



War and peace

Malaysia's longest serving Prime Minister gives SAF lecture on Criminalising War and the justifications of terrorism, see page 3

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News

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Calls for mass disaffiliation after NUS reformation fails

Jovan Nedić
Editor-in-Prowling

The National Union of Students (NUS) Annual Conference was held this year in Blackpool, with Imperial sending nine elected delegates. After rejoining the NUS last year, Imperial was hoping that there would be signs of change in the NUS, that the reforms passed last December would get the two-thirds majority ratification needed this time round and give the NUS a new lease of life.

With 717 votes required for the reform to be passed, only 692 voted in favour, meaning that the reform failed by only 25 votes. Although the nine Imperial delegates were mandated to vote for the reform, Camilla Royle decided to break mandate and voted with the 'Student Respect' line who opposed the ratification. This was not however an isolated incident, as several delegates from other unions chose to break mandate, with these few votes making the difference between the reform being passed and calls of mass disaffiliation.

Universities such as Imperial, King's and University College London, which have been branded as being on the NUS 'rich list' due to the fact that they contribute the most to affiliations costs, have brought up the prospect of disaffiliation. This would be a huge blow to the NUS as they would lose several hundreds of thousands of pounds every year, as well as losing some of their most influential and prestigious universities. Petitions are already underway at Imperial and it seems almost certain that a referendum will be called this term.

Other policies considered focused on education, with the NUS deciding to lobby for enforced education up to the age of 18. This was opposed by Imperial as they wanted more efforts to be made to offer viable alternatives and encourage students to stay in education voluntarily. The other big motion of the conference was with regards to the National Bursary Scheme which



ICU President Stephen Brown giving his 'Marxist debating club on wheels' speech at the NUS conference

would see money for bursaries being allocated by the government. Imperial College Union opposed this as they feel that the money will not be spread proportionally to their own students.

Imperial were generally poorly received at the conference with Imperial College Union President Stephen Brown, as well as the ICU delegates, being heckled as 'Tories' and 'Right-Wing Sabbaticals'. The best example of this can be seen in a video of Stephen Brown's speech where he questioned

whether demonstrations were the best use of the NUS's dwindling resources.

The general opinion of the NUS seems to be that the students have lost control, with too much bickering between its members and with several of them suggesting that the entire process is no longer democratic. If the NUS is truly going to be a voice of the students, it needs to get its act together, and quickly, or face a rebellion from its most powerful and influential constituent members.

Stealth marquee emerges and disappears again



College waved its largest wand yet by showing off the biggest marquee to ever grace the Queen's Lawn during the Easter break. The marquee was erected for the Charing Cross symposium which took place in April arousing stiff resentment from students who were bewildered at its construction so soon after the previous marquee was taken down and the Lawn was re-turfed at a cost of £30,000-40,000. The grass is still standing proud despite the vast intrusion; more marquees are due to return later this term which we await with mounting excitement

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OFF THE WEEK

Outspoken Asian politician visits IC

Prime Minister of Malaysian accused of anti-semitism and supporting terror. IC accused of censorship

Andrew Somerville
Deputy & News Editor

Accusations of censorship, racism, justification of terrorism and heavy-handed College action have surrounded a high-profile visit to IC by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former prime minister of Malaysia. Furore around what was to be his first public speech in the UK left international media, VIPs, invited guests and a crowd of non-Imperial attendees barred from entering the Sir Alexander Fleming (SAF) building as Friday's event was restricted at the last minute to College-ID holders only.

The decision was taken only hours before the event by the College Secretary, Dr Rodney Eastwood, along with an attempt to ban all cameras and recording equipment from the lecture theatre, in order to quell fears of protest over some of Dr Mahathir's controversial and outspoken comments in recent years, some of which have been labelled racist and anti-semitic. The decision has drawn widespread criticism of College from the Malaysian news media and from many attendees angry at having to cancel their plans and travel arrangements.

Even after the tension surrounding the run-up to the event, Dr Mahathir managed to add considerably to the aftermath by apparently justifying the September 11th attacks, and Osama bin Laden's terrorist activities under the Al Qaeda banner, as acting in "self-defence." These comments were made during the Q&A session, and repeated when asked to clarify his position by a member of the audience:

"When people are desperate, they do desperate things. Before, there was no Al Qaeda, no Osama bin Laden. They came after, and for a simple reason: it is their only way to defend themselves."

Figurehead of Debate

Organised over the Easter break on the topic of "The Case for Criminalising War" by ICU's Political Philosophy Society (no stranger to controversy after their problematic Israel/Palestine conflict case study earlier this year), the



Dr Mahathir answers questions from a packed SAF audience whilst crowds wait outside

event was a prestigious engagement for an ICU society to host; Dr Mahathir is a world leader in the movement to criminalise war.

Dr Mahathir is the longest serving Malaysian Prime Minister (serving for 22 years between 1981-2003), winning great support in the east for rapidly modernising Malaysia. He was considered one of the most influential and respected leaders in Asia: an outspoken critic of western governments (especially the US) and successfully mitigating much of the damage done to Malaysia during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, going against the advice of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). However, he has attracted wide criticism over Malaysia's corruption, ethnically biased policies and institutional racism, and over anti-semitic comments that he made in speeches. In 1997 he accused Jews for the devaluation of the Malaysian Ringgit currency, saying: "The Jews robbed the Palestinians of everything, but in Malaysia they could not do so, hence they do this, depress the ringgit," later issuing a partial retraction. In 2003 he also accused the Jews of "ruling the world by proxy."

On the Wednesday before the event, the ICU President, Stephen Brown, received a complaint from the Jewish Society, after they and the PPS were made aware of Dr Mahathir's comments by a poster on the Live! (live.cgcu.net) news forum. JSoc's complaint was resolved by the PPS meeting Dr Mahathir's secretary and ensuring that his speech remained on the topic of criminalizing war, and contained no anti-semitic incitement.

Following the complaint, however, the Union President held a meeting with the College Secretary, who had already sought legal advice over concerns about potentially breaching the Racial & Religious Hatred Act should Dr Mahathir make such comments at the event. College was legally advised that cancelling the event was potentially against the laws protecting free speech. College representatives ordered the PPS to ensure that no recording equipment was present, and increased security so that no external VIPs or visitors were allowed in to the audience. Felix was present at the event when the subsequent decision to attempt to ban all still-cameras was

also taken, but proved impossible to enforce.

The actions of College have been criticised by many commentators over their perceived over-zealous and 'knee-jerk' response to the situation, especially from students who attended the event and international media. Much anger has also been directed at Ammar Waraich, the PPS President, over both

the original booking of Dr Mahathir, and over his forced announcement that only IC-ID holders would be allowed to attend at such short notice. Several commentators felt that College had abandoned its students in seeking to suppress an extremely interesting and prestigious event, and that a "World Class" institution such as Imperial does not allow its students the same level of real-world education and debate that comparative British universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, King's and LSE.

"Who can we invite to speak without being overruled by the University?" Ammar asked Felix during the aftermath, "How can we prevent external students becoming interested in our events? Why weren't we [the PPS] involved at any point of the decision-making process? College never seemed to think or care about the personal issues involved, or about what we are trying to achieve."

Although contentious and full of debate, all of the students that attended that Felix spoke to were pleased that it occurred. "Even though I disagreed with his opinions," said one student, "rational debate, and being exposed to views on global events is a refreshing experience at Imperial. We rarely see the wider issues, even though we are constantly told that our university produces world leaders in many influential fields: not just in science."



Imperial College Vs. Science & Technology



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad: Malaysian elder statesman

Writing-up student wins court battle

Camden Council forced to withdraw Council Tax summons

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

Graduating PhD student, Matthew Yong, was taken to court by his local Council during the Easter break for failing to pay his Council Tax, however, Mr Yong successfully fought his corner without the support of Imperial College and on 20th March the case was ruled in his favour.

At the end of last term (issue 1,400) Felix reported on Mr Yong's case after he had just been issued with the Summons by the Camden & Islington Local Justice Area. The dispute arose because Mr Yong refused to pay Council Tax to Camden Council during the writing-up phase of his PhD. Most PhD students enter this phase after they have completed three years of their doctorate and only their thesis remains to be written. Students granted with writing-up status are not required to pay tuition fees, however restrictions are placed upon the amount of facilities around College they can access.

More importantly, Imperial College fails to recognise writing-up students as full-time students which was the cause of the dispute last term. Mr Yong claimed that he met "all criteria for being a full-time student" as de-

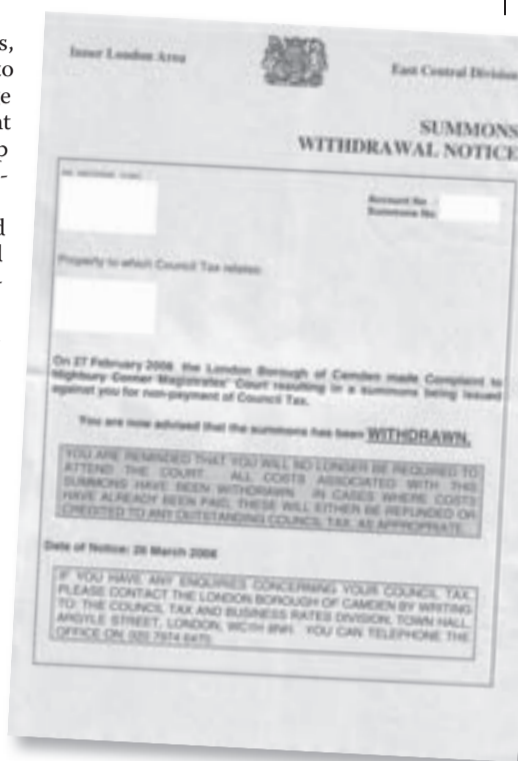
finied by Council Tax guidelines, but Camden Council refused to acknowledge this since College wouldn't provide a statement that "confirmed the writing up of his PhD constitutes continuation of his full time course."

Mr Yong was left to defend himself in court but in the end the judge ruled that he was "obviously" a full-time student.

The result is somewhat of a landmark case since many universities across the UK operate with a similar attitude to their writing-up students as Imperial does.

The result will also lend weight to the Union which will be encouraging College to revise its stance on writing-up students when it makes a presentation to Imperial's Strategic Education Committee in May.

Mr Yong will be giving an account of his experiences in a coming issue of Felix. Felix will also be publishing a guide on how to deal with your Council if they issue you with a similar Court Summons



Matthew Yong's Summons Withdrawal notice issued after the judge ruled he was "obviously" a full-time student

Science Challenge winner announced



Winning essayist Erika Cule (centre) with four of the judges

Tom Roberts

The winner of the Imperial College (née Royal College of Science Union Science Challenge...) Science Challenge was announced on Tuesday 18th March at the awards ceremony held in the Science Museum.

Erika Cule took home the first prize for the Imperial Competition with her essay entitled "How would knowledge of my genetic makeup affect my lifestyle?" which answered the question set by Imperial's Rector, Sir Richard Sykes.

For her troubles, she took home a cheque for £2,500, a Macbook and also won a trip to CERN to see the Large Hadron Collider.

The winner of the Schools Competition was Hassam Al Halwaichi from Sherborne School in Dorset. His essay answered Sir Brian Hoskins' question: "To what extent is geoeengineering the solution to the climate change problem?"

Hassam won £2,000 and a VIP trip to the National Physics Laboratory in Middlesex. Newspapers in his home country Bahrain also picked up on the story and his mother has received many congratulatory phone calls.

Felix staffers who attended the awards ceremony have reported that it was an awesome event, so this author would like to congratulate the organisers for such an excellent competition.

Felix will be publishing the winning essays and more in next week's issue.

Naboo coup: Mighty Boosh star coming to Summer Ball

Kadhim Shubber

Mighty Boosh fans rejoice, freelance shaman Naboo is coming to Imperial College Summer Ball.

The fictional Mighty Boosh character played by Michael Fielding (Noel Fielding's brother) will be performing a DJ set for indie, dance and funk lovers.

Other famous names include Andy C, Scratch Perverts, the Maccabees, Fearne Cotton, Zane Lowe and the

headline act: Klaxons.

Andy C, widely regarded as the best in his field in the UK, and Scratch Perverts will form an impressive drum 'n' bass lineup. Award winning DJ Zane Lowe will deliver a wide range of alternative music whereas fellow Radio1 DJ Fearne Cotton will cater to the cheese-lovers.

Tickets have been on sale for an eternity. If you haven't bought one yet, head to imperialcollegeunion.org/ball.

CGCU President resigns following mounting pressure after No-confidence motion

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

The perennial condition of politically active students having to No-confidence at least one person per year has led to the first scalp of the year. City & Guilds College Union President (CGCU), Tristan Sherliker resigned on Monday citing that a combination of personal reasons and the level of work required of a final year student have left him unable to carry on satisfactorily.

In the final issue of last term, Felix reported on the No-confidence motion proposed by CGCU members against Mr Sherliker. They believed he had not lived up to his responsibilities as President, specifically that his attendance at

meetings was poor and that he failed to communicate with his colleagues when they needed him.

During the Easter break the CGCU held an emergency meeting to decide on the No-confidence motion. The paper was rejected and Mr Sherliker remained in the role until earlier this week when he announced his resignation. He has since said he would have happily continued as President despite the No-confidence, but personal issues had lessened the amount of time he had to spend in his position.

The Guilds will have to remain without a leader for the rest of the term since Monday night's Council decided to suspend the Presidential elections until next academic year.

Union launches new evening catering menu in daVinci's

Jovan Nedić
Editor-in-Prowling

The Union has unveiled its new evening menu this week, in an attempt to improve the quality of food provided. Between 5 and 9pm every weekday, students will be able to choose from a variety of new dishes, cooked freshly and then have it brought to their table.

Some of the old 'favourites' are still available, including chilli and bolognese. New additions made include a 6oz Aberdeen Angus burger and scampi and chips. The Felix team went to sample this new menu, with the food getting some mixed reviews. Ordering the food is simple enough, you just go to the bar and order, then take a seat and wait for it to be delivered. Expect a wait of between 5 and 45 minutes before the food arrives though.

Once everybody's food had arrived, it was easy to notice that no change had been made to the old 'favourites' whilst the new burgers that were of a good standard. One question that came to this reporter's mind was why did it take so long for some of the more simple food (ie: jacket potatoes, chilli and nachos) to be delivered, when in the old system, the turnover was a matter of minutes.

On the whole its good to see the Union attempting to improve the quality of its catering, and one hopes that as time goes by, it will only get better.

Let us know what you think. Email: felix@imperial.ac.uk



Top: 6oz Aberdeen Angus burger with cheese and bacon, served with rustic chips and below: The new thick, short, ribbed and hollowed out 'spaghetti' bolognese.

Union Council: Serious business

Mines members and supporters storm out of session during heated debate over paper to create RSM Union

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

Union Council descended into melodramatics once again when on Monday night a paper proposed by the Royal School of Mines (RSM) and its supporters was rejected. The paper sought to return Union status to the RSM, previously lost in 2002, and required a two-thirds majority to succeed, however it gained only 13 votes for and 8 against.

Tempers boiled-over when Council voted to amend sections of the paper much to the dismay of the RSM proposers who felt it had changed too much thus losing its original substance and purpose. In response to the amendments voted through, RSM President Danny Hill stormed out of the room declaring that he "couldn't give a shit now."

As the evening progressed, Union stalwart Jon Matthews (who helped to present the paper) came up against criticism from Deputy President (Finance & Services) Chris Larvin, who was the most vocal opponent of the paper. The paper was supported by 184 seconders, many of whom were contacted via blanket email of the RSM mailing list. The DPFS questioned the manner in which the seconders were obtained and also their validity. Mr Matthews erupted at these suggestions, requesting Mr Larvin to rescind his comments, which he felt implied that the proposers had lied to Council about the way in which they collected the seconders. In response, the DPFS asked for the original emails to be read out to Councillors bringing particular attention to lines which promised a "win win situation [for the RSM]" and "more money for RSM Clubs and ac-

tivities!" if the recipients simply clicked reply and then send.

The discussions became more and more heated, and eventually Councillor Rosie Smithells and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson became entangled in the bickering. Finally when the paper was rejected in its entirety Mr Matthews, Ms Smithells and Ms Patterson collectively marched out of the room along with a few other RSM supporters. Ms Smithells also later resigned as a Councillor.

The most significant dispute during the evening centred around the level of representation the RSM would be given on various Union committees. The proposers wanted to bring the RSM's level of representation closer to that of the existing Faculty Unions and also the Campus Unions of Silwood and Wye, by creating a position on both the Executive Committee and Representation & Welfare Board (RWB). This was met with opposition since the RSM consists of 850 students compared to, say, the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) which has approximately 4,500 students.

It was also feared that over-representation of the RSM would pave the way for other Clubs & Societies Committees (CSCs) such as the Athletics Clubs Committee (ACC, which represents all of the Union's sports clubs) to request for a member on Exec and RWB since they represent a far larger proportion of students than the RSM. The paper's proposers countered this by drawing on the RSM's historical significance within Imperial College Union, claiming that the collective spirit of RSM students distinguishes them from other students and hence their representation and welfare needs are different. A similar reasoning justifies why the Silwood and Wye Unions have members on committees such as Exec and RWB, however it was pointed out that those students have vastly different needs since they live far away from Imperial's main campus.

A number of other points within the paper were discussed on the night,



Jon Matthews paces the room as opposition to the paper increases



Jon Matthews (right) glares as Deputy President, Chris Larvin (left) takes umbrage with his paper to change the RSM into a Faculty Union

more of which can be found by heading to live.cgu.net where you'll also find a recording from mid-way through the serious business.

Since the theatrics of Monday night, some of the paper's supporters have admitted to overreacting and behaving poorly. However, the proposers maintain they were disrespectfully treated on Monday night, citing particularly the allegations that they were lying to Council and the accusations that the entire exercise was a "power grab" by the RSM.

Despite all of this though, there hasn't been this much talk of the RSM, its structure and its effectiveness in a long while. The proposers have stated that they will follow up the paper in the future after consulting with as many of the Union's committees as possible. Mr Larvin has also reiterated that he would love to see the RSM with Union status and that he looks forward to seeing an improved paper return.

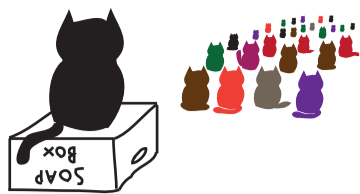


One Councillor showing early symptoms of losing the will to live

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Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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Views on these pages are not representative of Felix



Steve Brown
President

NUS: Now its time to leave

Last year the student body of Imperial College voted to re-affiliate by the narrowest of margins to the National Union of Students (NUS) after 30 years of independence from this dubious student collective. In principle the NUS is a brilliant organisation. Which one of us doesn't have an interest in a well-run, respected, effective national lobbying voice dedicated to achieving positive changes on our behalf? For decades the NUS by its own admission has not fulfilled this role and this year a reform package was proposed that fell tantalisingly short of being approved. The situation now is that Unions like ours which were keen to see the organisation change are faced with the choice of spending another year attempting to change an organisation which in its current form is described by the NUS President elect as "not worth saving".

NUS Conference 2008 saw the reform package rejected and now the NUS is faced with spending another year having another debate with students as to what its own internal structures should be. If we remain NUS affiliates we will be spending tens of thousands of pounds for next year's President to take part in the same boring, mindnumbing constitutional squabble that I have devoted considerable time to this year with no

guarantee of success. Following NUS Conference I remained hopeful that a solution could be found this year but it has now been confirmed that this will not happen. From the NUS's perspective they are now in roughly the same position they were this time last year. The NUS claims it wants to reform but following the failure to do so this year I have serious doubts as to whether this can happen within a reasonable time frame, if at all.

Our 9 delegates to NUS Conference gave up 3 days of their lives to try and change NUS for the better but have returned severely disillusioned. Questions are now being raised as to whether the £46,000 could be better spent within our own Union and investigating other possible structures for national representation.

Changing the way the NUS operates would have gone a long way to preventing the financial mismanagement and political inadequacy that it has suffered from in the past. The NUS has lost money every year this century and has had to sell assets to meet running costs. In the medium term it will lead to the organisation going bankrupt. Financial problems aside the NUS, like countless other collective organisations, currently amplifies extreme left wing voices. These voices drown out the views of normal students who

want to study hard and look to their Students' Union to provide services, opportunities and representation that is relevant to their student experience. The NUS will tell you that they also share these goals but unfortunately the things we care about are often pushed aside by political activists with revolutionary aspirations who think that having the NUS there to act as their irrelevant mouthpiece is their God-given right. Now I am a live and let live sort of guy but whilst Imperial College Union is bankrolling this farce I think it is right that we should be questioning the merits of this reality.

Please be assured that any contact the priorities of the NUS has with reality is only tangential. Despite the organisation being in crisis it found the time since Annual Conference to decide it is better to encourage students to take to the streets to support school teachers on strike than it is to provide NUS members with a plan that will ensure that the organisation still exists in five years time. It is one of these tragic situations where you don't know whether to laugh or cry.

The consensus amongst our NUS delegation is that now is the time to leave this sinking ship before we have to write them another five figure cheque. The money we save could be spent far more effectively on what Imperial stu-

dents want rather than continuing to finance and lend our credibility to this failing organisation. The NUS is at best a nostalgic nod back to the worst excesses of 1970s student absurdity. Their priorities are so far divorced from our own they are almost academic so I say lets leave them to it.

NUS promised us reform and value for money. They have without doubt failed on both accounts. Some will argue that we should stay in it to change it but thanks to the back issues of Felix I can tell you that this has been argued since last time we disaffiliated in the late '70s. They provide Imperial students with nothing we can't do ourselves. NUS has proved itself too broken to fix and the question you need to ask is whether it is worth gambling £46k to attempt to change it again.

Next week some friends and I will be around campus asking you to sign a petition to give the student body the chance to decide if we wish to continue remain in this well meaning yet doomed organisation. If you have any questions or would like to add your name to the petition please email me your name, course and CID number to stephen.brown03@imperial.ac.uk. I look forward to talking to as many of you as possible about this and would like to hear what you would like to spend the money on instead.

**Imperial
College
Union**



Gilead Amit

Bureaucracy is lovely in the Springtime

Dear Reader of Felix Issue 1401; It is a great honour for me to welcome you back to Imperial College, and my pleasure to endeavour to provide you with the same standard of service as in the preceding months. In order to maximise consumer satisfaction, a short form has been put together, the responses to which will inform and improve the comment-writing service this newspaper tirelessly attempts to provide.

If you would like to read a normal column this week, then please circle Option A. That is, of course, provided you would like to read the bowdlerized version, entirely suitable for the under-18s. Should a more cavalier attitude to standards of morality be requested, kindly choose Option B.

It has come to our attention here in the Felix offices that there seems to be a growing demand for light frothy satire coupled with a trenchant wit. Those of you for whom such an 'irony package' would be preferable should select Option C, with the exception of those seeking a cleaner brand of language, who should of course go for Option B. To those among you for whom drollery and light frivolity have become more of a nuisance than anything else, Felix is proud to offer the 'Dryness Deluxe', a choice piece of prose devoid of all silly puns, jokes, and references to penguins in mauve underpants. To avail yourselves of this service, please choose Option D.

Perhaps the most frequent complaint made of rival providers is their inability to approach the levels of bigotry and bloody-mindedness often deemed



Congratulations! You chose Option E. Welcome to the Sapphire Club

indispensable in such a service. For egregiously insulting comment pieces motivated by spurious politics, select Option C. For the same service with the added Parental Control, choose Option B, with the obvious exception of our London-based clientele, who should naturally be going for Option A.

Research into the comment-consuming market has revealed that a large number of regulars hold politics in very high esteem. For a more heavily-politicised helping of opinion, kindly circle Option C (unless, of course, you are a sleaze-loving bigot who lives for

tortuously-placed references to penguins in mauve underpants. In which case, you should select Option B, provided you can present a valid piece of identification to verify age, country of birth, and colour of right nipple.)

Should the above instructions be in any way confusing, repetitive or unamusing, feel free to select Option E. This choice is, of course, reserved for our Sapphire Club members, who should send their Club Code to the given address, with an attached photo, in triplicate, of a golden retriever.

Those of you wishing to join our Sapphire Club are cordially invited to do

so, provided you select Option C and send us your favourite swearword in either Xhosa or Aramaic. Replies received between Whitsun and Arbour Tuesday will be treated as applications for our Ruby Lounge, and will in consequence be fed to the office okapi.

We trust, dear Reader, that the improvements in our service will reflect the changing needs of the expanding marketplace, and that we will continue to enjoy your patronage.

I remain sincerely yours,

Gilead Amit

// If you would like to read a normal column this week, then please circle Option A //



A. Geek

“It’s just maths, isn’t it?” they boom firing lasers from their eyes

Those who are about to revise

Look, let’s cut to the chase here. I don’t have the time to write this, you don’t have the time to read it, so I’m going to give you a condensed version of everything that has angered me in the last four weeks, and then you can read it and go on not caring. First of all, if one more of you comes up to me to ask for help with an exam subject, after having spent an entire year being a slimy and insulting sod, I’m going to start feeding you wrong answers. Let’s get one thing straight – I don’t mind you pissing me off for eleven months of the year as long as you keep it up for the twelfth one.

Second of all, extra thick bread. I make grilled cheese sandwiches because I’m a mighty warrior of the food grill, not because I like the taste of carbohydrates and leaky dairy products. If I buy extra thick bread, I expect to have to get a tape measure out to work out which side to butter. I expect my loaves to be partitioned into exactly two slices. A note to the Warburton family – if

you ever find yourselves down one of Kensington’s many mean streets in the evening, take a big stick or some burly men because the Masked Griller will be there.

Third – actually, let’s stop this. I can’t think of anything good that happened over the Easter period at all, so I don’t know where this is leading... Other than the beginnings of a wheat/chaff separation over the river with my City friends, nothing of note happened. The ratio of funerals attended to childhood rivals kicked in the groin grows onwards in the wrong direction, revision consists largely of reading things I thought I’d read six months ago, and the actual act of revising – hah! Don’t even get me started on that.

Then there’s this general kind of distaste that other people seem to have for you if you’re a scientist revising around this time of year. The kind of people who say, “Lots of money in that!” when you tell them what you’re studying, as if careers fairs consist of Whores and Cocaine stalls interspersed with fat

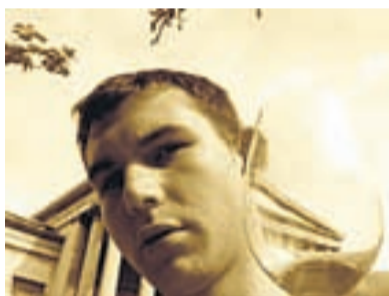
men in suits and top hats with big bags of money hanging from their ridiculous moustaches. Around this time of year they switch to Ultra Patronising Mode like a particularly exciting episode of the Power Rangers. “It’s just maths, isn’t it?” they boom, firing lasers from their eyes. Only this time you’re not allowed to cave their head in with a broom handle that you’ve engraved a dragon’s head on. The judge won’t let you off with a caution twice.

So yes, I’m a little down right now. By the time you read this, the London Elections will be over and you won’t have voted, Boris will be well on his way to making you wish you’d never been born, and somehow through that I’ll have to resist starting an underground rebel militia and continue memorising these pointless lists of failed research projects. I don’t know how I do it.

What I do know is that in three weeks I’ll be free again, and ready to get on with life. What I worry about the people I see cooped up in the library is that they’re never really free of this. This is

what they live for – study and progress. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not exactly Mr. ‘Facebook Event: PoSt-ExAm PiS-sUp WAAHEEEY!’ here. But I see a lot of people here who have never really left their A-Level days behind them. They’re cramming and regurgitating like John Prescott at a finger buffet, and god knows that’s not healthy. There are two tricks to revision – spend five minutes not revising when you should be; and spend five minutes revising when you shouldn’t be.

That means taking a break from the harsh lights of Level 5 in order to actually get outside, where the air is clear, etcetera, possibly flying a kite. And it also means not forgetting that you study here for the other eleven months of the year. Even the freshest faces at Imperial will be all but done with their studies by the time the next Mayoral Election comes around. Think about that carefully for a second this week, and ask yourself if you’ve really grown up since those days of hushed exam halls and CVG Revision Guides.



David Stewart

Overheard conversation

Two girls sit in the Maths library. Girl A is filing her nails. Girl B appears to be copying out Girl A’s work.

Girl A: Make sure you change the order or whatever so it doesn’t look like it’s the same.

Girl B: I know, I am, look I put ‘x plus x’ here instead of ‘2x’. How’s Steve?

Girl A: We had a fight the other day.

Girl B: Oh, no! Was it about that night when you got Big John to hold back your hair while you puked when you’d had all that Aftershock and told Simon that you thought he was fit?

Girl A: No. I haven’t told him about that. It was ‘cos I wanted to go out and he was just playing with his Wii.

Girl B: Was that on Saturday?

Girl A: Yeah.

Girl B: You’ve got to go out on a Saturday. Is this an alpha or an a?

Girl A: Umm. Dunno, I copied it off Lisa. Try and make it look like both.

Girl B: Shouldn’t it be 2a anyway? Because you have to multiply by 2 when you differentiate, don’t you?

Girl A: Not always. Only if there’s a squared in it or whatever.

Girl B: Are you going to break up with him for ever? You could go out with Simon then.

Girl A: Maybe, yeah. Except Julie B told me that he snogged Samantha last night.

Girl B: No!

Girl A: I know.

Girl B: But she’s so ...

Girl A: I know ...

Girl B: She’s like, literally, the only person I know that does her own work.

Girl A: And she’s putting on weight. you could see where her belt was cutting into her gut flab on Friday.

Girl B: People shouldn’t go out like that. What’s this word here?

Girl A: Point.

Girl B: And this?

Girl A: Inflection.

Girl B: And this?

Girl A: Of.

Girl B: What’s a point of inflection?

Girl A: I think it’s something you differentiate. What did you do on Saturday, anyway?

Girl B: Went out.

Girl A: Where?

Girl B: Justin’s party.

Girl A: Is he the one with the tattoo?

Girl B: He’s got more than one. He was playing drinking games with the guys with chocolate vodka and he basically showed us all of them. It was mental. I think there are pictures on facebook.

Girl A: I can’t go on facebook at the moment because that weird guy, you know, James, keeps poking me. He’ll probably see me in Online Now and then he’ll know I know he’s poked me and I’ll have to poke him back or

something. Then he’ll start writing on my wall and Simon might see. Stuff like that.

Girl B: Is this graph supposed to look like a V or a curvy V?

Girl A: Just draw it really small.

Girl B: Oh my God! Did you hear about Vicks?

Girl A: No.

Girl B: Lisa said she’s had sex with her tutor and he gave her chlamydia and she threatened to sue him or whatever unless he gave her free lessons and did all her work for her.

Girl A: Oh my God! Is that her tutor for Methods?

Girl B: Yeah

Girl A: That’s good. It’s due in on Friday and no-one’s done it yet.

Girl B: I know!

(All names have been changed to protect the identities of those depicted)

Letters to Felix

Tarnishing the Football Club’s reputation

Dear Felix,

Quick email:

I don’t appreciate the article you published last week [issue 1,399; presumably the one titled ‘The Farcity of Varsity’ by [...] – Editor] and this [issue 1,400; titled ‘Presenting the footballer’ by Linnearse – Editor] having a go at football club.

Freedom of speech is great... blah blah, but things are getting a bit slanderous.

Just purely from the Club’s point of view, if freshers who didn’t join this year were thinking about doing so

next, then you’re putting them off.

I know you have a load of faceless articles each week, but being able to say all this crap without publishing your name removes any accountability, so they can do it freely with no repercussions. Imagine if I decided to use a pseudonym to slag off Choir soc and call them a bunch of boring, lifeless gimps. How well would that go down? It would be rude, unfair and tarnishing a whole group of people unfairly. You published the homophobic article (of which nothing came and yet we’ve had to endure comments about it all year), now you throw this in, together with last week’s little dig too. Why? Is there nothing better for Felix to do than damage the image of the football Club?

Who wrote the article?

Regards,

Garo Torossian
Football Club Captain

Dear Garo,

I’m sorry you didn’t appreciate the article published in issue 1,400, written by Linnearse. His column is intended to be a satirical piece sending up the various ‘collectives’ around Imperial, to be taken with a pinch of salt. Certainly, we received no similar complaints when the depiction of the ‘Finance tart’ was published two weeks earlier.

In answer to your other statements, we were perfectly entitled to, and in my opinion, perfectly correct to publish the article reporting on homophobic chanting in the Union. Our sources were clearly upset by what they’d heard and it was definitely within the public interest to report on the incident.

I find your claims that [Insert Witty

Name]’s article was “a little dig” at the Football Club slightly absurd. In the article, the author originally didn’t know which sports club he/she was writing about, demonstrating his/her general apathy towards sports clubs rather than one in particular. The article itself was more about the lack of recognition that the Arts receive at Imperial, in comparison with something like sport, rather than an attack on any club in particular.

These comment pieces were sent to Felix without request. Perhaps this is something you should consider, that people are using Felix to voice their opinions; opinions that happen to criticise your club.

I refute your question that Felix has “nothing better to do than damage the image of the Football Club?”. Rather than addressing the comments in the articles, you’ve chosen to take it up with Felix. Yes, we choose whether to publish

the articles but we don’t necessarily agree with them. Furthermore, there were two letters responding to [Insert Witty Name]’s article which we published in issue 1,400 which raised some perfectly valid counter arguments, something you could have done if you wished.

I think you’ve answered the question of why people write anonymously, with your final line: “Who wrote the article?” Articles are written under a pseudonym because the authors want to make a point without fear of being mauled afterwards. Whilst I don’t personally agree with writing anonymously, I can understand why people do it, and without it many of the pages within Felix would make for far duller reading. Finally, I’m not at liberty to reveal the authors’ identities.

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

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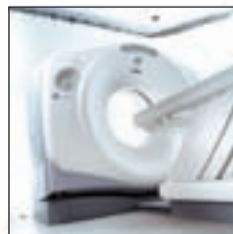
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Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Girls are doin' it for themselves

The Amazon Molly has managed to do without sex for 70,000 years. But it's not entirely without risk...

Tim Sands

If your love life is somewhat in the doldrums at the moment, take heart, things could always be worse. New research has shown that one species of fish has gone without sex for 70,000 years.

The Amazon Molly, a small fish living in rivers in Texas and Mexico, consists entirely of females and reproduces by parthenogenesis – literally “virgin birth” – laying eggs that are unfertilised and genetically identical to their mother.

This means of reproduction comes with some serious drawbacks. When there are mutations with harmful effects, sexual reproduction allows these to be weeded out but asexually reproducing species, like the Molly, are stuck with them. These bad mutations continue to accumulate – a process known as Muller's Ratchet – and as a result asexual species rarely last very long before they go extinct.

The curious fish species (the first known single-sex vertebrate) formed by the merger of two other species, rendering sex impossible and starting the Muller's Ratchet effect. The new research has used this effect to estimate that the Amazon Molly has been without sex for between 40,000 and 100,000 years – even longer than Cliff Richard.

The scientists, from the Universities of Edinburgh and Wuerzburg, who have been studying the species are baffled at how they have remained chaste

for so long. Their calculations also suggest that the Molly is at great risk of going extinct. Another curious facet of their reproduction may give a clue to their survival. Although the Molly does not need males to fertilise their eggs they can't get by entirely without them. The eggs need the sperm of other, closely related species to give them a mechanical stimulus to start their development.

The researchers suggest that on rare occasions these sperm may actually fertilise the eggs. Researcher Laurence Loewe of Edinburgh University says “The Amazon molly must be employing tricks to avoid extinction. Maybe there is still occasional sex with strangers that keep the species alive. Future research may give us some answers.” This occasional cross-species nookie could give the fishes' genome just the sprucing up it needs to stave off extinction.

Due to the complexity of the calculations involved in coming up with these estimates, the scientists enlisted the use of a distributed computing system – not unlike the SETI@home experiments that searches for alien life – appropriately enough called Evolution@home, to simulate the genetic changes over many thousands of generations.

The writer Irina Dunn once claimed that a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle – for the Amazon Molly at least it seems she wasn't far off the truth.

The research is published in the journal *BMC Evolutionary Biology*.



Amazon Mollies do it... well, they don't, in fact. Haven't for the last 70,000 years, apparently. Apart from suspected "occasional sex with strangers" (other, related, fish species) it seems they live up to their name

Four in ten Americans struggle to pay for compulsory medication

Laura Starr

A recent poll, collectively carried out by USA Today, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health, has revealed that 40% of Americans have difficulty affording essential prescriptive medicine.

The nationally representative telephone survey of 1695 adults, aged 18 or over, was undertaken in January of this year in the United States. Half of the participants were found to regularly take at least one medication.

The research concluded that the high cost of prescriptive medicine has serious implications with 29% of indi-

“Pharmaceutical companies are viewed more favourably than health insurers, but less so than doctors”

viduals not filing a prescription due to these high prices and around 23% cutting pills in half or skipping doses in order to make their medication last for a longer period of time. This can potentially lead to a considerably increased health risk as a result of the vital drug

treatment not being administered.

The pharmaceutical trade is unarguably a multi-billion dollar industry. The use of prescriptive medicine is extensive, with half of all adults taking at least one prescription drug daily. Eight in ten Americans concur that the cost of these prescription drugs is unreasonable – a large proportion questioning the pharmaceutical companies' motivation and their overpowering concern with revenue. The study found there to be mixed opinion with regards to the pharmaceutical companies themselves – 47% favourably viewing the industry. They are considered to carry out their research complying with ethical and moral regulations, with the testing and monitoring of drug production believed to be at a high standard, as would be expected.

A slightly lower percentage of the public, 44%, view the companies in a negative light. Making a comparison across the professions, they are viewed as faintly more favourable than health insurers but are held in substantially lower esteem than doctors.

Despite this attitude being shared by many people, there is a clear optimistic consensus that drug developments over the past 20 years have improved the lives of people in the States. In a number of cases their availability has reduced the need for expensive medical procedures and/or hospitalisation. There are clearly implausible benefits from prescriptive medication, which is highly valued.

Over the years, the progress made in



Pills, pills, pretty pills. But the cost makes them bitter to swallow, and gilding certainly won't help that...

scientific research and development is outstanding. This is not contestable. The problem lies in affordability; resulting in many calling for stricter gov-

ernmental regulation to place a limitation on the individual has to pay for required medicine.

This poll was the third in a series of

polls conducted by USA Today/Kaiser Family/Harvard. The whole report can be viewed at <http://www.kff.org/kaiser-polls/pomr030408pkg.cfm>.

President's Update

Serve on the Union Court

The Union Court is a rather different committee to any other in the Union. Its function is to ensure that Union Officers, returning officers and committees – including the Council and Executive Committee – follow the rules set down by the Union. It acts as one part of the checks and balances in the democratic functioning of the Union. It also acts as the appeal body in all elections, referenda, media disputes and some disciplinary matters.

The Union Court is currently recruiting as several members have recently left the College. To sit on this committee requires you to demonstrate sound judgment and a sense of fairness to ensure that the integrity of Union processes is maintained. Serving on the Union Court will benefit both the students of the College and yourself personally as you will pick up a lot of useful analytical skills that will help you in whatever you end up doing after College. Union Council appoints people to the Court which is a very simple process. If you are interested or would like to learn more please email me at president@imperial.ac.uk.

New Evening Menu

At the start of this term we made a few changes to the way we offer catering at the Union. Many of the more popular dishes such as pastas and jacket potatoes are now available in dB's, this is an effort to try and reduce the queues in daVincis. Of course daVinci's will continue to serve the best value freshly prepared meals on campus, whilst dB's will offer quick take-away food.

Meanwhile our new evening menu offers quality cooked-to-order food with table service. This has proved extremely popular in the first few days of term, however, because of this some people have experienced unacceptable delays in receiving their food. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for this and assure you that this has

been highlighted to me and I am pleased with the steps that are being taken to avoid such issues again. It seems we are a victim of our own success and as of Wednesday evening we were serving three times more meals than we did this time last year!



Stephen Brown
President
president@imperial.ac.uk

Please do continue to use this great new offer; we will be taking on extra staff in the evening to cope with the huge demand and our bar staff will continue to inform you during busy times if there may be a delay to your order.

Imperial College Union and Faculty Union elections

On Monday 5th of May nominations will open for the positions of Council Chair, RAG Chair, CAG Chair, Welfare Campaigns Officer and Equal Opportunities Officer. You should have also been contacted by your Faculty Union Representatives as the elections process for CGCU, RCSU and ICSMSU positions have also started although each of these are being run to slightly different timetables. For more information about any of the Imperial College Union positions please contact me and for details of the Faculty Union positions please get in touch with the relevant President.

ICU & RCSU Elections Timetable:

Nominations open - 5 May 00:00
Nominations close - 11 May 23:59
Voting starts - 19 May 00:00
Voting finishes - 22 May 23:59

Voting for the CGCU and ICSMSU elections have been promoted to students of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Engineering by their Faculty Unions.

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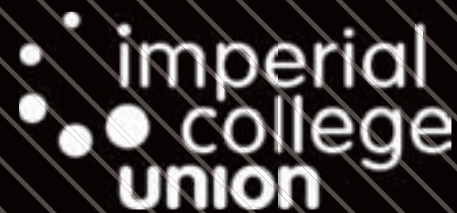
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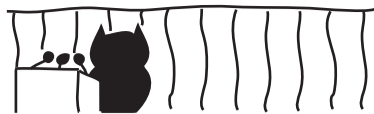
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Looking forward Tibetter times

Kadhim Shubber welcomes you back to university with a light discussion of China and its Olympic Games

The Olympics have turned out to be a double-edged sword for the Chinese. Rather than an opportunity to show off Chinese economic progress, it has become a gift for anti-Chinese protestors to voice their anger over Tibet. Behind the protests is a violent story that is rarely heard. Who is the Dalai Lama? What is the history? What is going on in Tibet? Join me on this story of controversial struggle, violent oppression and a bitterly contested past.

Born a Leader

The institution of the Dalai Lama has led the Tibetan people for centuries, stretching all the way back to the 14th century. Each successive Dalai Lama is a re-incarnation of the previous and as a lineage, the Dalai Lama is believed to be an embodiment of compassion. In 1938, at the age of 3, Tenzin Gyatso was identified as the 14th Dalai Lama (the 13th had died 5 years earlier). Just twelve years later, he was given his full political power as leader of the Tibetan people; he was only 15 years old. He is the world's longest living leader, surpassing Queen Elizabeth II by 2 years, and is surrounded by controversy.

For the Tibetan people, he is the ultimate spiritual and moral leader, with no competitors. He has led them through 50 years of Chinese rule and the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution to the modern day with a strict adherence to non-violence. Ordinary Tibetans are mostly obedient to him and have for the most part followed his doctrine of non-violence. However, his tactics and policies have come under criticism from certain quarters, such as the Tibetan Youth Congress, who want complete independence even "at the cost of one's life". Recent rioting in Tibet is a striking example of the fact that ordinary Tibetans do not always adhere to the Dalai Lama's standard of non-violence.

In the West, he is regarded foremost as a pacifist icon, and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his dedication to non-violence and peace.

He is, however, also a source of embarrassment to governments around the world. The Chinese apply pressure on national governments not to meet him when he travels. He often only meets low-ranking officials and in May 2007, Belgium went so far as to ask the Dalai Lama not to visit their country. In November 2007, the Pope refused to meet him because he didn't want to upset negotiations with the Chinese on the Church in China. On the other hand, if you want to pay lip service to criticism of Chinese human rights abuses, he is your man. Some Western leaders have made superficial snubs to the Chinese by meeting the Dalai Lama and in 2007 he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour by the U.S., something that is sure to aid the people of Tibet. In the West, the Dalai Lama is a man who will always receive lip service, perhaps even funding but never the kind of real support that would jeopardise relations with China.

The Chinese establishment detests him; his image and works are completely banned in Tibet. In China he is not regarded as a pacifist; instead he is a 'splittist', a troublemaker seeking to break up China. They don't believe him when he says that he isn't seeking complete independence. He is accused of masterminding the recent riots in Lhasa and even organising suicide attacks against the Chinese. Phrases that are commonly used to describe him include, a "wolf in monk's robes". He is seen to be a puppet for Western attempts to split and undermine China. The accusation that the Dalai Lama organised the recent riots in Tibet is likely to be false, but his dedication to non-violence should not be viewed uncritically. In 1998 the New York Times reported that the Tibetan government-in-exile received \$1.7 million a year in the 1960's from the CIA which was partly used to pay for guerrilla operations against the Chinese, an allegation which was confirmed by the Tibetan government-in-exile. Does this mean that the Dalai Lama isn't a pacifist? No, but it does show that there is more to the Dalai Lama than the hagiographical Western view suggests.

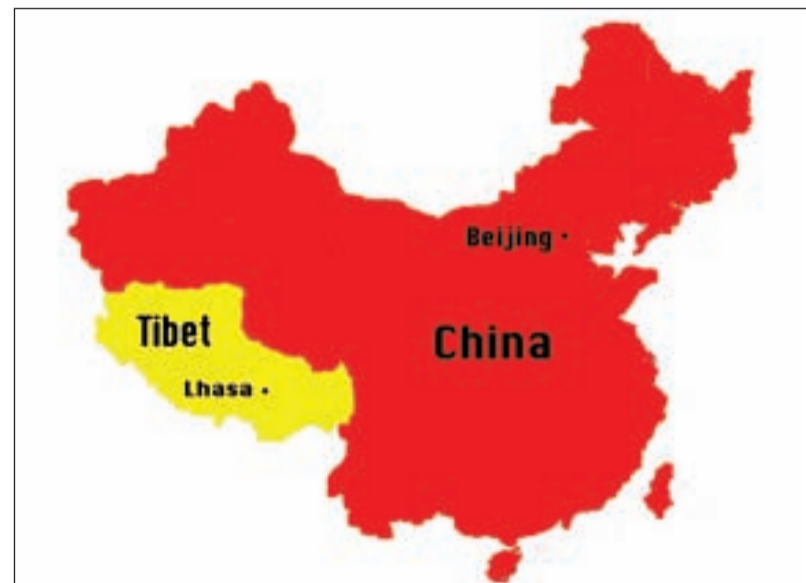
Similarly, although the Dalai Lama rejects claims that he wants Tibetan independence, this has not always been the official line. It is since 1979 that the Dalai Lama abandoned pursuing independence, in part because in 1979 Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping stated, "except independence, all other issues can be resolved through negotiations". The reason why he only asks for 'autonomy' is because he knows that independence is off the cards, off the negotiating table and out the window. The Chinese fear that if they discuss 'autonomy' with the Dalai Lama, independence might be forced back onto the table; i.e. if they give him an inch, he'll take a mile.

Peaceful? Certainly. Complex? Of course. It wouldn't be far from the truth to describe the Tenzin Gyatso as a peaceful pragmatist.

A Contested History

Since 1959 this peaceful pragmatist has lived in Dharamsala, India, which is the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile and the first port of call for Tibetan refugees. The events surrounding the Lama's exile and Chinese control of Tibet in the mid-20th century are the source of fierce controversy.

In the first half of the 20th century, China was a weakened nation. Colonialism and civil war between the Nationalist Kuomintang and the Chinese Communist party meant that it was unable to exert real influence in Tibet. So after 1912, when the 13th Dalai Lama declared complete independence from China, Tibet was a de facto independent country although no Western countries recognised it as such. As the civil war came to an end in the late 40's, the Chinese Communist Party was powerful enough to bring Tibet under its control again. In 1949 Chinese forces entered the area of Tibet outside the current Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) and then in 1950 entered the whole of Tibet proper. An agreement between the Tibetans and the Chinese, called the 17-point agreement, was signed in 1951 and formally recognised Chinese control in Tibet; Tibetans consider this agreement to be



forced upon them and it was later repudiated by the Tibetan government-in-exile. In 1959, after a failed uprising by the Tibetans, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet fearing for his life and set up the Tibetan government-in-exile in Dharamsala, India.

This much can be asserted without too much trouble, though whether you see these events as an invasion or reunification depends largely on your historical perspective. The arguments about the shared history of Tibet and China lead us to ask: was Tibet part of China or not?

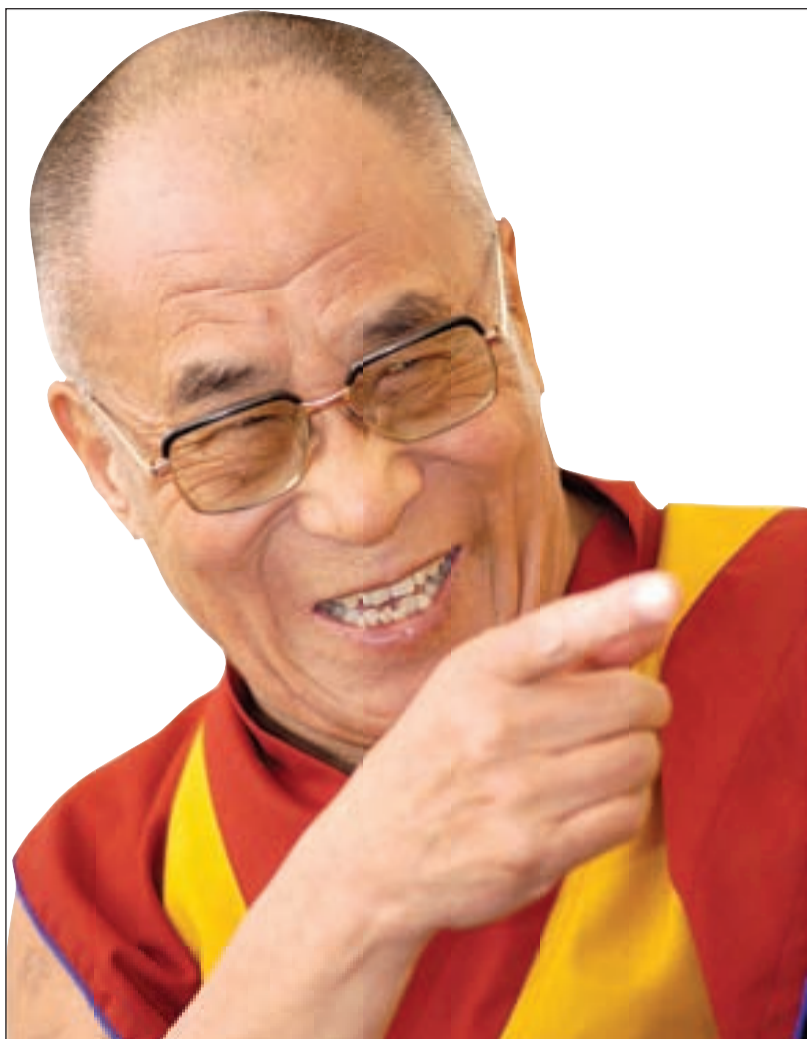
Chinese historians consider Tibet an integral part of China from the Mongol Yuan dynasty to the modern day. Evidence of Chinese administration in Tibet is cited as proof of Chinese sovereignty. As dynasties rose and fell, these historians maintain that Chinese sovereignty did not change and Tibet remained part of China. With the ascent of the Qing Dynasty in the 17th century, Chinese control of Tibet increased but this is seen as the natural manifestation of Chinese sovereignty rather than a development in Sino-Tibetan relations. A prime piece of evidence cited by Chinese historians is the fact that China repelled Ghurkha troops

from Tibet in 1792, thus proving their position as protector and sovereign of Tibet. The decline of the Qing dynasty, and Tibetan independence from 1912 had no impact on Chinese claims to Tibet. Therefore the events of 1950 represent the reunification of China and Tibet. The period 1912-1950 is a blip in an otherwise continuous history of Sino-Tibetan relations in which Tibet was politically, economically and military subordinate to, and definitely an integral part of, China.

Tibetan historians see no such subordination in Tibet's history. The relationship between Tibet and China is a priest-patron relationship. This personal understanding between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese Emperors involved the patron, the Emperor, giving military and political protection to the priest, the Dalai Lama, in return for spiritual guidance and legitimacy. This mutually beneficial agreement between independent states is a stark alternative to the Chinese viewpoint. However, unlike the Chinese narrative, Tibetan historians place a distinct emphasis on 20th century events. The inability of the Qing dynasty to intervene effectively in Tibet is shown clearly by the British march on Lhasa in 1903.



Pro-Chinese and pro-Tibetan protestors mingle outside Downing Street during the London leg of the Olympic torch relay



Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama

As further proof of Tibetan independence, the period 1912 – 1950 is cited as a modern-day example of a sovereign Tibetan state.

Both the Tibetan and Chinese arguments are ultimately modern constructs, which fall down when the true complexity of Sino-Tibetan relations is examined. Tibet was neither an integral part of China, nor was it completely independent. In the Yuan and Ming dynasties, Chinese 'sovereignty' in Tibet was nominal at best; the existence of administrative offices does not equate to political power or sovereignty. No Chinese taxes or laws were implemented in Tibet during the Yuan and Ming dynasties. A look at the geographical records from these times distinguishes between China and Tibet as two separate entities. Although Tibet was under Yuan control (through the Mongol invasion) the reality strongly contradicts the phrase 'an integral part of China'. As we move into the Qing dynasty, the Tibetan argument is weakened as Chinese control increased and direct rule even existed at times. The Tibetan proposition that Tibet was completely independent simply does not carry any weight when looking at this period. The priest-patron relationship, with no subordination, becomes impossible to apply to Qing dynasty relations. However, again this does not mean that the distinction between Tibet and China disappeared.

The closest Western definition to such a complex relationship is one of vassalage. As Chinese power waxed and waned, so too did the level of influence it exerted in Tibet. However, a sense of Tibetan nationhood has existed throughout its long history with China. Tibetan rule in Tibet was a reality for many centuries, along with a native Tibetan bureaucracy, which conducted its business in the Tibetan language. Although Tibet has been subject to varying degrees of control from its powerful neighbour, the description 'an integral part of China' does not stand up to critical judgement and ignores the obvious historical distinctions that separate Tibet and China. Unfortunately, the complex history

of Sino-Tibetan relations has largely been painted over to construct political arguments for the modern day conflict. Regardless of historical evidence, the Communist Party in China has been successfully inculcated in the minds of the Chinese people that Tibet is and always has been part of China.

How can this historical analysis help us with the modern day conflict? I concede that the historical argument is a greater tool for Tibetan nationalists than it is for the Chinese government but it does show us that a rejection of Chinese influence is not justified historically. The argument that Tibet has been 'an integral part of China' is perhaps inadequate rather than erroneous. During the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, Tibet was part of a larger Chinese Empire. The fact that Tibetans have a distinct political and cultural history does not immediately suggest that Tibet should be independent; such a suggestion implies that by principle multi-national states shouldn't exist. In many ways, the historical narrative does not and should not carry too much weight in the question of modern day Tibetan independence. There are a multitude of national groups that do not have their own country; the Assyrians, for example, but that there are also national groups that have 2 countries, the Koreans for example. The crux of the Tibetan issue lies not with its contested history and the lottery-like manner with which states gained or lost independence in the 20th century, but with the modern day issues and challenges that face Tibetans and Chinese today.

China's record in Tibet over the last 50 years is the most important issue in this debate and is equally if not more controversial than the history of Sino-Tibetan relations. The Chinese government points to the economic progress Tibet has seen while steadfastly denying or ignoring accusations of human rights abuses. Pro-Tibetan groups accuse the Chinese of economic discrimination against Tibetans and a wide range of human rights abuses from torture to forced sterilisation. Furthermore, pro-Chinese groups accuse the 'West' of

purposefully destabilising China by exaggerating or falsifying human rights abuses. In such a controversial arena, two facts should be noted; China has gone to great lengths to transform Tibet's economy and also that the People's Republic of China is bound by its own laws to respect the autonomy of the people and culture of Tibet, within the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR). The controversy surrounds two questions: who has benefited from Tibet's economic development and has the Chinese government respected the autonomy of the Tibetan people? The difficulty in answering these questions accurately is that information on the situation in Tibet is severely restricted. All of the information coming out of Tibet either comes from the Chinese government or pro-Tibetan groups. However this does not mean that it is impossible to understand the nature or the 'truth' of this conflict, it means that an understanding of the source of the information is almost as important as the information itself.

Economic growth, but for whom?

A white paper released by the Chinese government in 2003 highlights the benefits that Tibetan people have seen due to Chinese rule. It emphasises the modernization of Tibet, from a rural, backwards society – described as 'feudal' – to the modern and vibrant place it is in the 21st century. The paper points to successes such as increased tourism (with 600,000 tourists in 2000) and the fact that Tibet now has 25 scientific research centres. The project that best symbolises the development of Tibet is the railway from Xining all the way to Lhasa. By anchoring Tibet to China with a railway line, it physically demonstrates China's policy of winning Tibet over economically.

Pro-Tibetan groups argue that the Tibetans have been swamped by Chinese immigration and excluded from the economic benefits of development through discrimination. Chinese census figures often omit military personnel and unofficial residents such as migrants, and so the true magnitude of Chinese migration is swept under the carpet. The Free Tibet organisation claims that the actual population of Chinese people living in Tibet is up to 5.5 million, a million more than official figures and larger than the number of Tibetans in Tibet; 4.59 million (according to the 1990 Chinese census). As a result, it is argued, ethnic Chinese immigrants both in the cities and in the countryside now dominate economic activity in Tibet. To compound this situation, official business must be carried out in Mandarin, thereby discriminating against Tibetans and giving Chinese immigrants an instant advantage in the job market.

Who are we to believe? Apart from our own pre-conceptions, there is little that makes one argument much more credible than the other. The truth, however, can still be sought out. While Chinese census figures indicate that 90% of the population of Tibet is Tibetan, this ignores the important fact most Tibetans (87.2%) live in rural areas. The Chinese have aggressively invested large amounts of money in Tibet and the economic development has been focused in urban areas. The successes that the Chinese point to are urban successes and this immediately gives us an answer as to who has benefited most from Tibet's economic development. Lhasa, Tibet's capital, is now at least 40% Chinese and it is this high-profile immigration to Tibet's urban and economic centres that motivates pro-Tibetan arguments. Tibetans have benefited from Tibet's economic development, though the concentration of Chinese immigrants in urban areas means that Chinese immigrants are the ones benefiting most. The large majority of Tibetans have not benefited from Tibet's economic progress primarily because they mainly live in the countryside.

A shameful record

But what of the Tibetan people's legal right to political and cultural autonomy? It can be asserted, with confidence, that many of the human rights abuses claimed to occur in Tibet, are commonplace and are not falsifications. This is not to say that the reporting of human rights abuses in Tibet has been perfect. The Chinese government has accused Western media

groups and pro-Tibetan groups of exaggerating abuses and the attack is not without substance; the most famous example perhaps was when Germany's RTL television used a photo of Nepalese security forces confronting protestors as an example of the recent riots and protests in Tibet. However, despite the shortcomings of Western media groups, these should not be exaggerated; there is evidence from the U.N., independent human rights groups and the media that vindicates accusations of human rights abuses. This is not an attempt to demonise China, but a realistic assessment of the situation.

Regardless, the interesting debate is not on the existence of human rights abuses but rather on the difference in reactions to news of these abuses. The visit of Dr. Manfred Nowak, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Torture, to China in November 2005 is a perfect example of the vast gap between the perception of events in China and the rest of the world. He reported forced personality altering, beatings, submersion in sewage, denial of medical treatment and electrocution by electric shock batons. He also stated that ethnic minorities like the Tibetans were persecuted as a result of having "exercised their human rights to freedom of speech, assembly, association or religion". In the UK, this is a further re-enforcement of the view that China as an oppressive state. However the Chinese state media Xinhua reported the same event much differently. It ignored the critical aspects of his report, instead emphasising the progress that the visit represented. It turned the story into a slight against the U.S. by reporting that the Special Rapporteur received greater

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Pro-Tibet protestors outside Downing Street

access than in a visit to Guantanamo Bay; which was cancelled due to lack of access to prisoners. This is more than a case of differing angles; rather the drastic difference of reporting represents the fact that the Tibetan issue is judged on completely different terms in China than it is in the UK.

The treatment received by the Tibetan people, while deplorable, is not hugely different from that received by most people living in the Chinese state. Land seizures, surveillance and lengthy imprisonment for dissenters is not unique to the Tibetan people. One might expect this fact to generate sympathy amongst ordinary Chinese people; however, the sensitivity of the issue of Tibetan independence means that this is not the case. The threat of imprisonment is often dealt with as a common sense issue for many Chinese citizens: 'if you don't protest, you won't get into trouble.' Furthermore, in China, the Tibetan conflict is framed in terms of national unity vs. foreign interference rather than human rights vs. oppression. The Tibetan rioters are commonly referred to as part of the 'Dalai Lama clique'; the violence being engineered and orchestrated by the Dalai Lama. The clique also refers to the plethora of pro-Tibetan groups outside China as well as the celebrity backers of the Tibetan movement. As a result, the motives of the rioters are not connected to the general plight of the Tibetan people (or the general lack of civil freedoms in China) but instead they are connected to foreign interference and meddling. The very real abuses perpetrated by the Chinese government are swept under nationalistic pride. It is not a matter of whether the Chinese respect Tibetan autonomy, but rather whether pro-Tibetan groups in the West and the Tibetan government-in-exile respect Chinese unity and sovereignty in Tibet.

Although the Chinese fear of Tibetan independence is not a phobia, there is a failure to address the root cause of the recent protests and riots. They do not merely stem from the larger historical dispute but directly from the gross disregard for Tibetan self-determination. The protests in London and Paris, which coincided with the arrival of the Olympic torch, were not spurred on by the principle of Tibetan independence. Although the protests called for 'a Free Tibet' they were motivated by the treatment of Tibetans at Chinese hands. By framing the dispute in terms of splittism and national unity, the Chinese ignore the fact that it is not simply

the 1950 invasion that burns in Tibetan hearts but 5 decades of oppressive rule. This doesn't mean that the Chinese perspective is delusional; it might be asked how many pro-Tibetan groups would disband if China ceased human rights violations in Tibet. I should imagine very few. Similarly, the perception of this conflict as a human rights issue isn't groundless; it is the existence of human rights violations that gives weight to this perspective and only when the rights of the Tibetan people are respected will moral human beings empathise with the threat to the unity of China.

The future

Unfortunately there is little hope that the Chinese government will seek reconciliation with the Tibetan people or the Dalai Lama; what are the reasons for this?

The Beijing Olympics are on the horizon and any shift in policy will inevitably lead to a huge amount of domestic and international attention on Tibet. Also, there is no certainty about what might happen if control was relaxed; would the situation spiral out of Chinese hands? Regardless, for the Chinese government it is a much safer bet to continue with their current policy in order to prevent disturbances in Tibet, minimise negative publicity and appear strong for the Olympics. There will still be negative publicity surrounding the Chinese Olympics - pro-Tibetan groups will try their best to ensure this - but for the Chinese government, now is not the time to embark on an uncertain shift in policy regarding Tibet.

More generally, there are powerful reasons why a change in course is unlikely. In the last 50 years, the Chinese government has invested a lot of time and money establishing China's claim to sovereignty in Tibet. This includes massive economic investment, ensuring China's historical narrative justifies Chinese control, continuously denouncing the Dalai Lama and persuading the Chinese people that Tibet is an integral part of China. The word U-turn is grossly inadequate to describe the magnitude of a shift in policy regarding Tibet. Importantly, a change wouldn't be perceived as benevolence, but at home and abroad it would be a sign of weakness. By responding to international pressure on a domestic issue, the Chinese government would signal a willingness to be swayed on its domestic affairs by foreign govern-

ments and NGO's. At home, fears of foreign interference, that the Chinese government has succumbed to external pressure, would be vindicated and the Communist Party's authority would be undermined by a perceived subservience to the 'West'. For the Chinese Communist Party, appearing strong and in control of China's affairs is much more important than appearing to be concerned about human rights. This is not the same as saying that change is impossible. International pressure can work; but the type of pressure has to be tactful. High-profile protests and shrill denunciations by foreign leaders will likely bolster hardliners within the Chinese government. A boycott of the Olympics is exactly the kind of action that is unlikely to see results, though I concede that there are worthy arguments for a boycott. Unfortunately, the lengthy and difficult low-profile work required in order to begin to see progress on the Tibet issue will not reap instant rewards for Western leaders. Without the publicity and PR potential of 'standing up to China', Western governments are unlikely to risk straining their relations with China.

Pessimism seems to be the order of the day for Tibet. The Chinese government are more likely to wait for the Dalai Lama to die, rather than begin the politically risky process of opening relations with him; a policy similar to the U.S.'s when dealing with Fidel Castro. They will continue to strengthen Tibet's economic ties with the rest of China with continuing investment, the newly built railway signals this intention, as well allowing greater immigration in order to blur the distinction between Tibet and China. The end result is the slow choking of the concept of Tibetan independence as new generations of Tibetans grow up in secular prosperity with an increasingly Chinese culture. Chinese is already the language used in Tibetan schools, universities and local government. As with the rest of its citizens, the Chinese government hope that the stick of oppression, in conjunction with the carrot of high living standards, will teach the Tibetans to accept Chinese rule once and for all. In the long-term, this may well be the result; the near future, however, does not seem to reveal such a peaceful path. Although the Dalai Lama has led the Tibetan people along a path of non-violence, signs suggest that they may not continue on his path after his death. The recent riots suggest dissatisfaction with the lack of results



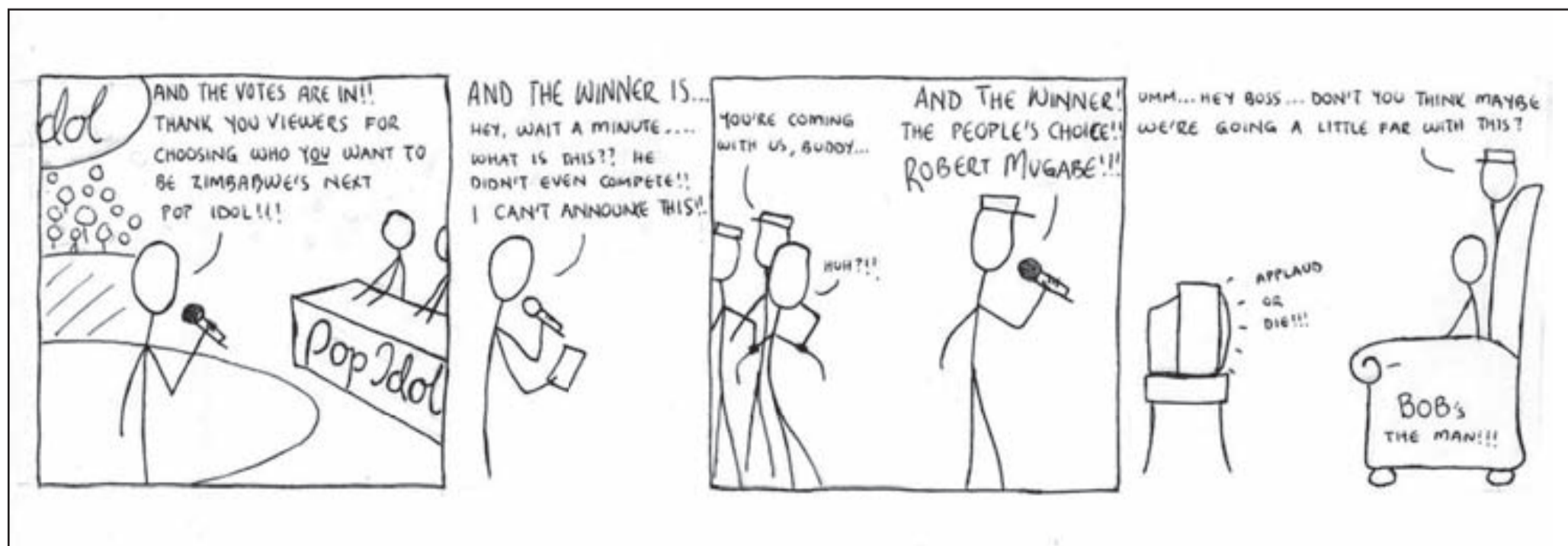
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The calm after the storm

non-violence has achieved and also a simmering anger and resentment towards the Chinese. When the Dalai Lama dies, it is likely that his devotion to non-violence will die also. The next Dalai Lama is unlikely to have similar influence amongst young Tibetans living under Chinese rule. The Chinese backed Dalai Lama won't be accepted by the Tibetan people, while a 'true' Dalai Lama will probably be born in exile; by definition disconnected from his people. Leaderless, and no longer tied to non-violence; the repressive tactics of the Chinese government are likely to provoke violent reactions in Tibet. Both the Chinese governments wish for a subdued minority and the Dalai Lama's effort for a peaceful fu-

ture are unlikely to be fulfilled. It is for this reason that the Chinese government must seek a solution with Tenzin Gyatso; rather than China's archenemy he is their most valuable ally. By refusing to budge on the Tibet issue, they discredit the Dalai Lama's peaceful approach and force the Tibetan people to push the other button. In order to evade bloodshed, a solution must be sought now; pro-Tibetan's may argue that China doesn't care about bloodshed while China's supporters will blame the Tibetans for the violence but it is obvious to all that China's policies in Tibet are unsustainable, offensive to the Tibetan people and lead inevitably to the Chinese equivalent of the chickens coming home to roost.

Dry Wit & Tonic





Looking good at this year's festivals

As summer reluctantly approaches, festival-fever gives a whole new reason to buy a whole new wardrobe

Daniel Wan
Fashion Editor

It's now officially not a 'new year' anymore and hence we can get on with our lives. As we approach the more summery months of our annual cycle, the cries of unbridled delight at the first sights of sunny weather is immediately crushed by the thought of demonised torture (or exams, as others call it). Whilst exam season is upon us, it means wasting entire days inside. With the British summer being the length of Wotsit most years, there's only one thing to make the most of it, and that's heading off into the countryside, scaring some sheep with loud rock music and drinking several local villages dry of their booze. Festivals have become a mainstay of an event of my last few summers, and a change in my schedule isn't looking likely for 2008. When Rage Against The Machine decided they were going to reform and play at Reading Festival this year, I'm not sure what would have stopped me from getting my £165 ticket of pure joy. Nothing did stop me; in fact, I got a little bit too excited and ended up with six tickets. Thank the gods of Natwest for their student overdrafts.

Its not just Reading and Leeds that will be invaded by thousands of festival-goers this year. Glastonbury is back on the 27th-29th of June, Roskilde in Denmark in early July, and with California's massive super-festival Coachella just gone in April, festival season has now officially commenced.

Music, entertainment and intoxicated (we're not saying which intoxicant...s) antics aside, festivals entail realms of eccentricity when it comes down to clothes. 'Anything-goes' fashion is the only way of really describing what you might expect to see people wearing at a festival. Personal experience tells me wearing a wedding dress whilst watching Metallica is actually a little disturbing, but it didn't occur at the time.

Festival clothing needs to strike a balance between style and practicality. You may look awesome, but if you



Spending three days in the sun and mud: Vintage dresses (right) and floral dresses (left) will be featuring heavily this summer's festivals



come home with severe heat stroke, Mummy and Daddy won't be too pleased will they? There are many factors you need to consider before packing your bags for the festival, and obviously the weather is major one.

So, you're going to need layers. Both you and the weather will be smoking hot during the day, but don't forget you're camping in the middle of a field and it will be get surprisingly nippy as night falls. Oh, there's also a chance of it turning into a classic Glasto-style mudfest. Be prepared, as the Boy Scouts say, or was it the SAS? I never remember.

My personal favourite, and the one thing I always end up wearing are hoodies. Whether its raining, boiling

or freezing, a zip-up hoody is an awesome piece of festival clothing. Check out American Apparel's or Topman's ranges of block-coloured zip up hoodies that can be worn by both boys and girls. Solid, bold colours are still good to wear, whilst simple patterns such as thick stripes seem to be making a comeback after a short hiatus.

I'm going to guess floral-print dresses will be popular at festivals this year, and expect to see hordes of girls in the same Topshop ones. For something a little different (but admittedly not all that much), try Urban Outfitters' range of floral-print summer dresses. The most common pieces of vintage clothing, and hence most easily found, are dresses. For those concerned

about looking like a high-street clone, here's your chance to show off some individuality. I'm really digging the whole 1950s-housewife look. An awesome vintage twist to a summery dress which might be a bit too flamboyant on the streets, but fitting for a festival.

The best places to look out for vintage dresses are in markets; sadly no more Camden (and not just because of the fire). Portobello Market in Notting Hill will inevitable have a lot of vintage clothing on offer, but an acceptable price for a 30 year-old dress may come into question. Otherwise, try local retro and vintage clothing shops, such as Beyond Retro or Blue Rinse.

Cropped trousers, as I predicted

at the start of this year, will be big amongst the more alternative crowd; the exact crowds that make up the majority of British festivals. The ankle-exposing garment will inevitably become more popular at the weather gets more reliably summery, and actually have a practical use to them when using the disease-ridden cesspit the festival organizers call the toilets. Since there's nothing to drag through the grotty toilets at your ankles, cropped trousers guarantee a lesser-so degree of an odour-laden tent.

Shorts are also making a return. Three quarter lengths are out, and tailored above knee length is in.

Wellington boots are classic festival wear, and not only are they great for keeping your feet dry (seriously girls and guys, keep your feet dry at all times at a festival), they do a good job of 'bottling' My Chemical Romance, or other equivalently unpopular acts. Funky patterned wellies with flowing summery dresses are the way to go for lasses. Other than waterproof footwear, hi-top Converse are ideal for the stresses and strains of jumping up and down like a pill-popping kangaroo to your favourite bands. They're pretty much certain to stay on your feet even in the most rib-cage crushingly large crowds. Losing your footwear at an indoor gig is bad enough, just imagine the size of the task of retrieving your footwear at a festival; before you know it, your shoe will probably be headed for Gerard Way's face anyway. For any My Chemical Romance fans out there, I'm sorry, but you should also be subject to a severe beating by delinquent shoes.

Though festivals can be a chance to impress, it doesn't really matter what you look like; as long as you have the most fun you've ever had in your life. I know saying that appears hypocritical after telling you what to wear at one for the last thousand words or so, but festivals are a chance to wear anything you want without disapproving questioning, or even worse, being arrested for indecent exposure. I'll see you lot at Reading.



Festival wear for 2008: Red and white plaid shirt (Urban Outfitters) twinned with white smart shorts (Topman) and rockabilly sunglasses. The retro look for girls with a candy dress (vintage) and black 1950s style sunglasses (Urban Outfitters). Rose themed wellington boots also make a pretty addition when things get a bit soggy



Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

Some amazing, rare things courtesy of Her Majesty

No, not Prince Charles' ears. Rosie Grayburn explores Queen's Gallery exhibition

Welcome back to another term of Felix's fabulous Arts pages! I hope you all had a relaxing Easter holiday. I made the most of my Easter break by mostly sleeping, sitting in pubs, watching back to back episodes of *The West Wing* and playing Guitar Hero for hours (I'm getting quite good at it, you know – though I did spend several weeks with 'Hit Me With Your Best Shot' and 'Talk Dirty to Me' stuck in my head).

But, good little arts editor that I am, I also managed to cram a fair bit of art into my Easter. For a start I spent a day frolicking through London armed with my iPod, trying out some podcast tours (find out more by reading the article!). While I was in Tate Modern I was heartily disappointed to find they'd filled in 'Shibboleth'. I think it's been my favourite turbine hall installation. It's quite amusing how you can still see where it was in the floor, and the tourists still walk along it anyway, scuffling their shoes on the uneven surface.

I spent a week in Madrid, one of Europe's greatest capitals for art. Have you been? Why not? Now's a ideal time to go because your Imperial swipe-card will get you heavily discounted or even free entry to the best galleries and museums there. And everybody needs to see Guernica at some point in their life. Plus you'll be in Spain! Sun! Tapas! Paella! Drinking beer at ten in the morning! I had a fine time. Highlights included drinking San Miguel in a butcher's shop, being whistled at by creepy Spaniards and ingesting what I have since found out to probably have been eels.

Aside from the eels, I go to the major London art galleries so often and get to know them so well that it's refreshing to see something new and different. Madrid has many works of Picasso, Goya and Velazquez, and more old masters than you can shake a stick at, plus countless other delights. But at the same time I couldn't help thinking that it would never beat London. We fail to appreciate how vast Britain's art collections are, and how many influential and valuable pieces are in our possession.

You'll read in one of our articles this week that the Queen owns 600 Leonardo da Vinci sketches. How many other countries can come anywhere near that figure? It probably isn't fair that our tiny island nation gets to dominate the world's cultural scene, but I'm not exactly complaining. As a student in London you have such privileged access to so much culture. Get out and see it, reader!

In addition to my little podcast jaunt, the fabulous Ms Rosie Grayburn herself has been to see some very amazing and rare things courtesy of Her Majesty, and her article is bound to delight you with its tales of David Attenborough and civet anal glands. Mmm... civet anal glands.



Aww... poor dead birdie! The Queen can keep this one - I don't want any slaughtered animals up on my walls, ta. Pretty flowers though

Thinking about it, I suppose we all expect some amazing, rare things whenever we visit an exhibition or an art gallery. Consequently the title of the newly opened exhibition at Buckingham Palace kills two birds with one [non-fatal, in fact, quite harmless] stone. Not only are there some amazing, rare sketches by Leonardo da Vinci himself, but all the works of art are a kind of catalogue for the new, amazing species that were being discovered during the period the pieces were created in. Expect lemons with fingers, dissected porcupines and the anal glands of an African civet.

This exhibition is really quite special, and has been selected from the Royal Library with the help of Sir David 'God of the Animals' Attenborough. It brings together the work of four artists and one collector who all shared a passion for nature, no matter how bizarre.

They are seeing these new and exciting species of plant and animal with innocent eyes. For the first time, art and science came together in the mainstream, leaving religion out.

The Queen's Gallery is situated on Buckingham Palace Road, just a stone's throw from Victoria. The gallery is plush. There is gold everywhere! I love it. And it is just what one would expect from one's monarch. You rise up the lavish main staircase to the gallery and pick up an audio guide from a lovely, polite lady. The Queen obviously knows how to do customer service. Every member of staff is practically perfect in every way, and are all too happy to show you the way to the loo or hang the audio guide about your neck like you are receiving an Olympic gold medal.

The audio guide is free, so you may as well pick it up anyway. There is not an audio blurb for each piece, unfortu-

nately, but when there is one, it is not too long to bore and not too short for me to complain about. Rosie is happy. The dulcet tones of David Attenborough accompany most of the blurbs as well as soothing piano music. The whole experience is rather mesmerising! Once you are plugged in, you enter the first room of the exhibition: The 'Leonardos'. Don't tell them I told you, but the Queen owns 600 Leonardo sketches!? OMG. These 18 exhibited here are just a snippet! Apparently, Charles II went a bit mad one day and decided to collect them.

Having never seen 'a Leonardo' before, I didn't know quite what to expect but I was absolutely blown away by Leonardo da Vinci. His sketches are awesome. So much so I actually raised my eyebrows in amazement and in my head I was saying "Ooooooh" as one does when one is very impressed. It is even more fantastic when you hap-

pen to glance at the date of the work. The first piece, 'The Star of Bethlehem', was done in 1505! I couldn't believe it. This was a time when the art world was saturated with very primal depictions of brightly coloured saints and martyrs and it is highly unexpected to see such talent and detail.

'The Star of Bethlehem' sets a very high standard. It is a type of flowering plant and is done in red chalk, like most of these sketches. Da Vinci seems to have captured the flower as though it were swaying underwater. Next up, Leonardo sketches some blackberries and shows off his technical talent as every single leaf is studied exactly.

Soon enough, we find out that all these sketches were part of Leonardo's scientific observations of nature, like a Renaissance lab book! You become acquainted with his famous mirror writings on various sketches, in which he makes various notes about the subject

matter. Ever wondered what a cow's uterus looks like? Leonardo knows, and his sketch even includes a tiny cow foetus in the shape of a fully formed miniature cow. Awww bless.

Leonardo also had to concentrate on his day job as a very famous artist, so we get to see some of his sketches for various commissions. He sketches horses from all positions with various muscles tensed, like a gym rat flexing in the mirror. His sketches of kittens playing are wonderfully lively, but we also see his train of thought as across the page, kittens turn into miniature dragons. See if you can spot them. Leonardo was using feline movement to imagine how dragons would move, possibly for a commission for a 'George and the Dragon' themed piece. Leonardo really did think outside the Renaissance box.

I could have stayed in that room forever, but it was time to move on to the next. The corridor between the two rooms displays an old map surveyed in 1752. America looks very odd... The cartographer has added bits here and there which make North America look like The Elephant Man. The presence of the map in the passage between the two rooms of the exhibition is very significant as we pass from the 16th to the 18th Century. Time has passed and much has changed. Welcome to the age of the Gentleman Gardener.

The difference between the two parts of the exhibition is stark. Whereas with old Leonardo you stood in awe and amazement to marvel at his talent, this next part gives you the opportunity to have a giggle at some weird and wonderful creatures and, sometimes, the way they are portrayed. Some of these guys struggle with the concept of scale!

You first come across a sloth. But hang on... It's the wrong way up! Sloths are usually found hanging upside-down, completely stoned off their faces from consuming cannabinoid-containing leaves. This unidentified artist obviously worked from a preserved specimen and just presumed it stood on all fours, showing the innocence of one seeing a species for the first time. The drawings with this theme are all quite entertaining as the artists struggle to catalogue the influx of new species brought in by explorers from exotic lands. Art and science are clearly coming together now for a solid



So here we have 'The Star of Bethlehem', all swirly and swishy like it's underwater, one of the 600 Leonardo Da Vinci pieces our beloved Queen has tucked away at Buckingham Palace. In my flat I have... zero Leonardo da Vincis. That's not fair. She should share them round a bit

purpose. Among these drawings is one of an African Civet, known throughout history for its smelly poo. The artist therefore shows the civet's anal glands very prominently, perhaps exaggerating them for educational reasons or just for a laugh.

I came across a wonderful selection of fruit drawings. They are accompanied with a brilliant quote: "We are horrified by monstrosities in humans, but we love them in fruit". Quite so. The piece entitled 'Lemon' (my new favourite insult) shows a mutilated lemon which has grown finger-like protrusions. This is the stuff of dreams, or the

Waitrose organic section!

The rest of the exhibition is just flowers. Alexander Marshal is one of the four featured artists of the exhibition. He was an amateur enthusiast who walked the earth in the 17th Century portraying plants with sharp detail and beauty. I thought his drawings were really touching as he drew with such love for the subject matter. I really like 'Crocuses, anemones and jay' where he has drawn the flowers as usual and then he had stuck a dead jay at the bottom of the sheet so it looked like it had just fallen onto the page of flowers. Marshal also spreads his love

to the insect world where he draws insects and dragonflies fluttering across his page, sticking their delicate spiral tongues out at me.

It is quite a shock at the end of the small exhibition to be cast out of the quiet A.R.T. gallery and into the gold splendour of the 'Treasures' gallery. It took me an hour or less to have a look at *Amazing Rare Things* so I recommend having a good coo over all those jewels too. If you haven't felt too cheated by the admission fee, have a look in the shop. There is a host of dainty bits and bobs to tickle your fancy!

Amazing Rare Things is for everyone,

but especially you zoologists, botanists and amateur explorers. It adds a touch of the exotic to your grey, London day, so get in there, you lemon!

***Amazing Rare Things* is on until 28th September so you have no excuse to miss it. It costs £7.50 for entry into the Queen's Gallery which includes this exhibition, a fabulous audio guide and all the other galleries showcasing Her Majesty's fist-sized jewels, Faberge eggs, and priceless works of art... An absolute bargain.**



The eternal debate that is alligator vs snake. I'm not convinced the artist was working from life on this one. I doubt he'd have stuck around, pencil at the ready, to find out who won

Artistic explorations with my iPod

Emily Wilson might have found the Next Big Thing in art galleries: downloadable podcast audio tours. But will small children, inane Americans, absent paintings and questionable music be their downfall?

You may have noticed in my articles that I have somewhat of a grudge against the audioguides offered by art galleries. Now that access to the major museums and galleries is free, they seem keen to extract your money by pressing their overpriced handsets upon you. And then you spend an hour being patronised and listening to panpipe music. But fret not, reader, there is a solution! Several of the major galleries have their own podcasts, which you can easily find free on their websites, and offer guided tours which you can download to your iPod (or equivalent portable music device) then listen to at home or in the gallery at your leisure. We can finally be selective about how much panpiping we need, and without paying a penny. However, let's not get overexcited. There is clearly opportunity for an informative and useful service here, but are these podcast tours any good? I set out with my little pink iPod nano to find out.

While all the galleries have up-and-running podcasts, there aren't many art tours available specifically. I found three to review; two at Tate Modern and one at The National Gallery. I downloaded all of these through iTunes, but even at this early stage I had problems. I was unable to get the introduction to the National Gallery tour to download automatically, and had to get it directly from their website and stick it in my iPod as a song. And then the tour seemed to start off with painting number four. Oh well...

I started out my day at Tate Modern. I decided to kick off with 'Modern Paint', a tour about art techniques and conservation, in particular how different types of paint have been used by different artists. The first painting, according to my podcast list, was 'Forgotten Horizon' by Salvador Dali. OK, where



'The Rokeby Venus', one of the highlights of The National Gallery's 'Be Inspired' podcast tour. Because who isn't inspired by naked women?

is it? I assumed it would be alongside the other Surrealist works. It wasn't. I wandered round and round but couldn't find it. We were off to a bad start, but I decided to press on. Painting number two was 'The Fig Leaf' by Francis Picabia. I couldn't find it, presumably because it's been moved to the current exhibition 'Duchamp, Man Ray and Picabia'. And then I couldn't find the third painting either. This was not good progress.

But the work by Cy Twombly I could find. Let's face it, after wandering round and round searching for an hour, I was getting pretty familiar with what was there. The podcast is interesting. The speaker is an expert on art conservation, and I'm impressed by how much she can tell just by looking at a painting, including the size of all the brushes he used. She points out details I'd never have noticed on my own, including cracks and damage to

the paintwork. She talks about how her team attempts to repair this damage, and how they clean the canvas. I'm fascinated by this whole new side of art galleries which I knew nothing about. The same is true of the podcasts for the other paintings – all thoroughly interesting and enjoyable. Some of the paintings I wouldn't even have given a second glance to before. I always thought Mark Rothko's blocks of colour were dull and simple, but now I'm see-

ing the detail and complex techniques that went into his work.

So the podcasts I adore. But there are whole chunks of the tour I lose out on because I can't find the painting, or it simply isn't there. Clearly the podcast suffers from featured works being put into storage or loaned out to other galleries. Even if it is there, in some cases I have no way of knowing what I'm looking for. Finding a Picasso or a Matisse is easy, but do you know what works by Cy Twombly and Fiona Rae look like?



Mark Rothko. Clearly a rubbish artist if this is all he does, right? Wrong! It's actually very cunning and technical stuff, according to the podcast

"There are a disproportionate number of smooth-talking Americans"

I'd recommend tracking down the images online before you go. Something that helped me immensely was the revelation that Tate Modern has touchscreen computers where you can look up locations of different artists' work. I could have kissed the screen. Had I known of these magical machines in advance, they'd have been my first port of call.

I use these computers during my next tour, called the 'Raw Canvas On-lookers' tour, which I think is more aimed at young people. It's basically members of the public talking about what they think of the art. I start off by listening to the section about Matisse's 'The Snail', which I have seen already today. I have to listen to a bunch of school kiddies giggling and making such contributions as "I had a snail on my hand once, and it left white stuff all over me". Hum. There a couple of musical contributions – the one for the Rothko I already saw was a pretty tune, but didn't seem to reflect the painting

in any way.

There are a disproportionate number of Americans rattling on. The one talking about Miro is a smooth-talker and gets a bit philosophical at times, but says nothing of substance ("it's all like... symbols, 'isn't that a trip?"). I'm moderately amused by his ramblings about his beard: "you might be able to hear me scratching my beard, which is something we art-lookers like to do. Everyone, rub your beard, or at least rub your chin a bit... 50% of going to galleries is the looking cool". Don't get me started on the family of nutcases (The Trachtenburg Family Slideshow

"Highlights include a man who builds piles of bananas in public places as an art form"

Players, as they call themselves) singing about the Giacometti. "We are the world's first and only indie vaudeville conceptual slideshow family band" makes me want to start my own indie vaudeville conceptual slideshow family band (whatever the fark that is) to make them and their stupid guitar strummings shut up about it. Additional highlights include a man who spends his life building piles of bananas in public places as an art form (and likes to talk about it), and the sounds of somebody wheeling a trolley through the building.

At times hearing other people's opinions is interesting. You come to appreciate that for every person looking at art there is a whole new way of interpreting art, and they highlight things you don't see for yourself. But after a whole podcast tour of people blathering on, you might feel the urge to punch somebody. I far preferred the style of the 'Modern Paint' tour.

Now on to The National Gallery. The website had filled me with optimism, promising that I could collect a map to accompany the 'Be Inspired' tour – the obvious solution to all my problems. I asked at the information desk and they knew what I was talking about but said such a map would be at the audioguide desk. Despite asking at two different audioguide desks I was unable to find anybody who knew what a podcast was, let alone provide me with a map to one. Had this mysterious podcast map existed, I would be singing The National Gallery's praises right now. Filled with despair by the thought of wandering around the huge galleries aimlessly, I headed for the ArtStart room, a room full of computers offering databases of the NG collections. I could have had ArtStart's babies.

The NG 'Be Inspired' tour was beautifully done. A soothing female narrator described the paintings and introduced various speakers. These speakers were generally artists themselves, but there was a poet, a political cartoonist and a cookery writer amongst others. All were discussing their favourite paintings in the NG and how they had been influenced by them. But instead of just gushing about what the painting means to them personally, as in the Tate tour, they also talk about the painting's history and meaning and this made for a good balance. This tour was definitely the best, despite the lack of a map.

The most amusing piece on the tour was a Crivelli painting of 'The Conception'. And when I say 'The Conception', we're talking about God impregnating Mary. Who knew there would be paintings of that? And apparently the method of conception was via a beam of gold light penetrating her head. But the podcast focuses on food. The cucumber and the apple at the front supposedly represent the purity of Christ and the fecundity of Mary (!). The beautiful peacock with its tail swishing down, I'm sorry to say, was considered food too. Apparently back in ye olde times you'd skin the peacock, then after cooking it you'd put it back in its feathers and use clockwork mecha-



Some young gents being positively fascinated by an audio tour. Fellas, why aren't you scratching your beards like real arty types? We've been informed today that 50% of going to galleries is the looking cool

nisms to make it walk up and down the dinner table before you ate it. Now that's entertainment.

Something I'll praise The National Gallery for is putting images of the paintings in with the podcast downloads. This means you know exactly what you're looking for in the museum, though obviously not everybody's music player will be able to use this. More-

over, having the pictures in front of you could mean you don't even have to go to the museum to enjoy the tour. This is a very cunning idea indeed.

Overall, the podcasts themselves were wonderful. The idea of audio tours on your iPod has the potential to go far, but I'd like to see more of them and I'd like some supporting material. If Tate and The National Gallery pro-

moted these tours and offered some kind of handout either online or onsite, with a map and information about what might have been taken down, podcast tours could be much improved. There is so much potential for expansion into different themes and different target audiences. My iPod and I look forward to hearing what London's art galleries have to offer us.



The podcast said this is a self-portrait, and that it's vibrating. Vibrating chairs? There's a joke there



This unexceptional painting inspired a political cartoon where Tony Blair was failing to build a cabinet. Charles Clarke was a torn-up joker



Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair and Susan Yu

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Peter Sinclair
Music Editor

As a heterosexual male, it is a rare and notable event when I fall in love with a man. It is an even rarer event when I fall in love with a man through the medium of podcast. But that is this strange situation I found myself in over the Easter holidays when I discovered that my favourite radio DJ, Gilles Peterson, heretofore subjected to the crematorium of graveyard slots from 2:00 until 4:00am on a Thursday morning on Radio 1, has his own podcast service – Gilles Peterson Worldwide. This is probably the sweetest musical discovery I have made since I got creepily into hip-hop a few years ago.

For those not in the know, Gilles Peterson is a giant of the slightly left-field jazz/funk/soul/latin scene (as well as a DJ and owner of Brownswood Recordings), doing more to bring that kind of music to a popular audience than any other DJ on mainstream radio. Granted, there are other DJs who play jazz on the radio, but no-one I know of does it with more passion. Even when interviewing guests on the show, it's always just as interesting hearing Gilles asking the questions and getting into his element, spouting facts and knowledge about Japanese latin artists or Australian dubstep nights. I have heard rumours that he had to move out of his house because he had too many records, and now stores them in a purpose-built warehouse. Introduced to the show by a friend a few years ago, I have fucked up far too many Thursdays staying up all night to listen to it. The discovery of this podcast virtually represents an additional day in my week. A 1/7-fold improvement!

This is all so new to me. Podcasts have been around for years, but I've only just started to bother about them. Why wasn't I told? They are such a great way of keeping up with new music if you are too lazy or don't have the time to do it for yourself, making them a lifeline during long library evenings. Most labels will have some kind of service showcasing their new acts and releases, but far from being just a new advertising platform, they have the feeling of going back to the roots of what music is about and why these labels are around in the first place, in a music business where their pre-eminent status is definitely coming into question. They too are lovers of great music. They don't just want your money, they want your mind.

Anyway, this week we've got a double feature of Long Blondes music. They released an album 'Couples' a few weeks ago, so we listened to that and we went to a show. I can't help but think bands like that live in an emperor's-new-clothes dream world - as long as they keep raking in the pounds, dollars and yen, they can put out whatever the fuck music they want. So read about that and some other stuff too.

We got a shitload of CDs sent to us over the holidays, and there's always gigs that need going to. If you fancy getting some free stuff, give us an email at music.felix@gmail.com.

Long Blondes double bill

They may not have much talent, but The Long Blondes certainly have a new album. What's more, they are on tour to pimp it. Music Felix braced our ears and had a listen

The Long Blondes
Amersham Arms
11th February, 2008

If I was in my 40s, I think I would feel extremely depressed. I would feel like I had completely lost touch with the cool music being played on the radio, and which all the cool kids were listening to. I would change my car radio to BBC2, feeling that is all I deserved, so out of touch was I with popular music, while despondently inspecting my hairline in the rear-view mirror for signs of recession. I am not, however, a 40-anything. I am in fact 19 years old. I am currently a member of the much courted 18-30s demographic, the precise demographic which decides who or what is hot, and which or where is not. I therefore assert that, rather than me not understanding why The Long Blondes count as good music, I know that the Long Blondes in fact make bad music. Dull, generic, derivative, unoriginal, uninspiring boring fucking music. The colour and texture of wallpaper paste, but without the practical use. Just like a pale greyish mass. Well not grey, kind of a greyish maroon.

Um, so anyway, I went to see The Long Blondes last term at The Amersham Arms. Earlier on in the evening, I had been fortunate enough to have largely avoided any exposure with said Long Blondes, other than a bit of YouTube before I went to the show, so I arrived open-minded and ready to

embrace the group's collective creative talents. Almost as soon as the show started, it became fairly obvious that there was very little creative talent to embrace. Consisting almost entirely of 80s throwbacks, from the saturated guitar twangs, to the glam-punk style of the songs, even down to the performance mannerisms of lead vocalist Kate Jackson (look left, pout, rotate shoulders forwards, rotate shoulders backwards, repeat), The Long Blondes seem lost in the collective styles of their musical influences, themselves bringing little to the scene except a conglomerated discography of ironic 80s disco trash that people pretended to like a couple of years ago when it was cool.

The one single, solitary redeeming feature of the night was the performance of 'Giddy Stratospheres', the last show of the gig, which is actually a pretty good song. Well, to be more precise, it's got a funky chorus. To be even more precise, there was one chord change in the chorus that was pretty good. I wish I were joking. Have a listen, you'll see what I mean.

So an all-round disappointment. Do not go and see the Long Blondes unless you want to pay to be bored all evening. They released a new album 'Couples' on the 7th of April, but you probably shouldn't buy it, and they are on tour all over Europe and North America until the beginning of June, but you probably shouldn't go.

Peter Sinclair



JAMES HOUGHTON

Kate Jackson making her best attempt at eating the mic

Part two: It doesn't get much better



The Long Blondes
Couples
★★★★☆

Teamed with DJ Erol Alkan, The Long Blondes are back with their troublesome second album, 'Couples'.

In difficult, second album style, the Blondes have chosen to begin by changing their sound with some self-indulgent electro. Sure it still has the Kate Bush influences, but they're the bad, bland parts. The instrumental sounds like the demo on a cheap Casio keyboard. The problem is, it's meant to sound like that which just makes it even more grating. It's called 'Century', which is fitting, as the song is so boring it seems like it lasts that long. To make matters worse, it is their first single. Where has the punk gone? Where has the half-decent taste in music gone? Erol Alkan, you've got a lot to answer for. 'Guilt' (has nothing to do with it) is the title of track two and probably had something to do with chucking that crap Casio keyboard out and reverting back to a slightly more familiar sound. Familiar for a Girls Aloud single, that is.

Predictably, the production is far sharper than the debut album. I think most people would rather listen to the grit of 'Lust in the Movies' any day though. Even the most anthemic of songs are polished up like a bimbo's nails. How Kate Jackson manages to make a chant sound glam I just don't know ('Here Comes the Serious Bit').

She could sing Ave Maria and still somehow make it sound sexy.

As well as a DJ producer it seems like they've nicked Pulp's keyboardist in certain aspects. Well they certainly ain't having Jarvis. 'Round the Hairpin' could be a B-side on a Pulp single, except it is more soft porn than hardcore.

It comes across as though this band are trying to emulate their idols, rather than doing what they're good at - being themselves. 'Erin O'Connor' is another indie disco number which will no doubt be a single, but it is everything that Blondie has already done before (nice grimy guitar though). Then there's 'Too Clever By Half', an understated falsetto number that should have been left to a hidden track, and 'Nostalgia' is only worth listening to because it uses the word 'breakfast' - an under-used meal in love songs.

However we do end this disappointing album with a lovely lyric "I'm going to hell so I may as well make it worth my while". But come to think of it, 'lovely' shouldn't really be an adjective for a song about going to hell though, should it? It sounds more like a little girl cheekily admitting she's been throwing out the fruit her mummy puts in her lunchbox and eating penny chews instead. It's hardly hell-raising and the 50s rock 'n' roll style piano doesn't exactly help the situation.

The Long Blondes tried to do something a little different with 'Couples' but got cautious after only the first track. They've accessorised their sound rather than having a complete makeover. Minus the dire opening, any die hard Long Blondes fan should probably listen to this album, but the rest of us would do better to steer clear.



The Long Blondes looking less terrible than above

Lara O'Reilly

Music Felix chats with Mystery Jets

Mystery Jets achieved success after their discovery by DJ/producer Erol Alkan. They were originally called 'Misery Jets' after Heathrow-bound aeroplanes which regularly flew over their home of Eel Island, but changed their name after a spelling mistake. Fact. Roman Hochuli sat down with Mystery Jets' lead vocalist and keyboard player Blaine Harrison.

How did you first get in contact with Erol?

We used to all go down to Trash quite a lot when it was going, which was a club Erol ran for 10 years. It was really influential on a lot of people making music in London at that time. At the start, we all used to go down there just to see the bands and see Erol DJ.

We'd done a recording session then one day I plucked up the courage to bring him the demo. Turned out he was a fan and already knew 'Zoo Time', which was our first single. Then he started playing all our songs right when they'd come out - as soon as we recorded something he'd be the first to play it!

So you hadn't released very much and Erol was already spinning your records?

Erol was one of the first people we met in the club circuit. He was the first person to ever play our music in a club. At the time, I wasn't really aware of the world of dance music, but as we dived into the second album, I think we became a lot more aware of remixes and producers. From that point on, I think we had more of an opinion of who we wanted to remix our stuff as well.

Did Erol influence your music at all?

Yeah, definitely. I mean the first thing we did with him were some B-sides for 'Diamonds in the Dark', which was the last single off our first album. It just went really, really well. I remember we'd all been on tour for about a year and we were all arguing and screaming at each other and Erol seemed to be the only person who could get us to all sit in the same room together and be nice to each other. I think that, in a way, is one of the strongest ways in which he influenced the second album.

He used to also give us some records to listen to. He'd say "You might not like this but I think you can learn something from it." and it really worked. We started thinking so much more outside the bubble in terms of production.

You guys also DJ, which of you do that?

We all DJ, but it's pretty much me, William and Kai. We usually branch off into pairs.

We started DJing during the recording of our second album because we weren't playing any gigs, since we were still recording or writing new material, and we wanted to keep going out and keep contact with our fans. Spinning records in clubs just seemed the most obvious way of doing that.

I keep hearing bands bring up minimal techno and I think I remember hearing you guys mention it in an interview. Are you guys techno fans?

I think I know which one you're talking about, but we said it as a joke. I mean I do like dance music but I'm not into anyone specific and then there's a lot of dance music I hate. I really hate drum'n'bass! Not because it's unfashionable or anything like that. It's just that all dance music for me when I was growing up was DnB, and the people I hated at school used to listen to it. That just kept me away from it.

In terms of producers, Switch is probably my favourite. He's got talks about this style of producing - but basically just fucking with all different styles. So like, throwing in a bar of dubstep and then taking it back out and not subscribing to any type of music. What he does is completely his own thing.

Did you choose people Switch and Riton yourselves to do your remixes?

Yeah, we chose to Switch do the remix of 'Hideaway', which is amazing. We also have a Justice remix of 'You Can't Fool me Dennis' which our label set up before anyone had even heard of Justice. Our label is really into that scene so they manage to get producers like Shoes, Riton and Zongamin to do our remixes.

How did you create the effect of



Mystery Jets at The Engine Room, Brighton

you guys sliding up and down the walls in the video for it 'Young Love'?

Well, we were on the floor on skateboards getting pushed by these guys in white boiler suits, who I think were the real stars in the video! It was a lot of fun making that video but the new one, 'Two Doors Down', was even more of a laugh: it's a pastiche of an 80s rock video.

About your new album, you described it as being more 'radio-friendly', what does that mean?

For our first album we weren't really trying to make music to be played on the radio - pop music as such - we were more trying to do our thing which we'd been doing for years.

For the second album, we started listening to a lot more 80s pop music, stuff that people would call cheesy - Magic FM was all I listened to for about 18 months. It probably rubbed off on our music but you could ask someone else in the band and they'd probably snarl at the idea of Magic FM. For me though, when I'm writing I try and think of songs which would sound good next to a Phil Collins song.

What are your favourite bands right now?

I like a lot of American bands at the moment. I like bands like Yaysayer, Gang Gang Dance, Vampire Weekend and Dirty Projectors. They don't make

pop music as such but they put elements of West African music into their own stuff which hasn't been done really since Paul Simon. I just like bands who are fucking with the idea of a pop song and who aren't following the rules.

Is that more the direction in which you're trying to take your music?

In a way the album we've just made is more straightforward, a kind of a guitar album, whereas on the first record we were trying to make really complex, layered music. This album felt like something we had to do, but on the third album we might go a bit weird again. We'll have to see...

When's that going to be recorded?

God knows! We're probably going to be touring until Christmas so I don't know. There's talk amongst us of moving to America, setting up camp over there and seeing what happens. We've been in London for a long time and I'm up for seeing what living somewhere else can inspire out of us.

Interview by Roman Hochuli

Does It Offend You, Yeah? live

An Andy Peters haircut from circa 1990, flying glowsticks, girls in the audience who could be best described as 'a mess of neon and basically wearing seven outfits in one': you'd think you were stuck in some bad lycra-sponsored rave scene nightmare. No, it's just the frontman of Does It Offend You, Yeah?'s bad hair, and the shed load of MySpacers they've bought with them.

Nu-rave image aside, the band crack into the stomping intro of 'Weird Science'. It's got the fat bass of Daft Punk's Robot Rock and a token Tupac inspired vocoder entry. It's got drums and guitars that throb harder than your worst post-exam hangover.

DIOYY are lyrically tasteless, as the name of the next track, 'Battle Royale', will suggest. Evidently though, tasteless is sometimes a good thing, with the band managing to get the crowd worked up and jumping as fast as they can manage. The vocalist, Morgan Quaintance, jumps onto the stack of amps on stage with his colourful get-up which resembles neon-painted pyjamas and strikes an African clanger. He shouts "F*** y'all, I'm from Texas" - the slogan also printed on his shirt.

They bang into 'Let's make out', a track that couldn't fail to get the most miserable person dancing and feeling the summer festival vibe.

It's rough. It's raw. It's rock clashed with electro with references to punk. Influences from the Prodigy, early Beastie Boys, and Devo are all apparent. DIOYY are a far cry from the late 1990's scene of shoe-gazing rock. They play, shout and dance in full vivid colour. They're really a vehicle which screams at a youthful market and gets them excited. There's sound bites that resemble 'Take on Me' by A-Ha but with Kurt Cobain-esque vocals and synth leitmotifs, similar to Late of the Pier or the now defunct Test Icicles.

DIOYY announced their chart mid-week result is at No. 17. It seems Virgin weren't wrong signing these Reading-based maniacs. They chuck in a live debut of 'Dawn of the Dead' and finish off the set with 'We are Rockstars', a track that embodies the band's message in a nutshell. Your attention is grabbed, it's full of energy and it's a lot of fun.

Avalon de Paravicini

From Nesna to Camden: Ida Maria met up with Felix before her Barfly gig

Ida Maria is fast making a name for herself in the indie scene, surrounded by tales of intense performances and wrecked stages. Music Felix caught up with her for a nice chat and a sit-down.

Tell me a bit about yourself

I'm from a small town in the middle of Norway called Nesna. There's 2000 people there or something - not that many people doing music. My father and some of his friends were into it so I used to play with my dad's jazz band. He's in a reggae band now.

What encouraged you to get serious about music?

It was not a deliberate choice. I tried to do all this other stuff. I tried to study, I was studying music, philosophy and literature. But I just needed to go on

tour, so it was a bit like, OK this is what I am supposed to do.

Tours are kind of a two sided-thing, it's very intense but I love it. I think I've never been as happy in my life as I am now, I'm really really enjoying it

Can you give me a few words to describe your music?

Energetic, colourful, full of contrasts, spiky, sugary. I've found that whenever you try to put music into categories it doesn't fit. It's much more interesting to hear how other people would describe my music.

What kind of venues do you prefer to play in?

It doesn't matter what size the venue is or how many people show up or if the sound is good or bad or whatever. The only thing that matters is being able to



Ida Maria. Not Tomo's mum

meet people. Play music and see what happens.

What was it like to play on Jools Holland?

It was really cool, it was a fantastic experience, really enjoyable. Jools was a very nice guy. I met Morrissey and he stank of aftershave. He seemed very tired. It was very good to be there. It was totally different to a live venue. In a venue you can relax a bit more. It's cool to play on TV, but of course the sound is different and you miss the audience - you're playing to so many people you can't see. We've been on TV and on the radio, and you never get your head around the fact that so many people are going to see it or hear it. It's surreal. I heard myself on the radio today, I didn't see it was me, it felt like someone else.

Where do you get the best reception?

Playing here in the UK is really cool. I can't really say which countries I like the best, they are all just different. Swedish and Norwegian audiences get really really drunk before they go to concerts.

Your latest single 'Stella' is about God falling in love with a prostitute and so on. Where did the idea for this song come from?

I wrote that song at Christmas. I was so tired of Christmas, the whole restrictive tradition, the cosiness and the warmth that was there just because it was that time of year. I just wanted to discuss God, put him down on Earth and see what happens.

Interview by Peter Sinclair



One example of when to avoid Pyramids

Ahran Arnold
Travel Editor

A few years ago, when I was a young and naïve fresher, I was approached by a business savvy acquaintance of mine concerning a 'business proposition.' By business savvy I, in fact, mean completely clueless concerning anything pertaining to business, commerce, finance or anything at all, really. He told me to be at London Bridge station at a certain time and to arrive with suit, tie and open mind. It all sounds very Mafia like, and the 'open mind' bit implicated things I certainly wasn't sure about. Scepticism and curiosity did battle within me and, as usual, curiosity won the day. Not curiosity concerning whether this would be a genuine money-making scheme, but more a casual interest as to what my disaster-prone friend had got himself involved in this time.

So there I was at London Bridge at the appointed time, suited and booted, looking sharp and feeling ... less sharp. In fact I was feeling distinctly blunt due to a protracted hangover, but I had a feeling that I wasn't going to need to be particularly 'with it' to unravel whatever harebrained scheme I was going to be sold.

After being led through small roads and back-alleys we arrived at an ultra modern-looking, glass building and took a superfast lift to a floor with a decent view of London. We then proceeded through an atrium which was filled with other punters and their 'introducers' (the term for people like my friend who had proposed others for this event). Light chatter could be heard throughout the room and there was a sense of growing anticipation. Anytime anyone decided to ask a question pertaining to the upcoming schedule, they were basically told to 'wait and see.' The thought struck me that the whole thing had the feel of a modern cult, and that wasn't the last time I had that feeling.

Having built the tension sufficiently, the introducers ushered us into a grand lecturing hall. The crowds surged forwards and found their allocated seats. Each punter was flanked on either side by either his own introducer or the introducer of another, so there was no possibility of discussion with other uninformed. The introducers themselves were, of course, as tight-lipped as before. It was time for the presentation. A slick, well-rehearsed presentation was given to whip the crowd into excitement. The applause was lead, naturally, by the introducers. I realised about ten minutes into the Powerpoint slideshow



Should you trust a man in a suit? Not if he looks like one of this pair. These elusive scammers are still on the run

that there was almost no information being presented. It was just a list of stuff people liked. "Do you like money and holidays? ... well that's what we're offering and all you have to do is sign up with a minimal fee" was the general gist of the deluge.

The way in which this was put forward was ridiculously over the top. Showers of rapturous applause poured forth after every single amount of mon-

"There will always be people trying to con you out of your money"

ey was put up on the mammoth screen. The presenter, who was a combination of circus-master and evangelist, gave a life story about how his life had been dragged from the gutter of alcoholism and drug abuse by this offer. It goes without saying that he claimed he received no commission for delivering this talk. He just wanted to spread the message, for the benefit of everyone (in a secret meeting hall, on an invite only basis... yes, this is when the 'cult' thought appeared in my head again).

Anyway let me cut to the chase. Af-

ter the audience were sent into a frenzy by his tirade of promises, a few details emerged. You pay about a grand now and then you recruit people to do the same thing you do and get a cut of their fee each time. When they recruit more people, you get a cut of the fee of their fee too. And thus your fortune builds! What if you're rubbish at recruiting or you're a loser and have no friends? No worries! Here's the extra carrot dangled in front of you: discount holidays! Woohoo!! (I bet you are beginning to see the relevance of this long winded story now, eh?) Supposedly regardless of how many people you have recruited you get great deals on 5* hotels.

So it exposed itself as a pyramid scheme (which I inferred partly from the fact that the sales pitcher was at pains to state that it was not a pyramid scheme) and I convinced my friend to get out of it while he still could. About a year later on 'Watchdog' I saw an undercover reporter's secretly filmed report of the very same presentation I'd been to. The whole thing had been exposed and was being dealt with in the courts. These so-called 5* hotels were actually very dodgy, almost deserted, below 1* hostels (which people only discover on arrival).

The sad fact is that this sort of thing is incredibly common. Pyramid schemes have been around for a long time of course, the great Albanian pyramid scheme caused people to sell



We rightly shun pyramid schemes but aren't all of us part of the biggest one of all... probably not

their homes to invest and farmers sold their livestock. The other aspect of this particular scheme was the idea of the 'Travel Club': Some kind of arrangement whereby investment results in discounted travel deals. This has been seen in other incarnations eg. The 'Travel Agents Card' – the idea being that travel agents get incredible trade deals on flights, and all you need to do to prove you are a travel agent is to brandish a £500 card at an airport flight desk. Go ahead and invest if you enjoy paying to be laughed out of airports.

So *Felix Travel* has taught you how to haggle and is now teaching you what scams you're likely to come up against. *The Times* has in fact recently published a list of the thirteen 'best' travel scams, which can be viewed on their website if you search for travel scams. It is well worth taking a look at before you decide to shop for or go on holidays. They range from the stupid to the downright malicious. Unlicensed taxis can obviously have the worst outcomes (kidnapped, killed etc.) and should be avoided at all costs, whereas the following scam made me laugh. If you watch the 'Real Hustle' (by far the best programme on BBC3) you will know that the best cons rely on the inherent greed of human nature. This particular one, featured on the list, is no exception. You're approached in a bar or wherever and offered to get in on a big scam. All you do is get on a bus-tour the next day and the guys you're speaking too will drive up in front of it and reverse into it. You, along with all the other passengers who are all in on it, then demand compensation for injury, which the bus company will be forced to provide. You provide these characters with a fixing fee of about £250 in advance, which is pittance compared to the thousands of pounds you'll be receiving in compensation. You then

enjoy a completely safe and problem-free bus tour and realise you've been duped!

Other scams don't rely on greed but instead rely on naivety and the general feeling of disorientation upon arrival in a strange land. Some friends of mine had an extremely unfortunate experience in Cuba when they were approached by an unscrupulous con-artist who convinced them to exchange their money with a guy he knew, since the banks would all be closed due to a festival. They went along with this, needing the local currency. They found out later that the 'excellent exchange' they had been offered was actually nowhere near the actual exchange rate and they had been conned out of a lot of money. These unfortunate travellers were also caught up in another incident later in the same trip. Some men boarded their bus with video cameras for 'security' purposes and then ransacked their belongings later while they slept using the video footage to pinpoint exactly where their stuff was.

The fact is there will always be people trying to con you out of your money and belongings when you travel and when you're thinking about buying a holiday. If you want to completely avoid it then lock yourself in a bunker for the rest of your life (I hope you enjoy board games). However if you want to get out there and experience what the world has to offer then it's all about risk management. Be wary and vigilant, research countries before you visit them and don't be greedy and perhaps most importantly: don't let being conned ruin your holiday. Happy travelling! If you have any stories about being conned on holiday or when trying to buy flights or hotel stays etc. then send them to Felix Travel (ftravel@ic.ac.uk) we may print a compendium of them soon!



The type of pyramid you shouldn't avoid

Travels without my Aunt: Charing X

Theo Georgeiou Delisle

“¡Hola! You sir, yes you, you look like a man who knows a deal when it dances in your face wearing a pink bikini embroidered with the words ‘I am a deal’

“Who me?”

“YES, YOU!”

“But I am just working in the toilets tonight, handing out the smelly soap”

“Exactly!”

“This makes very little sense to me”

“You might as well though, you’re only young once.”

“I happen to be young twice actually, once in 1986 and now.”

“Nice one mate.”

“Cheers”

“You want this deal then?”

“Go on, might as well.”

“....”

“You’ve just been scammed mate”

“MAAAAAATE??”

“Yup, scammed good you were, he just scammed you out of all your sweet, sweet-smelling, smelly soap.”

“I have as well – I feel like a right nincompoop.”

After a short and unpleasant break, this article returns with less insight, more lies and above all, slightly less commitment. Having previously taken you to such exotic locations such as the Sainsbury’s near Earl’s court, and that road near college – the one with the tramp, I now ask your permission to whisk you away to Charing Cross Hospital. Located in Hammersmith, it has recently been voted the 76th wonder of the modern world, as the only man-made, free-standing building to be made from 87% pure asbestos, the respiratory ward a particular attrac-

tion, containing almost 98% asbestos and 2% haribo. When you first arrive at hospital you must first avoid falling into the large moat that surrounds the building, containing what the locals affectionately call “flesh eating killer carp” and navigate your way past the Hammersmith Tramp © who patrols the doors with an iron fist... and a Stella.

“Once inside it will become obvious that you are on the wrong floor”

Once inside it will become obvious that you are on the wrong floor. You therefore need to use the lift system which the hospital is famous for. The lifts themselves are packed full of artificial intelligence – so much so in fact that they barely acknowledge the presence of a mere human pressing the lift button on any floor, but instead move as their whim takes them, pondering the formation of outer echelons of the universe between floors. This, therefore, means that you will be stuck waiting at the lift entrance with a group of strangers for anything between 5 and 6 hours before the lift arrives. However this gives you the opportunity to learn a little more about your fellow hospital visitors;

– How did their tumour get that big?

– How could a colostomy bag even



Try typing Charing Cross Hospital into Google – this is what you get

be incorporated into a padded bra?

– Why old hair makes a great and practical coffee strainer

... are all questions which are likely to be answered whilst waiting for the illusive lift.

Away from the main hospital, why not kick back and relax in Charing Cross Library? Located conveniently above the Reynolds’ Bar, it boasts a range of entrances and exits which operate on a monthly lotto draw as to which will be working on a day-to-day basis. As a fun experiment at the moment the library is juggling its collection of medical text books with reams of transparent plastic sheet coverings just to “mix up” the whole vibe of the

library, and before anyone gets angry, it’s just a bit of fun.

It may be, dear reader, that it is fate itself that nudges you in the direction of the hospital as you are designated to take an exam in Charing Cross Sports Hall. In summary, taking an exam here is not the worst thing that could happen to you, rape for example, springs to mind as a less preferable alternative; however the sports hall is by no means the ideal location for an exam to be scheduled in. Firstly, call me weak – willed, but the fact that the hall is adjoined to its own bar is not conducive to great examination preparation – and neither is a pre-exam whiskey chaser. Secondly, booming announce-

ments half-way through the exam asking, “The owner of a black Mercedes to remove it from the forecourt”, can sometimes cramp your style.

If all the fun and excitement of Charing Cross Hospital is too much for you, don’t worry – just head down to the Reynolds’ Bar where, for this spring only, you will be able to get your grubby mitts on one of the now legendary “simply ham” sandwiches. Just ham, and bread; no butter, no mayo, just ham, and indeed to an equal extent: bread. You know where you are with this sandwich; you’re at home stroking a big, golden Labrador whilst Connie Huq tells you how to make Tracy Island on Blue Peter: bliss.



The elevator: A great place for contemplation

The Big Question of Time

Come and ask your most ‘cosmic’ questions to

Prof Michael Heller

mathematician, cosmologist, philosopher,
Catholic priest and winner of 2008 Templeton Prize.

Thurs May 8th 5:30pm

Physics Lecture Theatre 1
Blackett Building, Imperial College
(entrance from Prince Consort Road)

with an introduction by Dean of Faculty of Natural Sciences and Prof of Theoretical Physics
Professor Chris Isham

discussion chaired by the Principal of the Faculty of Prof Engineering
Professor John Wood

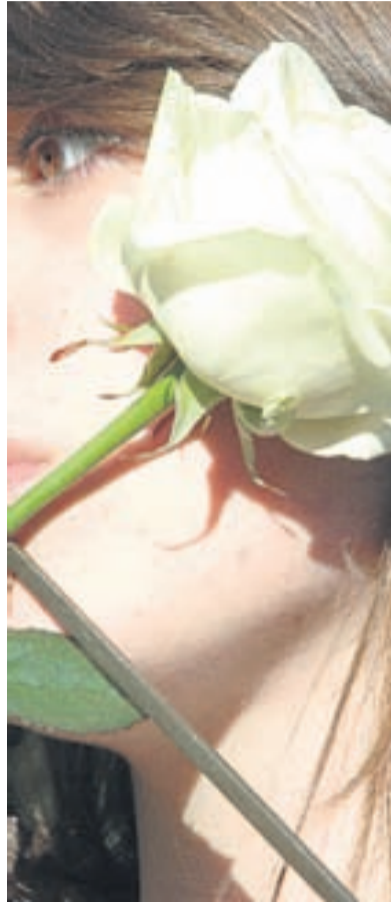
The event is free but please register in advance at chaplaincy@imperial.ac.uk

CHAPLAINCY
www.imperial.ac.uk/chaplaincy



Needy McNeedy: Strumming harps since '23

Removing thorns from your side before roses came in funny colours. E-mail: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



So my little pretties, it's summer term again, and you know what that means, right? Yep, that's right: sunshine and parties! Oh, no, wait, don't you lot have exams? Unlucky. Email me on agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk if you're losing the will to live, but remember... Needy doesn't believe in exams/like moaning and so we'll try and avoid all mention of... oh, wait.

Dear Needy Mc Needy,

I live quite far away from home and my parents just called me to tell me that my cat (who lived with them) has died. I'm really upset but everyone at college thinks it's strange mourning a cat that I didn't see very often. How can I remember Furry Muffler without seeming weird?

SpinsterInTheMaking49

Dear SpinsterInTheMaking49,

I can completely understand what you're talking about: when I was in the first year, my little sister ate my pet hamster in a freak accident. If these

people who disapprove of your mourning aren't your roommates, then I suggest building a little shrine to your cat. This also doubles as a procrastination effort.

You could also try to find understanding people who aren't chained to their desks and believe that your plight is worth the price of a drink or two and therefore are willing take you out to drown your sorrows. I fully believe these people exist and that they are your true friends. Don't give up searching!

Needy xxx

Dear Needy Mc Needy,

I have a dire need to spend all my waking time in the library chatting and moaning about how much work I'm doing. Unfortunately, my love of caffeine is a direct contradiction to this pastime, as the mean security men guarding the library don't let you in with any food or drink. How can I keep up my caffeine addiction and still spend all my time in the library?

Headache

Dear Headache,

I'd love to help you smuggle caffeine into the library, but the security guards are on to me after they caught me not looking at porn that one time.

Besides, if you're going to take coffee into the library for a gossip, you might as well just go sit on Queen's Lawn in the sunshine rather than taking up space. Unless the bastards put the marquee back up.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy,

My girlfriend has just started a PhD and now refuses to spend any time with me. She says it will ruin her academic image to be seen with an undergraduate. She hangs out in the Senior Common Room and the Holland Club with her new friends, and they make me feel like an intellectual plebian. How can I convince her that I'm clever enough to be her boyfriend?

PhysicsUndergraduate

Dear PhysicsUndergraduate,

Given the obvious differences in food quality between the JCR and the SCR, she can be forgiven for not wanting to hang around in the JCR with all the Freshers when she could be chilling with Prof Sir Robert Winston over some gourmet meal, as we know all postgraduates do at lunchtimes in the SCR.

Are you trying to be better than Prof Sir Lord Prof Lord Robert Sir Lord Winston? Don't, as he's not only much more intelligent than you, he's also got that amazingly cool moustache. You're fighting a losing battle, my friend. Why don't you try hitting on someone in your own league, for example that girl with the lanky hair you sit next to in lectures?

If you're dead set on winning this girl's affection back then you could learn some handy intelligent things from wikipedia to say in intelligent conversations, for example: "Rather than asking why cats purr, Roy Feinson suggests the question is best answered by asking 'when do cats not purr?'" [wikipedia.org]. This never fails to gain people's attention (not necessarily the same as gaining their respect).

Needy xxx

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



Aquarius

On a trip to South Kensington tube station you accidentally step on a crack in the pavement. YOU

BLITHERING MORON. Didn't you ever listen to what your mummy told you? The paving slabs separate and a purple tentacle lashes out from beneath the ground barbing you in the left kidney. Slowly your spleen disintegrates and your eyes are pecked out by ravens.



Pisces

This week you publish the smallest issue of the year. Your member shrinks ever so slightly into yourself

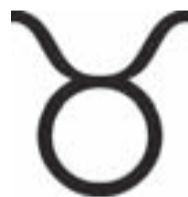
especially since your boss is quite literally piling on the pressure for you to buck up your ideas. Literally too. You know, like Pressure = Force over Area. It's so bad you have to resort to inane science jokes in order to connect to your target audience. Sigh moan.



Aries

This week your carrier pigeon flies the nest in search of more corporate enterprises. Weeks later it returns albeit

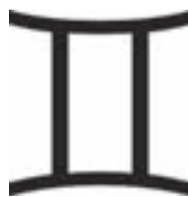
with added blacked-out sunglasses, a thin leather briefcase containing a solitary sheet of glossy white Conqueror paper "just in case" and a pink pinstripe blazer. A swift wringing and its neck no longer remains intact.



Taurus

Your interest is suddenly piqued by the thought that there may actually be imposters out there who pretend

to compose horoscopes as awesomely as you do. You head to that strange place known as the internet-wide-web and a quick boggle search reveals crazyhoroscopes.com... THIS MEANS WAR! HEATHENS! BE GONE! RETURN FROM WHENCE YOU CAME!



Gemini

This week you discover that two of your freshest contributors are absolutely batshit fucking mentalist.

One of them pretty much just said that when he had a six-pack back in 'Nam he jumped in this swimming pool with eight or nine little children. I asked, why, like any sane individual would. His response: "My abs were drying up and I'd run out of ground-nut oil." The fuck.



Cancer

Your friend has an enema and recommends you to join him during his next session. Arriving at the clinic

you meet Hillary Clinton stepping out of her large Chrysler. "How'd you think I maintain an inverted chin as perfectly as this specimen?" she quips. She's surprisingly pleased to see you considering how pungent your armpits are.



Leo

Des – what the hell are you doing?! I told you never to use the pitchfork when you get past five-feet under!

Now look at the state of him! Give me the KY, come on, pass it now. It's no use – the damage is irreparable. Not only did he die in a vicious accident with a ban-saw in a woodmill, he's got three puncture wounds to his lower abdomen! Sigh. You take the left, I'll have the centre.



Virgo

This week you return to rapturous applause. You gracefully sidle into your seat only to realise that hottie

with the mega-zeps was actually strutting her stuff two paces behind you. Damn women. Always taking my credit. You hunt her down lodging a fire hydrant between her two anterior molars. Take that and smoke it. Extinguish it yourself bi-hatch.



Libra

This week you have exams. You drop your pencil which makes a jarring clanging noise on the wooden-effect

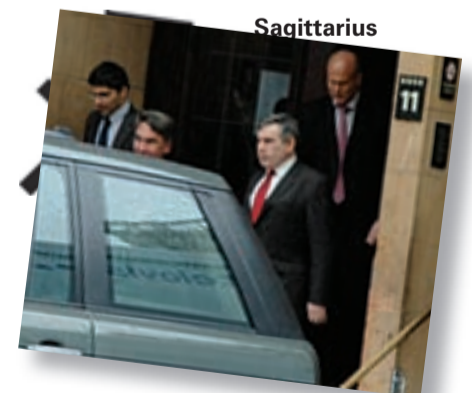
floor. Shunlucky, you're now trapped in the inevitable bubble of awkwardness that has suddenly encapsulated your frame of mind. Edge out of your seat and grab the pencil or attempt to make eye contact with the invigilator. Hmm.



Scorpio

LOOK! LOOK! L@K GOOD PRICE! ~~TONY~~ BLAIR GORDON BROWN AT THE ROYAL ALBERT

HALL! SEE BELOW. ZOMG. WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?! I've never seen such a dapper fellow as this here Brown one. I bet he smells as good as he feels... Er. Come on, like you've ever touched the Brown stuff! You're shitting me!



Sagittarius

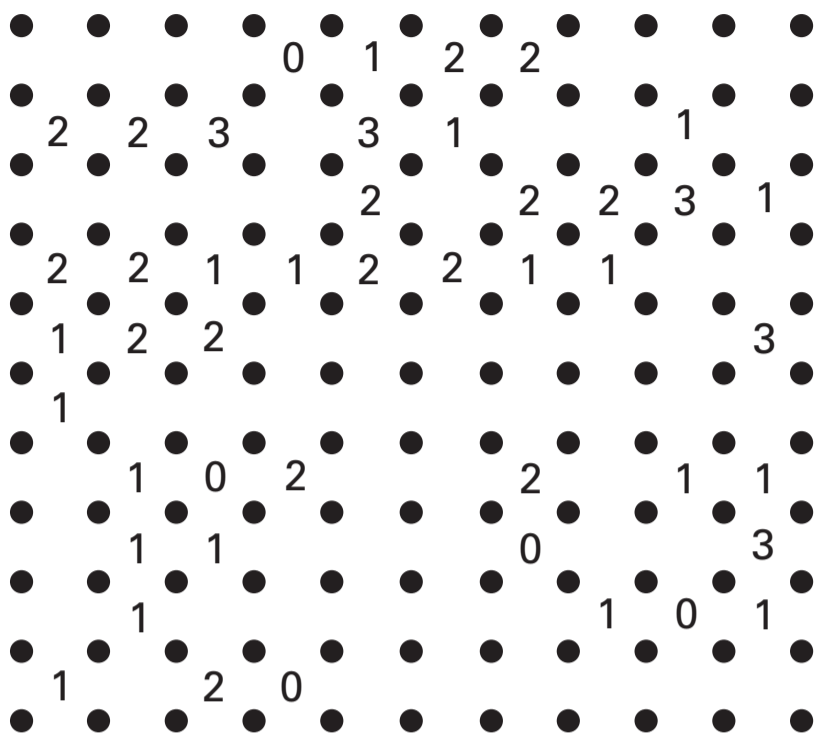


Capricorn

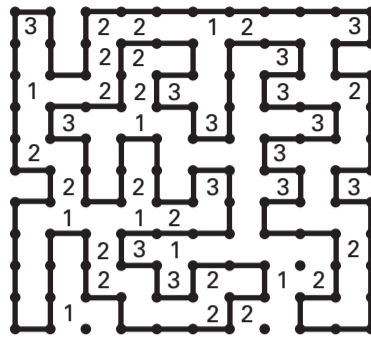
This week a light bulb pings on your head like one of those Eureka moments a miner has when he's stuck

in a mine and can't find his way out because there's rocks and shit-guzzling-batfiends-from-the-plains-of-D'Ang Orr hindering his path. You suffer from Alzheimer's though and it doesn't really register. Vegetable.

Slitherlink 1,401



1,400 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,400 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

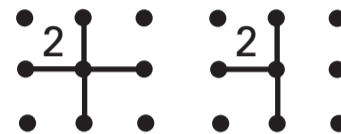
lines between the dots to create one long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

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.

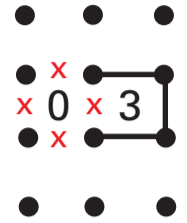
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



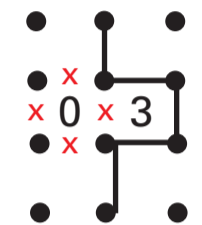
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

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 1,401

	G	V	E		
			A		G E
	M	L			S
G	L	T		S	A
V					T
	O	S		A	E V
	S			M	V
O	T		S		
		A	O	T	

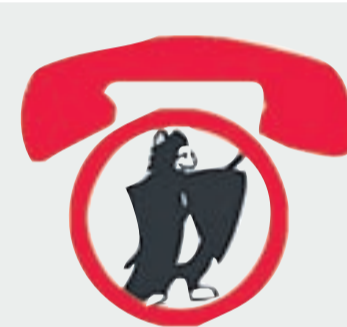


1,400 Solution

N	D	I	P	M	G	U	L	S
P	U	G	I	S	L	N	M	D
M	L	D	U	N	D	G	I	P
G	N	M	S	P	U	L	D	I
I	P	D	G	L	M	S	N	U
U	S	L	D	I	N	P	G	M
S	G	N	M	U	I	D	P	L
D	M	U	L	G	P	I	S	N
L	I	P	N	D	S	M	U	G

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 1,400 was **Scott Heath**. Radical! The hidden phrase was: **DUMPLINGS**. Somewhere... Made a slight mistake. Oops.



07980 148 785

TEXT US! OR WE WON'T FEED THE CAT!

This week's texts:

"Tory! Tory! Brown! Brown! Brown! Tory! Brown! Tory! T-t-t-t-t-tory!"

"Sally, we miss you very much :-("

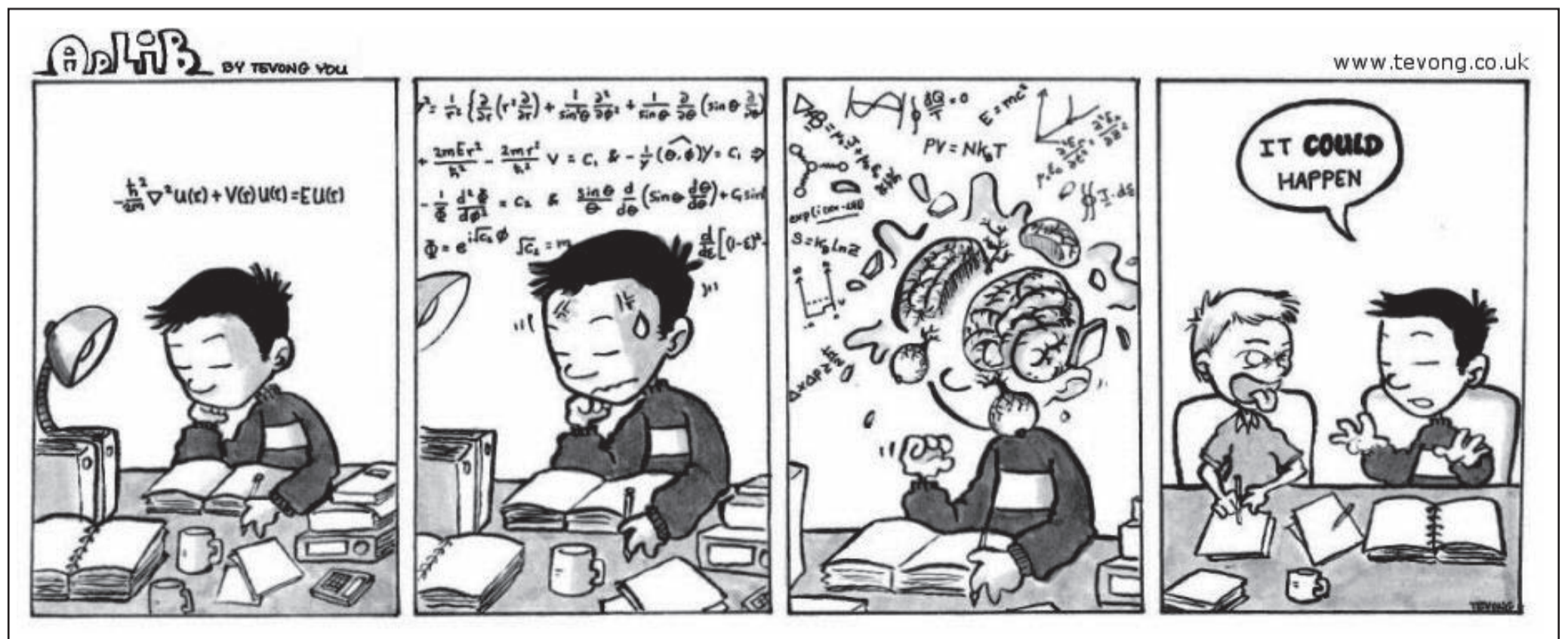
"I left da CatFone at home! D'oh!"

"Got on de bus with me day-saver, sat in da corner smoked da reefa, did a grand theft auto in me Clio twin-turbo. Brap. You know it is, Kersal Massive running with dem mad dog Fat Joe, yeah tell 'em Joe. You fuckers ain't got shit on us. Brap."

"I trapped part of my clunge in my zipper... I thought only boys could do that? ;_:"

"EXAMS. AM CRY."

Adlib by Tevong You



Food at the Union

Breakfast

Breakfast from 08:30!
Sandwiches & Baguettes in dB's

Great breakfast baguettes and sandwiches served from 08:30 and cooked to order from dB's.

Try one of our great breakfast baguette deals. Breakfast to-go!

Breakfast Baguette Deal

£3.00

2 Bacon Rashers, 2 Sausages & Fried Egg!
Plus choice of tea, coffee, orange juice or apple juice.
Vegetarian option - £2.40

Luncheon

GREAT FRESH FOOD COOKED DAILY
in daVinci's from 12-2pm

Daily specials freshly cooked. Choose from a range of vegetarian and meat options all for a great price!

beat the

Q

great food to-go from dB's from 12-2pm

- Pastas
- Paninis
- Baguettes
- Jacket potatoes
- Ciabattas
- Sandwiches
- Breakfast Baguettes

Evening

Gastro menu - value price.

Freshly prepared to order

Order at the bar and we'll bring the food to your table

Treat yourself to one of our yummy puddings

Served weekday evenings in all of our bars.

Check website or pop-in to see our full menu.

Imperial Judo bring back medals from Sheffield

Wilhelm Kleiminger

This weekend the Imperial College Judo Club and the University of London Judo Club (ULU) went up north to Sheffield to take part in the annual BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) Championships. BUSA is the highlight of the judo calendar and the club has been building up towards it for the last couple of months. For the first time ever, due to the split from the University of London, Imperial entered their own team for the team competitions.

After a 4 hour coach journey and the weigh-in on Friday evening, everyone went to a Chinese buffet in order to stack up some energy for the fights. With full stomachs, we quickly found our hotel and went to bed because the fights in the lower weight categories were due to start early the next morning.

After a small breakfast on Saturday morning, our lightweights took the

tram over to the venue. We had to be early because the fights in the individual pools began in weight order with the U-60 Dan and Kyu grades going first.

In the highly competitive U-66 male Dan category, Ed (1st Dan) got second in his pool and went to the knockout stage. Next on the mat were Hugh (1st Kyu) and Rahul (1st Dan) in the U-73 male Dan category. With nine pools of three, the entry for this category was the highest at the tournament. Needless to say, competition was fierce. Unfortunately, Hugh was unlucky to get a very strong pool with a 1st Dan and a 2nd Dan player and could not make it to the knockouts. Rahul won both his fights against players from Manchester and Bedfordshire with Ippon, which brought him to the top of his pool and to the knockouts. With his hand injured from Sheffield USIST, Eugene (U-100) was unable to get past the pool stage. Claudia, our only female entry (U-57 Dan), missed the second place



The Judo team with their medals



Judo chop time (sorry, I know it's a bad joke!)

needed to proceed to the knockouts in a close match with a Yuko score.

For the Kyu grades Imperial had two entries. Wilhelm (U-66) scored three Ippons which took him to the knockouts. Ben (U-81) won two fights with Ippon against higher grades from Warwick and Brunel and also went to the knockout stage.

In the afternoon, the knockouts started. Because of the huge number of contestants in this category, the U-73 male Dan grades were to fight first. Rahul was able to continue his formidable display by a clear 1.31 minute Ippon win over a 3rd Dan from Bath. The next fight was a close match with both players being very strong. After going the full distance of 5 minutes, Rahul lost due to a Yuko score. However, since his opponent from Hertfordshire went on to fight in the final, Rahul got another chance to fight in the 'repechage'. After another win over a player from Edinburgh, Imperial was close to its first medal.

Nevertheless, the fight for Bronze was going to be tough. Rahul was leading with a waza-ari, but the opponent kept pushing him off the mat and Rahul had to make sure he would not lose the fight on penalties. In the end, Ra-

hul's experience and stamina got us the Bronze medal. Sadly, having lost his first fight in the knockouts to a strong Bath player, Ed did not get a chance to fight in the repechage.

For the Kyu grades, Wilhelm, after having escaped a hold-down five seconds before the clock, lost due to a second waza-ari by his opponent. However, since the player from Southampton went on to fight for Gold, he got another chance to fight for Bronze. After a quick Ippon over the judoka from Bath, Imperial had its second Bronze medal. Then Ben was on against Alex from ULU. Unfortunately, only one of us could fight in the semi-finals. Alex won the fight by Ippon and went on to win the Bronze medal for ULU.

After a long day of fighting we all went to Nandos for dinner. We were joined by Liang who had graduated from Imperial last year.

So for the first time ever, Imperial would enter its own team. Unsurprisingly, we only had a male team. The male teams consisted of 5 players fighting in weight order. For Imperial Eugene (-100), Ben (-81), Hugh (-73), Rahul (-73) and Edouard (-66) fought in the team competitions.

The Imperial team came second in a

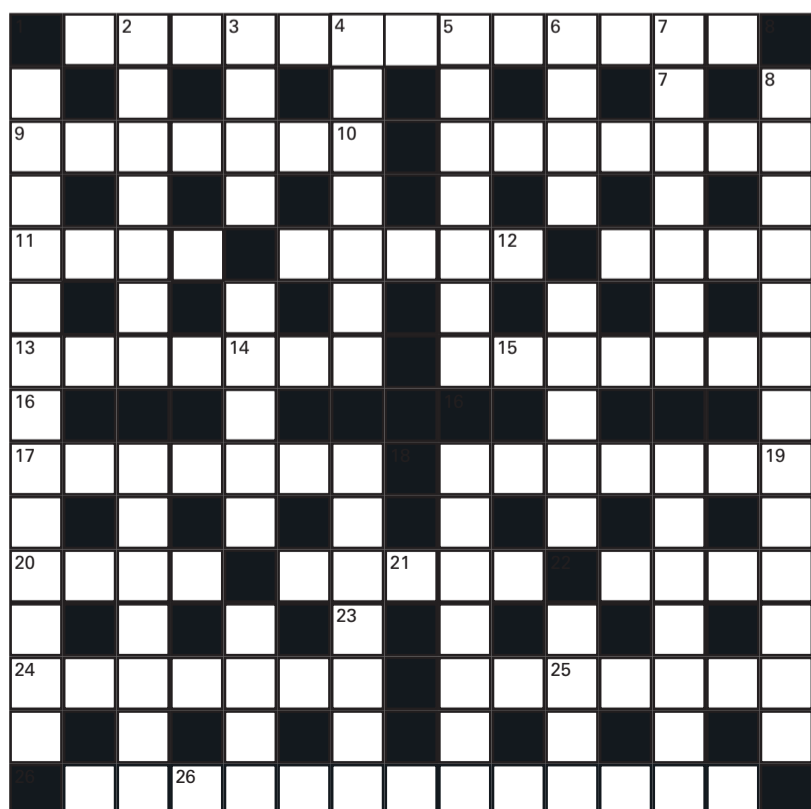
strong pool with Oxford and Newcastle. This meant that we were to fight Cambridge next. With Eugene, Rahul and Ed winning their fights, we went on to fight Bath in the semi-finals. Despite good fights, Imperial was outweighed and outclassed by Bath. However, since Bath went on to win the finals, Imperial got the chance to fight for Bronze against Warwick.

The first one to fight was Eugene. Albeit increasingly serious pain from his wrist, he fought extremely well and laid the foundations for the bronze medal with 10 points. Ben and Hugh fought well too but had to give in to stronger opponents. Rahul continued to show his skill and while in the lead, caught his opponent shortly before the clock with an excellent foot sweep. We were back in the game. If Ed won, we were going to get Bronze. Fighting a heavier and stronger opponent this was no easy task. Again, Ed showed some amazing Judo against an increasingly passive Warwick player. After having violated various rules the Warwick player was disqualified for 4 shidos in a row and Imperial had won.

ICJC thanks everyone involved and especially Alex from ULU for booking the hotel.

Crossword No. 1,401

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

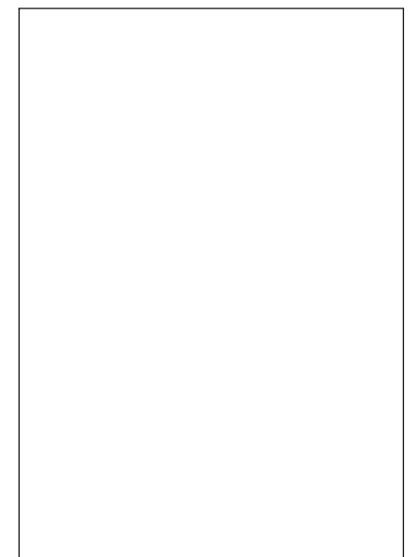


ACROSS

- 1 Evolutionists hardliners caw incoherently (7,6)
- 10 Hunters cry over misjudged hay toll (5,2)
- 11 Sangfroid is almost godless, and thus rejected to such an extent (7)
- 12 Wise men saw magician in half (4)
- 13 100, 1. 5. 1. 50
- 14 Flabby zeppelin without a cabin (4)
- 17 Can teenagers surround a cafeteria? (7)
- 18 Bendiness revealed by the last icicle (7)
- 19 Street kids store psychic energy in pots (7)
- 22 Most of the Equatorial climate is quite relevant (7)
- 24 Noose shown again and again (4)
- 25 Call a change to never-ending compensation (5)
- 26 Going without food ahead of time (4)
- 29 Impertinent soul eats supper somehow, followed by cake (7)
- 30 Tooth measures almost an inch, and is orange inside (7)
- 31 Confused contenders dismiss trash while in a trance in a higher state (13)

DOWN

- 2 Hen pecks around a log, producing fluorine (7)
- 3 Charles and Bradbury shed light (4)
- 4 Sympathy towards Eastern movement (7)
- 5 Come to a conclusion about one killing a God (7)
- 6 Harlots lose a great deal, developing inflamed skin (4)
- 7 Cause suffering as I inflect 'e' as 'i' (7)
- 8 Minuscule coat tailor-made for the basic unit of matter (6,7)
- 9 Motor-car split in pieces by cyclone (8,5)
- 15 Demon lived on his head (5)
- 16 The French mole got you in the tape (5)
- 20 Transvestite loses dress, becoming more angry (7)
- 21 Half a parasite of Mediterranean origin (7)
- 22 Ode to tennis ruined by stress (7)
- 23 The standard of Grade 99 (7)
- 27 Sell chess piece (4)
- 28 The English Sacre-Coeur and its plot of land (4)



The winner of last term's gigantic crossword was team **The Crystallites in Chemistry**. Congratulations! Unfortunately the answers won't actually fit in this space without my head exploding. If you're really eager to see it, email us!



Jovan Nedić
Sports Editor

Exam time is upon us and I wish you all the best of luck in your forthcoming exams. Since it is also the summer period, the sports pages are going to be a bit bare this term, so don't be expecting too many pages from me. Hopefully the summer sports clubs, will provide us with enough to actually have a sports page, so look forward to hearing from the cricket club, athletics and maybe even croquet!!!

One of these weeks, once it seems like everyone has finished their season, I'll do a round up of all the clubs and pick out some awards such as Men's Team of the Year, Women's Team of the Year, Team of the Year, Club of the Year, Individual of the Year and any others I can think of!

Finally, since I'll be the editor next year, a new Sports Editor will be required. If at all possible I'd like to get a medic student and an IC student involved so that we can get the best that both camps have to offer. So if you're interested email me at sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Judo Club nail their opponents to the ground, see page 27

IC Squash Club win BUSA Shield

Squash BUSA Shield

Imperial Men's 1st	5
Birmingham Men's 1st	0

Federico Torres

We woke up very early for a Saturday morning to take the 7 am train to Sheffield. Everything worked out as planned and we all met at Saint Pancras Station to catch the train. We arrived at the Club at Sheffield at 10 am and had 30 minutes to warm up and get ready for the important matches.

First on court was our number 5 string Mike Gamblin who was replacing our team captain Mitchell Hensman; who unfortunately had an important commitment and couldn't join us for the finals.

Mike had a good start on the match and maintained an early advantage in the first two games to win 9/4, 9/2. In the third his rival started to play better squash and took the advantage 7-4, but Mike recuperated and won the game 9-7 to give us the first valuable point.

In the other court, Harry Beeston had already started his match and even though they had some long rallies, the Imperial student was always in control of the T and won the first two games 9-3, 9-2. The third game was a little different and the student from the University of Birmingham had an early lead, though Harry took the final game

9-7.

Then Ross and I (Federico Torres) went to the courts, I had a slow start as usual in each game, but after the first 2 points I dominated the match and was able to put a good performance to win 3-0; 9-3, 9-2, 9-7.

Meanwhile, Ross Lillis at Number 4 was having a difficult time. He won the first game 9-6 but lost the second 9-4, though he had a comfortable win in the third 9-1. Nevertheless, after that the Birmingham student pulled off an impressive performance to win the fourth game 9-0.

The fifth was a very long game and both players were tired, yet the Imperial student had more energy left in the tank and was able to finish the game 9-5 to win the match.

Last on court was our number 2 player James Simpson; he played quite well and the Birmingham team didn't have too much left after four losses. After some good long rallies James won the match 9-4, 9-2, 9-7.

With this win we are one match away from finishing a perfect season, as we are unbeaten in all our BUSA and ULU matches, we won the BUSA Shield championship, the BUSA league, the ULU league and next term we will play the final of the ULU Cup knockout against Kings College.

We as a team will like to thank our captain, Mitch Hensman, for all his efforts in organising our training, matches and competitions and we would also like to thank all the people from Sports Imperial for their support.



Imperial men's squash team with the BUSA shield