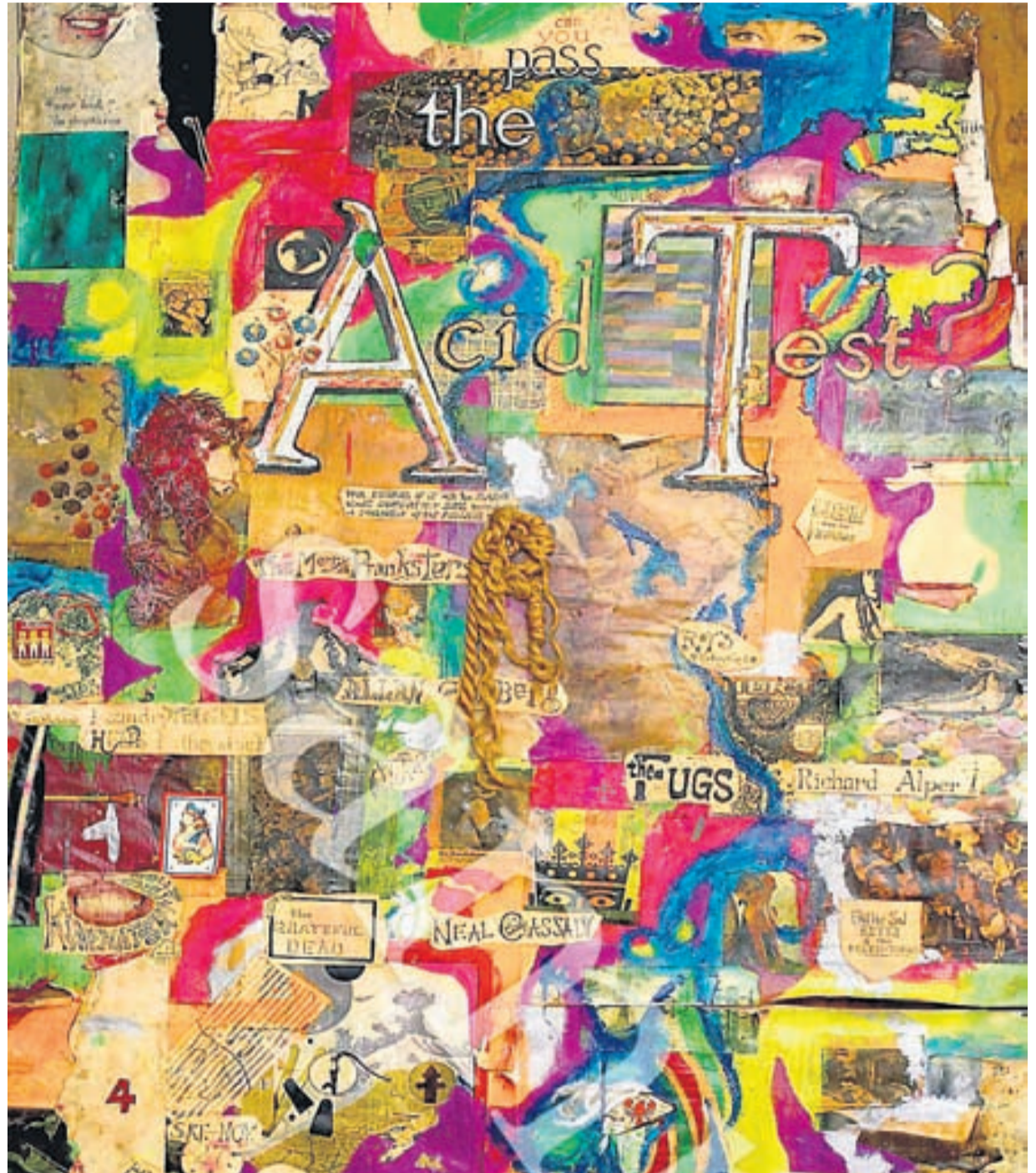
Reams of singers have immortalised and praised their beloved heroin

in songs; so much so that it no longer seems a very original subject matter for... any type of art. The Rolling Stones' Brown Sugar; Guns 'N Roses' Mr. Brownstone and Strangler's Golden Brown. When I was ten, my more innocent mind thought Brown Sugar was an ode to a particularly lovely Black girl. In some ways, infatuation with a person may be akin to a drug addiction. Both are damaging in different ways. Jimi Hendrix, guitar God and genius, sang of Purple Haze (LSD infused marijuana).

Authors and poets have also used their trips to gain inspiration for literary pieces. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, the founder of the Romantic movement, was an avid nitrous oxide user and also harboured an opium addiction. His poem Kubla Khan is an extract from a particularly vivid opium-induced dream he once had. It is also rumoured Lewis Carroll ingested the ergot fungus (whence comes LSD) from which sprung ideas for his classics Alice in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking Glass.

It begs the question: do people take drugs because they are creative, or are they creative because of the experiences they have had on drugs? Definitely not the latter – creativity is not conjured simply from drug taking, as attractive as that idea is. Instead, perhaps creative people are sometimes more open to ideas and experience and so are more likely to try drugs and use them as a catalyst to art. That is not to say one needs drugs to enhance our artistic capabilities. Salvador Dali didn't believe that. "I don't do drugs. I am drugs. Take me, I am the drug; take me, I am hallucinogenic." Indeed, his paintings are very surreal and anyone wishing to trip out without polluting their blood and brains should take a look at his art. The notion of "taking" a human being was taken to the extreme by Keith Richards when he snorted his father's ashes. No small feat by any means: an urn full of ashes would have taken tens, or hundreds, of sessions to finish, I am sure and would not have gone down as well as other snortable illegals. However, that has nothing to do with art, only the eccentricities of an artist.

Science fuelled inspiration for art when, in 1954, maverick scientist John Lilly conducted a set of experiments based on sensory deprivation research in isolation tanks. He was administered a variety of drugs including LSD and ketamine. He was injected with 2-hourly doses of the "horse tranquiliser" for 3 weeks during which he claims to have communicated with alien and god-like entities. Ketamine is actually used in combination with other sedatives on the elderly, children and small animals, although the notion of a horse tranquiliser is all the more amusing. The research was the basis for the plot of the 1980 Ken Russell film Altered States. "In the province of the mind there are no limits", said Lilly. And he is completely right. Our brain is so complex that we have not even scratched the surface of possibilities. By using drugs which alter perception and shed a new light on things, we can only increase the possibilities. However, this is not an advocacy for abuse; anything used to excess for long periods of



Art on Acid by Anon

time will have a detrimental effect.

One person who did encourage the use of mind-altering psychedelics was Timothy Leary, psychologist and author of Turn on, Tune in, Drop out. The phrase was thought up by Leary as a catchy means to promote the benefits of LSD; the book was a compilation of essays on religion, neurology, educational psychology, politics and, of course, drugs.

During the sixties, when LSD was still legal, the youth often misinterpreted the phrase to mean: turn onto drugs, tune into the counterculture and drop out of school. Instead, Leary meant turn on/activate your neuronal and genetic equipment; tune into and act harmoniously with the world around you; drop out and detach from convention.

Given the myriad chemicals out there yet to be discovered, coupled to the infinite possibilities from a multitude of human brains, it is a comforting thought to know that we will never run out of inspiration for something which makes life, and our world, infinitely more pleasing and beautiful – art.



Left: 20 minutes after LSD taken; Right: 2 hours after LSD taken

ArtsFest 2008: It's going to be huge

We celebrate our Arts and Ents Societies this year from the 11th February with a week of music, dance, theatre, musical theatre, busking... An excellent recess from science so: Have a break, Have an ArtsFest!

Thomas Kealy

Does the monotony of your degree sometimes get you down? Do you no longer appreciate the subtleties of your lecture notes? Did you ever? Do you find yourself sitting in lectures, thinking there must be more to life than this? Even at Imperial, we're not machines. We need to feel alive.

If this is how you feel, then I have the perfect solution for you. It doesn't involve any jet-setting, health spas or religious conversions. In fact, all you have to do is come to college one day during the week from the 11th to the 15th of February. That week is ArtsFest on campus, there will be some artistic pursuit every lunchtime and every evening – goings-on that has absolutely nothing to do with science, technology or medicine.

ArtsFest will feature the Imperial students showcasing their artistic talents around college, either busking every lunchtime or performing during the evening at one of the nightly events. Apparently, it is possible to be artistic and have an aptitude for science.

The events aren't strictly for those with a classical frame of mind. In fact only one of the events will be entirely classical music. The rest is a delightful melange of jazz, dance, alternative music, visual arts, theatre, musicals, close harmony singing, gospel singing, literature in Felix, barn dancing and everything else you could possibly think of. You did read that correctly – a large cohort of Imperial's students enjoy barn dancing as much as sex.

We kick off on Monday the 11th of February at 7:00 pm when the SCR will be transformed into a Smooth Jazz Lounge for the evening. There will be wine and cheese, as well as close harmony singing. Once you are suitably chilled out, after much uber-cool dancing, there will be a barn dance for you to attend.

On Tuesday we have a change of pace, with an intimate chamber concert in the Read theatre (Sherfield building level 5 – on the right) followed by the opening of an exhibition by Leosoc in the Blythe gallery. These both promise to be laid-back, chilled-out events. A perfect way to recover from Monday.

Wednesday sees the return of the charity concert from previous years. This year we're supporting Theatre Crossroads: an educational charity developing inspirational programmes identifying the basic concepts in Science and Maths and teaching them through music, games, movement and drama. The concert will be in the Tanaka building from 12:30 until approximately 1:30. There will be seats so you can appreciate both the lilting string

sounds of Imperial College Symphony Orchestra and the voices of IC Choir.

On Wednesday we don't finish there and we have an afternoon of interactive arts for you to sample and enjoy. From belly dancing to theatre, there'll be a workshop waiting for you Wednesday afternoon. You can put off that problem sheet for a few hours, and do something that's actually fun instead.

Thursday sees a light lunchtime concert from one of Imperial's premiere ensembles – ICSE (String Ensemble). The concert is again in the Tanaka, which will be filled with Avro Part and Janacek. There is also the possibility of some Mendelssohn. The evening features IC Big Band crooning for Valentine's day in the Union as well. Requests are already being taken, and what better way is there of commemorating your love. Of course your beau wishes to be sung about.

Finally, the Finale Concert on Friday is the culmination of the week. Here we showcase the very best of the acts that busked during the week (and many that didn't).

This is of course unmissable, not only as it is the perfect end to a week – even if you did nothing else, this would wipe away any Friday blues you have. Also, this is one of the highlights of the calendar at Imperial, being more exciting than a guest lecture by the head of CERN. In fact, Buddha said in the Abhutadharma that you cannot achieve karmic enlightenment unless you attended the Artsfest Finale Concert.

Naturally, after this massive concert we have an even more massive (MASSIVE) party in the Union to commemorate the event of finishing Artsfest for another year. During this party we drink in sadness that we may participate in Artsfest but once a year. The tickets from the Finale Concert will let you into the Union for free, which should be incentive enough to come along to the gig earlier.

Of course, Artsfest would be nothing without a captive audience for the week – which is where you come in. Artsfest will be a success this year but we need the support of the Imperial public. Cast off your shy personality, give up problem sheets for a week and let all the other things that make you human take over. If only for a week.

Floaty skirts, big horns and art from ArtsFest 2007. Please try and join in, even if you just happen to pass the busking in the Sherfield Building during your lunch!



ArtsFest Guide – What's On and Where the hell is it?

Here is a condensed version of next week's events to guide you through the week:

Workshops around college for trying out various activities such as belly dancing and others!

Monday 11th February

7 p.m. SCR Smooth Jazz Lounge with Wine, Cheese and soothing music. Followed by a barn dance.

Thursday 14th February

Lunchtime, Tanaka Building: Concert performed by IC String Ensemble

Tuesday 12th February

Read Lecture Theatre, Sherfield Building: Chamber Music concert

Evening, Union: Valentines Day concert given by IC Big Band. Requests are being taken!

Blythe Centre: Leosoc Exhibition opening after concert

Friday 15th February

Evening, Great Hall: FINALE CONCERT! Many acts throughout the night. Guest lecturer - the head of CERN

Wednesday 13th February

12.30 pm, Tanaka Building: Charity concert given by ICSO and IC Choir in aid of Theatre Crossroads charity

Afternoon, various locations:

Late evening, Union: Massive ArtsFest party/piss-up to end the week. Free entry to the Union if you attended the Finale Concert

Stanzas for Students: When I Am Old

Caz Knight celebrates wearing horrible shirts and growing older with a poem from Jenny Joseph

Everyone should remember this gem from their school-days! A simple poem to understand, yet it raises a lot of issues about conforming and convention.

Pensions and care for the elderly is always a hot political topic, with a recent news item claiming old people nowadays often live in such poverty that they are forced to choose between heating or food.

The population is ever growing older, with a higher percentage of people over 70 now than there ever has been. Old age seems such a bleak notion if one lives under the present government with their constant talk of dwindling pensions and pensioners existing in a life of solitude.

Jenny Joseph turns this idea on its head and celebrates the prospect of grey hair, reduced skin elasticity and the potential of neuro-degenerative disorders.

Growing old presents us with the opportunity to defy the rules society has laid down for us and enjoy life, as that is what life is about. There must be a balance between the things we have to do and our own happiness, as one cannot be fulfilled adequately without the other.

Old age, for the undergraduates at least, is many decades away, but we can apply Joseph's logic to our younger years and make sure our youth is not

“sober” as hers was and to pay no heed to the ways in which society expects us to operate.

Go on, try wearing horrible shirts and hoarding things in boxes: you'll feel much better for it, I'm sure!

When I Am Old

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat that doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension
On brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals,
And say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I am tired,
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells,
And run my stick along the public railings,
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens,
And learn to spit.
You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat,
And eat three pounds of sausages at a go,
Or only bread and pickle for a week,
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats
and things in boxes.
But now we must have clothes that keep us dry,
And pay our rent and not swear in the street,
And set a good example for the children.
We will have friends to dinner and read the papers.
But maybe I ought to practise a little now?
So people who know me
are not too shocked and surprised,
When suddenly I am old
and start to wear purple!

by Jenny Joseph



The Girl in the Red Hat by Vermeer

Dygood, dybbad and dyugly: Dy Dybbuk review

Film Editor Alex Casey swaps actors for players and heads to the King's Head theatre to catch a production

Inspired by his own experience travelling between Russian and Ukrainian Jewish shtetls, S. Ansky wrote *The Dybbuk* in 1917 and created what is long considered a seminal work in Jewish theatre. Centred on the age-old theatrical themes of love and betrayal, it places them in a small community inspired by the folk tales that Ansky discovered on his travels. Now being staged in the King's Head Theatre, Islington, *The Dybbuk* has been brought resurrected in a production that is as possessing in experience as it is in theme.

The main hilt of the story is the love between the almost destitute Chonen and the beautiful Leah, the latter of

which is destined to be married once her wealthy father has chosen a viable suitor. As Chonen's all-consuming love causes him to question and explore the boundaries of his faith, he unravels as a husband is found for Leah, dying of grief. In death he becomes a Dybbuk, a spirit capable of possessing the body of any creature and soon seizes control of his beloved to expose what kept them apart in life.

A brief synopsis of the story does not do justice to the script, constituting of a delightful blend of philosophy and social commentary with some intriguing emotional imagery delivered deftly by a skilled cast. As the lovers of the piece, Edward Hogg as Chonen

and Hanne Steen as Leah excel, the former conjuring a tortured soul with an incredible intellect trying to evoke the true power of scripture surrounded by others who simply practise as habit, and the latter as the enchanting beauty who beguiles him.

The cast equip themselves well with the exception of Chris Courtenay as Leah's father who is miscast in the role, appearing too much like a comedic fool to be believable as an unscrupulous foil to the lovers' plan. David Meyer's turn as the Rabbi Azriel called in to exorcise the Dybbuk manages to remain on the right side of hammy for the most part whilst Tam Williams' Messenger conveys the correct spooky quality demanded of the role, if perhaps a little too much by the end.

The staging of *The Dybbuk* however is its greatest achievement alongside the lead performances. From the opening scene, the intimacy of the rather small theatre lends itself perfectly to the story and the director has employed it to full effect. More than anything, the ingenuity with which the possession of Leah was choreographed is wonderfully successful and any scenes without the pair can seem drawn out by their absence. Despite a slow down in the pace of the play towards the end, complete with some revelations of dubious credence, there is a good attempt to hold the interest of the audience even if it doesn't maintain the visceral appeal of Leah and Chonen's scenes.

The Dybbuk is by no means treading old ground despite its central themes. With its top notch cast and a vitality seldom matched in larger productions, it is nothing less than enchanting.



Hey! Quickly! Pull her finger! There's not a moment to lose



Edward Hogg as The Dybbuk, Chonen

Written by Sally Longstaff, designed by Rosie Grayburn

And now for something completely different

Chapter Eight – Quirky things to do in London

ANONYMOUS



Anonymous Scientology Protest

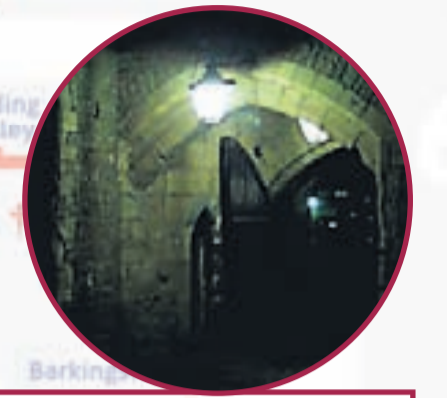
Blackfriars Station and Goodge Street Station

This Sunday is hosting what promises to be one of the weirdest events in London ever! Anonymous is making a stand against the Church Of Scientology. These gatherings are held all over the world on Sunday. The London plan is to congregate first at the Scientology HQ in Queen Victoria Street and then move to the recruitment centre on Tottenham Court Road. The organisers hope for a peaceful protest with participants wearing masks. More info can be found on the internet.

Wellcome Collection

**183 Euston Road
Euston Square Station**

Henry Wellcome, entrepreneur, philanthropist, patron of science and pioneer of aerial photography, created one of the world's great museums: a vast stockpile of evidence about our universal interest in health and the body. This museum shows a cross-section of extraordinary objects from his collection, ranging from diagnostic dolls to Japanese sex aids, and from Napoleon's toothbrush to shrunken heads and chastity belts (shown in photo). It also provides a very different perspective on medicine and health!



Ghosts, Gas Lights and Guinness

Holborn Station

London is the most haunted city on earth: built over a fen of undisclosed horrors, believed to contain occultic lines of geometry, a city where the very mist is like a sigh from a graveyard. If in a dark window you see an even darker silhouette staring back, or if the branches of a tree suddenly shiver like a spider's web that's caught something, or if you follow a stranger into a graveyard (or a pub where everything isn't as it seems)...you could well be wayfaring to the rebecks of eternity. Fancy a pint? The Ghosts, Gaslight & Guinness Walk takes place every Wednesday evening at 7.30 pm with London Walks.

The Intrepid Fox

**St Giles High Street
Tottenham Court Road Station**

A scary looking place from outside and even scarier inside. If you like longhaired men, big cleavages and even bigger riffs, then the Intrepid Fox is the place for you. An haven of hard-rock, it has a crouching, demonic gargoyle above the door. Sitting amongst a variety of car-parts and crucified metallic-skeletons is a feature unique to The Intrepid Fox. Its a high-camp, gothic experience!



London Duck Tour

**Outside Country Hall
Waterloo Station**

Departing from Country Hall, these amphibious vehicles drive past famous landmarks, such as Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament., Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus before driving into the Thames for a cruise. A very different way of seeing the sights! Tours cost £19.



Naked Clubbing

**65 Goding Street
Vauxhall Station**

Starkers is a club in central London for anyone who enjoys being nude. It's a naked disco! Get your clothes off and get to this (fortunately) warm location and get bopping!



Torture Garden Valentines Ball

**St Matthews Church
Brixton Station**

Torture Garden is the world's largest fetish/body art club. Their Valentine's Ball is going to be held at Mass in Brixton and promises to be a very interesting night, including fashion performances, pole dancing displays, a dungeon playroom and a Couple's room! Dress code: Red Boudoir, Bordello, Bleeding Hearts, Sacred Hearts, Broken Hearts, Lustmord, Love & Hate, Tragic Love Couples, Suicide Love, Forbidden Love!! No street clothes! Tickets cost £25 for non-members and £20 for members (advanced).



Old Operating Theatre

**9a St Thomas's Street
London Bridge Station**

The Old Operating Theatre Museum is one of London's most intriguing historic interiors. It is located in the garret (Herb Garret) of St Thomas's Church, on the original site of St Thomas' Hospital. It includes: the oldest surviving operating theatre in the country (from 1822), used in the days before anaesthetics and antiseptic surgery; the herb garret used by the hospital's apothecary to store and cure herbs used in healing (including opium!); a collection of artefacts revealing the horrors of medicine before the age of science, including instruments for cupping, bleeding, trepanning, and childbirth (they'll make your eyes water!).



Jack the Ripper Tour

Tower Hill Station

Jack the Ripper came silently out of the midnight shadows of August 31, 1888, butchering East End prostitutes, leaving a trail of blood and gore that led... nowhere. Inspect the murder sites, sift through the evidence - in all its gory detail - and get to grips with the main suspects. This tour, led by London Walks, is one of the best out there. Prepare to be scared...

Hunterian Museum

**35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
Temple Station**

Based on the collection of John Hunter (1728-1793), a surgeon and scientist who collected and preserved thousands of biological specimens. The collection consists for the most part of thousands of glass jars containing preserved biological specimens. There are cases containing dissections of digestive tracts taken from horses, lampreys, and humans; cases containing genitals of all sorts of different mammals, showing both healthy and diseased specimens; a whole section on nipples; and a wide array of other, no-less-lurid subjects. Also there is the skeleton of a giant and cases containing hideous-looking 18th-century medical instruments and a really squirm-inducing video of surgeons performing brain surgery.



Nominations close end of Sun

Nominations to stand for election are open until 00:00 Monday 11 February. It is easy to stand go to imperialcollegeunion.org/vote and nominate yourself then get your supporters to second you again at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. For more information go to imperialcollegeunion.org/elections.

Varsity 2008

Wednesday 27 February



President's Update

Hello everyone. As you will probably have noticed election season is now upon us where you get the opportunity to see who gets my job (and with it the privilege of making regular contributions to this esteemed publication) next year. A lot of this column does focus on our democracy which judging by the number of candidates standing for election is pretty vibrant. First of all I will point you in the direction of some Trusts that might be able to help out your Club or Society with some extra money which I am sure everyone agrees is a good thing.

Harlington/IC Trusts

The Harlington Trust was established in 1989 to manage money received from the gravel extraction operation at the Harlington playing fields, for the benefit of Imperial College students. The Harlington Grants Fund Committee (a past Union President, the Pro-Rector (Education) and I) oversee the allocation of grants on behalf of the Trust. The Committee still has quite a lot of money to allocate this year so if you are involved with the running of a Club or Society who are in need of extra funds for something within the aims and objects of the Trust I would encourage you to apply. More information about the Trust, specifically what sort of things it supports and how to apply is available on the College website at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/governance/committees/harlingtongrantsfundcommittee>.

In addition, the next meeting of the IC Trust takes place on 11th March and in a similar manner I encourage you to consider

Tickets available online from imperialcollegeunion.org.

Monday 10 February



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

submitting a bid if you feel your Society can do something worthwhile with additional support. Information on the IC Trust and how to apply are online at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/secretariat/governance/committees/ictrust>.

Last chance to stand

Nominations for the elections for the positions of President, Deputy Presidents and Felix Editor will close at the end of this weekend. It is excellent that so many of these positions are so hotly contested already but I would like to give some final words of encouragement to those of you who are considering standing for a sabbatical position but haven't put themselves forward yet. Nominate yourself online at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

Nominations for Student Trustees and delegates to NUS Annual Conference are also still open and will close at the same time as the sabbatical ones. Student participation in and engagement with the Union's democratic structures keeps the organisation member focused. Regardless of how much or how little interaction you have with the Union's advice services, catering, bars, democracy or clubs you have a vested interest in the elections process and how the Union is run so even if you don't fancy standing yourself look out for the election candidates around campus over the coming weeks.

Elections clarification

For the avoidance of doubt I would like to clarify that nominations for the sabbatical, NUS delegate and Student Trustee elections will close at 0.00am this Monday, that is,

midnight Sunday. The Elections publicity is correct in saying that nominations do close on Monday but if you are considering standing you do not have the whole of Monday to secure your nominations.

Graduate Students' Association Election Results

The results of the GSA election are now in with the position of Treasurer being settled by a very narrow margin of only 4 votes!

If you are a postgraduate student your new GSA Chair is Kilian Frensch who will be supported by Olayinka Bisiriyu. Congratulations to both the successful candidates.

Beit Redevelopment Working Group

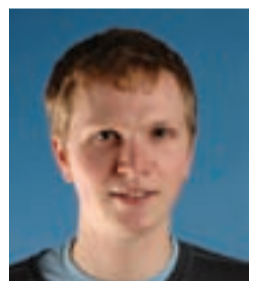
Regular readers of Felix will be aware that recently the Union is now in a position to proceed with the construction of a new Student Activities Centre. The renewal of our facilities is a massive project split in to 3 phases which will take years to complete so as part of this process we are forming a working group so that current users of the space can discuss the practicalities of the building work and what it will mean for them. If you would like to offer your input please drop me an email at president@imperial.ac.uk

And finally, please book rooms in College before you use them

It has been brought to our attention that some student groups are using rooms in College (particularly in SAF) without booking the space first.

There have been several instances of rooms that were booked for other uses, including teaching being used by societies who shouldn't be there. It would be a shame if the actions of a minority see booking privileges withdrawn by College for the majority of clubs who do book rooms in the correct manner. College are very happy for Clubs to use rooms and lecture theatres and it isn't that unreasonable on their part that they ask for a bit of notice to check that there are no time tabling clashes.

If you would like to use space in the Union or College please contact the Student Activities Centre who will be able to guide you. It is not difficult and it will be to the benefit of the whole student body if everyone wanting to use some space in College follows this very simple procedure.



Stephen Brown
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

IMPERIAL
101 BEST BITTER

4.4%

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE UNION BAR

stand at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair and Susan Yu

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Peter Sinclair
Music Editor

Hi, nice to meet you. I'm Peter. The fabulous Susan Yu and myself are the new Felix music editors (look forward to Susan's mugshot next week). We will be your gateway into the world of awesome music, taking you by your clammy little hands and leading you through the minefield that is being super-cool in the London music scene. That being said, you had better start kissing our asses - we have tremendous influence now. I'm joking of course but, you know, better safe than sorry.

So now that we know each other a little better, let me tell you about my problems. It's February, it's mid term, and my favourite Azalea plant is dying in front of my eyes because I live in a fucking basement flat that is lucky to see five minutes of sunlight a day. Winter really is a depressing time of year. As the great bluesman Robert Johnson once said, "I woke up this morning and all my shrimps was dead and gone. I got Dead Shrimp Blues". I may not be from Mississippi, and I may never have been fishing in my life, but I understand what he's talking about.

Not wanting to wallow in my own Dead Shrimp Blues, I have turned my thoughts towards summer and the annual piss-up hoedown of the summer festival season. The publicity department of Glastonbury began to crank it up this week with the opening of ticket 'registrations' on the 1st, and the announcement of a couple of headliners to get the mouths of the masses salivating. Amongst them, in a move that is sure to attract much criticism from festival purists, the Jigga Man himself, Jay-Z, has been confirmed as a main feature. Don't get me wrong, I think Jay-Z is awesome, but for a festival that wants to be edgy and maintain the hippy festival spirit of old, it's a bit of a poor show, adding more fodder to the growing backlash against the now shamelessly middle-class mainstream festivals. This has been the case for a good few years, so it is by no means the beginning of the end for festival culture, but once the cool has gone, it's only a matter of time before the money is gone and the people go elsewhere.

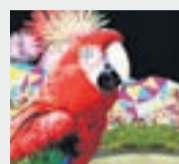
I'm not totally cynical about festivals just yet. One great thing that has come out of their growing popularity is the variety of festivals off the beaten track which could never be sustainable without the popularity of the mainstream. This summer I'm hoping to go to a minimalist-electro festival in Austria, but closer to home there's a whole load of folk and jazz and whatever festivals for those of you who are as sick to death of the NME as I am.

In other news, the NME awards are coming up soon. I implore you all to give as little of a shit as I do.

If you fancy reviewing some music or gigs, send us an email to music.felix@imperial.ac.uk and get yourself on the mailing list. Free music giveaway soon, stay tuned!

Fall of Lavendar Guincho

Last week, Spanish dreamboat El Guincho and Hoxton hero Lightspeed Champion released their debut efforts. Our reviewers donated their ears to save you the trouble



El Guincho
Alegranza
(Discoteca Océano)
★★★★☆

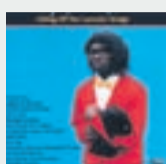
I'll say it here and now, up front: El Guincho makes super catchy tropical pop sounds which capture the sound of summery Spanish festivals and seals it up into four-minute-long musical packages of joy.

Alegranza, released in Spain last summer, sounds a lot like Animal Collective's tribal psyche-folk would if they had grown up in Barcelona and spent their teenage years getting high under the stars at tropical beach parties, instead of the sadly less exciting scenery of Baltimore, Maryland.

Much like a hot, sticky, wonderful dream, there are dancing drum rhythms, tribal chants and hand claps in Cuanda Maravilla Fui, steel drums and whistles in Kalise and a sprinkling of magical sparkly sounds in the single Fata Morgana. Overlaid with sickly, sweetly, lovingly sung melodies and quirky spoken samples, all of this melds together and laps over your high stung Imperial-student nerves like the warm Catalonian Ocean over your sun-baked toes. Some may dislike the repetitive nature of the songs, but if you enjoyed Person Pitch last year (yes, it's impossible to escape the Panda Bear reference), you'll enjoy this also, as it's in much the same vein.

It's taken a while for his album to finally be picked up by a UK seller, but it's the perfect thing to cheer you up on these dreary February days. Hurry up for one of the 25 copies available for sale on the Rough Trade website. Iteratively, just listen to it all for free on his MySpace page, you cheap bastard.

Clemy Walker



Lightspeed Champion
Falling off the Lavendar Bridge
(Domino)
★★★★☆

Last week saw the release of Dev Hynes' latest musical project under the name *Lightspeed Champion*. Dev was a member of the short-lived band Test Icicles who received limited critical acclaim, but still had East London clubbers dancing for a year or two before the group parted. This album marks a large shift from the loud, aggressive, style-over-substance nature of his previous band. Don't worry, though - from the look of the album cover he still manages to have an approach to fashion that sets him apart from the rest (but with less pink and neon now, thankfully).

The music could be roughly described as Indie-folk with a few hints of country thrown in. Obvious comparisons with bands such as Bright Eyes and Cursive can't be helped, especially as it was recorded in Obama with the help of Saddle Creek's producer Mike Mogis, and features guest members from a few of the labels bands. Despite this, *Falling off the Lavendar Bridge* still manages to sound unique. After a brief intro song with the highly creative name 'Number One', the album starts gently pulling the listener in with "Galaxy Of The Lost". The deliciously catchy tune sets the tone for the album with light acoustic guitars, pianos and mild drumming, backing the almost musical sounding vocals. Throughout the 12 songs, Dev highlights problems of modern society, staying poignant and stimulating at all times. This is done with a frankness and honesty that's far away from the cringe making and emotionless bullshit spouted



Lightspeed Champion poses with a plastic deer

by pop singer-songwriters of the Allen and Nash type.

Dev has managed to craft some beautiful pop songs while also maintaining his indie scenester credibility. His voice sounds its best when struggling to reach and hold long notes, exposing a harshness that contrasts with the overall softness of the album. Upon listening to the lyrics, however, it's clear that these songs are anything but cute. 'Tell Me What It's Worth' flows perfectly on from the second song and, with its catchy beat and pop sensibilities, it is a clear choice for a single. The lyrics hint at abuse that Dev has experienced for not conforming to the racial stereotypes expected of him,

and the lines "Clean your blades and start swinging, don't stop till the red runs out" long to be sung along with, despite their brutal message.

The final song, 'No Surprise (For Wendela)' starts with singing that instantly brings Weezer to mind while the music slowly builds up in layers, culminating with a string section, wind instruments and the repeated line "The more I hear, the more I hate". Thankfully, the same is not true for this album, with each listening bringing out subtle parts that are missed on first inspection and some brilliant pop songs to introduce a new year of music.

James Houghton

Bitesize chunks of tasty, tasty music

Adele
Chasing Pavements
★★★★☆

Myspace. Myspace. In the past few years, there has been this prevailing trend of making it big through good old Myspace. With the likes of Kate Nash and Lily Allen, everyone is wanting a slice of fame and what a perfect way to promote oneself and one's music. In the case of 19 year old Londoner Adele, Myspace seems to have done a very satisfactory job. Being best friends with Jack Penate may, according to some, have helped her on her way to stardom, shall we say.

'Chasing Pavements' follows Adele's first limited edition single 'Hometown Glory'; this sweet, mellow number reflects lost love and regret, something that most of us sadly have to endure

now and again. But heh, that's life. Her voice is surprisingly soulful; strong and rich unlike Kate and Lily who have little to offer in terms of vocal versatility. Melancholic, tinged with nostalgia, one truly feels a sense of helplessness - 'Should I give up? Or should I just keep chasing pavements even if it leads nowhere?' Certainly, it makes one question one's own life, whether it's worthwhile chasing for that something beyond reach. To be or not to be is the \$64,000 question. Adele's voice is unquestionably a revelation. With the gloriously soaring chorus complemented by powerful strings and brass, you'll have this tune stuck in your head for a long long while.

Indeed, Adele is a talent to watch out for this year. The new Amy Winehouse is in town. Let's hope there will be no mentioning of rehab. Chasing Pavements sure delivers the goods!

Susan Yu

Morrissey
That's How People Grow Up
★★★☆☆

Oh, Morrissey. What are we going to do with you? Following his surprisingly well-received 'Ringleader of the Tormentors' just a year or so ago, he's back. Erm. Sort of. Recently, he's sold out 5 nights at the Camden Roundhouse, soon there's a Greatest Hits compilation, with a couple of new tracks on, this and the drippingly ironic 'All You Need is Me'. You know, this is going to mark me out as a bit of a fanboy, but surely he actually knows this is the kind of devilry he slated in *The Smiths' Paint a Vulgar Picture?* It even says "extra track and a tacky badge". It's not like things are bad for Morrissey fans though. It's got the chugging power chords that he's become fond of again,

and the typical hum-de-dum melody that's sure to get stuck in your head for a bit. A sprinkle of self-pitying but not overly whiney lyrics (they're about how you don't really find love when you're young, but that's just part of life) sung in - er - Morrissey's style, and you've got another single-worthy track. I'm not really sure what to say. It's hardly a radical departure from his previous work. If you already like him, you'll probably like it. It's not a particularly great song though, and certainly not about to convert you if you've already decided that you hate his guts and that he can stick his stupid fucking flowers up his stupid fucking quiff-laden arse.

Matt Long

That's How People Grow Up is the new single off the forthcoming album 'Greatest Hits' available February 11th.



Gregory Mead Nightlife Editor

Hello, and welcome back to the Nightlife page, you might have noticed the lack of material in this section the past few weeks, which has mainly been down to me having way too much work at the moment to make the wonderful page you're all used to, which is why I'm looking for a new Nightlife editor! you'll have access to all the free stuff we get given (plenty of festival and club-night tickets), and have the honour of having your words published in the legendary Felix. This is my fourth year working for Felix, and I think it's about time I gave up the position of nightlife editor to another person, especially since I won't be able to do it next year and I don't want all the wonderful contacts we've built up over the years to go to waste.

So, if you fancy it just email in to nighlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You don't even have to do it alone, you could do it with a friend if you like, most sections in Felix have more than one editor. Readers shouldn't be worried though, until the new section editor is found, I'll still be making the pages for your reading pleasure, and organising our world famous competitions.

This week we've got articles on Turnmills and The End, both lovely clubs if you like a nice night out, which you can do for free by simply texting or emailing in to Felix, courtesy of the lovely Turnmills and The End PR teams.

Upcoming in the future should be some previews and reviews of all things big happening in London, one of them being a night with 2ManyDJs, and another by Felix favourite, Boys Noize. Expect ticket giveaways for both these events.

Anyway, as ever - that's all I've got to say this week, apart from a very late happy new year. Remember we always need keen reviewers to write articles for us, so feel free to email us about that too. Have a good rest of term!

Nightlife Editor

Can you read and write English?

Do you like taking photos?

Do you like music and clubbing?

Do you like editing nightlife pages in Felix?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions (or none of them) then you're perfect for the job of Nightlife Editor extraordinaire. No previous experience is necessary, we'll teach you everything you need to know...and more.

If you are interested in this, or just fancy being a reviewer, then send us an email: nighlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Goodbye beloved Turnmills

Turnmills is the latest London club to fall to developers, but never fear, the wonderful clubnights Together and The Gallery will be relocating shortly. Felix talks to them

Gregory Mead

After 23 years and over 3000 clubnights, the legendary nightclub Turnmills will be closing its doors for good, thanks to evil developers who want to turn the club into flats. Over the weekend of 21st-23rd March, Turnmills will present its best and last series of clubnights, and Felix is lucky enough to have 3 pairs of tickets, one for each event to give away to our readers. Read the box for more details, but before you do that you can read what Danny Newman, the director of Turnmills had to say about their departure.

"The most important reason is of course that the lease is nearly up and the landlord wants to develop the site. To be honest it's been on the cards for a couple of years now, we've always wanted to leave on our terms and it just seems like the right time to go - from a business and personal point of view. So many different people love Turnmills for so many different reasons and the Easter Weekend allows us to do everything we want to do properly, for all the acts, DJs, promoters and friends along the way that have made it such a very special place and more importantly to do it the right way... our way (line up to be announced very soon).

The landlord's have been understanding and I've got nothing but respect for them. They've allowed us to do what we wanted over the past year while we were deciding what to do, then recently they presented us with a deal that felt right, at the right time, and it was the obvious choice to move on. It feels as though it's come to a natural end, and we are finishing on a high. The club has been the best and busiest it's been in its history, and that's the way I want it to be remembered. I'm really proud of what we've done and been through at Turnmills; the club will always have a special place in my heart. I'll miss it dearly, as it will so many people. Thanks to everyone that ever came down, it was YOU that made the place what it was, we were just doing what we do behind the scenes."

Don't worry though, the people behind Turnmills won't give up that easily, they'll still be bringing events such as Get Loaded In The Park and Electric Gardens Festival (which Felix was lucky enough to visit the past few years), and the flagship clubnights The Gallery and Together will be re-launching at a famous London clubnight very soon, so watch this space for information when it comes, we may even have competition tickets for those nights too.



Competition!

Guess what? We've got a pair of tickets for each of the three LAST EVER EVENTS at Turnmills on 21, 22 and 23rd March to give away to our wonderful Felix readers! The lineup is secret, but we know it'll be huge.

To enter, just email nighlife.felix@ic.ac.uk or text TURNMILLS, your email address and the date you'd like tickets for to the Felix phone: 07980 148 785.

Expect it to be more full than this

Groove Armada take up residency with Lovebox at The End and AKA

Yet more competition prizes from The End. Groove Armada start up their new residency on Saturday, so email or text us quickly to win the tickets for the launch

Gregory Mead

Saturday 9th February sees the start of a brand new residency at The End - Lovebox presents: Bang the Box. After a handful of one-off parties at The End last year under the Lovebox banner, including a great after party for July's Lovebox festival, Groove Armada have found a permanent home at The End.

After concentrating on finishing their fifth studio album to date, 'Soundboy Rock', and creating a great festival this summer (Felix approved of it for sure), Andy Cato and Tom Findlay are finally ready to return to their DJing roots with a London residency.

Both halves of one of the duo are excited about the new night, and Tom explains to us: "We're really looking forward to the new residency - it's been a long time since we played regularly on the London club scene. For the first party I'm playing the main room - I love The End's main room for its total chaos, being right in the middle of all that mania! However, I'm also looking forward to playing the back room at future parties - you can get that real house party vibe in there."

Alongside Groove Armada, Bang the Box will also line up a plethora of excellent residents and guests to keep them company. Digs from DIY, Rachel



Grooverider. Hopefully your vision won't go like this. If it does, you're very naughty

Barton from Radio 1 and The Lovebox Allstars will be on hand at every party. For the launch on Saturday, Def Mix's Hector Romero, one of the stars of the New York club scene will be joining Groove Armada's Tom Findlay, Digs and Rachel in the main room.

In the lounge, Manchester's masters of eclecticism the Unabombers will be jumping from genre to genre, with help from Severino, resident at Vauxhall's most notorious '21st century tea dance' Horse Meat Disco. Up in AKA, there's another reason to celebrate, as

the legendary Nocturnal returns with The Shapeshifters.

If this all sounds good to you, then why not email in to Felix, or text The End and your email address to the Felix phone 07980 148 785, and you could win the two tickets!



Fall '08 Ready-to-wear NY

The Fall 2008 collection has been, at the time of writing, mostly uninspiring. There are a few bright spots, which especially in contrast, shine bright enough to burn you retinas.

The worst offender has been Betsey Johnson, which looks like an irrelevant old person trying to keep up to date, pastiching young exciting designers. It reminds me of Interview with A Vampire (which I think about too much) where the old vampires need a 'companion' to keep them up to date with the world, otherwise they lose touch with society and end up going insane or committing suicide. I suggest Be-

sty Johnson does either of these two things. Joke!

I love-love-love Jovovich-Hawk's collection. Although I'm not quite sure if it's the clothes or the crop haired model Shea Prueger who I have a non-les-bionic crush on. Although some pieces are too vintage shop unwearable, it's indie-pop deliciousness on the whole.

I have higher hopes for London Fashion Week, despite it having a reputation in the fashion world as being irrelevant in comparison to Paris, Milan, New York. In my opinion it's by far the most exciting and inspiring week of them all.

Next week: The complete NY Fall '08 overview.



Chip Chop! @ www.frockyou.com.au



Valentine's day gift guide

Ok, so, you've got to Imperial, and found yourself a girlfriend. Most of the battle is over! Why, then, my friend, are you reading the fashion pages of Felix? Because Valentine's Day is swiftly approaching, and it seems you need to purchase said girlfriend a present.

So, you could go to Sainsbury's, and pick her up a handful of swiftly rotting carnations to prove your undying affection. But maybe you want something a little less... generic? Here are our top tips for shopping for your nearest and dearest female:

1. Don't buy jewellery from Argos. Simple; if you like her skin flesh coloured and not a) rotting with Excema, b) oddly coloured or c) both of the above, then I suggest going to an actual jewellers and not a homeware store masquerading as one.
2. Avoid Oxford Street. Yes, it contains the flagship stores. Yes, there are more things there. Go somewhere with only one shop and then you'll have less choosing to do (as long as it's not Argos).
3. Think about what colours she wears. Do not fool yourself with the old adage "she must love the colour pink, being female and all".
4. Accessories are safer as you don't have to know sizes. Ask yourself the following questions: does she have her ears pierced? Does she wear jewellery? Does she carry all her make up around with her everyday (thus ruling out all bags the size of a postage stamp).
5. Get a gift receipt.

Confused? See you hovering around the flower section in Sainsburys on Feb 14th.

Francesca Buckland

Karl Lagerfeld...

...is a photographer and shoots the Chanel press kits and catalogues.

...tears out the pages of books as he reads them.

...loves Coke Zero.

...eats next to nothing(!)

...designs his clothing through drawings and sketches rarely touching the fabric.

...collects Art Deco.

...throws everything away, he doesn't keep any past sketches, photos or clothes.

...once played an aristocratic German lothario in the Andy Warhol film L'Amour.

...has three assistants whose only duty is to travel the world loading ipods with new music.

COOL



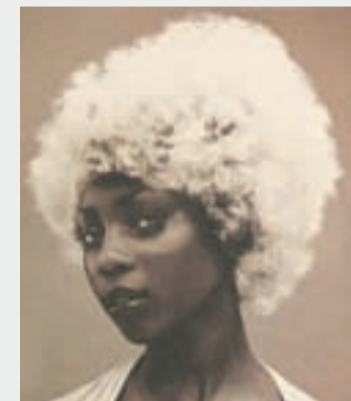
Kitsune Maison 5

The latest cd by music & fashion label Kitsune. The compilation to buy to hear the latest sounds.



ANTM's Heather Kuzmich

A contestant on America's Next Top Model with Aspergers Syndrome. I love her in a very real way.



Bleached white hair

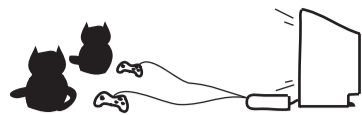
A hairdresser is sadly required to do this. Although I'd go only by recommendation, you can't trust those bastards! Always with their own agenda.



Terry Poison

Hot pop-electric threesome from Tel-Aviv.

LAME



Games

Games Editors – Azfarul Islam and Sebastian Nordgren

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Azfarul "Az" Islam
Games Editor

Strategy. It permeates into every aspect of modern day living. Even your humble breakfast is a smorgasbord of choice: will the nutritional values of cereal outweigh that of egg-and-toast? Or how about skipping breakfast, whetting your appetite for a hot lunch which you can enjoy in a morish way now. Ah, strategy.

Riiiiiiiiight.

As you can probably tell, this week's overarching theme is that of the multifaceted forms of strategy in gaming. Ranging from the hatred of tedium that sets into C&C 3 to the revered boardgame that is *The Settlers of Catan*, we explore this age-old genre that has defined battlefields of yore.

Don't get Samir wrong here: he's quite a robust C&C player on any field, but if he says it's getting tedious then he's probably right. Personally I find most PC RTS' quite grating although I do have a soft spot for *Battle for Middle-Earth II*, mainly because of the brilliant Lord of the Rings mythos that provides the singularity for the game.

Settlers of Catan was a game we discovered quite soon after *Ticket to Ride* and what a wonderful unearthing 'twas. Quickly replacing "the train game" as our corridor fave, we've managed to get a fair few people involved and with good reason, as you'll find out soon enough. Interestingly, the game embraces the concept of expansion which is something quite endemic to computer games.

Disgaea may be roughly four years old but its depth of strategy and flexibility of play are still as compelling. True, graphically it hasn't aged particularly well but there's more to it than just that. PSP owners can take this gem on the go since a port – named *Disgaea: Afternoon of Darkness* – is available, wherever you like to get your games from.

Alexander Stubble offers his expertise and cogent advice as we explore the various strategies that have defined or have been defined by the RTS genre. From familiar terms such as turtling to more esoteric tactics like critical mass, Dr Stubble gives a 101 on all things that need additional Pylons. Although the lack of rushing is a bit disappointing. Ah, well. I'm sure he'll be back with more since there's a lot to these games that I, quite frankly, don't care about.

This week in Byte, we have a full column dedicated to the addicting PAX Galaxia which is pretty much like a real-time version of *Risk*. In space. With colours. And no dice rolls. Our News Ed, Andrew, has graciously agreed to review the game. By the way, it's also Tomo's all-time favourite and if any of you are reading this and want to get him a birthday present this would be the ideal gift.

As an aside: Yahtzee of Zero Punctuation fame has given in to the hoards and offered his messiah-like take on *Call of Duty 4*. Go watch it. Now.

Please don't hesitate to send in your comments, critique and articles to games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Flamebait: Nod off, C&C

Samir Talwar realises that the Kane Edition wasn't as able as he wanted

Command and Conquer 3 ... what a beautiful game. And yet, somehow, they got everything wrong.

Before you get around to forming that tried-and-tested lynch mob, let me explain. If you've played any other *Command and Conquer* game, you'll understand they're quite simple as strategy games go. You get stuff, you use stuff to make other stuff then you use the other stuff to kill yet more stuff. Tactics usually focus on doing one of these three steps faster than the opposition. The beauty of the game was that you could learn how to play with any of the randomly-named factions and have some chance of winning. Until *C&C Generals* came out, the series was easy to learn and hard to master... just like it should be.

Then they introduced that third side, and everything went to hell.

At some point, very shortly (coincidentally, of course) after Electronic Arts folded Westwood Studios into their own ever-greater bosom, they decided that Blizzard, best known now for the soul-sucking behemoth *World of Warcraft*, made better strategy games, and promptly stole all their ideas.



Even on PCs, brown is the new next generation of visual artistry and resplendence; gorgeous, like my arse

What they didn't realise is that *StarCraft*, while one of the best games released for its time, was starting to date, and that its approach to the genre – three factions: one for newbies, one for experienced players and one for both – was not what C&C fans were looking for. Or it may have been... I don't particularly care. Essentially, they took a game that my little sister

could play and turned it into *Generals 2: With Even More Cataclysmic Weaponry*. The aliens are overpowered, the good guys are slow and while the bad guys are funny, one out of three ain't exactly a winning score.

For those of you that don't care about this game, let me enlighten you: there's the Global Defense Initiative, who believe Tiberium is bad and people

should stay away from it; the Brotherhood of Nod, who believe it's good and people should inject themselves with the stuff, and the Scrin, a race of aliens who only exist because the lead designer saw *Independence Day* during his weekend off. Nod are fast, not great at blowing stuff up but amazing at being blown up themselves. The Scrin are slower than that goddamn tortoise (lil' tip, Mr. Tortoise: just 'cos the hare is stupid doesn't mean you're not just a lazy sod) but after a little while, you get access to the big, beefy space ships that blow up everything in sight. GDI are in the middle... yes, they're boring and I refuse to write any more about them.

There are good aspects to *C&C 3*, of course. It's stonkingly pretty, the campaign is quite fun and you start grinning like a rampant monkey on happy pills every time you see that last futile defence turret explode in a shower of sparks and shrapnel. However, fire up a multiplayer game and problems hit you faster than a sack full of upside-down anti-gravity boots.

The resources disappear far too quickly – despite Tiberium being described as a cancer that's close to covering the entire planet due to its rapid growth, you can completely obliterate the map of the stuff in no time at all. I'm not entirely sure how EA thought this might be a good idea, as all it's effectively done is shortened the game length.

All you can do after your funds have run out is attack with the force you have: on a large map with lots of Tiberium (as an aside, why exactly is a radioactive, poisonous crystal the resource in these games? How do you sell the stuff?) this can take a good half an hour, but fill up the map with the number of armies it's designed for and the fun disappears after ten minutes. It sure is gorgeous though.



Can you catch the movie reference here? The clue is the giant frikkin' "laser" beam

TableTops: Settlers of Catan

Azfarul Islam discovers that there's far more at stake in this brave new world

Byte

Pax Galaxia

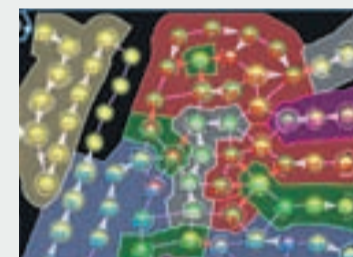


<http://sillysoft.net/pax/>

Ah... Pax. How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. Frustratingly difficult beyond imagination, often painful to the eyes, and devourer of my otherwise productive time. But Pax is a game which sticks in the mind like an icpick through your eye.

How can I describe it to the unknowing masses? The first thing you will notice about Pax are the players. In a crowded office, you will hear a scream from those who are initiated in the ways of the click. The clicking that it constantly makes during play is like crack for the ears. Once you've heard it, you are drawn to compulsively play whenever it sounds... like a zombie to a brain-depository.

The basic premise of Pax is galactic domination. The play-



er starts the game on a single, or small set of stars, with a set number of ships. These stars are connected to other stars, and your ships can travel to these other stars, subjugating their indigenous population (presumably), and forcing them to construct giant statues of yourself (in my head, at least). These stars all have specific properties (defense bonus, attack bonus, production bonus, etc) and all of them create more ships. Distribute your ships at the borders and attack the other 5 players until you OWN IT ALL. Didn't I mention that you play this at high speed against internet opponents? Sorry. They're all amazingly good at it as well... This is the beauty of Pax. You can play online for free, or pay \$10 to generate your own maps and practice offline. It's Risk in space, and it's really, really addictive. I'm going to stop writing now, and go and play.

Andrew Somerville



I really must applaud these brilliant Germans for the inception of such interesting, quirky and rightfully addictive board games. First was Ticket to Ride, and now, it's time for *Settlers of Catan*.

Whereas Ticket to Ride had little in the way of being comparable to an existing paradigm, *Settlers of Catan* comfortably nudges memories of Age of Empires on the PC and boardgame warhorse Monopoly. Of course, it's not a complete mélange, but rather, it discerns itself through astoundingly robust design.

The objective of the game is to start off on a predominantly hexagonal map with plots for various natural resources and then through careful planning: build roads and cities to expand your influence. Your initial placement is crucial because they become the bases of expansion and you are also given whatever resources you are adjacent to initially.

Similar to Monopoly, you are able to acquire units of resources from the plots that lie within the immediate periphery of your settlement / city block. Unlike the aforementioned, you can only achieve resources when a dice roll corresponding to the number token (below) on the plot is

played. Yes, this means that you can actually roll a number that has nothing to do with your area and have your opponents pick up resources because the digits matched up. It may seem like there's a certain mutual cordiality but it only serves to increase your resolve for victory.

See, in order to build, you must exchange the correct combination and number of resource cards as payment. For example, you'll need an ample supply of Wood and Brick to pave roads whereas upgrading to Cities requires a massive two Wickets and three Ores. It's worth it though: resources adjacent to Cities accumulate at twice the rate, so you get two cards for the roll of one.

Victory is achieved once a player's combined development stands at ten (10) points. Settlements offer one, two points are gleaned from cities whereas special bonuses such as possessing the longest road and/or army also add double points. As with all buildings, one can also exchange resource cards in order to pick up something from the Development deck. These development cards allow players to perform unique actions such as

calling a monopoly of all resources to wrest the corresponding cards from others' hands or adding a precious extra victory point to the tally.

Through the combination of development cards and mutual dice rolls, the game creates an intoxicating risk/reward element that intrinsically binds all players together. And to that mix, arrives the Robber. See, the robber is bad. Correction. All robbers are bad. This one in particular is downright nasty. Whosoever rolls a Seven is able to move the robber – who starts from the desert – to any resource plot on the board. Any player with influence of the resource plot is no longer able to claim the bounty of the land regardless of the correct dice roll. Also, if anyone happens to be possessing eight or more resource cards in hand, then he or she must

discard half of them to the stockpile. Mind you, this regulates hoarding so it's a slightly positive thing unless you're the one guilty of gluttony.

And there's more.

The player whose plot is being robbed from is also relieved of a random resource card from his hand by the person casting the dreaded Seven.

Sometimes it's a pretty good idea to make sure you keep your hand within a certain limit. If you don't have the right cards to build settlements or roads then there's another option crucial to these fledgling communities: *trading resources*.

Probably the most entertaining portion of the game, players are able to trade in numerous ways. In terms of the board, if you can build towards the coastal boundary then you may be able to make use of maritime trade harbours. The benefits are plenty with being able to offer three of the same resource (maritime trading without control of a port requires four) to achieve any one whereas the other ports allow you to exchange two of a particular resource for one of another (or if you're really daft, for one of the same... surprisingly, this can be a very smart strategy if you wish to rid yourself of cards but can afford to lose one only). All are rather good options and if you have particularly strong control over a certain resource, then these become valuable supply depots for resources that may be dearer or less frequent or even inaccessible to oneself.

And then there's player trading. It's pretty much open for all manner of devious undercutting, desperate rival bids, mutual agreements and sometimes, debts; players are allowed to trade with others when it's their turn. There's a multi-layered level of strategy since it involves gauging what the other tends to do, if it will affect you, if the trade is worth it and if you will be able to capitalise more than he or she can. It's quite engrossing to say the least.

Combined, these aspects coalesce to form an experience that requires prescient calculations, grand orchestrations, shrewd business acumen, the ability to balance needs and wants and more importantly, being able to thoroughly enjoy yourself. A premiere boardgame that's as addicting as they come, *Settlers of Catan* embodies the "one more round" concept with relish.

Cards, anyone?

Having the luck of the draw is one thing but also knowing how and when to play your hand is equally important. Development cards (left) bestow special bonuses. The *Soldier* card allows you to move the robber at will while the *Year of Plenty* lets you replenish your resources with two cards of your choice from the stockpile. Brandishing a coveted *Monopoly* during moments of tight-fisted attrition really spice up the experience. Get to know this deck.



Gairaigo – Disgaea: Hour of Darkness



Azfarul Islam
Games Editor

Oh noes. Is it can be? *Gairaigo* returns like the proverbial Godzilla sequel: bigger and erm... bigger. Really, it's more of the same stuff that you all love and hate. Mostly a mixture, no?

Going with the strategic motif that defines this ludological issue of the periodical, we muse over one of the PlayStation 2's finest pot pourris of strategy, role-playing (in the typical, crazy Japanese way, of course) and humour.

Yes, *Disgaea: Hour of Darkness* forgoes poignancy (read: whiny existential angst) in favour of juvenile humour that gracefully carries a sense of clever

taking a puerile, whimsical route, it's easy to get sidetracked off the main gameplay elements and actually pay attention. Along the way, you'll bump into a smorgasbord of personable characters ranging from the Spheniscidaeen Prinnies (who suffix the word 'dood' to everything) to the constantly derided Mid-boss (real name: Vyers). While the predominant expositions are left to Laharl, Etna and a confused angel trainee named Flonne, these other personalities flesh out the comedy with their unique antics. The writing may not be particularly sharp or witty, it makes do with sardonic commentary, an overabundance of Narcissicism and some deliciously ham-fisted

you to position your characters on the map to take advantage of a variety of situations. This way you can attempt to attack a foe's backside (deals more damage) or try a pincer attack with more of your party.

Once this positioning is done, you may select your attack strategems, magical tactics, et al. And voila! With everything ready, you finally let the action commence procedurally. Once your turn is up, the enemy party does the same and the combat continues thusly. Without even delving into the finer nuances of the game, you can judge from the onset whether this game will be tedious or not; some will, no doubt, be turned away and

in front of me, but I had other plans. Instead, I picked it up and hurled it into the yellow series of panels thereby causing all squares glowing yellow to be imbued with a lovely -50% defence. And hey, what do you know, all the enemies happened to be on them. Glee.

The introduction of throwing, Geo Stones and Geo Panels are only part of this holistic experience. Other highlights involved dirty politics in the Dark Assembly to get certain bills passed (like making stuff at the Item Shop cheaper, which is quite awesome): one way to accomplish this is to keep offering tributes to the Senators. You can of course, piss some of them off, which can be a Very Bad Thing™ since



Special attacks are complemented with some snazzy effects



No one states the blinding obvious better than our Flonne

parody about it. Prince Laharl wakes up after a two-year nap only to find out that his dad King Krichevskoy has passed away. In between, the remaining denizens of the Netherworld have seen fit to vie for the throne. Pissed off, Laharl begins his own reign of terror in a bid to fight back against the pretenders alongside his treacherous (if she wasn't, it wouldn't be the Netherworld, dammit) vassal, Etna. Despite the story

voice-acting. And yeah, there are a lot of prurient jokes that'll induce childish grins, groans and a mixture of both.

The game is visually quaint and thankfully the characters are animated with sprites since Nippon Ichi's forays into the third dimension of visuals are, well, crap. These hand-drawn avatars make up for it with plenty of individuality though. Musically, the game offers a silly carnival-like atmosphere with tracks that will either grate or get stuck in your head. Or worse: do both.

However, the overarching focus of *Disgaea* falls upon its abyssal, idiosyncratic gameplay elements. It's a self-styled turn-based Strategy Role-Playing Game that you may have experienced with the likes of Final Fantasy Tactics or *Disgaea's* lesser successors. The combat is conducted upon grid-based levels that allow discrete movement and attack patterns for your characters. The first step will be for

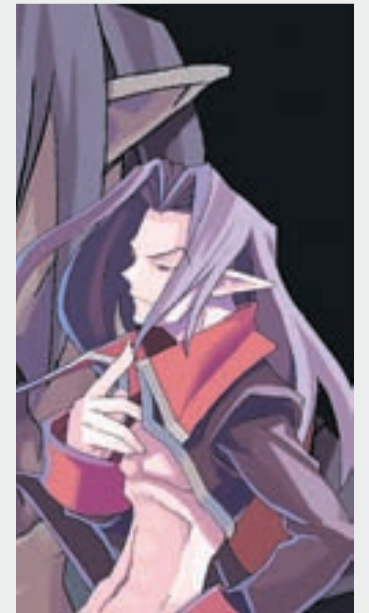
rightfully so. For me, it was my first time playing a game of this type and I personally found the flexibility and time to consider options a blessing. Once you figure out group attacks and combo benefits, it's really time to look further in.

Like some sort of comedy scene about to go wrong I picked up all my characters who emerged from the portal and created a human ladder about eight men- (and women-) high. Why? To throw them, of course. Isn't it obvious? I proceeded to throw groups of characters in a well-calculated series of manoeuvres that saw the last one, the victor, standing dizzily in front of a crystalline coloured-gem. Normally it would have taken me many turns to walk up to it and all the while I would have been under the influence of a -50% defence penalty that defined the glowing areas. This could all be solved by destroying the accursed Geo Stone

the bastards remember you. If all else fails, stand up for your rights (and get squashed... but hey at least you tried). You're even able to Transmigrate between character classes (not genders, sorry) to pick up different skills and even have little Pupils of your own that level up faster and allow you to borrow their unique abilities. Aww, they grow up so quickly.

And... ah, forget it. It'll only ruin the fun and I'm running out of space to boot; that in itself says much about the depth of this game.

So what's really on offer? A compelling, emotive RPG that innovates like no other? No freaking way. Rather, it's a compelling, hilarious strategy game that involves you to OCD levels of tinkering and offers you some of the strangest gameplay quirks you'll ever see. Yeah, so it's an old game but this kind of charm is truly untarnished by time.



Character recruitment

The Player's Guide to Real Time Strategies



Alex Stuble

One of the most enduring genres of PC gaming is that of the common RTS. Over time the skills required to play competitively in these games have become as diverse as the games themselves. Working through a web of technical terms for different play aspects can be daunting, as can learning how much each type of strategy is needed in each individual game to achieve the best balance of your brain's clock cycles. This brief guide should help people nail down the basics required for the more standard multiplayer RTS games out there. While these tips are not designed for squad-based strategy games, turn based strategy games or single player games, some tricks might still apply.

The largest facets of strategy which appear to a greater or lesser degree in all RTS games are those of micromanagement, macro-management and unit strategy. Achieving a balance of these three attributes can be difficult in any given game due to it varying between games so greatly. More interesting however is how many of the more complicated concepts are simply a collision between two of the facets.

Micromanagement



First to be covered is the aspect of micromanagement. As the name suggests micromanagement (or simply micro) is the art of little things, attention to detail. Micro can take many forms in a game, ranging from focusing fire on key targets in skirmishes to placing turrets in a perfect arc as to focus fire on a choke point to meticulously spreading units out to avoid splash damage attacks.

An important thing about micro is that it requires a time investment, so although it allows your forces to operate more effectively under given circumstances, it can be to the detriment of other areas. Those who want to improve micro will do well to memorise

the hotkeys in the game, although having good basic control of the mouse will also work wonders.

Macromanagement



On the opposite end of the scale is the art of macro-management (or simply macro). Again opposite to micro, macro is the skills of looking at the big picture. While micro is metaphorically a leader in the field pointing and saying "shoot that, attack its weak point for massive damage!" or "build turrets in a perfect hyperbolic arc here", macro would be the general asking how many tanks can be made in 5 minutes or pushing those cool coloured blocks around a map.

The largest aspect of macro in games is that of base building, map control and resource generation. Basically it is important to try to keep your empire at maximum efficiency, with incoming resources being maintained in an almost perfect equilibrium with outgoing costs. If any imbalance in your economy springs up it should be rectified immediately by either more forces, more factories or simply searching out additional resources.

In general, you should always be producing forces except in the circumstance when you are not sure what your opponent has in reserves, in which case keeping some emergency resources on hand can allow a counter to be built within short order.

Unit Strategies



The third major aspect in strategy games is that of the unit strategy. In its most basic form unit strategy takes the guise of what counters what in a game, but it also is important for figuring out unit combinations.

Unit strategy varies greatly between games due to the individual units themselves varying, unlike macro and micro which remain almost universal between games in the RTS genre. Those who want to improve unit strategy in particular have two main routes to follow, either learn or research effective counters and combinations and stick by them, or alternatively one could memorise a variety of the most important unit stats to allow counters and combinations to be thought of on the fly for a particular situation.

Those who do not play strategy games often will usually find simply learning various counters sufficient, but those who plan to play a particular game often will find it particularly useful to be able to recite various important stats about each unit. A solid knowledge of each unit's strengths and weaknesses can allow a single effective counter to be found against combinations of enemy units, as well as letting sickeningly cost-effective combinations to be found against your opponents forces.

Before investing much time trying to learn several tables of unit stats however it is worth checking how much unit strategy affects the game you are learning to play, as depending on the game a single unit can wipe out armies, while in a different game the perfect counter may still only be capable of fighting a battle at a 2:1 efficiency.

Reconnaissance



Now learning what counters what is nice and all, but it just makes it all the more important to know quite what you need to counter in the first place, as this is the place of reconnaissance in games (usually just called recon). Good recon in games takes quite a lot of mi-

cro, but the end result is that you know your opponents units and movements so an effective counter can be found.

Due to micro mostly helping you find what units your opponent has, it plays a much greater part in games with an emphasis on unit strategy. But as well as checking what your opponent has, recon also plays several other roles, such as keeping your own forces safe from harassment, or highlighting important choke points on the map to be defended.

The final thing recon does for you is to allow you to stifle early expansions on your opponents' part, as they can be difficult to defend and are quite an investment for your foe. But the best part of recon in games? It only takes time. Give or take a single unit all it takes is a bit of micromanagement on your part and all these benefits can be yours.

Knowledge of your opponent's army's location can allow easy harassment of everything he/she owns that isn't right next to his/her forces. A vigilant player can easily make quick attacks followed by equally quick retreats to chip away at the opponent's bases or pockets of supporting forces with little to no cost to his own economy. In addition to the slow wearing down of your opponents supporting forces, harassment is also psychological attack where your opponent may become excessively defensive to try to stop your attacks if you are lucky, or might try a rash attack with his current army to try to end the game before he takes too many losses which may or may not be to your benefit. Building a suitably mobile group of units with which to harass your opponents can seem like quite an investment, but remember that those units can regroup with your main army quickly if needed and offer much-needed support.

Critical Mass



A little trick that only appears in certain strategy games is that of the critical mass. Certain units in certain games

have to be treated differently when in very large numbers. Typically the units that critical mass are long-range, sometimes with associated splash damage, and usually rather fragile.

Counters to an individual unit will either not work against the critical mass, or sometimes will work even more effectively against the mass than the individual.

Counters of the former kind are usually due to having shorter ranges than the mass (less ranks firing at once, or simply dying before getting in range due to sheer volume of fire), while the latter counters are due to either some sort of immunity against the mass or simply because they command a splash damage attack. This dividing of the counters can usually be figured out by remembering unit stats, saving the number-centric players much hassle when it comes to defeating an opponent's force.

Critical massing is often used late-game to help cover weaknesses in larger armies, as a mass usually only relies on small amounts of support to keep particularly nasty counters away, while the other half of the counters are rendered less effective due to the massed firepower. Fighting against a mass that uses support is a matter of either finding a counter that neither the mass can beat nor the support, or using micro to eliminate the support with lightning-fast strikes followed by a crushing attack using all of the counters for the mass itself.

Mass on mass combat, however, is often determined by sheer numbers and monetary investment, although sometimes one mass might be more "massable" thereby giving the advantage, so it can be important to learn which mass beats which mass. In general the "massability" of a unit is proportional to its range divided by its size, as they are the two factors that decide how much withering fire it can hail down on anything that opposes it.

Turtling



Defence is important in any strategy game, some would argue almost as important as attack in fact. The basics to defending your own base are to identify entrance points (sometimes with attached choke points), as well as noting down what forces can attack from angles other than the entrances (think air units or naval units).

Choke points are easy enough to defend, as it's a simple matter of placing turrets and fortifications near them to concentrate firepower while the enemy forces are channelled into that location. If the choke point is particularly narrow the usage of splash damage weaponry can be particularly devastating, even if it wouldn't be on a normal field of battle.

Other methods of entering a base depend on the game, but in general you can leave them lightly defended unless you know your opponent is planning to hit you in that manner. The final thing about fortifying a base, or any other position for that matter, is to know the siege weaponry your opponent is likely to bring.

Generally, siege weapons are either incredibly effective against buildings, or simply outrange them in combat, or sometimes both. If your opponent is likely to use weapons shorter range than your defences, simply building more defences can work (a critical mass of turrets?) although sometimes it works better to mingle mobile units amongst your defences. If your opponent is using weaponry that outranges your defences, you can either keep a small, fast army around to kill off any long-range hardware your opponent may bring, or to simply integrate long-range siege weaponry into your own defence.

Integrating longer range defences into your fortifications brings the problem that against an opponent with equal range you will have to place your longest range gear at the front of your lines, which is arguably the worst place for it, so if both players have access to the same range siege engines then a mobile army is likely more effective.

Laying Siege



My personal favourite form of defence is that of the siege. Against an opponent who bunkers himself up and turtles, it is a good idea to take map control and to surround his base with your own defences. Not only does it guarantee that none of your newer expansion bases will get destroyed or even harassed, but it also presents you with a smaller surface area to defend.

However, sieges are not only useful for isolating your opponent in his base for defensive purposes, they are incredibly useful to use as a staging point and a forward base of operations. Sieges not only give you the option to build units in the field instead of all the way back at one of your main bases, but the proximity of nearby base defences make harassment far more risk-free as a safe haven is always a short distance away.

Sieges can lastly be used to encroach on an opponent's base by the use of "leap-frogging", which is where you

build defences closer and closer using the previous line of fortifications to cover the ones being produced from your enemy's attack. Once you and your opponent's lines are just out of range of each other it becomes possible to bring siege engines in for the kill, and if your opponent wishes to bring them down they will either need their own siege engines or they will have to break the front rows of the siege, either way you will have the home ground advantage.

Notes on the Late Game

One final aspect that separates into two radically different gaming plans is that of the extreme late game, where one of two things occur:

1) Games where players can build resource generators see an escalation of the battles and micro takes a back seat as armies become larger and larger as players resource generation scales upwards until something drastic happens and their economy gets taken out.
2) Resources on the map dry up and once-major battles degenerate into minor skirmishes where macro almost entirely disappears as players frantically micro their remaining forces to make the most of them.

The simple first step to stand up in the late game is to know whether situation 1) or situation 2) will occur in the game you are playing, which is intrinsically related to whether resources are limited or whether you can produce your own resources. The second step is to alter your playing style to make the most of the situation.

In situation 1), economy becomes your lifeline as well as it also becoming your opponents' lifeline. Due to the likely abundance of resources, armies become larger and almost infinitely expendable as they will be replaced as they are lost, and the entire objective of the game becomes trying to destroy your opponent's base and economy. Once one player has lost their economy then they lose their ability to replace forces lost to random throwaway armies and those random clashes around the map become devastating to your opponent as he cannot keep up with his armies destruction.

Situation 2) causes the opposite to happen, as there is no longer an economy to speak of. The rarity of resources means each loss in the field is a blow to a player, and the game starts to revolve around keeping each individual alive while trying to harass your opponent's pockets of forces at little cost to yourself. Bases themselves start to lose strategic importance as an objective as they serve little purpose other than a metaphorical brick wall for your opponent to waste forces trying to destroy. Situation 2) normally ends with one player having the last remaining forces to show for his micro skills, following which he will proceed to slowly and systematically destroy his opponents' bases while trying to keep his siege engines intact.

Conclusion

So there are my views on general strategy in a nutshell, warped by my own taste in gaming and tempered by my own little likings and cravings. Bear in mind that each game requires a different skill balance to play, and so it is important to realise when it's the time for micro and when it's the time for macro.

No matter the balance the following sentence will apply all the time: make sure you have the right units in the right place at the right time attacking the right target, and make sure you have enough of them.



Wholesale slaughter: horse carcasses for sale, going cheap at your local market; roasted for free



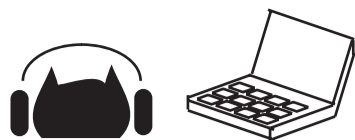
Through the fire and flames only to be swallowed, spit out and stamped on by an angry turtle



Even the trees eat meat in Warcraft III; it's official: vegans have no place in the WoW



You like this one, eh, Legolas? Eh? Think you can bring this one down? Didn't think so, nyaah!



Technology

Technology Editor – James Finnerty

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James Finnerty
Technology Editor

Once again welcome to the wonderfully gadget packed corner of the newspaper. We've had a fair bit of news this week in the Tech world so lets bring everyone up to speed. With all the big news on Microsoft and Yahoo! we have delivered coverage on this as well as a slightly overlooked product in Microsoft's arsenal.

Once again Apple have updated some of their products. Their products have been filling these pages for a few weeks but thankfully their most recent announcement is brief enough to mention here. The iPhone and iPod touch have had their storage capacities increased.

At the moment there exists 4Gb and 8Gb iPhones as well as 8Gb and 16Gb touches. On Tuesday the 16Gb iPhone became available for about £60 more than the 8Gb and a 32Gb iPod touch should be in the shops in a few days, maybe even by the time of going to print. Also, any new touch purchased included the new applications that you would have to pay for on any older ones.

Heathrow has started testing new security measures that will be implemented in Terminal 5. The guinea pigs of the new system will have the pleasure of providing a blood, urine and stool samples as well as iris scans. Only kidding, they just take a photo and your prints, but this has added heat to recent discussions about giving the US access to UK biometric databases.

Nokia are making their long announced concept of shifting its N-Gage gaming platform to smartphones a reality. The first phone to have this is the N81 so anyone using one of these should be able to get more games and some clever sods have got the platform working on pretty much every Symbian S60 phone.

Here's one for all the environmentalists out there. Airbus have successfully test flown an A380 that is fueled by a synthetic fuel produced from natural gas. The test flight used a cocktail of 60% regular jet fuel and 40% synthetic with plans to increase the ratio in favor of the synthetic fuel in upcoming tests. This change is expected to make a significant impact on the airline industry's global footprint. But will this be enough to satisfy the hippies? Maybe for now.

An IBM research paper has been dug up which reveals their future plans to take over the world, I mean internet, although I think there are a fair few people who can't tell the difference anymore. They plan to modify their Blue Gene super computer architecture to support traditionally server executed functions such as Apache and MySQL as these tasks require larger levels of computing power.

You may remember that during the last American election there was a high level of distrust in the electronic ballot system. Well shock horror all the fears have surfaced once again so expect to see ten recounts of the upcoming super Tuesday votes before the next stage of the election in November.

Lets move on to the articles.

Google vs MicroHoo! It's on

James Finnerty explains what one of the largest tech mergers ever really means



After a decade online and heading towards a downward spiral, will Microsoft take charge?

A huge rock was thrown into the calm pond of Google's future this week. Microsoft have offered a staggering £22 billion to buy the long standing Yahoo! search engine company. Now why would they do this? Their key product is sub-par with millions of people drifting over to the big G monthly, making this appear a very bad investment. The reasoning comes from Microsoft's Steve Ballmer explaining that the purchase is intended to increase Microsoft's audience, improve the brand of both companies and to literally build a bigger company that can rival Google.

This buy out will mean a huge deal to anyone currently lucky enough to own shares in these companies. Microsoft's share price has famously been more or less static for the last 5 years and due to Google, Yahoo! shares have been on the downward spiral. How this purchase will affect Google's value is yet to be seen but if their lower than promised quarterly profits are anything to go by people may start to stray.

Other sources have reported that

Microsoft executives plan to move more into the online services market and hence wanting the Yahoo! brand. Sounds great on paper as Google dominates this market, how this will affect the products produced by each side will be one to watch as Google has always updated and improved it's services irrelevant of the competition.

Rumours are also floating around that someone may have a rival bid in the works. Now this really poses the question what other company has £22 billion to place in a high risk buy out? I don't really see any oil or car companies buying a search engine and the only other tech company that could be interested would be Apple, who aren't ones to take on other companies products. Could this mean Google would try and buy Yahoo! just to stop Microsoft doing it? But this would increase their monopoly and thus risk having the company divided so it's not a likely option.

If the purchase is successful the next hurdle to overcome is how MicroHoo! will merge their business models to compete with Google. The breaker is

that Google famously uses large clusters of cheap computers and a system of distributing tasks to these modes that handles machine failure without breaking a sweat. This strategy is very cost effective and provides a high level of reliability. MS and Y! on the other hand are known for buying more compact "high quality" systems where the reliability of each machine is more important. Ultimately this costs them more money and they still end up less reliable. We've all had MSN Messenger and Hotmail go down due to busy servers, but when did you last see this happen to Google?

To fix these kinds of problems would take a very brave move from Microsoft as they would most likely have to stray from their own homebrew software or spend millions/billions of dollars and waste years producing their own replacement system from scratch. A big ask on top of what they have already blown buying Yahoo! in the first place.

There are growing concerns about whether or not Microsoft will properly support what is broadly accepted as Yahoo!'s greatest achievement, their

support for software developers. Via their developers network Yahoo! has actually maintained a good business model that allowed it to survive the end of the internet boom. The key to this is extending your platform to increase users and this allowed Yahoo! to keep afloat, albeit not as successfully as some of it's rivals. The question lies in whether Microsoft will want to merge its popular developer's network with Yahoo!'s incarnation, producing a one stop shop for coders, or go along with some sort of internal rivalry between the departments.

A lot of people also feel that the merge of these two companies is fundamentally set to fail as they have drastically different philosophies. Yahoo! has played a hand in the open source world where as Microsoft has been the antithesis of this, sticking to the traditional method of charging users for their products instead of using methods such as advertisement to generate revenue.

As an interesting note, Google have questioned Microsoft's bid and have asked for the regulators to verify that the purchase is sound. Could this be Google quaking in its boots? They have also argued that Microsoft's decision goes along with its history of trying to obtain a monopoly, but the problem with this accusation is that the market of advertising which MicroHoo! would be trying to take on is almost already monopolised by Google. So basically we've got two big babies arguing over who gets to have a bigger share of the internet.

In my opinion Google is the one causing this to happen though. If they didn't have such a large market share then Microsoft and Yahoo! would not have to merge to stand a chance of success in the hostile internet market.

If Yahoo! accept this offer they will be confessing that they themselves could not turn their company around which may cause a lack of confidence in their management, but it will still be a relief to those not wanting the company to fail. There is still a huge chance of failure even if the merger goes ahead. If MicroHoo! cannot output products that genuinely are of better quality than Google then this could destroy both of the companies leaving Google with a monopoly.

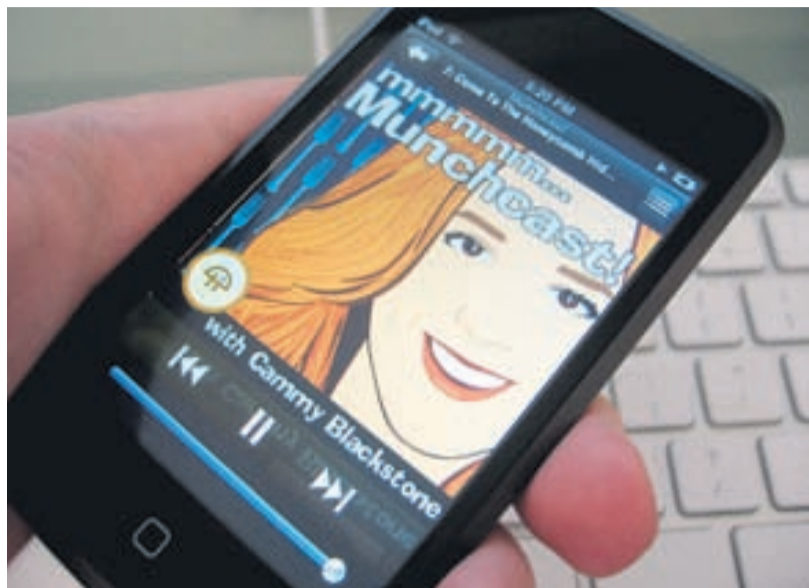
So will this be the birth of the greatest technology company ever or will it be a waste of time and money from some of the only serious rivals to Google? Only time will tell.



Bill, I have a cunning plan, all I need is £22 billion and a turnip

Another toy to play with

Andrew Slater finally went out and bought the iPod touch so we can get a review



You must be sick of seeing this thing by now

When my Creative Zen, a trusty MP3 player that survived more than its fair share of abuse, died I decided to move up in the world. £256 later I have my replacement, a shiny new 16GB iPod Touch, but is it worth the money?

After getting over the fact that I now own an Apple product I have to admit that I have fallen in love with the sleek

design on the iPod touch. Measuring 110 x 61.8 x 8 mm it's a thin and portable device powered by a 412 Mhz ARM processor and a large 128MB of RAM. It comes with the standard iPod grime-attracting metallic back and a flat glass front comprised of a 3.5" screen and a single home button. Fitting perfectly in the palm of your hand and weighing a tiny 120g it's a highly "ooh, shiny" device.

It would be easy to go on about the

design of the iPod touch, however there is so much more to this device, namely the interface. The iPod touch uses a multi-touch sensitive glass screen atop a gorgeous 480x320 display. With vibrant colours and a high number of pixels per inch (163 dpi) it's incredibly sharp and clear. The device is perfect for video podcasting, able to show widescreen footage without a hitch. Unfortunately you are limited to Apple's favourite formats (MPEG, h.264, Quicktime Mov), so no native DivX support.

Apple have clearly spent a large amount of research on the iPod touch as the navigation is seamless and intuitive with out-of-the-box usability. The music library is fast and simple to navigate, with the optional glitzy iTunes-style coverflow, utilising the touch screen to flick through the library in a more natural manner. Scrolling through your music library is quick, easy and a pleasure compared to the Zen's click-wheel interface.

Now the iPod touch is more than an MP3 player due to the cloning of its close relative, the iPhone. Inheriting WiFi connectivity, along with the design and interface, the iPod touch is an amazingly powerful portable internet device. The built in Safari web browser renders pages with the iPod touch's screen size in mind and the touch screen interface provides the best web browsing experience I've used for some time. The onscreen keyboard is incredibly accu-

rate, with dictionary based corrections for typos, gestures for zooming and the ability to correctly identify the link you're attempting to click. However, without the iPhone's ability to use the mobile network, the iPod touch is limited to internet browsing in range of a WiFi hotspot, although the university wireless network is a perfect substitute.

The iPod touch packs one last punch in its inventory to make it a highly advanced portable media device, applications. The current version in stores (1.1.3) comes pre-loaded with Google Maps, Mail, Youtube, stocks, as well as having an entire online web application site. These extend the iPod touch's functionality far beyond anything currently competing on the market and with the release of the SDK around the corner (allowing home programmers to create their own applications) the iPod touch has limitless potential.

A hefty pricetag does detract from the iPod touch's appeal, although there is an 8GB version for £199 and a 32GB version announced on Monday for those that have a huge media collection. The functionality of this device keeps giving, yet it is limited when not within range of a wireless access point. The iPod touch is perfect within the University's free wireless network, although I would recommend potential buyers to weigh up whether they will be using everything the iPod touch has to offer.

The MS Surface surfaces

James Finnerty explains the talk about Microsoft's overlooked product

Microsoft first announced their "Surface" product around a year ago. To give you an idea of exactly what it offers it combines a set of existing technologies to vastly improve customer experience in a broad range of locations.

In essence it is a touchscreen computer that is embedded in the surface of the table. This alone is nothing new but the features which have been attached to this interface are what really makes it shine. Using RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) the surface can detect devices which have been laid on it such as cameras, phones and even credit cards.

A good example of the final use of the system which has been demonstrated by Microsoft is a new way to pay for meals or drinks in a restaurant. Say at the end of a meal with a group of friends you normally have the tricky process of splitting the bill between you, with Surface this problem is eradicated. All of you put your RFID enabled credit/debit cards on the surface and the waiter can make the bill pop up on the display. Each member of the party can then simply drag the items they purchased from the bill to their card and they are then charged appropriately.

A new and interesting development to the Surface family is the confirmation that a version designed specifically for home is in the works. Some uses for this are fantastic. As you may or may not know the Microsoft Zune allows

people to share music between their Zunes for free but the tracks delete themselves after 28 days. This process of sharing is not always a very user friendly experience and once again the Surface comes to the rescue. With your

Surface in your living room you and your accomplice can place your Zune's on the device and then drag files back and forth.

I think that if this product becomes mainstream in public places it could be

a big breakthrough. This level of user experience has always been Apple's thing and realistic competition in this market could be fantastic for us as end users. So Microsoft may start to make our lives easier for once.



Aww look at that, social computing. Why must companies fill their ads with lies

Headlines we couldn't fit in

Time Warner splits up AOL

Middle East loses the WWW

US Army switches to Linux

Vista SP1 released to developers

BitTorrent admin given police bail

UK DNS servers converted to IPv6

Mobiles don't cause brain cancer

France has new super fast train

Pirate Bay hit with legal action

3D holographic cinema a reality

European ISS module ready to go

eBay bans negative feedback

Intel produce chip with 2 billion transistors



Needy McNeedy: solving woes since '67 in 'Nam

Introducing Felix's latest agony aunt, **Needy McNeedy**. Get in touch, email her: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



So you think you've got problems? I think you have too. Get in touch with me at agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk and I'll ~~beat some sense into you~~ provide you with expertly patronising advice. Believe me, I've got lots of experience with having embarrassing problems.

Dear Needy,

I fancied this guy on my course for ages. Finally, last week, we started going out. But, yesterday, I started coming out in red splotchy patches – a massive rash. My housemates say I'm allergic to commitment, but I do Biology and don't think that's actually possible. I asked my lecturer but he looked at me funnily. What can I do?

Embarrassed

Dear Embarrassed,

You have an STI. Go to a doctor.

P.S. The rash is on my arms and legs, not my dinkle warmer.

Oh. By far the most likely explanation is that you're allergic to the 20mg Gin-

seng tablets he takes to keep his hair glossy. If he hasn't told you about this, don't ask, it'll only embarrass him. I suggest fake tan to hide the red patches, although don't take medical advice from me as I've been known to pick my scabs and pour lemon on paper cuts. Work through the pain, sister.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy,

I think I've fallen in love with my lecturer. It's the way she wears un-ironed shirts and thick glasses. People have noticed me touching myself in lectures and are starting to avoid me. What can I do?

Mr. I'msittingbehindyou

Dear Mr. I'msittingbehindyou,

You clearly hate your degree and feel trapped by Imperial, thus your affectation for your lecturer is, in fact, a manifestation of Stockholm Syndrome. The hatred is, perhaps, a normal reaction and nothing is to be done about it. Perhaps you should buy a baggy sweatshirt to hide your stimulation, and always

remember to wash your hands.

I would also suggest joining some kind of society to liberate yourself from the confines of your degree but a) I'm not sure what society would be appropriate and b) I don't want to foist you on some other unsuspecting students.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy,

My new boyfriend has started going to Atomic Kitten reformation gigs with his bisexual housemate. He assures me he doesn't swing that way but I can't help but wonder...

RaspberryRipple

Dear RaspberryRipple,

It's not surprising you're concerned. I strongly urge you to consider dumping him; otherwise the strains of "Whole Again" may haunt you for the rest of your life. Think strongly about how much you want to be with a man who has seen Atomic Kitten live, which might make the split easier if you are one of those calm people who just get mildly irritated by crap music rather than somebody who hears a single

note and starts polishing their knuckle dusters.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy,

I think I've got fleas. Every morning I wake up with huge bites all over me, and now the people on my corridor are complaining that it's happening to them too. How can I get rid of them?

Scratchy&Co

Dear Scratchy&Co,

Ever heard the old atdage: there's no fleas without a cat? You've got bedbugs, which is far worse. Interestingly, bedbugs are so repulsive that at one point in their evolution, the females all decided (en mass) "Nuhuh, I ain't touchin' that no more," and so the males decided (en mass) that rape was the only way forward (or the more technical term: artificial insemination). Get fumigated, and in the meantime, apply Deathlac (available from your nearest chemist) liberally to your bed, pillows and friends.

Needy xxx

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



Aquarius

I am the Walrus! I am Spartaaaaaaa! This is war! This is Channel 5, I'm Matthew Wright and you're watching

The Wright Stuff! Make love, not war! Make poverty history! I'll take the high road and you can take the low road! I'll take forty Benson & Hedges with that please! You can call me Susan if it makes you happy! You can get bent more like!



Pisces

So, you like French electro-pop do you? Well I think you're a bastard. You with your boing-bing... boing-boing and

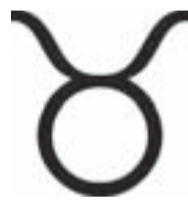
all that jazz. What you need is a smattering of CILLIT BANG. CILLIT BANG and the FRENCH POP is GONE. HI, I'm BARRY SCOTT. I'm a SERIAL KILLER in real life but I make a LIVING conning people into CLEANING PENNIES with CILLIT BANG.



Aries

So... Fucking Agony Aunt bitch-face whore is back thinking she's all that. Well, here's the horoscopes'

answers.... Embarrassed: FOAD – look that up on the internet if you're too retarded to know what it means; Sittingbehindyou: You suck. Die; RaspberryRipple: Nipple more like; Scratchy: Keep goin' till you dig through bone.



Taurus

Whatcha gonna do. It's a nice-a poo, ahh, shuddap-a your face. Er, Jov, firstly... YOU CAN'T SAY THAT and secondly,

the lyrics don't go like that. Don't make me come over there and ram my foot up your ass. Jeez... *SOLILOQUY* I just cannot believe my staff sometimes. What is an editor to do if they fail to grasp the concept of neo-tangentialism in the work place.



Gemini

I've just noticed a trend emerging in this week's horoscopes... they seem to be rather influenced by

television, cinema and the media. Basically, I've got square I eyes is what I'm telling myself. Yet, I haven't actually watched television properly for a good while? Hmm. Puzzling. Tune in next week to see if Tomo can solve the mystery behind his affliction!



Cancer

What's happened to all the fun and games at Imperial in recent years? When was the last time someone

did anything remotely as cool as sticking up a picture of Mr T alongside the Blackett department's physics greats? Students: you are implored to lighten-up and make more practical jokes. FLY MY PRETTIES.



Leo

Twentieth Century Felix PRESENTS

A Thomas Anthony Garfield Roberts Production

Written, directed, produced and everything-ed by Thomas Anthony Garfield Roberts

INVERTIGO



Virgo

This week you suffer from inverted vertigo. Standing in a flat, open field causes you to tremble like a baby

within grasping distance of a paedophile so you seek the nearest high point possible to cure your anxiety, which just happens to be the Eiffel Tower in France. Run with me on this one, everyone knows there are loads of fields around the Eiffel Tower.



Libra

At the top of the Eiffel Tower you can see for miles in all directions, including down below. The thought of being

dead within seconds as a result of throwing yourself over the balcony pleases you greatly. As much as the urge to top yourself takes a hold of you, you resist and become the world's Most Vertical Squatter.



Scorpio

People flock to see you atop your Tower, but it all becomes far too overwhelming. You cut the lift cables

sending it crashing to the surface of France, killing seven people in the process. Somehow, and God only knows, you construct the world's largest fireman's pole so that people can't climb up it, but you can climb down when you feel like it.



Sagittarius

Rather stupidly – you twunt – once you slide to the realm of pedestrians for the first time, you realise you can't

get back up your pole. You scale the stairs which, up until this point, no-one else had thought about using either. The pedestrians cotton on to this mistake in your plans and begin to charge up the staircase. You prepare for Operation Swiss Family Robinson.

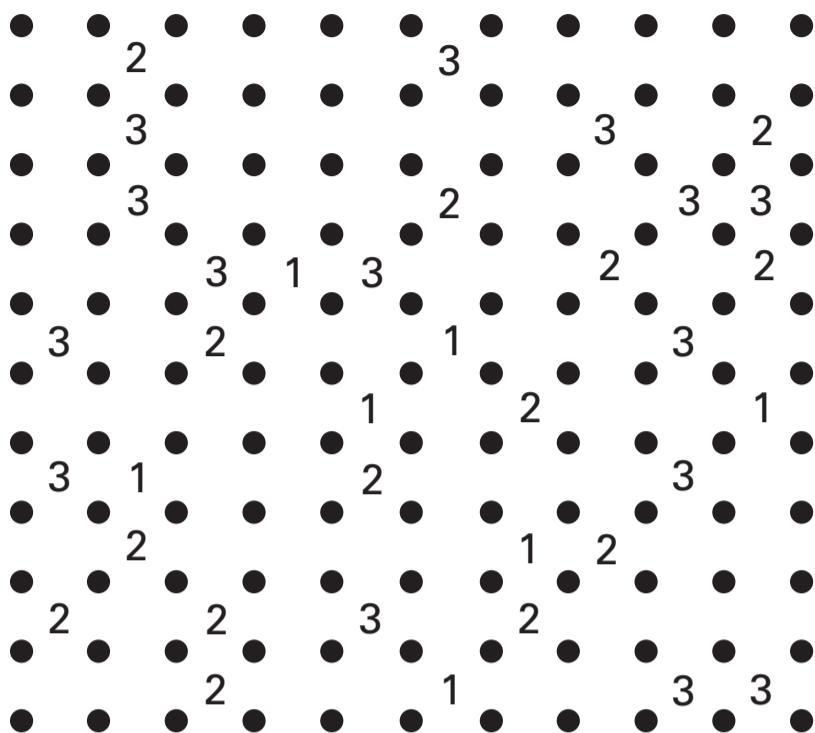


Capricorn

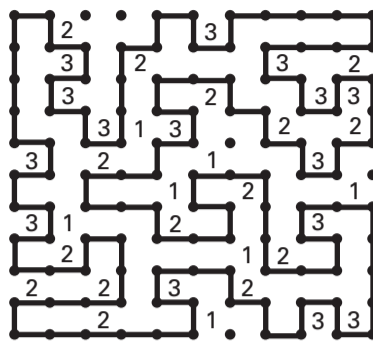
Armed to the teeth with M16s and toxic bird shit you defend your tower will all your might. Somehow you

even manage to get some large tree trunks to roll down the stairs, just like in Swiss Family Robinson. However, Godzilla appears and rips the Eiffel Tower from the ground to use as a baseball bat in his game with Mothra. You die.

Slitherlink 1,395



1,394 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,394 was **Patrick Burr** who even managed to send in two solutions, although one was wrong. We should probably add: there was an error in last week's. Sorry! Good luck with this one.

How to play:

Crudely speaking, Slitherlink is similar to Minesweeper mixed with a dash of Sudoku. The object of the game is to draw

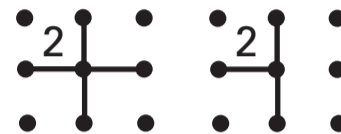
lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

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



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

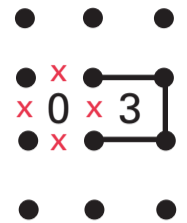
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



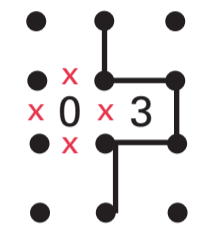
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

So, where do you start? The most

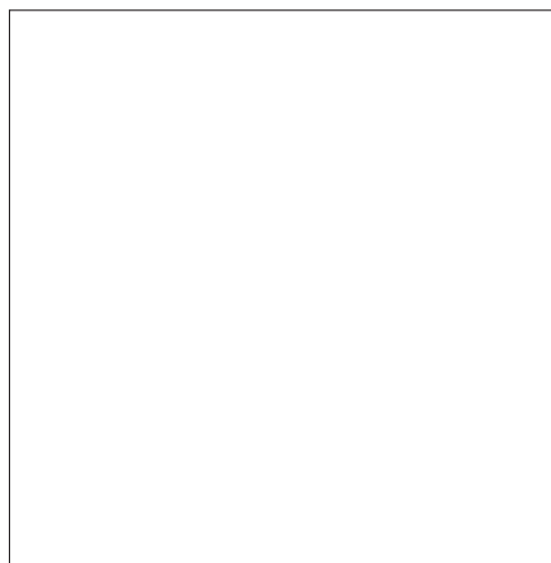
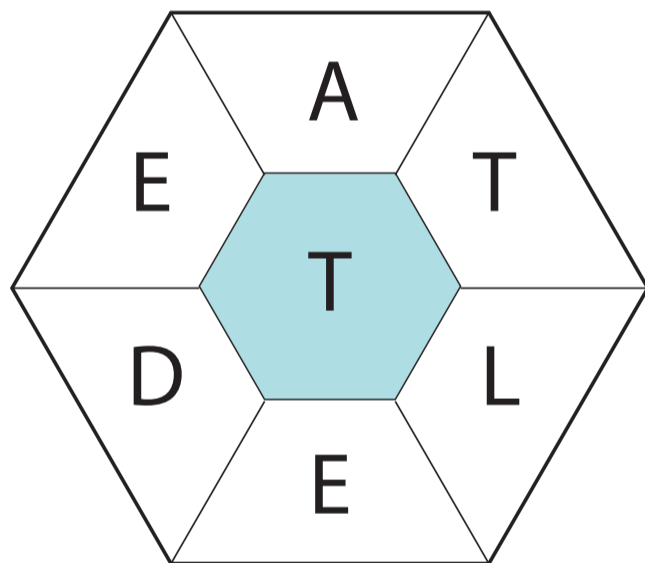
common place to start on a Slitherlink grid is by drawing crosses around any zeros. Drawing crosses is purely done to so that you know where there can't possibly be a line. So, take the pattern below as an example. Begin by drawing crosses, then by filling in some lines:



Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



The Polygon of Ginormous Grundfutlocks



Last week's solution:

LEATHER

Congratulations if you got leather!

Other words included:

aether, earth, eath, ether, haet, hale, haler, halt, halter, haltere, hare, harl, hart, hate, hater, heal, healer, hear, heart, heat, heater, heel, here, hereat, hel, lath, lathe, lather, lehr, lethe, rath, rathe, reheat, rhea, thr, thae, thaler, thee, there, three.

How to rate yourself:

Under 8 words: Get yourself a dictionary, but don't read it cover-to-cover. Just batter yourself to death with it.

8 - 13 words: Why did you even bother? I mean come on, is there nothing between your ears, except dust...?

14 - 19 words: So close. Just like that time I almost got hit by a lorry.

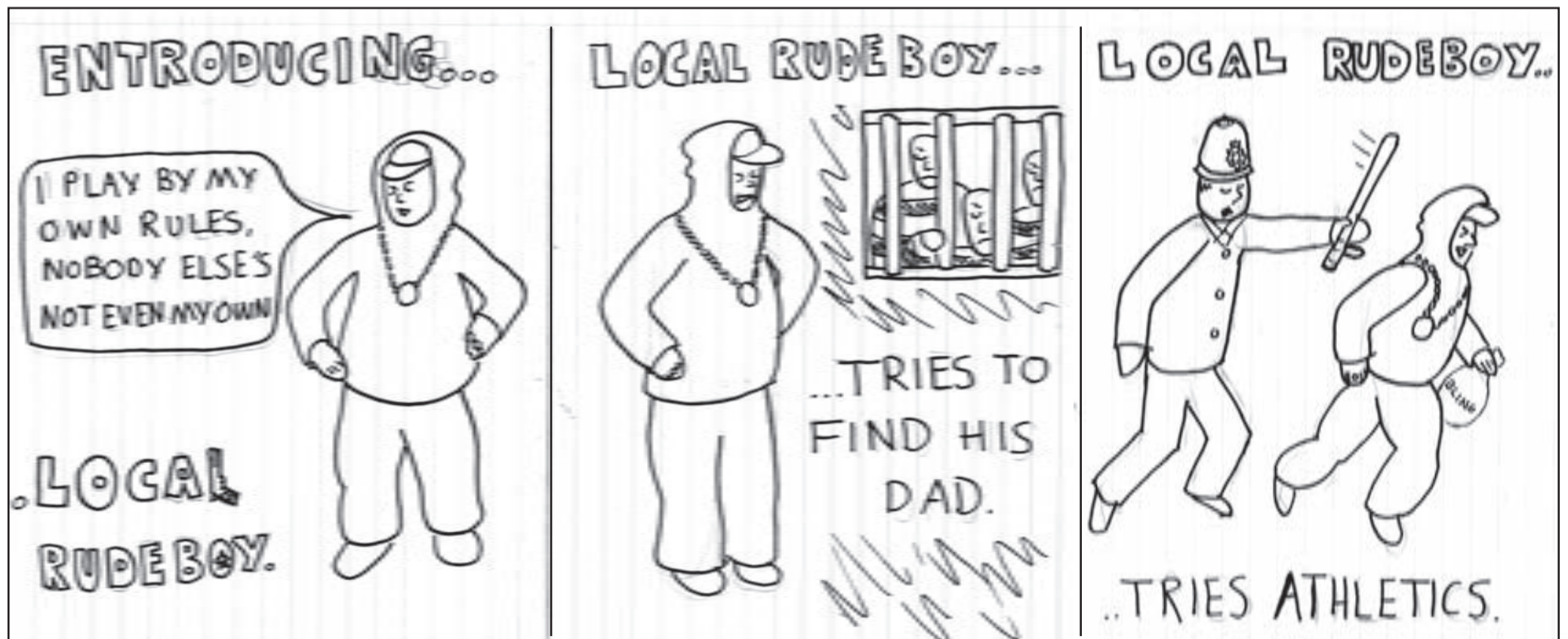
20 plus words: Well done, you cunning linguist. Phabulous phonics!

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.

Local Rudeboy by Rayvon



Logic Puzzle: Staying In

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 Imperial males decided to have a night alone with a take-away and a porn video to keep them warm in the cold, cold night. Can you discover the title of the film watched by each person, together with the meal each ordered and the name of the lead actress in the flick?

1. Ashley watched Deep Throat, enjoying it's artistic merit (of course). The person who watched Shaving Ryan's Privates wasn't watching Stormy Bottoms, who had a very ample backside.

2. The person who enjoyed Free Willy (not the Warner Bros. version) had an Indian included a madras. Both were hot!

3. Phil watched his favourite actress named Slutty McTrampster. The film he watched wasn't Chitty Shitty Gang Bang or Shaving Ryan's Privates.

4. Busty de Lusty (who was rather well endowed) was watched by the person who tucked into a generous portion of fish and chips.

5. The person who ate pizza wasn't Christian, who watched Wendy Whoppers and her enormous assets, which he thought jiggled rather nicely.

6. Whoever watched Good Will Humping saw the actress Ivanna Fook, who gave a very realistic and gritty performance.

7. John (who didn't watch Ivanna Fook) enjoyed his Chinese meal, enjoying the view enormously (dirty boy).

	SHAVING RYAN'S PRIVATES	DEEP THROAT	GOOD WILL HUMMING	FREE WILLY	CHITTY SHITTY GANG BANG	CHINESE	INDIAN	DONER KEBAB	FISH AND CHIPS	PIZZA	WENDY WHOPPERS	SLUTTY MCTRAMPSTER	BUSTY DE LUSTY	IVANNA FOOK	STORMY BOTTOMS
CHRISTIAN															
ASHLEY															
JOHN															
MATT															
PHIL															
WENDY WHOPPERS															
SLUTTY MCTRAMPSTER															
BUSTY DE LUSTY															
IVANNA FOOK															
STORMY BOTTOMS															
CHINESE															
INDIAN															
DONER KEBAB															
FISH AND CHIPS															
PIZZA															

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

Last week's solution

Name	Home Town
Ellen	Worcester
Fran	Ilfracombe
Gina	Reading
Sandra	Bedford
Wendy	Pocklington

Interview Town	Day
St Ives	Wednesday
Plymouth	Tuesday
Redhill	Thursday
Birmingham	Friday
Tunbridge Wells	Monday

Wordoku 1,395

		O	G		R		L	
	L			R				
R	K				O	S	G	
A	O				L			
		S		A		I		
			O				M	S
	M	R	A				S	G
				O			R	
O		K			G	M		



1,394 Solution

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

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.

There were no entries for Wordoku 1,394 even though we provided the clue: "Where is Felix?". The hidden phrase was "NEARSTOIC".



This week's texts:

"JF - please cut your hair, you look like Ronald McDonald!"

"This week was bought to you by the letter A, the no 5 and the no12"

"Gilbert Dougherty is an Irish cockalopadus. Love JT"

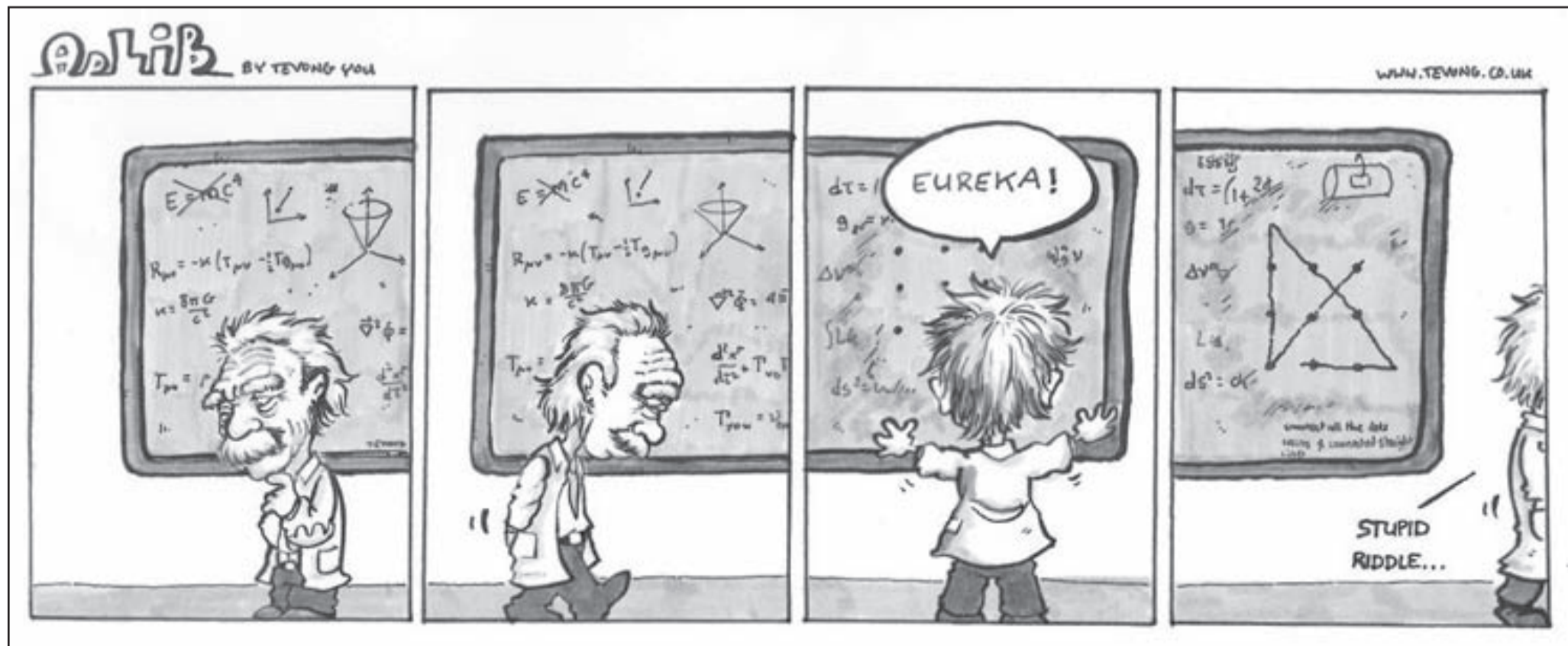
"Kamaljit - willy, bum, sex."

"Borja, usted todavia no ha contestado a mis textos a Felix. Soy completamente inconsolable. He vertido mi corazón hacia fuera en mis pequeños mensajes, y usted incluso no ha contestado. Mis dolores del corazón. Necesito lamermene los dedos del pie, tan lentamente. Conteste por favor por favor por favor. Espero en esperanza."

07980 148 785

TEXT US! OR WE WILL SPAY THE CAT!

Adlib by Tevong You



Coming round the mountain

Alexander Borresen reports on the Mountaineering Club's 2007/08 winter tour to Snowdonia

The end of the term had passed, and on the Saturday afternoon, after a mildly heavy Friday, five of us gathered in the union. Earlier that day Tim had passed his minibus test, which was good. It meant the trip could actually go ahead. As the bus was loaded and we were almost ready to go, we received a surprise call from Juha. Turns out we would be having some extra company on the trip. So after a quick guidebook purchase, a stop at Tesco's and another call to learn we would be met by four more ICMC-ers who were driving down from Scotland, we set on our way.

Arriving at the hut we were expecting to be greeted by 15 rampaging fellwanderers, but it was empty so we carried our stuff out of the bus, lit the fire and settled in for the night. Eventually the rest of the ICMC group and the fellwanderers showed up, but there were only four of them and they weren't exactly rampaging.

The next day, we took advantage of the good weather to ascend Snowdon with the sky clear and the temperature dipping below zero, going up via Crib Goch to find there was actually snow at the top of Snowdon this year. Returning to the bottom, we had enough time for a warming hot chocolate in the café.

The weather, as it turns out, would remain beautiful for the whole trip. It did, however, remain a little cold. Yet after a distinctively softcore first day, we decided not to heed the advice of our compatriots who had gone and climbed over the pass. Over some food and an indoor bouldering session in the hut, they had warned us of the extreme cold finger syndrome and general lack of warmth they had experienced. Pffff! "Nah, they're just being a bit lame", was the initial thought of the rest of us so we decided to proceed as planned.

This meant the next we got a fairly bright start and headed over to Idwal Slabs. These are North facing, a slight oversight. So John and Kunal set off up in mountain boots up a fairly straightforward climb to make sure they could top out the crag in time, Tim and Ari made their way up a climb further right on the slab and myself, Al and Adam found a VS on the left hand corner of



"I can see my house from up here!"

the slab. Trickier than the other routes maybe, but surely it couldn't be that bad. Hmm, climbing when after a minute your fingers are merely hooks of numb, sensationless flesh is tricky. Looking at your hand to see if your fingers are actually on a hold, now that's fun. Anyway, fun as that was, we decided to make a detour onto an easier route after the first pitch, and a wise decision I couldn't help but think. We

descended as it was turning dark, but there was still time for one of us to run naked into the freezing lake.

The day had left us tired, so we decided that Tuesday called for some laid back bouldering. With no need to get up early, we had a bit of a lie in, said goodbye to half our group who were heading back to London later that day and then drove to Cromlwhc Boulders on the Llanberis Pass. The walk in really killed us, as it was a whole 25 metres to the nearest boulder. There were a number of good little problems which kept us busy for the day.

With just one days worth of climbing related activity remaining, we headed for warmer ground down in the Tremadog area. A little crag with some good climbing and friendly conditions greeted us. A number of good climbs went down, including an E1 for Tim, which included some good nut recovery action. The day had gone well until the very end when a small accident led to me hobbling in pain down to the bus.

As we returned to the hut we remembered that earlier in the day the water had not been working. Strangely, when we got back it still wasn't working and after searching for the problem and various calls, we discovered the toilet was still working. Diverting water from the cistern allowed us to start cooking up some food in a somewhat unconventional manner.

That night the traditional ICMC winter tour Christmas dinner and secret Santa took place. Pork chops, roast veg and mange-tous adorned our plates, followed by some suspicious looking apple pie and custard. Beer and strange gifts followed as we used up the rest of the firewood and got set for heading back to London the day after.



Maximum cool points



Give us your best pout guys



They say the air up here can make you a little crazy

1st XV fight for win over Pompey

Rugby
BUSA



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

Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

Portsmouth have had a very good season at home so far, not only have they not lost a game at home, but they have managed to not concede a single point. With such a record, the home side were undoubtedly full of high hopes as they entertained top of the table Imperial 1sts last Wednesday.

The game started with the high tempo that Imperial finished with towards the end of last term, however Pompey were more than ready for the onslaught. A month and a half off over the Christmas period was clearly evident as some of the sparkle had clearly disappeared for Imperial and Portsmouth were more than ready to pounce on this window of opportunity.

Playing a very physical and forward-oriented game, Portsmouth continued the onslaught, consistently penetrating the edges of the rucks and mauls before off-loading to their large centres who tried to break the line. Some great defence by Imperial was the only thing that stopped any tries from being scored. But as already mentioned, the Christmas break was evident as small mistakes were being made all over the pitch. At times, Imperial started to run like crabs and failed to push forward, which resulted in some shoddy passing and poor attacking decisions. Even the line-outs, which had been a strong point, were suffering. Portsmouth eventually got a penalty within kicking distance and made Imperial pay by taking a slender 3 - 0 lead.

It was Imperial's counter-attacking

that was the most impressive, with the greatest play coming from Max Joachim and Edward Spofforth-Jones on the wing. Imperial managed to gain 40 metres with superb interplay between Joachim and the captain Andrew Jasudasen, before the Portsmouth second row decided to put in a late high tackle on centre Dan Godfrey and rightly earned himself 10 minutes in the sin-bin. Even with this advantage, Imperial were unable to optimise and were trailing 3 - 0 by half time.

After some stern words from the captain and the coach, Imperial went into the second half determined to turn the deficit. With a more structured attack now showing, Imperial slowly made their way towards the Pompey try line, however persistent high tackles and hands in rucks broke the play and Imperial were eventually awarded with a penalty in front of the posts that hooker Alexander Johnstone comfortably converted.

Portsmouth, having conceded their first points at home this season, and also having their sin-binned player returned to them, picked up the aggression in a more controlled manner. The Pompey forwards increased the pick and drive around the edges of the rucks, but the Imperial forwards were more than ready for them and only gave away inches at a time. When this failed, they tried a catch and drive from the line-outs, which the forwards were again able to contain. Eventually, Imperial were awarded another penalty that Johnstone converted and Imperial were finally in the lead, a lead that was heavily defended until the dying seconds, with Rob Phillips even receiving a yellow card in the last minute for his efforts.

A groggy start to the new term for Imperial, but there are signs of great things to come, and this will hopefully improve for next week's game against RUMS.

England Saxons comes to IC for pre-Italy training

Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

The England Saxons rugby team, otherwise known as the England 'A' team came to Harlington on Tuesday for a training session before Saturday's 2008 Six Nations game against Italy 'A' in Ragusa, Sicily. As a treat, 8 members of the Imperial College Rugby Club were invited along to take part in the training session.

Initially the 'luck' 8 thought they would effectively be used as human tackle bags in an effort to improve the Saxons' defensive play, and this proved to be the case. The Imperial players were told to attack the England team, attempt to disrupt the ball and generally be a nuisance where possible. Eager to impress, the 8 players did exactly that and in the process got valuable first hand experience of what top level rugby is actually like.

The training session wasn't without its share of fun and games, the Saxons' forwards managed to persuade IC flanker James Petit to hide the scrum-halves hat, before he was politely asked to return it by said scrum-half. IC centre Alex Fergusson, however, gave the best quote of the day, claiming that two years ago he could have out sprinted any of the players that were at the training session; a view that the Saxons team undoubtedly didn't share.

1st XV captain Andrew Jasudasen commented that: "After hearing of our phenomenal season so far, the Saxons coach Steve Bates thought that this was an opportune moment to inject fresh blood into the England squad! But on a serious note, it was a win-win situation where our boys got to experience something new and a standard of play to which we should be aiming for."

On behalf of the Imperial College Rugby Club, this reporter would like to thank the England Saxons for this opportunity.



IC and Saxons posing for a photo after the training session



Breakfast time! IC Gabriel Ibru gets eaten by the Saxons front row

Nutrition for rowers and high energy demands

Ben Richens
Energia Fitness Instructor

Rowing demands high levels of both endurance and power being produced from nearly every main muscle in the body. So what we eat when we are going to row has a big impact on our performance. Lets go into a bit more depth about it.

The energy demands of a rower are high, so the number of meals you will need in order to consume the amount of calories your body needs for recovery and repair should be between 4 and 6. If you have the typical "London diet" as I call it (no breakfast, a sandwich at lunch, a mound of food for dinner and the usual chocolates or crisps while watching Eastenders/Corrie), you'll probably find that getting your boat out to water is hard going let alone the seemingly endless amount of work that's done on the Concept 2 rower!

Typically, a rower will have much higher energy demands than someone who isn't exercising. They will need carbohydrates in particular, which should account for 55-65% of the overall calories taken in. So if we take a rower who needs 2900 calories a day, between



The rowers and their high energy demands

1600 and 1900 of these calories should be from sources of carbohydrate (the rest coming from a mixture of fat and protein) spread throughout the day over about 4-6 smaller meals rather than trying to cram all those calories in at dinner!

Differences in how many calories someone needs a day depends on many factors: such as gender, amount

of lean muscle, activity level and so on. So if you are in any doubt please talk to a member of the Ethos gym team who can give you some more specific advice.

Before

If you train first thing in the morning, having something to eat beforehand is

important but the amount and timing of when you eat is a very important factor; otherwise you could end up "doing a Radcliffe" and having an impromptu toilet break off the side of the boat!

The speed at which we digest food will differ for everyone, so the main thing is to find out what works for you and stick to it! A good guide is eating 30-45 minutes before you train. Try something which isn't going to be too "heavy", e.g. fruit, yoghurt or nuts/seeds or if you have a bit more time choose something with a higher amount of calories from carbohydrates as it will give your body more "fuel" to burn during your session. Good examples of this are wholegrain bread with a healthy filling; again, the best option being something you eat regularly (the meal before a race isn't the time to try out the spicy curry your housemate has just made!).

During

Most people prefer to drink water during training but with intense sessions, or those lasting over 45 minutes, sports drinks or juices are a good idea as this will not only re-hydrate you but

will also give your body additional carbohydrate and electrolytes which are lost during exercise. You can make your own sports drink by filling up a 1.5 litre bottle with water, adding a pinch of salt and some juice concentrate - about a cup will do you if don't want it to be too concentrated.

After

This is quite often the most overlooked aspect, but definitely one which needs to be examined to promote optimal refuelling and recovery. After training, the sooner you can eat the better. Carbohydrates will make up a significant part of the meal but protein has to be included as this crucial for repair of the lean muscle that's been working so hard!

A good guide to selecting carbohydrates is something that has either grown from the ground or from a tree (vegetables, cereals or grains) and with your selection of protein something that once had two eyes and could either walk, fly or swim (poultry, beef etc) the less processed food you have the better and that means if you can't pronounce the ingredients, don't eat it!

Outnumbered ladies perform in cup and league

Football
ULU

LOREAL
PARIS

Imperial Women's 1st	1
RUMS Women's 1st	0

Football
BUSA

LOREAL
PARIS

Imperial Women's 1st	0
Portsmouth Women's 2nds	0

Cheryl See

On Sunday, IC Women's Football decided to follow the example set by the men's football team and took a team of eleven plus, a novelty substitute, to play RUMS in the women's challenge cup. Just to make things more challenging, their three goalkeepers were unavailable and so they ended up having auditions for a stand in during warm-up and Vivian won the honour of donning the green jersey.

The match began and RUMS won an early corner as IC settled into the game. Their onslaught created a couple of chances but Vivian collected the ball easily on all accounts, helped by a makeshift backline of Emma, Yoke, Laura and Cheryl. IC began to push back with Dehydys and Rita leading the charge in midfield. Barbara and Steph provided width down the sides and with Chin and Pav upfront it looked as if IC were due a goal any time. However, RUMS played in a Spartan-like phalanx with the entire team charging after whichever IC player had the ball. While IC was having a frustrating first half, the referee was having a busy one, calling offences against various hair-clips and bobby pins. He stopped play a couple of times and requested various IC players to take out the felonious hair accessories, finally announcing the next player found with a hair clip would be given a yellow card.

The second half started and IC won an early corner this time around. Chances bountiful but still the ball refused to go into the back of the RUMS net. RUMS had a few breaks but were unable to get past the IC backline. IC finally took the lead fifteen minutes into the second half.

They had won a corner which Rita took, passing it short to Laura who passed it back to Rita who, from the edge of the box on the backline, hit a stunner of a strike into the back of the net from an angle that can only be described as near zero. Karen came on in Barbara's place to help IC defend their slender lead to prevent the match from going into extra time (else they pay the taxi driver a small fortune for waiting). IC are through to the quarter finals to face UCL in the Women's Challenge Cup.

Wednesday came around and saw IC taking seven lovely ladies down to Portsmouth to play the last match of the BUSA league season. With Queen Mary sitting comfortable at the top of the league, IC was in battle with the University of Portsmouth and Brunel for second place, who were just a point each behind. Morale was running low until the IC players were told that Portsmouth could only field ten players themselves. Fuelled by a desperate hope, IC played a 3-3 formation (true story) with one attacker and five natural defenders. Needless to say it was a



IC ladies after their win against RUMS in the Women's Challenge Cup

very defensive match.

It started off with Steph taking the ball down the right wing but she went down to the ground after a Portsmouth player five times her size gave her a hefty shove. Unfortunately, no free kick was given but Steph ended up getting her beef on. Skipper Emma and Pav dribbled past the Portsmouth players effortlessly but due to the lack of strikers up front, and the fact that the Portsmouth goalie was almost as good as Emily (IC goalie), chances were difficult. Laura, Kate and Cheryl held the

line in the back, closing down plays Portsmouth tried to set up. It turned out to be easier than expected when trying to mark two opposition players simultaneously.

After a string of IC attacks, painful tackles and Portsmouth ballerina-like foul throw-ins, Portsmouth had their chance as Emily was taken down and panic and confusion was widespread in the IC box. They did however, fluff it, and Kate and Laura threw themselves in the melee and managed to clear it. A minute from full time, IC had their best

chance; Emma took the ball from the IC half down the left wing all the way into the Portsmouth box on her own. The Portsmouth goalie slipped and was on the ground leaving their goal wide open this time. Emma crossed it in across the face of the empty goal, but Pav was unfortunately unable to reach it in time.

IC ended the match on a high because Brunel had lost their deciding match and so IC Women's finish second in their BUSA league, and are through to the play in the plate!

Rugby Medicals live to fight another day

Rugby Union
BUSA

SIEMENS
MEDICALS SOLUTIONS

Swansea Men's 1st	7
Imperial Medicals 1st	10

Cameron Sullivan

The Imperial Medicals 1st XV achieved a miraculous victory over high-flying Swansea University, keeping hopes alive of surviving for another year in BUSA Prem B. A squad of just 17 players (including two debutants and seven freshers) embarked on the four hour coach journey down to South Wales, knowing that it would take a mighty performance to beat a Swansea that had run away 47-21 winners in the previous fixture between these two sides in October.

Arriving late, the Medics had just 30 minutes on the pitch to warm up and shake off the long drive. On a clear but blustery day, both sides started the game cautiously, with tactical kicking featuring heavily in the opening exchanges. The medics, led from the front by stand-in captain Austin Dekker, grew in confidence as the first half developed, attacking with pace and power, getting wide in ever-increasing numbers.

The Swansea backs, slick and skilful, also posed a regular threat, but fantastic cover defence from both sides kept the scores level until the half hour mark. Back-row cum centre

Craig Nightingale made a superb initial break into the Swansea 22, with the Medic forwards working hard to win quick ruck ball, allowing mercurial fly-half Dan Neville to slip a pass to lock Rob Anderson to crash over from close range. Neville converted to give the Medics a 7-0 lead, which they held at the half.

In the second period, Swansea came out flying, playing an attractive brand of expansive rugby, looking to score from every possession. But the Medics tackling was equal to it, and forced the opposition into several key turnovers as they became increasingly impatient.

Fly-half Neville kicked a simple penalty to extend the lead to 10, after good work by the Medics backs forced Swansea onto the back foot. With a full half hour remaining, Swansea began to introduce several substitutes, adding size and experience in their front row. At this point, the home side began to exert their dominance at the set-piece, allowing plenty of clean ball for their dangerous backs. Wave after wave of the Swansea attack was contained due to more impressive defence from the visiting Medics. Freshers Steve Jordan, Ed Pickles and Matt Sarvesvaran racked up an impressive tackle count between them, while the rest of the pack worked tirelessly to repel the marauding Welshmen.

The Medics kept Swansea scoreless until the 71st minute, when sustained pressure and quick handling led to a try out wide, expertly converted from the touchline by the Swansea fly-half.



The medics backs looking somewhat relaxed

The final nine minutes were brutal, as the Medics fought to protect their line, barely escaping their half for the remainder of the game. The referees whistle was a welcome relief, with the Medics holding out for a tense

10-7 victory. A remarkable performance from the Medics, and a vital win against a very strong Swansea side, who played with great endeavour, but were guilty of sloppy finishing at key moments. Victorious, the Medics players

descended on the hallowed Reynold's Bar in Hammersmith to celebrate defeating the Welsh on their own turf. This result places the Medics in a good position for their final three BUSA battles, with survival now one step closer.

News in brief

Ladies fencing wins championship

The Women's fencing team had their second premierships tournament in Bath this weekend. After narrowly losing to Oxford in the first tournament to put us in 2nd place in the league, we went to this weekend knowing a win against Oxford could still give us a chance at 1st place. After a long weekend of matches Cambridge proved victorious on this occasion, but with an easy victory over Bath and a couple of close fought wins over Oxford and Bristol we were again in 2nd place.

Combined with the previous results this meant there was a tie on points between us, Oxford and Cambridge. Taking the aggregate results

of both matches with a win by 8 hits this time compared to a loss of 4 on the previous occasion we had beaten Oxford and despite losing to Cambridge by 10 hits on this occasion we had previously beaten them by 11 so with only 1 hit in it we had taken 1st place. Cambridge were unfortunate to also have lost to Oxford by only 1 hit giving Oxford 2nd place and Cambridge 3rd.

It was an extremely close season but to have won the premierships in only our first year is fantastic, we are now through to the last 16 of the championship with our first knockout match in only 2 weeks against Kent.

IC just miss out on finals

Table Tennis BUSA

Imperial Women's 1st	4
Brighton Women's 1st	0

Anusha Seneviratne

The BUSA individual championships will be in a couple of weeks. We hoped our final league clash of the season with Brighton University would end our debut league campaign with a flourish and boost our confidence.

Unfortunately Nan Luan injured her back the previous week and could not play. However Christina Vajdi stepped in as a worthy substitute playing in her first match of the season.

The opposing team were Kathryn Butler and Sarah Hubbard who is my Kent team mate in the County Championships. First I comfortably beat Ka-

thryn 11-3, 11-4, 11-4. Then Christina took on Sarah. Christina took time to settle into her first match and Sarah quickly took the initiative by taking the first game 11-7. However Christina soon found her form and used her experience to win the next three games 11-4, 11-8, 11-3 and claim a 2-0 lead for Imperial. Christina then beat Kathryn comfortably 11-5, 11-2, 11-4 to seal a 3-0 lead. Finally I played Sarah who seemed prepared as she raced to a 4-0 lead in the first game but I held my nerve to come back and take the first game 14-12. But Sarah took an 8-5 lead in the second game but again I played better under pressure and took the second game 11-9. With greater confidence I claimed the third game 11-3 to confirm the win for our team.

It has been a strong debut season for the Imperial ladies as we recorded wins over Essex, King's and Brighton to finish 3rd in the South East division behind Middlesex who have former

Lithuanian International Egle Adomeyte and London Metropolitan - who have Chinese International players including former World no.7 Fei Ming Tong - and I'm sure will win the team event.

Unfortunately we needed to finish in the top two to qualify for the quarter-finals. Still it is a great achievement as we are in the strongest division in the country. Yet the South West division only have 2 teams in total who automatically qualify for the quarter-finals, now where is the fairness in that! Hopefully a team will pull out so we can qualify!

Finally I would like to thank Nan and Christina for contributing to a great season for our team. Lets hope we can improve next year. In the meantime, I look forward to participating in the BUSA championships with my fellow club members this month and hope we can bring more medals back to Imperial!

Imperial Team of the Week



ICSM Netball Women's 2nd

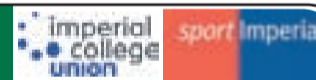
This week the first medicals team have been chosen as Imperials Team of the Week. The netball 2nds have had a great season winning 7 of their 9 games so far, and are justly the highest ranking medicals team in the league table. Let's hope the girls go from strength to strength.



Brighton's Butler and Hubbard pose with Imperial's Nan Luan, Christina Vajdi and Anusha Seneviratne

Fixtures and Results

in association with Sports Partnership



Friday 1st February

Football	
London South Bank Men's 1st	1
ICU Men's 1st	1

Saturday 2nd February

Fencing	
University of Bath Women's 1st	60
ICU Women's 1st	135

Football – ULU

ICU Men's 1st	0
University of London Men's 1st	0

ICU Men's 2nd	2
King's College Men's 1st	2

St. George's Medicals Men's 1st	3
ICU Men's 3rd	0

Royal Veterinary Men's 1st	3
ICU Men's 4th	3

ICU Men's 6th	1
S.O.A.S. Men's 2nd	2

ICU Men's 7th	5
King's Medical Men's 1st	0

Water Polo

University of Surrey Men's 1st	2
ICU Men's 1st1	13

Sunday 3rd February

Badminton – ULU	
ICU Mixed 1st	7
University College London Mixed 1st	2

Basketball – ULU

Royal Holloway Men's 1st	N/A
ICU Men's 1st	N/A

Football – ULU

Goldsmith's Women's 1st	0
ICU Women's 1st	4

Hockey – ULU

ICU Men's 1st	2
Royal Holloway Men's 1st	4

ICU Men's 2nd	8
ICU Men's 4th	2

ICU Women's 1st	3
Royal Holloway Women's 1st	1

University College London Women's 2nd	3
ICU Women's 2nd	2

Rugby Union – ULU

ICU Men's 3rd	13
Queen Mary Men's 2nd	38

Royal Holloway Women's 1st	39
ICU Women's 1st	5

Volleyball

University of Essex Men's 1st	2
ICU Men's 1st	0

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

University of London Men's 1st	2
ICU Men's 1st	0

Water Polo

ICU Men's 1st	10
University College London 1st	3

Monday 4th February

Basketball – ULU	
ICU Men's 1st	N/A
Queen Mary Men's 1st	N/A

Squash – ULU

ICU Men's 1st	5
Royal Holloway Men's 1st	0

ICU Men's 2nd	5
London School of Economics Men's 4th	0

ICU Men's 3rd	N/A
University College London Men's 2nd	N/A

ICU Women's 1st	N/A
King's College London Women's 1st	N/A

Volleyball – ULU

University College London Mixed 2nd	N/A
ICU Mixed 1st	N/A

Wednesday 6th February

Football – ULU	
ICU Men's 4th	3
University College London Men's 5th	1

ICU Men's 5th	3
RUMS Men's 2nd	4

ICU Men's 6th	1
RUMS Men's 4th	1

London School of Economics Men's 6th	5
ICU Men's 7th	1

ICU Women's 1st	1
Royal Holloway Women's 1st	3

Hockey – ULU

University College London Men's 1st	N/A
ICU Men's 1st	N/A

ICU Men's 2nd	3
St. Bart's & the Royal London Men's 2nd	0

ICU Men's 3rd	N/A
St. George's Medicals Men's 2nd	N/A

ICU Women's 2nd	2
University College London Women's 2nd	3

Rugby Union

RUMS Men's 1st	8
ICU Men's 1st	18

Royal Holloway Men's 2nd	29
ICU Men's 2nd	7

King's Medicals Men's 2nd	29
ICU Men's 3rd	19

ICU Men's SESSA 1st	Cancelled
Anglia Ruskin Men's SESSA 1st	Cancelled

ICU Women's 1st (ULU)	N/A
Royal Veterinary Women's 1st (ULU)	N/A

Saturday 9th February

Football – ULU	
ICU Men's 1st vs RUMS Men's 1st	
ICU Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway Men's 2nd	
King's College Men's 3rd vs ICU Men's 5th	
ICU Men's 7th vs ICU Men's 6th	

Sunday 10th February

Football – ULU	
UCL Women's 1st vs ICU Women's 1st	

Hockey – ULU

ICU Men's 3rd vs King's College Men's 2nd	
ICU Women's 2nd vs King's Medicals 2nd	

Protein powder vs meat



Gil Saville
Energia Fitness Instructor

What is the advantage of taking protein powder? Why can't I just eat protein in real food form?

As you probably already know, proteins are made up of amino acids and these are the building blocks of muscle. For exercise/fitness purposes we need protein to repair and build muscle tissue. Adding lean sources of protein into our diet also helps augment metabolism facilitating fat burning. The question is whether to use supplements or whole food - which is better? As with most topics in fitness and nutrition, the grey area is always larger than expected. Everyone is looking for the easy one word answer, but in reality it almost never exists.

If you listen to any bodybuilder, or read any bodybuilding magazines, protein powders and supplements are clearly indispensable to anyone who exercises regularly. So are you missing out by eating a high protein diet instead?

Unfortunately, as those magazines are also loaded with adverts for those self-same products they are endorsing, it is safe to assume that they are less than objective. So what's the truth?

How do protein powder and protein

supplements in general stack up against protein rich foods such as meat, beans, egg whites or dairy? The reality is that protein powders / supplements will not build more muscle than chicken or egg whites or any other whole food protein - their big advantage is their convenience.

I have always been an advocate of consuming whole foods as much as possible. What I mean by 'whole foods' is foods that have not been altered or broken down from their original, natural state, or at least as little as possible (e.g. whole turkey breast vs. packaged turkey meat slices). Some great whole food lean protein choices would be: chicken/turkey breast, egg whites, fish, cottage cheese, tofu, legumes, extra lean cuts of beef...etc. That being said, I have been consuming whey protein shakes and bars for the last 5 years. Let me explain - it all comes down to lifestyle. The reality is that like most people, I have extremely busy days. When I am seeing clients for 5 to 8 hours in a row, I don't have time to slam down a chicken breast with sweet potatoes and asparagus (I'm getting hungry just thinking about it!). So I grab a shake or a bar, which gives me the right nutrients that I need to keep my body in check. By the way, I give my busy clients the exact same advice. Most people end up skipping meals, which is the worst thing you can do if you want lose fat and build lean muscle tissue. Protein supplements are a "No Excuse" solution for keeping up with your health plan.

Whey protein is now the most popular protein supplement, and is touted for having the highest biological value. This basically means that it is more easily broken down by our bodies than animal or vegetable proteins, and therefore quickly provides your muscle cells with the nutrients it needs after a workout. The reason for this is that whey protein is higher in essential amino acids and BCAA (branch-chain amino acids). It can also be a better source of protein for those of you wanting to lose body fat, because it is generally lower in fat and carbs than most whole food counterparts. Fur-

thermore, whey uniquely contains certain aminos, which create a very powerful intracellular anti-oxidant called glutathione.

It is far easier to drink a protein shake than to buy, prepare, cook and eat poultry, fish or egg whites, particularly if you are at work or on the go. We all know that eating small, frequent meals is the best way to eat, whether you are aiming for muscle gain or fat loss, but for many people, eating this frequently is virtually impossible.

Other than convenience, protein supplements offer few advantages over protein rich foods. Does that mean you shouldn't take them? Absolutely not. There is no doubt that a protein shake is far better than grabbing a bar of chocolate or some take-away when you get the munchies.

They are also useful for those looking to lose weight, as increased protein intake (as long as you reduce your intake of carbs at the same time) are positively implicated in weight loss. The key to using them is to understand what they can and can't do for you.

So at the end of the day, I say eat whole foods as much as possible, but when your schedule says otherwise don't hesitate to grab a prepared protein supplement. Also, consider shakes and bars as an alternative snack or meal replacement to add variety and benefit to your dietary regime.

Fit Tip

When choosing a protein powder, make sure whey Isolate is the first ingredient over whey concentrate. Also, make sure the protein has been processed using low heat, or a "cold processing" method. Isolate is a more pure source of protein and the low heat processing will ensure that its high qualities are sustained.

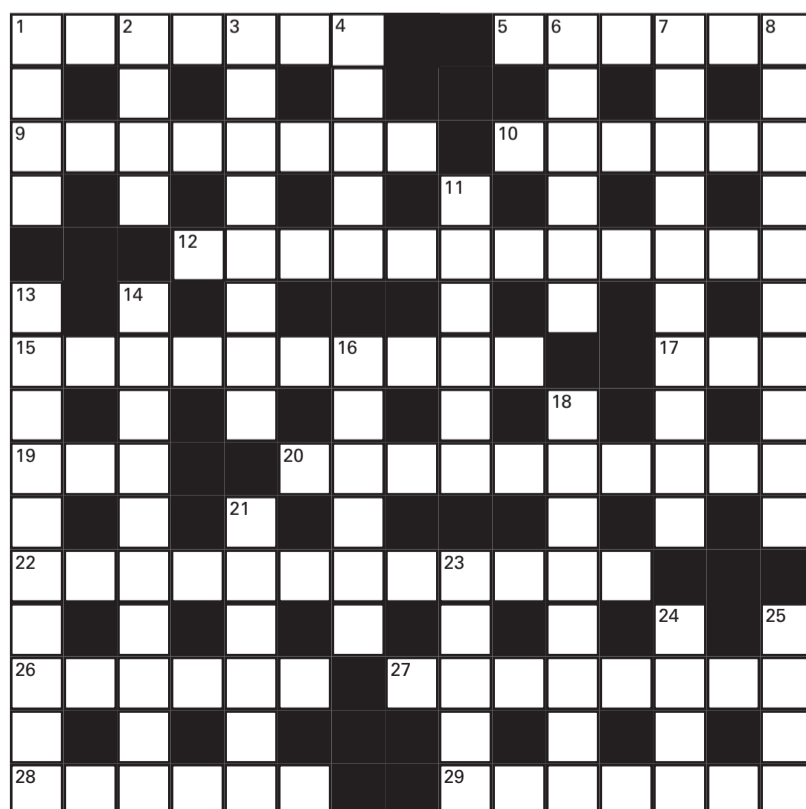
If you're still unsure about which protein products to look out for, come and speak to one of the Energia team who will be happy to advise.

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 Rugby Union Men's 1st	12	10	0	2	268	120	148	83	42
5 IC Tennis Men's 2nd	10	9	0	1	74	26	48	90	41
6 IC Fencing Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	1048	797	251	88	31
7 IC Volleyball Women's 1st	6	6	0	0	17	5	12	100	30
8 IC Hockey Men's 1st	10	7	1	2	34	19	15	70	29
9 ICSM Netball 2nd	9	7	0	2	289	160	129	78	27
10 IC Football Men's 1st	10	4	5	1	17	7	10	40	26
11 IC Squash Men's 2nd	10	7	0	3	30	19	11	70	23
12 IC Fencing Women's 2nd	6	5	0	1	761	660	101	83	21
13 IC Rugby Union Men's 2nd	10	5	2	3	232	162	70	50	17
14 IC Football Women's 1st	7	3	3	1	7	4	3	43	17
15 ICSM Badm'ton Women's 1st	5	4	0	1	30	10	20	80	16
16 IC Waterpolo Men's 1st	3	3	0	0	31	10	21	100	15
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 IC Volleyball Men's 1st	10	6	0	4	12	9	3	60	14
21 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	10	6	0	4	28	24	4	60	14
22 IC Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	5	0	3	78	50	28	63	13
23 ICSM Football Men's 1st	8	3	3	2	13	12	1	38	13
24 IC Squash Men's 3rd	6	4	0	2	8	4	4	67	12
25 IC Table Tennis Women's 1st	6	4	0	2	17	11	6	67	12
26 IC Hockey Men's 2nd	10	5	1	4	50	23	27	50	11
27 IC Hockey Men's 3rd	10	5	1	4	18	17	1	50	11
28 IC Netball 2nd	9	5	0	4	277	209	68	56	9
29 IC Table Tennis Men's 1st	9	5	0	4	91	62	29	56	9
30 IC Hockey Women's 1st	10	4	2	4	35	32	3	40	8
31 IC Basketball Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	319	313	6	60	7
32 IC Rugby Union Women's 1st	3	2	0	1	79	40	39	67	6
33 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	10	3	3	4	30	42	-12	30	5
34 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	5	2	1	2	18	9	9	40	4
35 IC Badminton Men's 2nd	10	4	1	5	37	43	-6	40	2
36 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	10	4	1	5	22	35	-13	40	2
37 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	9	4	0	5	202	189	13	44	0
38 IC Fencing Men's 1st	7	3	0	4	817	798	19	43	-1
39 IC Hockey Women's 2nd	10	3	2	5	13	39	-26	30	-1
40 IC Rugby Union Men's 3rd	10	4	0	6	184	176	8	40	-4
41 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	10	4	0	6	18	24	-6	40	-4
42 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	10	4	0	6	168	263	-95	40	-4
43 IC Squash Women's 1st	7	2	1	4	12	16	-4	29	-4
44 IC Hockey Men's 4th	9	3	0	6	13	22	-9	33	-9
45 ICSM Netball 3rd	9	3	0	6	178	223	-45	33	-9
46 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	12	4	0	8	191	306	-115	33	-12
47 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	0	1	4	9	17	-8	0	-14
48 IC Tennis Men's 1st	10	2	1	7	36	64	-28	20	-16
49 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	10	2	1	7	29	51	-22	20	-16
50 IC Badminton Women's 1st	8	1	1	6	22	42	-20	13	-17
51 IC Football Men's 3rd	10	1	1	8	14	35	-21	10	-25
52 IC Football Men's 2nd	10	0	1	9	11	35	-24	0	-34

Crossword No. 1,395

Answers to: sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk



ACROSS

- 1 Roof sounds like wax? (7)
- 4 Air-borne antennae (6)
- 7 Eastern vintage unusually helpful in photography (8)
- 10 Curate kayaked onto the rocks (6)
- 12 Collections of reggae almost thrown away (12)
- 15 Ural cavern renamed in daily conversation (10)
- 17 My Italian part of Bohemia (3)
- 19 Frostbite (3)
- 20 His rudeness about Roxanne showed indiscretion (10)
- 22 Her prostates blown sky-high?
- 26 Think up a twisted, baseless mystery (6)
- 27 Amber men caught in the surface (8)
- 28 Commission without a revolution works together (6)
- 29 French angler beaten up by marshall (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cannot deal with empty, hypocritical talk (4)
- 2 Villain in diagonal arrangement (4)
- 3 Important function (8)
- 4 Male vagrancy back under the hammer (5)
- 6 Donkey is an edgy blot on the landscape (6)
- 7 Encouragement of unusual famous louse (10)
- 8 Sap candles disfigure the countryside (10)
- 11 Spoil fairy gas (6)
- 13 Victorian sentence is both confused and glowing (10)
- 14 Professional section is not in equal share (10)
- 16 Do my best to recognize off topic smut (6)
- 18 Broad ale is unusually loveable (8)
- 21 Confuse yetis run over around motorway (6)
- 23 Get a rise out of them (5)
- 24 Prepare to take off during a tax inspection (4)
- 25 Lost hearing in beachside Africa (4)



Drum roll please... Ooooo, the winners of last week's crossword are... in no particular order... our regulars... the two and only... **Di-Emma!** Congratulations ladies. Chalk up that fifth.

Enoch

Solution to Crossword 1,394

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



IC battles Saxons

How many England players does it take to bring down an IC one?
 Six, apparently! See page 40



Jovan Nedić
 Sports Editor

What a week it has been in sport, both at college and worldwide. The six nations kicked off this weekend and things didn't go exactly as planned. Firstly Ireland were extremely disappointing, or Italy were extremely impressive depending which way you look at it. The Irish, and particularly Eddie O'Sullivan, have been under pressure as of lately to perform, and even though they did beat Italy, the performance was far from impressive.

England against Wales was meant to be a nice easy start for England, and this seemed to be the case in the first half with England dominating in every sense, even if replacements were made earlier on that led to the debut for Lesley 'The Volcano' Vainikolo. Yet somehow in the second half they decided to stoop to a level of rugby that isn't even seen at schoolboy level and subsequently lost to Wales.

Sunday's game was again a surprise, after a fairly impressive performance in the World Cup, Scotland were expected to perform well against a young and relatively new French side who

had only been together for 4 days. Although there were initial signs of promise, the young French side were worryingly good and are going to be a serious threat in the competition.

Sunday also saw the 42nd Superbowl in Arizona between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants. The Patriots were expected to win this, having an unbeaten season till then, but yet it seemed that the Giants just wanted to win it more, and as such it made for a very exciting 4th quarter.

In football, Fabio Capello has brought in some new rules to the England squad, hoping to bring more class and style to the gentleman's game. Rumour has it that he has banned mobile phones and wives/girlfriends before games and the team is encouraged to use each others surnames at dinner, to which everyone is expected to attend. In his eye's "It is all about respecting each other and being punctual is key".

Lewis Hamilton has been upset with the Spanish at the pre-season testing at the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona. Some members of the Spanish crowd had coloured their faces and put on t-shirts with Hamilton's family written on it, whilst others just booed and insulted him. This recent abuse is believed to be due to the rift that appeared between Hamilton and his former Spanish team mate Alonso during last season.

Meanwhile at college, the build up to Varsity has begun, posters are appearing all over college, with the event being billed as the 'Big One'. The Medicals have already had some wins over Imperial in netball and hockey, with the

same for Imperials hockey. The rugby clubs had a mixed season so far, with Imperial impressing and the Medicals slowly finding their feet it promises to be great match. The football club, despite a poor season so far are fairly confident, so much so that they may put out their 2nds to play the medicals again!

Varsity is definitely going to be a great event this year and tickets can be found on the union web site. Come along, get your friends to come along and enjoy the friendly rivalry that exists between the medicals and IC.



Spanish supporters at Barcelona



Same lot with writing on the back

Surrey left dead in the water by IC

Waterpolo BUSA

Imperial	13
University College London	2

Tim Keating

Surrey was all that stood between the Imperial water polo team and a place in the BUSA second round. After back to back wins the team was on a high, wanting to extend their unbeaten run. The fixture wasn't to be taken lightly as Surrey came top of the South East group last year and hoped for a repeat performance.

The first minute saw Imperial score first, Jack Ellis finding the bottom corner from the centre forward position. Surrey responded instantly with a poorly defended long range shot, showing a hole in the IC defence. From that moment Imperial stepped up a gear, with the opposition only managing to get a couple of shots on target. Every stolen ball in defence resulted in an IC counter attack, the Surrey keeper unable to save a series break away goals. This pace continued throughout the first half, the Surrey team looking de-

moralised during the half time break.

In the second half IC picked up from where they left off not allowing Surrey to get any quality possession. In a strange turn of events the referee stopped play after a complaint by the observing UCL players. Imperial were accused of swapping hats midway through the game, an illegal act which threatened expulsion from the match. Bemused by these unfounded claims coach Adam Walzer consulted with the referees and play was allowed to resume. Un-phased by the stoppage IC continued to dominate, with every player in the team getting their share of pool time.

It was clear towards the end that the officials were taking pity on the tired Surrey team, giving a couple of unnecessary fouls against IC, these decisions were contested by Adam who was subsequently yellow carded. The final score was 13-2, showing a gutsy performance by the whole team. Special praise should be given to the team's newer players, all of whom held their own and displayed confidence against an experienced Surrey team.

A strong and confident Cambridge team wait in the next round; however, Imperial will take some beating on current match winning form.