

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

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Summoned

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Government ID cards for 2008/09 overseas freshers

2009: Home students encouraged to hold national ID cards too

Kadhim Shubber

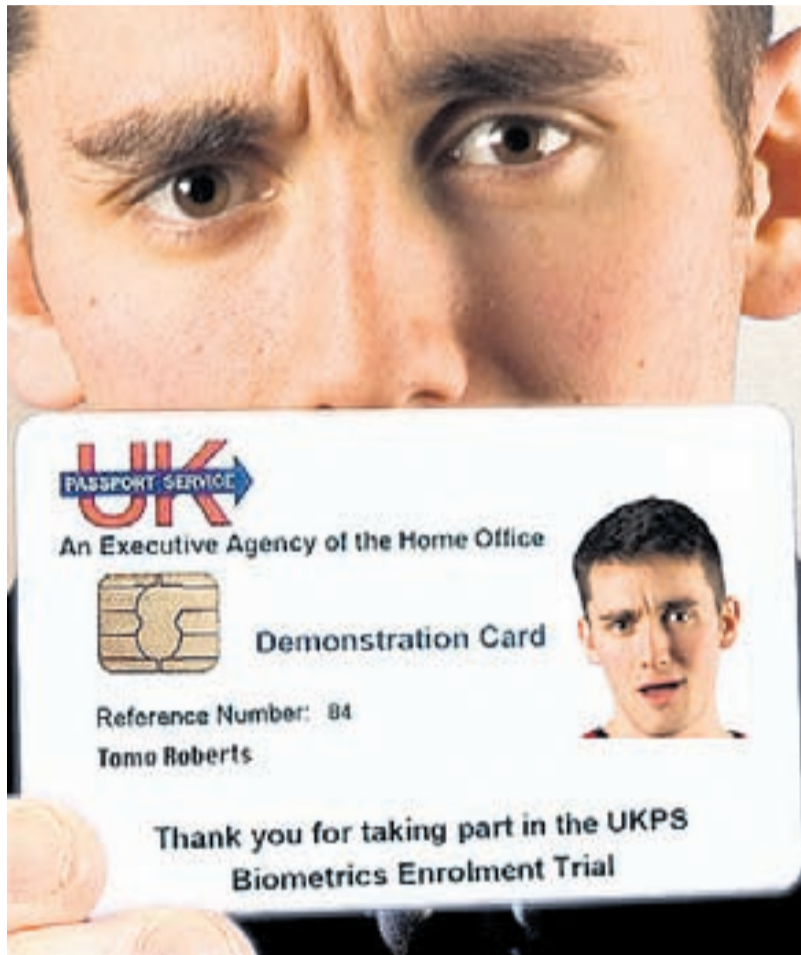
The Home Office has announced that in November of this year, identity cards will begin to be introduced for non-European Economic Area foreign nationals (which include Swiss nationals). Importantly, the foreign nationals to be targeted first are those categories believed to be most likely to commit immigration offenses, which include students. Due to the large proportion of Imperial students that are not from Europe, some of next years freshers will have to carry a government ID card with a college ID card.

A National Identity Register will be created, at an estimated cost believed to be £5.5 billion. The government have stated that contrary to fears, the new cards will only £30 per person. The government has planned that by 2012, 90 per cent of foreign nationals in the UK will have an ID card. Fingerprints and a digital facial image will be held on the National Identity Register and the ID card. The card will also show whether or not the holder is entitled to work, benefits and the length of time they may stay in the UK. A valid passport will still be recognised as ID for foreign nationals.

From 2009 the scheme will begin to affect Home students also. At first students will be encouraged to voluntarily sign up to the scheme but from 2011/2012 all UK passport applicants will be signed up to the National Identity Register. British citizens will have the choice to have a passport, ID card or both.

The private sector will not be able to access your information without your consent, however police, security, intelligence agencies and HM Revenue and Customs may access your details without your consent, including where and when you used your card.

Critics of the scheme have questioned the governments ability to handle sen-



The Editor accepts no responsibility for this horrific stitch-up

sitive information. In November 2007, tax officials lost two CDs containing the bank details of 25 million people. "The National Identity Register [...] will be a severe threat to our security and a real target for criminals, hackers and terrorists," said David Davis, shadow Home Secretary

The government argues that the National Identity Register, along with ID cards will help increase identity secu-

urity, reduce illegal immigration and tackle fraud issues. Home Secretary Jaqui Smith said "The Government's National Identity Scheme means that for the first time UK residents will have a single way to secure and verify their identity. We will be able to better protect ourselves and our families against identity fraud, as well as protecting our communities against crime, illegal immigration and terrorism."

Rector tops UK Vice-Chancellor pay chart for 06/07

Gilead Amit

The Times Higher Education (THE) Grant-Thornton Vice-Chancellors' pay survey for 2006-7 has been released, revealing the annual salaries of more than 150 UK university vice-chancellors (V-Cs), or equivalent positions. Imperial Rector Sir Richard Sykes tops the list with a salary of £348,000 over 2006-7, a 6.7% increase from the year before. Sir Richard is one of only two V-Cs to have an annual salary of over £300,000, with Professor Laura Tyson of the London Business School being the second.

An IC spokesperson made it very clear that "salaries for all of Imperial's senior staff, including the Rector [take] into account the demands of the job and the successes achieved." Of

all the V-Cs mentioned in the Grant-Thornton survey, Sir Richard is the only one in the top five to receive no money from his university towards his pension fund, and thus "the value of his remuneration is less than stated in real terms." Even with his pension contribution simply added to his annual salary, however, Nottingham V-C Sir Colin Campbell only gets £6,000 more per year than Sir Richard Sykes.

According to the THE academic pay survey for the last academic year, released simultaneously, the average salary for IC staff is just under £44,000, with the aforementioned London Business school paying an average of £132,769 over the same time period.

Full academic pay tables should already be available online from the THE website.

No-confidence motion called against CGCU President

Gilead Amit

A motion proposed by members of the City and Guilds College Union on the 19th of February calls for a vote of non-confidence in CGCU President Tristan Sherliker. The fifteen supporters of the paper (including two CGCU vice-presidents, the Honorary Secretary, and two Departmental Representatives) believe that Tristan Sherliker has not lived up to his responsibilities as President.

The motion cites a wide range of duties left unattended, including his failure to submit the CGCU Autumn term report to the Union Council by their required deadline, despite having had ten weeks' notice.

Amongst other criticisms, the pro-

posed motion accuses Sherliker of 'sporadic' attendance at CGCU Executive Council meetings and of being difficult to contact via phone or e-mail. The motion also quotes the CGCU constitution's calls for "general meetings [to be convened] in each of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms" and states that "The Management Committee shall meet once every two weeks in term-time". This is contrasted with the claim that Sherliker has called no general meetings this academic year, and that only two Management Committee meetings have taken place over the same period.

An emergency meeting of the Executive Council has been scheduled for Wednesday the 19th of March to decide on the no-confidence motion.

felix 1,400
Friday 14/3/08



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OF THE WEEK

Full-time for writing-up student?

Graduating PhD student defends himself against local Council for non-payment of Council Taxes

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

A graduating Imperial PhD student is being taken to court by his local Council for non-payment of Council Taxes during his thesis writing-up period. Matthew Yong, an ex-Aeronautical Engineering student, has been summoned by the Camden & Islington Local Justice Area to appear in court on 20th March, charged with owing six months worth of Council Tax to the sum of £675.08.

The majority of PhD students apply for "writing-up status" at the end of their third year, the idea being that they will have finished their research and will only need to write their thesis. If they are successful, they are granted a six-month period during which they are not required to pay tuition fees, however, they have certain student privileges cut and restrictions imposed upon them, such as: they are only allowed access to certain areas of College; they no longer receive TfL (Transport for London) discounts; and they are given limited access to their project supervisors.

The amount and severity of reduced privileges differs between universities across the country. Currently, Imperial refuses to award its writing-up students Council Tax exemption certificates, hence, the case being brought against Mr Yong by Camden Council.

Mr Yong strongly disputes having to pay the six-months worth of Council Tax. He is willing to fight his case stating that: "I will not only be vigorously defending my position, but will also seek to reclaim costs for having to take a day off work and commute back to London to sort this stressful matter out." Mr Yong claims to "meet all criteria for being a full time student ... as outlined in Statutory Instrument 1992 No. 548 The Council Tax (Discount Disregards) Order 1992"; namely that he has been attending a course which lasted more than one year, for more than 24 weeks per year in which he has

completed more than 21 hours of work per week.

Mr Yong made attempts to communicate with Camden Council, however they have not replied to his letters or emails. Furthermore, he has the backing of his local Conservative candidate, Chris Philp, Imperial College Union and his PhD project supervisors who have written letters of support to Camden Council stating that he was a full-time student in their views, which have also received no reply.

Despite these letters, Camden Council is resolute in charging Mr Yong the Council Tax because, according to a student certificate they received from College, he is not in full time education. When Felix attempted to contact Camden Council, a spokesperson said that: "Imperial College have issued a student certificate until the date Mr Yong's course ended on 4/7/2007 and have confirmed verbally to us that he has not been on a full time course since that date. He cannot, therefore, get a student exemption. This has been explained to him [when he visited us in person] and as normal practice we have sent him a summons for non-payment of tax since that date. We would be happy to review the position if the College issued us a further certificate, which confirmed the writing up of his PhD constitutes continuation of his full time course."

Felix attempted to contact College, however they were not available for comment before going to print.

Mr Yong's case highlights a long-running issue that many students studying a PhD have to consider. Without funding, PhD students effectively face unemployment when they start their writing-up phase, yet depending on which university they attend, they are expected to pay Council Tax even though they are discouraged from finding part-time employment in order to concentrate on completing their thesis.

The UK's universities have differing stances on the privileges afforded

to postgraduates in the writing-up phase. For example, Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Leeds and Edinburgh Universities class writing-up postgraduates as full-time students, whereas Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow and Southampton Universities will not guarantee their students Council Tax exemption certificates. The NUS (National Union of Students) is in the process of campaigning for a consistent national ruling that is fairer towards students.

Although the Union and Mr Yong's project supervisors have offered their support, there is only so much they can do. The crux of the situation comes down to whether or not writing-up students should be classed as full-time students or not. Depending on which London borough a writing-up student lives in, they may or may not have to pay Council Tax. It is futile for Imperial College Union to negotiate with Councils because there are so many in London. Ultimately, the decision as to whether a writing-up student should be given full-time status time lies with College.

Sabbatical Officers from the Union are meeting with College staff in May to encourage them to revise Imperial's current policy. However, this may prove to be too little, too late for Mr Yong who could be coughing up six months worth of Council Tax come March 20th.

If you are in similar circumstances to Mr Yong and need advice, you can contact Deputy President (Education & Welfare), Kirsty Patterson, by emailing her on dpew@imperial.ac.uk

Inner London Area



Camden & Islington
Local Justice Area

SUMMONS

MR MATTHEW YONG Account No. Case No.

The London Borough of Camden, has made a complaint to me that you have not paid the amount of Council Tax you owe.

You are summoned to appear before the Magistrates' sitting at
Highbury Corner Magistrate's Court
51 Highbury Road
London
N7 8JA

Regulation 14 of The Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992

09:00 a.m. 20 March 2008

Tax main date	Address of property in which Council Tax is levied	From	To	Amount owed
28.02.2007		04.07.2007	29.08.2007	£382.18
28.02.2007		05.01.2008	31.03.2008	£277.94
28.02.2007		30.09.2007	04.01.2008	£421.27

Legal Adviser
Authorised under Rule 3 of the
Justices Clerks Rules 2005

Cost of Summons £72.50
Total Amount Owed £1283.79

Date 27 February 2008

Justice Clerk or Justice of the Peace

IMPORTANT
There is important information concerning this summons on the back of this document and the enclosed notes. You must read them. You can contact the Council on 020 7974 6470.

Matthew Yong's original Court Summons letter, before a single persons discount was applied to the amount owed. He is due to appear and defend himself in court on 20th March charged with non-payment of Council Taxes during his thesis writing-up period

UCL Union bans military societies

Controversy as UCLU declares war on student military organisations to protest Iraq and Afghan conflicts

Andrew Somerville
Deputy & News Editor

UCL Union has passed a motion banning student military organisations from advertising on UCLU premises and from recruiting at the UCL Freshers' Fair, drawing widespread criticism from both their own university and the Ministry of Defence.

The events at UCLU follow similar motions at LSE and Goldsmiths passed this year by their respective unions, and a contrary motion by ICU made last month pledging to allow the University of London Officer Training Corps (ULOTC), University Royal Naval Unit (URNU), and the University of London Air Squadron (ULAS) to continue to advertise at the IC Freshers' Fair. ICU President, Stephen Brown, also voiced his strong opinion on the matter, calling the actions of UCLU "an absolute disgrace".

The UCLU motion justifies their course of action by stating that: "For

the Union to use its resources to encourage students to join the military or participate in military recruitment activities at this time would give political and material support to the war."

The Union's reasoning has been criticised by media pundits for suggesting that the military is responsible for foreign policy.

The student row has been catapulted into the headlines of the media by the recent events surrounding RAF Wittering's ban on service members wearing uniform in public.

The Telegraph quoted MP and former infantry commander Patrick Mercer as saying: "These students are deeply misguided. They are insulting the men and women who fight for their freedom and the democratic rights of our society."

UCL itself has also spoken out against the Union, saying: "This vote was taken by the student union and refers to union premises and events only.

"It has no implications for any activi-

ties held on the main campus of UCL, or sponsored by the university."

There are various student military units around the country, and of those, the London-based wings are amongst the largest. Whilst student military organisations are part of the national military reserve, students are exempt from normal rules on active duty, only eligible for call-up in event of a "National Emergency." In addition to this, they are free to leave at any time, are not obligated to join the military, and only a tiny percentage of the total number go on to enter the armed forces either as a full reserve or as a career. Most seem to join these organisations for leadership experience, adventure, and for the small salary and bonuses that are paid for time spent gaining skills and trying out expensive activities.

Opponents of the organisations point out that the reason for the units to exist is primarily as a recruitment tool for graduates and highly-skilled people who would not otherwise have



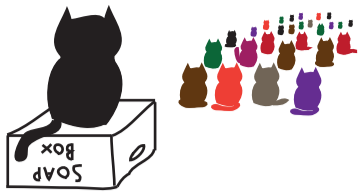
URNU rescues their dummy

considered a career in the military. UCLU also alludes to the recruitment policies (that only UK nationals under 30 may join) that conflict with its own equal opportunity policy. Many anti-war and anti-arms activists also believe that support of the organisations is tantamount to support of the Iraq and Afghan campaigns, and conflicts with policies that refuse support for arms firms.

Following complaints from UCL students themselves, surrounding allegations of improper procedure in the meeting that passed the motion, the General Secretary has been suspended along with all policies passed at the event, pending an investigation.

The ailing University of London Union (ULU) is also affected by the issue after passing a motion of support similar to the ICU resolution, with its president voicing reluctance to carry out the passed motion.

Andrew Somerville was a member of the ULOTC from 2006-2007



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



Gilead Amit

The DOS delusion

I use Windows. Oh, don't tell me. You use a Mac. Don't lie to me – I can tell. That superior, messianic glint in your eye reveals everything. Well, technically that's supposed to make our relationship a touchy one, but I'm sure we can get over it. It's not as though I'm a particularly devout Microsoftist; I mean, sure, I use a double-buttoned mouse, but that's just the way I've been brought up. It's not as though I actually believe that Bill Gates is the saviour. You could probably say I'm an agnostic – there may be a superior operating system out there somewhere, but we mere mortals will never know the truth.

That must strike all you Appellites as heresy. I don't mind; I've been called worse. What I do mind is the animosity displayed by the three great Mono-systemic organizations towards their rivals. The teachings of Microsoft, Apple and Linux have been so distorted over the decades: essentially, don't you all believe in the same thing?

The faith of the Windosians rests on the sacred teaching that Bill Gates is the One Messiah. That he was put on Earth to spread the light of the four-coloured flag and disseminate the glory of the Xbox 360. Contrast this with



The Felix Office: Using Macs before Steve Jobs was born

what the Mackintoshites believe. They hold that Steve Jobs is the true prophet, sent to prepare us for the future by teaching us of the hidden powers of the half-eaten apple and the mysteries of the iPhone.

It may be hard for true believers to see the similarities, but to all objective onlookers there is no real difference. Some may interpret the history in one way, others may do it differently, but both of the two great belief systems hold that a "nerd did appear in the

wilderness of the 1970s, and brought forth an operating system that did amaze the people." If the feud wasn't so bitter, it would almost be comical to see how divisions have arisen over nothing.

I can't claim to know much about Linux. Compared to the followers of Jobs and Gates, only a few people have true faith in Linus Torvalds and his teachings. In any case, my experience has shown that Linuxians tend to be a good deal less dogmatic in their beliefs. Despite, or maybe because of their clear minority status, most have come to accept the validity of both other belief systems, and just choose to politely disagree.

Of course, Linux and Apple have a stronger bond than either does with Microsoft – the teachings of Jobs have recently been interpreted to reveal that Linus Torvalds is, in fact, a minor prophet in Appellism. Therefore, his teachings and operating system are almost universally accepted in the Mackintoshite world. True, it's seen as a somewhat fundamentalist subdivision, but their comparative pacifism has gained them no real enemies. Besides, it's hard to bear grudges against a people whose supreme deity is a penguin.

The point I want to make, though, is that there are tremendous possibilities for M'ites and W'sians to get along peacefully. It just takes a little objectivity. The moment you stop taking the teachings of Jobs or of Gates absolutely literally, there is no reason to prevent you tolerating and respecting your fellow technophile. The last few years have seen a worrying rise in Mac-PC violence, and I think it's important to get this matter under control before it becomes something bigger.

Now that I'm reaching the end of this, I'll be honest with you; I'm more of an asystemist than an agnostic. I believe that there is no supreme operating system; that all are just as good or just as bad. Of course, I'm willing to have my opinion changed, but given the state of things, it seems unlikely. Some of my more intense friends hold that actually believing there is a supreme system is harmful. They could be right, I don't know. It's certainly very comforting to think that the computer you own qualifies you as a chosen one, but don't mix up comfort with truth.

In any case, remember that there is more that links you together than divides you; what you believe shouldn't drive you apart.



Leron Borsten

Working to end the siege of Gaza

The Gaza strip, a small plot of land lying in the south-east of Israel, home to some 1.5 million Palestinians, has endured a long and turbulent history to say the very least. It has suffered many long-term trends of economic stagnation and desperately low social and welfare indicators.

However, over the past few months this situation has witnessed a dramatic jump in its severity, to the extent that it has become a serious humanitarian crisis. The root of this recent exponential decline in living conditions stems from the stringent blockade imposed by Israel in response to the 2006 election of Hamas and its subsequent de facto takeover, coupled with the ongoing firing of rockets into Israeli territory.

A recent report produced collaboratively by, amongst others, Amnesty International, Oxfam and Save the Children has highlighted the dire circumstances of the Gazan population with respect to humanitarian access, poverty, food aid, unemployment, basic infrastructure and access to basic medical treatment.

The unprecedented rise of poverty following the blockade is perhaps, at first glance, the most startling indicator. The crippling restriction of goods and people moving out of or into Gaza has resulted in the percentage of those dependent on humanitarian aid rise from 62% in 2006 to its present day value of 80%. There are over 1.1 million reliant on food aid. These figures continue to climb and the UN estimates that the percentage dependent on aid will, in a limited time period, rise "above and beyond" its current level.

In the same breath, the economic collapse of Gaza renders any hope of

recovery, whilst under these imposed restrictions, woefully unrealistic. 95% of industry is suspended and 3,500 of the 3,900 of its factories have closed in the last 6 months due to the ban on imported raw materials and exports. Unemployment is set to rise to 50% in the near future.

Meanwhile, the ability for humanitarian aid to be delivered to the Gazan populace has been severely hampered. Somewhere in the region of 250 trucks a day carried commercial and humanitarian supplies to Gaza through Sufa prior to the blockade. A maximum, which is rarely met, of 45 trucks now pass through Sufa.

Consequently, the Gaza strip is experiencing a serious electricity deficit as the power plant depends on imported diesel. In principle the plant is able to produce 140MW, sufficient, at least, to supply Gaza city. However, this was reduced to 80MW following the destruction of the original transformers by Israel in 2006. In fact, combined with the restrictions on fuel imports, it now only produces 55-65MW. This has serious knock-on effects. Principally, it has impeded the supply of running water by some 30% and hospitals face 8-12 hour blackouts each day.

While the report condemns the rocket attacks and states that Israel maintains "a right and obligation to protect its citizens" it stresses that the intolerable conditions generated by the blockade amount to an indiscriminate on-going collective punishment of the men, women, and children of Gaza. As such, it claims that the blockade is illegal under international law set out in the Fourth Geneva Convention, as ratified by Israel in 1949.

Well, what of it? What can we do? The report concludes that, at the very

least, the UK and EU must publicly condemn the blockade and its associated breaches of human rights while actively working towards an end to the siege of Gaza. With this in mind, I would say one thing we students can do is apply political pressure on our government to do just that by joining

other Imperial students on the "World against War" demonstration, one slogan of which is "end the siege of Gaza", tomorrow (Sat 15th of March). We will be meeting in Beit Quad at 11.20am and leaving at 11.45 to join the main demonstration. See you there! See www.stopwar.org for more details.

The ANTHONY NOLAN Trust
Taking back lives from leukaemia

This is Abigail. Diagnosed with leukaemia. Thankfully, the Anthony Nolan Trust found a donor for her. Now, 4 years on, Abigail is well and healthy. Her donor saved her life.

Every year **thousands** more are not as fortunate to find a donor, most will die. Help the Anthony Nolan Trust increase the chances. **Do something life-changing today, save a life.**

If you would like more information on becoming a donor, or would like to join the register, come to our donor recruitment clinics.

DONOR RECRUITMENT CLINICS:
Thursday 13th March, 2-5pm, Union Dining Hall
Friday 14th March, 10-5pm, MDL1, SAF

PS: Giving bone marrow is not as painful as you think, it's much like donating blood nowadays! Come to the clinics to find out more!



A. Geek

Dot-to-dot with New Scientist

My girlfriend – genius that she is – bought me a New Scientist to read on the ludicrous train journey I had to make this week. In fact, it was sufficiently ludicrous to warrant a piece itself – twice the length it should've been, misdirected and misinformed, and through the kind of weather that would make Noah consider getting the two-by-four out again. I'm writing this on the return journey (fuck the fourth wall) and the train is currently inclined at ten degrees, stationary, and I'm being informed of a broken rail ahead which we're going to run over anyway. This may not make the Felix presses.

Anyway, more positive thoughts – the New Scientist. It's one of my guilty pleasures, along with drinking litre bottles of Lucozade in one go and the song "Talk Dirty To Me" by Poison. Of course I'm aware that NS is one of the tabloids of science journalism, but that doesn't make it any less bubbly or fun to read. You're more likely to get a plot for a sci-fi novel out of it than you are inspiration for any real research, but the journalism always knows how to cherry-pick the interesting scientific events, and their features are generally worked up with a pleasing Dan Brownesque spin on them. This issue, for instance, there's four pages about their favourite topic ever – Dark Matter. Is it real? Is it fake? New Scientist yet again manages to answer 'yes' to both questions with some great citations and that really lovely graphic design that decorates all of their pages.

Yes, I probably would adopt it if it was a person.

The point is that New Scientist, however crazy or nonsensical it might be, makes me happy to be a scientist. Fuck 'engineering', and fuck it good; engineers are just scientists who can't be arsed to generalise. If you're going to design a bridge, then why not make it easier for the poor sod who comes after you to design the next one, right?

All right, enough of that. For now, I'd imagine even engineers get a kick out of this sort of thing, even if it's not from this particular publication. As you read each article, getting a taste of those specialisms and subjects that you



In his spare time, A. Geek enjoys reading New Scientist. You should too

left behind at A-Level, or second year, or graduation, you're suddenly back in Freshers' Week again, surrounded by dozens of people all with roughly the same knowledge as you, but ready to take it in hugely different directions.

New Scientist, like Facebook, joins the dots. It makes sense of what you're doing in context of a larger community – there are people all over the place, working in different laboratories, under different grants and in different languages. But the more you read, the more you're struck with that pleasing feeling that they're all working on the same research project. The abstract for the proposal is just one line long, and it says this – "We aim to find out what to do next."

Is that a bit schmaltzy? It sort of leaves a bad taste in my mouth, re-reading it, but the adrenaline rush of surviving the broken rail dash across open, boggy countryside is too much to contain. And it remains that the lecturers that I admire end up doing real things, adding to the pool of knowledge in a tangible way. Some of them, I'm sure they'd admit, end up piddling in it rather than pouring in a big bottle of Stimulation For Mind And Body™,

but it's all based around the same drive to do something that's not been done yet. And I guess engineers can join in the group hug at that point, too.

The people that I really admire in this hellhole – Felix staff aside, for wholly separate reasons – are those that get a kick out of their 9am lectures. There are, to my mind, less than ten people that meet that criteria that I know of.

When I sit down with them for a drink in some Chemical Engineering bomb shelter, or lean back in The Usual Seat at Starbucks, or sit down at Waterloo for a post-traumatic stress coffee, they don't talk about University like it's a job, or an extension of their schooldays. While they might not all admit it, they talk about it like it's a fundamental reason for getting up in the morning.

The honey trap with exams is to hide in your shell and revert back to the feverish A-Level student that you used to be, frantically focusing on the material, bemoaning every day you tread into the library and celebrating each exam that finishes with a witty Facebook status update. That's one of the most painless ways to get through it, I'll admit – I myself may be taking my semi-

automatic and clip-on beard into the streets when this year's over and fire a few clips into the air, screaming.

But don't make this what Imperial is to you. No matter what degree or course you're on, you'll be forced to do something that approaches 'real research' by the time your final year is up here. At that time, you'll have gone further than most people in your field, and you'll be looking at something that not many people ever will.

Whether that makes the exercise seem all the more futile to you, or all the more beautiful, depends somewhat upon your state of mind. But I know that most of the people I met in my Freshers' week back in <insert some random year in here, Tomo, just to screw with everyone's mind> fell firmly into the latter category back then, even if they may not now.

Pick up a copy of New Scientist, or take look around the Bad Science blog. Flick through the BBC Science page or volunteer to mentor in local schools. Fly out to Eastern Europe to ask people how they feel about their fields, or ask your personal tutor how their research is going. Don't let your three or four years of being a scientist pass you by.



Linnearse

Presenting the footballer

Good tidings to you all once again. The astute among you may have noticed my facelift, the picture a fortnight ago was in fact a representation of the delightfully rare Finance Tart group. This week we'll be looking at an equally despicable group of oxygen thieves – the IC Footballers. Here's one of their semi-literate ilk trying to communicate with us:

The Footballer

Fuckin' WHHAAAY! What am I doing in a place like this – everyone's a fucking geek/loser. Except me, my mates and a few birds I wank over occasionally. So what if I'm only a spotty yob with three decent A-levels. I'm fucking amazing at football. I get into some serious shit on the pitch. We're talking antagonising other players here – swearwords, weak pushing, the lot. I wouldn't actually fight anyone though,



Snakey-B! Awesome-a-saurus-rexicals-of-super-win

I might get hurt!

Anyway, I should be in a higher team but my one's a laugh. We have painfully forced banter and lightweight drinking games. Which only about 10% of the club actually take part in. I'm going to shout homophobic stuff ironically. Why? Cuz that's how I roll.

Ey up, there's some birds in the Un-

ion?!?! Oh they're American. They're not quite as hot as the girls on my hard drive, but they'll do. I'm getting laid tonight... I'm trying on my best 'game' with this one. Hmmm, she's not instantly impressed with me. Could it be because my wit's slower than the service times at Da Vincis? No she's definitely wanting some. Yeah, all girls are

always up for it at all times, that's what my diet of Nuts, Maxim and hardcore pornography has taught me. Gay, it's not happening tonight – not because I'm so socially retarded that I can't even chat up a below-average-looking American bird – NO, because I'm too fucking drunk! Fuck it; let's just get my mates to be rude to those dumb Americans – if we can't have them, no-one else can! "Yeah, you're ugly AND stupid...hurr huurr!". They'll come back... Ok I'm not getting any action tonight. I don't care. I'm a real man. A man's man. Real men don't get laid – they get pissed on snakebite, act hyper-macho and scrawl graffiti on the Union toilets. Fuck. Yeah.

I wonder if I could get a job in the City, that would get me the ladies. No, no they only employ people who are dickheads and have good degrees. I'm pretty sure I've got the former covered. Given up hope about the latter. God I'm desperate. Next round of snakey-B on me lads!



A. Fan

The Farcity of Varsity: A retort

Last week was that time of the year again when the newly elected Felix editor is announced. Understandably this is a busy time for the paper and I will assume that was the reason for a lapse in editorial discretion; a view I explain below.

Firstly, to spend 2 and a half columns of a 4 column article complaining about the behaviour of rugby players after having been told that they were footballers and admitting that you cannot distinguish between the two, stinks of incoherent argument.

If conditions really were as bad as described (balaclava-clad 'rugby players' holding people 'hostage') then please have a word with the bouncers. They are there purely because it is fully expected that a Student Union may get rowdy once in a while – that none of the professionals (neither the bouncers nor the SAS) deemed it necessary to get involved speaks volumes.

However, surely the most heinous accusation is that sport takes precedence over all else at the university. Filling the Union bar once a year is no great inconvenience, especially when

there are at least 10 (15+) bars, pubs or clubs within a mile of the union; otherwise Leicester Square is a 90p bus-ride away.

I suggest that rather than trivially criticising what you recognise as the roaring success of Sport Imperial, you embrace it and work with it to see how you can develop the Art Imperial you so bitterly wish you had. Lobby the new session of Union representatives for Art activities to be a valid Wednesday afternoon pastime. If you can demonstrate reasonable numbers in support of this I find it hard to see how they can refuse.

Drinking to excess is something that the majority of students do on a reasonably regular basis, normally with a group of friends. The connection with sport is that these tend to be a group of your closest friends (almost describable as a team); and more often than not they are the friends that you genuinely will keep in touch with after uni. If you don't drink/don't want to drink then you are not forced to and from experience other team members are invariably tolerant (even if not understanding) of this. Asserting otherwise,



They'll be cheering Shakespeare from the stands at next year's Varsity apparently

or even failing to clarify this, is the sort of ill-researched speculation that will only serve to unfairly drive people away from something that it appears

the majority of other students enjoy (1100 attendants at Varsity is somewhat impressive by Imperial standards – competing even with the Arts Week Barn Dance).

Finally, to the Olympics. An initial cost of £2bn does not seem unreasonable when compared with an estimated immediate £3bn in additional tourist income and creation of 75000 new jobs. Obviously I cannot explain how the Government has managed to treble their spending, but I doubt they intended to do so and incur such public outrage. However I would put it to you that equivalent investment in the theatre industry certainly would not reap anything like that return and that serious government investment in a sector as unpredictable as the film industry is incredibly imprudent in a time of financial unpredictability.

I hope this helps to answer any questions/voice any frustration that others may have had after reading Felix Comments last week and I encourage you to note that I am not a member of IC Rugby and this has not been written in consultation with them; it is just the thoughts of one of the many fans.

Letters to Felix

Varsity promotes competition

Dear Felix,

In Response to 'Insert Witty Name's' Angry Geek Idol article, in the hope the editor loves divisive arguments as much as any other newspaper editor does...

I will leave aside the fact that anybody could have known what type of person the writer was from the piece without thoughtlessly revealing that they were 'at a show' because of the artistry of such a stunningly clever title, matched with an equally clever pseudonym.

Varsity is an occasion for celebration, no matter the outcome, because it promotes competition. I know the liberal thinking is that competition is bad and that stupid fat kids shouldn't 'lose' at games because it might damage their self esteem, obviously there was no axe to grind on that topic! But it turns out competition is good (ask any biologist, it will make them happy as they are hopelessly derided the rest of the time); without competition Sylvia Plath would never have been born so that 'arty' non sportsmen could cry over her poetry before she offed herself, sadly she did somehow managed to reproduce her's (and Ted Hughes') genetic material (twice) before committing suicide. Competition is why the human race evolved and continues to, so in order to spur human development I will personally campaign for a Shakespeare recital at Varsity next year.

Further to the above, releasing all that pent up aggression in a rule based arena stops people committing other atrocities such as brawling, or writing bitchy snipey letters to newspapers. This helps people be accepting of all people, whether they are people who get some fresh air and hack a football around for a while, or sit with the mothballs leafing through a poetry anthology so they can steal a few obscure metaphors.

Love,

Not-so-angry Sportsman.

Misleading and mistimed Kenya article

Dear Felix Politics,

I'm writing to express deep disappointment in your coverage of the political situation in Kenya.

According to Felix, as per 7th March 2008, talks aimed at power sharing in Kenya have stalled. As per reality, talks in fact were successful, when both sides signed a power sharing agreement on the 28th of February. Since then, Mr Annan has left the country leaving remaining mediation duties in the hands of Nigerian diplomat Mr Oluyemi Adeniji, parliament has reopened and four bills tabled aimed at legal reforms and the re-introduction of the post of Prime Minister, which Mr Odinga will hold. All of this has been covered by local and international media, and it is difficult to imagine that anyone actually interested in the Kenya situation could have missed it.

The story you ran is more late than inaccurate, but as journalists you will probably know that one is just as bad as the other. In a situation as serious as Kenya's your article's misleading nature depicts at best an editing team that is out of touch with reality, and at worst one which is happy to uphold the stereotype of Western journalism, preferring coverage of African problems to coverage of African solutions.

I know a couple of you guys personally, and I have great respect for the work you've done turning Felix around this year. But in this situation I feel, as many Kenyans I know at IC, that a correction and an apology is due.

Regards,

Anthony Maina

Dear Anthony Maina

Apologies if the article appeared misleading. We concede that the article was out-of-date and a caveat should have been included to inform readers of the developments in the situation. As Politics Editor I do not wish to reject contributions but I concede a mistake has been made here. We reject the accusation that we are interested in covering African problems rather than African solutions. Thank you for contributing an article on developments in Kenya for this week.

Katya-Yani Vyas (author of said article) and Kadhim Shubber (Politics Editor)

Lisbon Treaty article: Unfair and unbalanced

Dear Felix Politics,

I am writing to complain about the Politics article in this week's Felix, on pages 14 and 15, entitled 'The facts about the Lisbon Treaty'.

The subtitle describes the article as a "fair and balanced analysis". This couldn't be further from the truth. The article is unremittably pro-EU.

It is taken as read that European Union is a good thing, and that British sovereignty over all areas of legislation, not just those the EU is prepared to give us 'vetos' (which aren't all they are made out to be by referendum-avoiding politicians, see http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/european_scrutiny/escpn271107.cfm) is unimportant.

At one point, the author even criticises Britain for having "disrespect for Europe and our neighbours", committing the usual pro-EU commentator's fallacy of conflating Europe (i.e. the people) with the EU (i.e. the politicians). This is done so opponents of

the EU power structure can be painted as 'little Englanders', i.e. xenophobes who hate the French, the Germans, the Belgians etc etc, rather than opponents of a corrupt, anti-democratic organisation.

The below link is not my blog, but I hope you and perhaps the author of this purportedly unbiased article will find it interesting: <http://eureferendum.blogspot.com/>

**Ian Grieve
PhD Student, Hammersmith
Campus**

Dear Ian Grieve,

We disagree completely that the article was not a "fair and balanced analysis". As an article on the Lisbon Treaty, arguments for and against, and the consequences of the treaty were considered objectively. The article did not make a judgement on whether membership of the EU is beneficial but instead discussed the positive or negative impact of the Lisbon Treaty.

The sentence "disrespect for Europe and our neighbours" is nonsense when removed from the context of the paragraph. It was written in relation to the principle of common EU law for all members.

Sincerely,

James Goldsack (author of said article) and Kadhim Shubber (Politics Editor)

Politics satire a bit too close to the reality

Dear Felix,

As I was saying the other day, I think the article in last week's paper ("Apparently war is awesome...") was inappro-

priate and I was offended by the tone of the article.

It says that several societies have broken up which is not true and it has a quote from "Leroy Weatherfield" who does not exist. What I found most offensive is that it tries to make a joke out of the fact that soldiers are dying. The fact that Prince Harry enjoyed his duty in Afghanistan does not show anything about what it is like for ordinary soldiers, as he wouldn't have been put in any dangerous situations. It is also quite racist, talking about "shooting an Arab".

I understand that this column may be supposed to be a satire, however this particular article is not satire (as satire should be ironic and intelligent, and the comments in this article are merely coarse!)

I am disappointed that articles like this can get into Felix.

It would be good if you could print an apology this week from the Politics Editor for not making it clear if, as you said, this was a satire. It would also be good to say that the article was not at all factual. The Stop the War Society would like to say that we are far from breaking up, in fact we are going to a national World Against War demonstration this Saturday! (meeting in Beit Quad at 11.20am)

Thanks

Caroline

Dear Caroline,

I'm sorry that the satirical article "Apparently war is awesome" offended you. Of course the article isn't factual, it's a satirical piece not a news article. Comedians often makes light of dark situations, like war, and Samuel Black's article was hardly ground-breaking in this respect. I'm afraid I won't be printing an apology; I trust that the readers of the politics section are intelligent enough to spot satire when they read it.

Kadhim Shubber (Politics Editor)



A rough guide to the credit crunch

Afonso Campos talks about economic crises and briefly educates you on the subprime and credit crunch

It is possible to speculate endlessly about the nature of financial markets, and we have been doing it for as long as they have existed. It is an inherent quality of relatively intelligent human beings to question what is seemingly impossible to control. Some have been wildly successful in this quest. Others... well, who remembers losers? Regardless of which side of the fence one may stand on, the one thing that people have been trying their darn hardest to do is predict the behaviour of these weird collectives of human emotion and madness of crowds. While decoding the markets is a full-time job for some people, everyone with access to anything resembling the news is aware that there are booms and busts in an economy. This was a postulate first put forward by the famed economists Schumpeter and Kondratieff. It is hard to predict exactly when these elements of the never-ending economic cycle will happen, but it's not tremendously difficult to assign rhyme and reason to their origins once they have happened. Unfortunately, like with most things in life, it seems to be much easier to make predictions and prognoses after the event. The most important thing to realise and understand is that crises are absolutely cyclical. In 97 there was the Asian currencies crisis; in 2000 we had the speculative Nasdaq bubble bursting, and now we are faced with what is judged by many to be almost the Armageddon of financial disasters.

The financial sector is seen as one of



The ability to obtain credit has greatly diminished since August 2007

the pillars of modern society as we have come to know and live it. The image it projects is one of something truly stable and solid as a rock. Something almost unshakable, if you will. While this is the reality for the great majority of the time, the truth of the matter is that there is probably not a single sector more leveraged than the financial one. Banks and other financial institutions are leveraged on average 20 times; and this is a conservative estimate. Due to this astronomical leverage, any crisis will have quite catastrophic consequences if it happens to hit non-diversified institutions or actually affects all sectors of an economy.

This so-called 'subprime crisis' is an

especially worrying one because it is affecting banks quite heavily. It is hitting the heart of the financial system – the investment banks. For the first time in over 20 years, a bank going bankrupt is not just a mere possibility but rather a very disturbing probability. Obviously the risk of this happening is still relatively low for two main reasons; 1) governments and global bodies do not want a run for the money should a bank fall; and 2) because the extreme weakening of some banks or lessening scope of their service will only lead to a higher level of concentration in an industry that is far from being dilute.

The subprime crisis has led to a massive credit crunch that has affected

everyone, from you and me to some of the most powerful organisations on this planet. No one in the real world is completely immune from it, no matter how deep the bunker in which one may be hiding. The news goes on about it; the papers go on about it; even your wrinkly, old, spinster landlady goes on about it. And with due reason. The inability to borrow capital or properly price any mortgage-backed security has put a massive damper on the economy. This dent is far from being mended. In a few years, however, the current crisis will undoubtedly fade to an almost oblivion and in the process will transform the markets, the revenue model of financial firms and, in-

evitably, the fates and lives of millions of people who were just watching the world go by.

This crisis, like most other economic ones, is not brought about by computers or by obscure forces. It is the by-product of something very real – people. As long as people are the driving force behind markets, they will continue to be difficult to predict. While patterns of behaviour may be found when looking at the past, the here and now tends to be infinitely more complex than anything else. The inevitability of human nature is an empirical truth.

I hope the very rudimentary explanation of the current crisis below will help you understand it a little bit better.

The shortest route to the subprime and credit crunch enlightenment

START

After the housing bubble in the US burst, risky borrowers of capital (those spending beyond their means and with a poor credit record) became unable to pay it back.



Lenders also sold off risk to other investors by creating structured products using these risky 'subprime' mortgages as the underlying asset. Banks were big investors in these backed securities

As a result, credit risk retainers such as banks suffered tremendous losses as borrowers defaulted their payments. This was due to somewhat irresponsible lending on their part and by offering tempting conditions to those that could not afford payments.

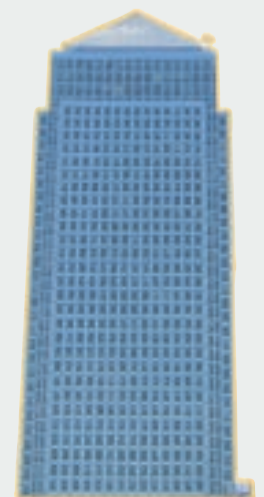
As defaults increased, the value of these securities declined, resulting in significant losses for investors in these products.

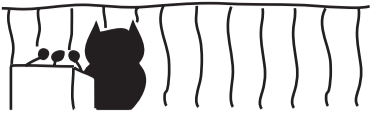


Stock markets suffered due to the uncertainty of the exact amount lost and investors of all kinds became more weary. Lenders also became more cautious of lending in all forms, resulting in a difficulty to obtain credit by all parties.

Inability to borrow expensive loans led to unwillingness by businesses to invest large sums of money. These dynamics put heavy brakes on an economy since consumer spending and corporate investment are key necessities for growth.

FINISH





Politics

Politics Editors – Li-Teck Lau and Kadhim Shubber

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Li-Teck Lau
Politics Editor

Alas, it's the end of another term. What was my political highlight? Probably the backlash at last week's article 'The facts about the Lisbon Treaty' by a certain Ian Grieve, calling it "unremittably pro-EU". I concede - the subheadings ('Will the UK lose its veto?' and 'Is it a major transfer of power to the EU?' for instance) were geared towards countering Eurosceptic propaganda. But aren't Eurosceptics those people with scales and lizard breath who go around spreading misleading rumours with the aim of winning Daily Mail reader votes? The answer is yes.

Coming a close second, I guess it must be that election in Pakistan back in February which handed victory to the PPP, party of the recently-assassinated ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto, herself accused of flagrant corruption whilst in office. However, with no outright majority, and with a leader who holds no seat himself, the violence continues amidst the political instability; 24 killed and many more injured in a twin suicide attack just last Tuesday.

On the topic of that much loved system of government, democracy, Spain and Malaysia voted last week, both returning their respective leaders to office, both with reduced majorities. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, leader of ruling coalition Barisan Nasional, resisted calls to resign after seeing a 90% majority at the last election in the South East Asian country crumble to little over 60% this time around. It means he cannot make constitutional changes without support from the opposition.

In local news, Alistair Darling, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave his first budget report last Tuesday, hiking taxes on 'gas guzzling' cars and alcohol, increasing borrowing and scaling down growth forecasts for the next 2 years. The shock-haired politician blamed the world financial crisis for his woes, as the rescuing of troubled bank Northern Rock and rising inflation mar his time at number 11.

It's been in Politics pretty much every week for the past year (± 6 months), but the Democratic primaries continue in the US. Hillary Clinton left the state of Mississippi with days to spare before the polls to campaign in Pennsylvania, the next large state to vote, facing a near certain loss. The loss did indeed come as the state in which 70% of registered Democrat voters are of African origin emphatically backed Barack Obama. In a contest increasingly divided along racial lines, Democrats fear their nomination contest could harm their chances come November and the battle against John McCain.

So, a political thought to leave you with over the holiday you'll likely spend in the library? Genocide, a word bounced around the tabloids more than Ms Britney Spears herself, is but another tool of war. The real crime is our cultural identity. So why not let's put on our rainbow glasses, break open a chocolate Easter egg and give one another a hug? After all, if we're all the same, there'd be nothing to discriminate against, and hence no mass killings.

A stable future for Kenya

Kenya shows us that conflict is not inevitable on the African continent

Anthony Maina

In a leafy Nairobi suburb on Sunday, a tense final was being played out on the lush greens of the Karen Country Club. If Yorkshireman Iain Pyman could continue to hold off the challenge of Austria's Thomas Feysinger he would claim victory at the Tusker Kenya Open, the African leg of the European PGA tour. It would be Pyman's first win on the PGA circuit. But it was neither the Englishman nor the Austrian that was causing the buzz in the sidelines. In attendance and following every shot were Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and erstwhile opposition leader Raila Odinga, each completely relaxed and jovial in the other's company. Bitter rivals only weeks before, the two laughed and joked like old high-school buddies. In an address later on that day, they described the chaos caused by last year's disputed presidential election as "a thing of the past", saying the country was now on a healing process. For the first time, President Kibaki referred to Mr. Odinga as Prime Minister-designate. And significantly, Mr Odinga on his part referred to Mr. Kibaki as "Your Excellency".

Two weeks earlier, such a scene would have been well-nigh unimaginable. Talks between the Government and Opposition sides seemed to be heading nowhere, with hardliners on either side refusing to cede ground to allow a power-sharing agreement. On February 26, chief mediator Kofi Annan called off the talks, sensing that President Kibaki and Mr. Odinga were not being fully informed on the progress of the talks by the negotiators they had picked to make their respective cases. On February 27, Annan sat both leaders down face to face, determined that a solution to the political crisis be found. In attendance at Mr. Annan's request was Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete, sitting AU chairman, but, perhaps more significantly, the Head of State of a country where power is currently shared between the Presi-



If you didn't know where Kenya was before you picked up this issue, now you do.

dency and the office of a Prime Minister. The speed of the result took even Kenyans by surprise. On February 28, in front of an excited press, Kibaki and Odinga signed the historic agreement that would see an end to two months of turmoil and uncertainty that had pushed Kenya to the brink. Under the agreement, the President would cede some of his authority to pave the way for the creation of the office of a Prime Minister, which Mr Odinga would hold. Government positions would be split 50-50 between the two rival sides, and the newly-formed coalition would set national reconciliation as a primary objective. Celebrations broke out throughout the country as Kenyans finally found meaning in wishing each other a Happy New Year.

Renewed optimism has swept through the country since. The fear caused by inter-ethnic tension has begun to dissipate, with each tribe feeling secure and sufficiently represented in the new coalition government. The country's economic indicators bright-

ened up with news of the deal, with the NSE index improving, trading volumes approaching pre-election levels, and Standard & Poor revising its long term rating on Kenya to stable from negative. Although the post-election violence is expected to slow down growth this year, the future looks bright again for East Africa's biggest economy.

Observers have called the long term sustainability of the deal into question, and hardliners from each side continue to voice their dissatisfaction at the apparently weak reconciliatory stances adopted by their respective sides. But the signs look good, and there is faith that this agreement is one which will last. At the official state opening of Parliament, the President's address was received by spontaneous foot-thumping from both sides of the House, a stark contrast to the shouting and name-calling that marred the swearing-in ceremony weeks before. And in a sign of their commitment to making the deal a success, after only six minutes of debate, Parliament unanimously ap-

proved the appointment of the Committee on House Business, in which the President's Party of National Unity and Mr Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement shared seats equally. "We have brought Kenya out of the crisis because we want to see a united nation that has been a haven of peace," said Mr Odinga. The President echoed this sentiment, calling upon MPs to become "ambassadors of peace" in their communities, and to spare no effort in ensuring that the violence that gripped Kenya is not allowed to erupt again.

There remains a long and potentially treacherous way to go; extensive legal and social reforms will need to be implemented by Parliament in order to address the root causes of the post-election strife. Kibaki and Odinga have voiced their desire to see the process through, but it will be the courage and will of Kenya's leaders to place their country's interests before their own that will ultimately give Kenyans a country they can believe in, and a Kenya they can be proud of.



Left: Kenyatta Centre in Nairobi. After an historic political agreement, Kenyans can look forward to clear and prosperous times again

Watch out! Change is coming!

On Monday, a paper is being submitted to Council to help ensure Felix can report on news important to you

Kadhim Shubber

On the front of this newspaper are two token protests, barely visible to the casual eye. The symbol of Felix, the cat, has been gagged and also the word 'newspaper' has been changed to 'news'paper. On Monday the Union Council will discuss a paper submitted by Tom Roberts, Felix Editor. Unlike the token protests on the front page, this paper will help ensure that Felix's editorial freedom is protected and by removing ambiguity within the rules governing Union publications, allow greater freedom in reporting news that is of interest to Imperial's student body.

In the Union Constitution, Felix is described as an independent student newspaper that is 'Editorially Free'. However, there are two main reasons why this in practice is not always the case. Staff-Student Protocol and Election Regulations override, rightly or wrongly, the editorial freedom of the Felix Editor. However, I concede that the Felix Editor should operate under certain rules. Felix does not exist in a bubble and there are definitely responsibilities that come with Editorial Freedom. But because these rules are for the most part to be interpreted, editorial freedom in certain cases disappears. Content is sometimes decided, albeit indirectly, by the Union. Importantly, the interpretations can unfortunately be wholly inconsistent with a free press and reporting in the public interest.

I would not suggest that the Union President has direct control over the content of Felix, and I'm certainly not supposing that the Deputy President (Finance and Services) controls whether or not Felix is published. However, Felix is part of the Union and is financed by the Union. The President, as head of the Union, has a responsibility for the Union's activities. If the Union were to be sued because of a Felix publication, we would ask what the President knew and what he/she did to avoid getting into a legal mess.

According to Election Regulations, no story may be published on an individual who is standing for election; a story must be about all election candi-

dates or none at all. "A candidate could come into the Felix offices and smash up the computers, and we wouldn't be allowed to report on it", commented Felix on 15th February. This restriction on free speech is not justified, as it is detrimental to the elections. Student voters should be given information that is relevant to their decision making and certainly the misdeeds of an election candidate is important to voters. I agree that publicity shouldn't be given to a candidate over others; however, I disagree that this means that the misdeeds of a candidate should not be reported.

There is no doubt that the Sabbatical Elections held this year were successful. Turnout and participation were relatively high and unlike previous elections, the word farce was nowhere to be seen. This was of course due to the enthusiasm of the sabbatical candidates but also because there was a determination within the Union that the elections should pass smoothly. Therefore, in this case, the Union President's interpretation of the electoral regulations was cautious and focused on avoiding controversy; it was judged that a smooth election was more important than the publication of certain stories. This is a decision that should be made by the Felix Editor; again we see that the room for interpretation within the constitution removes editorial decisions from the Felix Editor. It is not the job of Felix to

ensure that the elections pass smoothly and certainly this should not be a deciding factor when choosing stories that are in the students' interest.

The world of the Staff Student Protocol is a legal minefield but this just highlights the need to remove ambiguity and introduce clear but fair guidelines for

interest. The Staff Student Protocol is supposed to tackle this complicated issue, but it fails to do so adequately. The balance cannot exist presently. An over-cautious sabbatical team will always choose to enforce the SSP in a draconian manner and therefore degrade the freedom of the student media; a more lenient sabbatical team, which we may have next year, will be more willing to let some stories be published. The variability is damaging to the credibility of Felix as a student newspaper. The motion proposed by Tom Roberts intends to remove this variable interpretation to SSP and therefore ensure that SSP is used fairly, responsibly, and consistently.

With these things in mind, cast your mind back to the Felix issue with the blank front page. The issue published on Friday 15th of February contained three stories that were interpreted by the Union President Stephen Brown as violating Election Regulations and Staff-Student protocol.

The interpretation that he made was a cautious one and certainly Mr Brown would not deny this. He then advised the Felix Editor that the publication of the articles would probably result in the impounding of Felix (this means that the issue of Felix would be confiscated and distribution would be stopped). Why didn't Tom Roberts ignore the Union President? Student news website Live! published 2 of the 3 stories in question, in an article and on a discussion board, in defiance of the Union's advice. Firstly, Felix and Live! use different mediums. Whilst

an article on Live! can easily be removed, the issue of Felix would have been impounded, and around 40 pages of content, of students' effort, would have gone to waste. Secondly, there are more appropriate ways to make your voice heard, without wasting your contributors' effort, namely the aforementioned paper to the council.

Let me make myself clear: It is not the relationship between the Union and Felix that is abhorrent. There is nothing intrinsically damaging about the President advising the Felix Editor on the likely consequences of a publication. It is the interpretative nature of the rules governing Union publications that is damaging and it is this that the paper successfully tackles. It re-words

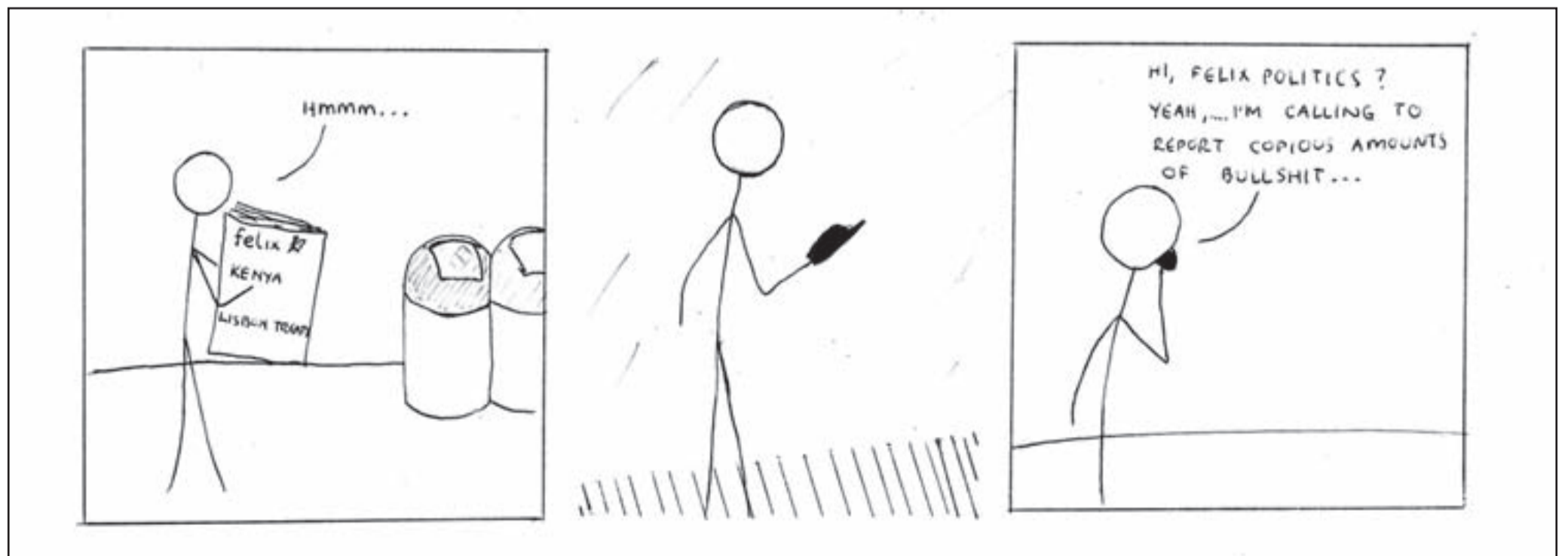
"Felix shall be editorially free to operate and report on events as the Editor sees fit"

the rules so that it is clear what Felix can or can't publish, what will or won't get Felix impounded and ensures that the Felix Editor must only live by these rules, not also by the interpretations of a cautious Union President or a zealous election candidate.

The failings of Union departments and election candidates are in the student interest and should be reported upon. There is a problem with the regulations regarding the student media; they are subject to the interpretation of people with interests other than the reporting of news. As a result the students of Imperial are deprived of information that is important to them. This cannot continue if we are to maintain the credibility of Felix as a 'newspaper'. It is not wrong that the Union has token involvement with Felix or that there are regulations; it is wrong that the Union has the power to choose the interpretation of these regulations.



Dry Wit & Tonic



Genocide and how we should react

A cutting-edge discussion held by the Political Philosophy Society on Genocide and Genocide Intervention

Kadhim Shubber

In the 20th century, Raphael Lemkin coined the term 'Genocide'. He was a Polish-Jewish lawyer writing in 1943. His concept of this 'Crime of Barbarity', as he originally put it, originated with the Simele massacres in Iraq in 1933. When the horrific crimes perpetrated against the Jews came to be known, the post-war world, and specifically the newly-founded U.N., recognized Raphael Lemkin's 'Crime of Barbarity' for the first time as a crime, separate and intrinsically different from murder. Since the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide came into existence in 1948, genocide has plagued humanity, in the Balkans, South-East Asia, and most famously in Rwanda. Still, in the 21st century we find ourselves unable to effectively confront the all-too-real genocide in Sudan. On Thursday, March 6, Imperial's Political Philosophy Society addressed the issue of genocide, and asked its esteemed panelists:

What is genocide?

When does civil war become genocide?

Who has the right to intervene?

When should one intervene?

How should one intervene?

As stated earlier, genocide is a crime according to international law – this much is true and was not the focus of evaluation by the panel. However, Dr. Smith did flag certain issues that make even the purely legal definition of genocide less clear and helpful than one might believe. To prove that genocide is occurring, and therefore take appropriate action, it must be shown that there is a direct intent to destroy a particular ethnic, racial, or religious group. While this is good to ensure that a differentiation is made between war and genocide, it creates difficulty because of the burden of proof it requires. Mr. Koundarjian made the comment that

"you know genocide when you see it" but it is not similarly true that you know intent when you see it. In the case of Darfur, it must be proven that the government forces are intending to destroy the African tribes in Dar-

"you know genocide when you see it"

fur. This is easy when bullets are used, but, much more difficult, the aggressor only creates the conditions for destruction, such as starvation. Both speakers admitted that there will always be arguments (some valid) against the label 'genocide'. Indeed, there may be a situation where genocidal acts occur but the situation itself can not be labeled genocide; recent events in Kenya are an example of this. It is when a pattern of activities, of genocidal acts, become obvious that we can begin to use the word genocide. A repeating pattern of genocidal activities is enough to prove intent, asserted Mr. Koundarjian.

While the question of intent attempts to separate war and genocide, in the case of civil war the line is extremely blurred and it is difficult for international observers to make a judgement on the situation. One can begin to differentiate the two by examining the root cause of genocide. Dr. Smith said that genocide does not happen overnight, which should be obvious to all of us. It begins with stereotyping and prejudice and follows Gregory Stanton's 8 Stages of Genocide. Dr. Eltringham agreed with Dr. Smith but took a much more human rights-centred viewpoint. Genocide, according to him, occurs after a long process of human rights degradation. In fact, human rights act as a warning system for genocide and a signal in a conflict that includes civil war. In complex crises such as civil war, civilians become caught in the cross-fire. If we understand the ideology and motivations driving the civil war, it is possible to compare this with the prejudice and human rights degradation



The Panel



Clockwise from the top-left

Dr. Nigel Eltringham

A lecturer in Anthropology, Dr. Eltringham has studied the Rwandan genocide intensively. His research was published in 2004 in the book "Accounting for Horror: Post-Genocide Debates in Rwanda". He teaches human rights at a post- and undergraduate level and is currently conducting research on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Hratche Koundarjian

Mr. Koundarjian is the Co-ordinator of the 'All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Genocide Prevention. The group counts prominent MPs such as the Rt. Hon. Clare Short MP as members and has cross-party support.

Mr. John Gorski

Mr. Gorski has served with Royal Engineers and with NGOs in countries affected by genocide. He has first-hand experience in the Balkan region, specifically the Kosovo conflict

Dr. James Smith

As co-founder and CEO of the Aegis Trust, Dr. Smith has worked with a wide range of governmental, non-governmental, educational, and academic institutions around the world. Aegis Trust is closely linked with the UK Holocaust Centre and does work in Rwanda, documenting the genocide

that is characteristic of genocide and make a judgment of similarity or dissimilarity. Unfortunately, civil war and

genocidal acts have become more and more linked in the modern day, most prominently in Yugoslavia and Kosovo.

In many cases genocidal acts are used as a weapon in civil war.

The bulk of interesting discussion, I



From left to right, Dr. Smith, Mr. Koundarjian, Chairman Ammar Waraich, Mr. Gorski, and Dr. Eltringham. The discussion was the last in a week of genocide-related seminars

Greg Stanton's 8-Stages of Genocide

In 1996, Gregory H. Stanton, President of Genocide Watch, described the eight stages of genocide and preventative measures that should be taken at each stage.

1. Classification

– All cultures have categories to divide people into 'us' and 'them'. Bipolar societies that lack mixed groups are most likely to experience genocide, e.g. Rwanda.

Prevention

– Institutions that transcend ethnic and racial divisions are the most effective defense at this stage. The Church is an example of an institution that could play this role.

2. Symbolization

– Derogatory words and symbols are given to the classifications, for example 'Gypsies'.

Prevention

– Hate speech and symbols can be legally banned. Without widespread cultural support, however, the banning of hate speech can be ineffective. However, with support the denial of symbolization can be extremely effective.

3. Dehumanization

– The humanity of a group is denied in order to overcome the normal human revulsion against murder. Hate propaganda begins to appear in popular media. Comparisons with vermin and insects are made.

Prevention

– Leaders should condemn the

use of hate speech. Hate propaganda should be banned from media and hate crimes should be promptly punished.

4. Organization

– Genocide is always organized using militias to provide denial of state responsibility. Organization can be informal or decentralized.

Prevention

– On the international stage, membership of these militias should be illegal. Arms embargoes should be applied against the nation and travel bans should be put on their leaders.

5. Polarization

– The groups are driven apart. Laws may forbid marriage or social interaction. Extremists target moderates and silence the political centre.

Prevention

– Security and assistance should be provided to moderates and human rights groups. The assets of extremists should be seized and extremist governments should face sanctions.

6. Preparation

– Victims are identified and physically separated out from the rest of society. They are confined to famine-struck regions, sent to camps, or forced into ghettos.

Prevention

– A Genocide Emergency must be declared and international armed intervention should be prepared. Heavy assistance should be provided to the victim group and at

the very least humanitarian aid should be prepared for the inevitable tide of refugees.

7. Extermination

– The mass killing, legally called genocide, is an extermination to the killers because their victims are not believed to be fully human. Sometimes the genocide results in revenge killings, creating a downward spiral of genocide on both sides.

Prevention

– Only rapid armed intervention can stop genocide at this point. Real safe areas and refugee escape corridors should be established with heavily armed international protection. If the U.N. is paralyzed, regional alliances must act. The international responsibility to protect transcends the individual nation's narrow interests.

8. Denial

– This is the surest indicator of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators hide the evidence in whatever way possible. They block investigations and continue to govern with force until they are driven from power.

Prevention

– Certainly, by this stage, all that can be done is to prosecute the perpetrators. The International Criminal Court is appropriate for this function. The political will to arrest and prosecute must exist.

<http://www.genocidewatch.org/8stages.htm>

seemed the most pragmatic of all the speakers. He emphasized the need for international institutions, not necessarily the U.N., to take the lead rather than individual states. NATO's intervention in Kosovo was ideal, considering the political disagreement at the time between veto-holding Security Council members such as Russia and the U.S.; if we followed Dr. Smith's emphasis on the U.N., or Dr. Eltringham's focus on human rights, it is unlikely that effective action would have occurred.

The question of timing of intervention produced a varied response. Mr. Koundarjian looked to political necessity to inform his answer. Without substantial political clout and media support, any intervention will be hampered in its efforts. In order to garner both political and media support, any military intervention must be timed to balance the need to prevent death and the need to portray an intervention as urgent. He pointed to the military intervention in Kosovo as a model of good timing. On the other hand, political intervention must occur as early as possible. A political solution is difficult to achieve once the violence has started, he stated. The longer the violence has been ongoing, the more difficult a political solution becomes, as we have seen in Palestine. Again there was significant disagreement between Mr. Koundarjian and Dr. Eltringham. Dr. Eltringham rejected the idea of intervention as something that happens when the threat of violence arises. Intervention, through the monitoring of

human rights, should be constant and long-term. Although the continuous monitoring of human rights does not fit in well with a culture of bold media headlines and short political soundbites, it is a system that prevents escalation and genocide. Ultimately, he admitted, the success stories are rarely publicized. The system is long-term and 'boring', it's not interesting to the media and politicians who "only want to react to horror stories".

The steps that we as a society take to prevent genocide must reflect the complexity and multi-faceted nature of the issue. Each speaker admitted that regardless of how we organise a military intervention, it must always be the last resort. A military intervention is a sign of failure rather than success; it shows us that we have failed to prevent human rights abuses and that we have failed to tackle discrimination and prejudice between peoples. The military is only needed when violence is imminent or already begun and by this stage we have to ask ourselves, as an international community, why didn't we act sooner? Dr. Smith said that: "Victims of genocide fall outside the Universe of moral obligation". They have been separated from the rest of society, attacked within popular culture, and dehumanised. In order to prevent further cases of genocide we need to have the courage to stand up and identify prejudice and condemn it. In the UK, the treatment of travellers fulfill the first three stages of genocide. They are already socially excluded (admittedly by choice) and one has to look no further than the Daily Mail for hate propaganda. The origins of genocide are so small, that it is difficult to believe that they need to be addressed.

However, the well-documented path to the Holocaust shows us that from small origins, humanity can move quickly to committing terrible violence.

feel, at the event was contained within the three questions regarding intervention. The different speakers interpreted the right of intervention, and who has it, differently. The question is by no means trivial and concerns the tension between the sovereignty of independent nations and humanity's obligation to protect humans from abuse, violence, and genocide. In 1999 and 2000, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan encapsulated the problem by asking:

"... if humanitarian intervention is, indeed, an unacceptable assault on sovereignty, how should we respond to a Rwanda, to a Srebrenica – to gross and systematic violations of human rights that affect every precept of our common humanity?"

Dr. Smith placed the right of intervention in the hands of the U.N. Security Council, stating that any international intervention must be authorized by the U.N. The other speakers disagreed

"Respect human rights and you avoid genocide"

with Dr. Smith's assertion. Mr. Gorski argued that any group of nations has the right to intervene if the motivation is to protect citizens; however, he conceded that it was ambiguous and was unable to address how large a group of

nations must be before they have the right to intervene. Dr. Eltringham contradicted Dr. Smith's statements most strongly. The U.N. in fact does not have the right, under the U.N. charter, to intervene in cases of genocide. The U.N. is mandated to maintain international peace and security, he reminded us. Therefore, internal issues (one of which may be genocide) are not within the authority of the U.N. or the Security Council. Instead, Dr. Eltringham argued, we must intervene through the monitoring of human rights, specifically via the voluntary International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Signatories to the convention have agreed to monitoring, therefore the Convention's Committee have the authority to intervene. "Respect human rights and you avoid genocide", he declared. How-

"the media and politicians only want to react to horror stories"

ever, Dr. Eltringham failed to explain who has the right to intervene in the case of non-signatories or when direct military action is required.

Although all signatories to the U.N. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide have a duty to prevent genocide, the prevailing political wind is more likely to determine who has the 'right' to intervene. Mr. Koundarjian's argument



Raphael Lemkin

Raphael Lemkin spent much of his life trying to get 'Genocide', a term he coined from the greek 'genos' (family, tribe, or race) and the latin 'cide' (killing), recognised. His first attempt to gain recognition for the subject was in 1933 when he presented an essay on the 'Crime of Barbarity' to the League of Nations. It was not however until 1948 that his 'Crime of Barbarity' was formally recognised in international law. He died of a heart attack in 1959, in New York. Sadly, and perhaps unfairly, his funeral was only attended by seven people.

Felix Easter Eggstravaganza 2008

Welcome to Felix's annual Eggstravaganza where, purely in the interests of research, we wolf down copious amounts of ovoid-shaped, chocolatey goodness to let you know which eggs are worth your cash this Easter



Thorntons Classic Collection

£4.99, Milk chocolate egg with 6 chocolates

Shubber-de-do-wop: Tomo is a moron. This egg is not.
streboR: The egg is a bit sickly but the extras aren't bad.
Hobag: What I imagine chocolate-coated love tastes like.
Hannah-backwards: Horrible.
Yu: Egg tastes good, extras aren't too shabby either.
The Paw: If Van Gogh made chocolate, this wouldn't be it. This is too good.

Egg: ★★★★★
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★



Cadbury slightly more expensive than budget eggs

£1.99 each (BOGOF), Milk chocolate egg with relevant chocolate product

Hobag: Like a medium rate whore: gets the job done well but you still hate yourself for enjoying it.
Fonzie: Agreed with Hobag. Better after-taste though.
Not-Casey-Affleck: Standard issue. The control eggs.

Egg: ★★★☆☆
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★☆☆

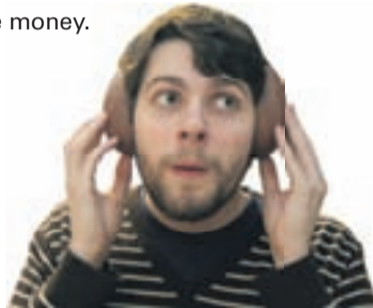


Duc d'O

£9.99, Belgian milk chocolate egg with box of belgian truffles

Shubber-de-do-wop: I want to have sex now.
Mckizzle: That's good shit!
Fonzie: Premium chocolate gets you premium chicks.
Not-Casey-Affleck: Solid performance but diamond price. Slight Mars Bar after taste to truffles [*Objection!!!* - Ed].
The Poon: Not worth the money.

Egg: ★★★☆☆
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★☆☆



Burnt Sugar (Fairtrade)

£3.49, Milk chocolate and honeycomb egg. No extras.

The Paw: Tastes like it came out of a hippo's arse
Mckizzle: Screw the hippies, this Fairtrade chocolate tastes like crap! Where are my extras dammit?!
streboR: The name is not its selling point and neither is the grit-infused chocolate they palm off as an egg.
Hobag: I like this egg like I like to converse with your lab partner...
Hannah-backwards: Like the name, hate the chocolate.

Egg: ★☆☆☆☆
Extras: ☆☆☆☆☆
Value: ★☆☆☆☆



Baileys

£4.98, Milk chocolate egg with Irish Cream chocolates

Not-Casey-Affleck: Nice egg but the truffles let it down. If you want Easter booze, wash your egg down with a lager and not this liqueur shit.
Fonzie: I'm gonna go right ahead and disagree with Casey. The booze rounds off the package perfectly like stockings on a gorgeous blonde.
Hannah-backwards: Mmm, I drink Baileys for breakfast.

Egg: ★★★★★
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★

Lindt Lindor (Mixed Chocolates)

£4.49, Milk chocolate egg with Lindt mini-eggs.

The Paw: As sweet as the love your mum and I made last night.
Mckizzle: Lovely stuff!
Hobag: I want to procreate with this egg and the consume all of my chocolatey offspring.
streboR: Really terrific.
Not-Casey-Affleck: It's Lindt. You know the drill...
The Poon: Wouldn't expect anything less than heavenly.

Egg: ★★★★★
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★



Please give generously to the 'Felix Needs A New Camera' fund



Guylian

2007 Champion. £4.99, Milk chocolate egg with box of Guylian sea-shells

Fonzie: A classic! A king egg amongst peasant eggs.
Shubber-de-do-wop: Hmm. Not as good as Thorntons.
Sinclair: Good egg. After eating so much chocolate I feel like I'm going to throw up, but I don't blame the egg.
streboR: Still the King as far as I'm concerned.

Not-Casey-Affleck: Protest vote against the incumbent! It's good, but let's open up the field by punishing this lack of originality. Plus, who thought of chocolate molluscs?

Egg: ★★★★★
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★



Sainsbury's Equatorials Eggs

£5.99, Three eggs with chocolate from Costa Rice, Venezuela & Papua New Guinea. No extras.

McKizzle: Silly name. Silly packaging. Silly, silly silly.

Dan-The-Wan-And-Only: 3 eggs. 1 stupid box. 3 eggs shaped like bits of shit. Nuff said.

Yu: Gross.

Fonzie: Wannabe pseudo-Fairtrade piece of shite. Rank aftertaste too.



Egg: ★☆☆☆☆
Extras: ☆☆☆☆☆
Value: ★☆☆☆☆

Sainsbury's Free From (Dairy/ Gluten/Wheat free)

£3.99, Plain chocolate egg with plain chocolate droplets.

Skeeter: I like the wrapping but there should be a toy... inside... I feel... a bit... sick.
streboR: Tastes surprisingly close to chocolate even though it's made of cardboard and my dad's freshly shaved-off stubble.
Yu: Not bad but nothing special.
Not-Casey-Affleck: Free from everything including taste.
Dan-The-Wan-And-Only: Bit plain. That's probably why it's called a plain chocolate egg...

Egg: ★☆☆☆☆
Extras: ★☆☆☆☆
Value: ★☆☆☆☆



Nestle Mid-range eggs

£3.99, Milk chocolate egg with relevant chocolate products and a mug.

Sinclair: Filthy ghetto chocolate. Poor show.
Fonzie: Disappointing, violent, hurtful. Or something. The mug is appreciated though.
McKizzle: "Eat me!" it shouted. I did.

The Paw: Predictably tasty but the Yorkie lacks the meaty taste of the bar.

Little Man Az: Chocolatey but too sweet. My throat hurts now!

Hannah-backwards: Nestle chocolate tastes almost as bad as Cadburys.

Egg: ★☆☆☆☆
Extras: ★★☆☆☆
Value: ★★☆☆☆



Lily O'Brien

£4.98, Belgian milk chocolate egg with sticky toffee chocolates

streboR: The fuck. This chocolate tastes tinged with the Devil's seed. Lily O'Brien should go back to cookery. Or whatever.
McKizzle: Lily O'Great!
Shubber-de-do-wop: I'm going to hunt down Lily O'Brien and give her a hug.
Hobag: As rich as half of the Imperial student population.
The Paw: Tastes like pubie salad with Seth's own dressing!
The Poon: The toffees aren't sticky at all. Misleading packaging... tut.

Egg: ★★☆☆☆
Extras: ★★★★★
Value: ★★☆☆☆



Peasant eggs

£1.49 each, Eggs relevant to the brand with equally relevant single extra item.

Hobag: Full of despair like Sheffield in the Winter.

streboR: Milkybar... as safe as houses.

The Paw: Why would you bother?

Not-Casey-Affleck: I wouldn't be seen dead on a cross eating these eggs.

Hannah-backwards: As soggy as a granny's underwear! One for the grandchildren you don't see too often.

The Poon: Very sweet. I couldn't eat an entire egg in one go.

Egg: ★★☆☆☆
Extras: ★★☆☆☆
Value: ★★☆☆☆



IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

SUMMER BALL

21.06.2008

Imperial College London's Summer Ball is the largest student ball in London and this year's ball will be our biggest, most lavish and takes place across our South Kensington Campus and is attended by over 3,000.

With great acts and DJs, a formal dinner, fireworks, a funfair, a casino, marquees, light shows and more; the Summer Ball 2008 is the 600 seated dinner always sell out fast, so organise your friends and book yours.

Why not take advantage of our special advance ticket prices which are being held until 19 March 2008?





2008

and exciting yet! Tickets are already on sale for the evening which
00 revellers.

ne not-to-miss event of Imperial's calendar. Tickets for our formal
elves a table!

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President's Update

Higher Education Funding Survey Prize Winners

Earlier in the term hundreds of you took part in a survey about the role of Universities in society and how they should be funded. This week the Deputy President (Education and Welfare), the Felix Editor and I drew the winning students with a little help from an online random number generator.

The winners are:

- First Prize:** Jennifer Van Griethuysen
Return Tickets to Paris for two on the Eurostar
- Second Prize:** Danielle Rozycka
Two West End Theatre and Dinner Vouchers
- Third Prize:** Elizabeth Williams
Two Open Dated Thorpe Park Tickets
- Fourth Prize:** Jérémie Mercier
A Crystal Experience Gift Voucher

Thank you to everyone who participated in this exercise. The results of the survey have been synthesised and discussed at length by several of your elected representatives and the final policy document will be discussed and amended for the last time at Union Council which is taking place on Monday evening in the Union Dining Hall. Imperial College Union's new draft policy on higher education funding is now available on the meetings pages of the Union website and if you are keen to contribute to the debate on Monday evening then please come along for a 6.30pm start.

Excellence in Teaching Awards

The College's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Teaching Fellowship scheme is an annual exercise that is used to raise the profile of teaching in the College. Nominations for this close on Wednesday

14th May. If there are any of your lecturers or tutors who you feel are deserving of this recognition drop me an email and I will talk you through the nominations process.



Stephen Brown
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Easter Carnival this Wednesday

It's Carnival time again! What better way to end the term than a great party at the Union? We are joined by T4's Alexa Chung back from her great Centenary Ball appearance. We also have a giant slide in the Quad which is sure to be an unforgettable part of the evening!

All this for only £4, that's half the price of our usual end-of-term parties! Tickets are online now, see you there.

London Nightline survey

London Nightline, a charity run by students for students and supported by Imperial College Union is doing a survey to develop their service.

The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and there is a prize draw at the end! Your help would be greatly appreciated and would ensure we can make Nightline better for all students in London and the surrounding areas.

To access the survey, please goto:
www.imperialcollegeunion.org/latestsurvey

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON SUMMER BALL 2008

Special Advance Ticket Prices End Last Day-Of-Term
March 19 2008, 14:00



ENTERTAINMENTS ONLY

£25 **£30** from
March 19 at 14:00

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENTS

£50 **£55** from
March 19 at 14:00

info and tickets at

imperialcollegeunion.org/summerball



David Paw
Arts Editor

So it's been a hectic week in the *Felix* offices. A couple of months ago a friend and I were discussing student media, and came to the common conclusion that the arts are regarded with some degree of incredulity at Imperial.

The mindset is understandable. When you're crunching the numbers and spending days in the lab without seeing sunlight, who has time for the fuss of art? I had spoken to Tom, our editor, about *Phoenix* a couple of weeks earlier, asking what had happened to the issue that had never been released. Incomplete, I was told.

My friend and I moved on to this topic. He then expressed interest in reprising the title, but only on the condition that I was on board. Of course, I agreed enthusiastically, and so the wheels were set in motion.

Two months of phone calls, emails and nights staring at monitors and reading and re-reading masses of poems and short stories and we were good to go. Myself and a new team had picked our favourites of the writing that had been sent to us, and approached known favourites to allow them to get some exposure and share the love.

We worked on the layout together, bickered over covers and decided the best path forward for the title, and the experience was completely liberating from the creative shackles that such a science-focused environment can impose. We all loved working on it, and love the finished product.

It doesn't look like any *Phoenix* that has come before. We weren't trying to be controversial or draw criticism. We wanted to produce something that was fun to read, fun to look at and something that would add some zest and zap into the college's roster of (admittedly already impressive) publications.

We drew our influences from a wide range of sources - we loved the content of *The New Yorker*, the irreverence of *New York Magazine*, the manic design of *Zembla* and the clean shapes of *Surface* and *i-D*. The product is a sort of crossroads of these multitudinous influences but we don't think it's too incoherent. We won't put a picture of Bjork in face paint and feathers on the cover. Promise.

What hit me the most when researching the design was the sheer number of magazines available. Even disregarding the number of titles in the mainstream press, there are still an incredible number of smaller titles with dedicated followings. What also struck me was the sheer volume of talented writers out there; even with the number of titles available in print, there are still an awful lot of good writers out there who go unrecognised. *Phoenix* aims to support these writers and provide a creative platform within the college.

There's a lot to be inspired by out there. The first issue of the relaunched, reimagined and redesigned 21st century *Phoenix* will be here on the first issue of the new summer term.

Symphonies for beginners

Francesca Buckland postpones her knitting to revel in the ICSO's aural candy

Though there are many people that consider themselves aficionados of classical music, I am not one of them. And yet, ICSO's performance on Friday, conducted by Richard Dickins, convinced me you don't have to have a diploma on the cor anglais to enjoy an evening of classical music.

A top tip for the uninitiated classical enthusiast is to purchase a programme; worth it not only for the insightful tidbits of information about the music, but also as a tool to relieve boredom as you reach the end of a particularly long movement (I know I said I'm not the type to use technical terms. For those unacquainted, a movement is a section of the music; these are separated by silences during which it is vitally important that you don't clap. As a rule of thumb, always wait until clapping is well underway during classical concerts so you can be sure you aren't clapping in between movements and embarrassing yourself).

The concert opened with a rendition of Wagner's *Prelude to Tristan & Isolde*. This piece is quite short, and I must admit I knitted throughout (I am knitting my boyfriend a snood), but the cello section particularly stood out. The programme reliably informs me that they are 'answering a question posed by the short motif'. However, I cannot verify this statement. The tension in my knitting remained roughly constant. (It is perfectly acceptable, by the way, to knit or write poetry in classical music concerts, as long as noise is kept to a minimum. You should let the music "wash over you").

The second piece was undoubtedly my favourite: *Piano Concerto in G Major* (Ravel). The pianist Charles Owen

was absolutely amazing. My partner said he swayed too much, but I think someone with that talent may sway (albeit pretentiously) when they play the piano and, besides, he was just jealous because after 7 years of lessons his piano talents only extend to a shaky rendition of *The Entertainer*. I was captivated by this piece for the whole three movements and had to put down my knitting to concentrate. I only wish I were sitting on the other side of the hall so that I could see him actually playing. The first movement had a lovely sultry jazz feel to it, and was my favourite as I'm rather partial to a bit of jazz.

After the interval, the audience was treated to a rendition of Mahler's *Symphony no.1 in D major*. Despite the length, which may have put some amateur classical music fans off, this performance was quite moving, particularly the third movement featuring a

sinister motif from Frère Jacques. This is praise indeed coming from a person who admits freely to being bored by classical music, particularly the quieter and slower bits. However, the last movement was akin to the last *Lord of the Rings* film; it ended a few times too many. Despite this, the actual finale was rousing and buoyant.

Overall, the concert was extremely good. I found that ICSO chose slightly more discordant pieces than Sinfonietta earlier in the week, perhaps making them less easy on the untrained ear, but the quality of the playing was absolutely fabulous. After much consideration, I decided to award the best-dressed section award to the second group of violins, after one of them spent the best part of the second half trying to untangle a beautiful earring from her violin. Classical music is always full of drama.



We couldn't decide whether Fran's article was about knitting or music. We had a fight. Shit got broken. I don't know how this picture got here

Plush, posh and decadent in WC2

Where does a girl go to find jaw-dropping culture amidst the carnage of Oxford Street? Rosie Grayburn visits the gemlike Wallace Collection in Manchester Square for her weekly dose of gallery enlightenment

So you're walking down Oxford Street and you suddenly have a revelation: "Right! I have had enough of spending not a lot of money on clothes made by children: I am going to get out of here!" So you take a left after Selfridges and find yourself in Manchester Square. On the other side of the square sits a huge, regency town house. You know the sort: they appear in period dramas and contain ladies sipping Darjeeling in pristine white dresses. This is the Wallace Collection and it is very cool.

Hereford House was owned by the 1st four Marquises of Hereford and was one of their main townhouses in London. The Wallace Collection presents the art, furniture and artefacts collected over 4 generations of this family. I think Marquises are far more decadent than Earls. If Earl Grey was a stuffy old man like Twinings portray him, then the Marquis of Hereford was his younger, more exciting distant cousin who travelled the globe and courted lots of exotic females. This is certainly the impression I get from their collection here. Visiting the Wallace Collection is not like visiting any ordinary gallery in London – it is a mini palace! In the downstairs rooms, extravagant musical clocks overlook every expensive fireplace and chime on the hour to the tune of a 17th Century smash hit. Eat your heart out, Chris Moyles at Breakfast: these guys had Mozart's latest hit to wake them up in the morning with tinkling ivory and solid gold!

Downstairs you find the 17th century galleries. I loved the portrait of the Earl of Leicester. He was clearly rolling in it, wearing a beautiful orange beaded jacket. Unfortunately, the artist probably didn't like him very much and had spitefully included a huge, hairy mole on the side of the Earl's face with wonderful detail for each hair. Other highlights in this gallery are the Chinese sceptres made in the form of a sacred fungus and the painting *An Allegory of True Love*. This brightly-coloured piece showed a group of jovial people sitting in the countryside having a picnic. However, this was no ordinary picnic. Some of the ladies present had pulled down their dresses and were putting off some of the men from eating by exposing their boobies and pinching their own pert nipples. I could definitely see some true love in the men's eyes but I still don't understand the title of the piece.

The Treasure of the Month was housed in a glass case at the back of the 17th century gallery. It is a Bohemian Welcome Glass, or a willkomm humpen. All glasses should be made like this. It holds about 2 pints and is engraved with a kind of user guide. The diagrams on the glass are segmented into categories of revelry and overindulgence. Gothic inscriptions around the edge translate as "Lift me up, drink me up, set me down, fill me again and bring me a good brother again" which refers to the tradition of passing the humpen to another guest to down. This allegory also extends to the 'overindulgence' section of the glass where you see a youth vomiting violently on a tree. He obviously had too much humpen.

On leaving the Smoking Room, you ascend some dark winding stairs that are worth hanging around on, at least

until you start to look a bit suspicious. Small paintings line the wall and the subjects are amusing and varied if you care to look, and they remind me of scenes you can imagine coming alive as if the place were Hogwarts. There are assassins waiting for their prey, a Roman feast, a circumcision ceremony and some cows munching placidly on some tasty grass. These paintings are the calm before the storm as the upstairs galleries showcase room upon room of Dutch Landscapes and well-known masterpieces.

Into the bright first gallery upstairs you are greeted with the aforementioned Dutch Landscapes. Inside the wide country scenes of fields or ocean the little vignettes around the canvasses make you spend more time looking at them than you probably should. There are women gossiping about the men, men perverting on the women, the dog taking a piss on someone's property and shepherds making the sexytime with shepherdesses. These (apparently) show everyday life in the 1700s, which

is the only thing that makes this interesting, as the art isn't particularly fine. Apart from those 'soap opera' paintings of everyday life, there are multiple paintings of mythological scenes like those where Gods lie around in the Dutch countryside with their animal friends while other lesser Gods suckle goats. Those divine beings are weird.

I am very, very happy when we finally reach the Great Gallery as I find there are about three Velazquez paintings in one corner! Unfortunately they are not originals, even though they are from his studio. This means that he or one of his minions made more than one of the paintings when they were found to be popular. I would recommend the booklets that are available in the Great Gallery as they tell you interesting snippets of info about each painting. With regard to *The Lady with a Fan*, they mention that she had a scandalously low neckline for Spanish women of that time, which meant she was probably French...

I loved the Portrait of a Flemish Lady.

She sports a humongous lace collar and she is getting her serious Belgian bling on as she carries a massive chain around her waist. Unfortunately for her, this is probably a chastity belt. There are several Rembrandts in the Great Gallery. I hadn't seen a Rembrandt in real life before and there is a serious wow-factor when you really look closely. The detail on the fabrics he paints is remarkable! Another famous face in this gallery is that *Laughing Cavalier* – you would immediately recognize it if you saw it. His face is so real – it could be a photograph -, and he looked as though if I'd cracked one of my many witty jokes he would have thrown back his head and roared with laughter!

On leaving the Great Gallery you enter a room of miniature portraits. They're fascinating in the way they are like ours that we would perhaps keep in our wallet of our boyfriends or girlfriends. I guess soldiers commissioned them to be painted of their sweethearts if they were off to war. What I

found quite amusing was the variety in the styles of portrait... there were two styles. Half the portrayed girls had buttons done up to the neck or had demure dresses on. They were the wives or the betrothed. The other half had no top on or had a cheeky nipple poking out. These were the mistresses. Those 17th Century soldiers had invented an equivalent of dirty magazines to take to war!

I skipped one room full of cityscapes. Although it was probably historically interesting I wasn't going to waste my time looking at the renaissance equivalent of a postcard of Piccadilly Circus. The room called 'The Boudoir' was my favourite as all the portraits had really unusual facial expressions and there was a really cool writing desk which had secret compartments hidden behind dummy book covers so you could store the portrait of your mistress and other things from your wife. Another interesting artefact in this room was the poster advertising a sale of all furniture and paintings from the Petit Trianon chateau. The Petit Trianon was built in the grounds of Versailles for the King's mistress Madame de Pompadour. It was given to Queen Marie Antoinette after that. You know the story. So all her indulgent belongings in this 'mini' palace were being sold off - Marie Antoinette had no use for them anymore, as the guillotine had unfortunately removed her head. Boo.

Hidden away downstairs under the restaurant is a small exhibition room which is currently playing host to an exhibition called *Masterpieces from the Louvre*. It is a grand name for a very tiny exhibition. It's like calling your pet hamster 'King Louis XIV' or your hole of a flat 'The Mansion'. I had imagined at least a 'Great Gallery' sized exhibition space to display these 'Masterpieces', but instead there was one well-known painting and a studio copy of a well known Velazquez painting in a room filled with generic French School outputs. The exhibition is a small fraction of a much larger collection in the Louvre which belonged to Louis La Caze, an art collector and a contemporary of Sir Wallace. For the Wallace collection it is a big deal having this association with such an important organization as the Louvre but it really isn't a big deal for anyone visiting it. Stick to the café upstairs.

Now that is a big deal. My tummy likes the Wallace Restaurant. Thankfully someone else paid - it is very pricey but very, very yummy. It's popular with fancy-looking ladies who lunch and there was a huge waiting list for a table. You couldn't have expected anything less from the Wallace Collection really – you sit on grand wrought-iron seats and sip delicate tea and munch on dainty cakes or exquisite light lunches.

The Wallace Collection is a good afternoon's entertainment sorted, after you've done the galleries, café, lovely loos and the shop. Next time you're on Oxford Street, spare a thought for the Wallace Collection just tucked away behind the bustling crowds. It's a real piece of heaven away from the chaos outside.

Masterpieces from Le Louvre: The Collection of Louis La Caze is on until 8th May. Admission is free throughout, but expect to pay through the nose for a postcard or a cuppa!



I was inclined to focus more on the restaurant part of the piece but the Ed wasn't having it. Tossier

Attention – For Your Eyes Only

Indie style in a West End production? Lucy Harrold explores the complex world of *The Viewing Room*

Daniel Joshua Rubin's claustrophobic play *The Viewing Room* is the first West End outing of writing company Practicum Theatre, and has just started at the Arts Theatre. The theatre is really close to Leicester Square; if you can find Cranbourn Street, you can find it. At the moment it will also be surrounded by small geeky people trying to procure Leonard Roberts' autograph – but more on this later. The theatre itself is kind of cute, sandwiched next to the photographer's gallery (which I was really tempted to visit but didn't have the time). Inside you'll find a theatre that doesn't really suit the West End. The lobby and bar are modern, and there are only two entrances to the theatre – the mezzanine and stalls – making it tiny in proportion to the nearby Palace Theatre where *Les Misérables* is playing, or the Cambridge theatre where *Chicago* is still going strong. Also, in a departure from most West End theatres, you're allowed to bring your drink into the auditorium, although you might not want to for this play – given the twists in the plot you might end up with your beer in your lap! This added to the style of the play, making me feel more like I was attending an off-West End production that could afford to come to the West End because of its cast's calibre.

The set suggests that you'll be in for a nice, twee play about an urban couple –

a typical flat not dissimilar to those we live in. There's a pull-out futon, a little kitchen area, the usual. There were also video screens either side of the main stage. These were used to great effect providing continuous coverage of the stage in pseudo-*Big Brother* fashion. The television screens also provided all of the sound effects for the play. This seemed like a good idea at first. However, I was sitting right in front of one of the screens and so just got blasted with one earful of sound with nothing in the other ear. But just as I was finishing reading the programme, I looked up to find a huge cage plonked in the middle of the stage. Well, that'll teach me to pay attention. The cage is the focal point of both the stage and the play, containing almost a negative mirror image of the outside of the cage.

Inside is a black man accused of a crime he is adamant he did not commit. Outside are a white couple who have chosen to have him in their home as part of their social service. This social service, the audience learns early on, is something all people have to do because of an "ongoing war of our time".

There are different ways people can do their community service, but the couple choose this so that they can stay at home. Unfortunately, the audience do not learn this until quite late on in the play, and is one of the few problems in the show. Exposition is seldom given and, although the play could be

set in any time period, this leads to some small plot points being lost like whenever the couple leave the house, they are wearing gas masks. It is never fully explained why the gas masks are needed. A smog of some sort is mentioned somewhere in the play but only as a throwaway remark. I don't know whether the writer has chosen to leave out much of the exposition as a way of moving the plot along, or to let the audience think for themselves.

The play, as expected, explores the relationship between the couple and this new prisoner. But it also explores the relationship between an ordinary couple in extraordinary circumstances, and the relationship between ordinary people and the government. I can't tell you too much about the storyline as the play is full of plot twists that you could never guess (the one at the end was a real shock, but also led to a funny scenario at curtain call). The audience is lulled into a sense of security every so often as you think that the three characters are starting to get on, when you're suddenly ripped out of that relationship by a new incident. The husband and wife could be seen to represent two mindsets that we often have about new situations. At the start of the play Brian, the husband, is an idealist. He believes that whatever the government says must be correct – he is taken in by society. On the other hand, the wife (she has no name, which is another comment on the role of women) is the dubious one. Of course, these opinions change rapidly throughout the story.

James Flynn played Brian Walker, the husband; his transition from an enthusiastic and loving husband at the beginning of the play to an almost psychotic all-obeying society drone by the end was seamless and rather disturbing. He was very adept at pushing the audiences' buttons to make them empathise with his situation. Samantha Wright was equally impressive as "The Wife". She brought a sense of realism and also depth to a role that at first could be perceived as the weak link in the writing. Although I think this is one of the writer's tricks played on the audience, her character develops later to allow the audience to become supposedly comfortable with Brian and the prisoner. Of course most people will be coming to see this play as they have heard of Leonard Roberts. Roberts played DL Hawkins in the smash hit series *Heroes* (one of my favourite programs) and has also been in shows like *Buffy* (another one of my favourites, noticing a pattern?) and *Smallville*. I didn't know what to expect of Roberts, as his on-screen persona has carved a niche from portraying strong, silent types. I found from the programme that he has quite an extensive US theatre career, which comforted my previous apprehensions. Roberts took what could have been quite a flat and shallow role and gave it depth and humility. His prisoner, although gruff and mean to some, actually had a sense of humour, giving a glimpse of his former self before prison.

The evening I attended was in aid of Amnesty International, as the themes of the play are very relevant to the work Amnesty do concerning unjust imprisonment in places such as Guantanamo Bay. As part of this, after the show was a short discussion given by the director, the cast and QC Michael Mansfield, a specialist in miscarriages of justice (who I thought looked a bit



Don't think her bloke'll be best pleased...

like Christopher Biggins). The writer of the play also happened to be sitting at the back of the theatre and piped up part way through, moving to the row in front of me (!!) to answer some of the questions, although he appeared to get a bit disheartened when he wasn't allowed to answer all of the questions. Themes from the play were discussed by both the panel and audience and left me with much to think about.

The play brings up themes of punishing the collective for the mistakes of an individual (like when you were at school and someone did something naughty yet you all had stay in for detention – I'm still bitter about that). It also brought up our role in society and our obedience under a surveillance-obsessed society. Without giving away

too much of the plot, the play linked very well to present-day situations of prisoners around the world who are given unfair trials due to the colour of their skin, and because it is generally easier to throw them in prison. Both the play and the later discussion also questioned the role of prison: whether it is to punish, store or rehabilitate. The play left you pondering which of these roles the situation in the play represented. This was really the thinking (wo)man's play, something rarely seen in the West End but which should be encouraged and with concession tickets at only £10, I suggest you all see this worthwhile play. It might make you take a look at your thoughts and beliefs about the prison system and our surveillance-blanketed society.



Timmy waited tentatively for his bedtime story

Finally: the long and complicated plot of *Les Misérables* explained!

In another Musical Theatre Weekly, Lucy Harrold reveals what those crazy French people are really up to

The book *Les Misérables* was written by Victor Hugo in 1862, gaining its reputation as a rather long and difficult book. Jean-Michel Schönberg and Alan Boublil's adaptation was first performed in Paris in 1981 and it bombed. Oh. Cameron Mackintosh, the producer of shows such as *Cats* and *Starlight Express* (generally all the big, British Eighties shows) thought *Les Mis* could work in the UK with a bit of tweaking. He brought it to the Battersea Arts Centre in 1985 and later to its present home, the Queens Theatre, where it is now the world's longest running musical.

Plot

This is going to take a while - both the book and the show are notoriously long. As there is a book, again, you can't tell me off for ruining the story. The show starts with Jean Valjean being released on parole from the chain gang, having been imprisoned for the past 19 years. Once released he stays with a bishop, from whom he steals a pair of candlesticks (real clever, Valjean). He is nearly sent back to prison but is saved by the bishop, who lies for him. This incident will result in Valjean being chased throughout his life by Inspector "stiff upper lip" Javert. Cut to eight years later and Jean Valjean is now a well-respected mayor and factory owner who happens upon a troublemaker in his factory - Fantine. She is thrown out and resorts to prostitution to pay for the upkeep of her daughter (Cosette). Cosette is being 'looked after' by the Thernardiers, a rather nasty inn-keeper and his wife who dote upon their own daughter Eponine whilst ill-treating Cosette. Fantine eventually dies, leaving Cosette in the care of Valjean.

Nine years later and France has changed due to their one decent leader dying (careless?!). A student revolution is about to begin led by Enjolras and Marius, a lovesick young man who fancies Cosette (who is now rich and boring). Unfortunately, Eponine also fancies Marius and hence the usual musical theatre love triangle ensues.



After a few nights on le razz, the lynch mob began to get a bit merry. Still, at least it's not *Phantom of the Opera*

Valjean and Cosette decide to flee Paris to escape the fighting, leaving Marius to mourn his lost love whilst Eponine attempts to flirt with him. Both Marius and Javert join the student rebellion. End of Act One (pew, I told you it was long).

Act Two starts with the students building a barricade (the classic symbol of *Les Mis*) against the authorities. Cue a bit of a fight. Lots of people die, including some big characters and Valjean, who has joined the fight, has to carry a wounded Marius away from the scene. Marius does not die (hooray!) and instead marries Cosette, leaving Valjean with nothing more to

do with his life, yearning for death. Everyone (including the dead people) promptly return for a good old sing-song and some more marching.

Main Characters

Jean Valjean: The story is seen through the eyes of this reformed prisoner who acts as Cosette's guardian

Javert: Jean Valjean's nemesis and the policeman who arrested Jean Valjean originally.

Fantine: Mother to Cosette - dies pretty early on in the play

Cosette: Daughter of Fantine, adopted daughter of Valjean, lover of Marius

Marius: The heartthrob of *Les Mis*, friends with the leader of the student rebellion and going out with Cosette

Eponine: Daughter of the Thernardiers, spends most of the play skulking around Paris in a large overcoat and lusting after Marius.

Thernardiers: Owners of the local pub where they make Cosette work as a child in exchange for "looking after" her. Parents to Eponine, who is doted upon by them, oh how the tables turn

after the revolution!

Songs to listen out for

One Day More: You may have noticed I love big contrapuntal numbers. This is one of the best.

On My Own: Here's another song for you to belt out when your flatmates are elsewhere.

Empty Chairs at Empty Tables: A beautiful yet tragic song that has been used as a symbol for the AIDS struggle among gay men (listen to the lyrics and you'll understand).

I want it now!

Les Misérables is still on in London at the Queens Theatre with day/student tickets (where you buy them on the day from the box office) starting at £17.50. If you don't fancy spending your Wednesday afternoon off at the theatre, the 10th Anniversary Concert DVD is available. There are also two different copies of the CD in the library (so go get them now!).

Like it? Try...

I was going to offer you *Urinetown*, my favourite musical ever, that parodies *Les Mis* massively, but there's no way for you to find out about it, so I'll give you an alternative:

Phantom of the Opera - OK, I personally hate this show. But it's another long running West End "Supermusical", also produced by Cameron Mackintosh and with the same grand bravado as *Les Misérables*.



Just another day on the mean streets of Putney



We like France. Please resist the urge to be xenophobic.

The Great Culture Crawl

Chapter Nine – Easter Frolicking!

Written by Rosie Grayburn, designed by Rosie Grayburn

Viva Lolita@Maddox Arts, Oxford Street

This new exhibition, curated by James Putnam (former curator of the British Museum), is central to a new business scheme for the art and music industries. Toni Castells, a music technology lecturer here at Imperial, will be selling his new CD and with it you will buy shares in a painting! There are only 100 CDs available, each costing £50 and one will buy you 1% ownership in a painting by Edvard Braanaas. A piece of art has never sold like this before. It should be interesting to see how that experiment works. In the mean time, go and see the exhibition because it looks dead cool like.



Estorick Collection, Islington

Get into the spirit of spring by visiting a specialist Modern Italian art gallery. Described as "The best way to spend an afternoon in North London" this small gallery inhabits a beautiful Georgian house and contains 6 smashing galleries, a bookshop (hurrah!) and a café overlooking a beautiful garden (yummy in my tummy). Sounds divine. Check out www.estorickcollection.com which details current exhibitions. You thought it couldn't get any better? It's free for students too! [Editor makes groaning sound of pleasure]



Amazing Rare Things, Buckingham Palace

'The Queen gets out her Natural History' should be the title of this exhibition. With the help of Sir Dave Attenborough, Queenie managed to pick out the best paintings and artefacts from the Royal Library which show how artists managed to help us shape our knowledge of the natural world. The exhibition includes pieces by Leo da Vinci and 3 other influential artists of that era. They chart the discovery of strange, new species and document the fascination of all things beautiful and bizarre in nature. This will be of great interest to you Medics and Biologists and other curious souls. Check it out. Admission is £7.50 for students but that gets you access to the entire Queen's Gallery, plus you get a royal audio guide. God save her Majesty!



Glass Gallery and Cast Courts, V&A

If you normally only get as far as the shop or café in the V&A why not delve a little deeper, leaving behind the crowds of kiddies bouncing around the Sculpture gallery. Turning right at the entrance you walk past the Japanese gallery and up some stairs into the upper galleries. You find a very different scene up here as you enter the cast courts and come across giant replicas of Italian Renaissance architecture! It's quite a shock to find such huge pieces in the V&A when you're used to straining your eyes at miniatures. These galleries opened in 1873 as a workshop to replicate works of art such as Michelangelo's *David* so that students could study them without going all the way to Florence, Siena and Rome. Further up the stairs is the fantastic Glass Gallery. You shouldn't spend too long looking at the endless cabinets because they do get rather repetitive but the gallery itself is beautifully laid out and designed. The modern glasses are also well worth a glance – it's amazing how they can contort the material into those shapes! Handy interactive screens are at hand to demonstrate various glassmaking techniques. A new exhibition arrives at the V&A on the 15th March – China Design Now. It proves to be quite an eye-opener. Watch this space in *Felix Arts* for a review... maybe you'll be writing it for us!

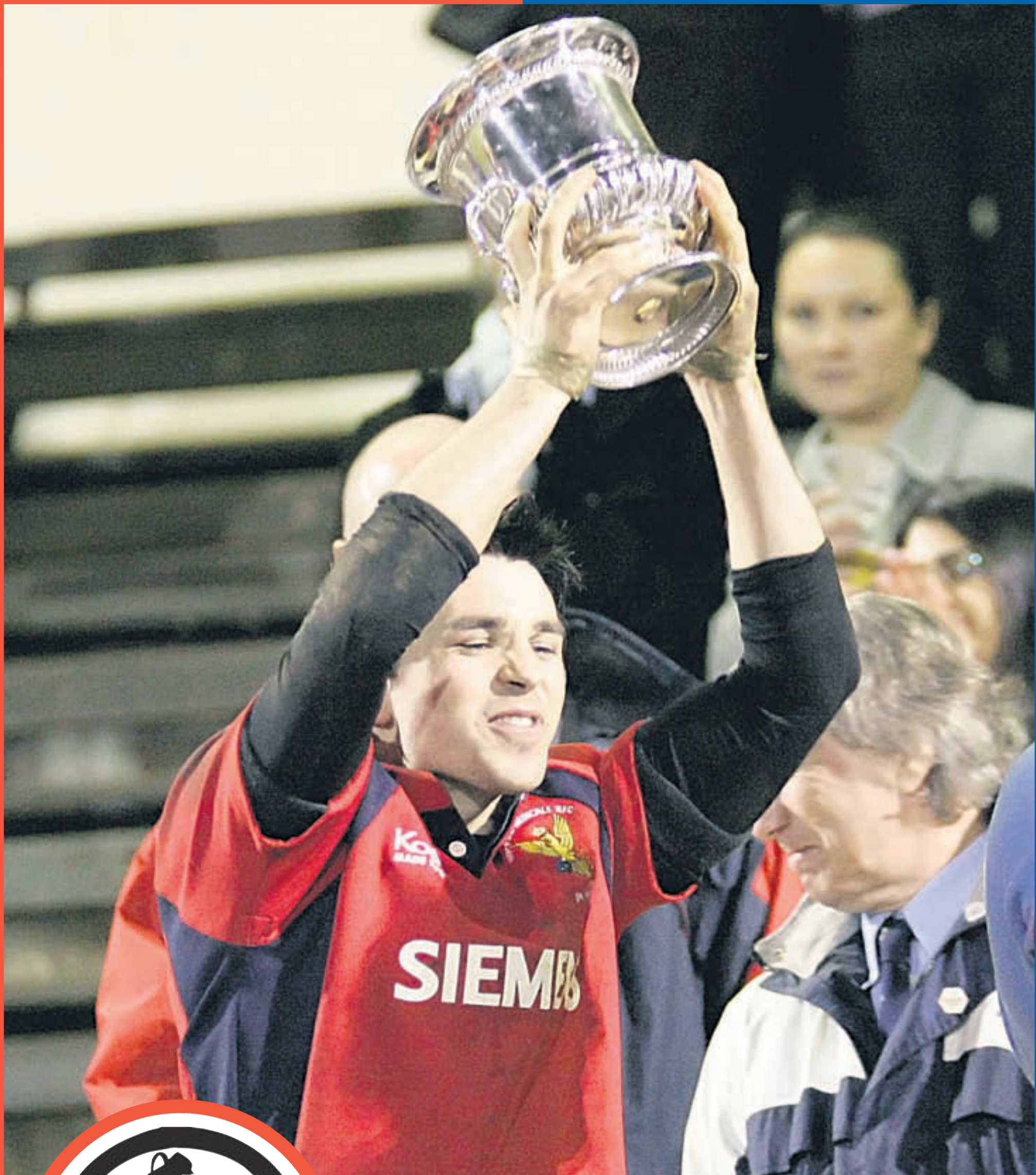


Listening Post, Science Museum

"I like panties... I like sex with animals"... This is the kind of thing you expect to come across when you visit this amazing new piece of electronic art that has taken up residence on the 1st floor. The idea artist Ben Rubin had was to give the viewer a unique portrait of the internet by tapping into chat rooms and message boards across the net. These snippets of chatter are broadcast across a curtain of 231 tiny screens which hangs from the ceiling. The words are accompanied by a soothing musical score and an automated voice occasionally reading out the odd phrase: "I am horny"... "I am Mexican". I sat there mesmerised for an hour as the 7 cycles took their course. Each cycle brings together different arrangements of aural and visual elements each with their own data processing logic. One cycle will just intercept "I am..." phrases from chat rooms whereas another intercepts 4 letter words. You sit on the edge of your seat wondering what will come up next, and whether the children in the room will mind when the automated voice booms, "CUNT".



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felix sport
Varsity
special

Foreword: A rugby and Imperial legend



John Peter Rhys Williams, known universally as JPR Williams, the man after whom the Varsity match is named, played rugby union for Wales between 1969 and 1981. He was also, apparently, a competent tennis player, but gave it up for the then-amateur game of rugby union in order to pursue a career in medicine. He quickly attracted attention and was consequently first capped by Wales in 1969, aged 19. He went on to earn 55 caps for Wales and 8 for the British Lions.

He had many high points in his career, being a key player in a Welsh side that won Grand Slams in 1971, 1976, and 1978, but is particularly remembered for his record against England; in 10 tests between Wales and England he scored five tries and was never on the losing side. He was also outstanding for the Lions, winning the 1971 series

against New Zealand with a long-range drop-goal and playing a major role in the 1974 'invincible' series against South Africa.

Whilst pursuing his medical career, JPR Williams studied at St. Mary's, now one of the hospitals in the Imperial College Medical School. It is because of his great achievements, both at college and international rugby, that the Varsity Match is named after him.

Felix Sport asked the man himself a few questions on his thoughts on the match, the day itself and sport in general.

1) How does it feel to have the main rugby event named after you?

I am honoured to have the varsity match named after me. It reminds me of my medical school days. It's hard to

believe that it is 40 years since I first played for St. Mary's. I still have a photo in my "bar" of Professor Poulter, me and the rest of the winning Sevens team ... with hair and sideboards each!

2) In your opinion, how has the whole Varsity event developed?

There is a good healthy rivalry between the medics and the college students and it surely must be only a question of time before the college gains its first win!

3) What changes can you see happening in the future?

I hope the fixture continues to grow and that the students show their support in time-honoured fashion.

4) How does it feel to have your name sung with praise every time you come to the event?

Very nice to be remembered after spending all of twelve years at Mary's. Didn't actually take me all that time to qualify: I was also houseman for six months, anatomy demonstrator for a year, and a senior registrar for 3 years!

5) How has the spirit of sport changed from your time at Imperial?

The highest compliment is that the spirit hasn't changed, but that the language has deteriorated (especially from the girls!).

6) Is there enough emphasis on sports in college, and schools in general?

Probably not enough emphasis on team sports these days. My old school still does well; my nephew Huw went straight from Brynteg into the Medics side a few years ago. I am doing my best to nurture the Imperial/Mary's team ethos. Veteran squash doubles pairing of Williams/Crofton is still undefeated in Cardiff!

Contents



Hockey 4

Imperial College wins three out of the four hockey fixtures whilst drawing the Mens 2nds match. The Mens 1sts match finishes with a thrilling round of sudden death after the score stood at 2-2 after normal time.

Football 6

Imperial College Mens 1sts thrashes the Medicals, putting five past them. The 2nds fixture is tighter but IC proves the stronger of the two teams.

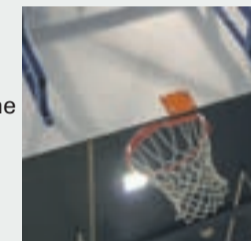


Lacrosse 7

Imperial College sends the Medicals flying into the dust, winning 15-3.

Basketball 7

The Medicals came out on top in each of the Netball fixtures, but the basketball results were an entirely different story. IC thrashes the Medicals almost by 100 points in the womens' fixture.



JPR Cup 8

Imperial Medicals narrowly win the big one, the JPR Williams Cup, in extra time after being stunned by an impressive Imperial College 1sts team.

Netball 10

Imperial Medicals come out on top in every one of the four Netball fixtures. The 1sts and 2nds matches go right to the wire but the IC 3rds and 4ths struggle to put up quite as much of a fight

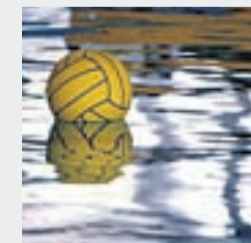


Rugby 12

Only the women's report, where they beat the Medicals 15 - 7. The Medicals beat both Imperial sides, with the 3rd team utterly defeating Imperial 43 - 0

Water Polo 12

Imperial Medicals drowned out by the unstoppable Imperial College team resulting in a 10-1 thrashing.



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A selection of photos from the day, including games held at Ethos, Harlington, and Richmond. Spot the girls who foolishly took photos of themselves on our camera!

felix sport Varsity special

Friday 7/3/08

Varsity was brought to you by:

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Editor's little blog!

First of all, a quick thank you to everyone that voted for me for Felix Editor next year, I will not disappoint you!

So, as promised, here's the Varsity pull-out, containing all (or at least everything I was given) the reports on the days' events. In here you'll find a comprehensive report with pictures and player profiles for the JPR Williams Cup. I wish I could do one for every team, but as you can see, this thing is already 16 pages long!

Thanks must go to everyone at Sport Imperial for making this as easy as possible, especially Nick

Gore and Leena Bharadia for their help with securing an interview with JPR Williams himself.

I must also thank all the people who actually wrote the match reports; if it weren't for them, we would have just had a pull-out with pictures which, thinking about it, would have been a lot easier. Thanks also to the photographers who got the pics!

Consider this a little memento of the day and there will be one next year. Hopefully with all the teams contributing to the pull-out.

Enjoy!

Jov

Varsity Highlights

Leena Bharadia
Sport Imperial

Waking up last Wednesday morning, I felt the nerves kicking in and I wasn't even competing!

No matter how much planning you've done or how many contingency plans you've made, running the Varsity event is as nerve-racking as competing in it. I know just how important the Varsity is for many students at Imperial and I feel nervous for all of them! I love looking back on the day and picking out my favourite bits.

Looking back as one of the organisers, there wasn't too much to worry about in the end and there were definitely more highlights than low lights. Here are my top five favourite bits of the JPR Williams Rugby match:

1. A draw at full time for the first time in Varsity history

What a game! I don't think people expected a draw – I know I certainly didn't. Both sides deserve a lot of credit for providing us with an incredibly entertaining match to watch. It was exciting from the first minute and kept us on the edge of our seats all the way till the final whistle at full time and of course into extra time.

The Imperial end of the stands went crazy when their side were leading 6 points to 3 but then the Medics' end

matched their counterparts' vocal efforts when the score was equal at half time. The second half was even more thrilling with more nail-biting tension as Imperial were leading once again with 19 points to 14 when lo and behold, the Medics came back and scored a try resulting in the full time draw of 19 all. Great stuff!

2. An Imperial player receiving the Man of the Match award for the first time

The results were in at the end of the match (finally) and yes the Medics won for the sixth time but for the first time, JPR Williams awarded Man of the Match honour to an Imperial player – hooker and kicker Alex Johnstone. Alex even got the opportunity to say a few words – not a normal occurrence. Well done Alex!

3. Felix Sports Editor Takes His Kit Off!

Felix Sports Editor and Imperial prop, Jovan Nedic, publicly removed his shorts (after they split!) and, would you believe, replaced them with a new pair! He was as speedy as possible but we all saw it! It almost made up for not having any streakers this year.

4. Having over 1000 people there

With an array of people at the game from players, students, College, and Union staff, VIPs, guests, parents of players, coaches, physios and medics, match officials, Sport Imperial staff, local residents, and anyone else who decided to come along and watch, I felt very proud to see that everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Every single person there contributed to the amazing atmosphere on the night and particular acknowledgment must go to the very vocal supporters at both ends of the stand. I am sure both teams appreciated your efforts – we certainly did!

5. The Boy in the Golden Trousers

I don't know his name but he was there in his splendidly golden, shiny trousers supporting the Medics. He himself was very inoffensive and indeed rather sweet. His trousers on the other hand ... I did actually bump into him the following day and as well as looking rather bashful and embarrassed when he recognised me he also looked like he'd had a bit of a rough night. Thanks for the entertainment our boy in the golden trousers.

There were lots more great moments from the day and if I could mention them all I would! Thank you to all the players and spectators for making the event such a pleasure for the Sport Imperial team to organise!



Imperial College vs Imperial Medicals



10	Netball 4th	15
17	Netball 3rd	34
22	Netball 2nd	24
38	Netball 1st	42
5	Squash Mens 1st	0
5	Squash Mens 2nd	0
0	Squash Womens	3
134	Basketball Mens 1st	55
96	Basketball Womens 1st	8
10	Waterpolo	1
6	Hockey Womens 1st	2
2	Hockey Womens 2nd	1
2 (5 on pens)	Hockey Mens 1st	2 (4 on pens)
0	Hockey Mens 2nd	0
15	Lacrosse Mixed	3
5	Football Mens 1st	1
3	Football Mens 2nd	1
18	Rugby Womens 7s	5
3	Rugby Mens 2nd	13
0	Rugby Mens 3rd	43
8	Badminton Mens 1st	0
8	Badminton Mens 2nd	0
19	Rugby Mens 1st	22
14.5	OVERALL SCORE	8.5

The ACC's view



My last varsity has just been and gone. No longer will I be able to compete alongside my fellow students studying "proper" courses and show the medics how to play sport ... still, I get the pleasure of summing up Varsity from an ACC point of view. I am sure that the rest of this pullout will be filled with relevant banter and detail about how we managed to dominate most of the sports and how rugby gave it their best shot but sadly came second once more. I don't have that much more to add, so I shall be brief.

Whilst the rugby match is often seen as the main showpiece, with the crowds, the rector, the chants, and the big shiny cup you must remember the vast number of sports entering in the day's competitions with each being a battle worth winning. This is a huge credit not only to the vast range of facilities that we have available to us, but also to the wide range and dedicated sporting student population we have. To host all these fixtures on a Wednesday afternoon takes a tremendous amount of organisation. Thanks must go out to every captain who has managed to field a team and those who work alongside coaching staff to produce teams we can be proud of. Also to those unsung heroes without whom we would be lost at most fixtures who ensure that the pitches/courts are suitable and ready, and to those who coordinate the fixtures to make sure a suitable programme and transport can be found. So a great big thank you to everyone involved.

That's sounding rather a lot like an Oscar acceptance speech, isn't it? Without wanting to lessen our

gratitude I will swiftly get back to the true meaning of varsity, IC beating the medics in most sports, and the good-humoured rivalry that festers between our great sporting sides. This rivalry, whilst occasionally seen as a negative thing, produces wonderful one-off performances when the club feels it matters; whether it is Mr. Nedic striking a catalogue pose in his undies whilst waiting for replacement shorts on the sideline, the cool and collected head of the hockey captain scoring a winning sudden death p-flick, or just a thoroughly annoying gold-trousered "phoenix" prancing around the umpires ... nobody can deny the special atmosphere a varsity day holds and that most definitely is something to build on and celebrate.

This just leaves me just to point out again how we beat the medics in the majority of sports, and how all of the IC sportsmen should join us in celebrating this great achievement at the ACC Dinner on the 18th March, where we will be presenting our annual sportsman and team of the year awards as well as colours. Ask your club captains for details.

Mary Williamson
ACC Vice-Chair

ICSMU Clubs & Socs Officer

Varsity – that annual extravaganza of sport, booze, and banter which clearly shows us why the separation of medic and non-medic clubs is one of the strongest aspects of Imperial, and so should never be touched! The provision of medic and non-medic clubs is a fantastic thing that is shared by us all; be in no doubt that we all would pay the price if it were ever to be changed!

I don't think there is anyone, even those hiding in the dark corners of the Mechanical Engineering building who would not agree that this was the best Varsity yet, one which I am sure will set the standard for years to come. The JPR Williams match was probably the closest and most exciting yet, with Imperial proving that they fully deserved promotion to the BUSA Premiership, and a young, fresh-faced Imperial Medicals side scrapping to a nail-biting 22-19 victory which puts them well on their way to making it 10 years in a row. I am delighted to see that the "love" between medics and non-medics is still flowing, and that in most sports the competition was tight, providing some excellent viewing. Through grateful teeth I must however congratulate Imperial on winning the overall Varsity day 13.5-8.5.

I want to congratulate all those teams that took part, in particular



ICSM Netball led by Catherine Atkin, and Imperial Medicals RFC led by Ruairidh Crawford, for the fantastic achievement of winning a full house in their respective sports. I am fully confident that next year we will see a rampant ICSM follow the lead of Netball and Rugby to return and win back the overall Varsity competition, proving that quality is much better than quantity when it comes to students!

Finally on behalf of ICSM I would just like to thank all those involved in what was another fantastic Varsity day. In particular I would like to thank all those in Sport Imperial and ICU for all the hard work they put in to ensure its continued success.

Guy Martin



Hockey

1sts play Varsity/ULU Cup final double header



Hockey Varsity

Imperial Men's 1st	2p
Medicals Men's 1st	2

Owen Connick

With all the other IC teams playing their Varsity games on Wednesday the Mens 1st team felt more than a little left out. Due to national BUSA cup commitments up north in Sheffield it was all we could do to make it back in time for the rugby at Richmond.

A good dose of Medic abuse therein and a very strong run of games in the BUSA cup meant that on arrival at Chiswick, IC were in confident mood. This game was to be played as a double-header with the victors taking not only the Varsity crown but also the ULU Challenge cup trophy to boot. In fact, IC had three teams representing in cup final games.

The Mens 2s wrapped up their tie first despite the best efforts of Mrs. Fat-n-Slow and her husband umpiring. The Ladies 1st had a much harder time of it but made an excellent showing, eventually losing out narrowly to GKT in their cup final. Any disappointed faces were soon buoyed by Roxy who brought iced sponge cake and smiles aplenty.

And so back to our game. Usual

scene, really, IC were incredibly awesome with magical skill, eagle-eyed vision, and masterful composure in possession. The medics cheated, fouled, and scabbed their way back from 2-0 down to draw level at 2-2 just minutes before the final whistle blew. Moments of note include Cornish crying off to the bench because he was knackered, Phoetus trying to take off by swinging his stick around above his head helicopter style and nice-boy of nice-boys Nick Jones getting sin-binned twice in one match. Watch out, ladies, he likes to get down on the turf and swing his tackle from behind. Dirty.

And so it went to a penalty shoot-out. Most went in, some missed, Joe didn't really try. Sach livened it up by sauntering up to the spot, waving kisses to the crowd, and then he decided that he didn't even need to take his flick and walked back. It even went to sudden death p-flicks. I don't even know how because we really were leagues above the Medics but we just sort of played them along for a while; it's good sport you know. Alex momentarily parted himself from his picnic basket and with all the cheek of a young chimpanzee he pointed to the exact place where he was to fire home his flick. Too easy. So then they missed, Crusty scored, and we won.

We collected our cup, our women, and the medic's pride and got back on the coach to the half-price curry house. It's really half price you know.

All square between Medics and IC

Hockey Varsity

Imperial Men's 2nd	0
Medicals Men's 2nd	0

Harry Marshall

eningly forward yet effective runs from left-back, linking well with Guff. They were creating chances, as were Dyke and Lovechild down the right. HeShe and Blob were providing great link up play between midfield and attack and Blob and Refugee both had great chances.

However the medic's keeper was

having as miraculous a game as Biggsy whose only balls-up was redeemed with the season's wunder save.

There were goalmouth scrambles at both ends with balls dribbling agonisingly wide and being swept off the line. The last five minutes were manic with two crazed sets of supporters screaming every time the ball moved vaguely

in the direction of the opposition goal. However, in the end no amount of running from Refugee (and there was a lot) could produce a goal and the IC defence remained solid – even old man Featherlite broke a sweat. Ultimately, the result ensured IC retained the Varsity hockey trophy. Job done!

The seemingly drab scoreline hides what was probably one of the most exciting Varsity matches. There was a brief delay to the start whilst a rambling, crazed man, inexplicably dressed (badly) as a golden chicken, was removed from the pitch. Once the poultry was cleared the game could begin – and what a game!

The first half was tight. Nugget, having provided some excellent pre-match banter with the aid of a traffic cone, was defending solidly. He was ably assisted by Oedipus and Cheeky both playing out of position at defensive centre-mid yet admirably filling Superpiss's shoes. Chances were being created at either end with Dyke and Lovechild combing particularly well down the right wing for IC.

In goal Biggsy, having just returned from a broken back after his parachute didn't open sky-diving (no joke), was on fire. It was still 0-0 at half-time and the crowd was only getting bigger, more drunken and louder. Keeno had finally arrived to provide extra firepower upfront. Surely a goal must come from somewhere?

The second half was even more frenetic as both sides searched for a goal. The Beast started making some fright-



Men's 2nd teams competing for the ball

Captain's Corner

I thought that this year ICHC would have to put up more of a fight to retain the Varsity Cup, which has been drunk from by IC legends while generations of Medics have attempted to aspire to the IC god-like standard!

The Ladies' 1st XI started out by annihilating the Medic Elite (6-2), the Ladies 2nd XI snatched a narrow victory (2-1) and the Men's 2nd XI then decided that, after the demolition of the Ladies' Medics, they had better leave some male compatriots to pick up the pieces (a scoreless draw it finished!).

The Men's 1st XI completed their season with a win against the Medics in the ULU cup final and were once again making sure ICHC were the owners of the Varsity Trophy.

The Ladies 1st XI narrowly missed out on a 4th successive ULU Championship; however, the Men's 2nd XI won it once again! Other highlights of the year include the Men's 4th XI being promoted out of the bottom ULU league and the Men's 3rd XI narrowly missing out on promotion in both ULU and BUSA.

We hope to see you all at Presidents Day 2008

Jack Cornish



IC Women's 1st dominate medics with style

Hockey Varsity

Imperial Women's 1st	6
Medicals Women's 1st	2

Francine Oddy

Wednesday, February 26 – the day of medic-bashing had finally arrived. The IC Ladies 1's were out in force and proved too strong an opposition for the ICSM.

The day kicked off with Preying Mantis turning up late, flirting her way onto the bus having still not bought her Varsity ticket. Moonie obviously had a lot of pent-up aggression, finding fault with the ACC transportation in her usual demure manner. Once at Harlington, the girls settled down into match-mode with Scotty-the-big-hot-tie handing out some inspiring changing room chat.

On the pitch, a poultry medic mascot and a row of hideous scarlet cords sported by their Men's 2's on the sideline were not enough to distract the mighty IC Ladies. Some lovely play-making by Token Lezza and Shoko up the right wing led to an early goal from Malvinas in her deadly position on the P-spot.

As ICSM heads dropped to the floor,



Roxy Foulser-Piggott going for goal

Moonie took advantage with another classic reverse stick shot. To the medics' credit they had their fair share of chances in the first half, but luckily MJ was completely on fire in goal. As she had pointed out before the game – she had a dodgy shoulder, not a

dodgy heart. A shortie goal finally got through, bringing the scoreline to 2-1.

In typical spirit IC fought straight back, with Kebab and Womble strong as ever in defence feeding the ball up to T*tWan* where she hastily got a short corner. A cracking strike from

CBum was on its way when kicked by a defender. Penalty Flick. Cue Womble, and a certain 3-1. After half-time IC didn't let up, with another goal apiece for Malvinas and Moonie. A deserved medic goal from a pretty great shot into the top corner brought the score

to 5-2.

What better end to the most awaited game of the season, than for skipper JD to score from mid-D into the bottom corner. An unsurprising MOM was the legendary MJ. 6-2 6-2 6-2: try again next year ICSM.

Imperial women's hockey take the early lead

Hockey Varsity

Imperial Women's 1st	2
Medicals Women's 1st	1

Fiona Jamieson

This year's clash saw IC as the underdogs having played the medics twice this year in the league and losing one and drawing the other. The only thing left to do was to win what was probably our most important game of the season.

Not only did 12 players manage to make it to the union at 10 a.m. but we also had a self-appointed team 'manager' (Fi) and our very own cheerleader (El). On the bus on our way to Harlington Alice C and El taught us chants borrowed from the RSM to use against the medics and we were slowly getting ready for the match. To start the match we had our longest ever warm up and looked like a team from the outset. However, as it was the first match of the day, we were lacking support and unfortunately the medics had managed to bring theirs with them on the early coach.

ICSM won the toss and started the game off. It was clear from the start that they were going to be using dirty tactics as Maria was struck on the knee and proceeded to roll around on the floor. As we weren't organised enough to stock up on ice, Alissa had to call the union to ask for some to be brought out on the later buses. However Maria decided to man-up and continue playing, much to Maddie's delight on the sideline. I don't really remember what happened from then on as I was too worried about what would happen, whether I was going to have a heart attack and what I would do when I finally got my hands on the cup. So the following might not be very accurate. ICSM managed to dominate play in

the first half, pressurising us to play down the middle, causing Mala and captain Amanda to do a lot of running. We had numerous chances, but it took about twenty minutes before we opened the score. All the short corner practice finally paid off as Mala pushed out to Bella who scored with a beautiful strike on the goal. That quickly shut up the medics, including their support and especially the chicken that was running up and down the sideline.

This not only calmed our nerves but proved to everyone that we were going to put up a fight. The medics came back hard and kept Mary awake, making some awesome saves. Izzy played fantastically with Sheena, working hard to clear the ball away from our D, however just before half time we were struggling and unfortunately let the medics claw one back. The half time whistle blew shortly after, during a medic attack, and was warmly welcomed.

We were privileged enough to have half-time oranges (brought by Mary, leaving Amanda to give hers to the Ladies 1s and Fi to give to the Mens 2s). As team manager I muscled in on the half-time talk, praising all the fantastic play, probably the best I've seen all season, but reminded everyone of the need to mark, especially as the medics seemed to like their stick tackles, so we just had to keep hold of the ball for as long as possible.

By this point the IC support had finally showed up, and the Mens 2s did us proud, dishing out as much abuse as we had received in the first half.

IC came out with a fighting spirit and it was elegantly shown in the play. We were working as a team, finally being able to use Jess and Carina on the wings as we were no longer forced down the middle. This was aided by the chanting, through a traffic cone, directed at the medics, which included "what are you hiding under your headband" and "who ate all the pies". Maybe it was this encouraging support that led us to push on again. The medics

clearly didn't like this, and took to injuring players to take them out of the game. Maria got hit on the hand and had to be taken off as she couldn't hold the stick.

This forced Maddie onto the pitch for the rest of the game, whilst Maria took full advantage of the ice packs that turned up on the later buses. However we fought on as a team and some inspiring play let Mala feed the ball to Amanda who took the ball into the D and scored from open play. The nerves were all finally settling for IC as we now took the lead. After a while longer, maybe 10 minutes, someone was fouled inside the D, and IC were

awarded a penalty stroke (not entirely sure why, but we think it was because the ball was stopped on the line by a foot, and as we all know that's just plain old cheating). Mala stepped up to take this, the pressure was on, and some medic was whining about it, but she got told to pipe down. Unfortunately the pressure got to Mala and she missed, nearly giving me the heart attack I was worried about. We had to hang on for just 10 minutes longer.

IC were clearly tiring, and with Maria injured, even though she claimed she could go back on if we taped the stick to her hand, we no longer had any subs. ICSM capitalised on this, relent-

lessly attacking the D. At one point Mary confused everyone by hiding the ball under her foot and when she finally decided to move Izzy had to launch in and steal it from the two medics lurking by the goal. However we weren't always so skillful and one of the medic scum struck on goal and it went in. The first umpire awarded the goal. Mary and our entire defence contested the discussion (it had clearly hit a medic's foot on the way in) and the second umpire was consulted, who disallowed the goal. That showed the medics that they couldn't get away with cheating!

The final whistle blew with IC victorious yet again!



Arabella Walker levitating, magic!

Football

Captain's Corner



Another year sees another football varsity retained at a canter. The Medics put up a good fight

for 45 minutes of the 1st XI clash, but in the second half class told and we turned on the style to score some excellent goals and simulate exquisite gunfire. The 2nd XI clash was treated with comical contempt with leavers from the 3s, 4s, 5s, and 6s playing and winning comfortably. A notable performance came from 4th XI captain and centre back Aubergine who was playing his first ever game as a goalkeeper. His only contribution was to watch the ball bounce over his head and into the goal. "Give the medics a chance," he thought. J. E. Rainbow was sent off within 20 seconds of his 1st XI debut for general skulduggery. "It was worth it and I'll do it again" he muffled through his balaclava.

Congratulations to the 1st XV rugby too, you actually made it competitive! The 1st XI train rolls on to the Cup Final this Saturday looking to retain our trophy once more. The trident is ready, the firm are armed: the trophy awaits.

Garo Torrosian

Medics no match for Imperial's finest

Football Varsity

Imperial Men's 1st	5
Medicals Men's 1st	1

J. E. Rainbow

After deciding that the Fagel Medics were below their grade last year the first team decided to humour the scum this year. Rumours of a silent confidence and a chance to get one over the best team in London were on the lips of the Medics.

Reports were circulating that the Medic Captain was seen collecting Disability Living Allowance just last week. IC Captain Pat 'Chipmunk Head' Farr told his troops to give the Fagel an early goal – rumours that this was the result of a payoff from an Iranian match-fixing syndicate are unconfirmed. Nonetheless the wankers took the lead with a shanked shot off Torossian's scrotum before agonisingly trickling through the lettuce wrists of "Whore".

Despite this setback the ULU champs showed little urgency and were content to keep possession and poke fun at how bollocks the opposition was. Sami Typhallus then began to exert his efficient form of dominance administering fatal bouts of Bolivian SuperAids (The Bad Type). Burkinshark's first half performance seemed subdued as he spent most of it on the phone to multiple American rats. Despite the contempt towards the game the equaliser quickly



Yet another Imperial goal going in

came, the DLA Medic Captain lost possession to "Shadow the Hedgehog" Howson, who calmly strolled through and finished allowing the teams to enter the half level.

IC's Skipper delivered a passionate team talk informing the lads that the earth needed to be warmed with the sweet wine of Medic blood. Aulak, whose blade is sharper than Rambo's, was ready to dance, and dance he did. A four-goal second-half ensued with utter dominance being stamped over the face of the opposition. Things got embarrassing as 'Fanny Batter' Wilson and 'Benny Boy' Payne pulled the strings through the centre while "Ego"

Martins ripped the medics to shreds down the flanks. The unstoppable red river flowed and the medics continued to leak goals at the rear as the Irvinator completed his hat-trick either side of a Typhallus goal. The IC 1st team really started to take the piss when "Burkinshark" passed the ball forward.

4-1 signalled the entrance of Wellington DaSilva for his first team debut allowing Haugh a short stint up top. In what was otherwise a good game for the ref, he harshly red-carded DaSilva in less than 10 seconds. Responding to remedial banter from a dirty stinking Medic snout DaSilva politely informed the individual that he would have to

see a proctologist if he kept slabberin'. Later questioned about the incident DaSilva responded, "I'd do it again". Despite this, Martins placed the icing on the cake with a well-finished goal. Afterwards, the Medic winger who controversially switched allegiances at the start of the year gave no comment about the game.

Jack "The Crane" Britton did not break a sweat all game, and questioned the validity of the competition, remarking, "Maybe next year it would be better if they played a Fagel IC team like Wye or RSM." Sport Imperial may be looking into the possibility of this as a more realistic varsity challenge.

Rainbow shines as medics fall to Imperial 2nds

Football Varsity

Imperial Men's 2nd	3
Medicals Men's 2nd	1

J. E. Rainbow

As the IC football team rolled off the bus on a mild February day in West London, the air was filled with the unmistakable stench of IC Football victory. Not even the most optimistic of the Medic Snouts could have predicted a lucky draw; essentially they were being marched to their doom much like the Burmese army towards John Rambo and a semi-automatic. The sweet anti-British chimes of the Wolfetones and continuous simulation of gunfire reduced the proverbial Medic package to a floppy 2-incher and a pair of mincy balls.

Pete Cunt's selected team set out to ridicule the Medic Seconds. The pre-match team talk fused the finest aspects of culture and street justice, quoting the 'Art of War' and the essential 'How to beat the 4-4-2'. The starting line-up spawned few surprises, and after all the preparation we had to live for something or die for nothing. IC immediately seized the initiative by dominating the centre of midfield with a series of uncompromising challenges, showing no mercy towards the

Nurses souls. The endeavour of the midfield coupled with the energy in the forward line brought by the 'White Lightning'-quick Rainbow and Swain resulted in the inevitable. The resistance of the Medic back line swiftly crumpled in a fashion reminiscent of the British Army against the Irish Republican movement; after good wide work by "Kassabian the Turk" the ball dropped to "The Frog" who duly delivered a lighting bolt right through the upper-90.

Rainbow proved to be a constant blade in the side of the Medic's neck. The IC backline on the contrary were relaxing, enjoying ice-cold brewskies and drinking up their superiority over the Medic McLovins. Despite their dominance they couldn't convert opportunities and the pressure to double the advantage grew as the half drew to a close. IC's 2nd XI, however, live by the motto 'When you're pushed, scoring is as easy as breathing' much like killing someone, and when a deep corner was whipped into the box "The Bearded-Oyster" headed the ball goal-bound for "Dewy" to bundle past the ham-fisted Medics.

The champagne was ready to be popped until a moment of madness from the IC keeper. An innocuous free-kick was speculatively driven long towards the box. Blinded by the sun and distracted by his huge testicle the ball bounced over Aubergine (soon to be victim of a filthy pint) and into the

net. The team entered half-time somewhat subdued but confident of victory against the wank obstacle they found before them. Captain Cunt instructed us, "true heroes never die, they just reload," and following some refreshments from Master's mum, the lads were ready to do some more damage.

The second half proved to be an exhibition of complete control, the Medics rarely crossed the halfway line, with "Lobster" keeping their winger firmly between his pincers. Rainbow continued to throw his weight around up top and was unlucky not to get on the end of some fine midfield play from Shaaz. Cue the introduction of 6th team giants Adrian "Bus Fornication" Doyle and "The Sex-Pest" Killer to finally wipe this dog shit from our shoes. Flamboyant work from Gui 'The Fave-la Bellshiner' allowed him to swing a ball in for Killer to shank to Doyle who sniped the ball goalward.

The rest of the game was played out at a canter with 'Pink Taco' penetrating the Medic rearguard with surging movements. The game fizzled out and the final whistle was met with rapturous screams from the mediocre rats that made up the Smithy and Fitz fanclub. Fitz, unimpressed by comparisons of his face to a vagina, requisitioned 'swaliberta' from the rats and destroyed it. After a quick consultation it was decided that the medics were too shit to merit a warm down, and we should go support IC 1st XI.



That tackle looks like it's going to hurt



Lacrosse

Captain's Corner



This season, the lacrosse club has grown beyond my wildest expectations. We set out to put lacrosse

on the map and I believe that we have achieved just that. We differ in many respects to most sports – boys and girls train, play, and socialise together – in fact do everything, including getting naked for a certain page 3 ... Our small but wonderfully hardcore group of enthusiastic, committed members along with the help of a fantastic committee have transformed our image. With three teams on the go, it's hard to keep track but our ladies team came an admirable 2nd in the League, our mixed team are in the final of the Challenge Cup and our fledgling men's team is set to enter their own league next season. We've even organised our very own Imperial Cup: Mixed Lacrosse Tournament with teams from all over the country coming to compete. This season certainly has been successful and next year, things can only get better.

Sam Jayaweera

Imperial dominate medic lacrosse

Lacrosse Varsity

Imperial Mixed 1st	15
Medicals Mixed 1st	3

Saz Chauhan

The Imperial Lacrosse Club found itself once again segregating for Varsity to create the Medics Team and the Imperial Team.

Needless to say, tensions were high with the medics hoping to re-instate some pride, having faced an embarrassing loss at Varsity 2007, whilst the Imperial team had an impressive reputation to maintain.

Like last year, Imperial struggled to get a full team and so the Medics offered one of their plethora of substitutes. Imperial gallantly declined thus leading to a scenario none too different to last year. So players and friends from the lacrosse club found an atmosphere of rivalry spurred between them as the Medics and Imperial team warmed up on opposite ends of the pitch.

The match began and it rapidly became apparent that once again, the Medics were due to be thoroughly destroyed, but certainly not without a good fight. Some spectacular saves were made by the Medics goalie and captain, Chris Baldwin. Fantastic game play by centre Izzie Brown who had to take on the tall challenge of Jon Downing and superb running by John Jones



I have no idea about Lacrosse, but it looks like fun

and Joe Bacarese-Hamilton.

Unfortunately, defence and attack was no match for the Imperial team who crushed the Medics, outrunning them with some superb stick work from Tim Barber, Ian Hunt, and Florence Slater. Their attack managed to perturb even the solid defence of the Lacrosse Club – Elsa Butrous and Emily Murray. Consistent commitment and enthusiasm led to great performance from James Kerr, Max Holland,

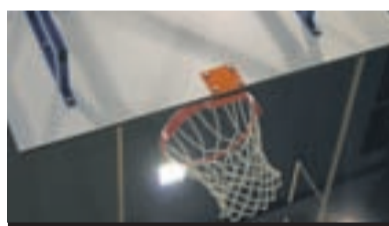
and Kiran Booth. New Imperial goalie, Kristian Roberts, showed no fear with regular attacks from the Medics team.

A particular highlight of the match was when Ian Hunt of Imperial dislocated the shoulder of key Medic player Akira Fukutomi, resulting in the first major accident of Varsity requiring the assistance of the emergency services and an ambulance (he survived!).

Imperial finished the match with a storming victory of 15-3. The Med-

ics dragged their feet to the Imperial team to shake hand. No one could have summed up the match and day better than the Lacrosse Club Mixed Captain, Christopher Baldwin who finished with, "I'm just glad we're all in the same team for the club!"

And so together we all traipsed over to the Harlington Bar and proceeded to get suitably drunk with ample amounts of Port and Gin consumed by all with great team spirit!



Basketball

Captain's Corner



The season has been amazing for the Women's 1st. The team has won all of its ULU matches;

hence winning the league which entitles the team to a promotion into the Premiere division. This together with a good turn up, an improvement in the technique thanks to the new coaching team, and a raised team spirit, has made this season one of the best in recent years.

These outstanding results are helping to raise the profile of a previously ignored sport.

I would like to take the chance to congratulate all the players for this successful year and encourage anyone who has an interest in basketball to come along for a tryout at any of our training sessions or join the team next season.

Sara Arbós i Torrent

Imperial annihilate medicals in Ethos

Basketball Varsity

Imperial Women's 1st	96
Medicals Women's 1st	8

Sara Arbós i Torrent

The Varsity match at Ethos was attended by many supporters from both sides. The game kicked off at 8:20pm, and the IC team gained the beginning of a constant lead after Sofia's 1st basket. However, during the first 5 minutes of the first quarter there was not much scoring, both teams still warming up. Nonetheless, IC's team got more into the game and extended its advantage, which was of more than 20 points by the end of the quarter; the match had already been decided. Throughout the remaining quarters the IC team got used to the rivals game and was able to play accordingly, their confidence building throughout.

During the 2nd and 3rd quarter the team was still not playing at its best and struggling to get used to zone defence and the game tactics of the oppo-

nent. Nevertheless, there was brilliant team effort and dedication as well as willingness to play a good game which led to an excellent performance, especially during the fourth quarter, which can be appreciated by looking at the final result.

Furthermore, during the fourth quarter a pressure defence was played very successfully, allowing for easy ball recoveries at the opponent's half court which resulted in comfortable basket scoring. Moreover, as the match developed the defence improved greatly and the ball was recovered easily and very frequently, providing scope for fast breaks to take place.

Sofía Civeira and Dehydys Pimentel were the top scorers with more than 20 points each. However, the overall win would not have taken place had it not been for every member's contribution to the extraordinary final score. A strong defence was played throughout the game, and became the key point for such great an advantage at the end.

Finally, I would like to thank all the supporters for coming along and congratulate all the team players that took part in the game for their enthusiasm and performance.



One of the Imperial girls defending a medic attack

Imperial College



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Joseph Sanders
Loose head prop | 12. Thomas Carroll
Inside Centre |
| 2. Alexander Johnstone
Hooker | 13. James Fletcher
Outside Centre |
| 3. Jovan Nedić
Tight Head Prop | 14. Robert Phillipps
Winger |
| 4. Thomas Zeal
Second Row | 15. Max Joachim
Fullback |
| 5. Edward Labinski
Second Row | 16. Terry Addo
Prop |
| 6. Andrew Jasudasen
Flanker
Captain | 17. Benjamin Moorhouse
Second Row |
| 7. James Petit
Flanker | 19. Nicholas Johnstone
Back Row |
| 8. Flannan O'Mahney
No. 8
Vice Captain | 19. Luke Taylor
Prop |
| 9. Freddie Chalke
Scrum Half | 20. Remi Williams
Scrum Half |
| 10. Joseph Brown
Fly Half | 21. John Goulding
Centre |
| 11. Edward Spofforth-Jones
Winger | 22. Michael Okoigun
Winger |

JPR Williams Cup

Imperial College 19
Imperial Medicals 22



Imperial Medicals



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Xander Ancock
Loose head prop | 12. Ben Davies
Inside Centre |
| 2. Ruairidh Crawford
Hooker | 13. James Sharples
Outside Centre |
| 3. Ed Pickles
Tight head prop | 14. Harry Thompson
Winger |
| 4. Rob Anderson
Second Row | 15. Huw Williams
Fullback |
| 5. Chris Hallowell
Second Row | 16. Rory Hutchinson
Back Three |
| 6. Annakan Navaratnam
Flanker | 17. Doug Evans
Second Row |
| 7. Craig Nightingale
Flanker | 18. Matt Sarvesevaran
Back Row |
| 8. James Saffin
No. 8 | 19. Jonny Fisher-Black
Prop/hooker |
| 9. Tom Maynard
Scrum Half
Captain | 20. Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys
Prop |
| 10. Dan Neville
Fly Half | 21. Guy Martin
Centre |
| 11. Kevin Ilo
Winger | 22. Paul Thiruchelvam
9/15 |

Medicals scrape to victory

Jovan Nedić & Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys

This year's JPR Williams Cup was billed as 'The Big One' with the Imperial 1st XV rugby team gaining promotion into the BUSA Southern Premiership B and the Medicals pulling off a 'Great Escape' to stay in the same league. Imperial have been on superb form, comfortably beating their last two opponents, scoring over 49 points in each game, whilst the Medicals have had to fight hard to earn their wins.

The crowd began to gather at Richmond Rugby Ground from about 6.30 p.m., easily filling the main stand, as well as the side of the pitch which resulted in a crowd of nearly 1,100! They were expecting a hard fought battle, they were expecting blood and tears on the pitch, they were expecting the game to go down to the wire. They were not going to be disappointed.

After the formalities were completed the game kicked off under the bright lights on a clear, still night in south west London. As ever, the opening minutes proved to be a frantic affair as both sides came out fired up; however, neither team was able to gain the upper hand. With this fast pace and huge rivalry between the two sides, discipline was a bit poor to begin with, with both sides conceding penalties. The Medicals were afforded the first opportunity to open the scoring but fly-half Dan Neville's penalty went wide of the left upright. The IC kicker Alexander Johnstone, who unusually was also their hooker, was also to miss his first effort at goal as the game remained scoreless early on.



The victorious medical side celebrating their win

With the game finding its rhythm, both sides tried to exploit each other's weaknesses. The Medicals set up a catch and drive from the lineout, five metres from the Imperial try line, yet Imperial were more than ready for them and pushed them back a good few metres before the ball was distributed to the backs who were unable to score. Imperial, on the other hand, attempted to exploit the Medicals' weaker back line, running great attacking lines, but the Medicals predicted this and their defence was superb. With neither side being able to penetrate the line effectively, only errors kept the score board ticking with a further two penalties, leaving the score at half-time 6 - 6.

The Medicals, who have always considered themselves to be the superior team, seemed shaken by their first half performance. Imperial were full of hope after seeing how much their performance had affected the opposition and they knew that the start of the second half was going to be tough. This was indeed the case as the Medicals came out with all guns blazing, thirsty for a try, eager to take the lead and reiterate the fact that they considered themselves to be the better team.

Both Medical centres James Sharples and Ben Davies carried well and ran hard lines at the Imperial defence which gave wingers Harry Thompson and Kevin Ilo space out wide. The



Imperial defensive line getting ready to hit the medicals



Imperials winger Michael Okoigun attempting to get pass Kevin Ilo

Medicals' pressure was to tell as a quick ball on the right wing was passed along the line to Huw Williams who entered the line from full-back. Ignoring the unmarked Harry Thompson outside him Williams went for the line and was able to dive over and touch down despite the close attention of the Imperial cover tacklers. Neville was unable to add the conversion from near the left touchline which left the score at 11 - 6 to the Medicals, but about five minutes later they were awarded with a penalty to stretch the lead to 14 - 6.

Imperial, having sat through the storm, came out the other side ready to really show what they are capable of. In broken and open play the Imperial backs are deadly, whilst the Medicals were strong in the tight; the aim was simple, keep the ball away from their forwards and break up their backs. Imperial scrum half, Freddie Chalke and fly-half Jo Brown were on great form, both marshalling the backs and forwards as a unit which eventually led to a penalty, which was converted. Imperial kept on pushing, gaps were being created at every opportunity that stretched and tested the Medicals' defence; however, it could not withstand the push by Imperial and eventually Imperial's first try was scored by centre Tom Carroll to level the game again. Imperial were not going to let this run of good form slip and the pressure was maintained on the Medicals' backs; however, the line-outs were proving to be a bit of a problem with the Medicals' second row Rob Anderson consistently being a nuisance to the Imperial line-out.

The Medicals did have chances of their own and tried to break down the wing with Kevin Ilo, only to be stopped in spectacular style by Imperial's captain Andrew Jasudasen and vice-captain Flannan O'Mahney. With three minutes to go on the clock, Imperial

spotted a gap in the Medicals' defence and fly-half Jo Brown chipped the ball over for Alex Johnstone to catch and score. Imperial were in the lead 19 - 14.

With minutes to go, all Imperial had to do was defend their line as they knew that the Medicals were going to come at them, and they did, however after ten minutes the game was still going and the Medicals exploited a gap on the blind side with Rob Anderson, scoring the life-saving try. The full-time whistle blew and the score was 19 - 19 and for the first time ever, the game went into extra time. Both sides had 20 minutes to make their mark, but with discipline still being a problem between the two sides, and the fact that the players were getting tired, penalties were being awarded all over the pitch. It were the Medicals who were able to get one within kicking distance and took the lead at 22 - 19, but no matter how much the Imperial boys kept trying to get to their line, they couldn't get

a penalty within kicking distance and as the full time whistle blew the Medicals were relieved whilst the Imperial side were left wondering how they let it slip at the last moment.

JPR Williams himself commented after the game that the Medicals should consider themselves very very lucky to have won the game, which means a lot since the former Wales and British Lions full-back is a Medicals Old Boy. He commended the Imperial players and especially Man of the Match Alexander Johnstone of whom he said: "This boy can score tries, kick conversions and penalties, and make big hits, all whilst being a hooker as well!"

With both sides now in the Premiership, next year's encounter promises to be a spectacle not to be missed. The Medicals received one hell of a wake-up call from Imperial; these games are no longer a walk in the park for them, and both sides have to put in everything they have to come out the victors. I'm looking forward to it already!



James Sharples on a break



Netball

1sts team netball battle it out to the bitter end

Captain's Corner



Well... what a season and it's very nearly all over! The 1st team won their

BUSA league unbeaten and has been promoted – CONGRATULATIONS GIRLS!

The 2s have played well all season and were unlucky in BUSA, but still have a chance to win their ULU league and be promoted – Come on, girls! The 3s have had some interesting games and results with a higgledy-piggledy team, but have had lots of netballing fun at the same time.

As a club, we've had way too much fun dressed as cats, horrible things for Halloween, the Nativity (legendary), and cheerleaders. We've even "organized" a Valentine's Pub Crawl, which went from the Union Bar to DaVinci's and back again – whoops! And in doing all this, we've created far too much gossip for even me to handle!

This year's Varsity was the most intense that I've been involved in. The hype leading up to the day was almost unbearable. The gym has been packed every lunchtime since Christmas with competitors from various sports (one in particular, they know who they are!) trying to reach the peak of fitness at the right time.

I got up that morning feeling physically sick, I even struggled to eat – which is very unlike me – all day. It seems strange that a game with only pride at stake can affect you in that way. But that is the beauty of Varsity, one day where a few games of sport matter to 1000s of people who usually just don't give a damn!!

Although the results at Varsity didn't go our way and left us heartbroken (especially me!), I just want to say how proud I am of every single member of my club for the passion they showed on court and their dignified conduct off court on the day.

These last two years as Netball Club Captain have been out of this world (almost literally some Wednesday nights!), and I want to thank everyone who has both helped and supported me in this time – you know who you are!

And I love you all girlies – even if you can be a pain in the ass sometimes! x x x

Jess Marley

Netball Varsity

Imperial 1st	38
Medicals 1st	42

Jess Marley

After some intense discussion the day before about team plans and tactics the Imperial Netball 1st team finally had their team sorted out. With the loss of our 1st team GS through injury in the BUSA Cup match the week before, the girls were nervous about how the new arrangement would perform. However, after a good warm up the girls in blue took to the court for the biggest rivalry game of their season against the IC Medics.

The first whistle blew and the game began. Throughout the first quarter IC showed great control, and although the game was slow the girls were working hard to stay composed and not to throw the ball away. Some excellent interceptions by the defence, and great shooting from the attack left the Imperial ladies up by four goals at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter was much like the first with the shooters in both teams never missing a shot and the centre court players refusing to make a mistake which could cost them an interception. The defence battled hard at both ends, trying to capitalise on any dropped balls or inaccurate passes, but there were few opportunities and by the end of the first half the score was 17-19 to the Medics.

With some small changes to the attack in the third quarter, both teams

picked up the pace of the game and mistakes started to show through lack of concentration and over-excitement. The roar of the supporters was deafening and the atmosphere grew and grew within the sports hall as the Medics slowly pulled ahead of the Imperial girls. They continued to work hard and made up to their previous mistakes in the game through interceptions; however, the IC medics defence made some great interceptions and by the end of the third quarter the Imperial ladies were down 25-29, leaving it all up to the last quarter.

The IC girls showed great determination, continuing to never miss a shot and coming very close to interceptions. It was an agonising quarter to watch with the girls in blue being twelve goals down at one point in the quarter. Through the defence and attack they were able to bring it back to two and with only 3 minutes to go, with the crowd of supporters cheering both teams, the Medics pulled ahead again by two goals leaving the final score at the whistle as 38-42.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank all the supporters that came to watch the game, the umpires and scorers, and the IC Medics for a great game. I would also like to say how proud I am of the team and the way they played throughout the game; although it was not the result some were hoping for, it was a great achievement and I couldn't have asked any more of you all.

It has been an amazing season for us and I would like to say that those of you that are leaving us this year (you know who you are) will be greatly missed and your contributions to the club have been amazing and it will not be the same without you!



I couldn't find the next shot, so I'm not sure if it actually went in

Medics just squeeze past IC ladies 2nd

Netball Varsity

Imperial 2nd	22
Medicals 2nd	24

Carolyn Sharpe

After an interesting season which saw the Imperial Netball 2nds firstly lose their GS to the 1st team which resulted in having to take the 3rd team shooter, they then lost their captain who had to pull out due to work commitments ... and all this with a team that is made up primarily of freshers!

And so, the annual clash arrived and all was set for the IC 2nd team to play the Medics 2nds. After losing by only one goal earlier in the season, we knew it would be a tight match. From the outset it was close, with a neck and neck score at the end of the first three quarters (16-16).

During the fourth quarter the victory could have gone to either team, but unfortunately the Medics pulled away to a two-goal lead in the last few minutes. The final score was 24-22 to the Imperial Medics.

A special congratulation should go to Anna Haslop (GS) for her consistent and accurate shooting. A mention



The wing defender is not letting the medic get her hands on that ball

should also go to Jakie Fok who was awarded twat of the match for nearly doing the splits in a spectacular slide,

thank you to Ethos for over-polishing the floor, made play so much easier!

So, after a tightly fought match, we

look forward to not only seeing you again at Varsity next year, but in the BUSA league as well.

Medics netball pull away from IC 3rds to take the victory

Netball Varsity

Imperial 3rd	17
Medicals 3rd	34

Anna Haslop

The game got off to a great start even though half the team were shattered from the game before!

The first quarter was going well with the game neck and neck and everyone playing superbly. Quarter time score, 8-8. As the tension grew in the second quarter the Medics pushed ahead, leaving the Imperial team wanting it even more. The score was 12-17 at half time. Hopefully some half-time oranges would help.

But then in an attempt to score a marvellous goal, the Imperial Goal Shooter, Fee Larner fell valiantly to the floor with cramp leaving the Medics once again proving they know less about medicine than a media student at Bradford!

Unfortunately for Imperial the goals just weren't going in and the Medics began to greatly increase the goal difference in the third quarter, leaving the scores at 14-28 with 15 minutes to play. This made the Imperial team more determined than ever so entering the final quarter, a little red in the face, they began to win their centres back. It was too late though as the Medics had already stormed ahead.

Finally, the buzzer went, leaving the scores at 17-34! Although Imperial was left a little disappointed, we were pleased with our fight against a team two leagues above. A brilliant effort by all those who played!



The Medicals Goal Attack having a shot at goal. What a surprise

Medics draw first blood against IC 4th

Netball Varsity

Imperial 4th	10
Medicals 4th	15

Fee Larner

We arrived at Ethos at 12 p.m. ready to play at 12:30. You could feel the excitement as supporters from the other teams started to pile in. We wanted to get the game started ASAP so that all the games could finish earlier and then we could all get to Richmond on time. However, the Medics were having none of it.

Eventually, the game got underway with competitive debuts for Amrita Randhawa, Sarah Jane, and Tina Flanagan. In the first quarter, the shooting looked a bit rusty for both teams, which left the scores 3-3 at the quarter-time whistle. With some outstanding inter-play between centre Fee Larner, WA Amrita, and GA Charlotte Graham, IC had just pulled ahead by half time – the score 6-5. The third quarter didn't quite go to plan with IC only scoring one goal. Maybe it was all the oranges we ate at half time – left our hands a bit juicy! The score was 7-10 with 10 minutes to play. Unfortunately, the Medics experience showed in the last quarter to leave it at 10-15. But one thing you do have to remember is that



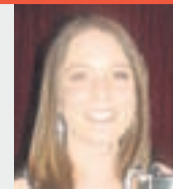
That girl looks like she is getting hit in the face by a medic player!

the Medics 4s play competitively every week in ULU and we do not – so not a bad result in the end for us! After the game, we settled in for an afternoon of

tense netball and an evening of even more tense rugby. Well done to all the girls who played, (Verity Stafford, Sarah Jane, Tina Flanagan, Fee Larner

[Captain on the day], Amrita Randhawa, Charlotte Graham, and Sophie Arrowsmith), we put in an outstanding performance on the day!

Captain's Corner



This season has been a success all round on the netballing front. We started the season with an excellent fresher intake, with new players slotting into all four teams. The first team had to adapt to more travelling and a higher standard as they had moved up into the 1A division, the season overall was a great success, finishing in a comfortable third place and progressing to the BUSA trophy. The second team built up a strong team spirit through the season and have ended up finishing the season in ULU a lot higher than previously and will be starting next season with a good chance of promotion. The thirds played well throughout the season and were always secure within their league. They formed a tight and well-rehearsed team. The 4th team played their first season in ULU and competed well and all improved greatly throughout the season.

Varsity day arrived with much anticipation – rounding off the netball season with a large dose of patriotism and rivalry. The four-hour marathon of games began with the 4ths, the ICSM team only in its second year but proving they had grown as a team and fought all the way through to win 15-10. Next up, the 3rds: after a close first half the medics then broke away, with impressive shooting skills and a solid defensive trio leading them to a final score of 34-17. The 2nds game was always going to be close, with the medics only beating IC by a goal earlier in the season. The defence on both sides working continuously, the scores were even until the last quarter, when the medics finally pushed to success, the final score a close but well-deserved 24-21. The climax of Netball varsity was the first teams match. Readers of Felix are constantly updated by news of IC Netball's unbeaten season and with the medics holding onto their place in the BUSAs 1A the match was always going to be very tense. IC came out strong; showing their intentions very early on with some well-rehearsed feeding into the circle and lots of support across the court. However, the medics weren't going to let the match go that easily and showed their fighting spirit and dominant presence across the court. The medics defending pair worked continuously hard to break down the IC attack and by the last quarter the difference was up to seven. The medics shooters continued to put away the goals and centre court stayed strong linking all the play and the medics managed to hold off the last IC surge to win 42-38. The Medics were once again victorious – winning all four matches!

Catherine Atkin



Rugby Union

Rugby girls have a fun and light-hearted game

Captain's Corner



The Virgins have had one of their best seasons yet this year. In a sport where most teams struggle just to get 15 players out each week, the virgins not only had 15 players for each match, but we even managed to have subs! Our first match, after only one week of training, we won 50-5. Following that we had the UH 7s tournament which we came out as grand slam winners. It was a great, but quite easy start to the year. Our first proper test came against UCL, a team who battered us last year. But we came out victorious in a close 21-17 win. All in all, well done girls!

Bonnie and Carla taking the lead as Captain and Vice. I'm going to miss you guys, but good luck!

Ellie Bailey

Rugby Varsity

Imperial Women's 1st	17
Medicals Women's 1st	5

Camilla Baker

Not taken as seriously as some of the other matches, but joining in the fun we played a 7s game against each other with left-over players on the side line showing their support through alcohol consumption.

IC started the match with Carla Mulas kicking off. A series of scrums lead to IC regaining the ball only for it to be stolen by Medics then pushed into touch. The line-outs were generally won by medics due to a clear height advantage. The Medics had some good rucking and mauling but when it eventually got out to the backs there was some good tackling by Rebecca Harrison and Roxanne Crossley from IC. The first try came from a turnover ball by IC passing right through the hands, ending with Carla scoring and converting a try. Half time 7-0 to IC.

A few minutes into the second half IC got a penalty, kicked by Roxanne; Elena Bailey made a tackle on the line leading to another IC try by Roxanne.



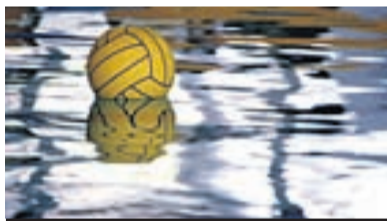
The girls rummaging for the ball at the bottom of a ruck

Medics had some good play and Jessica Alcena was able to run around IC to score a try for the Medics. To end the match Becky was able to run through the Medics and score the final try.

It was a very evenly matched game;

the play was good by both sides in what was a fun and light-hearted game! Well done to the freshers on the Medic side. Good (in most cases excessive) drinking fun was had by all while watching the remainder of the games! Clearly

most of the virgins cannot handle 6 hours of drinking and by the start of the Richmond game were in a state of disrepair: with heads in bowls of chips and sharing vodka outside stations with tramps.



Water Polo

Medicals left dead in the water by IC

Captain's Corner



In the last four years the water polo team has undergone some dramatic improvements. After a year and a half of nomad-like existence travelling from pool to pool, the team finally settled at Ethos, with an impressive 14-match home winning streak.

The introduction of former GB coach, Adam Walzer, proved a major turning point for the water polo squad. Last season the team won no less than four trophies, including the UL Tournament and Varsity Match, a superb achievement considering the team's mid-table position only three years ago.

This year marked Imperial Polo's entry into BUSA. A confident attitude saw the team promoted into the premier league in their debut season, narrowly missing out on a place in the trophy final.

Tim Keating

Water Polo Varsity

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

Tim Keating

With last year's varsity competition being won by a single goal, this year both teams had a point to prove. The match started at a fierce pace, with a series of squandered counter attacks from either side, leaving the score goalless at the end of the first period. IC had the majority of the chances, the woodwork denying the home team the lead.

The medics came close to scoring with a series of long range shots; however, the Imperial keeper made some impressive saves to deny the visitors a place on the score sheet. The deadlock was broken midway through the second period, with IC scoring a well-rehearsed goal from the centre forward position.

From this moment the match took a major turn, the home team stringing together a series of break away goals. Imperial's defence was solid, not allowing the medics to get a grip on the game. Just before half time John Livesey got the medics off the mark with a superb shot finding the top-corner. Vera Gielen showed excellent aware-



Players competing for the ball at this year's Varsity event

ness in the third period, scoring a hat trick of goals in quick succession. This was followed by scores from Ian Welch-Philips and Richard Thoburn, taking IC into an 8-1 lead with one period remaining.

The final period continued with much of the same, IC having the majority of possession, scoring two more

goals, taking the final score to 10-1. The medic team were unlucky not to score more, the final score slightly flattering the IC team. However, this was still a superb result for IC, with their best ever score line in the varsity competition, with every member of the squad playing a vital part in the team's success.

Captain's Corner

This season the ICSM came 3rd in the ULU League whilst maintaining its slogan "the drinking team with the water polo problem". The fresher intake has been superb, and an extra Wednesday training session has allowed us to develop from last year. The boys have had an extra opportunity this year, combining with IC to form a joint team in the BUSAs, it was a great success with the team getting promoted to tier one.

The ULU league has been tough, but despite this we have managed to win five out of the ten matches played, an improvement from last year. Varsity was as always highly competitive and, although the score line doesn't suggest it, was a closely fought match on both sides.

Although the League is now over we still have our consultant's match to look forward to and the summer dinner to come. This season we have remained positive and are looking forward to next year!

Hannah Collins





PICTURES FROM ETHOS

Clockwise from top left:

Ladies Badminton being played in the sports hall. Imperial won the game 8 - 0.

Water Polo in the swimming pool, with Imperial winning 10 - 1

1st team netball game, with Imperial on the attack

A nice jump shot during the men's basketball. Imperial win 134 - 55

Imperial winning women's basketball captain Sara Arbós i Torrent being awarded with the trophy

Men's badminton where Imperial were the eventual winners 8 - 0

This is what happens when you give someone the camera and ask them to take pictures. They clearly wanted these pictures to be put in!

Imperial medicals going for goal with the Imperial goal defence jumping to try and stop the ball



PICTURES FROM HARLINGTON

Clockwise from top left:

Medical footballer attempting to control the ball amidst Imperial players

The Virgins enjoying a few drinks and watching the mens rugby game

Imperial hockey player Myra jumping (very high!) to avoid the ball hitting her feet

Mens 2nds hockey action with both Imperial and Medicals competing for the ball in a goalless draw

Mens 3rd team rugby, where Imperial were dominated by the Medicals

More mixed lacrosse action from Varsity

Chaz Murdoch using the cone effectively to show his support

Imperial Medical player competing in the air for the ball

1st team football action where Imperial dominated the Medicals, winning 5-1





PICTURES FROM RICHMOND AND THE JPR WILLIAMS CUP

Clockwise from top left:

The Imperial supporters in the stands at Richmond

Supporters wanting to get closer to the action

JPR Williams Man of the Match Imperial's Alexander Johnstone saying a few words

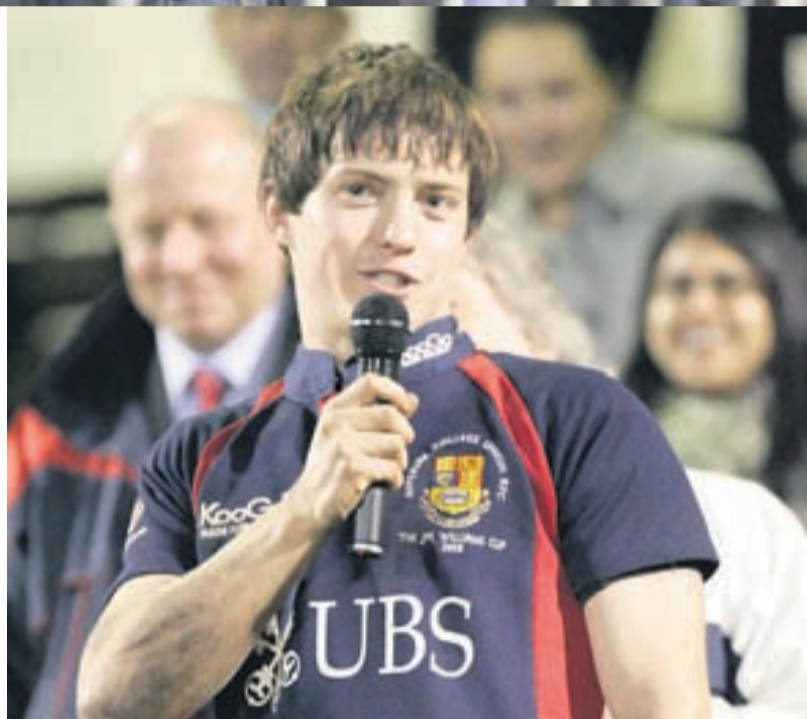
The Medicals on the attack with second row Rob Anderson and fullback Huv Williams

The Medical supporters on the other side of the stand

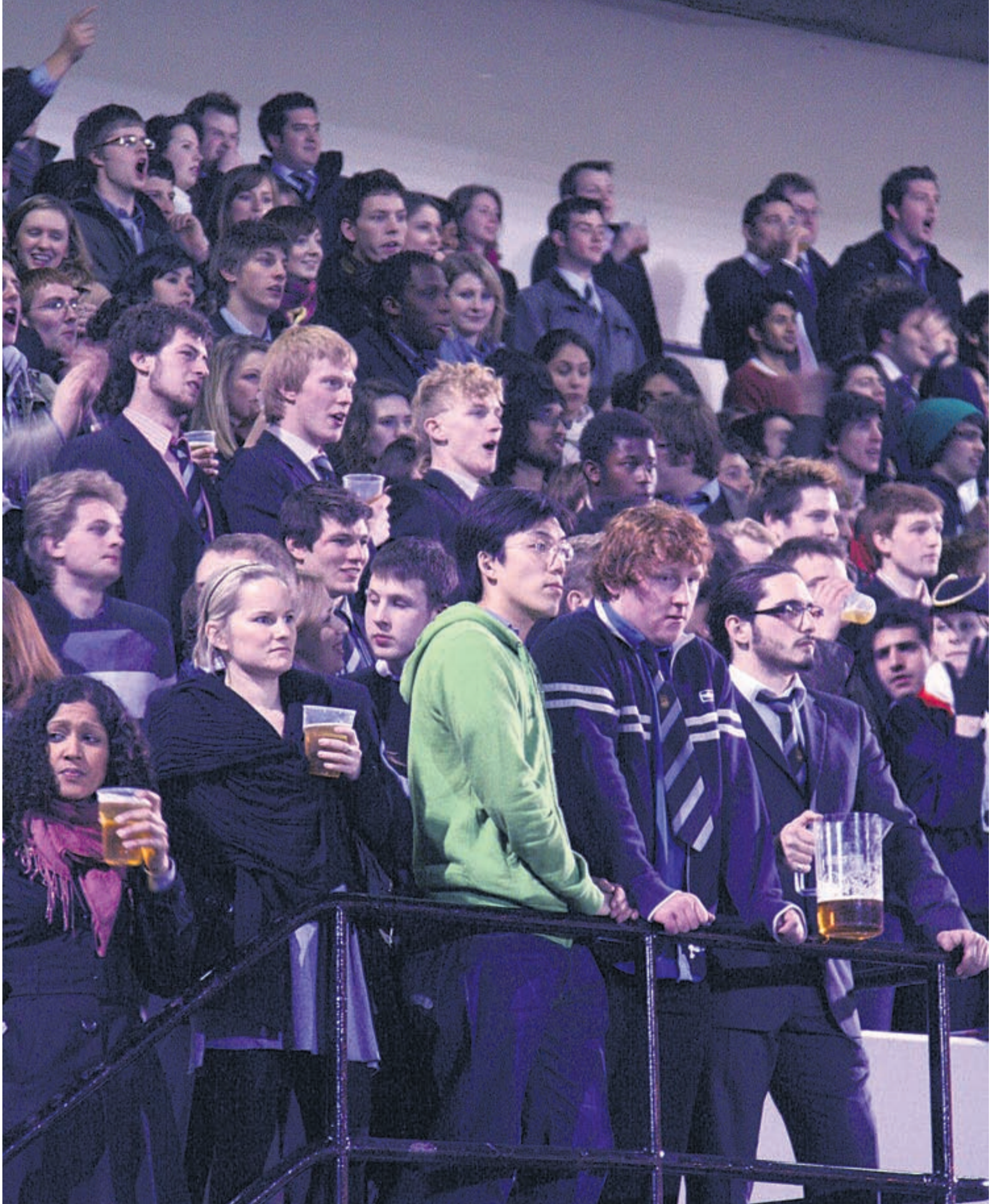
The females from the Medical school showing their full support. Estimated attendance for the match was 1100 people!

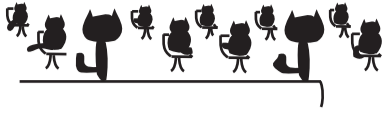
Imperial flanker Flannan O'Mahony winning a ball from the line-out.

Medicals scrum-half Tom Maynard doing a quick pick from the back of a ruck and about to off load to the backs



Until next year...





Stylish? Cool? Imperial? You what?!

The Imperial College RAG Fashion show was held this week, with some rather impressive results

Daniel Wan
Fashion Editor

Imperial College RAG Fashion Show rolls around again, and the medic's RAG team once again showcase what's going to be in for the new season. They dressed then impressed the students and public alike, but most importantly raised thousands of pounds for Michael Sobell House of Mount Vernon Hospital which is a hospice that cares for patients to the end of their life.

With such a worthy cause as inspiration, four months of organization and hard work from a team of 75 students resulted in a spectacle of culture, colour, style and humour.

Held at Guanabara in Holborn, the official name of the 2008 event was 'Global Disco'. The audience was taken away from the grey pavements and buildings of Imperial College and into the sparkle and shine of Tokyo and Milan. Each walk featured a different city; represented through the combined fashion and music. From Puma and O'Neill to Sam Greenberg and I Love Lola, a host of well-established brand names were showcased alongside the products of smaller and upcoming designers.

Fashion show co-chairs Alice Johnston and Josh Wong said they took some of their inspiration from their weekend at Glastonbury festival. This was evident in the event, with the strong emphasis on music as well as the fashion, but also with the ever-welcome reoccurrence of indie-based designs. They even acquired a donation of wellies from funkywellingtons.com to give a final touch to the slight tongue-in-cheek Glastonbury-themed walk. The hours of therapeutic pleasure of picking your way through thrift stores was epitomised in the opening walk, with Brick Lane-based vintage-wholesaler Sam Greenberg contributing. Alternative fashion powerhouse Urban Outfitters supplied their clothing for the LA inspired showcase, with the High Street Kensington branch providing local support to the Imperial College RAG fund.

Also, Johnston and Wong commend-



Josh Wong and Alice Johnston receiving the applause and appraisal they duly deserve after the final walk [Photographs by Geoff Chow]

ably followed London Fashion Week's lead. A notable addition to this year's order was a dedicated walk to ethical fashion. Adili, an ethical and fair-trade online house was the sole contributor, and it was nice to see an independent company given such prominence in the show. I mean, featuring Topshop's range of three fair-trade T-shirts could have been a very easy option.

With the image of Imperial College's finest-looking students in nothing but

underwear, from Milan-based Intimissimi, still very firmly in mind, the night ended with a super-hip performance from the Funkology society. If you weren't there, you missed out; it was like being at some crazy conceptual university that dishes out those odd little things known as BAs.

Stylish, creative, and cool. I never thought I'd hear those three words associated with Imperial College in my lifetime.



Fashion can be fun; it's not just poncing around

Daniel Wan gets wasted on mango-based cocktails, and chats with Fashion Show co-chair, Alice Johnston



As the after-party started, the Felix team ordered up a multitude of Brazilian-inspired mojitos, and continued in our quest to hunt down anyone of any importance involved in the show.

After about 3 hours of sweettalking bouncers, getting unauthorised backstage access, then getting chucked out, we finally caught up with Alice Johnston, co-chair of the Imperial College RAG Fashion show, for a few quick words.

As we found somewhere quiet (I say quiet, we were basically outside the venue) she seemed tired and relieved but extremely happy with what she and fellow co-chair Josh Wong achieved,

Felix: Its all over now, how are you feeling?

Alice: My feet are starting to kill me, but it's been amazing. We've raised around £6000 depending on the donations made tonight, and that's the most important thing. I thought it was amazing, and I loved every single second of it. Everyone worked so hard and it all finally came together, so I'm completely over the moon.

Felix: What was the inspiration behind this year's GLOBAL DISCO theme?

Alice: Josh and I wanted something to tie everything together and we had lots of different ideas for walks, and having been to Glastonbury together, music was very important to us. SO we wanted to tie the music in as well. There was the whole ethical thing as well, which brings in the global aspect of it all, and the disco brings the music side.

Felix: Ethical fashion has been highlighted in exhibitions in recent times, did you feel it was important to showcase the ethical walk this year?

Alice: Yeh definitely. Its something that's been big in the media at the moment and we thought this would be a good opportunity to show people that ethical didn't mean boring. . The stuff looked really beautiful, and places like Adilli that lent us the clothes do beautiful clothes that are ethically produced. I think it was really good place to send that message home.

Felix: Do you think ethical fashion is the future of fashion?

Alice: I'd like to think so, yeh. I mean more and more places and becoming like that, lots of places have their own ethical lines and I hope to see that increasing. So yeh, hopefully it is the future of fashion.

Felix: Are there any other messages you want people to take from the show tonight?

Alice: A good combination of everyone having a really awesome night, but we wanted to show them what a fashion show can be like; it can be fun and not just everyone poncing around.

Our congratulations go to Alice and Josh for such a well-organised and successful evening, They now go back to finishing their medical degrees from Imperial. Good luck.





George Romero: Diarist of the dead

With his second film in three years, director George A. Romero would seem to be quickening the pace given his less than prolific previous output. Felix decides to have a retrospective to prove less can be more

Stefan Carpanu

It's actually quite ironic that the first 'returning dead' movie I ever saw was a parody of the genre. When I reached the exciting age of ten, a friend tempted me to watch *Return of the Living Dead*, and while I didn't give in to temptation, I gave in to my then over-inflated ego, which had been rattled in its cage of respectability.

The sheer horror! For almost half a decade I didn't want to have anything to do with the living dead (not that I'd be overexcited about it at this point in my life). Only once I had stopped thinking each night of how far the graveyards were from wherever I happened to be spending the hours after dusk did my interest in re-experiencing 'the undead' start reviving itself, and, like any revival, it went deep and cleansed me of all my fears – replacing it with plain, good old passionate despair.

This madness all started forty years ago, in 1968, with the release of George A. Romero's *Night of the Living Dead*. A critique of the American war in Vietnam, the film told the story of a small group of people who retreat to a cottage over night, as the dead come to life in a most bizarre, sinister and unexplainable event. The fight for survival and the tension between the protagonists are portrayed with cinematic flair by the then first-timer Romero, but it is the underlying connotations and its enormous cultural impact which have transformed this film into a milestone of the horror genre, not to mention how it had the same effect on many people that *RotLD* had on me – a bit weird, looking at it from the present.

The second film in the series, *Dawn of the Dead* saw the light of day ten years later. Arguably more popular than the first, *Dawn* criticized the surge of consumerism, as the United States had become a showcase for the consumption-driven society. This time around, another group of people barricades itself in a shopping mall, as the dead have gone rampant again, in what proves to be, above all, a great exercise

in satire. Sheepish horde psychology is also at the forefront of this film, doubled by Romero's usual intricacies on the human nature and its reflection on the social self in the context of despair and the unknown.

Most naturally, the following entrance in the Dead series was called *Day of the Dead* and it took Romero another eight years before releasing it. It was a bit of a change in atmosphere from the previous two outings, as the story revolved around a military bunker with army men and scientists, encircled by hordes of undead yearning for their flesh.

The story revolves mostly around an undead, named Bob, whom the military had captured and were trying to educate. The movie dims the line between the two "antagonistic groups" (human and undead), questioning whether there are any fundamental differences between their natures, in a sordid tale of morality and army mentality.

Land of the Dead, which appeared in 2005, twenty years since *Day*, seems to emphasize variation rather than originality within the series, but it manages to literally raise it from the dead. This outing is the logical step forward from its predecessor, portraying a world of severe disparity, in which a two-layered society survives encapsulated in the remains of Pittsburgh, while the undead have taken over the world. A special salvage vehicle is being used to retrieve useful items from outside the "safe zone", in order to keep life running on a day-to-day basis.

However, the more interesting bit of the film develops outside the containment area, where the undead slowly but surely develop a sense of social togetherness, under the leadership of a pretty commanding "boss", who ultimately finds a way to penetrate the defence system set up by the humans and wreak havoc. Despite Romero's good intentions and fine execution, it's much harder for *Land of the Dead* to stand out, in this oversaturated age of zombie films, which have been blandly rehashing the same ideas and concepts



Mmm, tastes like chicken

for years now – with the odd successful exceptions, such as the obvious *28 Days Later*.

Funnily enough, both *Land* and *Day*, which had to bear more criticism than the previous films, were high-budget films compared to these, having cost sixteen million and three and a half million respectively, as opposed to the one hundred thousand spent on *Night* and five hundred thousand spent on *Dawn* (inflation notwithstanding). This month has seen another Dead film roll out on the UK screens, entitled *Diary of the Dead*. Shot in a blair witchian/cloverfieldian manner in just over three weeks, it represents a return to his roots for Romero. The film tells the tale of a group of students who, while

producing a horror movie of their own, come across the real deal. It does seem, though, that Romero is trying to remind us of all the things he's said and done along the years, encompassing most of them in this latest film, thereby sacrificing much of its potential original feel. At certain points it seems a lot like he's parodying himself. Still, there are interesting bits and good pieces in this *Diary*, although it's hard to say whether you'll really feel it's worth it. I suppose it comes down to how much the undead mean to you.

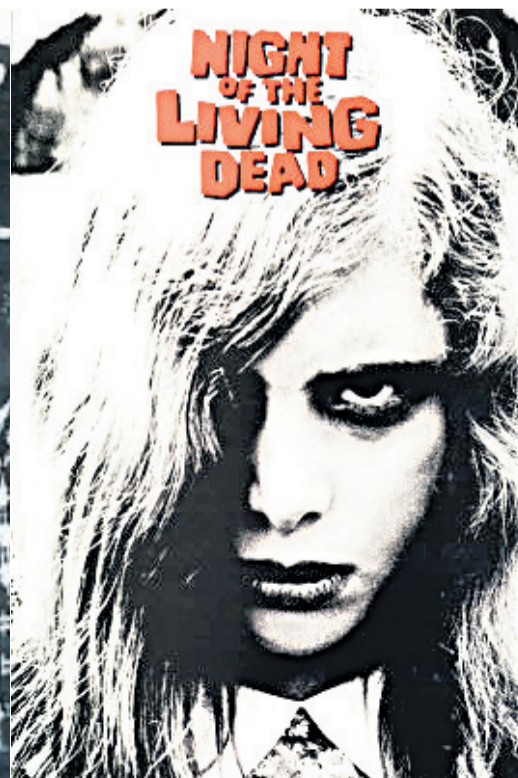
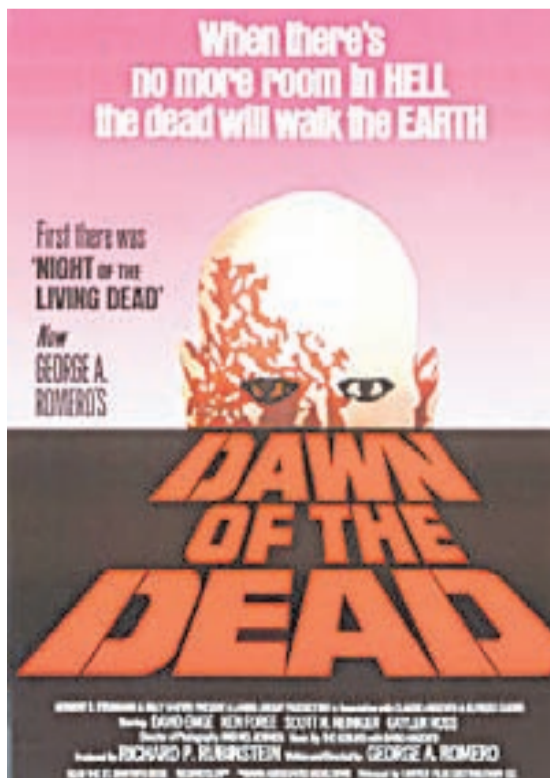
Whatever may be said, though, of these last two or three films in the series, it in no way diminishes the artistic and cultural impact of Romero's earlier work. Ironically, his first two Dead

films, which came to define a serious chunk of the horror genre, have not aged very well, working no longer as horror films in the present day – the sad consequence of technological advances, which affect horror and sci-fi films more than other genres. Beyond this however, Romero's legacy stands strong.

If its endurance alone isn't proof enough for the relevance of the series, then surely the innumerable remakes, spin-offs and parodies show how rich a source it has proven along the decades: *Night* was remade in 1990 and again in 2006, *Dawn* was remade in 2004 and the *Day* remake is currently in the works. Films such as the prolific *Return of the Living Dead* series, *Shaun of the Dead* or the more recent *Fido* parodied Romero's *Dead* to different degrees of success, as did a bunch of many other similarly-minded flicks.

Moreover, it seems that *Diary of the Dead* already has a sequel in the works, proof of the fact that Romero never seems to get old in his zealous adventures within the world of the undead. As opposed to other horror cult figures (Wes Craven to name one), it is remarkable that Romero can still carry the battle with time and society in a dignified manner, sacrificing no more than is necessary in terms of quality in his works of horror, even if the "undead revolution" has long gone. It's amusing to think of how someone could ever differentiate between "a zombie" and "an undead", but that is exactly what Romero achieved by instilling meaning and purpose into an otherwise utterly commercial genre.

While the success garnered beyond the *Dead* series was little, he shall undoubtedly remain one of the few real Masters of Horror – the kind of horror which is more than gore and guts, more than an amateurish TV Series, more than a money-making machine; and yet a little of each of these.



Total Film and Sky Movies Red Carpet Preview 2008 - Competition

With teasers to trailers, behind-the-scenes and unseen footage, messages from cast and crew, the Total Film Magazine and Sky Movies Red Carpet Preview 2008 will be the must-see event for UK film fans. This is akin to an industry backstage pass for film buffs – the trailers shown will not be those for general public consumption.

The event takes place at the Odeon Leicester Square on Wednesday 19th March from about 7pm until 10.30pm and will see personal appearances and video messages from special guests to showcase the best of the coming year in cinema, including The Dark Knight, Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull, Sex and the City, Prince Caspian and Hellboy 2.

London sessions will also have the chance to get their face on the cover of Total Film magazine via a state-of-the-art blue screen photo studio,

enter a host of competitions to win some exclusive prizes and even the possibility of bagging themselves a walk-on part in an upcoming movie.

With student tickets going from £15, Felix have gone one step further to bring you the chance to win 2 pairs of tickets to the event. To win, all you need to do is answer the following question:

Q: Who won the Best Picture Academy Award this year?

- (1) **There Will Be Blood**
- (2) **No Country for Old Men**
- (3) **Atonement**

Send your answers to the usual address: film.felix@ic.ac.uk

Closing date for entries is Saturday 15th March and winners will be notified on Sunday.

Anyone wishing to purchase tickets or looking for further information can do so at: www.odeon.co.uk



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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair and Susan Yu

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Susan Yu
Music Editor

Oh my God! It's nearly the demise of this term. About time too. Don't know about you, but I certainly need a break.

A long long break to get my bearings right again. Have been running on empty of late, my batteries seriously need recharging. Rewind in time to roughly a fortnight ago, I braved the chilly still-Winterish weather and tubed it to Camden to see the boys from Pecknam, namely *The Metros*. How I detest the tube. Crushed, elbowed and confined in a hot smelly train with a bunch of strangers at rush hour is far from the sublime bliss that a chilled-out evening lounging on the sofa could offer. The sacrifices I make for this crazy, majorly hard slog of a job. Being only a considerably mild victim of travel sickness (thank God), one tends to leg it out, as fast as one could, from the imprisonment that stuffy vehicles of any shape or size brings.

Having never done a face-to-face interview before, I was delighted when it turned out to be very laidback and straightforward. My previous preconceptions of arrogant so and sos who have landed themselves the honeypot were met with two sound guys who truly enjoyed what they are doing, making music and playing to their hearts' content. Saul the frontman/lead singer did not lack any charisma, with a playful twinkle in his eyes the whole time, whilst Joe the bassist was earthy, generally good-humored and friendly. We chatted about a weird bunch of random things and, of course, music. What else? You will find a few interesting snippets about these cheeky boys too.

I went to see the brilliant Editors at Alexandra Palace last week. When Tom Smith, the vocalist sauntered on stage, phwoar, what a vision, I mused. Didn't know he was a looker as well as being a superb crowd-pleaser. The band effortlessly rode on a wave of incredible energy, culminating in a sensational showcase of quality tunes and immense soundscapes. It's times like these that I love being a music editor.

30th March. My birthday. Won't be sweet 18 anymore. Damn. Last year of my teens. Bloody scary, if you ask me. Time to leave adolescence and join the world of adulthood. March time also means that Easter is looming. Chocolate binge sessions. We had early Easter egg tasting sessions in Felix Offices this week. Mmm. Thorntons and Lindor, music to my ears. Good chocolate can be heavenly, but one might just feel slightly queasy after an overdose. Never got to that stage yet. I can manage to live a relatively colourful life without chocolate even though it does mean that I'd have to pig out on biscuits instead. But, decent music at the end of the day can beat chocolate anytime.

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

Trainspotting on The Metros

Susan Yu

The Metros are essentially 5 lads from Pecknam, South London, who have jumped on the bandwagon that is Rock 'n' Roll. The band consists of Saul (lead singer), Joe (bassist), Jak (guitarist), Charlie (guitarist) and last but not least, Freddie (drummer). Currently they are zooming across the country on a headline tour, with their debut single release 'Education Pt. 2' on the near horizon. Hailed as "Rock'n'roll street poetics that'll have you tossing yourself 10ft high." by NME and set to "...profer another prosperous year for 1965 Records" by Dazed & Confused, these guys are looking to have a train-mendous 2008.

Saul and Joe from the band kindly agreed to be interviewed before the gig at the Camden Barfly. See across the page for the review itself.

Who thought of the name 'The Metros'?

Saul: Me and the guitar player Jak, we went through a lot of shit names, like 'Orange Juice', 'Eastern Block'...but anyway, we decided that we couldn't think of anything and we had to come up with a name so we went for 'The Metros'. Incidentally, there's another band called *The Metros*. Somebody made the mistake at *T in the Park*, saying that we sound like a cross between early Beatles and Stereophonics. He meant *The Metros* from Swansea. That's not us.

How did you guys get together?

Joe: Me, the bassist and the drummer all went to school together.

Saul: Me and Jak have known each other most of our lives. Our parents are publishers. We all kind of know each other through Freddie, the drummer. He's kind of brought us together.

How long have you been playing together?

Saul: Almost three years all together.

How old are you?

Joe: Us two are 19 and the others are 18.

Describe yourselves in five words.

Saul: Five boys with guitars/microphones.

Who writes the songs?

Saul: Me and Jak write the songs. That's why we are rich and you are poor.

Where do you get your inspirations?

Saul: Anywhere really. Mostly from getting signed and earning money and being frustrated. Also, from living in South London. Old records - Stiff Records inspire me.

Joe: Basically from playing gigs so we that could get into venues and getting a few drinks because we were that skint back then.

How are you guys finding touring at the moment?

Saul: It's great man.

Joe: We have a great laugh.



The Metros: Five boys from Pecknam who've taken a strong liking to skinny jeans

Do you guys fight?

Saul and Joe in unison: Yes.

Proper fights?

Saul: Not fist fights.

Joe: I almost got into a physical fight with the bassist at the Skins Festival. I kicked over his drink by accident and he threw a drink in my face and it sort of escalated from there. I slapped him in the face and he slapped me even harder. Then he pushed me against a wall and the drummer was trying to break us up. And me and Charlie the bassist, we were like "Fuck this man, fucking prick". So yeah. But apart from that, we are all quite friendly.

Do you think music improves with age?

Saul: Yes. A lot of bands, with their first album, it's always kind of raw isn't it? As you get older, you become wiser and you start to write better music. Proper music. Hopefully.

How did you get to collaborate with Toddla T?

Saul: He's great, a really nice bloke and should be supporting us tonight. He's from the same record label as us. He's produced music for people like *Jamie T* and stuff like that. It's all good. We are going to do some more collaboration with him in the future.

If you were to play with any band

alive or dead who would it be?

Saul: Err...What's that geezer's name? The one who sang 'I've put a spell on you'...*Screaming Jay Hawkins*. *Ian Dury* and *The Blockheads* too. They are like an obvious band. I'd quite like to play with *The Sex Pistols* and *The Clash* back in the 1970s. That would be pretty cool man.

What's the best gig you've ever played?

Saul: That's really difficult. We've played so many gigs. Best venue we've played at is probably at the Roundhouse. That's the biggest gig we've played at. That's was fucking awesome.

Joe: We really enjoyed the little venues as well.

Saul: But when we go on tour, we play in shitholes where no one has heard of, places like Hull. Horrible places. Some people say London is a horrible place to play gigs. The crowd can be rather nasty.

Joe: People come on stage and steal stuff. They try to pull leads from our guitars while we are playing and taking them as souvenirs.

Who do you think that your music is aimed at?

Saul: Well, I would like to have thought that our music is aimed at cool people.

What is the best thing about being in the music business?

Saul: You get lots of free food and drinks. Free stuff. And you don't have

to get a job.

Joe: You can enjoy what you are doing for free and you get paid for it.

Do you get paid a lot?

Saul: Yeah. We are alright. We've signed a publishing deal for quite a lot of money but we are not sorted for life.

Joe: We don't get paid for doing individual gigs anymore.

Football or rugby?

Saul: Neither.

Joe: I'd go for rugby if I have to. Table tennis man, that's what I'd go for.

Who gets the most attention from the girls?

Saul: Probably me I suppose.

Joe: That's probably true. Saul's the lead singer so he gets the most attention. Girls like him.

Do you have girlfriends?

Saul: We all have girlfriends.

Pubs or nightclubs?

Saul: Pubs.

Joe: It depends on what kind of mood I'm in.

What's the best cure for a hangover?

Saul: More booze...Iron Bru man... Apparently, a pint of beer with a shot of expresso in the beer. That does sound



The band deep in concentration, engrossed in their toys, fingers doing the talking. That is a helluva dirty camera lens

horrible but I think it works.

What's worse, being blind or deaf?

Saul: I'd rather be blind. No. I'd rather be deaf even though I'm a musician. How can I face not being able to see him [Joe] everyday? I'd have to kill myself.

Joe: I'd be blind.

How can you live without music?

Saul: Easy. You can watch music videos with speech on TV.

What is your favourite takeaway?

Saul and Joe agreed: Chicken burger... Fried chicken...Caribbean takeaway. That's what we are going to go for.

What's your most embarrassing moment in life if you don't mind sharing?

Saul: I was caught doing it with my girlfriend on the sofa and her parents came back and saw us through the window.

Joe: We were playing a gig in Skegness and I passed out backstage. I was completely out of it, I was wearing a pair of gold Elvis glasses and some drunken chavs came and put stuff on my head. The video is now on YouTube. It was pretty embarrassing.

What superpower would you like to have?

Saul: I would like to turn sideways and disappear. I'm getting there, I'm quite

thin.

Joe: Mine's really boring. I would like to fly. I have had loads of dreams where I'm flying.

Have you guys ever played pranks on teachers?

Saul: Not really pranks man. I once threw a computer at a teacher. An assault not a prank. I would have liked to have played pranks but I couldn't have got away with it. It was too hard. I would have liked to put pins on their chairs.

Joe: I set a classroom table on fire once whilst the teacher was in the room. I used Tippex to set it on fire.

Did you get kicked out of school then? Were you troublemakers?

Saul: I did get kicked out of school. Yeah, I was a troublemaker.

How did you do in school?

Saul: GCSEs is as far as I got. Joe: I've got about seven GCSEs. I did a couple months of sixth form and then I didn't go. Didn't bother to tell them I was leaving. Then I just hung out with him (Saul).

Which track are you most proud of?



Saul kisses the microphone whilst a happy chappie laughs away...

Saul: There's this song called Ra Ra Rolands on our forthcoming album that I'm proud of.

Your new single is about education. Tell us more about it?

Saul: I wrote it when I was 16, when I got kicked out of school. It's going to be released soon, March 17th. Our album is coming out this summer.

Thank you boys

Pecknam boys blasting the night away at Barfly

Gig review
The Metros
Barfly Camden

Barfly Camden, 'tis the place to 'glimpse the stars of the future.' Helping to launch careers of many stars like Coldplay, Franz Ferdinand and Badly Drawn Boy, it's no surprise that The Metros have chosen this spot, having their eyes set on making it to the big time.

Whilst the night was still young, Toddla T, from the same record label (1965 Records) as the boys from South London, hit the stage with his funky dance/elctronics/house mixing and dexterous DJ manoeuvres. At the strike of 10pm, The Metros finally had their showtime after what seemed like an eternity in sound checks. Anticipation and excitement in the air. That's what it was. The crowd was buzzing. A sold-out gig at Barfly. What more can you expect? The night could not pass without getting entangled in the mosh pit. Fun. Fun. Fun. If you didn't mind being catapulted across the room and shoved in all angles with beer spilled down your top or bottom. Fists were pumping, arms flail-

ing, hips rolling, spirits were high as fans were bowled over by the brazen, feisty performance. Those that knew the songs pretty well sang along joyously, those that didn't, well, we half-sang and simply cheered like crazy. Mind you, the five knew their stuff and they sounded terrific. If you like The Libertines, I think you'll take a strong liking to this bunch from Pecknam as they are wild and wicked in spirit and sound. Saul, the lead singer, boy, did he know how to set the place on fire! Both he and the rest of the band exuberated energy, passion and experience beyond their years. Rocking to and fro on stage, kings of the castle. Quite something. Just shows one should use youth to one's advantage, i.e. unleashing the torpedo of energy and dynamism while we can before we get burdened and tied down with biggies like marriage and children. No; we adolescents are the way forward.

The vocal delivery was outright cannon fodder. Frontman Saul rocked the night away, retelling cautionary tales of teenage life in London with unabated zest. With equal doses of enthusiasm, the bassist and guitarists interjected reinforcement with harmonious yells and shouts. What a downright eu-

phonic racket. Now and again on stage, you'd see Saul taking a swig of the bottle. Fired up by the liquor, the singing got louder and the crowd became merrier and merrier. Songs fuelled by the school system seemed to get the crowd's acknowledgement as quite as few were indeed teens out on a school night-'Education is overrated, and I'm the monster that it created.' References to Pecknam to crime and ASBOS are featured in their songs- 'He got in trouble with law, put in jail 'til 2004,' I think the boys know a thing or two about being kicked out of school and causing mayhem, having lived with crime on their doorsteps most of their lives. One must not forget to mention the catchy scaling bass lines, rhythmic guitars and upbeat drumming which did do the rest of the talking. The Metros finished on a high with their soon to be released single 'Education Pt2' with the fans singing along triumphantly. Everyone was won over by the energy that the guys brought on stage. Strutting and rocking about like nobody's business.

The Metros are certainly a train ride well worth catching.

Susan Yu

The Editors' sell-out show at Alexandra Palace

The Editors
Alexandra Palace
5th March, 2008

The Editors have it all. Getting signed, selling truck loads of albums and singles alike, and embarking on tours worldwide in a space of roughly 5 years - they are the paradigm of the rock and roll dream that millions of struggling musicians would die for.

The Editors electrified the stage at Alexandra Palace in every sense of the word. Being a palace, this majestic venue cannot but exude grandeur, befitting a four piece that are currently kings of the castle in the ever-shifting precarious music industry.

Waiting in the freezing cold for what seemed like an eternity before the doors opened was definitely not a highlight. And if one was to be truly honest, the two supporting acts, Morbius and Sons & Daughters, were simply not up to scratch. But, here's where it gets good.

When the lights went out, we all knew that it was time. Time to treat our ears to colossal noise and scintillating soundscapes. The Editors showcased their top-drawer repertoire of songs both from their debut platinum album 'The Back Room' as well as equally stunning material from their second album 'An End Has A Start' that shot

straight to number one after immediate release last summer.

They took to the stage, setting off to a flying start with the hauntingly ethereal 'Camera', taken from 'The Back Room'. Synthesizers filled the entire great hall along with the entrancing throbbing bassline, hooking the crowd with a devouring sense of brooding eeriness, which was palpably compounded by the smoke that slowly swarmed around the hall. What a way to start the ball rolling, if it means sending shivers down one's spine. It truly did. "Look at us through the lens of a camera / Does it remove all of our pain?" Tom, the vocalist asks. Surely you can't wipe out suffering as easily as a look. Life would be just too simplistic and colourless. "If we run they'll look in the back room, where we hide all of our feelings."

Belters with the likes of 'All Sparks, Munich', 'Blood' and 'An End has a Start' took to crashing effect as all received furiously rapturous reception. The dramatic swooping soundscapes with tremendous guitar workout by frontman Tom's strong vocal delivery reminiscent of Ian Curtis, and pulsating drums had no trouble spawning frantic excitement and a dynamic vibe amongst the thousands that were present at this hair-raising performance. With these killer hook-laden tunes, fans went mental, shouting, singing and screaming at the top of



Tom Smith (of Editors fame) live at Alexandra Palace

their lungs. Heavy chorus crescendoes and roaring drums and bass dominated the scene as showstoppers 'Fingers in

the Factory' and 'Bullets' boomed from all corners. Everyone was on their feet, jumping to the perennially-repeated

lines of "Keep with me, keep with me" and "You don't need this disease". The crowd could not help but also take an irrevocable liking to the compelling guitar refrain in 'Escape the Nest and Bones' which crushingly took our breaths away. The set was highly energetic and the band conveyed a surprisingly array of different atmospheres. A change in ambience made a sweet contrast in softer, tender tracks like 'Distance' and toned down 'Fall'. "I wanted to see this for myself". You certainly should have been there to have been spoilt and cocooned in the exquisite, mesmerising cacophony thanks to such an electric live set.

As it was Russell the bassist's birthday that night, we all showed our love and appreciation by singing 'Happy Birthday'. What a way to spend your birthday - playing to your beloved fans. He wasn't complaining one bit.

It is the sheer raw power of the music and the wave of energy that captivated the thousands of us there under the thunder and lightning. The night could not end without an encore. So we had 'Smokers Outside the Hospital Doors' to finally appease our insatiable appetite before they departed the stage to deafening applause.

The Editors live is nothing but terrific energy, great passionate music and timeless delivery.

Susan Yu

Reality Check: The Teenagers' debut album



The Teenagers
Reality Check
Merok Recordings
★☆☆☆☆

'Reality Check' is the debut album of childishy-named French indetronica band 'The Teenagers'. Being Parisians who grew up in England, their music is an odd mix of British indie rock and twinkling French electro. The album works and flows well but it doesn't hold to repeated listening. First time through, the songs spark of novelty and variety like the world of sex, drugs and alcohol does to the young, exemplified by the band's varying guitar dominance and volume. However, on repeated listening, 'The Teenagers' lustful nature abandons you at a party of wasted skin-loving fifteen-year-olds and leaves you with the realisation that it was all superficial. Ironically you do take a 'Reality Check' - perhaps not the one the band was intending though.

The singles 'Love no' and 'Scarlett Johansson' tend toward pop, and after a few listens it is hard to distinguish them from generic indie. 'Scarlett Johansson' does start promisingly with the spoken "We know you were born in 84 / Half Polish / Half Danish" layered over pulsing guitars, but after the intro it could have been any of their songs.

'Homecoming', 'The Streets of Paris', and 'Make It better' do linger in the memory. 'Streets of Paris' has a driving narrative that keeps you hooked to the end and 'Make it Better' has a very catchy electronic bridge. However, the biggest impression they leave is caused more by cheap tricks, for example using the c-word, rather than their music being something special. No doubt this



The Teenagers: Michael Szpiner, Dorian Dumont and Quentin Delafon

will all pander to the interpretation of 'cool' of their natural fan base, and just like in 'Feeling Better' where the band bigs themselves up, a pet hate of mine, it all smacks of a publicity stunt.

I'm afraid to say 'The Teenagers' don't manage to shake the prejudice that comes with their band name but all that said it is much better than I expected. If you'd like to see them yourself they are playing Cargo on the 7th of April.

Sarah-Emily Mutch

Reality Check, the debut album from The Teenagers, is available from March 17th through Merok Recordings.

The Ting Tings
Koko
29th February, 2008

Katie White and Jules de Martino, otherwise know as The Ting Tings to you cool young folk, hail from up north and descended upon Camden Town last weekend to play Koko. The sexy duo have a varied musical background between them: Katie having a stint in a girl band that supported the likes of Steps and Five and Jules being involved with several indie bands. With their chic look and a great response from the media, with appearances on Jules Holland and heavy radio play, our expectations were high.

Kicking off at around 1 in the morning, The Ting Tings were loud, energetic and got the crowd moving. They did not, however, impress us in the slightest. The core problem with The Ting Tings is that live they sound like your mum shouting at you because you've done some stupid shit. Like a jackhammer that won't quit, The Ting Tings made me put their music aside, for my sanity's sake, and start to focus on other things: When is the last bus home? Is that a man or a woman? What's that smell, is it me? Ranting aside, we have to admit that it wasn't an ideal venue - the sound quality was poor, and none of the rich texture from their studio-produced tracks was evident. So let's give credit where credit's due and look at what the gig could have been like.

As we've already told you, The Ting Tings are just Katie on vocals/guitar and Jules on drums/vocals, and together they come up with a big sound that

sustains through most of their songs. With a rich texture most of their songs amount to a very peppy poppy sound. Jules is unrelenting on the drums, not letting the pace slow for a second. This was obviously great for uplifting the crowd, but with no real slow-down in the pace or change in the hugeness of the sound The Ting Tings leave you tired, as it's all a little bit too much. Katie helped things out with her melodic breaks but we felt that they could've done a bit more, even if it was just pop rock.

So, as you might have gathered, the sound didn't really agree with us, but the beauty of live music is that there is more going on than just the sound hitting you in the face and in this respect The Ting Tings were pretty cool. Katie has been known to stop mid-song to ask fans to stop filming and start watching them, which should be saluted. Sadly we didn't witness such bitchiness but Katie was pumped up, jumping all over the place mixing it up with the crowd. Jules the drummer was like a crazy toy monkey going wild every now and again, considering he's a drummer he had a pretty big presence on stage, his mechanical thumping being a visual heartbeat for the songs. However, although visually entertaining, we still can't say we're big fans of The Ting Tings.

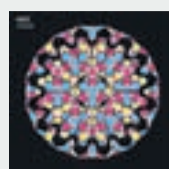
With nothing interesting going on musically, those of us who weren't completely inebriated and busy throwing bottles at surrounding people by the stage were close to falling asleep by the end. If you missed it, you didn't miss out.

Chris Birkett & Anthony Lazzaro
(IC Radio)



The Ting Tings standing in front of a wall, by the looks of it

Mit poised to take over the universe



Mit
Coda
Half Machine Records
★★★★★

These next few weeks are shaping up to be rather splendid for debut album releases. Foals' 'Antidotes' has been slowly climbing up the ranks of my Last.FM recently, and expectations are high for Youthmovie's 'Good Nature' which drops next Monday. If that sounds a little too guitar-based to get your ears salivating then fret not as Mit's 'Coda' arrives on the 17th with some synthy krautrockesque minimal electronic post punk...

Just to get this out the way before I start, I love this album. I've been trying to write this review for ages but keep getting lost in the music every time I put it on. This is the second week in a row that Music Felix's pages have been filled with contributors waxing lyrical about Mit and there's a reason for it - they're fucking awesome. I'm sorry to put it so bluntly and un-poetic-like but this album really is quite excellent.



'Mit' is German for 'With'

Mit make minimal electronic music that sounds dark and brooding but is also really danceable. With only three members - one singer, one drummer and a moog fiddler/programmer/additional drummer - the tracks have a certain wide and open feel to them while managing to stay engaging and impossible to stand still to. Lead singer Edi Danartono's vocals are delivered in a haunting high pitch and with a sense

of urgency that seems to drag the rest of the music along. Even though the singing is pretty much exclusively in German, this album is still definitely aimed at the British music crowd with Mit playing in London more often than their hometown of Cologne. The fact that the lyrics are pretty much indecipherable to most of us adds so much to the songs. It removes the connotations and emotions that words bring

with them, allowing the vocal sounds to speak for themselves.

Album opener 'Beispiel' starts with dark atmospheric sounds and whirling noises which are scarily reminiscent of the soundtrack to David Lynch's 'Eraserhead'. A heavy bass drum enters followed by automatic sounding drums. A lot of the album has a very mechanical feel to it with repeating samples and beats flowing past each other with ease and regularity, which contrasts beautifully with the expressive vocals. This works particularly well on 'Gibt Es Denn Keine Anderen Grunde' where distant screams of agony fade in and out as if being tortured by some giant clockwork machine. Mit have created an album which you can listen to at home but also on the dance-floor, with each song working perfectly either on its own or in the overall context of the album.

Synth heavy tracks such as 'Park' have an immediate attraction, but it's the songs that seem more unapproachable on first inspection that are Mit's most accomplished, such as 'Genau An Diesem Abend' which builds up slowly with repeated vocals until screaming what sounds like "I like dancing". Coda is incredibly impressive as a debut album and Mit are definitely a band to watch out for in the next few months.

James Houghton

Singles: Moby and Gnarles Berkley

Moby
Alice
★★★★★

After the somewhat lacklustre 'Hotel' release in 2005, and the 'Greatest Hits' compilation from 2006, it seemed safe to contend that the world's most chilled-out DJ had slipped into something of a creative nadir after the glory days of 'Play'. However, if the single 'Alice' is to be seen as a credible foretaste of the forthcoming album 'Last Night', then we might reconsider.

Anyone who is even vaguely familiar with Moby's back catalogue will know he has a soft-spot for collaborations. 'Alice' is no different, as it features the rappers Aynzil and the 419 squad throwing some meaningful rhymes in.



The track begins with a heavy industrial bass-line, analogous to the new Nine Inch Nails, which is then immediately supported by some rapping and what could perhaps be called 'rap-singing'. The heart-felt "This is the wrong road / This is a dark road" chant in the chorus sets forth the socio-political theme of the song in a refreshingly non-clichéd manner.

Although Moby hasn't evolved much thematically with this song, it is sonically a lot more heavy and angst-ridden than his older material (although die-hard fans will know that he did play in a hardcore-punk band at one time). Some fans may not wholeheartedly embrace this sudden change in style, however those who appreciate Moby for the dynamic and genre-defying artist he is will welcome this with open arms.

Ushnish Banerjee

Gnarls Barkley
Run
★★☆☆☆

Gnarls Barkley are of course the product of the collaboration between Danger Mouse and Cee-Lo Green that became a household name following the release of the infectious single 'Crazy'. 'Run' is our first taste of their latest album, entitled 'The Odd Couple', and I'd say it is an all right song. It is quite upbeat, with Cee-Lo's familiar soulful singing, and features colourful chants from a children's choir, but lacks originality somewhat. Gnarls Barkley continue in the same vein as their previous releases, and don't seem to be doing anything particularly new with 'Run'. It does however have mainstream appeal, so it will probably be a success.

Mit Shah

Vincent Vincent & The Villains album

Vincent Vincent and the Villains have a long fucking name. They also have an album which came out last Monday. The awesome and talented Rafe Martyn had a listen



Vincent Vincent & The Villains
Gospel Bombs
EMI
★★★★☆

Achieving success in music without selling out to the generic indie juggernaut must be the holy grail of all young musicians. Maintaining one's originality is all too hard when the temptation of seemingly-easy success by just squeezing one's music into the indie mould with its ready-made scene and an army of fans is open to all up-and-coming four-pieces. Ironically, the ones that do go it alone and try to succeed while sounding original, often achieve this so-called originality by borrowing from the past. Nu-rave Klaxons and Stone Roses' sound-a-likes Kasabian testify to this. This tends to lead to strangely familiar sounding songs, and ridiculously convoluted genre names. Nu-rave is bad enough but the genre 'post-punk revival', championed, for example, by Interpol, is outrageously a revival of post-punk which itself is a more introspective and experimental slant on punk rock. So it seems original sound is gained only at the expense of vandalising genre names and borrowing from the past.

Until recently this grave-robbing had not reached so far as the tombs of the rock 'n' roll fathers of rock. This past year, though, has seen the re-emergence of rock and roll. Typically inventively, this 'new' genre has been termed *rock 'n' roll revival*. Lost and Found, Richard Hawley, Kitty Daisy and Lewis,

and Vincent Vincent and the Villains (VVATV) all hark back to the 'and the' bands of the 50s and the innocent roots of rock and roll.

Happily, this isn't 'nu-rock 'n' roll', but instead a tribute to the sound, spirit and feel of the early days of rock. These bands not only sound like a rock 'n' roll band, they also go to great lengths to look like one. Lewis, of Kitty Daisy and Lewis has a large Elvis-style quiff, and VVATV make a point of wearing authentic period attire at their live performances.

Music today has become synthesized and knowing, to the extent that bands regularly employ people to determine which single should be released first in order to rake in maximum returns. Having existed with only limited success since 2003, VVATV cannot be accused of such gold-digging. Their lyrics, too, are refreshingly innocent, talking of pretty girls and sweet girlfriends and crammed with joyous "whoop"s and "Wa Doo"s. The music itself is not all that bad either, packed with catchy riffs and sharp turns of phrase.

Formed in 2003, VVATV, formerly The Double Card Bastards, are headed by Vincent Vincent (real name: Vincent Cusano) who originally shared his front man duties with Charlie Waller. Controversially, Waller was also front man in rival band Rumble Strips and the tension and pressures created by this situation eventually led to his leaving VVATV. Happily, the split proved an inspiration to VVATV who produced their first major release 'Johnny Two Bands' off the back of it. It was not all bad for Waller also, who has had greater success with Rumble Strips and tellingly, unlike Vincent Vincent, has his own Wikipedia page.

In their infancy, VVATV, intent

on staying true to their rock and roll sound, cannot have expected much success. Indeed in VVATV's first release 'On My Own', in 2004, Vincent Vincent admits "I'm on my own / In this world of rock and roll!" and sings "I don't need anybody's approval / I'll live without it happily". That is until late 2006 when they were signed up by EMI - the first rock and roll band to be signed by a major record label in



Vincent Cusano of VVATV

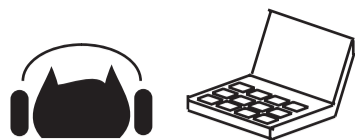
twenty years, thereby confirming its resurgence. They have since released singles 'On My Own' and 'Pretty Girl' and with their album 'Gospel Bombs' out this Monday they seem destined to complete an unlikely success story.

'Gospel Bombs' comprises exuberant songs overflowing with verve and vitality. The songs generally take the form of a story. 'Pretty Girl', for example, tells the tale of a girl Vincent sees in the frozen section on aisle four at the Tesco store, and always means to ask for her number "But she didn't see me at all". In 'Sins of Love Wah Do', Vincent airs his views on jealousy with comic depictions of Adam and Eve, and Bonnie and Clyde.

The opening song, 'Beast', is as high-spirited as the others but dares to sound less rock and roll. It features a trumpet and flamenco-sounding guitar produced using Pro-Tools software and fiercely tells the story of a Beast inside of Vincent which causes his relationships to fail. Prior to the disappointingly lethargic final song, the penultimate song, 'Telephone' is absolutely storming, driven by a compelling baseline and the lyrics "I'm waiting by my telephone / Waiting for my favourite beat / Now when my telephone rings / You know I just can't stop tugging my feet!". These excellent lines are typical of the generally high quality song-writing on this album.

The genre has been done and the chord progressions are very similar in each song, but Vincent Vincent and the Villains do rock 'n' roll with such vim and vigour that this is nonetheless a very enjoyable record. And with rock 'n' roll revival on the up it looks like they might be one of the privileged few who achieve that holy grail of sounding fresh and actually succeeding.

Rafe Martyn



Technology

Technology Editor – James Finnerty

felix@imperial.ac.uk



James Finnerty
Technology Editor

Apologies for the lack of a section of last week but I was enjoying myself with coursework too much to tear myself away from it. Anyway, let's see what is on offer from the world of tech as we head towards the end of term.

The games console accessory maker Nyko has beat Sony to the release of a rumbling Playstation 3 controller dubbed the Zero PS3. Sony can't be too happy about this as they finally gave in to consumer pressure to release the Dual Shock 3 only to be beaten to the post. But in reality, I don't think Sony have to much to worry about as the Nyko is a flat-out fugly product so I think very few people will stray from the official controller.

A western state of Germany has recalled its subsidies to Nokia after its failure to meet the conditions set in the agreement. The money was to help fund Nokia's manufacturing plant to be constructed in Germany and was supposed to provide 2,800 jobs to the area, however, Nokia plans to close the plant in the next few months much to the annoyance of the people who have paid for it. They have requested the initial money back plus interest producing a sum of €59 million which if not paid will be replaced with legal action.

A bunch of clever hackers have produced a method of converting streamed BBC iPlayer media into the H.264 format required by the iPhone and iPod touch as they do not support the widely popularized lite media format Flash. Steve Jobs explained this as "Flash is not up to the standard of the iPhone" roughly translated as "The iPhone can't run Flash very well"; where the blame falls I think we can decide for ourselves. Admittedly, these hackers seem to have wasted their time as an iPlayer for these devices has been in the works for a while now.

America and Germany have drawn up an agreement to merge each of their biometric criminal databases in an attempt to catch international criminals and terrorists. Once again the two standard sides to the argument emerge, invasion of national privacy against "screw them they're criminals". In relation to this, rumours have appeared of a worldwide database being constructed but nothing firm is available.

The Nokia N96 mobile has been confirmed for August. This phone is anticipated by many a UK user as it will be the first mobile to have a TV tuner built in. For more depth you can find a preview of it in a previous issue of the tech section on the Felix web page.

Battlefield laser guns have come a step closer to reality as Northrop, the US military's main tech supplier, have tested a 15 kilowatt laser and have plans for a 100 kilowatt model deemed powerful for combat. These weapons are originally being intended for use as anti-missile and anti-air rather than ground-to-ground as air targets tend to be more vulnerable.

Unfortunately only one article this week, the final issue of term, but needless to say it's a good one covering the evolving new technology of Organic LED displays.

Organic what in my TV?

Richard Lai talks about how this new screen tech will make a difference to you



OLED – So impressive it overloads people's ability to construct a facial expression... honestly

Now that the HD video format war is over (well done, Sony!), it is probably time to think about next-gen TV. Currently it is predicted that this year LCD TVs will net 50% share of the TV market (in which 58% will be full HD), but this does not stop the development of any new display technologies. As we speak, the most promising candidate appears to be the organic light-emitting diode (OLED) display technology.

Here is a brief introduction of OLED: as far back as the 1970s, Eastman Kodak discovered that certain organic materials glow in response to electrical currents, and a variety of related technologies emerged from that point onwards. In fact, our very own Professor Donal Bradley, Head of the Department of Physics, was one of the inventors of the polymer LEDs (PLEDs) – a type of OLED technology, and today we are able to apply that to display applications. Although the finished OLED panel may look similar to an LCD, the structure differs: from top to bottom we have the cathode, emissive polymer layer, conductive polymer layer and anode, with the entire structure laid on a substrate such as glass or even plastic. To operate, a current is passed between the electrodes, which causes the electrons in the conductive layer to move down to the anode. This leaves holes (absence of electrons) behind which then recombine with the electrons in the emissive layer above, causing a drop in the electron energy levels and thus releasing energy in the form of light (through the substrate). Such process is known as electrophosphorescence, as used in all LEDs.

Comparing this with LCDs, OLEDs already have several advantages: as mentioned above, each OLED pixel controls its own light and can therefore produce true black thus boosting the contrast ratio, but LCDs – which work by blocking light in selective areas –

require a backlight across the panel, meaning they cannot show true black as some light is bound to leak through. As well as wasting power and making the panel thicker; another difference is that an LCD requires two polarisers and a colour filter to operate, thereby restricting the viewing angle as well as blocking light and increasing thickness, whereas an OLED needs no filtering so it has none of those problems. Other advantages of the OLEDs include faster refresh rate, greater colour range, longer lifespan (as promised by Panasonic and Toshiba last January) and – perhaps most important of all – the ability to be printed onto flexible substrates, allowing applications that are not possible with LCDs.

Currently the biggest problems with OLEDs is their manufacturing methods: with Eastman Kodak holding the patents other companies are financially restricted for development, so even the giants like Sony and Toshiba will have to increase the prices to make up for the initial expenses. More worryingly, the fact that the organic materials can be easily damaged by water makes it hard to justify the prices, as well as putting doubts into the practicality of flexible OLEDs, but we can assume that advanced sealing processes will be used – after all, we are in the 21st century.

As we speak, the only OLED TV in the market is the Sony XEL-1, costing you about £950 in Japan or about £1270 in the US (we all know that the Japanese keep the best to themselves). And no, it's not even an HDTV or a 40"; a mere little 11" baby that gives you 3mm of sexiness and a ridiculous contrast ratio of 1,000,000:1 (most LCD TVs in this price range can only do about 10,000:1). It really isn't the size, mate, but only if you can afford it. Fortunately, you can experience the OLED goodness in smaller forms without burning holes in your pocket: since OLEDs have a much simpler structure

than LCDs, they are ideal for making small displays, so you will find them in several new (priced) digital cameras, premium mobile phones, or some new portable media players such as the Creative Zen stone. If you don't mind monochrome displays, selected design watches will also have OLED panels – you can spot them straight away with their distinctively vibrant colours.

But this isn't it; the list of potential applications goes on: rollable electronic newspaper that updates itself daily with newspapers, animated artwork (or even TV) on clothes, head-mounted display system for soldiers, light sources, etc. For now, OLEDs may still be occupying a small part of the TV and monitor market, but as new production processes emerge and breakthroughs breakthrough they will become more affordable – I don't see why this can't happen within 5 years' time. It will also be interesting to see if OLEDs can exceed LCDs' performance by then – mind you, it did take about 30 years for LCDs to occupy more than half the TV market!



OLED on your wrist!

Headlines we couldn't fit in

MOD loses 11,000 ID cards

iPod nano sparks problems

Macbook Air suffers from overheating

Sun/Microsoft data centre planned

New eclipse to be released by Sun

Digital Radio a flop

Wiki creator edits content for cash

Europe Xbox 360 price drop

Space freighter success

South Korea announces first astronaut

Camera that looks through clothing

Picture of the Week

California Sunset, by Paulharveer Sangha. Third Year Electrical & Electronic Engineering

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





Needy McNeedy: Banned from Facebook in '98

Solving problems in your computer over VPN since SSH was invented. E-mail: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



The end of term draws ever nearer, and whilst the lot of you are running away from your problems/work and drinking yourselves into oblivion, Needy McNeedy is donning her Lycra shorts and limbering up to tackle your issues. She can help with pretty much anything, except maths. Email agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Dear Needy McNeedy

I'm addicted to celebrity gossip sites. I check them more often than I go on Facebook or check my emails and they are taking over my life. I can't seem to sleep at night and I just sit and refresh them until they are updated. How can I get over this ridiculous obsession?

IHeartPerez

Dear IHeartPerez

You are now one step along the slow road that leads to a degree. Obsession with the Internet is just part and parcel of the whole education system. You need to learn to channel this into an obsession with wikipedia, or something with more useful knowledge on it (unless you wish to become a "writer" –inverted commas on purpose – for

Heat magazine). I think you should start listing your extensive celebrity knowledge as one of your skills on your CV; you might begin to find yourself in demand for pub quiz teams (especially at Imperial, where knowledge of popular culture is lacking significantly).

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy

My flatmate's boyfriend lives in another city, but quite often comes to stay for a week or sometimes longer. I like him; it's just that when he's here, they don't get out of bed the whole time! She tells me all they do is have sex; she comes downstairs and complains how tired she is. But what she doesn't realise is that I can hear every little movement from her room, and I think I'm probably getting even less sleep than her. She said sometimes they do it so much that it hurts her. I don't think it's healthy for them to be like this. What can I do?

Sleepless

Dear Sleepless

Despite you clearly just being jealous of her situation (as we all are; who wouldn't want a man who can keep go-

ing all day), there are a few steps you can take to solve the situation. Firstly, buy some egg boxes and insulate the wall between your rooms, or invest in a good pair of earplugs. Secondly, invite them outside to play croquet (I've heard it is a brilliant substitute for constant fucking.) Thirdly, find a partner and outdo them (for maximum noise, and thus effect, you might consider putting up a sex swing). If none of these work and you're still bored and sleepless, you might want to consider offering to join in. If they are embarrassed and say no, they might at least think to keep the noise down in future.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy

My girlfriend and I have been going out for a while, but recently we got quite drunk together and she admitted to cheating on me with another woman. She said she really enjoyed it and might like to try it again. I know most men would love the thought of some girl on girl action but because she doesn't want me to be involved, I still see it as cheating and can't trust her anymore. Should I leave her?

Ismycocnotgoodenough?

Dear IsMyCockNotGoodEnough,

Another woman. As if there's some kind of deficit in this damn college! Why are you writing in to me, you idiot? You should just talk to her about it. Don't dump her out of the blue, discuss it with her first. I must admit that yours is a pretty unusual reaction for a man. Most would be jumping for joy and begging to join in whilst salivating freely. I'd recommend a trip to the doctor to check you have the right amount of man hormones. Don't be so bloody emotional, although if your girlfriend is into the lesbian thing, acting like such a woman might work in your favour.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy

*I'm not sure if you'll ever get to read this letter, but I'm going to write it you anyway. You see, life's been getting me down a bit recently. My Renault Clio chugged its final gulp of carbon monoxide the other day and well... well, I don't think I can go on any longer. I mean come on, what do Renault make nowadays? Probably some stupid hybrid car and one that carries 18 toddlers and 6 dogs. WHERE'S THE CHARM? (*Bang*...)*

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



Aquarius

Hey guys, I want you to go finish this term on a high. But in the mean time I will insult you – don't worry the high

will come eventually. Just not now. So let's begin with you Edward Short. You really need to lose some fucking weight. Anything remotely active causes you to sweat so much that your clothes shrink and you smell like a children's swimming pool.



Pisces

Now you, Phil Roberts. Get the fuck off Facebook. Your eyes are going to turn blue from looking at that

corporate juggernaut of a 'social' networking site. If you don't I'll stalk you on it anyway, find you, cut a hole open in your leg and fill it with dynamite. Light it. Run. Cackle. Laugh. You have been warned.



Aries

Your turn Manfred Wilkinson. What's with your vanity? Take that mirror out of your purse, sorry, man-bag shatter

it into pieces on the nearest rock and gouge your eyes out with. You'll be simultaneously reduced to a hideous, bleeding monstrosity whilst not being able to indulge in your obsessive vanity.



Taurus

So... Becky Wright. You think your pretty hot after last Friday in the Union. Heh? Well, I didn't enjoy it for one

second. The only reason I didn't say anything at the time was so that I could write this horoscope ridiculing you. Cup the balls. Work the shaft. It's not that hard. Especially when your getting down to business. Improve or die, horribly.



Gemini

Freddy Bouma. I'm watching you. No, not that way, the other way. That's it. Why is your lip trembling? Is my

presence unnerving? Am I making a warm stream trickle down your inner thigh? Are there goosebumps on your goosebumps? Is that a hand drifting through the strands of your hair? DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE



Cancer

Needy McNeedy... I still haven't gotten over your invasive nature. Don't ever think I'll forget the moment your

stench, your excuse for literature and your embarrassing photo invaded my personal space. Your days are numbered. You've got fewer left to go than there are pages in this excuse for a newspaper.



Leo

Tony Tempura. Anyone made a joke about your ridiculous surname? No? Well I'm going to right now... I take

particular offence at you, you see. I'm going to fucking batter you. Cunt. There! How'd you like them apples? Fucking what? Want some? Come any closer and I'll ram a queef burger down your throat so hard you'll be farting fish for fortnights.



Virgo

Moving swiftly on, Ahmed Donald. I saw you outside the playground of the Notting Hill School for Wannabe

Scholars. But don't worry, I like you. I won't tell anyone. Just get rid of your fucking ice-cream van because your stealing my trade and more importantly my little weekend bundles of pleasure.



Libra

Jen, Just Jen. Who comes up with a crippled name like that? What the hell's going to happen if you ever get

married? Your world will collapse. You'll have to fill in the surname box on any forms you complete. You won't be able to play for Brazil's international football team. My advice: get a lead enema and end yourself. Now.



Scorpio

Next up, Roger Wilfredo de Chocola Winston IX of Hervengaal. ... The fuck? Do I

even need to slag you off? Clearly just by reading your name, er, names I can tell you a mong. Not even a good mong like the ones that swin in rivers. Fuck off and lie under Cape Canaveral when the next space shuttle launches into space.



Sagittarius

Barry Smith. Let me guess, you're more common than pond scum and you detest Polish people because they work

harder and for less money than you? Yeah? Thought so. Firstly, pull your fucking trousers up or I'm going to ram a wind turbine up there. Next, bend over. Now I'm going to kick you into the Eiffel Tower. DIE.

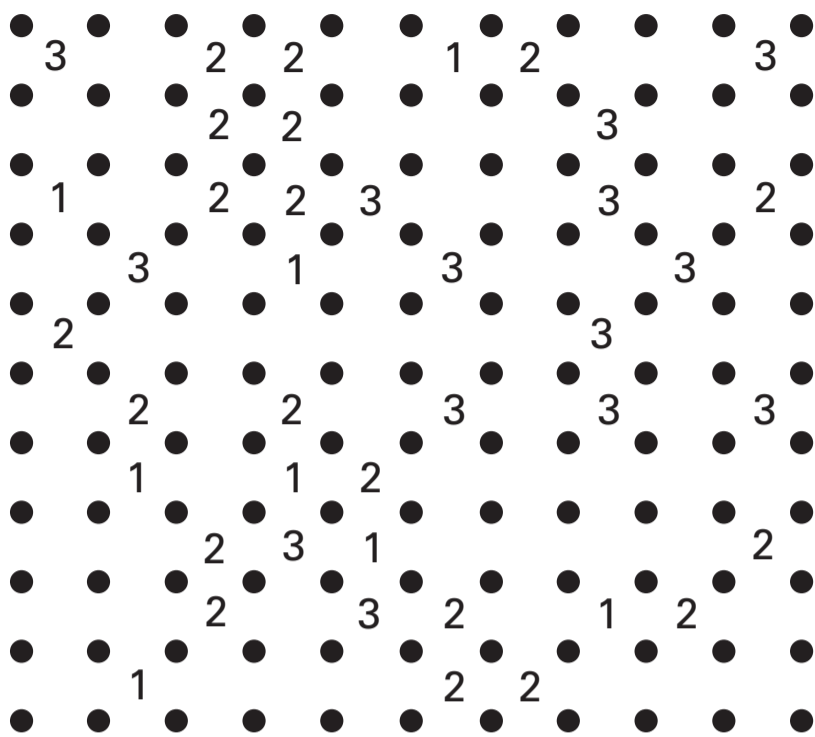


Capricorn

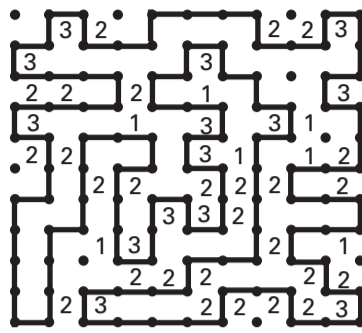
A. Geek. Who the fuck do you think you are? Taking the beauty of the horoscopes anonymity and

raping it like a young puppy caught between the bumpers of two lorries crashed in an M25 pile-up. Get over yourself. You will never be the sizzle copes. We invented you. Bow down to the master.

Slitherlink 1,400



1,399 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,399 was **James Porter**. Excellent Slitherlinking! Perfectly hand-drawn answer too sir. All the best for this week's one. We'll give a prize out in the summer. The more entries, the better your chances.

How to play:

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

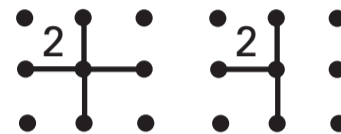
lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

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.

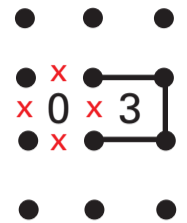
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



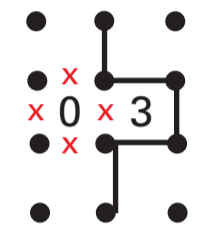
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

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:



Wordoku 1,400

N	D	I			G	U		
			I	S	L			
		S			D			
G	N	M						I
			G		M			
U						P	G	M
			M			D		
			L	G	P			
		P	N			M	U	G



1,399 Solution

A	T	D	O	U	E	L	C	P
E	P	C	L	A	T	D	U	O
O	L	U	C	D	P	E	T	A
D	E	L	P	T	O	C	A	U
C	O	P	U	L	A	T	E	D
T	U	A	D	E	C	O	P	L
U	D	T	E	P	L	A	O	C
P	A	O	T	C	D	U	L	E
L	C	E	A	O	U	P	D	T

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**.

The winner of Wordoku 1,399 was **Scott Heath**. Bullseye! The hidden phrase was: COPULATED. Keep those entries coming in.



This week's texts:

"My name is Leo. My balls really hurt, help me :("

"Gilbert Dougherty is a misproportioned Irishman. He has female glove sized hands and feet. Measure them when [Felix phone won't go down... - Editor guesses at:] he is gacked up and sound asleep."

"Big A has outed himself. Come and get him guys!"

"Gilbert, just ask JT to elope with you. He likes his Irishmen filthy. Otherwise, make ur texts funnier, ur losing!! Chantelle x"

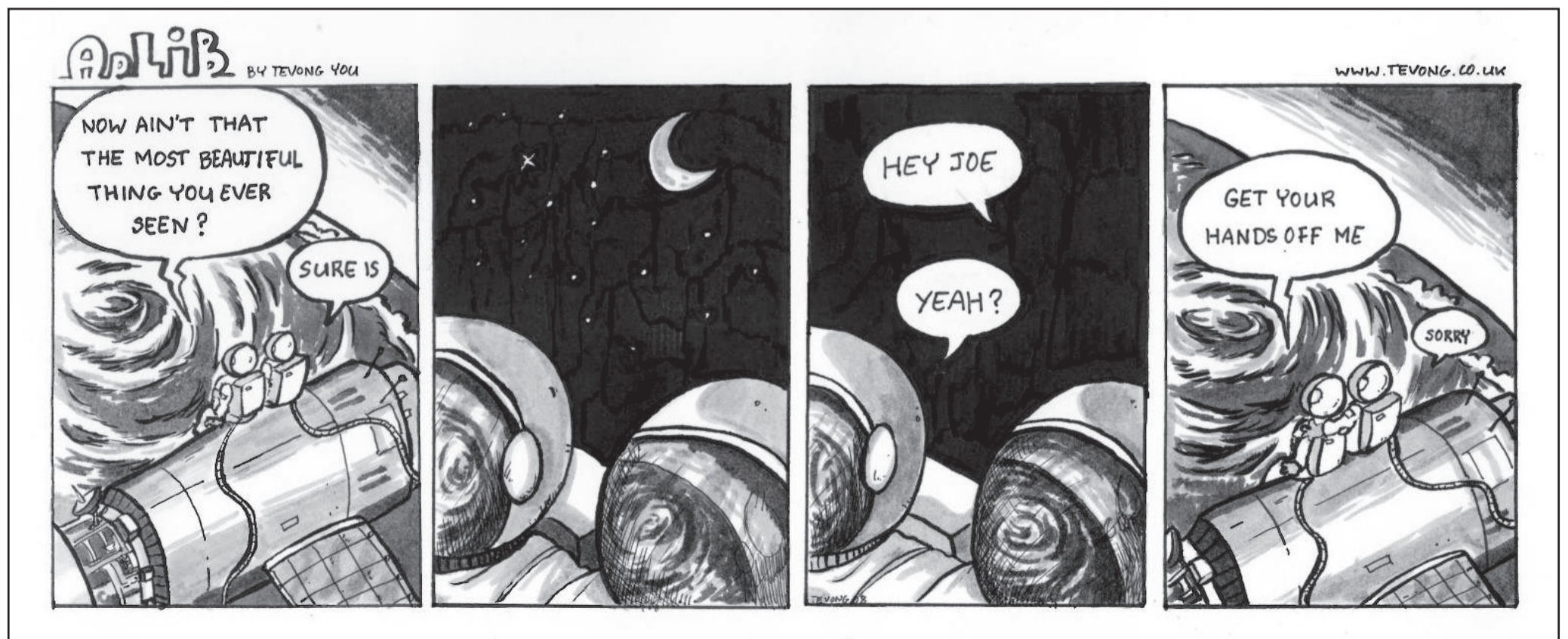
"The ICSM Music Society photo is awesome! More please ;) [Editor - Sorry there isn't one this week...]"

07980 148 785

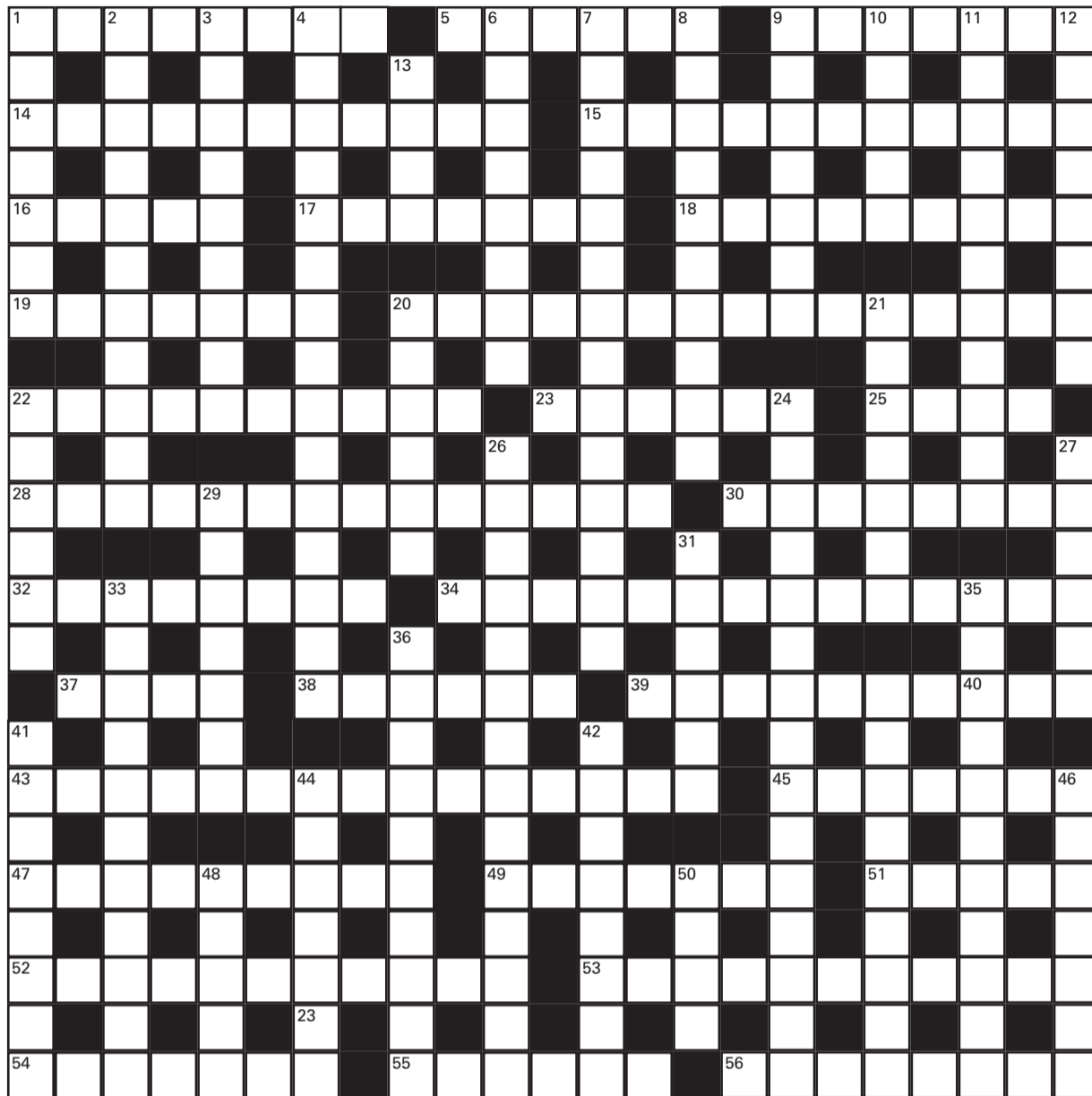
TEXT US! OR WE WON'T FEED THE CAT!

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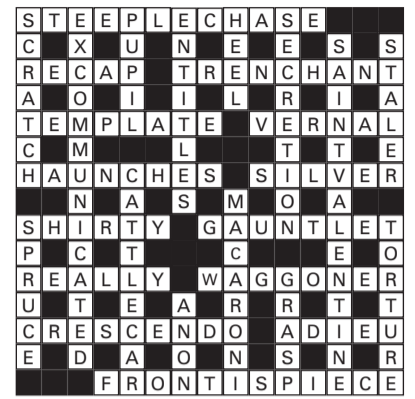
Celebratory 1,400th Crossword



You may be slightly shocked or even disgusted at this week's behemoth. Never mind: 1400 issues and the last week of term merits a special effort. Hope it appeals to those among you with strong stomachs.

The winner of last week's crossword was team **The Crystallites in Chemistry**. Congratulations to you, and huge thanks to all those who have sent in solutions this term. Especially Di-Emma! Happy holidays to you all, good luck with your exams, and I hope to irritate you again come summer.

Enoch



Solution to Crossword 1,399

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Domestic dummy (8)
- 5 A stone cabbage heart in a torn peel (6)
- 9 Headphones made from an alien shadow (7)
- 14 Enclose a mixed drink for the environment (11)
- 15 Old custom being exported (11)
- 16 Protrude without a stick, then twist and eject (5)
- 17 Relax around the grain, don't mock it (5,2)
- 18 A season can rearrange repeating sounds (9)
- 19 Turn a swiss vegetable (7)
- 20 The color Sandy chose was changed by her school (9,6)
- 22 Coins twisted into a tress by girl (10)
- 23 Going back in time, a Western cafe breaks down (6)
- 25 Homeless man loses his head over Eastern instrument (4)
- 28 Faithful in a wrecked car somewhere in Turkey (15)
- 30 The tasty hem turned purple (8)
- 32 Overheating newt mold collapses (8)
- 34 Escape tidying during a major clean-up (6,8)
- 37 Sport with sound of religious yeast (4)
- 38 The Annual! You're on time! (6)
- 39 Illegal title deed for group (10)
- 43 8 down dissuades cities, somehow (8,7)
- 45 Similar footrests without the Cockney shuffle (2,5)
- 47 Call on me to rip! Rip easels! (6,3)
- 49 Progressed and returned love to five editors (7)
- 51 Choose to select without a lead (5)
- 52 Admit alternating information (11)
- 53 Under-assess the confusing state of confidence (11)
- 54 Cheer up! It's broken, but only made out of clay (7)
- 55 Baseless criticism provides a guarantee (6)
- 56 Mystery man lost any balanced agreement (8)

DOWN

- 1 To own mobs from the South (7)
- 2 Currency passing from place to place (11)
- 3 Soft tribe suffer from fingers dropping off (9)
- 4 Writer can rearrange or merge twin hyenas (6,9)
- 6 European general is about a hundred, thanks to the science of good breeding (8)
- 7 Noted elfin beer breaks down a good piece of meat (4,10)
- 8 Oriental children put to sleep (10)
- 9 "Seigh?" - Only a rumour
- 10 Good point. Without a beginning or an end, it's foreign to me (5)
- 11 Cult workshops mutilated headless doctor (11)
- 12 Gingerly, X is German for really short (8)
- 13 Mass observed around the world (4)
- 20 God of drinks (6)
- 21 Lost pilot leaves Vietnam for Cambodia - or some other country (7)
- 22 Transform the sounds of a German reception (6)
- 24 Organized vehicle destruction a result of peeled and boiled modernity (10,5)
- 26 Vice President consumes isle in revolutionary state of need (14)
- 27 Deer education is faked! (6)
- 29 Theodore! Debts are so boring (7)
- 31 Pay no attention to inept ruling over emptiness (6)
- 33 Potato or leek salad over the megaphone (11)
- 35 A North-Eastern regiment concurs (2,9)
- 36 String game is a musical cot (4,6)
- 40 Headless gerbil leads to short swear
- 41 Military engine on deformation alley (8)
- 42 The large lizard somehow ordains you (8)
- 44 Greek letter talks about the English keeping battered ruin (7)
- 46 Altered fits; say please (7)
- 48 Smoothe without me, to tell the truth (5)
- 50 Suitcase free of chemical contains urn (4)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Circumvented (8)
- 5 Overseas (6)
- 9 Hues (7)
- 14 A distribution among parties (11)
- 15 Mischievous ghost (11)
- 16 MC (5)
- 17 Small angels (7)
- 18 Reigning royal (9)
- 19 Patella (7)
- 20 Several memoirs (15)
- 22 Lowest female singers (10)
- 23 To vandalise (6)
- 25 Judge (4)
- 28 Oriental sweet (7,7)
- 30 Take responsibility (8)
- 32 Kahlua, Benediction and Pernot (8)
- 34 Promiscuity (14)
- 37 Agreement (4)
- 38 Wanting food (6)

- 39 Holiness (10)
- 43 London's Times or Red (9,6)
- 45 Changed (for the better) (7)
- 47 Support of fundamentalist ideas (9)
- 49 Egyptian, say (7)
- 51 Give birth (5)
- 52 Opera (3,8)
- 53 Well-trained, obedient (11)
- 54 Artful avoiders (7)
- 55 Lookout (6)
- 56 Around the albumen (8)
- 10 Beer (5)
- 11 Unenlightened (11)
- 12 Worshipper of Beelzebub (8)
- 13 Marceau, e.g (4)
- 20 Pinnacle (6)
- 21 Scent (7)
- 22 Bovine herds (6)
- 24 Genocide (6,9)
- 26 $y = ax + b$ (6,8)
- 27 Friday's master (6)
- 29 Desire to resist change (7)
- 31 Demesne (6)
- 33 Isolated (11)
- 35 Congruence (11)
- 36 Small steps (10)
- 40 Type of triangle (9)
- 41 Showed up (8)
- 42 Golden or black dog (8)
- 44 Mourns (7)
- 46 Spinning tops (8)
- 48 Banishment (5)
- 50 Group of actors (4)

DOWN

- 1 Crazy (7)
- 2 Brush used after a smoke (4,7)
- 3 Named Desire? (9)
- 4 Institution for American Anglicans (9,6)
- 6 Feasts (8)
- 7 An evolutionary advantage (9,5)
- 8 Liable to hallucinations (10)
- 9 Knife (7)

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IC wins Inter-Uni Trading Game

A team from IC has won the first Inter-University Trading Game organised by the Imperial College Finance Society in partnership with the London School of Economics, Oxford and Cambridge Universities

Akash Agrawal

Last Wednesday 5th March, Tan Tsze Han and Kwa Wee Shzong each won £1000, a trophy and a day on Merrill Lynch's trading floor. They fended off 15 other teams from Imperial, Cambridge, Oxford and the LSE in the final and over 400 other people who entered the qualifying rounds, to be crowned the best traders in a game of quick thinking, speed and accuracy.

The competition consisted of two rounds; a qualifying round at each of the universities which took place two weeks ago and the final round at the Merrill Lynch headquarters in London last week. The platform for the trading simulations was designed and run by 7city Learning and Merrill Lynch kindly sponsored all the events. Merrill Lynch has a very strong network of Imperial alumni and recently won the "Here Is The City" award for Best Place to Work in the Global Financial Markets category. 7city Learning is a global financial services training company providing leading edge solutions for financial and professional skills training.

The competition attracted overwhelming interest at Imperial and more than 100 students across all departments were selected to enter the qualifying round. The first round consisted of a US stock trading simulation and the goal was simple: to make as

much money as possible in 40 minutes. The simulation was based on six stocks using historical market price data and players competed in teams of two, buying and selling from a number of banks.

Hemal Mehta and Kok Yeen Cheek won the first event and were each awarded an iPod Nano. They managed to raise a staggering \$67 million, far outdoing the next best two who made a profit of \$35 million. Four teams of two qualified for the final round at Merrill Lynch, being given the chance to compete for a prize of £2000.

The final, which took place last Wednesday, proved to be an even more exciting event. The four teams of Imperial were taken down to the venue at Merrill Lynch's offices in London and were put head to head with teams from Oxford, Cambridge and LSE.

The simulation for the final was a more complex version of the qualifying round trading game. This time teams could trade between each other and there were also news feeds. It was based on a bearish European market with much less liquid stocks, making it much more difficult to make profits and was shown by the fact that only three out of sixteen teams made any profit at all.

This made it an even more impressive accomplishment for Tan and Kwa who managed to make £31.4 million over the period of an hour when many



The Inter-University Trading Game held in the Tanaka Business School

teams made just as big a loss.

The game was followed by the prize-giving presentation by Christian Dinesen, head of European Credit Research and the captain of recruitment for Imperial who firstly gave a brief talk about the challenges and risks that

traders face on a continual basis. After congratulating them on their tremendous achievement, Mr Dinesen awarded Tan Tsze Han and Kwa Wee Shzong with their well deserved trophies. Imperial also placed first in the competition overall by making more than £7

million in total, before Oxford (£4M), Cambridge (-£4M) and LSE (-£13.6M) We must all praise the teams for representing Imperial in beating Oxford, Cambridge and the LSE and hope Tsze Han and Wee Shzong have fun spending their winnings!

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The participants



Come on lads, we can do it!

Windsurfing finds a new home!

Imperial College Windsurfers host an awesome SWA competition weekend. Involving much surfing, partying and all-round banter, IC shows other unis how it's done while also proving it's surfing worth

Chris Beng

When most people think of windsurfing, they imagine crystal-blue water, sun-soaked beaches, palm trees and bikinis. The last thing you think of is good ol' London Town! This was the exact reaction of the Student Windsurfing Association (SWA) Committee when the idea of Imperial College Windsurfers hosting an SWA Event was proposed in December last year. However, after discussing the logistics of such an event, it became apparent that this crazy idea would actually work and on the 29th February 2008, the SWA came to London for the first ever SWA London Event.

Over 100 student windsurfers from universities around the country gathered in DB's on the Friday night and having battled the Friday night traffic from places as far afield as Cardiff and York, most were desperate for a drink. Drink they did! The Union was buzzing until 2am when the lucky club members who were responsible for looking after such a rabble had the job of shepherding 100, now inebriated, windsurfers back to their houses in Hammersmith. The event was shaping up to be a good one!

Saturday was the first day of competition and as everyone arrived at Datchet Water, a large reservoir on the outskirts of London with a fantastic view over Windsor Castle, they were greeted by an amazing sight... The sun was shining and wind was blowing a good 20 knots making it perfect for running the 3rd round of the SWA Boardwise Freestyle Series. This was the toughest fleet of the series so far and even the judges commented that this was the highest standard they had ever seen in SWA competition. UK Pro sailor Nick Moffat was knocked out in the semi final and in the end it was two London boys who took the top 2 places with Joe O'Callaghan (St.Mary's Uni) narrowly beating Imperial's own Chris Beng into 1st place. This result currently places Chris, who has already won this year's Wave Series, at the top of the freestyle leader board with 2 events left. The rest of the day was taken up with some beginner lessons and sailing on some

fantastic demo kits provided by Boardwise and Severne Sails.

After a long day of sailing, everyone returned to Hammersmith to get ready for the Saturday night party, which was a 'Cult Classic Movie' fancy dress-themed party. The evening kicked off with some fantastic music from The Measure (<http://www.myspace.com/themeasureuk>) who warmed up the evening in style. By the time they had finished, daVinci's was on fire and after an inter-uni boat race to cool things off, the party got into full swing. Another 2 am close and off to bed for a few hours before getting up and heading back to the lake.

The conditions on Sunday were just as good as the Saturday, setting the scene perfectly for some pedal to the metal racing for the event race title and points towards the overall SWA Club Vass Race Series. The racing was insane with Imperial's Baptsite Labat storming from the back of the fleet in the final race to finish in second with only one board length between him and 1st place. His outstanding performance was enough to secure him a third overall in his first event. The women's competition was equally exciting with close racing and numerous position changes throughout the day. Jess Longley, the Imperial Windsurf President, proved that she could hold her own against series leader Sarah Bibby (Southampton) and finished in a well deserved 2nd place. The results at this event are a good sign that a landlocked Uni such as Imperial College could be a force to reckon with at the BUSA Nationals in March.

Well done to all that organized in took part in a hugely successful inaugural event and thank you to all the SWA sponsors, Sport Imperial and ICU for their support of our event. Special thanks go to event sponsors Andy at Aquasport for providing some fantastic prizes, Paul and the team at Datchet for being legends and Mark from Boardwise and John at Severne for putting on a fantastic demo.

For more info contact: committee@imperialwindsurf.co.uk and also see www.swa.co.uk



Totally bodacious surfing



Totally bodacious partying



The Imperial Windsurfers, the pride of Gimperial

Medicals in seventh heaven after UH cup final victory

Rugby UH Cup Final

Imperial Medicals 1st	21
GKT Men's 1st	12

Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys

Tries from James Logan, Huw Williams and Craig Nightingale helped the 1st XV secure their seventh successive UH Cup final victory. Leading 21-0 the Medicals were forced to work hard by a spirited Kings Medical (formerly GKT) side who came back strongly in the second half with tries from Matt Morgan and Lucas Rehnberg taking the final score to 21-12.

Sunshine and showers greeted the sides at London Welsh's Old Deer Park ground for the United Hospitals Challenge Cup final, the oldest rugby competition still in existence which was first contested 134 years ago in 1875. Injured skipper Austin Dekker selected a squad with a pleasing mixture of youth and experience with centre James Logan, who led the Medicals to victory in 2006, being handed the captain's armband. Special mention must be reserved for freshers Ed Pickles, Craig Nightingale and James Sharples whose excellent performances this season meant they were selected in the starting XV ahead of many Medicals' stalwarts.

Playing with the breeze in the first half the Medicals started brightly with half-backs Tom Maynard and Dan Neville keeping the Medicals in GKT territory for much of the opening stanza. Strong ball carrying by Ben Davies and James Logan gave dangerous wings James Sharples and Harry Thompson space out wide, however, the fervid Guy's defence led by the back row of Rob Hone, Mark Halls and Matt Morgan prevented the Medicals from crossing the line early on. The set-piece was also keenly contested with Ed Pickles, Ruairidh Crawford and Xander An-

cock being well matched by their GKT counterparts in the scrum. At the line-out Rhys Davies and 2nd row partner Ross Ferry had a ding-dong battle with Medicals lineout duo Peter O'Neill and Rob Anderson.

It wasn't until almost halfway through the opening period that the deadlock was finally broken. A mix-up by GKT centres Pete Robinson and Adam Staten gave the Medicals possession in broken play. Making the most of the splintered defence James Logan gathered the ball and showed tremendous pace to beat GKT left wing James Cuthbertson on the outside. Keeping a cool head Logan ran round to touch down under the posts making the conversion a formality for fly-half Dan Neville. On 35 minutes Peter Russell replaced Ruairidh Crawford, who had played 80 minutes against Stevenage the previous day, at hooker.

After Guy's had passed up a try-scoring opportunity of their own through a straightforward handling error the Medicals were to extend their lead just prior to the interval. From a well executed lineout the backline put the hard work on the training ground into practice by running a devastating set move. With dummy runners disorientating the GKT defence, Huw Williams was able to cut a line from full-back, receive Neville's perfectly weighted pass and run in under the posts untouched. Neville duly added the extras.

Leading 14-0 at half time the Medicals set a game plan to kill off the game in the second half by playing for territory and keeping Guy's on the back foot. And the opening minutes of the second period certainly went to plan. Guy's fly-half John Kendel launched a high ball for Lucas Rehnberg to chase, however, Medicals wing Harry Thompson stayed calm under pressure to take the ball cleanly, break a tackle and offload to put openside flanker Craig Nightingale into space on the left wing. The fleet-footed fresher managed to out pace the covering Mark Halls and full-back Mike Forsythe to dive over ten

metres from the left touchline. Neville made no mistake with the tricky conversion. Shortly after James Saffin and Xander Ancock were replaced by the livewire Graham Corin and weighty Jeremy Bartosiak-Jentys respectively.

Guy's driven by the dread of walking away with another runners-up medal fought back valiantly putting the Medicals under sustained pressure mid-way through the second half. The pressure finally told as a clean Guy's lineout was mauled towards the Medicals line. Despite desperate attempts to stop the drive GKT were able to cross the whitewash with No.8 Matt Morgan able to touch down despite the close attention of Peter Russell. Pete Gretton was successful with the conversion to narrow the Medicals lead to 14 points. Looking to add an experienced head to the fold Francois Tudor was brought on to replace Anakan Navaratnam in the Medicals' back row.

The change did little for the Medicals fortunes as Guy's piled on the pressure with the Medicals, playing into the wind in the second period, finding it difficult to clear their lines effectively. It was, therefore, of little surprise when from an attacking scrum on the Medicals' five metre line Guy's exploited space on the blind side to put wing Lucas Rehnberg in by the right-hand corner flag. Gretton was unable to add the extras from the right touchline.

The Medicals, desperate to regain some control, tightened up the game by using their big forwards to pick and go around the fringes of the ruck, thereby retaining possession and running down the clock. Much credit must go to courageous Medicals scrum half Tom Maynard who continued to bellow instructions at his forwards despite playing much of the game with a broken jaw. Everyone at the club would like to wish Tom a speedy recovery. As the final seconds ticked away and the referee brought the contest to an end the Medicals' could bask in the glory of winning the coveted cup for the seventh consecutive year.



Rob Anderson breaking through the GKT line

Ladies hockey miss out to GKT in ULU cup final

Hockey ULU Cup

Imperial Women's 1st	1
GKT Women's 1st	3

Jess Poore

The IC ladies' 1st team played their last game in the ULU Challenge Cup – the final – against GKT on a cold Sunday in Chiswick. Initially, IC were able to dominate, on a sticky pitch which seemed to be alternately flooded and bone dry in places, and we spent much of the early stages of the game in the GKT half.

It became clear pretty quickly that GKT were going to be quick on the counter-attack, and several moments of panic were had by all – illustrated by Womble's cries of 'oh sh*t!' whenever a GKT player and/or a ball got too close for comfort. MJ saved the day a number of times, before IC conceded

an unfortunate goal from an intercepted free hit – to the disappointment of our support, sharing their attention between us and the Men's 2nd team. With some more attacking pressure right at the end of the first half, Malbinas got us a penalty corner, and Cumbum stepped up with a strike which, initially blocked, allowed Malbinas to nick us a goal.

The second half did bring some more scoring opportunities, and a few more penalty corners, but we couldn't convert, and there was ever-present danger from the GKT counter-attack and the enormous number of penalty corners they had. Unfortunately for IC, the threat materialized – even support from the IC medics, arriving for their cup final and varsity game couldn't prevent the score going to 3-1, with two goals from GKT. When the final whistle blew, leaving us with one final penalty corner to defend, we couldn't do any more but keep it out and finish the game with a respectable – if disappointing – 3-1 loss.

Men's 6s finish season in 5th place

Football

Imperial Men's 6th	4
GKT Men's 5th	1

Ricardo Verra

After beating the 7s three times this season, the 6s decided to do them a favour and thrash GKT 5s (fellow relegation candidates). After tolling the bell, Damian, Fitz, Sim and Turrell came forth to play for the cause and destroy some medics.

After a standard shaky first 5 minutes, we grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck and dominated the rest of the match. Damian and Hardy were tearing their defence to shreds and bringing Ward and Sim into play brilliantly.

It wasn't long before we got our first in true old skool 6th team style with a through ball to Sim who lashed it passed the keeper. We didn't create many more chances in the first half as they were defending quite well, but I was happy to be freezing my ass off in goal as I had nothing at all to do all half. Sapin, Justin, Field and Tony all playing brilliantly.

Our second goal came not long after half time and was a thing of beauty. Damian "Welshy" Phelan picked up the ball in midfield and brought it forward. After hearing Rob screaming for the ball on the left, played a cross field pass into the space for Rob to run onto, who put a cross right onto Hardy's head for him to nod it home. Hardy also got our third when Turrell played the ball to him in the box and he took it round the defender before poking it past the keeper.

GKT got back into the game a bit



The Men's 6th team celebrating their victory in... er, Mexico

more, but it wasn't until well into the second half before they had their first shot on target, which I saved brilliantly with my face. Unfortunately though, we were cheated out of our first clean sheet of the season by the ref; our own David Sapin. His excuse was that he was enjoying reffing but hadn't given a foul yet. He also didn't realise that Fitz's tackle was in the box and was inch perfect.

Needless to say, I conceded my third penalty of the season. That was the last effort on target they had, as we went straight down the other end and scored a fourth. Sim swivelled in the box and lifted it over the keeper out of nothing. Two or three more goals could have followed, but to spare them the embarrassment, we (I mean Damian and Mike) decided to only shoot from at least 20 yards. However, the Sondergaard show continued, climaxing with him lifting the ball over the heads of two on-rushing GKT players and making them look like idiots.

After the final whistle, Airborne Ranger rang out across Teddington to cap off a good season for the 6s. 5th place in the league and we reached the cup semi-final. 2nd best team in the club. Well done lads.

Alone in the gym? Grab a workout partner!

Holly Plumley
Energia Fitness Instructor

When it comes to training in the gym, there are usually two types of people: those who prefer to work out with a partner, and those who prefer to go it alone.

Having a workout partner has a variety of advantages – it can be hugely motivating, make your training sessions more enjoyable and can keep you committed to maintaining the number of training sessions you do each week. The choice of who you should share this time with depends on a few factors such as training goals. Few workout partners are successful at reaching their goals if one wants to do cardio while the other focuses on strength training. You should have some of the same goals i.e. to complete a marathon, to lose weight, to gain strength.

If you don't choose your workout partner wisely, you could find your gym visits suffering as your partner will become more of a distraction than anything else. Here are some examples of the types of workout partners there are and ones I see daily in the gym:

The Spotter

If you are someone who is constantly pushing yourself by trying to go for your one-rep max or just progressively by ensuring you are overloading your muscles with each session, a spotter is essential.

A spotter will be there if you start to falter during a lift, and could potentially save you from a very serious injury. Knowing that this person is there for you also offers a psychological advantage because most people, when they know they will be backed up by a couple of extra hands, can actually lift



What type of partner would you like? A Mentor for giving valuable guidance or a Socialiser to talk to about your weekend shenanigans?

more than they thought they could.

Don't overestimate how much help you will actually be getting either. When it comes to getting you out of a tight situation, a very gentle upward pull on the bench press for example will be more than enough to give you that little extra to hoist the weight back up to the top of the lift. So, for confidence and safety, find a workout partner who is a good spotter.

The Mentor

If you are new to weight lifting just be sure that when you choose someone to show you the ropes, you are choosing someone who knows what they are doing. While usually a muscle-bound

body is the result of good training and hard work, some people may not entirely know what they are doing in the gym and you don't want to pick up their bad habits. Also make sure they are offering the right support and guidance for your specific training goals.

The Socialiser

The worst type of workout-partnership to have is where one of you really wants to have an intense workout, while the other would rather spend more time hanging around, looking in the mirror and chatting with the odd set thrown in between conversations. This mindset is slightly less common, but every gym usually has at least a few



of these talkative, chatty people. The most common type of workout partner you will find is a person who prefers to workout with someone who is on a par with their current fitness level, as they personally find this more motivating to them since they can push each other, pound for pound.

The Professional

Finally, the last type of workout partner that you might want to consider is an actual personal trainer.

If you're new to weight lifting or are looking to take your fitness to new levels, this could be the best choice for you. Not only will you receive motivational benefits, you will get the correct

teaching of exercises. It's also a guarantee that your personal trainer is putting their full effort into ensuring you improve at the gym.

Check they are qualified by a respectable organization – you don't want to be dishing out money to someone who doesn't really have a good grasp of exercise physiology and workout principles. Think about your availability and find out theirs, as depending on your needs if you want to have them with you for each session you're at the gym, you need to ensure they have enough time to accommodate you.

All the instructors at Energia Gym are fully qualified personal trainers. Ask at the gym for more information if you're interested.

Imperial Chess Team retains Valentine's Cup

Rafe Martyn

Sunday February 22nd saw the second installment of the Imperial College vs Oxford University chess match. Started in 2006 to end the Oxford Cambridge duopoly, the Valentine's Cup was meant to be an annual fixture. Disappointingly, following our crushing victory in 2006 on foreign soil, Oxford copped out of a revenge fixture last year claiming they would prefer to play a tournament between themselves and therefore had no time to play us. This year, however, they finally roused enough courage to accept our offer for a return match in London.

But the landscape has changed in the university chess-playing hierarchy in recent times. Whereas two years ago we were clear underdogs, this year many of Oxford's better players have graduated and others couldn't stomach the journey down to London. Added to this, a few weeks before the match it was discovered that one of England's top fifty players, International Master Simon Ansell, was doing a one-year Masters at Imperial College. With already a quite strong team and Ansell leading the way we would start the match as clear favourites.

Given that we had only found out a few weeks earlier, we were sure that having an International Master on top board would come as a surprise to them. That is, until I CCed their team captain in an email to our team! With

all our team names in the address bar, the cat would be out of the bag as soon as their team captain would read the email so a swift cover-up operation was called for. Realising my mistake, I decided to recall the message. With the culprit email sitting right next to it, however, recalling it just once would only arouse suspicion. I therefore sent out forty recall emails to swamp his inbox and ensure that he would click on the recall one before even realising the offending one was there! This did not work. Not one of the anticipated "message recall has been successful" notification was received.

The match consisted of eight games pitting our eight best players against their best eight. With one point for a win, half for a draw and none for a loss, at least four-and-a-half points are needed for a win. Looking at the make-up of the teams it was clear that we had the edge on the top four boards where the stronger players were playing but that on the bottom four it would be fairly evenly matched. This was borne out early on as I won quickly on board two and Simon looked to be cruising on board 1. Three hours in to the five hour match, Imperial's Tom Fuller was crushing his opponent on bottom board and though Simon Ansell had been held to a draw we were two up with four to play and looked to be coasting to an easy victory.

Then, in the space of 15 minutes, things suddenly went to pot. First



IC faced off against Oxford University eventually riding home with the Valentine's Cup

having done well to survive a dodgy opening IC's Jason Klimach blundered a couple of pawns to end up in a lost endgame. Then Imperial's Justin Hadi, a former Oxford undergraduate himself, fell for a cheap checkmate from a position that looked certain to end in a draw. And though Tom cleaned up on board eight, it wasn't long before we were one point down with just one game left still playing.

In the key game our player, Peter Levermore, playing black, had a

slightly better position and was trying to convert it into a win while all the time being careful to avoid the game suddenly evaporating into a draw. Trying to break through, this necessity of avoiding the draw backfired on Peter as playing the best moves would lead to a dead drawn position. Instead he had to accept a lost position just to keep some hope of swindling a win. It looked to be in vain as Pete's opponent continually tried to force the draw but finally, right at the death, with both

players having just thirty seconds left on the clock each, white cracked under the pressure and caved in allowing Peter to checkmate him.

So the match ended in a tie and as we were the holders of the cup it was hastily decided that the rule should be that the holder should keep it. It was an epic match which swung both ways but thanks to some last minute heroics we could once again drink to a victory with the beautiful Valentine's cup at our side.



Battle for the UH Cup

Imperial Medicals defeat GKT in the final but not without a scrap; see page 38



IC 4s and The Great (Relegation) Escape

Football ULU League

Imperial Men's 4th	1
UCL Men's 6th	3

Ed Lobb

IC 4s went into their game with UCL 6s with a clear mission statement – pick up a point to avoid relegation. Bottom at Christmas with a mere 5 points, the 4s hopes of staying up looked about as alive as Jeremy Beadle but a spring term revival, in which they were the form team of the league, saw them with their destiny in their own hands going into the final game.

UCL had already won the league by a distance and came to fortress Harlington eager to show their class. IC lined up in normal fashion, with the 4-5-1 formation that had served them so well this term, and were further inspired by the sight of team idol and all round good guy Flex QC on the adjacent pitch.. Both teams started well with UCL looking dangerous from the right but ICs defence holding firm. However, halfway through the first half goalkeeper Pursey came to the edge of his box to collect a through ball and

somehow ended up handling outside the area. The Why Bird claimed a foul but the ref stood by his decision. The resulting free kick was swung in, missing everyone in the box to zoom into the far corner.

Undeservedly behind, IC continued to play their game and scored an equaliser as ridiculous as the passage of play leading up to it. A long ball was flicked back to the keeper by the studs of the centre back, who looked as if he was trying to show his teammates the superman move to Soulja Boy. The keeper picked the ball up and a back pass was given. From the resulting free kick, Jonny Hill, eager for revenge against the team who coined his 'Fat-boy' alias, picked himself up from his default position on the floor to plough his way thorough 4 of the men in the wall, allowing Damian to fire through the gap to equalise.

1-1 at half time and so far a solid performance from Aubergine and his charges. 10 minutes into the second half IC were presented with a fab chance thanks to an error by the UCL keeper. Matty Smith had time to pick his spot and hit a rocket that was deflected onto the inside of the post – IC inches from taking the lead. However, they couldn't capitalise on their pressure and some poor defending allowed

UCL in down the left side and their striker fired home off the far post from the narrowest of angles. IC weren't pushing it every way, leaving at least 3 ways they could still push, and 5 minutes later it looked like game over as cross from the left wasn't cleared and the ball was slotted in for 3-1.

Captain Scott threw caution to the wind and changed to a 3-5-2 in search of desperately needed goals, giving the team a refresher with 2 substitutions. With 15 minutes to go, Scott threw himself up front leaving IC's defence about as safe as a hooker in Ipswich, and they should really have been made to pay with UCL missing a host of chances. Inside the last 10 IC were awarded a free kick on the left corner of the box. It looked as if no-one was going to take it, until Chris stepped up and dispatched over the wall into the top corner. IC continued to press and with the clock in the final minute a long ball from Pursey found Damian in a 50-50 with the keeper, which he won to lob the ball over his head and into the unguarded net.

The final whistle was blown on the feast of football and IC 4s had earned the point needed to pull off the greatest relegation escape in non-league football. Scott, although not Turkish, was clearly delighted.



A third goal and equalizer for IC in dying minutes saved their season