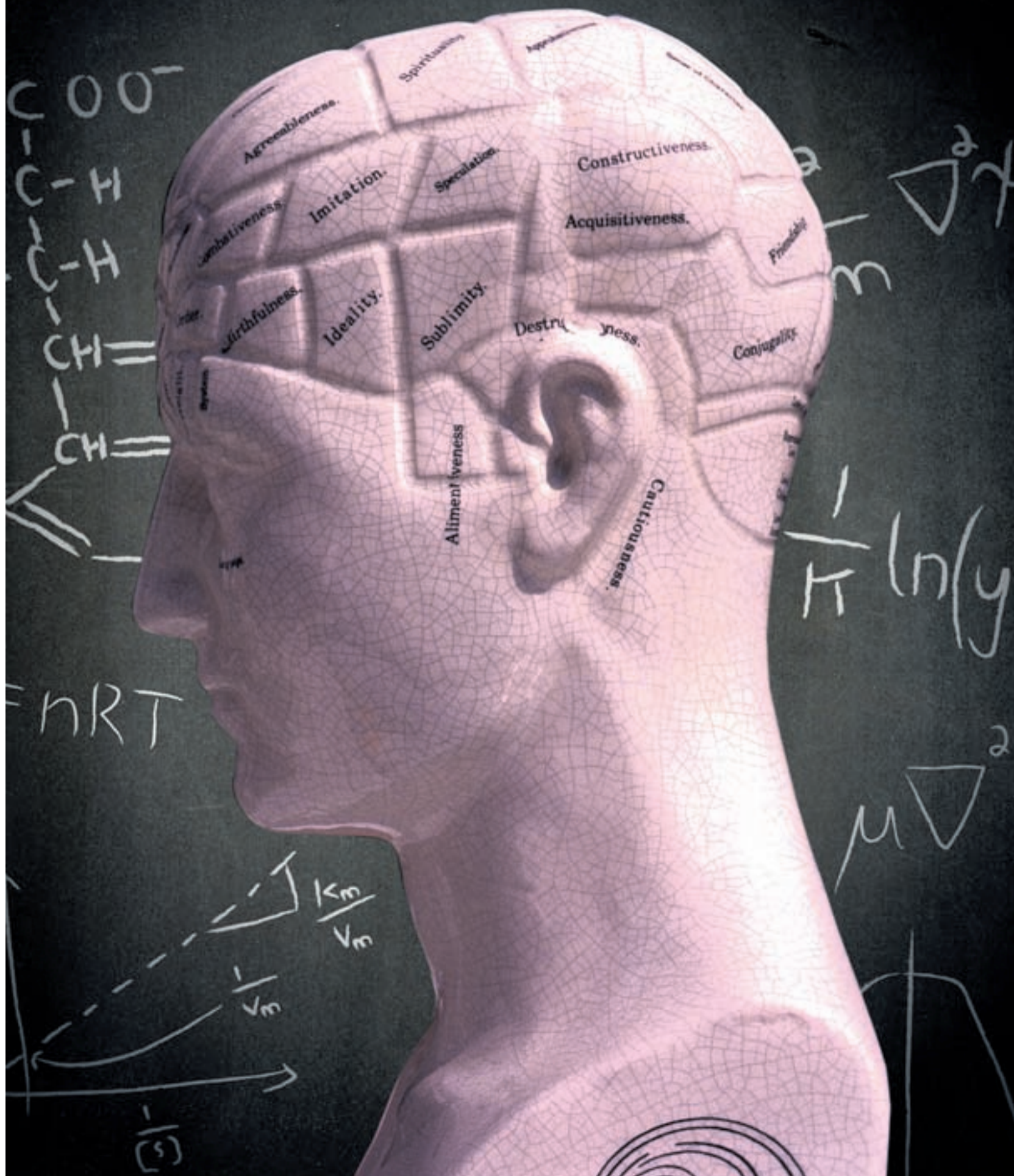




Mental statistics

Felix investigates Imperial's sanity and College's Counselling Service. See pages 3 to 5



Inside

Festivals, and more festivals



Pages 16 & 17 and 24 & 25

Live(!) NUS affiliation debate



Page 2

St. Laurent



Page 19

Travels without my Aunt: Amsterdam



Page 27



News

News Editor – Andrew Somerville

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

NUS affiliation Question Time debate: 12/06, 5:30pm

NUS President, Wes Streeting, to face off against ICU President



The debate is on: Thursday 12th June in the Upper Dining Hall on the first floor of the Union. Wes Streeting, left, and Steve Brown will be on the panel. Pitch your questions to either team: email editor@cgcu.net

Tom Roberts
Editor-in-Chief

The NUS (National Union of Students) affiliation debate will move up a gear next week, when the student media holds a 'Question Time' style debate with key figures from both campaign teams.

NUS President, Wes Streeting, will be in attendance trying to convince students why ICU should remain affiliated with the institution. Imperial College Union (ICU) President, Steve Brown, has confirmed that he will also be on the panel campaigning for disaffiliation from the NUS. They will be joined by two more panellists, one each from either side of the campaigning spectrum. Felix Politics Editor and Student Trustee, Kadhim Shubber, will attempt his best David Dimbleby impression by taking on the duty of chairing the debate.

The debate is scheduled to take place in the Upper Dining Hall (UDH) on

the first floor of the Union at 5:30pm on Thursday 12th June. Those attending are advised to arrive 15 minutes beforehand.

Imperial's student news website Live! (live.cgcu.net) will be teaming up with student television society stoic to make the discussion available to as many people as possible – the event will be broadcast online on Live! from 5:30pm onwards. The feed will also be available to download afterwards, so that students can weigh up the panellists' opinions to help inform how they should vote in answer to the referendum's question: "Should Imperial College Union remain affiliated with the NUS?"

The debate is open to all students to attend, but to ensure you get a seat email editor@cgcu.net to reserve a place. You can also give the panel a grilling yourself by emailing questions to the same address. If your question is selected, you can voice it in person on the night or have the Chair ask it

for you. You can direct them at either side, or ask a general question of both teams.

A few days after the debate, students can expect to be harassed and bribed around campus when campaigners from both teams will be urging you to vote in their favour.

Felix will be bringing you a plethora of comment pieces in next week's issue, plus make sure to keep an eye on live.cgcu.net/nus for regular updates from NUS advocates and sceptics alike.

Voting officially opens from 17th to 23rd June. If you would like to get involved in either team's campaign, contact the referendum's Returning Officer, Alistair Cott, on dpcs@imperial.ac.uk.

If you would like to have your opinion on the NUS heard, contact either Felix or Live! on comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk or editor@cgcu.net respectively.

OxbridgeEssays.com group advertising on campus



On Monday, Felix was handed a bunch of fliers from the Oxbridge Editing company, offering to improve our writing skills. The company is part of The Oxbridge Research Group which also runs controversial website OxbridgeEssays.com. The controversy arises because students can pay to have their coursework edited by 'professionals'. It's even possible for students to buy entire essays if they can afford to. What students do with the essays is up to them, but it's widely felt the companies are damaging the prospects of honest students who work hard to write their own essays

felix 1,406
Friday 6/6/08



Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065. Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, 17 Brest Road, Derriford, Plymouth. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711. Copyright © Felix 2008.

Felix was brought to you by:

Editor-in-Chief
Tom Roberts

Deputy & News Editor
Andrew Somerville

Deputy & Politics Editor
Kadhim Shubber

International Editor & Busybody-in-Chief
Gilead Amit

Copy Editors
Louise Etheridge
Tom Culley
Anthony Maina
Gilead Amit
Jesse Garman

Science Editor
Ed Henley

Business Editor
Afonso Campos

Politics Editors
Li-Teck Lau

Arts Editors
Rosie Grayburn
Caz Knight
David Paw
Emily Wilson

Nightlife Editor
Greg Mead

Film Editor
Zuzanna Blaszczyk

Games Editors
Azfarul Islam
Sebastian Nordgren

Music Editors
Peter Sinclair
Susan Yu

Technology Editor
James Finnerty

Travel Editors
Ahranyan Arnold
Nadine Richards
Ammar Waraich

Fashion Editors
Sarah Skeete
Daniel Wan

Sports Editor
Jovan Nedić

Photography
Sally Longstaff
Vitali Lazurenko

LOLIOTS



OF THE WEEK

Mental health at IC: Who cares?

Imperial's Student Counselling Service found wanting when compared with national student figures

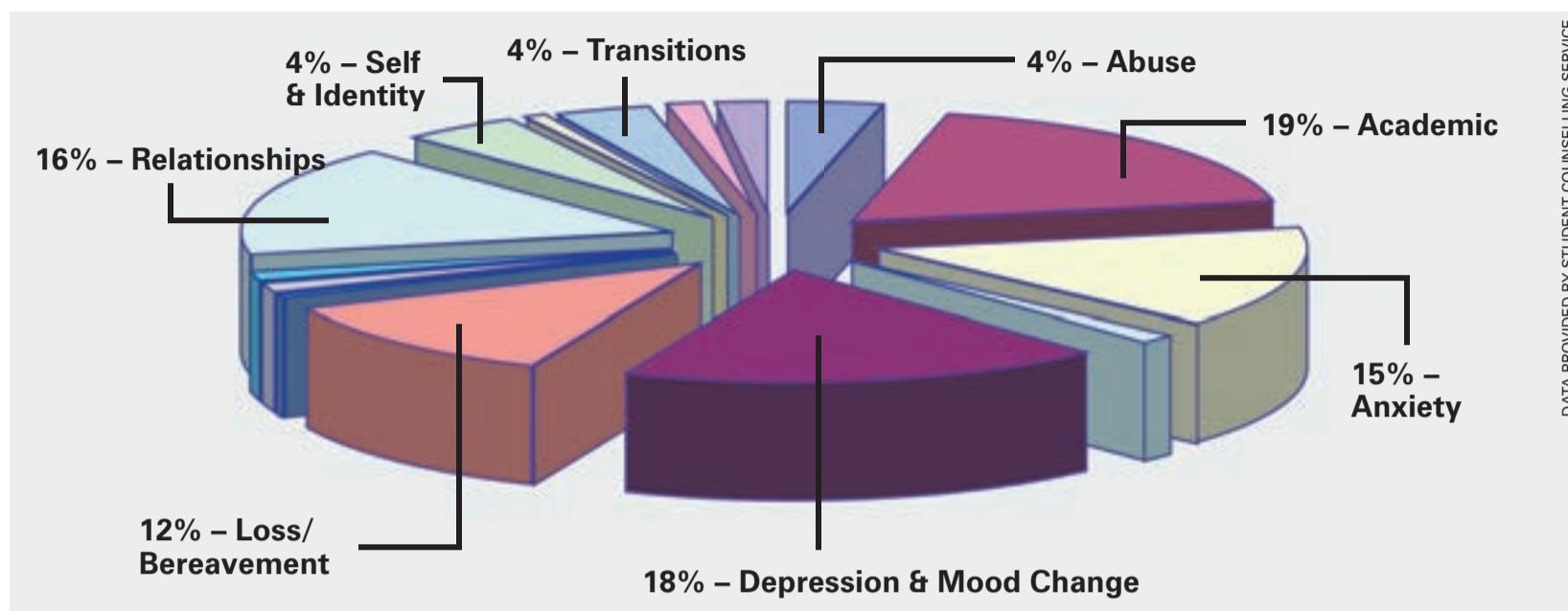
Tom Roberts
& Andrew Somerville

Felix has uncovered data suggesting that mental health receives less attention and fewer resources at Imperial than nationally. Also discovered was that Imperial students suffer proportionally far more from academic stress than comparable institutions (ie: 'Old Universities' comprising of the Russell Group and a few others).

This week, Felix obtained the latest student mental health statistics from the Imperial College Student Counselling Service (SCS), coinciding with a special feature examining student depression. The Counselling Service's annual report documents data from the previous academic year (2006-07) and indicates a continuing increase in the general upward trend in referrals to the service over the last nine years, but exhibits a massive disparity with national data obtained by Felix.

Felix also spoke to students with experience of the Counselling Service, mainly being referred as individuals suffering from depression. Their opinions of mental health at Imperial have been mixed, with some highly critical comments of the Counselling Service.

The last year showed a 10.5% increase in the number of students contacting the SCS compared to the previous year. This figure is almost double the increase in the number of students at Imperial year-on-year, suggesting that a rising proportion of IC students are requiring some form of Counselling for mental health issues. This increase is either due to increasing awareness of the College's counselling services or that more students are encountering difficulties during their studies. Not only are more students in need of the service, they are requiring more sessions to combat their issues with an increase of 16% in the number of one-to-one Counselling sessions between 2006 and 2007.



The percentage breakdown of issues presented to Imperial College's Student Counselling Service (SCS) during the 2006-07 academic year. Depression dominates counselling services nationally, however, IC has 29% more cases of academic stress compared to other UK institutions

Undergraduates are statistically underrepresented in the statistics, with only 55% of SCS users being undergrads, whilst they make up 64% of the College as a whole. In comparison PhD students make most use of the service: 25% of the total, whilst only 19% of campus.

Overall, 2.1% of students at Imperial required counselling in 2006-07.

Felix compared this data to national figures compiled by the Association for University and College Counselling (AUCC). Most of the institutions that supplied their counselling service's data to the AUCC had similar populations to Imperial, with IC's 12,129 students being extremely close to the average of 12,500. However, Imperial's SCS statistics are strikingly lower than the national averages. A massive 44% fewer students use the SCS than the national

average of 436 cases every year. Imperial's service records 55% fewer individual sessions, and the SCS' 2.6 Full-time Equivalent staff is more than an entire staff member less than the national average of 3.7 full-time counsellors.

There are two striking differences between the national and Imperial statistics.

Firstly, when the reasons for counselling are compared between Imperial and 'Old Universities,' the most common issues at IC are depression and academic stress. Elsewhere depression remains dominant whilst academic stress is in fourth place (out of sixteen), averaging 29% fewer cases than Imperial. One PhD student told Felix that "this is obviously a bad thing, but it doesn't surprise me as students are under a great deal of stress here."

Secondly, when the total percent-

age of students requiring counselling is compared: an average of 3.5% need counselling across the UK, whilst only 2.1% of IC students receive counselling according to the latest report. The reason for this disparity is unclear, but appears to boil down to three possible explanations: Imperial students are less prone to mental health issues; Imperial students are not getting the help they need; or Imperial students are seeking help outside of the university.

Felix interviewed three depression sufferers whose opinions of Imperial's SCS varied. "Due to their limited resources, I was told that students couldn't really use [the SCS] as a long term therapy," said Anna. "There was not the time to build up the therapeutic relationship that I needed to really open up and progress... but I am thankful that they saw me for as long as they

could." The comments were echoed by SCS' Senior Counsellor, David Allman, who admitted that their resources were limited and that they would like to increase them, "but ultimately it depends on College's decision."

Kate, a less impressed user of the SCS, told Felix: "College's counselling service isn't very helpful to those who actually need their help. I guess it looks good on paper to have such a service though." She went on to compare Imperial to other institutions around the country: "A friend at another uni received regular support from the counselling service for the duration of their studies. I wish Imperial could have done the same for me when I asked them to."

Turn over for Felix's special feature examining depression

Miners offend the Cornish

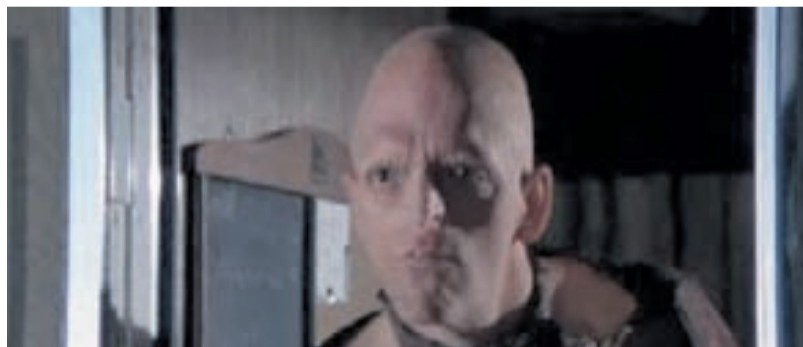
Jovan Nedić
Incoming Editor-in-Chief

The Royal School of Mines (RSM) have managed to cause controversy, and bring the national media's spotlight onto Imperial College Union (ICU), over a comment made on their hockey club's website. The offending comment directed at the Camborne School of Mines (CSM) read:

"The Royal School of Mines Hockey Club follows in a long line of RSM sporting prowess but most of all its about fun, drinking and beating the pulp out of little Cornish inbreds who like to call themselves miners."

A Cornish Councillor, namely Graeme Hicks, found this remark highly offensive and discriminatory to Cornish people and demanded that the statement be removed with a formal apology to be issued by ICU. Subsequently, Union President, Stephen Brown, had the statement changed. The word "Cornish" was replaced with "The Camborne School of Mines" as he felt this would "allow students of the RSM to continue to insult their rivals at CSM."

This was still not enough for the councillor. "I was horrified to see this,"



Kids, Cornish people do not look like Jupiter from The Hills Have Eyes

Cllr Hicks told Western Morning News. "You expect idiots to say these things but this was on a student union website linked to Imperial College London - I think it's absolutely disgraceful. If you said that about a black person you would be in court."

The BBC news website picked up on the story too, and since then, the entire sentence has been removed from the Union's website. Formal apologies have also been sent to Cllr Hicks from both Stephen Brown and Pro Rector, Prof Buckingham.

Many students have dismissed the

entire affair as friendly rivalry between two institutions, with David Laverty, CSM President, in agreement. "It's just banter, it's the same year in, year out. It rolls off your back. I'm not an inbred and the Cornish are not inbreds."

Some Imperial students have taken great offence to Cllr Hicks attitude, who believe he has publicly offended a large cohort of IC students by tarring them all with the same brush.

Rumours that Stephen Brown is quaking in his boots after some Western Morning News readers called for him to be sacked, are a little hazy.

Imperial getting set for university entrance exams

Kadhim Shubber
Deputy & Politics Editor

Imperial College Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, has criticised state schools for failing their students and voiced concerns that it is extremely difficult to differentiate university applicants using their A-Level grades. He also laid out plans for an entrance exam for applicants to Imperial.

An entrance exam for subjects other than medicine, which already employs the BMAT (BioMedical Admissions Test), will begin in 2010 and could set the model for entrance exams around the country. The Rector said at the Independent Schools Council's annual conference that nearly all applicants to Imperial had 4 or 5 A-Levels and "Even if you interview all the students you still have a problem [selecting the best]." He went on to defend A-Levels but emphasised that due to "grade inflation" it was impossible to use A-Levels as the main discriminatory factor.

The entrance exam will not replace A-Levels but serve as an added discriminatory factor when making offers

to applicants. While new entrance exams will be developed for most undergraduate courses, Biomedical science students will take the already established BMAT

He also made wider comments on the state of education in the UK, saying it was "frightening" that 40% of Imperial undergraduates came from the 7% of the student population that attended private institutions. He claimed that something radical was needed to save the 93% who are state schooled and were "not getting the education that they deserve." The rector further slated state schools by stating: "We have in this country some of the best secondary education in the world but only a few percentage of people benefiting from it," and suggesting that bright children should be "saved" by removing them from state schools and giving them a private school education with government funding.

However one might take the Rector's apparent sudden concern for the education of state school pupils with a pinch of salt, given his previous calls to raise the cap on tuition fees.

Dying on the inside or living hell

Depression is the most common mental health issue that students in UK universities suffer from, but it's often disregarded as a medical excuse. **Sally Longstaff** examines causes, symptoms and available treatments

What life-threatening disease do an estimated 121 million people worldwide

currently suffer from? At least one in five adults will suffer from it in their lifetime, and each year over two million cases are diagnosed in the UK. Women are diagnosed as suffering from it twice as often as men. What is this disease, often hidden away behind layers of shame and casual attitudes towards mental health? Depression.

Clinical Depression is a severe psychiatric illness that a person has for anything from a few weeks to a few years. It can arise for no reason at all, or it can be triggered by a very specific event. Sometimes it can even be life-threatening.

Symptoms vary from person to person, and can be physical as well as psychological. The length of suffering varies: it can occur once in a lifetime or there can be multiple recurrences; it can appear either gradually or suddenly; and can either last for a few months or be a life-long disorder.

Over the course of these two pages, we will examine what depression actually is, look at its various manifestations, how it can be treated, and how someone can get help if they think they are a sufferer of this prevalent illness.

What are the main causes of depression?

There is no one cause of depression and it varies from person to person. Sometimes there are obvious causes for depression, such as bereavement, loss of a job or physical illness, but often there are not. Depression does not affect everyone who has these life events. Some people may be more at risk of depression than others, but given the right circumstances, almost anyone may become depressed. Often there is more than one cause. The following factors can cause depression:

Chemical Deficiencies

Symptoms of depression may be caused by low levels of certain chemicals in the brain. Between the end of one nerve cell and the next there is a small space called a synapse. The nerve cells communicate by releasing neurotransmitters into the synapse, which then attach to the other nerve cell and so pass on the message. Three important neurotransmitters: dopamine, serotonin and noradrenaline are in short supply in depression sufferers. The low levels lead to faulty brain communication.

However it is not known whether this is a cause or an effect of depression. Antidepressant drugs work by increasing the levels of these neurotransmitters.

Hormones

These may be important in causing depression. Stress hormones may be linked to depression as the condition is closely linked to stressful experiences.

When a sufferer undergoes a stressful event, a complex series of hormones are

released which work together with adrenaline to cause a feeling of fright and anxiousness.

In most people, the hormone levels return to normal once the stressful situation has passed but in depression the system is hyperactive. Cortisol (one of the hormones released) levels don't follow the normal pattern. Usually, cortisol is released in large quantities

in the morning and diminishing amounts throughout the day. In depressed people its release is the same all day long.

Again, it's not known whether this is a cause or an effect of depression.

Genetics

There are many genes involved in depression and no one knows how exactly they work. There is no evidence of straightforward inheritance for most forms of depression. So, for example, you will not definitely develop depression because a family member has it, but your risk will be increased.

Personality

No single personality type predisposes people to depression. However, those who are obsessive, dogmatic and rigid, and who hide their feelings or get easily anxious may be more at risk.

Family Environment

Losing a parent in childhood, type of parenting, physical or sexual abuse in childhood may all predispose someone to depression.

Stress and Life Events

Stress can lead to depression whether it comes in the form of sudden, overwhelming event or as long-term stress.

Depression is six times more common in the six months after a markedly stressful life event.

The top ten stressful life events are: death of a spouse, divorce, marital separation, a prison term, death of a close friend, injury or illness, marriage, losing a job, marital reconciliation and retirement.

Physical symptoms of depression

Suicidal Impulses

In the depths of depression, the past looks full of mistakes, the present is awful and the future is dreaded. This leads some to conclude that life isn't worth living. Many people with depression think about suicide, but most do not go through with it because of beliefs or the effect it would have on their families.

Self Harm

Self harm is deliberate injury inflicted by a person upon their own body. Self harmers are commonly thought to be suicidal, but more often than not, this is not the case. Motives for self injury are often personal and seem incomprehensible to others. Those who harm themselves often say that it allows them to disassociate with their feelings; the pain acts as a release. Alternatively, self-harm can be a release from feeling numb.

Sleep Problems

These are common in depression and are sometimes to blame for tiredness that depressed people feel. Sufferers may wake earlier and not be able to sleep, or not able to drop off at night, due to anxiousness. Sometimes it's a vicious circle: worrying about not sleeping may lead to even less sleep.

Mental and Physical Slowing

Sufferers may feel tired all the time, it's hard to perform everyday tasks, everything in an effort and it can seem that things are slowed down. Speech may be slow and monotonous.

Loss of Appetite

Food doesn't seem appetising. For some hunger may even disappear.

Psychological symptoms of depression

Low Mood

Not everyone who has depression feels low. Some are anxious or emotionally numb, and some experience a change in behaviour. Low mood is more than just feeling disappointed or fed up. It's a persistent feeling of sadness, emptiness, loss and dread. With severe depression, low mood can sometimes be worse in the morning and get a bit better during the day. It can make it impossible to enjoy anything and nothing brings pleasure. With mild depression, low mood can be worse in the evenings and there may be good days. Other people's company may bring pleasure although the sufferer may feel low again when alone. Low mood often induces crying, sometimes at the slightest upset, or for no reason at all.

Delusions

During severe depression, thinking can become so distorted that the sufferer loses touch with reality. A delusion is a false belief which is unshakable; for instance, that one has divine powers, is a ghost, or can see into the future.

Hallucinations

These involve perceiving things that aren't real, usually sounds, such as voices, but can include seeing or smelling things that aren't there.

Depressive Thinking

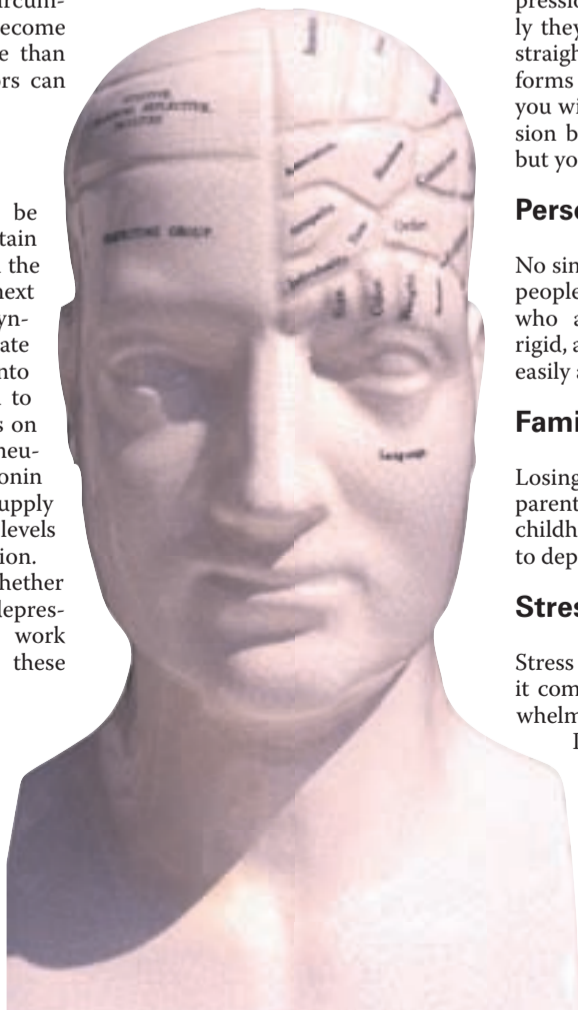
Depressive thinking has three elements: negative thinking e.g. "I am a failure"; high, unreasonable expectations e.g. "I cannot be happy unless everyone likes me"; and mistakes in thinking, such as jumping to negative conclusions, focussing on negatives, coming to conclusions on the bases of a single incident and blaming yourself for things that are not your fault. These negative thinking patterns undermine the sufferer, leading to worry, low confidence and feelings of worthlessness.

Anxiety

The hormone, adrenaline, is released when we feel threatened, which directs blood directed to muscles and the brain so that we can fight or flee. This makes us feel on edge and tense, but the feeling usually passes quickly if nothing happens. For a depressed person, these feelings can last for months, and dreading the day ahead can lead to waking up anxious.

Concentration and Memory Problems

Depression can be all-consuming, and for some it can be difficult to think about things outside their illness. It can be difficult to concentrate and so things can be easily forgotten.



Famous faces who've suffered from depression



Buzz Aldrin, astronaut



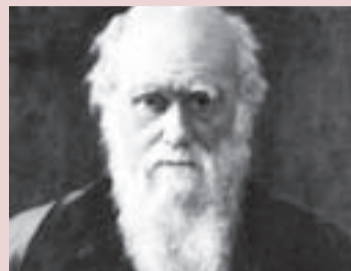
Jim Carrey, 'actor/comedian'



Queen Victoria, monarch



Stephen Fry, legend



Charles Darwin, naturalist



Winston Churchill, politician



Mozart, composer



Ewan McGregor, actor



Harrison Ford, actor

How is depression classified?

Depression is not simply a state of feeling sad all the time. This is a very common misconception of the illness, and in reality, a sufferer's level of depression is very hard to define. The extent of depression falls into one of three broad categories:

Reactive Depression

This describes a depression that is caused by a stressful event and doesn't usually last long. Counselling, family support and practical steps may be all that is required.

Endogenous Depression

This is depression that comes on for no reason. It's usually intense and physical symptoms are more likely. It cannot be treated without medical help.

Bipolar Disorder

Also known as manic depression. There are sustained high moods and sustained low moods which can range from mild to severe depression. During highs sufferers feel elated, need less sleep, have bags of energy, speak quickly and can have delusions and hallucinations.

These can be just as destructive as the lows, due to reckless behaviour or poor judgement.

Seasonal Affective Disorder

A specific type of depression that may result from decreasing levels of daylight as winter approaches and days shorten.

Mild Depression

The low mood may come and go and the illness starts after a specific stressful life event. Anxiety may be present too. Lifestyle changes may be enough to lift this kind of depression.

Moderate Depression

Low mood is persistent and physical symptoms are present too. Changes in lifestyle are unlikely to work and medical help is needed.

Severe Depression

This is a life-threatening illness in which symptoms are intense. Physical symptoms as well as delusions and hallucinations are present. Medical help is urgently required.

Different names are also given for types of depression depending on symptoms:

How is depression treated and what options are available to sufferers?

For mild depression, there are lots of self-help plans that can be found online. It's worth seeing your GP even if you want to use self-help because they can offer independent, objective advice.

Sometimes just taking a break when you feel down can help you feel much better. Talking things over with a friend can help you feel better too. The open acknowledgement of your problems is often the starting point for working out solutions.

Lifestyle changes, such as exercise, can boost well-being and make you fitter at the same time. Your GP can also advise you on relaxation techniques. Taking up a new hobby or activity can keep you occupied and it breaks the pattern of loneliness and sitting at home worrying about problems.

Beyond self-help, there are three main types of treatment available

for depression: psychological treatment, drug treatment and physical treatment.

Psychological therapies or conversational therapies are the most popular type of treatment for depression. Getting to the bottom of what causes depression and talking about feelings is the main idea. All psychological treatments take a lot of time and commitment and are not an easy option.

Brief therapies last up to six months and usually consist of 4 to 20 weekly sessions, of one hour each. They usually deal with problems in the present, such as a relationship breakdown or exam stress. Many brief therapies are available on the NHS and your GP may recommend one.

Longer term therapies usually consist of more than 50 sessions, and are often weekly or more than once weekly. These deal with the past and try to discover why you are the way that you

are. Sufferers may be able to attend long-term therapies on the NHS, but waiting lists are long and they are definitely not a quick fix.

Counselling lasts for a variable time, from one session onwards. It doesn't aim to change deep rooted problems or treat depression, but it may get rid of some of the problems that are causing the depression.

For some people drugs such as antidepressants can be a very effective treatment. They work by increasing the neurotransmitters in the brain's synapses and are best for moderate and severe depression. Anti-depressants are not addictive but they are powerful

drugs that aim to lift your mood, rather than to bring on a high.

They don't eliminate depression outright, instead they are intended to raise a sufferer's mood enough so that they are well enough to tackle their depression with other means, such as self-help or therapy. There are many different types of antidepressants, and some suit people better than others. If your GP recommends antidepressants then it's important for you to make an informed decision. Do some reading

and discuss it with your GP, especially if you have concerns.

There is a lot of controversy at the moment as a study by the University of Hull has suggested that antidepressants do not work, as they provide no more benefit than a placebo. However, this study did not test all antidepressants and many people claim that they have been helped by them.

The final treatment available, Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT), is a very controversial method, but also one of the most effective. 8 out of 10 people find that it works quickly when properly prescribed.

ECT is offered to people who have not responded to antidepressants, or are so severely depressed that they are endangering their lives. Studies have shown there to be no long term brain problems, and whilst it can allow patients to begin therapy, it does not solve the causes of depression.

When and how to get help, and where to search for it

If your low mood affects all parts of your life, lasts for two weeks or brings you to the point of thinking about suicide, you should seek help. Try to think of depression as an illness that can be treated. Ninety per cent of people with depression can be treated by their GP, who have years of experience of dealing with it. Friends are also a great source of comfort and help. If you cannot talk to your GP, try to talk to a trusted friend.

If you are thinking about suicide, you are at risk of doing it. Get help urgently: see a GP, go to Accident or Emergency Department, tell a friend or call a helpline, such as the Samaritans. Depression can be treated.

If you know someone suffering from depression, remember that it can be very hard for them to approach you when they are feeling bad. Try to encourage them to seek treatment from professionals. Don't blame them for being depressed, they are probably



already blaming themselves. Reassure them that lots can be done to help them. Show that you care by listening sympathetically and spending time with them. Encourage them to

talk about their feelings, but respect their choices. It can be hard work and frustrating, but also an opportunity to build a closer and more satisfying relationship.

Useful Websites

Students Against Depression
www.studentdepression.org
A great website offering loads of advice and information.

Mind
www.mind.org.uk
Website offering insights into treatments and your rights.

MoodGYM
www.moodgym.anu.edu.au
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy self help website.

Mental Health Foundation
www.mentalhealth.org.uk
Lots of information on depression and other mental health problems.

Depression Alliance
www.depressionalliance.org
UK charity with self-help groups across the country.

Useful Contacts

Imperial College Health Centre
Southside,
South Kensington Campus
020 7594 9375/6
healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk
www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

Student Counselling Service
Level 4, Sheffield Building,
020 7594 9637
counselling@imperial.ac.uk
www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling

London Nightline
02076310101
listening@nightline.org.uk
Skype: www.nightline.org.uk
www.nightline.org.uk

National Samaritans
08457 90 90 90
jo@samaritans.org
www.samaritans.org

Headlines from around the globe

The world beyond College walls...



Gilead Amit

First things first. We have a democratic presidential nominee for the US elections. Finally. Clinton may have been offered the VP position by the time of going to print but at the time of writing, nothing has been confirmed. Whether or not the Obama-Clinton combination receives the support of their respective voters, it has advantages that could be too good to miss. We'll see. The election is not going to be out of the headlines for long.

Now on to another election. Zimbabwean presidential challenger Morgan Tsvangirai has been arrested three weeks before the scheduled run-off. Then released. I'm leaving my cynicism in the bag on this one. Come to your own conclusions.

Burma has made it back here this week; the suffering of millions in the far East deserves another chance in the spotlight. "Watch in Wonder as Aid is Deprived from Millions - be Amazed by the 'feel-bad spectacular of the year' (Guardian)".

The 2007/8 food crisis is making its debut performance this week; be kind. It really has been a year of appalling harvests around the world; though the belief that crops should serve as bio-fuel rather than nourishment is making things far worse than they need to be. By the way - Ahmadinejad and Mugabe agree that the whole problem is caused by the West. Nice to see trans-national agreement on something, I suppose.

Anyone reading this must still be at college, and I assume must, therefore, still have exams. Good luck.



Election Results IV

United States

Earlier this week, Senator Barack Obama became the official Democratic nominee for the upcoming Presidential elections. After months of exhausting debates and prolonged contests in every state, Obama finally obtained the support of enough delegates to secure the nomination. With the leader of the Democratic ticket now confirmed, the identity of the Vice-Presidential is the subject of increased speculation. Senator Clinton, who has not yet conceded defeat, is clearly the obvious candidate. Despite the lack of any official announcement from the Clinton campaign on this subject, indications from all directions show that she would be willing to accept the vice-presidential candidacy. The potential 'dream-team' of Obama and Clinton could be hugely effective in uniting the Democratic party and silencing criticisms of Obama's inexperience, but the move may prove unpopular with supporters of both candidates. Obama has since appointed a triumvirate of experienced Democrats to assist him in choosing someone to fill the number two spot.



Food Crisis Continues

Italy

The UN met in Rome earlier this week to approve the allocation of \$1.2 billion to the 62 countries most severely affected by this year's food crisis. The cost of basic foodstuffs is rising and riots over the prices have led to national instability in a variety of hot-spots around the world. Whilst this year's terrible harvests are largely to blame, the increasing subsidies awarded to the use of crops as biofuels have intensified the problem. The UN's actions are set to prevent the number of people below the survival line doubling in the near future - a very real risk. Presidents Mugabe and Ahmadinejad have joined forces to blame the West for the global situation, criticisms which, from Mugabe's part, are deemed highly hypocritical.

Zimbabwean Problems

Zimbabwe

President Mugabe's actions as President are attracting increasing criticism as the date of the Presidential runoff approaches. Only three weeks before the proposed date, opposition candidate Morgan Tsvangirai was arrested for 'planning to attend an unauthorized meeting' in the south of the country, before being released several hours later. The arrest is frustrating news for critics of Mugabe's regime, who see their chance of replacing him decreasing with time. Mugabe has also come under renewed criticism for his agricultural policies, given his sudden eagerness to criticise the West for some of his own domestic troubles. Most recently, however, he has been accused of ordering some 30 aid agencies to halt operations, increasing the suffering in the South African nation.





Nuclear Probe

Syria

The Syrian government has recently granted permission for IAEA inspectors to enter the country and search for their alleged nuclear weapons programme. The decision to allow external inspectors comes months after US released intelligence stated that a Syrian nuclear site was 'not intended for peaceful purposes', pointing out its similarity to the Iranian nuclear facilities. Syria has persistently denied all such accusations, dismissing them as 'ridiculous', although it has indicated its intention to collaborate fully with the IAEA team.



Pakistan Explosion

Islamabad

Danish intelligence has linked Al Qaeda to last week's car-bomb explosion outside their embassy in Islamabad. Though no group had claimed responsibility at the time of the Danish announcement, a web posting supposedly made by Al Qaeda has since taken the credit. The blast, which killed 6 and left 24 people injured, is widely believed to be yet another response to the Danish Post-Jylland's prophet controversy. Security measures are being reinforced around all other embassies in Islamabad, and the Danish representation has temporarily closed.



Situation Escalates

Sudan

Tensions are rising in Sudan as troops from the North and South of the country converge on the oil-rich Abyei area. Both sides claim the rights to the land, which contains some billions of dollars worth of oil, but neither seems willing to de-escalate the situation. US and UN envoys to the region fear that another deadly crisis may break out in a country already having to deal with millions of displaced people. Although spokesmen for both parties claim their intentions are peaceful, external negotiators are not optimistic, believing that both sides are in fact keen for hostilities to begin.



Burma Aid

Burma

Latest UN figures indicate that there are still over 3 million Burmese still in need of emergency care, with almost a third of them not having received foreign aid in any form. These problems stem principally from the Burmese government's continuing refusal to grant access to relief workers, despite official assurances given to the UN. The military junta has persistently rebuffed French, British and American efforts, forbidding access and limiting the role they play in the emergency operations. As a result, large numbers of aid ships are returning home, frustrated at being unable to help.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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

NUS affiliation debate – Round 1

The leaders of the 'Yes' and 'No' campaigns give you a taste of the debate to come. See next week's Felix for a comprehensive collection of opinions from members of both teams, then cast your vote in the referendum



Soumaya Mauthoor
'Yes' campaign leader

Keep your cool and our voice

I'm not a political hack. In fact I even haven't decided where my political views lie yet! But I am SO annoyed that 24 people in a room have voted to spring this referendum on us right in the middle of exams, without even getting the required numbers to sign the referendum petition.

I mean doesn't democracy mean anything more? The British people are not happy with the EU constitution, so what does the Government do? They ratify the Lisbon Treaty. Nobody wanted the war, and what does the government do? They threaten Iran. I am just SO tired of being told that our elected leaders know better than us!

The whole issue boils down to this – at the NUS Annual Conference in April, the proposed changes to NUS governance, aimed at giving the union a more democratic structure, which is "agile, cheaper, and more accessible" did not go through. Imperial Union was one of the main backers, and had in fact mandated all of its delegates to support the Governance Review. Understandably, Imperial Union was not happy with the result but perhaps less understandably, now want to take the rash decision to leave the NUS. That'll teach them to mess with our Imperial demands!

What I ask you, dear readers, is to consider whether this is in Imperial's



Last August, the NUS helped force HSBC to rethink its plans to charge graduates 9.9% on their overdrafts when they finished their degree

best interest. Both the previous and current presidents were in favour of the Governance Review and a revised form is being put together. The reforms fell by only 25 votes, with almost two thirds supporting it. The argument for NUS reform has been won, even if this vote wasn't. In all likelihood the reforms will be passed before Christmas.

Even so, the NUS has already come a long way over the last year: by mak-

ing the tough decisions to streamline processes and cut back on staffing the NUS slashed affiliation fees by 10 percent overnight. In the year since we've joined, the NUS has won major victories for students, not least engineering the back down of HSBC over its student overdraft charges. Since joining, our sabbaticals have attended NUS' summer training programme, and NUS provided tailored and specific training to our college committees and

welfare volunteers. Next year ICU will have to register as a charity, and NUS is getting the legal advice on how best to do this – clubbing together for this support is far cheaper than us paying for it on our own. And lastly, as we go into the review of top up fees next year we'll need a national voice like never before to make ourselves heard.

I'm not trying to pretend that the NUS is problem-free. It's just that the biggest problem with the NUS is well, US. Yes us. But if the NUS didn't exist, we'd have to invent it. You have the biggest student organisation in Europe, discussing, researching and campaigning on issues that affect students. We have the brains and the drive to actually get things done. Yes the various factions within the NUS each have their agenda, so sometimes it takes time to come to a consensus, but hey welcome to the adult world! You discuss, you compromise, you don't throw your toys out of the pram and sulk.

Imperial College was one of the founding members of the NUS in 1922. We left in 1923 citing irreconcilable differences. We joined in 2006 again after 27 years, and are planning to leave after a year. We're Imperial, we think we don't need the NUS, because we think everybody knows us and will listen to our views. Get real. This time, let's keep our cool, keep our voice and remain affiliated to the NUS.

**Pro-NUS
campaigner**



Kirsty Patterson
'No' campaign leader

Emancipate Imperial

I campaigned for Imperial College Union (ICU) to join the NUS back in November 2006 and whilst I think it was worth giving them a chance I can now safely say that they have now proved themselves no longer worthy of the trust I put in them.

We were promised an effective NUS that was going to change and that we could play a leading role in driving that change. Instead we have seen their (and our) attempts to change stifled by extremists who would rather that the organisation continued to be their own play park funded by Unions like ours who have countless activities that are far more worthy of the best part of £50,000 per annum that we pay to NUS.

If you are not aware, ICU has a controversial history with the NUS as the organisation has never provided any tangible benefits to the student body. Funnily enough, we were a founding member in 1922, disaffiliated in 1923 and then did not re-affiliate until 1939. In 1940 ICU left in protest at the NUS' stance against conscription for WWII. During the 60's and 70's we dipped in and out of membership, leaving in 1977 and then finally rejoining in November 2006. This information is just



Is ICU's approximately £50,000 NUS affiliation fee worth it?

to illustrate that students at Imperial have always had severe reservations about the NUS who have for decades refused to listen. I thought that after all this time it was worth us giving NUS membership another go but this historical evidence does suggest that the organisation is condemned to being institutionally useless.

In this referendum there is no debate about how much of a mess this organisation is as the threat of financial decline has forced them to come clean.

This year we have heard all about

how the NUS has suffered from financial mismanagement, disengagement from the issues that are relevant to students and how they are not respected as the "national voice" that they claim themselves to be. NUS will tell you that they are hugely influential yet this is the same "national voice" that is dismissed in parliamentary committees as being only representative of student activists and not ordinary students.

I urge you to vote No! as I believe it is crucial that we emancipate Imperial students from this organisation whose

own leaders openly admit has been shockingly mismanaged, politically irrelevant and inaccessible to all but the most hardened political activists. The money that is spent on NUS affiliation could be far better spent by students at Imperial rather than throwing it down the NUS budgetary drainpipe. We were promised a cheaper, radically different NUS by April 2008 and it has not materialised. I believe it would be irresponsible for us to take that gamble with £46,000 of our money that could be far more effectively spent on academic representation and student activities for students at Imperial. Why continue wasting our cash on a "national voice" that consistently fails to reflect the fact that the UK education sector is hugely diverse with different types of institutions pursuing different objectives? By disaffiliating we would not be subsidising this debating club for students who have political aspirations but do very little to further the cause of student support and development on campus. During the course of this referendum you will hear a variety of sob stories about how the NUS is really going to change next year. Well, we've heard it all before. Vote No! if you are not willing to take that gamble.

**Anti-NUS
campaigner**



Salman Waqar

Academic... Freedom?

Cast your mind back to America in the 50s, with McCarthyism in full swing. And now imagine that you are a young, bright and popular student at a prestigious university who happens to be doing a dissertation on Communism for your degree.

Now, like any self-respecting student, you go off to the library to do some research and check out this book that all the boffins recommend – Communism for Dummies. You take it back to your department, but wander off for a moment. Unfortunately for you, one of your vigilant colleagues sees this little book, gets a bit uneasy and decides to call the cops. Oh, and I forgot to mention that you're actually a Russian immigrant who has sought refuge in the US after fleeing Mother Russia and decided to live the American Dream.

Right, so the cops come out and arrest you and then detain you without charge. At the same time, your family gets harassed, your home gets raided and property gets confiscated. Your name is in all the papers and your ethnic community is now under attack. And to top it all off you have brought in an air of controversy and damaged the prestige of your institution.

The cops and judges decide that you

don't really need to be here as your paperwork looks a bit iffy and they decide to send you on the first plane back home, where your comrades are waiting in open arms for their lost brother to return.

What on earth, you ask, is the point of all this historical fictional babble? Well, just recently a modern-day classic took place at Nottingham University.

Hicham Yezza, an Algerian-born employee at Nottingham, decided to make use of his free printer credits to print the edited Al-Qaida Training Handbook (available from the US Department of Justice website) for his Pakistani-born mate Rizwaan; who was writing a dissertation on Islamic extremism for his MA in Politics. They were both 'caught' and arrested without charge. Hicham was subsequently re-arrested because his immigration status wasn't quite up to standards – even though he had been living in the UK for 13 years and had his citizenship papers being processed before the whole debacle took place. He was due to be deported last Sunday, but the Home Office have since had a re-think, following a national campaign.

Why am I telling you all this? Is it because he was checked into the fast-track service for deportation without a hearing? Or is it the apparent sensa-



Nottingham Uni employee, Hicham Yezza, has avoided deportation

tionalist response to both men's ethnic and religious origins? Imagine if they were Swedish Goths... No, the real reason is a little something we like to call academic freedom.

That is the right for academics to have the right to engage in research, and to teach subjects that are deemed to be controversial without fear of persecution. This issue was highlighted back in 2005 when the government made amendments in the Anti-Terror legislation which was designed to stop academic persecution from occurring. But even then there was some pessimism as to how far the new measures

would go. Furthermore the whole affair has raised questions about the government's insistence to raise the detention limit from 28 days to 42 days without charge.

The likelihood of such an incident happening at Imperial is rather remote, thanks to the distinct lack of research in social sciences that goes on around here. But, there is a danger that ethnic and racial profiling, alongside encouraging lecturers and staff to monitor and report the activities on campus may prevail.

And that would be a real throwback to the 50s.



A. Geek

Let the grown ups get on with it

Caz Knight's charming piece last week about how jolly revolutions were was something of a wake-up call to me. There I was, assuming that socialism had gone the way of the Teletubbies and thick-cut marmalade in becoming unfashionable and childish, only to find that there's at least one brave soul out there who still feels that whining and bashing things up actually helps society get along. It's heartwarming, not only because it gives me the opportunity to be extremely patronising – isn't that right, champ? – but also because it means there's still a few people out there whose spirits need crushing. Start your engines.

Here's a cold, hard truth for you ladies and gentlemen – revolutions slow us down. And yeah, I'm talking about 'progress'. It's in single quotes rather than double, because I don't look down on it as much as most of you seem to. Progress is what gives us the Industrial Revolution, it gives us comfortable shoes and it gives us movies featuring Matt Damon.

It holds it hands up. It says 'Sure, people got permanently disfigured by unsafe machinery. Yes, children died with their hands bleeding onto the floor in Asian sweatshops. And the side effect of Dogma was that Ben Affleck's career will be forever remembered.' It knows its faults. But you know what? It just waxes its stereotypical mustache, realigns its top hat and tails, and waddles on down the street to the nine o'clock Gravy Train to Profit Towne.

I want to be absolutely clear once and for all – I might make love to Mother Nature like it's going out of style, and I might believe that, occasionally, it's bad to take advantage of people. But a lot of my core beliefs are more right wing than a Boris Johnson-themed Kentucky Fried Chicken meal, and that's because I like it when things happen and people get on with their lives.



¡Hacia abajo con la revolución!

Caz might think 'hedonism' is a fundamental part of human nature, but people used to think that dying cold, alone and in a pool of your own faeces was a fundamental part of being alive. Then we realised that if we worked really hard we could heal them. Although some people optionally kept the faeces bit, which is fine.

I'm not rich. I don't have any privilege or class benefits that I'm aware of. I just think that if we want to organise six billion people in any meaningful way, then someone has to be at the top getting most of the glory and a large proportion of the Innocent smoothies, and some people need to be crawling the bottom feeding off of flakes of Basics onions and urine-soaked copies of The London Lite.

I'm sure Caz has solutions to this problem that don't involve the little guy getting shat on, and I'm sure many of them don't involve people with long hair and bandanas shouting in Spanish despite being from Gloucester. But the fact that remains is this – revolutions are a condensed form of human stupidity. They are that moment where we decide that the last eight thousand years wasn't really worth our time, and

giving in to raw emotion is a much more sensible way to go.

It's when you do the 'student'-y thing. You start sentences with 'fuck' and then append the name of something that people seem to be vaguely disapproving of. Then everyone shouts and

gets up off their chairs in JCR and goes off to huff and be all angry somewhere. Sometimes it's on the street. Mostly it's on the internet. Maybe, sometimes, it's right here on these pages.

As long as you all stay there, it's fine. We know where to look if we need irrational, emotional people who couldn't organise a fart into spreading around a room. When the population of the earth has been whittled down to a few thousand people – as no doubt it will, thanks to humankind's natural idiocy that fuels revolution – then you can take over. You can stir people up and push them into action, founding a new society which will learn how you saved mankind from the wrong of the past.

Up until that point, the grown-ups have work to do in order to stop impending armageddon. So if you can all just play nicely in the corner, and we'll pick you up after our meeting.

And really, in this day and age, who would just get angry over nothing on a week basis? Some cunt. That's who.

/// People used to think that dying cold, alone and in a pool of your own faeces was a fundamental part of being alive ///

Dear Editor,

Not wanting to sound like the Football Club, we would like to protest to the slurs made against our club. The recent photo of the "Editor Elect – a little girl?", in [issue 1,404] of this 'orgasmic publication', with its accusation of knitting as a 'sissy passion', was received as a deeply derogatory remark to the noble craft and historic art that our club strives to promote. This type of slander only serves to reinforce the negative publicity and gender stereotyping knitting has received in the past, therefore please retract this comment. Furthermore we at Knit Sock HQ would like to extend a warm invitation to the Editor Elect (as well as any other closet

knitters) to join our ranks. Remember, we are armed with long pointy sticks, and we know how to use them.

Knitted regards,

Knit Sock HQ

Felix Editor, Tom Roberts, responds:

Thank you for the email. Once again, the article was intended as satire. Apologies for causing offence though. I'll be sure to pass your invitation onto our incoming leader!

To our dear readers, please take the words that spew out of the Hangman articles with a glacier sized pinch of salt.



Caz Knight

Held hostage by Facebook

Bebo, Faceparty, Facebook, Myspace, Myface: social networking seems to be the thing we do best nowadays. Rewind ten years and the dark world of chat rooms was still very much taboo and treated as unsafe and slightly seedy. However, with our ever-growing dependence on technology we have overcome this reticence and are now embracing it whole heartedly.

My first, brief experiences with online 'networking' began through AOL online chat where chat rooms are themed, aimed towards particular interests and pursuits. People were only identifiable by their screen name and a very limited profile covering 'a/s/l' and perhaps a few details of other hobbies. On the one hand the risk of assuming a false identity was made easier, although the absence of pictures and information regarding friends, family and associates made it slightly harder for you to be tracked down. Facebook profiles are a stalker's dream come true: addresses and phone number are accessible (if the user chooses to divulge such information) but for the most part 'facebookers' exercise caution in what they choose to share and

privacy options.

What worries me is the apparent time that teenagers spend on socialising silently and alone. On a recent chat show involving 15-18 year olds, it seemed that the time spent online was a daily average of 5 hours! It is no wonder this government is in an uphill battle against obesity and heart disease. Apart from the obvious detriment to one's health if such a large portion of the day is spent sedentary, I find that after even a few hours of looking at a computer screen my eyes are strained and I am left with a headache.

The young people interviewed protested that it was for lack of anything better to do that they resorted to hours mesmerised by the comings and goings of their peers. The drinking age of 18 stops them spending those valuable hours in the park after dark damaging their livers instead and so the Internet is required. Who raised these unimaginative children? What about the wealth of authors, poets, artists to which we have free access in museums and libraries? How about a walk along the South Bank, in Hamsstead Heath or a boogie in your bedroom with iPod blasting if the thought of actual human

contact has you breaking out a sweat.

Another thing I despair for is the calibre of grammar and general use of the English language adopted by many online, not all of them without basic G.C.S.E. English. Unless you have learned the incorrect spelling of words ("sez", "skool", "avin") surely it is easier to use the correct spelling rather than take those extra few seconds to work out how they are spelled phonetically? Some of the spellings do not even minimise the number of times the fingers need to come into contact with the keyboard ("choon" for example). However, we live in a society of freedom of speech (for now) and so people must be able to spell as they wish.

Back to the subject in hand: Facebook. I use this example, as it is the only site I am held hostage by. My feelings towards my captor are mixed, perhaps even edging towards Stockholm syndrome. I hate the fact my heart leaps when I see I have 3 new notifications and maybe even a message or two. A little sad, perhaps, but I use it solely for entertainment value and ease of communication rather than looking for new friends and my total daily use is never more than one hour. It means

I do not have to take pictures anymore: I rely on my more camera-savvy friends to post theirs up and I can browse happily (or ashamedly, as last night's memories come back).

The army of communication modes at our disposal has certainly complicated human relationships and dynamics immensely. Text messages, emails and msn conversations are read into; the lack of a response is hailed as a bad omen, as is the speed of a reply. One person I knew took offense to the number of kisses I left at the end of text! The characters of Jane Austen novels were spared so much daily tension, quite content with hearing from their loved one, by letter, monthly. Today, the removal of someone's relationship status can cause jubilation or heartache for those involved.

One thing Facebook will prove useful for in the future is the analysis of societies, examining theories such as the 6 degrees of freedom: a sociologist's dream come true. But for now they comfort, amuse, irritate, expose, waste time and lower grades. But will these social networking sites fade out like mini disks or are they here forever more?



Gilead Amit

College Exploration

March 12th
There. It's final. I'm going. I'm so excited I really can't fall asleep. I can't even lie still. I'm really going – alone. I can't take anyone – I can't even tell anyone – they'd all just try to dissuade me.

'It's too dangerous', 'you don't know what could be out there'. The same feeble warnings from people I used to respect. Can't they see how mind-numbingly fascinating the unknown is? I despise this pathetic routine we've settled into. Same boring schedule. Same boring people. There must be more to life than the Skempton Building and the Civil Engineering Department. There must be. And I'm going to find it.

I leave tomorrow. Across the Queen's Lawn to the Sherfield Building – my adrenaline is incandescing as I write those magic words. Sherfield Building. Sherfield Building. The very act of setting them down on paper is enough to give me a rush unlike any I ever got from cocaine.

The Sherfield Building. The last known bastion of civilization. And then, then! Out into the great unknown. To the banks of the Great Sherfield Walkway; let it carry me where it will. My bags are packed, my equipment is in working order; everything's ready. I really must force myself to get some sleep.

I leave at dawn.

March 13th
10:15

Left at dawn. Was unable to get through the Sherfield gates till a quarter to ten. Spent four miserable hours shivering in the rain, attempting to find shelter under the forbidding presence of the Queen's Tower. A disappointing start. Am currently warming myself in the Sherfield building, trying to strike up conversations with the seasoned travellers around me. One shrivelled



Gilead Amit has gone AWOL

fourth year with a mad glint in his eye claims to have made it to the other end of the Walkway more often than seems possible, and has offered his services to escort me safely to the Terra Incognita on the other side. Have accepted. Will brave the Walkway with Bipolar Jim later this morning.

13:20

Where on Earth am I? Have been walking round for what seems like forever, and seem to be slowly but surely retracing my steps. I may not have much exploring experience, but I can say, with absolute certitude, that I am quite definitely lost.

Reached the other end of the Walkway intact – no thanks to Bipolar Jim. His directional senses are worse than useless – the ignorance field that emanates from him plays havoc with all navigational devices. My compass has still not recovered from the shock.

I dispensed with his services as soon as was possible, and, with rising trepidation, left the Walkway. The part of the College I am now in is illegibly marked on my map with faint pencil. As best as I can make out, this must be Hoxteth. Or Huxley. Whichever it is, the natives are not friendly.

This seems to be an almost exclusively male society, and as a result the indigenous culture is quite clearly going to seed. Gaunt men wielding far more notebooks than they could possibly use roam the endless halls incessantly. My attempt to pass unnoticed in

their midst is so far paying off, though I still have no idea where I am.

15:30

This infernal building is like a rabbit warren. Will attempt to head north. Compass still proving unhelpful.

19:00

Have made progress! Reached territory as yet unmarked on my map. Can't believe I'm the first civilised man to set foot in this remote land! It seems dauntingly large and quite impenetrable, and may be easier to explore tomorrow. Will spend the night in this empty bathroom cubicle – who said the terrain was inhospitable?

March 16th
18:20

Three frantically exciting days. Was almost spotted by native search party and had to make a quick escape. Potted plant in foyer provided excellent cover till yesterday, when I was forced to fend for myself in the great outdoors.

This place is worse than Hoxteth – it appears to be entirely constructed of doors. Leading, needless to say, nowhere. Who needs so many doors? Why are they there? To keep people in? Or out? So many questions...

My supplies of marmite and chutney are running low, and I may need to forage for food soon. Careful study of inhabitants reveals, surprisingly, a

humanoid race, capable of a semi-articulate form of language as yet incomprehensible to me.

Cautious exploration finds me repeatedly coming face-to-face with idolatrous statues of some local deity. Inscription around base, on close inspection, seems to read 'Blackett'. In tribute to the cultural beliefs in this part of the world, have decided to name this mountainous area on the map and the surrounding lowlands as Blackett Mountain.

Important to show respect for these primitive people. They like that.

18:45

Almost out of marmite.

March 20th
15:30

Last agonising drops of marmite finished last night, and was finally forced to go looking for nourishment.

Strange regional fauna seems capable of distributing plastic-like food if shaken hard enough. Small squares of a sweet, brown substance kept me going during this morning's exploration.

My first conclusions about this mysterious land are overwhelmingly positive. The top of Mount Blackett provides a stunning view of the surrounding wilderness. Had an almost spiritual moment watching the sun rise over the vast rainforest to the East. The air here is conducive to deep, prolonged thought – my short-lived acquaintance with the natives reveals hidden depths, though an unhealthy obsession with dragon balls and unnecessarily powerful lasers seems to be prevalent.

April 1st
15:30

Have found my true spiritual resting-place. This is where I belong. Here, among people whose intellect I can respect and whose interests I can relate to. At last. A real science.

Will spend the night in this empty bathroom cubicle – who said the terrain was inhospitable?

WANTED: INVENTOR

Prize: \$200,000

You are an Arab Student
You have an idea for a great invention
Join the new Arab TV Show
"Stars of Science"

Logon to:
www.starsofscience.com
www.nojoumeloloum.com



القاعدة قطر
Qatar Foundation

للتربية والعلوم وتنمية المجتمع
for education, science and community development



$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \mathcal{V}(x)\psi(x) = E \mathcal{V}(x)$$

Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips?

Over-indulgence: the cause of obesity, right? Laura Starr investigates if this really is the full story

“Place the chocolate-iced custard-filled doughnut back on the second shelf and step away from the fridge,” whispers the voice in my head as I’m about to indulge in my guilty pleasure. My conscience overrides my taste buds and I restrain myself from consuming the fourth delicacy of the day – the one that would push me forward another 300 calories and eight grams of saturated fat.

It has long been thought that being overweight was simply a result of overeating. One consumes an excess of calories resulting in those pounds piling on – this being the sole explanation for an expanding waist line. Until now.

One group of scientists is adamant that our genetic make-up has a vital role to play. It is not only our actions that stimulate the onset of these consequences but in a large proportion of cases it could be down to our genes – the building blocks of life.

In the past little has been known about the influence of genetics on illnesses associated with obesity, such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. But Professor Jaspal Kooner and his colleagues at Imperial College London found that half of the population contains a specific sequence of genes closely associated “with waist size, body mass index and insulin resistance, which is a pre-diabetic state.”

The uncovered sequence is positioned next to a gene, named MC4R, which is responsible for regulating energy levels in the body by influencing how much we eat and how much energy we expend or conserve. Kooner and his colleagues think that this sequence is responsible for controlling the MC4R gene.

Studies like this are key in finding new ways to tackle the world’s weight

problem. The number of obese children is rapidly increasing, leading to the threat of a global obesity crisis. Here in the UK 1 in 10 six year-olds suffer from the disease, thereby increasing their susceptibility to major health problems.

“Using this research, you can do one of two things,” explained Prof Kooner. “You can identify the people that are at risk and work on prevention, or develop antagonists.” As the position of the gene sequence and its protein product are both known the challenge is to now “develop antagonists to protein products that may ultimately turn out to be drug targets.”

Interestingly, the gene sequence was found to be around 30% more common in the Indian Asian rather than European lineage. This could explain why there is a greater prevalence of obesity and insulin resistance in Indian Asians. The sub-group makes up around 25% of the world’s population but will account for 40% of global cardiovascular disease by 2020. Lead author Dr John Chambers stressed the importance of his research; “The number of people involved, the comparisons between two ancestries, and the detail with which we can explore genetic and environmental effects are helping us identify crucial linkages.”

Using a genetic approach to combat the disease is promising. Our genetic make-up cannot be altered, however, we can focus on the development and application of preventative and innovative measures, for action needs to be taken. Action in the form of backing such studies, supporting research against a disease that is at present a burden to an estimated 300 million people worldwide. Who may all be pleased to hear that there’s finally, some evidence that over-indulgence might not be the only thing to blame.



You’re mine now. Whatever the fate of exhibit A, doughnuts, and over-indulgence in general may only be one suspect in the case of the expanding waistline. Genes like MR4C may yet prove to be the kingpins

Recent news: restaurant's carbon footprint and self-healing planes

Claudine Chen

Eating out for greens

The concept that locally grown food has a smaller carbon footprint than food grown in other countries may not come as a surprise, but the fact that the carbon footprint for some restaurant meals can be a hundredfold larger than those prepared with locally sourced food might.

A new report from The University of Nottingham - “The Environmental Sustainability of the British Restaurant Industry: A London Case Study” - found that cuisines that originate outside of Europe, which use specialty ingredients from the home country, on average, will expend more than five kilograms of CO₂ per meal, compared with a “green” restaurant meal at 51 grams.

The study, carried out by BSc student Will Brookes, cranked through the details for 40 restaurants in London categorised as green, British, European, and non-European.

This finding has far reaching impacts, considering that food transportation accounts for 35 percent of the UK’s total emissions. But the study isn’t calling for a major overhaul of the restaurant

industry. As Dr. Nick Mount, Will’s tutor, reasons, “If all restaurants did source locally, the dining experience would be uniform and dull.”

Instead, they suggest a novel program of offsetting the carbon footprint, similar to those for airplane flights, that would add no more than ten pence for any meal.

The onus should not just be on the customer to make changes, restaurants can offset the impact themselves by implementing recycling and composting. “The UK’s reliance on food prepared for the consumer is at an all time high. This puts restaurants in a highly prominent position,” says Brookes. “The restaurant sector has the potential to be at the forefront of improving the sustainability of our food industry.”



Bleeding planes

It may sound like science fiction, but aerospace engineers at Bristol University have developed a simple but ingenious idea for self-repairing materials that is inspired by nature, such that damaged aircraft could mend themselves automatically, even during a flight. Similar to our human bleeding and clotting mechanism, the otherwise hollow fibers in fiber reinforced polymer composites are filled with a resin and hardener, such that when the fibers are broken, the resin and hardener flows out, enabling the composite to recover up to 80-90% of its original strength.

“This approach can deal with small-scale damage that’s not obvious to the naked eye but which might lead to serious failures in structural integrity if it escapes attention,” says Dr Ian Bond, who has led the project. By tinting the resin with dye, any ‘self-mends’ can be identified along with larger-scale damage during ground inspections, and repaired if necessary.

But the mimicry of biological systems won’t stop there. “This project represents just the first step,” says Ian Bond. “We’re also developing systems where the healing agent ... actually



Kerrack! Not the last sound a pilot will hear, if this research bears fruit

moves around as part of a fully integrated vascular network, just like the circulatory systems found in animals and plants.

Such a system could have its healing agent refilled or replaced and could

repeatedly heal a structure throughout its lifetime. Furthermore, it offers potential for developing other biological-type functions in man-made structures, such as controlling temperature or distributing energy sources.”

The BA Science Communication conference

Katrina Pavelin represented Imperial at this year's event. Here, she tells us what exactly this involved...

Dance! Boogie Wonderlaand! The 1970s hit by Earth, Wind & Fire blasts out and the lights are dimmed. A man in a white suit struts across the stage. He suddenly produces a giant plastic molecule and starts dancing suggestively. No, this is not some weird nightclub - the show is actually the bizarre finale to a well respected Science Communication Conference.

The 'dancer' is Dr Graeme Jones, a chemical ecologist who enjoys engaging the public with science. This was 'Saturday night Science', an amusing 'scientific guide' to a great night out. Jones explains how reaction dynamics explain that 'boy meets girl moment': to speed up a reaction, you need heat, pressure (lots of molecules in a small space) and a catalyst (to lower the energy barrier). So to attract someone, you've got to be hot, go to a busy club and ... dance. If you thought the catalyst should be booze, he reminds you that a catalyst cannot be consumed by the reaction. Jones was certainly a colourful way to finish the conference.

The conference is organised each year by the BA (British Association for the Advancement of Science). The BA is a charity that works to build a positive relationship between science and the rest of society. The BA organises other major initiatives such as the BA Festival of Science (this year to be held in Liverpool, 6-11th September) and National Science and Engineering Week (next year: 6-15th March.)

This year was the 7th annual BA conference, which was held at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Savoy Place. Lord Melvyn Bragg, the renowned broadcaster, writer and novelist, gave the opening speech. The



Attendees got down to some solid networking after being subjected to suggestive dancing with molecules

basis of his talk was that science is central to British culture, but most people only think of culture as the arts. Bragg believes that to help overcome this stereotype of culture it is vital that the public can trust science.

Once the delegates had met each other, through a 'structured networking' event based on speed dating (slightly frustrating if you have to move on after just a brief exchange with Robert Winston!), there were a series of 'hands-on'

workshops. These allowed delegates to share their ideas about a specific branch of science communication and discuss contemporary issues. The workshops ran in three strands: 'Engaging to Inspire and Educate', 'Engaging to Involve', and 'Engaging Through the Media and Public Relations'.

The PR workshops, which were organised by Stempra, an informal network for science communicators, started with one looking at the respon-

sibilities of a press officer. Presenters included professional press officers, such as Steve Palmer from Cancer Research UK, and science journalists such as the Daily Mail's Fiona McRae, who provided useful advice about the best way for press officers to work successfully with journalists. Another workshop encouraged delegates to devise 'best-practice' guidelines to be later developed by Stempra.

The conference aims to attract peo-

ple from different backgrounds. Each year there are bursaries available that cover the full expenses of the conference - including travel and accommodation. This year there were 29 bursaries that were funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills.

"The purpose of the bursary scheme is to ensure that certain groups of people attend the conference who wouldn't be able to do so otherwise," explained Nigel Eady, the Science in Society Officer at the BA. The bursaries are awarded to scientists and engineers involved in public engagement, science communication students, freelancers, and campaign groups.

One bursary recipient, Maya Herbolzheimer, said "I've found this conference really helpful, especially as I'm fairly new to the communications arena. It's been really good to meet lots of new people from different sectors." She is from Forum for the Future, a charity dedicated to sustainable development.

The bursary also covered the highlight of the conference: the three course dinner. This was a wonderful social event, allowing delegates to 'network' over wine and relax on the balcony, with a stunning view of the Thames.

The conference was a great opportunity to meet people and learn more about the role of science in society. It would be equally useful for research scientists who want to enrich their careers by engaging the public with their work. And what other conference would leave you dancing madly in the lecture theatre and waving glow sticks?

To find out more, check out www.the-ba.net/the-ba/ScienceinSociety/index.htm

Old news: close relatives make bad neighbours

Support for Darwin's theory after scientists discover that closely-related species of mammals don't get on

Brett Cherry

It is the most closely allied forms - varieties of the same species and species of the same and related genera - which, from having nearly the same structure, constitution and habits, generally come into the severest competition with each other.

This startling statement was made by Charles Darwin in 1859. Recent research has supported this view, revealing that close animal relatives shouldn't share the same habitat - a wake-up call for researchers modelling the effects of climate change on biodiversity.

In 1932, the Russian ecologist Georgii Frantsevich Gause, after observing similar species of bacteria competing for the same resources in a test tube, founded the competitive exclusion principle that states no two species with similar ecological features can co-exist indefinitely on the same limiting resource.

Today, we know closely-related species of plants are able to thrive together, but with animals it's a different story. Scientists at Imperial College London have discovered evidence supporting Darwin and Gauss - related animal species living in the same habitat have the tendency to 'exterminate' one another if they live together.

Natalie Cooper, a PhD student at Imperial College, is lead author of a new study published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society on closely-related species of mammals. She discovered that related mammals, such as tamarins and spider monkeys, do not tend to live in the same community for good reason - over-competition. "Moving together isn't going to do them any good, they're perfectly distributed as they are, but once they get forced closer together that could cause problems."

One of the advantages Cooper and other researchers have compared to Darwin is that he was working with taxonomies when predicting that animals with the same genus names would compete more strongly than those with different names. Scientists today use phylogenies or evolutionary trees that better reveal the dysfunctional relationships between closely-related animals.

Cooper discovered that squirrels and possums dispersed further apart from one another over millions of years of evolution after comparing data from the mammal 'super tree', a big family tree of all mammal species in the world.

"There's a possibility that habitats are going to shrink in the way that rainforests are shrinking." In the wake of cli-



This mah nut - you go git your own. Squirrel Nutkin don't share with no-one. Certainly not with no possum

mate change, this research could prove beneficial to preserving biodiversity.

Climate change models have often judged each species as independent from one another implying that closely-related animals can live together without causing loss of biodiversity.

"They're not actually going to be able to do that," said Cooper. "You can lose more biodiversity just by looking at each species as independent."

In order to address the impact of climate change on animal populations, the problem of related species

of mammals living closer together over time due to habitat destruction must be included, otherwise "we're going to be very confused when half the animal species go extinct because of interactions with other species, rather than the indirect effect of climate change."



David Paw
Arts Editor

So it's nearly the end of term. If, like myself, you have already finished, you may have suddenly found yourself with a generous amount of time on your hands. What to do with it? "Travelling" is an obvious option. "Loafing" is another popular one. But if you're travelled out for the time being, feel bad for bumming money from the parents/overdraft or simply can't be bothered, what other options are there?

Well if you're thinking this after having read *Felix Arts* for the last year during our current tenure, you must be smoking something impressive (my fellow editors might be interested. Write us). If we can't find anything to do in this city, God knows what we're going to do elsewhere! For an individual with an open mind, the options are (seemingly) endless. However, sometimes your choices become limited by trivial things like, oh, cashflow. Or personal preference. With regards to the former, though it could be argued that you could be sunning yourself in sunny Spain or er, Krakow, with the currently generous mood of the aviation industry towards consumers, festivals are still a popular option. Right?

Ah, festivals. I remember a time when "festivals" used to mean going ape. When I was 10 years old my older brother went to Donington. The bastard. KISS were playing. He came back smug as hell with video footage and a brand new KISS tee, which to this day, he still has not worn. Perhaps the narrow amount of exposure to music a ten-year old widening out opened my eyes to the array of activity out there.

I'd like to say I had made wonderful summer plans, but after having scratched a major travel itch last year and another issue of *Phoenix* to conjure in a short space of time, gallivanting wasn't exactly on the cards.

However, I am going to Paris in a few hours. I'm slightly concerned and overwhelmed by the sheer amount of art and leisure pursuits on offer.

Those of you with an appreciation for the history of fashion will also appreciate Paris' place in that world as its spiritual centre – hence there are many worthy addresses of former couture houses to fit in, as well as the textile museum and the Jardin des Tuileries, where vast tents are erected every season in which to show runway presentations.

In light of this, how can we possibly compare to Paris on that front? In truth, I don't think we can. But never mind. London has long been a melting pot for exciting and raw creative talent. If Paris was the world's city in the 19th century and New York in the 20th, then we are shaping up to lay claim to the 21st.

Love, beasts and valour...

Caz Knight is transported to India as the British Library opens its latest exhibition



The demons try to rouse Ravana's brother, the prostrate giant Kumbhakarna, by hitting him with weapons and clubs and shouting in his ear

"As long as mountains and rivers shall last upon the earth, so long shall the story of Rama be told among men." (Valmiki). The story of Rama ('Ramayana' in Sanskrit) is one the most influential of ancient legends in India and Sri Lanka and has been told and re-told constantly since its creation by the sage Valmiki from 500 BC to 100 BC. *Love and Valour in India's Great Epic: The Ramayana* at the British Library explores this pivotal tale through over 120 paintings from 17th century illustrated manuscripts and examines the importance of this epic and how it has been brought to life by countless other methods.

The story in its entirety spans 7 volumes and over 400 paintings, all produced between 1649 and 1653 in Mewar, South Rajasthan. The region adopted the Ramayana as their own Royal Family history and Rama himself as their ancestor. Rama was the righteous ruler and upholder of Hindu Dharma (social and religious order). The production of the manuscripts was spurred on to rival the illustrated dynastic manuscripts of the Mughal Empire, Mewar's political overlords, hence the wealth of stunning paintings which bring to the life the legend of Rama and his bride Sita.

Rama won the hand of Sita after successfully mending the bow of the God Shiva (literally meaning 'Auspicious One', the destroyer God), belonging to Sita's father King Janaka. Shortly after the weddings of Rama and his brothers, he and Sita are exiled from Ayodhya to the forest of Dandaka following Queen Kaikeyi's (their mother) orders. Rama's younger brother and devoted companion, Lakshmana as well as Hanuman, the monkey general and committed friend of Rama accompany them. The strife begins when Sita is abducted by the 10-headed king of Lanka, Ravana, and Rama summons an army of monkeys to help rescue her. A series of battles ensue between the heroes and giants, magicians and de-

mons but in the end love triumphs (as it always does) and the ever-chaste Sita is returned to Rama and their rightful kingdom of Ayodhya.

The exhibition takes you on the journey through each stage in the adventure whilst allowing you to admire the Rajput paintings which have been magnificently preserved, retaining all their vivid colour and beauty. Sahibdin is the most important of Mewar artists and despite being a Muslim he was comfortable with painting Hindu themes. This seems to offer up a contradiction, given the conflict between Muslims and Hindus.

These mesmerising pieces of art are unique given their intricacy and just how much detail they hold. The sheer volume of time, care and effort required is apparent from the minuscule brush strokes used to bring to life the people, animals, buildings and

landscapes of each scene. The colours are bold and contrasting, set apart by vigorous lines. A noticeable, favourite feature is the use of golds and silvers against the other matte colours, the sheen of which catches the eye and makes the overall effect of the image slightly magical. Another thing which sets these paintings apart from European or Islamic illustration is the fact that one image will set about to capture several episodes of a story. The same character may appear twice or thrice in one picture to depict the progression of the tale. For the purpose of story telling, no attempt is made to recreate an accurate perspective of space, volume or time in the paintings. The effect is dream-like: men with purple skin standing the same height as trees set against an orange sky. A very marked contrast to the paintings being created by Rembrandt and Johannes Vermeer

('Girl with a Pearl Earring') at the same time in Europe.

About the periphery of the exhibition is a collection of manuscripts, costumes, puppets, textiles, sculptures and other artefacts representing the myriad of other ways in which the Ramayana has been retold and celebrated throughout the ages, not only in India. The story has had influence, albeit not as significant, in Burma, Thailand, Tibet and other parts of SE Asia such as Java. In each region the story is told a little differently. In Thailand, the loyal companion Hanuman is a sexually active creature who embarks on amorous adventures on his own, entering into a fling with the Golden Fish Princess. One can see clearly the differences in style between Indian and Thai depictions of the same character. In Java, the story is told through a 100-strong male chorus chanting (not



The allies launch an assault on the walls of Lanka



Sugriva sends out his monkey army to search for Sita. Rama gives Hanuman his ring as a token by which Sita can recognize him

sounding dissimilar to the powerful Maori haka) accompanied by percussion, wind instruments and a metallophone. It evokes images of tribal rituals carried out around huge, midnight fires on beaches: I was transported back to Bali immediately! The singing is traditionally paired with reenactment of the Ramayana by shadow puppets which is also a very popular practice in India. Shadow puppets on display are crafted from perforated animal hide, mounted using bamboo sticks, lit with candles and oil lamps.

The original Ramayana was initially disseminated by the poem written by Valmiki. So touched with pity by the death of two mating birds by an arrow, he began reciting in a new type of verse form (sloka) and the epic metre was created in which the story of Rama was born. Bards tour towns in India with travelling shrines, adorned with images, reciting versions in the original metre or in vernacular versions. Rather like classical epics such as the Iliad and those of our very own Bard (Shakespeare), the version of the Ramayana in its original form is only understood by the highly educated and so the need for retelling in so many other ways is necessary. Play versions were written by playwrights such as Bhasa (3rd

Century), Bhorabuti (8th Century) and Murassi; Bhasa- making these works some of the oldest recorded plays. The playwrights would adhere to the original story, only tightening the plot for dramatic purposes.

On display are glorious textiles, temple hangings, friezes and photographs of sculptures which would have been stationed in temples for worship. The threat of northern Muslim invasion prompted the people to increase the presence of their own deities in temples and throughout the land. In Hindi culture it is believed that Rama was the seventh avatar, that is the personification of the god Vishnu (the preserver and supreme God). The need for the restoration of good to balance out evil was required when the 10-headed king, Ravana, became arrogant after being granted super-human strength by the Brahma (god of creation), making him invincible even to the gods. In his foolishness, Ravana forgot to specify that his strength protected him from mere mortals and animals too. In this way, Rama's quest to rescue Sita was a means to confront and destroy the evil of Ravana. Sita is identified with Vishnu's eternal consort, Lakshmi, and the couple together and revered as the perfect marriage ideal. That Rama

moved mountains for his love and that Sita maintained this love despite adversity makes them the subject of many paintings and very influential in Hindi culture.

Hanuman, Rama's monkey companion, ever loyal, and also Shiva's avatar, is a very popular icon with his image appearing in countless contexts. Today, he is the main character in many movies, and the exhibition shows some glorious paintings of the devoted companion. One example has Hanuman painted in a deep cornflower blue set against a contrasting bright yellow background, wearing a silver necklace and his nails painted the same colour. A Tamil bronze statue of him has adorable, friendly features not dissimilar from the well-known Dr Seuss character 'the Cat' (of Hat fame).

This free exhibition is a delight to attend. Not only attractively laid out: black ceilings paired perfectly with coloured walls and a huge ten foot model of Ravana, but smelling fragrant and exotic, once again bringing me right back to the smells of Bali and making me want to set off immediately for India, hitherto uncharted territory. This collection not only offers stunning art but a chance to learn reams on a different culture. Until 16 September.



Hanuman showing his heart to his most beloved Lord Rama and Sita



Hanuman, while leaping across the ocean to Lanka, dives into the monster Surasa's jaws



God Vishnu: The all-pervading essence of all beings

Written by David Paw, concept by Rosie Grayburn

The Great Culture Crawl

Chapter Twelve – Summer festivals

London Festival of Architecture

Though summer is about chilling, the hardcore amongst you will no doubt be tramping the streets of our fair city in search of cultural stimulation to compensate for the hours spent revising or working on projects. With the city's theatres, bookstores and the London Lit Festival being popular targets to head for, consider the city's architecture-fest that takes place this summer. A celebration and exploration of the city's buildings, streets and spaces - with over 600 exhibitions, lectures, public space installations, guided walks, bicycle rides, boat tours, parties, design workshops and debates. In other words, a multitude of ways to get stuck in and truly involved - stimulation indeed. Highlights include talks by high-profile architects, including 2007 Stirling Prize winner David Chipperfield and Daniel Libeskind. Alternatively, join speakers like Janet Street-Porter or Jon Snow for a full English breakfast in an architecturally significant venue.

Fri 20th June – Sun 20th July
www.lfa2008.org



Marleybone Summer Festival

Tired of kookiness? Sick of posers at festivals more interested in catching a glimpse of Sienna et al than enjoying the music? Then perhaps Marylebone's annual summer festival will do the trick. An old-school affair and totally family/couple friendly, the festival sees the closure of the Marylebone High Street to traffic, allowing pedestrians to roam free in the otherwise chichi neighbourhood. Stalls and food will be laid out, great music will abound and the air will ring with the sound of fair-ground rides. Think Marylebone with a dose of Portobello, or classic street parties with organic produce – a pleasant day out assured.

Sun 15th June, 11am – 5pm
Tube: Marylebone



DANO Korea Summer Festival

How about something completely different? Many of us will be familiar with facets of east Asian culture – samurai films, anime and salmon sashimi in Japanese traditional and contemporary culture perhaps, or the New Year's events or martial arts of China. However, in comparison, very few people are aware of their peninsular counterparts' sheer cultural diversity and depth. With a totally unique, traditional style of dress (the elaborate hanbok), martial arts (the familiar taekwon do) and music, there is much to be gleaned from Korean culture. Did we mention the cuisine? Blowing peppery hot and spicy with fiery stir-fries or sensuously savoury and clean like the best that your favourite Japanese can muster, Korean eateries are popping up all over town with good reason.

This Sunday, Trafalgar Square will be transformed into a mini-Korea for the annual DANO celebrations. The festival provides a fascinating insight into the culture and customs of Korea featuring performances by Korean artists, crafts and music workshops, Korean food and a parade. The event celebrates Seoul Day and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the South Korean government.

Sunday 8th June
www.koreasummerfestival.org

Kenwood House Concerts

Tucked away in pretty Hampstead, Kenwood House's series of concerts is perfect for those of you who just want to chillax with a cold drink on a sunny day instead of sweltering the heat. Of a feminine disposition (i.e. female)? With the missus (i.e. whipped)? Then this may just be the ticket. Though it's a bit of a trek, it makes for an enticing day trip reachable by regular Oyster-worthy routes, combining the charms of Hampstead, a gastropub or two, a leisurely stroll and an impressive concert line-up. Highlights include Rufus Wainwright, Omara Portuondo of the Buena Vista Social Club, Van Morrison and Katherine Jenkins. For those of you more predisposed to self-harm, Diana Krall will be performing on the 9th of August.

Sat 26th June – Sat 23rd August
Tube: Archway, then 210 bus
www.picnicconcerts.com



Lovebox Weekender

Like house music? Like fields and a festival atmosphere? Hate the general trek out to the middle of nowhere, the muddy fields and sleeping with three other drunkards in the same tent? Fear no more. Proving there's life beyond "big tunes", those cheeky chaps from Groove Armada have expanded their weekly club night into an all-out festival in Victoria Park in the heart of East London. As if you didn't already know.

Yes, I know East London is a whole hour away on public transport and a trip to WC2 qualifies as a "trek" for most Imperial-ites, but an hour to music heaven and being back home in time for *Match of the Day* is still better than queuing for unspeakably abused portaloos and shelling out a six quid for a burger and chips. The lineup for the weekend is also expected to include Goldfrapp, The Flaming Lips, Human League, Jack Penate, Manu Chao, and The Glimmers will be manning the decks.

Sat 19th – Sun 20th July
www.lovebox.net

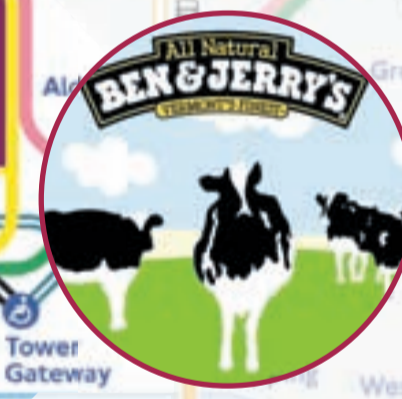
Ben and Jerry's Sundae Festival

A delight. A lazy weekend of schmoozing around in the sun (hopefully), with movies, live music, movies on big shiny screens, unlimited ice cream and the happy sparkly utopian atmosphere that only a universally-adored brand like Ben and Jerry's can conjure up. All for a fiver.

Unlimited ice cream for a fiver?

Yes indeed. All the ice cream you could ever eat (that's not a challenge) should be enough to convince you to go. But if that isn't sufficient, the nostalgic vibes of Britrockers Ash and the anticipation of exploring Clapham's wealth of local eateries and drinking dens later on should do it. So go for that gut-busting cardio workout beforehand, embark on that torrid lemon-juice diet if you have to and forgo the Colonel's special recipe for a month in advance – you're going to get fat.

Sat 26th – Sun 27th July
www.benjerry.co.uk/sundae



Get Loaded in the Park

Come late August, Summer will still be in full swing. Courtesy of whatever major climactic event is the cause of Blighty in Autumn feeling more akin to the Gobi at the height of summer, we will crave the Zen-like calm of air-conditioned Caffe Neros, copious Mini Milks will be consumed and most of college will have pissed off home or be "having it large" somewhere conspicuously droll. Koh Samui is a popular choice or, say, Milton Keynes. You could feel sorry for the poor bastards left in the city over the summer, but alas, with massive summer festivals like the Wireless and Loaded in the Park, you could argue about who would have the most fun.

The cheekier South London equivalent of Wireless, though it can't boast the latter's megawatt line-up, the organisers have still pulled something special out. Rock, hip-hop, electronica and more will feature at the festival, which has booked The Hives, Iggy and the Stooges, Kate Nash, Gogol Bordello, The Gossip, Utah Saints, The Holloways and uber-DJs like the Plump DJs, Soulwax, Mylo and DJ Yoda.

Sun 24th August
www.getloadedinthepark.com



Improvement particularly at Check before at stations, visit tfl.gov.uk/check

Breaking down the class barriers

Someone by the name of Clare has never set foot in a theatre, but decides it's time to give it a try. Will a trip to *Pygmalion* change all preconceptions or will the middle class hypocrisy be too much to take?

Having spent the first twenty four years of my life successfully avoiding that bastion of bourgeoisie, the theatre (amateur productions aside), last weekend I finally succumbed. To me the theatre represents everything that is wrong with the middle class – a form of entertainment that by its very nature and prohibitive cost keeps us away from those terrifying lower-class people (I had to pay one pound to place my coat in the lobby!!!) By taste, occupation, and accent I have become middle-class, distancing myself from my family and their social network. Becoming a theatre-goer would nail the lid in the coffin, but maybe it was worth it? That the play should have been none other than *Pygmalion*, with its infamous references to “middle-class hypocrisy”, was pure coincidence.

I was surrounded by white, elderly ladies and gov'nors (although the age bracket might have been skewed by the time – I went to a matinee and I did spot one other black person in my row.) Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those oh-pity-me-I'm-Asian, I'm-so-underprivileged types, in fact I sincerely believe that my “Asian-ness”, and my scarf, have been a source of positive discrimination. In London, at least, your upbringing and your school has more consequence than any genetic misfortunes you have inherited. It just happens that the majority of Black (and by that I mean brown in all its different shades) people have still not learnt the tricks to get their kids into good schools.

Time to go back to the play. I have always loved *Pygmalion*. Considering my ingrained distrust of the theatre, I thought Shaw's sparkling comedy would be a fair place to start. And it would not offend my Victorian values (which I am very proud of, by the way. I think the world is in such a mess because we have lost those Victorian values). And I have to admit it was quite



Tim Piggot-Smith as Henry Higgins and Michelle Dockery as Eliza Doolittle

entertaining. Well, Act Three was wonderful; I'm not so sure about the beginning, it took some time for the actors to warm up. Or maybe the actors, from a middle-class background themselves, do not spend much time with the people they were supposed to portray and hence found it difficult to relate? I realise this is a gross generalisation, but all that I know is that Michelle Dockery's Eliza was magnificent as the Duchess,

I don't know about her Flower Girl. The set and the costumes were beautiful, they even had a little back cab crossing the stage at one point! And Higgins' Mother is simply breathtaking. Well she did slip up with her triple rail against the enigma that is Men – it sounded a tad put-on.

Which brings me to my conclusion – was it worth it? Ticket prices range between £10 and £50 but the Old Vic had

a limited number of £12 concessions for the under 25's. With that money I could have gone to the cinema twice, and chosen a good seat (let's just say the concessionary seats were strategically placed). The movie would have been crafted (if properly picked) such that every shot, every scenery, every sound was tuned to perfection. There would be no annoying interacts. I would not have felt so out of place. No

guilt involved either – the cinema is the only form of entertainment where people from all class come together under one roof (and maybe football but then you still have graded seats). Will I go again? Borrowing Eliza's most famous line – Not B***** likely! (Sorry- those Victorian sensibilities again)

***Pygmalion* is on at The Old Vic until 2nd August 2008.**



“Eliza was magnificent as the Duchess”. But does her ‘flower girl’ match up?



Fashion

Fashion Editors – Sarah Skeete and Daniel Wan

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Daniel Wan
Fashion Editor

I know this may be a bit of a sappy way to start this week's (and indeed my first ever) Editor's Column, but apologies are in order. If my social life, or my life in general, hadn't been raped by revision, you lot would have got *Felix Fashion* pages for the last three weeks. For their absence, I can only apologise and I trust you didn't cry yourselves to sleep each time you realised you couldn't get your fix of *Felix Fashion* that week. If you remember two weeks ago, *Felix Fashion* exhibited some 'fashionable Imperialites'. If you were one of the lucky people featured, I hope you're pleased with the pictures we chose for you, because after all we didn't (not that we could with our facilities!) airbrush or tweak anything like they do in most publications. We want to show you lot in all your natural glory! It was funny to see my friends starting to get insecure when they realised I hadn't asked them to feature in the spread.

Since I've never really had a chance to introduce myself, now seems as good a time as ever. With the intellect that got you into Imperial, you've probably figured out I'm Dan. Despite my surname and shared interest in fashion, no, I am not related to Gok Wan, and hence don't take pleasure out of undressing unshapely women.

As Fashion Editor, I'll be taking *Felix Fashion* beyond this term into the new academic year (2008-09) at Imperial. This is also an opportunity to thank Sarah for the years of *Felix Fashion* she's edited. Without doubt, she's set a precedent for me and future Fashion Editors for *Felix*; one I'm going to have to do a lot of work to match, and hopefully beat. I'm looking out for some Fashion writers for this term and especially next year. I know this might be a bit far-fetched, but if there are any budding fashion journalists out there at Imperial, thrust your writing hand forward and write for *Felix Fashion*! On the contrary, some of the best articles that I've come across have been from those that do not have a great passion for fashion but those that just have something they want to bitch about or praise in a one-off article.

If you don't think you're a good enough writer, truth be told, you're probably better than most, especially at an all-science university! Email me anything remotely related to fashion to daniel.wan07@imperial.ac.uk. You know you want to.

Lastly, but in no way least, the news that the iconic designer Yves Saint-Laurent passed away in Paris on Sunday, 1st of June. A name synonymous with elegance and beauty, Saint Laurent built up a fashion empire under his own name. In this brand, his undisputed creative genius will forever be remembered in the clothes generations past, present, and future, admired and worn. Personally, I was born a decade too late to even experience Saint Laurent's ever-dwindling years as an active haute couture designer however what I write about here every week would take a very different shape without Yves Saint Laurent. His legacy will stay with us in our lifetime and beyond.

Y.S.L. 1936 – 2008

Sascha Holland reports on the passing of a fashion design icon

Yves Saint Laurent, regarded as one of the greatest fashion designers of the 20th Century died on the 1st of June 2008.

Influential and celebrated, Yves Saint Laurent went from his early days as a designer in the studio of Christian Dior to his own label's acclaimed haute couture collections of today. YSL's style remains unmistakable and synonymous with excitement, individuality and elegance.

His aim was to "serve [women's] bodies, their attitudes and gestures and to

support their struggle for liberation over the past century."

And so he did, influencing even the average woman's wardrobe. Before YSL, the woman's trouser suit was virtually unheard of, launching the infamous "Le Smoking" suit. He also pioneered the beatnik look, turning its former deadbeat associations into a high-end fashion trend. He also managed to introduce capes, blazers and the 'turtle neck' to the runway.

Even before his death, tributes to Saint Laurent's undeniable talent were in no short supply. Just looking down the list of names who were inspired by

him justifies his calling as one of the greatest designers of modern fashion.

British designer Vivienne Westwood described him as "one of the great couturiers, one of the few who have achieved perfection with everything they touched."

Jean Paul Gaultier claimed that Saint Laurent was his "idol" and a figure in fashion "to be followed." Veteran designer Valentino called him "a giant" with "limitless imagination," and Giorgio Armani said he was "the greatest designer of our era."

He passed away in his Paris home after suffering years of declining health.

In tribute to Y.S.L., *Felix* showcases some of his most celebrated and remembered designs from the last 25 years. Elegance through simplicity, they became iconic images in modern culture.



Clockwise from top left: 'Le Smoking' (1975), Mondrian inspired dress (1965), Ballet Russe, 1976, Betty Catroux (left) and Loulou de la Falaise in YSL's classic 70s safari look.

COOL



Farmers, kilts and blankets

Plaid returns for Fall 2008, and plaid signifies class, tradition and resilience. A flash of tartan underneath a dark grey suit will provide some interesting eye-candy for admirers or otherwise.



Kanye West

The boy can dress himself. Sure, he has the money to do it, but so do the other multi-millionaire rappers and they still dress like I did when I was 13. One day I'll be as rich and successful as him. One day.



Attached Scarves

I guess they look all right and, and no one has to know it's actually attached to the shoulders of your T-Shirt, but don't you also look like bit of a pillock walking about in a scarf and T shirt all day? Novelty would wear thin quickly. Stupid.



Exams

Nothing to do with exams directly (or at all), but I think everyone at College can agree they suck balls. They suck balls so hard our collective scrotums are starting to chafe. Cringe at that image, and then promptly go back to hours of revision and exams. Now do you agree they suck balls to scrotum-chafing levels?

LAME

Freshers' Fair Forum

Freshers' Fair needs you! We're trying to make Freshers' Fair 2008 bigger and better than ever before and are looking for your input. If you have any suggestions or thoughts about how Freshers' Fair could be improved, things you'd like to see, or if you just want to moan about your stall location (but not too many please!) come to the Freshers' Fair Forum on Wed 18th June, 2pm, Meeting Room 1 (top floor, main Union building). There will also be refreshments provided to help ease along the discussion.

If you can't make it, we'd still like to hear from you, so feel free to email llt104@imperial.ac.uk with any suggestions.

Look forward to hearing from you.



Lily Topham
Deputy President
(Clubs & Societies)
Elect
llt104@imperial.ac.uk



Euro 2008 is here!

watch all the action at the Union

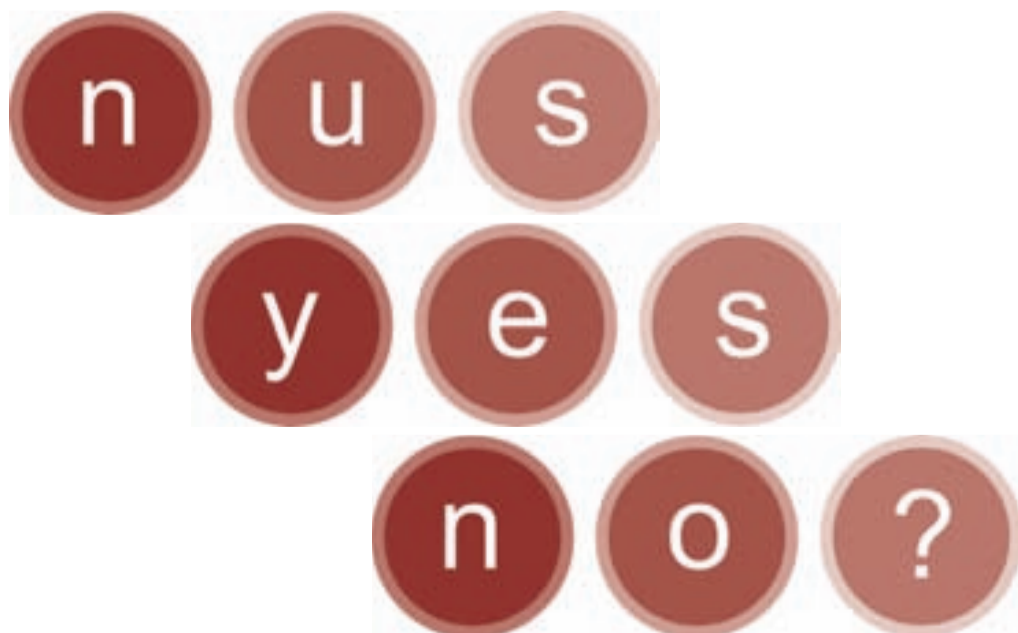


£1.50

a pint. Carlsberg, Tetley's
& Snakebite.

During all 19:45 kick-offs until 21:30.

We will be showing all the Euro 2008
games on our big screens and offering
the best drinks offers in town!
Starts Saturday 7 June.



NUS Referendum

As you will all see over the coming fortnight, we are having a referendum on our continued membership of the National Union of Students (NUS).

Should Imperial College Union remain affiliated to the NUS?

This is the all important question and we want to know what you think. Online voting on the referendum will take place from 00:01 Tues 17 June until 23:59 Mon 23 Jun online at imperialcollegeunion.org/vote.

It is important that you vote in this referendum. If you want to know more about the NUS and our involvement with it or the reasons why we should

leave or stay, there will be a debate on all the issues. Live! and STOIC will be broadcasting the debate online but you can also attend. The Union Dining Hall will be the venue on Thursday 12 June from 17:30 with the 'Yes to NUS' team being represented by Wes Streeting, NUS President. Whilst the 'No to NUS' will be headed up by Stephen Brown.

Both Live! and Felix will also be extensively covering the ongoing debate and we urge you to take a look at both arguments and then make your vote.

Any questions on the referendum can be directed to Alistair Cott, Returning Officer. dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

SUMMER BALL 2008

21.06.2008

Paper tickets available now from the Union Shop, Bars and Reception
South Kensington Campus.

ONLY

15 DAYS TO GO

for more information and to buy tickets: imperialcollegeunion.org/ball



The Imperial College London Summer Ball 2008 is a fund raising event for Imperial College Union with all proceeds going towards the Building Redevelopment Fund.





Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair and Susan Yu

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Susan Yu
Music Editor

When the going gets tough, the tough gets going.... These lyrics certainly ring a lot of truth for me right now. Exams and revision are taking their toll as I had feared. Do I even have time to write about music, I ask myself? This will be the last issue that I'll write for this academic year—a big fat tear rolls off onto the keyboard as I type this. Well, no, not really. I'm glad my first year at uni has been relatively smooth. Writing for *Felix* has been a chore at times but most of the time, I've truly loved being a Music Editor, albeit not for very long, having only come on board this year. Anyway, with regards to being sad that I'm approaching the demise of freshers year, I have to say, I am glad that I haven't perished or done something stupid/crazy. I don't get too emotional, but when I do, you'd better stay well clear from me. This year is drawing to a close, soon it will really be the summer holidays. Can't wait! I'm simply dying to be free from having my nose stuck in gazillions of textbooks, scruffy, messed-up revision notes and what have you not.

Recently, I ventured into the music rooms and allowed myself a glorious moment of much craved-for peace, immersing myself in the absolutely soothing melodies of Chopin, Beethoven and other lovely classical piano composers. To top it up, I played some jazzy/chilled out stuff by Norah Jones as well as contemporary indie/pop/rock songs by gems like Keane and Oasis. The piano really has healing powers...

Aside, has anyone bothered to watch the Eurovision contest? I didn't bother but I'm sure some of you readers out there may have felt obliged to lend your eyes to cringing talentless musical wannabes trying to flaunt their stuff on TV. Is it any wonder that U.K. came last again this year? Do we honestly care? At least it wasn't yet another humongous zero-point total for us but nevertheless as human beings, we seem to feel compelled to watch people make total fools of themselves. Some have said that Sir Terry Wogan is the sole reason that they bother watching this silly song competition because he always gives witty commentaries when introducing the various singers and their country's background, purposefully livening up the dreadful singing and awful dance moves on stage. For those of you 'keen' on finding out who swept to victory, I'll tell you that it is the hunky Russian, the one and only Dima Bilan who sang 'Believe'. Thought so. The name rings no bells and will never ring a bell; neither now nor in the distant future, but apparently he is huge in Russia. You see, some countries do support, even love and adore, their acts even if we don't. It doesn't matter one bit at the end of the day, however, as we've got plenty of musical fish in the sea here...

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

“I go to the toilet with Mark”

Susan Yu chats up some of Yorkshire's finest, but it's strictly for One Night Only...

One Night Only are an indie/rock/pop band comprised of five Hemsley, North Yorkshire laddies in their late teens/early twenties. They formed back in 2003 and have had recent success with their singles 'You and Me', 'Just for Tonight', and 'It's About Time'. Music Felix had the pleasure of talking to Sam, the drummer and Jack the keyboardist from the band.

You guys grew up in Yorkshire, has that shaped your music in any way?

J: I guess it just means that we are not part of any city related scene, i.e., the Arctic Monkeys are from Sheffield, Maximo Park are from Newcastle etc...

S: It has allowed us to create our own style of music, we are not really influenced by any local bands or what seems to be cool at the time, so I think it has affected the way we sound.

How did you guys get into music?

S: I got into music by listening to it. I've always had music there around in the house. My parents are very big on listening to music.

Were you self-taught or did you have lessons?

J: I am a classically trained pianist. I've been taught for years.

S: For me, I was self taught for 2 years, had lessons for 2 years, loose and informal ones, then I've been self taught since then.

Who is your favourite classical composer?

J: It has to be Grieg.

What is your opinion on the indie-rock genre? In the past 5 years, the music industry has been flooded by so many bands that come under this type of music. Surely as listeners we have heard



One Night Only in action... lead vocalist George with Mark, the guitarist in the zone

enough of it?

S: I think it is too easy to pigeon-hole someone as Indie-rock. If you look at all the Indie bands, there's a lot of variation within them, like the Arctic Monkeys, they are very different from us. There is enough differences between the bands to not get bored of listening to them. Plus, Indie-rock does kind of change with time so they don't all sound the same.

J: The brilliant thing about having so many live bands around has made music so much more prominent. Live music is the main sort of thing at the moment.

S: People go to gigs more than they buy records these days.

Who writes the songs in the band?

S: Everyone.

Doesn't that generate a lot of clashes between people, everyone having various ideas and so on?

S: Yes, but I think that is what brings out the best in people. If you've got five different musical inputs, five different minds working on the same idea, eventually you are going to get a better sound out of it.

How do you determine when a song is complete?

J: When we stop disagreeing.

How long did it take for you to start and finish your album?

S: We wrote the collection of songs over two years. Recording-wise, I think it took us about four months, two or three month blocks of recording.

How does it feel to be in a band?

J: The best thing is we are doing a job with our best mates.

S: I don't like doing anything by myself.

J: Neither do I. Can't stand it.

Even going to the loo?

S: I go to the toilet with Mark. We do get compared to girls a lot, only with the toilet thing.

J: It's the tight jeans and the long hair.

Do you have a favourite venue out of all the places you've played at?

S: Dundee. Hot Sams. It's a good venue. The building is insane. It's got three gig venues in this same place.

J: I had a dream that there was a spa there, behind this mirror because we've been there once and I knew we were going to go back there.

S: I think we've been there three times and every-time we go there, we find something that we didn't know was

there before. The first time we went there, we had ages before the sound-checks, so we played hide and seek. It must have been an hour and a half, running around this place.

J: Mark disappeared. He was good at hide and seek, he must have found a corner and curled up there.

S: No, I think he left the building.

Do you get bored of playing the same tracks, listening to the same tunes over and over can get tedious?

J: It's not the same as listening to other people's music when you play your own music, because having created it ourselves, every time I play the songs, I remember different things about when we wrote it. People say, do you ever listen to your own music, well; of course, I have it on my iPod. It is the best thing we've ever made, two years of hard work has been put in it.

How was it to support The Pigeon Detectives and The Enemy?

J: Wicked. The Pigeons more so because we got to spend a longer time with them, we got to know them very well.

S: We only did five shows with the Enemy. The Pigeons are really nice guys.

Is there any rivalry between you and other bands?

J: We don't make enemies, we are from the North and we make friends with everyone.

Since you've been in the music business, have you learnt any tricks of the trade, how to face the media etc..?

S: Be natural.

J: And don't bitch about other people because they will publish it straight off.

It has been said that David Bowie, Bob Dylan and the Cure have



One Night Only's second album is due out in a year's time

Paying these guys to smile *almost* worked

influenced your music, so what do you think are the key ingredients for making people like them the success that they were and still are?

S: They were doing something different at the time, they are all very unique sounds. They've touched a lot of people with their music.

Apart from yourselves, who do you think people should take notice of in the music business at the moment?

S: The Wall Birds who are our supports. They are a great folksy/rocky three piece. They've supported the Pigeons before as well.

What are your opinions on people like Britney and Pete Doherty?

S: Bit of a waste I suppose. Pete Doherty with all that talent, no need to mess it up like that. Britney, she has gone mad. She's gone.

J: She's insane, gone doolali. Pete's an amazing talent. It's a real shame.

What about Amy Winehouse?

S: She's got a great voice. She might sort herself out. Out of the three people, she is probably the one most likely to sort herself out. I think she is close to passing the point where she won't be able to recover, but who knows.

J: I do like her. I believe that she is capable of sorting herself out. You can hope.

Have you ever been pressurised to take drugs?

J: No. You just simply say no.

Do you get recognised when you go out?

S: Not overly. Sometimes in smaller towns. I don't really mind being recognised. I wouldn't want it to go too far. Being stalked, that would be weird.

J: George does a bit. It's when we are at gigs, we do.

Do you ever read your fan-mails?

S: We don't really get that much, but we get stuff handed to us at gigs and signings.

J: We do read them and eat the chocolates/sweets.

Name favourite musicians of all time.

S: There are a lot of amazing musicians. Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, Guns and Roses, The Cure etc... Modern bands: there's Arcade Fire and The Killers.

Do you ever have time to watch TV nowadays?

J: We rarely ever get to a place where we can get a TV signal. It is hard to get TV signal when the tour bus is moving. But SkyPlus is a beautiful thing. *Lost* is amazing. I used to watch the *OC*. I've watched *Skins*; about 4 shows. *Big Brother*. I'm quite ashamed of liking *Big Brother* now, but it is good.

S: I haven't seen *Eastenders* for about 2 months. I miss it.

Would you ever go on *Big Brother*?

J: Hell yeah. I would love to go on it.

S: You'd get messed up in there.

Have you ever been to any showbiz parties?

S: We went to the Brits this year, No gossip. We met people like Rhianna and the Kaiser Chiefs. Nice to meet but it's not really a big deal when you meet another musician.

J: We got really, really drunk. All the booze was free. And it's just dangerous. Champagne. Anything you want.

Do you think music videos are important to the package of a band?

S: Yes, a band with a good video would definitely go further than a band with a rubbish one.

J: That treadmill video. People will remember that video forever, it is legendary.

S: But they've got the music behind it to back it up. It's not just the video that makes it work.

If you could choose any location to shoot a video, where would you choose?

J: Sam's house. It's in a massive valley and there's a huge abbey over the other side of the river. It would be epic. If it was all lit up at night, it would look insane.

S: Nice big river, a big field, national heritage.

Have you ever done anything crazy on stage?

S: We are all very energetic on stage. George like doing big guitar swings.

J: I decked myself in front of five thousand people at Brixton Academy. It felt weird trying to stand up again. Our bass player is the most mental one out of all of us.

Will we be seeing a second album coming out sometime in the future?

J: We are hoping to make one maybe in a year's time.

S: That's what we are hoping, maybe next summer. What's going to come out will come out. Let's wait and see.

Pendulum's immense gravitational pull at Brixton



Pendulum: pretty in pink

of flashing colours on stage initiated the incredible buzz that pulsed through the crowd as Pendulum took to the stage. It was electric, the crowd going totally beserk, a heavy contrast to the somewhat lukewarm responses exhibited towards the previous two DJ sets. The lure of the coquettish rumbling bass seemingly galvanized the fans into action, everyone either punching the air with glow sticks, shouting or screaming frantically, before the coolly composed quintet appeared from a mist of dry ice. Pendulum; they know how to play it cool.

The band enlightened us with a mixture of both their old and new material. Of note, the slinky old number 'Fasten Your Seatbelt', the mesmerizing 'Hold Your Colour' and the uber-racy 'Another Planet' were huge crowd pleasers. 'Propane Nightmares', their last top-ten colossal radio hit explicitly demonstrates Pendulum's progression musically. Vocalist Swire's bold intonations cross with orchestral rock, before crescendoing into their trademark stomping drum'n'bass mayhem. What more could you possibly want? 'Mutiny' offered a punky feisty edge whilst 'Blood Sugar' blew the place to shreds with its phenomenal symphonic aggression and energy. The dramatic soundscapes engineered by Pendulum were a stunning combination of gravitational thudding beats along with heavy yet suave bass-lines held together by trance-like leads. Irresistible to adolescents and grown-ups needing a strong dose of cataclysmic mash-up.

I have no doubt that this epic quintet will continue to orchestrate cyclones in the festival season ahead, having mastered an unforgettable live presence of their own.

Susan Yu



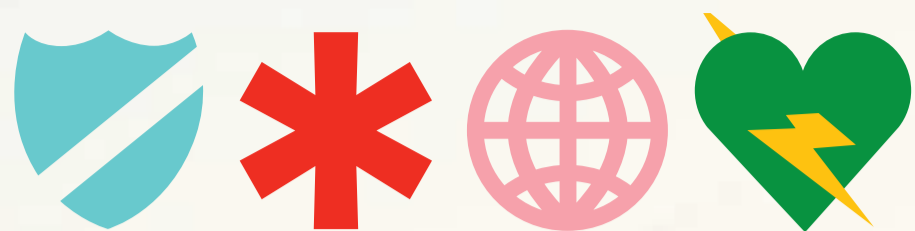
Glowing in green

Gig review
Pendulum
Brixton Academy

These kick-ass, drum'n'bass Aussies who dabble with rock/electonica, have certainly tasted a lot of success since the release of their debut album-*Hold Your Colour* back in 2005. Their new album, *In Silico*, stormed into the album charts at number two; they are simply on fire, oozing sheer confidence from all corners. Their soaring music has the inherent power to rip the dance floor apart leaving perennial repercussions wherever and whenever it is played.

Pendulum knew exactly how to get thousands of us up and raving at the Academy. The band were plainly in their element, high on something for sure. They delivered the show with incredible pumping sonic soundscapes, the whole time, each one of the protagonists unmistakably immersed in the zone. Some have likened Pendulum to a modern-day Prodigy, the band is comprised of Rob Swire (vocals/synth/producer), two guitarists, a DJ, drummer and an Mc who mixes the beats to perfection. A clan of many talents.

Getting towards midnight, the ravings began, the fireworks were ignited with the onset of a laser show, a frenzy



ROCK 2008 WERCHTER

Belgium: 3 – 6th July

Rock Werchter 2008 will take place from Thursday 3 until Sunday 6 July at Werchter's Festival Park. The festival is a broad overview of all the interesting and good things that are going on in pop, rock and dance. The best rock band in the world, the most exciting young British bands, the new kings of dance, the return of some old-time favourites. Guitars, electro, loved, unknown, headbang, sing along, dance, everything! As always, big names and established acts will be playing the Main Stage, these include Radiohead, R.E.M., Justice, The Chemical Brothers and many, many more. The Pyramid Marquee is reserved for upcoming talent and more intimate acts from around Europe.

Every day, there is room for 80,000 visitors, and the large spaces mean you won't be crammed up against some wasted, sweaty

fellow festival goer everywhere you step...

Always pulling huge names, it's hard to believe this massive four day event grew out of a small blues festival in 1975, but since its first incarnation the event has housed musical giants such as David Bowie, The Specials, Muse and Radiohead and more.

This festival is our top suggestion for the summer, four days long and less than the price of a standard UK festival you can see a ridiculously large number of huge acts for just one ticket. Tickets are available from www.rockwerchter.be and cost 160 Euros.

With all the insanely cheap beer you can drink (not Carling either), amazing bands, cheap food, cheap ticket, cheap Eurostar tickets available at the moment, great weather and lack of 16 year old rich indie kids filling the place up you'd be crazy to opt for one of the bigger UK festivals.

Our Favourite Bands from the lineup:

Justice
Radiohead
R.E.M
Vampire Weekend
Soulwax
The Chemical Brothers
2ManyDJs
Slayer
Digitalism
Neil Young
Sigur Ros

Summer Fest

Anyone who hasn't been living in a nuclear bunker for the last six years cannot fail to have noted the seemingly unstoppable rise in popularity of that past time once solely the joy of the music connoisseur, watching live bands. And if you love to see live bands then there is no better place to spend the warm summer months than swanning from festival to festival.

This year we feel it is becoming increasingly desirable to explore European festivals. Less crowded, less rain, more adventure and better value for money overall than a good deal of the burgeoning money spinners masquerading as festivals over here in good ol' Blighty.

That's not to say there aren't some wonderful English dates for your dairy this year – The Isle of Wight Festival, Wild in The Country, Latitude and who could dare to omit Reading Festival. We're not going



WIN TICKETS!

We've got 5 pairs of tickets for Dour Festival to give away to our readers, just email in to nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk or text DOUR to the Catfone: 07980 148 785

Belgium: 17 – 20th July

One of the strongest draws of Dour is without a doubt its programme. Every year at Dour you get a unique international bill (bands were coming from 28 different countries last year) that's different, alternative, independent, ambitious and sharp with an accent on new discoveries. All that at a very low price that can't be beaten.

Since its beginning the Dour Festival has owed much of its appeal to its incredible atmosphere. A multicultural audience that shares a love for music and partying creates a fun vibe throughout the site. The Dour Festival has become the unmissable music event of the summer for thousands of music fans across Europe.

Like every summer the festival will be held on the 3rd weekend of July, by the spoil heaps of the old coal mining site 'La Plaine de La Machine a Feu'. Dour the village is situated in the south of Belgium, by the French Border. For 4 days over

200 bands will play their tunes on 2 open-air stages and 4 marquees in front of an avid audience. This is the festival that never sleeps with non stop music from 12am until 5am the next day.

The festival's social agenda is not a sideshow anymore. People come to Dour to get informed as well thanks to our NGO village. This summer will be the 4th time the festival will welcome many social and political associations to inform the festival goers about NGO's and what can be done to help the planet.

We were lucky enough to get to Dour festival last year, and in our opinion, having attended almost every UK festival over the last 12 years, this was by far one of the best we've seen. The tickets are crazy cheap (85 Euros for 4 days), and if you're so cheap you can't even afford to pay for some (like us) then we seriously suggest you email in to win a pair of free tickets, because you'll have an almost 100% chance of winning.

www.dourfestival.be

Our Favourite Bands from the lineup:

Foals
Alter Ego
Pendulum
Battles
Mystery Jets
Boys Noize
Superlux
Efterklang
Ice Cube
Hatebreed
Fujiya and Miyagi

Festival Special

to bother to talk about Glastonbury because it has gotten far too big for its Wellingtons in our humble opinion, and besides if you didn't begin to register 5 months ago you know very well you're not going to be there.

Belgium is fast becoming a real haven for music festival lovers and if you haven't been to a festival in Europe before then go now and expand your mind to the possibilities of living without hype and the need to get so mindlessly drunk you can't remember who played what or when anyway. By far the most provincial is Dour. This is its 20th year and it promises to be a party. Rock Wercher's line-up kicks ass and Pukkelpop is Reading set in more space and with stages you can feasibly be at the front of for every band without even trying. Plus European festivals have bands during the day and then DJ's long into the night making for a much harder party experience.

We at Felix love you, and because of our inherent omnipotent benevolence, we have tickets to a fair selection of these very festivals to give away. Just send in your name and details and a reason why we should give our love to you in particular and we shall bestow our gifts upon those most.



Belgium: 14 – 16th August

The Belgian festival began life with one stage hosting seven bands and just three thousand people on a football pitch in 1985. From humble beginnings to having seen almost all major names in alternative rock of the past twenty years, the festival has been going from strength to strength with a burgeoning dance presence in the last decade. This year of 2007 saw The Smashing Pumpkins reunite to headline almost all major summer festivals worldwide, making their third appearance at Pukkelpop since 1993.

The main site of the Festival is pretty huge, a lot of time, money and effort has obviously gone into not only the organization but also the construction of the site. The stages are huge and the tents are enormous and boast sound quality you can only dream of experiencing back home. The Dance tent was the most awe inspiring thing, as big as an actual club

back home in London and fully fitted with screens at intervals that dropped down along the ceiling and the most incredible scalectrix track of moving green LED lights above you this was perfectly designed and certainly the most ubertastic dance tent I have ever been in at a festival. The second dance arena was almost as big, an actual tent with funnelled tops and an impressively and decorated inside with enormous glass baulbals splattered with random coloured paint markings and balloons hanging from the top.

The attention given to the dance areas clearly mimics the popularity of dance music and I have to admit it seemed if not the most popular genre, as popular as the rock music side of things. It makes most British festivals look like a muddy tent in someone's back garden by comparison.

Tickets are 150 Euros, and with an almost identical lineup to Reading (plus more), it's worth it. www.pukkelpop.be

Our Favourite Bands from the lineup:

M83
Metallica
Flaming Lips
The Killers
Lightspeed Champion
Alkaline Trio
Elbow
Killswitch Engage
Sons And Daughters
Sebastian
Uffie and Feadz

UK: 5th August

Wild in the Country is 18 hours of non-stop music and fun set in the palatial grounds of Hertfordshire's Knebworth House. Starting at 1pm on Saturday 5th July, this one day festival is set across six stunningly decorated marquee'd arenas, and the addition, this year, of a Live outdoor stage. The quality of music on offer provides the perfect soundtrack, whilst the Enchanted Wood, a Victorian Fun Fair, Twisted Tea Rooms and a giant chill-out tepee are just some of the surprises in store at Wild in the Country - a day and night of great music, merry-making and mischief.

Hot on the heels of her critically acclaimed sold out UK tour, Wild in the Country will be Bjork's only UK festival date this year. The Icelandic songstress will bring her unique and powerful theatrics to Knebworth. Tracks from groundbreaking albums such as Vespertine and Volta will be sure

to enthrall all with her renowned expressive performances - one definitely not to be missed!

This year's line-up reflects a diverse collection of artists and DJ's, with a mixture of live performances and DJ sets. This year will see some exclusive performances, the aforementioned Bjork, and also the confirmed appearance of the legendary Danny Tenaglia.

The range of DJs and live acts will mean there is something to suit everyone, and for festival goers, a non-stop 18 hour musical marathon.

The live performers playing at this year's festival are coming from all over the globe to delight the crowds at Wild in the Country. Iceland's Bjork will be joined by Belgium's electro/rock outfit Soulwax, Australia's drum and bass heroes Pendulum, Battles and Hercules & Love Affair from the States, as well as a good measure of UK acts. It's at Knebworth Park, and if it tickles your fancy - contact us and we'll give you a ticket. www.wildinthecountry.co.uk

Our Favourite Bands from the lineup:

Sigur Ros
Soulwax
Foals
Battles
The Presets
Metromomy
2ManyDJs
Killa Kila
Annie Mac
Yousef
Sasha
The Field



WIN TICKETS!

We've got 2 pairs of tickets Wild In The Country to give away to our readers, just email in to nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk or text DOUR to the Catfone: 07980 148 785

**diy
discO**

**Bring your
own music!**

**12TH JUNE
THE UNION
BARNIGHT
7PM**

**£5 ENTRY
£4 ams MEMBERS**



**Free badge
with entry!**





TWMA: An Amsterdam special

Meeting Jesus, flirting with French women and cruising over to Anne Frank's pad; it's all in a day or two's work for the Travels Without My Aunt crew. **Theo Georgeiou Delisle** elaborates on his discoveries

Wonderful, wonderful Copen... I mean Amsterdam, cos that's where I went, innit. Blinking in the bright sunshine, as a fellow chum and I arrived in the central station it was clear that the city centre was undergoing what can only be described as a light raping as various schuper fun happy construction guys dug for victory. Victory over common sense though, as the only way to cross the square was by means of a piggyback on a sturdy prostitute.

We decided, to make life interesting, to 'go Christian' in our choice of youth hostel. Incidentally 'going Christian' should not be confused with 'going Dutch', a convention where by at the end of a nice meal between a couple, the male, instead of taking on the full financial burden of the shared dinner service, instead slips Rohypnol into the Singapore Sling of the fairer sex.

Manning the youth hostel, Jesus had decided to recruit a receptionist who seemed to lead a life based upon blissful ignorance of basic skills, and consequently instead of keys to our room we were unexpectedly given a small tambourine and a well-thumbed copy of the New Testament. Upon arrival in our salubrious accommodation it came as some comfort to us that our beds in the room had already been well tested by a large American fellow who had entered a well-fed zen state. Having arrived a little late in the evening, after a quick drink in a local watering hole we were ready to hit the hay and toddle off to the land of nod, falling asleep on a soft blanket of metaphors.

The morning arrived unexpectedly prematurely around two hours before one might have hoped it would do at 6:37am as our subconscious slumber was interwoven with the incessant beat of dance/house trance fusion. It would seem that our bulbous friend from the colonies had set an early alarm call to awaken him from a pie-induced snooze, yet the greedy gobbler had failed to wake himself, copious adipose tissue clearly muffling his hearing and thus the unexpected concert continued until 8am.

After a communal shower and morn-



If you can't find Anne Frank, this is what you can do...

ing prayers we were ready to face the new day head on, but not before the much anticipated free breakfast ©. The hot option of oatmeal was discounted on principle and thus we were left with the now legendary delicacy of toast with ham, cheese, and jam. The ham, cheese and jam combination is now largely overlooked in Blair's Britain, however, during the 17th century restoration period, as copious indulgence led to the acquisition of the Jam colonies from the then Rhodesia causing the now notorious jam flood of London's East End, endless ham and jam houses sprouted up. As we know, cheese was

later added to these increasingly common 'emporiums' when, it was first imported to Britain from Iceland in the 1920's. Sitting at the breakfast table, liberally spreading a glaze of jam across my ham, I came into conversation with a beautiful French girl, and we began to bond over a shared dislike of poorly-cooked oatmeal.

Not being helped by an ill-judged and slightly racist comment by my fellow travelling companion about French cuisine (he claimed later that he did not realise the nature of her nationality, a claim I can only fail to believe due to her outrageous French accent), I at-



De Toppers! ROCK ON!

tempted to rescue the situation with a quip about her upward inflexion at the end of sentences which went down about as well as a Gordon Brown rap concert. As she left the table I cursed my awful small talk and ate my jam like a good Christian boy.

Our hopes were high for the fresh day, our morale barely dented by my previous brush-off and so we set out to look at a young girl's attic. Our trip was planned like a military operation, albeit one without a map and a clear sense of direction, so we were reliant on the maps provided at information points throughout the city.

Now I do not want to necessarily come over as critical of the Dutch grid referencing system, but I could have been clearer in my labelling system of historic city sites aided by only a ham and jam crayon. As a result of the blundering city cartographer, we arrived at Anne Frank's pad only to find it had been converted into a zoo containing among other animals: Warthog, Heron, and Llama. Looking at a small schoolchild waving at a distressed peacock, I sensed we may not have honed in on the 'secret annex.'

Our disastrous day was only compounded by a hastily planned trip to the Ajax stadium where we were informed by a haughty blonde that tours of the stadium had been cancelled due to a concert by a non-specific band which I latter found out were called 'De toppers.' It was a bitter disappointment.

The next day, having used a series of GPS pigeons to finally locate what the Nazis had failed to do for so long, we paid €7.50 and filed into a small house at number 267, Prinsengracht Street. I am not going to make cheap jokes about what was, at times, a moving exhibition but I will point out that the choice, by a Canadian tourist, to hum out loud 'The Final Countdown' upon exiting the secret Annex was at best, ill-judged.

Relaxing later in a sunny 'Oosterpark' surrounded by a pack of dogs that seemed strangely attracted to the belt on my jeans (I really don't know why this was, a sentiment I repeated later to a stern looking customs official) we reflected on an error-filled, but ultimately enjoyable trip and decided to go and find another harassed peacock.

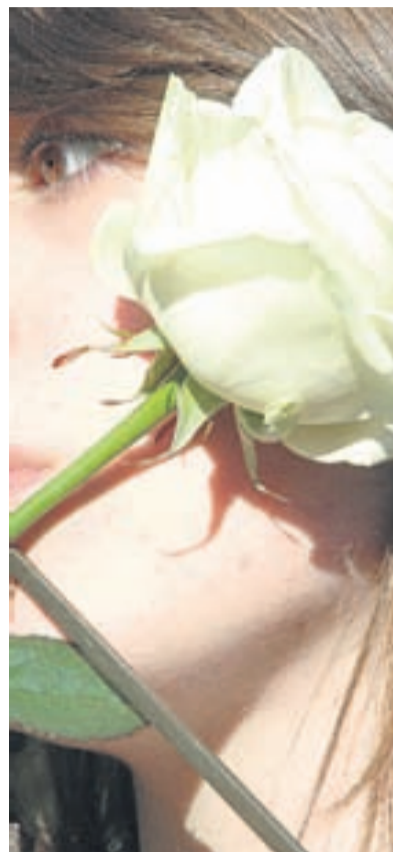


Amsterdam. Caution advised when seeking out accommodation...



Needy McNeedy: pwning n00bs on 56k modems

Teaching L'Oreal models the 'flick' since TV began. Email your problems to: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Sometimes people come up to me and they just start telling me intricate details about their lives. It's not my fault; I don't even ask them to. I must just have a kind face or something. (I'm pulling my most sympathetic face right now; it's pretty damn caring.) Email your problems to agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk. I can send you a picture of the caring face in return. It'll brighten up your day.

Dear Needy McNeedy,

So... had the exams, did the exams. I thought it went quite well, thanks for asking. Then I partied quite hard, drank a lot, vomited on the Rector's shoes (ok so I made that bit up) and concentrated on getting over my hangover.

But now the hangover's gone, and so is the revision, and life should be sweeet. (And it is: I'm having a brilliant time getting drunk 24/7) But slowly my money is draining away. How do I go about getting one of those job things?

MoreBeerPlease

Dear MoreBeerPlease,

From experience, you definitely don't need any of the following things to get a job: CV, cover letter, interview. At least not the kind of job I think would suit your kind (i.e. one that pays well for little effort). There are some things you do need, however.

They are: a vast majority of acquaintances with jobs, good bribery material, and, if possible, something which would put you in a minority group. This makes you instantly employable.

I'd advise you to carry on partying as hard as you can until you've made enough friends and then let them get your new job for you.

If this fails, I'm beginning to need a secretary to cope with the deluge of emails from poor confused students. Applicants please email their party invitations to agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I've been with my long-term girlfriend

for about a year and a half, and it's still going really well. Recently, one of my ex-girlfriends started to message me on Facebook, and then we started texting each other. Yesterday she suggested that she should come down and stay with me in London. I think she thinks we're going out. How do I break the news about my girlfriend?

BlueEyes

Dear BlueEyes,

Definitely don't tell her. Picture the scene: one day you are an old man, with various small children sitting gazing at you from a rug by a fire, pleading with you to tell them the exciting story about when you were young and had to juggle two girlfriends. This is perfect Hollywood romantic comedy material, why would you throw it all away?

Just make sure you've picked which one you're actually going to end up with before the ex arrives, and pick that very weekend to propose to either of them. Or both.

Needy xxx

Dear Desperate,

My parents have recently decided to get divorced. I thought their mutual disdain would last forever, but they have decided to enforce their misery on the unsuspecting public instead.

My mum believes this is a new lease of life for her, and during a phone call the other day she told me that she wants to come and live in London with me. How can I keep her out of my life?

Desperate

Dear Desperate,

How dare you treat your mother with such disrespect? If you've been through the experience of halls, it's pretty much overrated living without your parents. Nobody else will pick your festering washing off the floor and return it, ironed and folded, into your drawers. Nobody else will pay for your food. (That is, unless you get a long suffering and mistreated girlfriend.) Call her and ask when she can move in.

Needy xxx

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



Aquarius

This week you and two of your friends are naked in your room with your boyfriend. You drive him wild with all

manners of teasing but in a sudden change of mood berate him for looking. How dare he get turned on when I kiss and touch my friends! Fucking pervert. I'm going to rip out his eye balls with a blunt spoon, then ram them in a blender and turn that bitch up to 11. BRRUU-URRRNNNNNN. Splat. Eyeball soup. Pwned.



Pisces

This week your blind boyfriend loses all interest. He explains "basically, you were like, well fit, but now you're

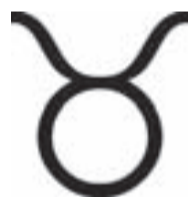
like, just well annoying. Innit blud." You cry yourself to sleep but then get revenge by pushing him down a flight of stairs. Painful and politically incorrect. You stand atop the stairs cackling manically, before turning to your chalkboard with your plans for world domination scrawled on its dark surface.



Aries

Your interest in your crippled, blind, impotent and generally broken boyfriend rekindles. After destroying his

life, he has no choice but to love you. As you lay down at the end of the first day of the rest of your lives together, you feel his shattered tibia invading your personal space. You push him off the bed onto the cold hard floor.



Taurus

This week you are mysteriously transported to John Lennon's boudoir. He proclaims his love for you and throws

Yoko out the window. In an avant-garde twist she writes a poem on the way down entitled "Am I falling or is the ground rocketing upwards?" Regardless she face-plants the pavement with a satisfying crack, splat and oooh baby, faceless corpse. Lennon peers out of the window, undresses and you get it on.



Gemini

This week you try your best to get deported. Police still won't arrest you for cannabis possession and that girl you

raped won't talk. Last time you tried to blow up a public building, some bloke named Abdul got the blame. You resign yourself to a fate in a cold, lifeless country. When someone points out how easy it is to get a flight out, you gash him in the face with your deadly Shank. It turns out to be the Prime Minister...



Cancer

...Instead of being deported you're given a life sentence in a minimum security prison. You become even

more demoralised with life especially with the ease at which you can escape from the prison. You try to find meaning by beating the world record for the number of murders committed. 58,000,003 never seemed so far away.



Leo

This week the Editor scares you, but the kind of 'scares' that kind of arouses you. You know like when you're walking

through the park late at night, and a man points a gun at your head and says "give me your money" but all you really want to give him is your virginity? Or when a dog is barking at you but you imagine it saying "I don't bite... hard". You know what I'm saying, yeh bruv? Yeh? No? No... Awkward... Awwwwkward



Virgo

This week you audition for a Cillit Bang advert. You're going up against Barry Scott because for some reason

he has to audition for absolutely every advert he wants to be in. You dub yourself Barry Scoot. It comes to audition day. Barry's givin' it large and all that jazz, so in an attempt to cut him down in his prime you plant him with chloroform, cut a small opening in his thigh and tongue it with all your might. Winner.



Libra

This week you take a trip into the future. Upon arriving you discover that the upper half of your body failed

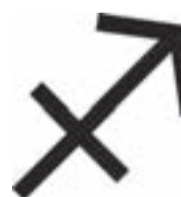
to make it through the portal. That's right you are a pair of legs, with no worries in the 36th century. There's so much to see... Uh experience... Uh walk to and all the time in the world. Unfortunately, you just fall over... sigh



Scorpio

This week your brother shrinks you with the laser he's been developing for quite some time. Instead of

a dramatic Hollywood-esque situation, you measure a vast 4 foot, 3 inches. Whaddya you mean you don't use Imperial measurements?! You stupid dick face. No one actually understands metres and centimetres. Get out of my country you silly mong. How many metres away is home? eh? EH? Moron.



Sagittarius

This week you discover the downside to making close friends. When you were just acquaintances you censored

your behaviour and personality, and people thought you were normal. Now that you feel more relaxed around them you tell them that it is you that writes the Horoscopes. They are disgusted, not because of the crude nature of the horoscopes but because that pulsing vein in your eye is kinda weird... seriously



Capricorn

This week in a moment of spontaneous adventure you ride your motorbike to Cuba. 10 metres off the coast you

realise that neither you, your motorbike nor the sandwich you were keeping for the journey are waterproof and decide to head back. You return to Beit Quad to find a bunch of goons in facepaint singing "BOWIES IN SPACEEE"

Hangman

Putting the cat out to dry

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Who are these Imperial inbreds?

Outraged CSM representative, Alistair Hutchinson, relives nightmare. RSM feels no remorse whatsoever

Every year Camborne School of Mines partakes in a seemingly friendly series of matches with the Royal School of Mines. I Alistair Hutchinson (definitely not a Hangman reporter pretending to be from CSM) enjoy the playful banter as we beat RSM into submission every year. In fact I can't remember the last hockey match in which CSM didn't beat RSM by at least 100.5 goals. This year was particularly enjoyable as the CSM 17ths beat the RSM 1sts in rugby. However the sweet nectar of victory was spoiled by uncivilised mongrels. That's right, Imperial College's beloved RSM!

The shameful actions of RSM members at this year's Bottle Match were a step too far. RSM members trawled around Camborne carrying pitchforks, torches and dildos; brutally violating any CSM member they could get their hands on and setting our thatched houses alight. One of the worst cases

A Guide To Drug Use In Camborne

Name	Description
The Pill	What or more should be taken
Viagra	What or dad needs to get an erection
Dope	What a must have smoked to join CSM
Anti-Depressants	What it'll need when you realise your job prospects
Heroin	What it'll be taking when your homeless
Alcohol	What were better at drinking than you
Winning	What u havent done in 10 YEARS!!!

Camborne.

Its what happens when inbreds get together.



Join Camborne?!



I'd rather be Stillborn!

Where did these come from?! Ahem... Union website! <http://www2.union.ic.ac.uk/rsm/gallery/bmcomp07>

was that of Big Time Willy. Big Time (BT) was penetrated by no less than 5 members of the RSM hockey team, then branded with the RSM logo as if he were a piece of cattle. I told BT he

shouldn't have worn that cow bell, oh why didn't you listen Big Time?

BT's hideous disfigurement into a half man, half cow hybrid forced me to send a really, really, *really* angry letter

to Danny Phantom (RSM President), asking him to apologise to Big Time Willy for the terrible things that had happened to him. I received a letter back denying any such behaviour took

place, calling me a liar and a cheat. However, Mr Danny Phantom, I have proof (not proof of the stated incident, but proof of something)!

After days of searching, I discovered offensive pictures on the Imperial College Union's Web site. Many stating that we, CSM and the Cornish, are not genetically engineered super humans but actually inbred swine. WE ARE NOT INBRED! Just ugly to the max.

I hope by writing this article you, the general populous of Imperial College, will see how scummy the RSM really is; I hear they're trying to become a separate union. What fools.

Check the web link on the left, to see more offensive pictures created by RSM.

If you were offended by anything in this issue, please email. We'll be sure to pass your address onto www.freaksofcock.com. Go on, check it out...

Rector gets his in last orders on the tube, mash-up style



Rector and his new lady friend, later found floating in the Thames

Boooooooooooooooooooooo. I know you guys. You like to drink it don't ya? Don't lie to the Hangman or you'll end up like Felix (see right). Turns out you're not the only ones who like to intoxicate yourselves to the extent they'd have sex with Ross Goldberg (post-stabbing). As you may have deduced, our Rector, Richard Sykes, is an alcoholic fiend!

The picture, shown above, taken by the Hangman team shows our "glorious" rector drinking on the circle line, during the riot that was "Last Drinks on the Tube". The Hangman crew hung out all night on the tube drinking with

good ol' Dickie and quite frankly we were disgusted, appalled and aroused by his performance.

We totally didn't Photoshop the picture. Honest. Look at the time stamp.



How to be attractive

Students; the next few paragraphs could turn out to be the most important words you've ever read. I am your saviour and I am here to lead you to the promised land that is sexual intercourse with a female. Delete your bookmarked porn sites and start using your socks on your feet because the secret of being attractive to the opposite sex is about to be revealed.

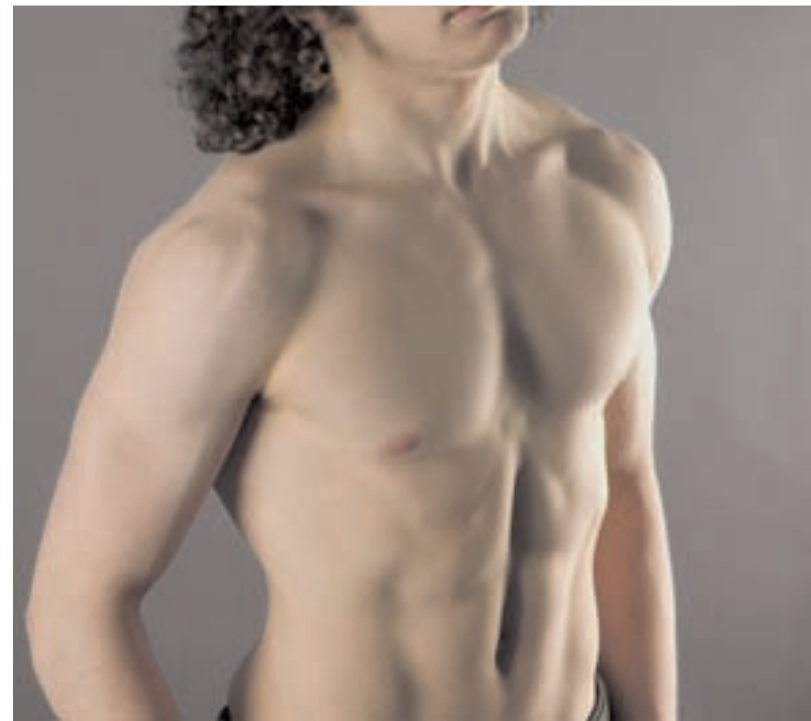
Tip number 1: If you are beyond human help, ie: ugly, stop reading now

Tip number 2: A hot body (see right) helps, but is significantly counter-acted by long, curly hair... lose the hair

Tip number 3: If you are gaming, then you aren't spending time with girls: cease gaming immediately

Tip number 4: Now that you've got a hot body, nice hair and some spare time; leave Imperial. Run! Flee the darkness!

Tip number 5: Stop taking tips from somebody who works for Felix. Don't you know we never... never get laid. If you're looking for help from us, then... you might as well kill yourself



This guy's a Physicist: meaning he has the attractiveness of a flag pole

Letter

Dear Editor,

Not wanting to sound like the Football Club... protest to the slurs... ..deeply derogatory... slander... negative... gender stereotyping... retract this comment... extend a warm invitation... join our rank... long pointy sticks

Knit Sock HQ

Secretive Hangman Editor responds

A young boy named Timmy used to live in Kansas, never harmed a fly. One day he stumbled upon his mother in the kitchen, knitting. No-one's quite sure what happened next, but... that boy was never the same. He lost sight in both eyes and couldn't enjoy the touch of another human being again.

The point of the story is this, sure some people might benefit from knitting, who knows there might even be folk who enjoy it, but it's just for lady

folk. We've seen what happens when knitting and men come together, look what happened to poor old Timmy. We can't allow more people to be harmed by this here knittin'.

I was alarmed when Knitsock was founded but I'm a tolerant person even if I don't agree with some of the stuff in this world. But I don't wanna see more lives ruined, I'll thank ya not to come around again and to leave our menfolk alone ya-hear? Now get, unless you want to feel the end of this here shotgun, alright?

Imperial's men have Met success in Eton

Iain Palmer

This weekend saw one of the most prestigious domestic rowing events take place in Eton; the Metropolitan Regatta. While most other university sports tend to wind down over the summer, the peak of competitive rowing conveniently occurs in the middle of exam season!

The Metropolitan Regatta is second only to Henley Royal Regatta in terms of quality of racing, and is a vital test of speed before racing at Henley. It involves 6 or 7 crews racing side-by-side over 2 kilometres from a standing start. In physiological terms, it is one of the most intense forms of exercise in any sport, and lies between a sprint and a long-distance race in a horrible world of lactate pain, which most normal people will never have had the joy of experience!

This year, Imperial had a total of 18 boats entered in a variety of races at the 'Met'. Topping the bill was an Imperial

College composite coxless four, featuring Imperial rowers Simon Hislop and George Whittaker, as well as Olympic Gold medallist Kieron West. The four's race on Saturday saw them come a disappointing 2nd to a Cambridge University crew made up of boat race veterans. However, a change in crew order and adjustment of rigging saw the Imperial 4- turn things around the following day to win their 'elite' event by 4 seconds.

In single sculling boats, Andrew Gordon and Ole Tietz both raced hard in their heats to reach the same semi-final. Ole was able to turn around a 3rd place in his heat to win the semi- and subsequently come a close second in a tough final. On Sunday, the two came together in a double-sculd and showed their excellent speed as a crew by coming 3rd in an 'elite' event (the highest category of racing, usually featuring potential/current internationals). The Gordon-Tietz double is now hoping to find another two scullers to compete in

a quad at Henley. After this, the duo's thoughts will turn to trials, with Gordon set to enter GB U23 lightweight trials in the autumn and Tietz vying for a place in the German lightweight squad.

Imperial also entered its top 8 into an event featuring the fastest crews in the UK. Essentially, the 8 was made up of two coxless fours that had raced the previous day and as such was almost, but not quite, a 'scratch' crew. Some members of the crew approached the race with some trepidation; however, a good rhythm was quickly found during an extended race warm-up, and the crew attached to the start pontoon with greater confidence.

The eight had a quick start, staying in the pack and in touch with the rest of the field. At 1000m the crew were only 4 seconds behind Durham University; the fastest uni crew in the country. Soon after halfway, a member of the crew caught a 'crab' (where the oar is not extracted from the water, thus



Imperial 1st 8 going for a paddle

causing an unfortunate braking effect). However, the last 500m saw the crew battling hard once again to finish with significant speed. With 4 weeks remaining until Henley, the gap between Durham and Imperial can be closed, provided the crew really pull together as one.

The depth of the squad was also shown by the 2nd 8, another scratch crew and containing four newcomers (this year) to the sport. After boating 45 minutes before the race, the crew practised their start, and immediately found that there was significant speed. By the fourth or fifth practise start; the boat was moving surprisingly well and scything through the water.

After rowing to the start line, the eight came under starter's orders. "Attention.....Go!". First stroke; draw. Second stroke; draw again, then spin up the rate. On stroke five, the stroke man almost caught a crab, which would have spelt an effective end to the race. However, the rest of the crew recovered well to reach full length by stroke 10 and get off to an excellent start. Throughout the next 2000m the

'powerhouse' middle four of Adam Seward, Carlos Schuster, John Dick and Frank Murphy maintained the work to remain fully in the race and finish excellently. Importantly, this eight overcame their collective lack of experience through determination and raced very hard all the way to the finish. Promisingly, this crew was only 1s slower at 500m and 3s slower at 1500m than the 1st 8, showing quality throughout the squad.

This week, the build-up really begins for Henley. While many students will be either revising (before exams) or drinking (after exams!), spare a thought for Imperial's rowers, who will still be training 11 times a week. By the time you read this, the entire squad will have completed 2k ergometer tests; 2 kms on the rowing machine, absolutely flat out. I advise you to attempt this yourselves for 'fun'; have a go at beating George Whittaker's 5' 59.9s (averaging 1:30 / 500m). I can guarantee that it is one of the most painful tests known to man. However, if this is what it takes for racing success this summer, then it is most certainly more than worth it!



Imperial 2nd 4 pulling away from the rest of the pack

Imperial's women also deliver goods at the Met

Christina Duffy

The Metropolitan Regatta took place last weekend in the world-class rowing centre at Dorney Lake. This spectacular location will host events in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012 and has already been host to Rowing World Cup 2005 and the World Rowing Championships in 2006. ICBC squads were entered in a range of senior categories for the 2km regatta race and departed early on Saturday morning prepared for a tough weekend.

While most boat clubs generally specialise in either rowing (single oar) or sculling (two oars), Imperial College Boat Club continually finds success in both techniques. Coaches Steve Trapmore, Ross Smitheman and Brian Steele have focused intensively on the women's squad, preparing them for the pinnacle of the season; Women's Henley Royal (WHR), which takes place this month on June 20-22. The MET regatta is essentially the Golden Globes of the rowing circuit offering predictions for possible victories at Henley. With WHR just three weeks away, racing crews have been largely decided upon and the MET regatta is a chance to see where crews are expected to rank and if any last minute changes are necessary.

Lightweights Rachael Davies and Cynthia Mynhardt competed in the

women's double sculls S2 event, coming second in the opening round and finishing an impressive third place in the final just over four seconds off winners Durham University BC.

There was further achievement in sculling on Sunday when quadruple scullers Claire Waterworth, Rachael Davies, Cynthia Mynhardt and Katy Smith raced in a straight final. They had a winning time of 7:13.5 with Mortlake Anglian & Alpha BC trailing for second place in 7:18.22.

ICBC commander-in-chief Erica Thompson was in action in the women's S3 single sculls coming second in the opening heat and progressing to the semi-final but unfortunately missed out on a final place. Jenny Forrester competed in the women's S2 single sculls and after dominating the repechage proceeded to the final, finishing 5th overall in a time of 8:18.97 to Reading RC's pole position finish in 8:02.74.

In the rowing events there were two coxed fours entered in the S3 category, which due to the volume of entries was divided into two divisions. Imperial College (A) consisted of Selina Graham, Ro Smith, Deborah Tamulonis and Clarice Chung coxed by Connie Pidoux while I was stroke for Imperial College (B) comprised of Mackenzie Clavin, Anna Jones and Deepika Reddy. Both crews finished first in their

opening heats and progressed straight to the final without having to participate in the repechage. The six-hour gap between races was fatal for Imperial (B) who were unlucky in a tough final, while Imperial (A) were impressive and won their division in 7:36.17. The Littleton Rosebowl was awarded to the fastest overall crew of the two divisions which Imperial lost out on to Cardiff University/Swansea University by over

four seconds.

Imperial (A) crew were in action again on Sunday in the S2 category competing for the Matt Wood Bowl. They finished third in the opening round proceeding to the repechage but were unable to reach a top three position and didn't make the final.

The weekend's results are very promising and with several weeks remaining before WRH, more speed will be gained

in these boats. Not in action over the weekend but expected to perform well at WHR, is the women's heavyweight quad of Jenny Forrester, Guen Bradbury, Carlyn Greenhalgh and Erica Thompson at bow. The power quad is a formidable force, as shown in their victory in Ghent. The next few weeks in the build up to WHR will prove crucial as crews endeavour to stay healthy during this intense training period.



Coxed four empty the tanks for victory



Imperial at the MET

Imperial College Boat Club successful in Eton, see page 31

Henley Royal Regatta

Iain Palmer

To many, Henley Royal Regatta is an opportunity to drink Pimm's in the sun by the Thames. However, for most serious rowers, it is the peak of the racing season – the event for which the past nine months of training have been building up to.

In essence, there is no other race quite like it. Unlike most other regattas, it is raced side-by-side and against the stream. A week before the race itself, a full-scale construction process is carried out to lay wooden booms in the river along the length of the 2112m course, create various riverside enclosures and build a large grandstand at the finish line. However, it is truly the unique atmosphere of the regatta that makes it special; crews travel from as far away as the US and Australia to experience racing at Henley. Unsullied by commercial interests, the regatta is, however, a truly British institution.

Racing begins on Wednesday and continues until Sunday in a one-on-one 'knock-out' format, generally with a race each day for each crew still in their event. The quality of racing in all events is extremely high, and a Henley win is highly prized. In the past four years, Imperial College has dominated the 'Prince Albert Challenge Cup'

event with two wins. As a result, Imperial was given the honour of naming the event and the rector, Sir Richard Sykes, donated the Cup last year on behalf of the college, in the presence of HRH The Queen.

This year Imperial will be seeking wins at Henley Royal Regatta and Women's Henley. Such feats will not be easily achieved; if they are, however, it will boost Imperial's sporting reputation massively both in the UK and in-

ternationally and show it can compete with the likes of Cambridge and Harvard outside of academia, as it already does inside. Women's Henley runs from Friday 20th June to Sunday 22nd June, while Henley Royal Regatta begins on Wednesday 2nd July and ends on Sunday 6th. For more information, visit the regattas' websites at www.hwr.org.uk and www.hrr.co.uk. Please feel very welcome to come and support your university!



A perfect day at Henley

Imperial students hope for international success

Iain Palmer

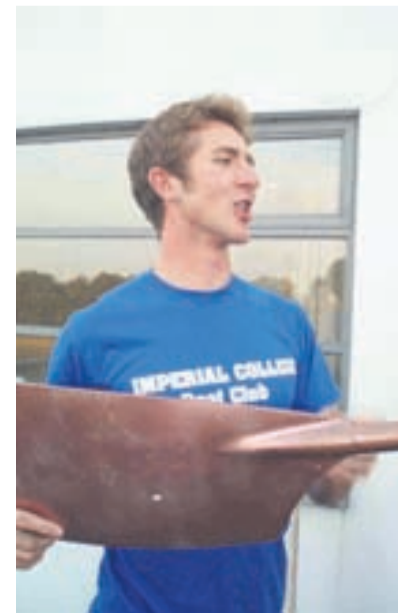
Imperial student and ICUACC 'Sportsman of the Year' Adam Freeman-Pask is no stranger to international competition, having competed in the World Rowing U23 Championships in both 2006 and 2007, and the World University Rowing Championships in 2006. However, in the coming year he hopes to raise his sights even further by aiming for selection to race at the Senior World Championships.

Over the weekend Adam raced in the 'elite lightweight single sculls' at Metropolitan Regatta, winning with an awesome 1st 500m time of 1' 40s. The following day, he moved into a potential GB lightweight quad, which also won very convincingly. This should stand Adam in good stead for selection to represent his country once again in the near future.

It should be stressed, however, that rowing at such a level is not all work and no play. As we are told by his profile on the GB rowing website, "in his spare time Adam enjoys sports such as surfing, snow boarding and cycling and also likes going to the cinema and to live gigs."

A mention should also go out to Olly

Mahoney, who is aiming to compete at the 2008 FISU World University Rowing Championships in the lightweight pair. Good luck to all of Imperial's current and future international oarsmen!



The man himself, Adam Freeman-Pask