

felix

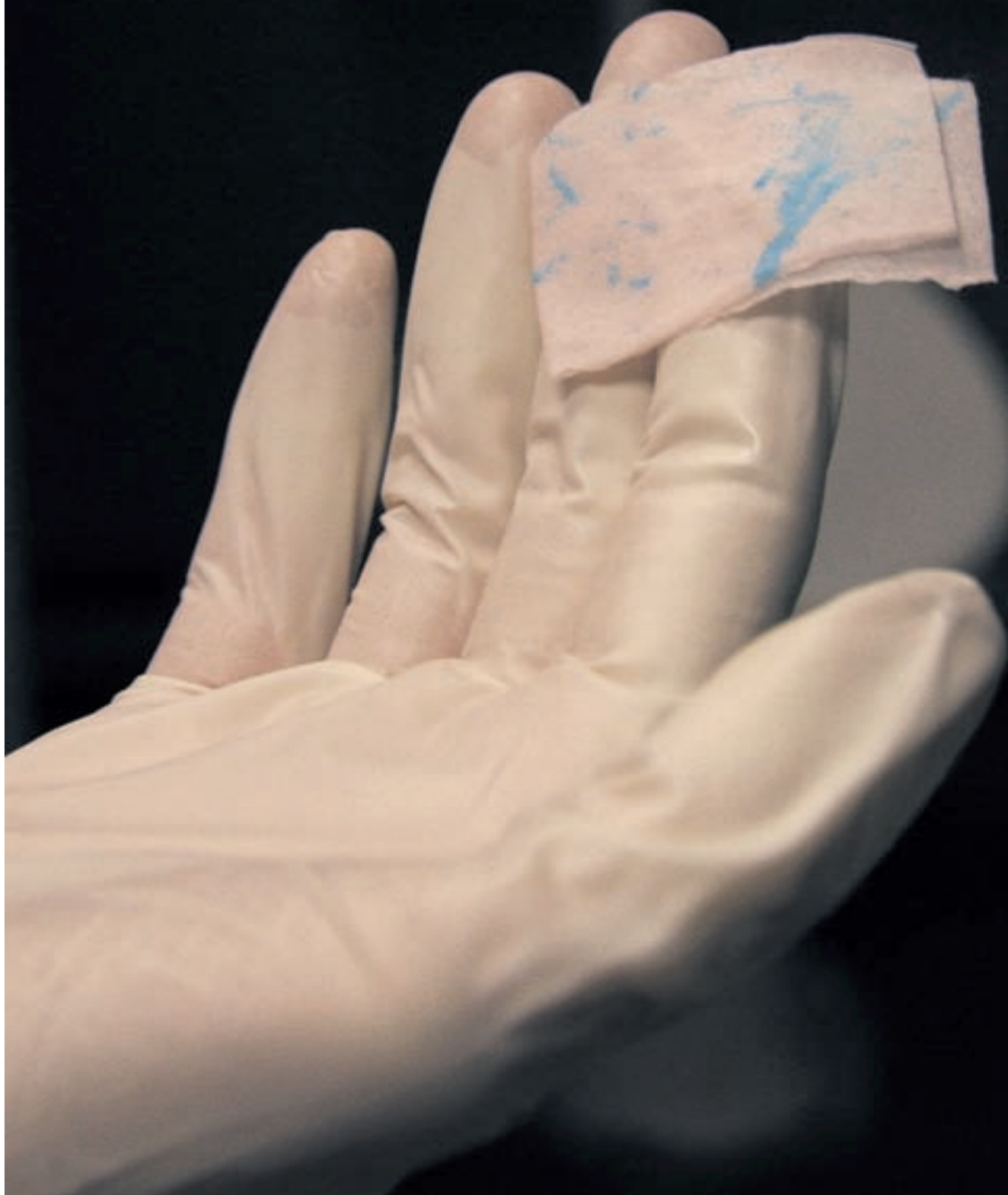
The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Issue 1,408
Friday 20 June 2008
felixonline.co.uk



Swabbing the decks

Astounding results as toilets in almost every department at Imperial test positive for the presence of cocaine; including the staff Faculty Building. See page 3



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Scienfeld: the science of Seinfeld



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Final 07/08 issue!



Student ethnicity: refusing to be racially counted

A sample ethnicity questionnaire from UK central government

A White

B Mixed

White and Black Caribbean

White and Black African

White and Asian

Other, please state below

C Asian including British Asian

Indian

Pakistani

Bangladeshi

Other, please state below

D Black

Caribbean

African

Other, please state below

E Chinese or other ethnic group

Chinese

Other, please state below

F I do not wish to state my ethnic group

Andrew Somerville
Deputy & News Editor

Felix has uncovered College data that suggests a massive disparity in the willingness of students to record their racial background between 'Home' (UK) students, and those from the EU and overseas.

In the 2006/2007 student statistics recorded by College, in which students are asked to provide information about their ethnic background, a startling 77% of both Overseas and EU student classifications refused to give information about their ethnic identity, whereas only 1% of Home students declined to define their racial origins.

For example: whilst college reports approximately 982 undergraduate students with Chinese nationality, only 76 undergraduates in the Overseas fee category described themselves as being of Chinese ethnicity. The two categories that appear to object most to the ethnic self-classification appear to be Overseas students from the Far East, and "White" EU students, both of whom are dramatically underrepresented in the data.

The reason for this difference between UK and foreign students is unclear. It is possibly caused by College's collection method, which is not consistent for all categories (the data is recorded at different points of the application process for foreign and UK students), potentially skewing the data.

However, student opinion voiced to Felix suggests other possible causes. Many students found it difficult to identify with any of the categories, and others found that more than one category applied to them. Whilst there are three categories devoted to southern Asia ('Bangladeshi', 'Indian' and 'Pakistani'), Far Eastern students are forced to pick between 'Chinese', 'Other Asian' and 'Other'.

Another possible reason for the difference lies in attitudes to ethnicity and the right of any organisation to enquire

about a person's race. Many people feel such information is private, and are unsure as to how it may be used by the organisation.

"Ethnicity is a very sensitive issue," said one German student, "many people from my country would feel uncomfortable when presented with such a question." This explanation was repeated from several foreign students to account for the apparent difference between the Home and EU/Overseas recorded data.

The data is collected in order to allow College to monitor the diversity of its student body, so that it can theoretically ensure fair access for all students regardless of race. If the ethics of being asked such questions is the cause of the discrepancy, it poses the question over why UK students are more willing to submit information on their ethnic background to College.

One possible reason is the regularity with which UK students have been asked such questions over their lifetime. In the UK, there are many processes and policies that are specifically designed to 'widen participation' for all ethnicities, which have led to monitoring in the form of these questionnaire sections in many official documents issued by governmental bodies.

UK students have been filling out such paperwork for most of their lives, and thus are used to being asked such information. This has possibly caused a desensitisation to relatively intrusive data collection, whereas students from non-UK backgrounds are concerned about the nature and purpose of such questions.

Whether these disparities show a UK population that is laudably unconcerned by questions over ethnicity, or has simply become accustomed to intrusive information-gathering, remains to be seen. It is difficult to extrapolate to the other institutions across the country, but the difference between the responses to the question of ethnicity for UK and non-UK students is unquestionable at IC.

von Hagens – ICSM's next Head of Anatomy?



The Imperial grapevine is alive and kicking with rumours that Dr. Gunther von Hagens will be joining Imperial's School of Medicine as Head of Anatomy in the coming academic year. The infamous professor is widely known for his Bodyworlds exhibitions that have become an absolute phenomenon the world over. He is also the presenter of Channel 4's "The Anatomist" in which he regularly dissected corpses on live TV. Whilst the rumours are unconfirmed it has independently made its way to the ears of more than three members of the Felix staff, lending it some genuine credibility

felix 1,408
Friday 20/6/08



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
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Farewell!

We hope you enjoyed Felix this year. Good luck with your exam results and we'll be back before you can say "fail/2:1/ZOMG first!" Have a fantastic summer, whatever you do or wherever you find yourself.

The Felix Team



LOLCAT OF TEH YEAR

Cocaine in most IC departments?

Testing campus toilets with cocaine swabs, Felix finds a surprisingly high positive rate. Are we all high?

**Tom Roberts &
Andrew Somerville**

An investigation by Felix has uncovered evidence suggesting that cocaine use occurs in 70% of South Kensington campus toilets. The survey found positive indications in most of the major departments, the Union building and most significantly the 'Blue Cube' Faculty Building – a building that is off-limits to students.

Felix visited 47 toilets across the campus: 31 mens', 9 womens' and 7 disabled lavatories. At each site, swabs designed to indicate the presence of cocaine were used to test the toilet seat covers, cisterns, hinges and other available flat surfaces for traces of the illegal drug, with surprising results. Out of the 47

tests, 34 gave positive results: 22 mens', 6 womens' and 6 disabled, all indicating varying quantities of the substance.

The 'cocaine swabs' used in the Felix investigation are identical to those used in similar tests conducted at the universities of York, Exeter and Cambridge and similar to those used to test toilets at the European Parliament in Brussels by a major German broadcaster, which were later verified by thorough forensic tests. The manufacturer also supplies drug testing kits to various UK police agencies, including the Metropolitan Police, and the Prison Service, as well as to student and professional press. The swabs are sensitive to a few milligrams of the "functional group" of chemicals to which cocaine belongs. Similar tests, using the same active reagent, are used

worldwide in field tests for cocaine and other banned substances, but do not give unequivocal and forensic proof of drug presence.

When presented with these results, students consulted by Felix expressed their surprise at the choice of location for recreational drug use: most expected drug use in the Union buildings during club nights and other events but not in departmental buildings. All students and staff were shocked by the indication of cocaine use in the Faculty Building, since students are not able to enter the 'Blue Cube' without being admitted by a member of staff. This result, combined with the large proportion of positive indications, suggests that cocaine abuse at Imperial is not limited to students alone, but is a far more prevalent and pervasive issue that encompasses students, academics and administrative staff.

Felix also investigated the reliability of these types of test, since they have produced similar results at other institutions and because of the startling frequency with which the swabs indicated positive matches. We consulted Dr Russell Taylor, a researcher in the Chemistry department with previous experience at the Forensic Science Service, who performed a number of chemical tests on the swabs.

In his opinion, the swab test was inconclusive. "It is impossible to detect one substance alone, this test doesn't specifically detect cocaine" he said, "a positive result can be brought on by chemicals of similar functional groups... [due to this] as chemists, we would say that it is a bad test."

The test is known to give a positive result in the presence of several other medications and drugs, including some sleeping pills, psychedelics, and certain types of antihistamines. The test could also be sensitive to other unknown compounds that could have a more legitimate use in toilets, although Felix has not found a cleaning product that gives a positive result.

The Managing Director of Crackdown Drug Testing Ltd, Dave Rigg, a former police officer of 17 years, has also been on record to vouch for the



A positive result: blue indicates likely presence of cocaine

Cobalt thiocyanate test kit



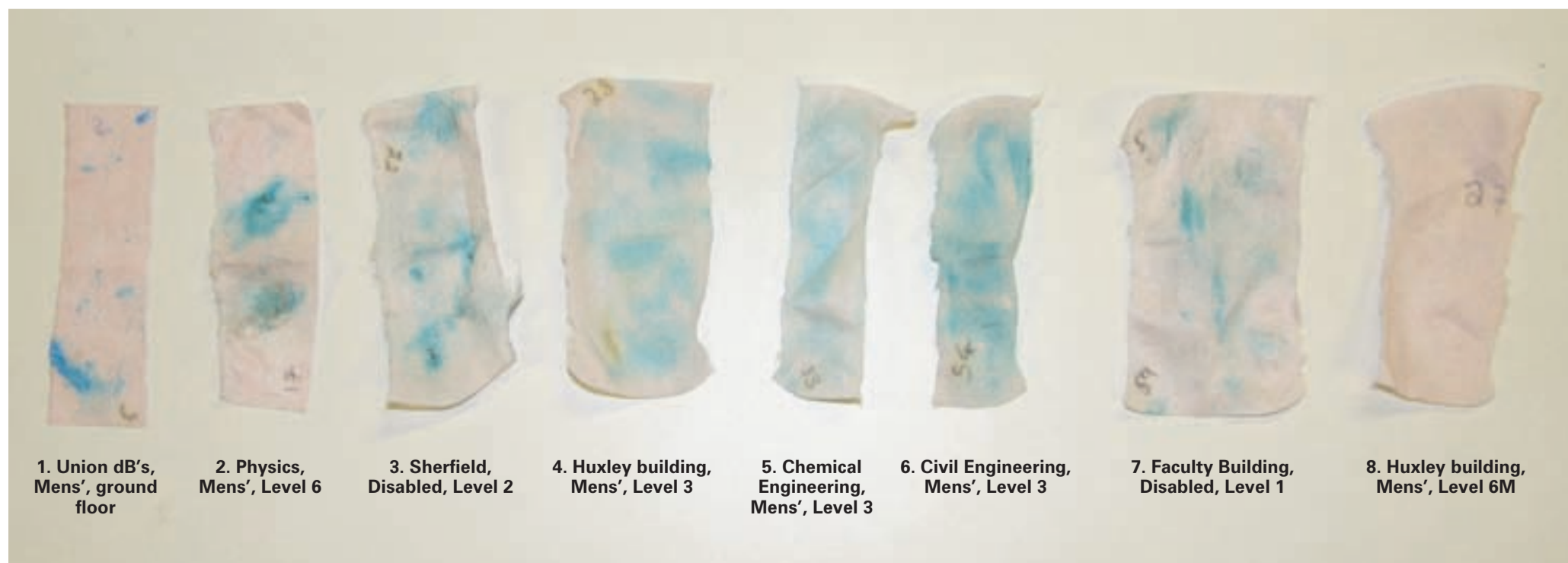
Former police officer and Managing Director of Crackdown Drug Testing Ltd, Dave Rigg, vouches for the swabs' credibility, saying that they "are accurate as a field test, but I would not go to court with [them]." The swabs contain the chemical compound cobalt thiocyanate, a reagent commonly used in drug tests in various forms, though their reliability has been called into question by experts in the field of forensic chemistry

tests. "We have complete confidence in the kit. If it tests positive it is almost definite that someone has been snorting cocaine from that surface," he said, "If it has been on a surface that is cleaned regularly and thoroughly, it can only detect recent use."

Whilst the cocaine test is not fool-proof and only indicates the likely presence of cocaine or similar chemicals, there are several arguments which suggest the illegal drug rather than a false-positive due to an obscure compound. Firstly, several toilets were tested that were adjacent (for example

male and female pairs), and would likely be subject to the same cleaning regime and substances, yet gave different results from each other. Secondly, it is extremely unlikely that people have been taking their antihistamines and other powdered medications by snorting them from the toilet seat.

The results obtained by Felix, whilst not scientifically rigorous, suggest a worryingly prevalent use of cocaine on Imperial's main campus in a shockingly wide demographic. College appears to have a drug problem that is not restricted to students alone.



Eight of the 'cocaine swabs' used in Felix's investigation are pictured above. The seven swabs on the left indicate a positive match whereas the final swab on the right shows no sign of blue coloration, and hence is a negative. The swabs are sensitive enough for us to conclude that cocaine is definitely not present in the areas tested with the right-hand swab, though Imperial College chemists have suggested that chemicals with the same "functional group" as cocaine could have triggered the blue reaction in the seven left-hand swabs. Swabs numbers 1, 2, 3 and 7 appear to have a grainier blue indication

News review of the year: 2007–08

After three terms and thirty issues of Felix, it's time for this news reporting cat to head into hibernation. But before we go, here's a re-cap of the major, and some not so major, stories that have occupied this year's Felix

Autumn term: October – December

Southside opens unfinished

The year began with Southside opening its doors on time, albeit with rooms yet to be fully completed. Furniture remained unpacked; items and fittings were still boxed; builders' tools were found lying in bedrooms; and lifts were malfunctioning amongst a plethora of other problems.

College recognised this as unacceptable and offered a 25% discount on rent to affected students, but only for their first month. Students lucky enough to find themselves with a

view of the Eastside builders' porta-cabins were offered a further £5 per week discount for the entire year.

Many students were left outraged at having to pay over £155.00 per week for unfinished accommodation. Despite the initial criticisms, the halls were still incomplete nine weeks later. stoicTV revealed Southside was still in a shambolic state when it filmed on location for its current affairs programme, exposing unattached toilet seats, flooding showers and door fixtures that fell off when used.



Higher Education debate re-opens



With the 2009 Top-up Fees review edging closer and closer, ICU took steps to revise its stance on the Higher Education funding debate.

After months of debate, policy revisions and a survey of the student body, the Union eventually formulated its new policy in March 2008.

The new policy, formed on the basis of the opinions of 440 IC students, resolved to support keeping Top-up Fees at £3,000; to oppose an increase in the cap; to oppose marketisation of Higher Education; and to oppose Graduate Tax.

Imperial students' questionable behaviour

The character of Imperial students was brought into question on two separate occasions in the Autumn term, when Felix received several complaints about instances of questionable behaviour.

In November, Felix received a letter from an offended visitor to the College, appalled at students' lack of consideration shown for their surroundings. The arrival of the letter coincided with the annual Royal School of Mines Freshers' Dinner a.k.a. 'The Most Notorious Night of the Year,' at which the RSM were fined for damages and forced to apologise after numerous damages, a food fight, copious amounts of vomit and a glass full of urine being left for cleaners.

Imperial students' lack of respect was brought into question once again towards the end of November when members of the Football Club were alleged to have chanted homophobic phrases in the Union.



Testing The Ring of Steel

In response to a number of thefts from the Aeronautics department, Felix decided to investigate the building's security. Turnstiles were installed across campus over the summer break, replacing the security guards that previously manned the entrances. Felix tested their effectiveness using a number of methods such as vaulting over the barriers, crawling underneath them and even doing the 'limbo.'

Despite doing this in full view of a CCTV camera, and after waiting for over an hour for a security guard to show up, Felix got bored and left the scene, free to prowl where it likes.



And in other news...

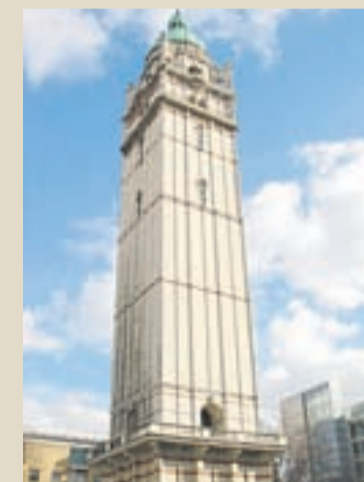
Student news website Live! (live.cgcu.net) scooped the Best Student Website Award at the 2007 Guardian Student Media Awards

PM Gordon Brown visited campus to show his support for the newly created IC Healthcare NHS Trust

Union Councillors were woken from their collective slumber with sudden alarm when GSA Chair, Jon Matthews resigned in dramatic style by storming out of the Upper Dining Hall, avoiding a censure

NUS reforms passed at December's Extraordinary conference. Failure to have the policies ratified the following year ultimately led to the latest NUS referendum

The rise of Imperial and the decline in satisfaction



Imperial leapt from ninth to fifth place in the Times Higher Education Survey in 2007, trailing behind Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford and Yale. However, the rise came only months after findings from the 2008 Good University Guide statistics which placed Imperial at 68th in the student satisfaction rankings.

In December Felix set out to discuss university satisfaction with

Imperial's student body. Responses were mixed: some students were critical of the recreational facilities offered at IC and also complained about feeling stressed, but many were pleased with their university experience stating that they wouldn't have chosen anywhere else in hindsight.

One thing that everyone could agree upon is that students at Imperial are worked very hard!

"Here, sir!": Registration for overseas students?



In November Felix reported on the government's plans to introduce a draconian monitoring system to keep tabs on the number of days overseas students are absent for from their courses.

According to Tier 4 of the Home Office's "Point Based System," which is due to become active in early 2009, overseas students who are absent for more than 14 days must be reported to the government. Failure to do so could potentially leave both the student and the university in hot water.

The measures are part of the government's attempts to combat terrorism issues in education, however the plans have faced widespread criticism for potentially "falling foul of the Race Relations Act."

Spring term: January – March

Beit finally gets go-ahead

2008 started with the official announcement that Phase Two of the Beit Masterplan had been given the green light. The Union finally secured a total of £3.32m from College, the IC and Harlington Trusts, reclaimed VAT and left over money from the 'successful' first phase.

The redevelopment will eventually lead to a completely revamped Student Activities Centre located on the second floor mezzanine of the Union building. A new gym will be installed on the third floor and the Union meeting rooms will be relocated to the East Basement. Final improvements will be made to overhaul the archaic electrical and mechanical infrastructure, plus energy efficiency measures have also been promised in the way of extra insulation, lighting control and double glazing.

Unwritten College laws say that initial projections of any redevelopment



at Imperial will never materialise on time, and Phase Two is no exception. Work was originally due to commence in March, but the Union has since postponed these plans to the start of the new academic year in September.

Felix will be taking bets in October on what the first disruption to the redevelopment will be.

A truly free press?

The editorial freedom of Felix was called into question in February when it was prevented from publishing three stories. The articles were deemed to be in violation of the Staff Student Protocol (SSP) and Election regulations. In response Felix printed a 'no news' style front cover and news section, explaining the situation and declaring "the cat is not free".

Since then efforts have been made in order to change and clarify the SSP and election regulation. Proposals made to council by Felix Editor, Tom Roberts, and Live! Editor, Ashley Brown, have had mixed results. Election regulations remain as they were, however, Council accepted changes to the SSP, which are being reviewed by the Trustee Board before finally going for approval with the College. If the Trustee Board accepts the changes, it doesn't end there however, since College must also approve the correction. The case continues...



Ethos to remain free

ETHOS

As Ethos celebrated its second birthday, College stated that plans for its third year did not include the introduction of membership fees for students. Whilst Ethos Centre Manager, Ian Reid proclaimed a "great year", fears surfaced that Ethos would follow suit of other London student sports facilities and charge a regular fee for gym use. However, only further integration into Imperial's South Kensington campus was on the agenda for the new year ahead including greater interaction with IC sports teams and increased communication with students about health and fitness.

Library refurbishment stalls

News of more building project delays broke in January when it was revealed by Felix that the ground floor of the Library would be opening 4 months later than planned.

Felix spoke to a senior member of the College's Building Projects team who requested to remain anonymous. He described the set back as a "procurement issue," meaning that dimensions drawn up in plans differed from those of the actual construction site.

The Library Redevelopment's Project Leader described the delay as "disappointing, but building work doesn't always go to plan."

With the works running into the summer months, many students using the library to revise for exams were subject to not just construction noise, but also the constantly Hellish temperatures on the upper levels of the Library. However, despite over £10m having been spent on the Library's entire refurbishment, a solu-



tion for the sub-tropical temperatures has yet to be announced, with only air conditioning for the ground and third floors included in the current redevelopment.

That's another reason for students to look forward to the end of exam time then...

PPS event borders on crisis



The Political Philosophy Society (PPS) held its first week long 'Conflict Case Study Week' kicking off with an academic study of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However a last minute complaint and threat to pull out from participant Professor David Newman caused the PPS to switch panellist Dr Azzam Tamimi for Ghada Karmi to allow the event to continue with all sides being represented.

But this caused its own flurry of new problems with the organisers receiving angry calls and emails from members of the public, furious at the PPS for bowing to 'Zionist pressure' while also being criticised for limiting Freedom of Speech.

Israeli publications such as the Jerusalem Post and the Jewish Chronicle took a different stance, reporting the PPS as a controversial society that is comfortable with hosting panellists of an extremist ideology. As a result, PPS Chairman, Ammar Waraich, issued a statement in which he asserted the PPS's right to choose panellists freely in the society's pursuit of a free and fair exchange of ideas, the disappointment of what he termed the "hasty" reporting by the Jewish media and the PPS's decision to re-invite Dr Tamimi for a future debate.

Eventually the debate went ahead, with thorough discussion and a high turnout.

And in other news...

Posters from the anti-Scientology group, Anonymous, popped up on notice boards across campus culminating in Felix reporting on a massive demonstration outside the CoS' headquarters.

This year's RCSU Science Challenge was another resounding success

Concerned students from Silwood campus contacted Felix after stumbling upon a greenhouse containing a radioactively contaminated plant

Felix landed Chris Larvin, in a spot of bother with the Environmental Society. We're sorry Chris, that was rotten :-)

Writing-up roundabout



Concerns over College's refusal to grant full-time student status to PhD students in their writing-up period were raised in March after the Camden Council took Matthew Yong to court over unpaid Council Tax.

Under government legislation, students are defined as those attending a course which lasts more than one year, for more than 24 weeks per year in which more than 21 hours of work are completed per week. Matthew Yong felt that he fit this definition and so with the support of ICU, his supervisors and local Conservative councillor Chris Philp – but not the support of the college – he took his battle to the courts.

At the eleventh hour, outside the courtroom, Mr Yong was told by Camden Council that they were dropping the legal action and he was issued a summons withdrawal notice, declaring the Council's intention to drop the case.

However, since then, Matthew Yong has become caught in a legal limbo. The council has not, in fact, retracted their Council Tax claim but equally, they haven't taken Mr Yong back to court.

In the meantime College is reviewing its policy on writing-up students, and since Mr Yong's almost-court appearance, IC has said it will "support" the idea of writing up students gaining tax exemption in the future.

Sabb-elects + pies = laughs

Days after winning this year's Sabbatical Elections, the incoming Presidents and Felix Editor faced their first test: how well they could take a pie to the face.

Felix organised a 'photo shoot' under the pretense that the pictures of the winning candidates would be appearing on the front cover of the next issue.

This wasn't a complete lie, however, as three of the five Sabb-elects did end up on the front cover, albeit covered in shaving foam standing alongside a giant ape belonging to the C&G Hit Squad, who carried out the pieing.

The remaining two winners were relegated to the inside pages of Felix, however they didn't manage to escape their soapy fates either.

This publication's Editor has already booked his holidays for next year, funnily enough around the months of February and March...



Summer term: April – June

PPS 2: The Sequel – Mahatir Has Landed

The Political Philosophy Society once again inadvertently caused controversy in what was their largest event of the academic year. This time, they invited former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad to deliver his first public lecture in the UK to an audience at Imperial. The topic was the war in Iraq and the initiative to criminalise war but due to some previously controversial comments by the speaker, a complaint was raised to the Union against him being allowed to deliver a lecture at Imperial.

In response, College stopped short of cancelling the event altogether due to legal issues, but instead limited the audience to members of Imperial College only while also banning all recording and photography. The PPS was forced to announce this decision with less than

24 hours before the event and thus the organisers once again received angry emails from members of the public and students of other institutions who had paid for and made arrangements to come to Imperial. Further still, College even restricted entry to VIPs such as MPs and leaders of NGOs who turned up hoping to hear the ex-PM speak.

Many students were angered at the logic behind such drastic decision making and crowds were left waiting outside SAF on the day of the lecture as College security enforced the restrictions. International media was also present reporting on the proceedings.

The event was nonetheless well attended and a great success, with College's attempts at security unable to prevent photography and a secret recording being made available on student news website Live!



Football Club loses deposit

4 months after their alleged misdemeanours in the Union, Imperial College Football Club were involved in further incidents at the Rembrandt Hotel and Motspur Park. At the Motspur Park football ground, the club was accused of being involved in fighting with rival fans that led to seats being ripped from the stands. At the Rembrandt Hotel, ICFC was accused, amongst other things, of being abusive towards staff and smashing paintings.

A wider dispute regarding Felix's reporting on the football club developed too over the course of the year, with several ICFC members perceiving a bias within Felix.

This dispute was deepened by a tongue-in-cheek comment piece lampooning footballers but ultimately an article by Football Club Captain Garo Torossian and an editorial by Felix, laid the debate to rest.



Cannabis and Imperial



Debate was sparked about the place of cannabis in society after the government declared that it would ignore the recommendations of its own experts and raise the classification of the drug from C to B.

Felix interviewed drug health expert Professor David Nutt, a member of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, the body that made recommendations on cannabis to the government, who said the substance should remain class C.

To coincide with the interview,

Felix surveyed Imperial students to hear their views on cannabis. 143 students were surveyed with 1 in 5 admitting to smoking cannabis regularly and a small majority of 54% were against legalisation of cannabis.

Ignorance reared its ugly head on the day too however, with 64% of students surveyed unaware that the classification was being changed. One attentive Imperial student even asked: "Does this mean we can't smoke cannabis outside anymore?" Golf clap, everyone...

And in other news...

The Royal School of Mines attracted national media attention to the College with a statement on its website labelling Camborne School of Mines students "Cornish inbreds"

The credibility of the National Student Survey was brought into question after a recording emerged on Live! in which a Kingston lecturer was heard telling students to falsify their answers

Imperial was found to make the least amount of money from library fines compared to 20 other top UK universities

Another NUS referendum...



which dramatic governance reforms were rejected by only 25 votes, Imperial's delegates were left distinctly unimpressed, with many speaking of disaffiliation. An attempt was made to force the referendum by getting 600 student signatures but it became clear that it would take too long and so it fell to Council, which voted overwhelmingly in favour of the referendum. Live!, Felix and stoic tv held a debate on NUS affiliation which included Kings College Union President Chris Mullins and NUS President Wes Streeting.

The referendum is currently ongoing as this reporter types. The greatest challenge for the referendum's proposers is raising awareness sufficiently so that enough votes are cast in order for quorum to be reached. In non-hackery terms, this means that 1800 votes are required for the referendum to be legitimate. By the time some of you late comers read this, IC could no longer be a member of the NUS. Once again.

There's still time to vote in the NUS referendum if you haven't already, which was sprung upon unsuspecting Imperial students by Union Council back in May (imperialcollegeunion.org/vote).

After NUS Conference 2008, in

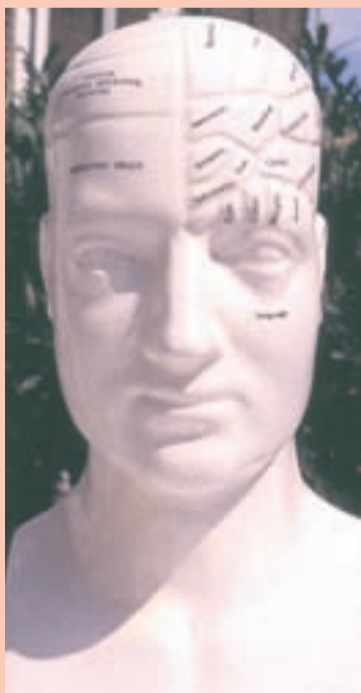
Imperial's mental health

In June, Felix delved deep into statistics concerning the mental health and well-being of students at Imperial and also at institutions across the country.

Over the last year, the number of students searching for help with problems like depression, stress and relationships has increased by over 10% – double the average growth of other UK student bodies.

Whilst it was found that students at Imperial College use the Student Counselling Services (SCS) 44% less than the national average, it still records 29% more cases of academic stress than the rest of the UK as a whole.

Felix's investigation also found that despite undergraduate students comprising 64% of the student body, they only make up 55% of the users of the SCS; a low number compared to PhD postgrads who make up 19% of the university but 25% of the total SCS users.



Sir Richard's era ends

Sir Richard Sykes, the thirteenth Rector of Imperial will be leaving in July after what was an almost eight year tenure at the College.

During his time at the College, change has been continuous to say the least. Debates on whether or not this change has benefited the College abound, but one thing is certain, the difference is palpable and much of the College is inherently different compared to the years before his tenure.

During his seven and a half years as Rector, Sykes increased the overseas student population to about 30% of the entire student body, whilst increasing international tuition fees by what some consider to be an extortionate amount. He also controversially rebranded the College's identity, improving IC's global recognition, and increased Imperial's standing to 5th place in the THES World League Table.

His successor, Sir Roy Anderson, will take over in July.



Written by Tom Roberts, Kadhim Shubber, Daniel Wan, Afonso Campos & Ammar Waraich

Picture of the Week

Pakistan, by Ammar Waraich
Fourth Year Medicine

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



Headlines from around the globe

The world beyond College walls...

End of an Era

Felix

Issue 1,408 is here and with it comes the end of Tom Roberts' term as Felix editor. Though the official announcement will probably never make it to the international headlines, it's the sort of information that deserves to be distributed. Rumours that the editor may get a knighthood are as yet unconfirmed by the Palace.



Washed-Up Feet

Canada

Over the past 11 months, six severed feet have been found washed up onto the shores of British Columbia, Canada. The sixth foot was found on Wednesday and has the Canadian Police theorising over their origin. Suspected causes of the appearance of the feet include drownings, missing fishermen or the remains of people who died in a plane crash. All the above would explain the severance at the ankle, the precision of which almost certainly rules out the possibility of foul play. The police, who are literally stumped, admit to it being, "s very unusual situation," and having to "explore all avenues and investigate all theories."



Gilead Amit

I would like to begin with an abject apology. For two weeks now, in writing about the situation Zimbabwe, the map has displayed an arrow pointing to neighbouring Botswana. This is unacceptable from an international news section, as Stephen Neethling so rightly pointed out. What else can I say. Hopefully, these mistakes will get ironed out over the course of next year.

This week's stories are pretty diverse; arguably the most important of which are that a British citizen is being tried in Equatorial Guinea for an attempted coup four years ago, and that the Taliban control over the Kandahar Province of Afghanistan has been virtually eliminated.

Severed feet keep making sporadic appearances on the coastline of British Columbia, Chinese South Africans have officially been classified as being 'black' and, of course, the troubles in Zimbabwe continue.

This week I especially want to thank a handful of members of the Felix staff who helped me hack this out this week: needless to say, any factual errors rest entirely on their shoulders.

I hope you've enjoyed this section for the last few weeks, in theory if not in practice. If you do have any suggestions as to how this feature could be improved, it's a bit late now but I would still be more than happy to hear from you. Have a fantastic summer, and get your news from somewhere else.

30 Years For Mann?

Equatorial Guinea

Simon Mann, a British mercenary and former commando, went on trial in Equatorial Guinea earlier this week accused of plotting a coup to take over the country. The prosecutors in the case originally sought the death penalty for Mr Mann, although they have since agreed to follow the dictates of international law. Because Mr. Mann is accused of having committed crimes in multiple countries, a sentence of 30 years is the sternest punishment available. Sixty-six other mercenaries were involved in the plot, including, according to Mr. Mann, Margaret Thatcher's son Sir Mark Thatcher. The result of the trial is expected imminently.



Missing Tibetans

China

Amnesty International has recently reported that over a thousand Tibetan protestors 'remain unaccounted for'. The organization claim that many of these missing individuals have been arrested during the recent months of Pro-Tibetan demonstrations in China. The official reports reveal very little, and indicate 'questionable' trials for a minority of the detainees. The majority of those unaccounted for are suspected to have been arrested arbitrarily, with no official charges being levelled. Amnesty is also accusing China of several instances of prisoner abuse.



Oilfield Attack

Nigeria

Yesterday, militants from the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta attacked the main offshore oilfield belonging to Royal Dutch Shell. The group attempted to destroy the main control room on the oilrig, though were unable to gain entry. One American worker was captured, but at the time of writing, the militants have announced their intention to release the prisoner. Several further injuries have also been reported. The attack has forced Shell to close down the facility, which supplies Nigeria with about 10% of its current daily oil output.



Taliban Withdrawal

Afghanistan

The province of Kandahar is perhaps best known as the first region of Afghanistan where the Taliban managed to take control. This Thursday, however, joint Afghan and NATO forces had apparently succeeded at finally expelling the militants from the former capital. Provincial Governor Assadullah Khalid was able to announce the same, adding that more than a hundred Taliban soldiers were killed or wounded during the clearing. This latest story follows a massive Taliban-led jailbreak from the city prison at the beginning of the week.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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

1. Read the following comment pieces
2. Check out www.live.cgcu.net for a televised NUS debate and further comment
3. Consider the question: 'Should ICU remain affiliated with the NUS?'
4. Vote yes or no, now! Go online to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



NUS affiliation referendum

Your days (to vote) are numbered

Voting is now open in the NUS referendum. If you think ICU should remain affiliated to or should leave the NUS, head online to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. Voting closes at 23:59 on Monday 23rd June. Go!



Caroline Clark
is voting Yes

10 reasons to stay with the NUS

1. Students' Unions are much stronger and are in a better campaigning position if they work together with regards to issues that affect students. Things such as Government policy on Higher Education funding can only be influenced by a united national campaign.

2. After HSBC announced plans to charge graduates interest on their overdrafts, the NUS led the national campaign which resulted in HSBC scrapping their plans. This is one of many examples when the NUS has won battles for students.

3. Without the NUS, students wouldn't be exempt from paying Council Tax!

4. Although there are problems with the NUS, it is a hugely important organization for students. By being in the NUS, we can actually shape and improve the way the NUS functions.

5. The NUS is the perfect way for students from across the country to come together to discuss issues. We can democratically elect delegates to represent our views on HE funding, accommodation for students, etc. at National Conference and thus be part of a broader student movement.

6. The NUS is a federation of individual student unions. Imperial College Union can still have its own opinion; we don't have to agree with the NUS on everything.

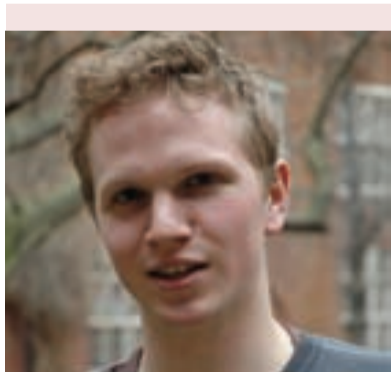
7. We get lots from the NUS to justify the membership money – for example legal support for our union, access to specialist NUS staff and training for ICU clubs and societies.

8. There are lots of discounts that can only be obtained with an NUS card (e.g. £2 off every BSM driving lesson and an Amazon discount!) The only reason these discounts exist is that the NUS

has negotiated them.

9. The NUS Extra card costs £10 but can save you a lot of money throughout the year and can also be used abroad (also, £4 of this goes directly back to ICU!)

10. Last year there was a record breaking turnout for the referendum when we decided to affiliate to the NUS. Most people are just bored of this debate now! Vote to remain affiliated if you don't think that our decision last year should be overturned by a few people on Council who are trying to fulfill personal agendas.



Steve Brown
ICU President

10 reasons to leave the NUS

1. NUS is too Expensive. As well as the £ 46,000 affiliation fee that ICU pays, there are thousands of £s of hidden costs, e.g. conference delegate travel expenses (including national conference, liberation conferences and staff conferences).

2. NUS is Financially Mismanaged. It spends more money than it has, regularly running up deficits one fifth of its £3.5m budget and has been forced to dispose of capital assets to meet running costs. To combat this, NUS decided to introduce a stealth tax, the NUS Extra Card, from which £6 of each sale goes to the NUS budgetary drainpipe. In any case very few NUS extra cards have been sold at Imperial and the majority of student discounts are available on production of your Imperial swipe card.

3. NUS is Unreconstructed. Most Unions went through a process of restructuring twenty years ago, but NUS didn't. NUS remains the same ridicu-

lous clunking vehicle that Jack Straw made it in the 60's. The NUS Executive claims to be "politically diverse" yet contains the same number of revolutionary socialists than it does Liberal Democrats and Conservatives combined. Is this really representative of UK students views?

4. Opportunities for a better world. It would only require a few more Unions to establish a viable alternative national union to NUS that would fulfil the goals that NUS lays claim to and one that is genuinely representative of student opinion.

5. NUS reform failed. Imperial College Union worked hard this year to change NUS and made it clear back in October that if radical changes were not made they would reconsider our membership. NUS have had their chance to change and have blown it. This battle has been lost – let's not take the gamble that somehow next year it will be OK and waste another £46,000 in the process.

6. The NUS spends more money taking decisions than it does implementing them. What do Imperial students gain from paying £46,000 to fund a debating club for sabbatical officers? The majority of Imperial students who have given up their time to attend NUS events to represent us have experienced the NUS shambles in person and have witnessed what the NUS is like in practice.

7. Imperial has one of the most active student bodies in the country. It would be better to plough our £46,000 in to what Imperial students are doing rather than continue handing it over to the wasteful NUS.

8. By disaffiliating this would free up officer time and financial resources to work with other Unions on relevant issues when necessary. This was recently demonstrated by our medical students who cooperated with other students in London to campaign against the removal of their right to free accom-

modation. The NUS had nothing to say on this issue because they are so hamstrung by their own internal politics that they don't have time to dedicate to these bread and butter student issues.

9. Despite claiming otherwise, the NUS provides us with no professional support. If Imperial College Union needs legal or financial advice we still have to meet the full costs ourselves regardless of whether or not we are NUS affiliates.

10. NUS's ultimate failure as a representative body is all too clear. They are dismissed by parliamentary committees as only being representatives of student activists and the government have recently taken steps to circumvent NUS altogether in an attempt to determine what student opinion really is. Representation only works if the NUS has legitimacy and credibility with their members and decision makers. It is clear that they enjoy neither.

is voting No



Soumaya Mauthoor
Yes Campaign Leader

is voting Yes

Five common NUS myths

Yeah, I know, it's me again. After the debate you'd think I would be hiding somewhere in a hole. Unfortunately I don't have personal access to as many sabbs as the NO campaigners, and considering the perfect timing of this referendum, we've found most Imperial students are revising, making it a little difficult getting volunteers.

Anyway, back to the topic at hand: common NUS myths.

Myth 1. Students' unions can work together on common issues, they don't need NUS

Well actually that's not a myth, it is true! Individual students' unions can and do work effectively together on a lot of issues, but the vital question is whether this is true for national issues such as next year's HE review. Although there are problems with the NUS, it remains a hugely important organisation for all students. By being in the NUS, we can actually shape and improve the way it functions. Just as NUS reformed its higher education policy at this year's annual conference with the support of ICU, it will seek to reform its governance structures in the next year with an overwhelming mandate established to do so. Imperial must be there with the majority of student officers to cham-

panion and deliver the change that is required, for the benefit of all students.

Myth 2. NUS is too different from Imperial to be able to represent us

NUS is very different to Imperial. 70% of the membership is made up of FE students, and delegates tend to come from an arts background. It has also been claimed that Imperial students are all Tories (though this has never been proved), in contrast to the lefty agenda of the NUS. But we are still all students! We all want good qualifications and facilities at an affordable price, and the most effective way of achieving this is through a strong national body. By staying in NUS, we will continue to ensure that national policies are in agreement with ours, and build alliances with other unions. By doing so, we will ensure that NUS is a balanced organisation to be reckoned with. And even if there are any policies that we do not agree with, ICU has the right not to enforce them, just as any other union does.

Myth 3. NUS wants to give our money to sub-standard universities

I finally read up on the National Bursary Scheme. Bursaries are non-repayable grants given to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and they're paid for out of our top up fees. How-

ever last year, many universities failed to allocate this money (£19,000,000 in fact) because the current system is overly complicated and inaccessible. Surely a national, regulated bursary scheme would be a better solution? Imperial allocates more than the usual amount in bursaries, so there are fears a national scheme would affect this. But should we take such a short-sighted view? Scholarships for merit are unfair because they often benefit people who had access to good schools, rather than the most able. In addition a strong economy needs a skilled workforce in a variety of domains; if that means courses in golf-management, so be it, but at least fund them properly so they are more than just Mickey-mouse courses.

Myth 4. The affiliation fee is a rip off

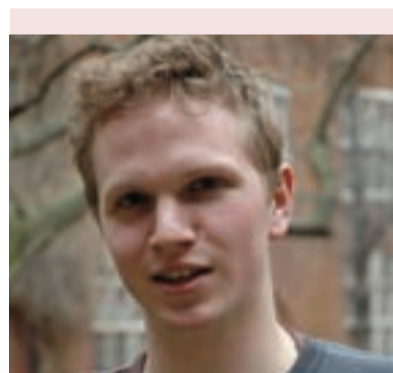
ICU receives an annual £1.25m from Imperial College. This figure does not include money from other sources, such as bars, shops and rented premises. I asked the sabbaticals about ICU's turnover but I am still awaiting for an answer. According to John Collins, last year's President, ICU spent £15m over the last two years, including more than £3 million on the Beit Building alone. This makes the comparatively modest NUS affiliation fee (approximately £40,000) affordable in the context of the multi-million pound expenditure

of ICU. Students attending other universities do not have to choose between a well-resourced students' union and NUS affiliation, and there is no reason why we at ICU should be forced to either.

Myth 5. The NUS is doomed

Well, no. NUS is in a better financial state than it has ever been. Last year it slashed its overdraft from £1m to £0.3m, and next year is on course to break even. Meanwhile, more than 65 per cent of delegates at NUS national conference voted, in agreement and with the crucial support of ICU's delegates to reform the democratic and participatory structures of the national union. The majority of NUS delegates agree with ICU, and the coming year is vital to ensuring that those arguments for reform are made a reality in the NUS structures.

Last year there was a record breaking turnout for the referendum when ICU decided to affiliate to NUS. We should not let this be overturned on the whim of a few individuals on Council who are trying to fulfil personal agendas rather than represent the best interests of students. We should not allow this vital year for NUS reform and the impending Government reviewing of fees and funding to take place without ICU's involvement.



Steve Brown
ICU President

is voting No

Don't vote for the NUS reform roulette!

Well you've heard the arguments and if you have not already voted now it is decision time. The faults and failures of the NUS have been well documented and now you have to decide whether it is worth our while throwing good money after bad at an organisation that is still stuck in the 1970's. Imperial students do not benefit from collectively paying £46,000 to facilitate discussion and debate between ludicrously titled, Pythonesque competing Marxist sects which leads to policy that is dismissed by everyone in the real world as unrepresentative and out of touch. This year ICU has been calling for NUS reform and it hasn't been delivered. By voting No! you will free up more officer time for the 2008/09 sabbaticals to focus their efforts on real student issues rather than getting bogged down in a pointless debate about the NUS constitution with a bunch of extreme left bureaucrats. Does this sound interesting? I think not.

Throughout the past few weeks it

has become apparent that the overwhelming majority of students who have given up their time to help attempt to change the NUS have been actively campaigning for disaffiliation yet those who are now arguing that we should stay in NUS have made no effort whatsoever to engage with the organisation this year. The one person who has been elected as a delegate to annual conference and voted for keeping NUS the way that it is in the hope that it would be better placed to cater towards her extreme brand of activist politics. When you cast your vote I urge you to consider the majority opinion of your fellow students who have given up their time this year to engage with NUS and not those who are putting forward an idealistic view of NUS which is based on rhetoric and not on experience.

From a personal perspective I have nothing to gain or lose from the result of this vote. I am leaving the College in July and will not be a full member of the Union next year. I am arguing so strongly for us to disaffiliate from the NUS now as I believe that in its cur-

rent form it represents an ineffective use of money and that students who are here next year can do something more worthwhile with it. This is not a debate about whether or not we can afford the affiliation fee – we can and it is in our budget for next year. What I am trying to get across is that there are far more productive, effective and interesting ways that students at Imperial can utilise that £46,000 rather than give it to an organisation that serves no other purpose than to act as a jumped up debating club for UK sabbatical officers.

In 2006 the NUS was able to tempt you with the possibility of discounts at HMV and TopShop which are now no longer advertised on the NUS Extra website. More and more companies are starting to realise that the NUS Extra discount card is not the best way to target the student market. If you owned a chain of shops why would you want an organisation that has no direct contact with students to restrict your market to those students who want to pay £10 for a card in order to make themselves money? It does not make

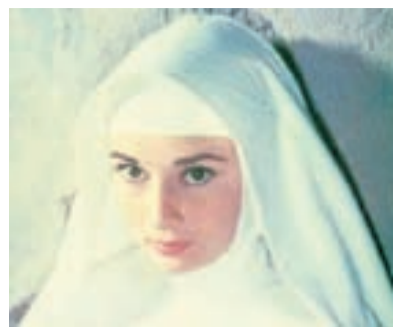
sense for businesses and most importantly it does not make sense for the overwhelming majority of UK students who are now faced with their so-called representative voice attempting to restrict their access to student discounts in a desperate attempt to plug the hole in their accounts.

If NUS activists have nothing better to do than march about the streets of London waving placards and selling each other copies of the Morning Star then that is their prerogative but it does not follow that this is an activity that we should aspire to subsidise. Imperial students don't benefit from so-called representation where the discussion at times can feel as if the NUS is debating about whether the revolution should come on Thursday or whether it would be better to wait until the new full moon! Things have moved on since the 1970's and it is a shame that the NUS hasn't caught up. In light of NUS' faults the only rational choice to be made is to vote No! in the referendum. NUS is far too broken to fix and despite our best efforts this year it is not really worth having another go.

“Should Imperial College Union remain affiliated to the National Union of Students?”

Voting is open now!

Head to imperialcollegeunion.org/vote to cast your vote



Caz Knight

Let's talk about drugs

Hooray! Exams are over and the season to wreak havoc is upon us. As I write this I still have a considerable amount of revision to get done before next week, but that should not taint the subject of my comment! I am in surprisingly good spirits despite everyone around me celebrating their lack of commitment and responsibility by intoxicating themselves. Drugs. Has there ever been a more vague word? The word could be referring to any of the hundreds of thousands of chemicals, man made and naturally-occurring, that grace this planet. However, when people use the term it is usually in relation to chemicals that are used for recreation: for fun. I am a little hesitant on embarking on this subject for fear of being seen as one who is a) an 'addict' or b) an endorser/pusher of inebriants/bad influence. Perhaps after reading this you will have made up your mind about where I stand on the matter.

Part of the reason for voicing my opinion on this subject springs from the recent re-classification of Marijuana. In 2004 it was moved from a Class B to a Class C drug, which includes other substances such as Ketamine and GHB. It will soon be a Class B once again, alongside drugs such as Amphetamines and Ritalin, due to the fact that apparently the 'dope' gracing our streets nowadays is "stronger" than the stuff circulating in the swinging Sixties. This may be very true, and several friends who are partial to the Green stuff have confirmed this. However, it is very hard to prove something

like the chemical composition of illegal plants when there is no system to regulate them. I am sure the Government would rather just be safe than end up in twenty odd years with a huge NHS bill to pay for the hundreds/thousands of adults developing mental illness on account of excessive use in their teen years. Another colossal blanket statement I heard uttered on the news was that "young people are more at risk of taking drugs because drugs are cheap." HA! I do not consider fifty pounds for one gram of what is, in reality, only ~10% of Columbian origin to be cheap! The goods available on Camden Bridge are often a variety of cooking herb and the hassle that is required to sequester the more clandestine substances is not symptomatic of a society where our children cannot move for drug pushers.

Also take exception to the abundance of ignorance that exists in relation to illegal drugs. I, being a biochemist/re-tard, am aware of exactly what happens to the body when certain chemicals hit our blood and brains (although, I still struggle with the equation of a line). Friends of mine have sent me into apoplectic frustration when they make comments such as "drugs make you thirsty and so you drink so much water you die". I doubt your average punter has any clue as to the effects of most substances and more should be done to educate people: giving them unbiased information with which they can make informed, adult decisions. (However, a vast majority in this country is not even capable of that, it seems).

What so many people forget is that

alcohol is a drug, one to which Britain is hopelessly addicted. In every form of media, it is referred to in isolation from the "big, bad" drugs, many of which are just as harmful or even less harmful than alcohol.

"Do not mix drugs and alcohol". This is sound advice as ingesting a cocktail of chemicals (whatever the type, be it prescribed, Boots-bought or otherwise) is never wise given the risk of drug interactions. Does this mean we should not mix alcohol with alcohol? Probably, as mixing one's drinks can often lead to a hangover making you wish you were actually hardcore straight-edge.

When you compare the data of the "Two E's" (ethanol and ecstasy) it is quite clear that from both a medical and social point of view, ecstasy is 'better' for you. At the mention of Ecstasy people have the nineties-painted stereotype of sweaty, water-swiggling ravers hugging each other ("I love you, mate"). But, compare 10 deaths per annum from ecstasy to 22,000 alcohol related deaths. Admittedly, there are many, many more ethanol "users" than that of ecstasy but I am sure if you calculated deaths as a percentage of users, alcohol would come out worse. There is no heart, liver or cardiovascular disease associated with MDMA (ecstasy's chemical name) and absolutely no negative social impact from it either. All the brawls, vomit, glass and kebab detritus are from alcohol abusers. Again, I am a hypocrite. I do enjoy a tittle or two but I have *never* caused a fight, eaten a kebab or dirtied the street in anyway in my drunken state.

Currently, medical research is un-

derway to examine MDMA as a tool in psychotherapy and marriage counselling on account of its effects which induce an increased empathy for one's peers, breaking down barriers that years of resentment could have built. Indeed, shortly after its creation by Alexander Shulgin in Germany, it was being used as a "truth serum" in WWI (to no great success).

I have tried and tried, and to no avail, to find through PubMed any research journals which describe the long and short-term effects (both on the body and on the brain) of LSD. It seems the only risks associated are 'flashbacks' (rare in any case) and impaired judgments whilst under the influence, exactly like alcohol. Oh, and one shouldn't take it if pregnant because it may cause uterine contractions. Not really an issue for most: any woman considering any drugs while pregnant is very unwise.

Please do not assume I am encouraging people to experiment unwisely and with gay abandon (if at all). Whatever be your poison, moderation and balance is key. People who think that taking one pill a few times a month is worse for you than heavy drinking several times a week are gravely mistaken. However, if the bi-monthly pill is having an effect on your work/life/relationships/health then it is time to stop.

For a lot of people, exercising moderation is beyond them and so Britain has a binge drinking epidemic. But for now, exams desist, spirits are high (pun completely and utterly intended) and I bid you a fantastic summer!

// I take exception to the abundance of ignorance that exists in relation to illegal drugs //



A. Geek

That's all, folks

Alright, I admit it. Things got the better of me last week. Those bastard things. God knows why I feel the need to apologise to you, but Tomo's mournful footnote nudged me towards guilt last week, so, well, I'm sorry. Okay? I didn't mean to hurt you.

The fact is, it's Summer now. You know it, I know it, the guy who designs the uniforms for Starbucks coffee evidently knows it. Believe it or not, this week's column comes to you all the way from a glamorous holiday location. A Geek is on vacation.

This is good for a variety of reasons. Firstly, I can forget the NUS exists. I get that nice feeling of peace that I assume the GI's also felt when they took leave in Paris during World War 2. Sipping absinthe, with the sound of Kirsty Patterson being dropped out of a B52 somewhere in the east. Distant carnage – the best kind of carnage there is. I've even got a Crunchie.

Other than distance from the Union Senate Council Committee, and the presence of a bar of milk chocolate with a golden honeycombed centre, life's also good because there's nothing for me to do except wear sunglasses that don't suit me, and play a hell of a lot of Guitar Hero 3. Fuck the advancement of human understanding for a week or two – I've got a date with Sunshine Of Your Love on Hard.

I feel bad for liking Guitar Hero 3 so much, because it's one of those shitty halfway house games. On the one hand, it's hip and esoteric enough to alienate a lot of gamers (if you're not

aware, it's played by strangling an actual plastic guitar to death in your living room) but on the other hand I look like a cock who prefers videogames to drugs, concerts and booze. The refreshing combination of looking like a twat and even repelling nerds is strangely appealing to me, though. Sometimes I even whammy a bit.

That's what I like about videogames, film, and being eleven years old. They all let you pretend and imagine things in an entirely safe environment. Sure, Ammar Waraich has stared into the abyss of human nature, whereas the best I've managed is to stare into the high scoreboard of Talk Dirty To Me. Anyone who pens pseudo-intellectual crap in the Games section is kidding themselves if they think the real world is comparable to a 17" monitor. But it offers respite and entertainment. And so far, no-one's proved it to be addicting. Which is nice.

Why take second-best to reality? Because I, like many of you, are power-relaxing this Summer. Placements, work experience and internships mean that magical "four-month" holiday is disembowelled until a paltry few weeks remain. Once the full Imperial exodus is completed for you – savour the last days of halls, first years – you may find less time to read Dawkins' complete works than you thought (I'm missing you more than him, Garnet).

So even though your year has only just ended, don't put off relaxation. Spend a little extra money, see Hyde Park before you leave, and remember to take a pigeon home for your younger brother.

Why the happy ending to a year of A Geek? I think it's just the escape out of London. The greyness disappears, and like that expensive mouthwash on TV, you can see the anger flying out with it into the metaphorical sink. I've become a Guitar Hero, and the sun's shining. And I've got a Crunchie. This is fucking amazing.

Tune in next year, I guess. Until then, continue being idiotic, hypocritical and greedy, folks. I'll be taking notes.

Many thanks to everyone at Felix. I'm sorry I was unable to make it to the meetup, but you probably didn't have Crunchies anyway. It's been a great year, kudos to Tom and the Dep Eds for keeping the paper running through the tough summer weeks. Looking forward to next year with you all.

Much love,

The G

// Believe it or not, this week's column comes to you all the way from a glamorous holiday location. A Geek is on vacation. //

Letter to Felix

Mental health facilities clarification

Dear Editors,

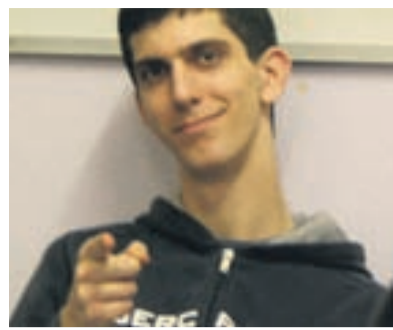
I am writing about your article 'Mental health at IC: Who cares?' in last week's Felix. The Student Counselling Service welcomes the raising of the important issue of student mental health. Students need to know who they can contact if they are experiencing mental health difficulties whilst at College. Unfortunately, there seems to have been a misunderstanding about the composition

of mental health facilities at College; the overall facility on campus is much larger than you describe. As well as the Student Counselling Service, Imperial College Health Centre offers its own counselling facility; inclusion of information from the Health Centre gives a more comprehensive picture.

Further information about student counselling at Imperial can be found at www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling and at www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk

Regards,

David Allman
Senior Student Counsellor
Student Counselling Service



Kadhim Shubber

Demand more

The man who unified Germany, Otto Von Bismarck, once observed that "Politics is the art of the possible". In his time great change was afoot in Europe and similarly today huge potential stares us in the face, even if we do not always appreciate it. 'Regime change' is on the cards all around us, the Western world is primed for renewal and longs for a fresh direction; and we had better get it.

When MP David Davis resigned he received adulation from almost all quarters, however criticisms began to rise and before long most analysts were criticising David Davis for endangering the Conservative parties election hopes. Nick Robinson gave his readers ten reasons why it was a nightmare for the Conservatives. Herein lies the interest of this story, not the desire of one man to invoke debate on an argument that has already left harbour (habeas corpus was not eroded by the 42 day detention bill, it already lay in ruins with the introduction of detention

without charge in principle). The real interest is the transformation of the Conservative party from ineffective opposition to government in waiting. Gordon Brown cannot win the next general election, short of David Cameron revealing that he has a £500 a day cocaine habit, and so we are left to consider politics in Britain after 2010. A small win, one would hope, would encourage debate on legislation as each bill is fought through parliament but more likely would slow the work of government. In any case, the UK is due a large swing towards the Conservatives in a victory similar to Labour's in 1997. The citizens of the UK are disillusioned with Labour and are prepared to give the Conservatives a resounding mandate to take them in a new direction. This country faces many challenges, global and domestic but challenges are nothing more than opportunities to excel and this is the weight that lies upon Conservative shoulders. Without fresh, bold and innovative ideas, David Cameron will be little else than No

10's house-sitter when what the public yearn for is a strong man to lead them.

It might be a step too far if I were to mirror David Cameron with Barack Obama, however there are similarities between these charismatic politicians. Obama too faces the great weight of delivering a product that will satisfy the expectations that he has raised. In fact while David Cameron's electoral hopes rest on the failures of the Labour party and his speech giving abilities, Obama campaigns on his promise to "bring about real change in Washington". And many believe him, the Senator for Illinois is almost deified by his supporters; one can only imagine the experience of stepping out on a stage as people faint in the front row and the crowd chants your name.

We have seen in the past that leaders with great potential, either squander or misuse it. The most recent example is of French President Sarkozy who failed to deliver his promise to revitalize the French economy. The fate of the U.S. and the U.K. has become ever more

entwined in the last 7 years. We have the same terrorist threats, the same military strains and the same economic difficulties. We also both have the opportunity to solve these problems under a new government. David Cameron and Barack Obama might do well to remember, if they should gain office, that it is neither change nor unfamiliar ideas that the public resent. Rather it is a lack of conviction, a willingness to be commanded by the ebb and flow of political fortunes than by ones belief in what is right and a failure to provide and deliver a vision for the future of the country that brings down governments.

There is little else for me to do except re-iterate my plea to these two men in a less subtle manner. You need to deliver the great change and progress that the people of the U.K. and the U.S. demand. Without imagination and courage, both David Cameron and Barack Obama will primarily achieve little else than to further the political apathy of the public.



Gilead Amit

The Humour-n Race

Our vision of early humanity consists of a sea of almost unending idiocy. Bewildered cavemen wandering off the edges of cliffs while their delightful cavewoman spouses were being hit over the head with clubs and dragged behind bushes for a spot of light evolution. The only glimmer of intelligence we expect to find comes from the bright sparks who burnt themselves on the first fires, cut themselves on the first flints, and ran down hills chasing after the first wheels. The emphasis we place on these three milestones has led us to see these three individual Neanderthals as vastly different from their contemporary hirsute halfwits. They might as well have sauntered around in bowler hats and smoking jackets, sneering contemptuously from the refined solitude of their pentcaves with a snifter of cognac in one hand and the works of Rousseau in the other.

The reason we place so much emphasis on these three; to whom, for the sake of simplicity, I shall refer as Groucho, Chico and Harpo, is that they conclusively and irrevocably distinguished us from the other animals. Groucho's ability with fire was unmatched in the early Pleistocene, and his weekly shows at the London Palladium (known in the early days as pile-of-mud-next-to-tree-where-red-bird-go-tweet) were avidly attended. Chico's flints were the sharp-

est and most accurate of his time, and indeed the whole range of Chico's Cutlery Supplies was advertised virtually continuously on the Caveman Shopping Channel. Unlike his two illustrious companions, however, Harpo's reputation was only guaranteed after his death; a tragic accident at the wheel of his 1x1 Range Rover.

As worthy of recognition as Groucho, Chico and Harpo may be, there is a fourth early hominid whose superior contribution has been sadly overlooked by history. We know nothing of Zeppo; one of those unfortunate cases all too common in the sad story of inventors. I refer, of course, to the author of the world's very first joke.

Let me clarify: by 'joke' I do not mean primitive examples of slapstick, early cave-dwellers finding mammoth dung intrinsically amusing, or the discovery that hitting somebody else can tickle one's funny bone. I mean the first real joke – complete with the holy trinity of premise, context and punch-line.

Whenever and wherever it took place, the moment that joke was delivered marks one of the definitive turning points in our evolution. Because this is what really, fundamentally, distinguishes us as humans. Hyenas would make lousy stand-up acts, chickens don't care about our jaywalking activities, and the witty banter engaged in by dolphins is highly overrated.

Without a sense of humour, we're

nothing. The ability to laugh and make others laugh is what makes life worthwhile, and a sense of irony is our best way of living with the terrifying, bewildering and awe-inspiring universe we inhabit. Intentionally making someone else laugh is inseparable from an understanding of human interactions. Can I make a joke about someone else's dead grandmother? Or is it too soon? Will the scatology be acceptable for an after-dinner speech, or is that something I should keep for my similarly-minded friends? Can I make Holocaust jokes if I'm not Jewish? Does the presence of a minority member in the conversation entitle the group to be hideously un-PC? For those people we label as 'funny', the answers are so obvious that the questions are hardly worth considering. The boundaries of humour are among the most fragile we have (apart from those existing in the Balkans. Too soon?), as a second's delay in timing or an accidentally misplaced stress can convert an off-the-cuff witticism into a deeply wounding and potentially libellous remark. A sense of humour acts as an almost infallible compass in these situations, allowing one to stay on the safe side of the precipice, though occasionally venturing dangerously close to the edge.

This is why we find the concept of artificial intelligence such a worrying one – the fact that computers and robots are so completely humourless.

Can you imagine Clippy – the once ubiquitous but now, thanks to recent culling programmes, almost extinct, MS Word paperclip – exchanging witty repartee with the Help icon? Saying: 'it looks like you are trying to kill yourself, would you like me to a) cheer you up, b) sing a happy song or c) help you to write a letter?' Unthinkable. If it could, it would be unimaginably less irritating. And would probably still be around today. Alas.

There is a phenomenon known as the 'uncanny valley', a reference to the discomfort humans experience around robots that eerily resemble us. I am convinced that a robot with a sense of humour would be able to bridge the valley, as it would, by definition, be able to understand and relate to the full gamut of human emotions. Show me a robot with a genuinely creative sense of humour, able to adapt itself to situations and feel its way round an audience, and the other obstacles to granting it sentience will melt away. Call it the Amit test for true artificial intelligence. Don't worry, my modesty can take the blow.

Modern humans are almost unrecognizably different from our earliest ancestors, but that very first joke links us more strongly to Cro-Magnon or Homo Erectus than any technological or biological similarities. Of all the stages in human evolution, the Irony Age has been the most important.



felix

Relinquishing the mighty organ

This is literally the last thing I'll be writing for Felix this year, that is unless Gilead and Andrew don't finish up soon or I may find myself publishing a couple of fake suicide notes...

Er, it's been a long week, OK? Back off. In fact, it's been a pretty long year. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as the Felix Dictator but I can't actually remember the last time I slept more than 3 hours on a Wednesday night, so I'm certainly happy to be finally calling it a day.

Yet despite my vision growing drastically worse, my hairs turning gray and my skin developing a thin film of sticky moisture thanks to the stifling dungeon ecosystem I inhabit for most of the week, I wouldn't change the way Felix is for the world. There's something immensely satisfying about slaving through the long nights in the knowledge that what you're producing will bring a smile and enjoyment to thousands of people each week. Essentially, it's been a case of making the most of the opportunity I've been

handed. It would have been easy to sit back and churn out samey issues, week-in-week-out, but I feel that myself and the team have worked hard to keep the newspaper fresh every time; something I'm particularly proud of.

I've spent the last 3 years working for the newspaper, during the last two of which the leather seats have perfectly molded to my arse cheeks. I've grown physically attached to this place and most definitely emotionally attached to the people with whom I've had the pleasure of working.

Without all of the beautiful people listed on the centrefold of this issue, Felix wouldn't exist, so I would like to thank them all for their tireless work this year too. There has been such an awesome spirit in the office this year and it has really made this job very enjoyable. You guys are the greatest and I'm definitely not going to forget this year. I would say I'm going to miss you all, but I'm going to be back next year to annoy Jov with the rest of you anyway! Till then guys, have a great summer, it's been emotional.



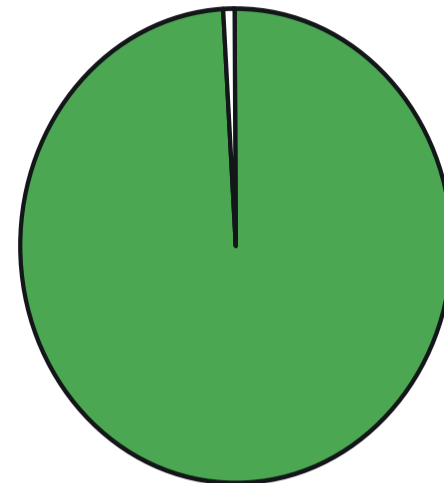
I'M VOTING TO
STAY IN THE NUS



I'M VOTING TO
STAY IN THE NUS

**“NUS needs ICU and
ICU needs NUS”**

Trevor Phillips, former ICU
and NUS president



■ ICU Turnover □ Affiliation Fee

www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

00:01 Tue 17 June – 23:59 Mon 23 June

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I'M VOTING TO
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THE NUS IS REFORMING!

Last year their overdraft
plummeted from
£1m to £0.3m!

**“HSBC has frozen its plan to charge
graduates 9.9% on their overdrafts
when they graduate following a
campaign organised by the NUS”**

Ashley Brown, Live! Editor,
No campaigner

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IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON

SUMMER BALL 2008

21.06.2008

LAST

CHANCE TO BUY TICKETS

Not yet purchased your ticket?

- Tickets can still be purchased online until 16:00 on Saturday 21 June 2008.
- Tickets can be purchased at Union Reception from 10:00 until 16:00 on Saturday 21 June 2008.
- Tickets can be purchased on the door with cash only.

Already got yours?

- We recommend you come and exchange your ticket at the Union Reception before the event to avoid any unnecessary queuing. Simply come along with your email confirmation and your College ID.
- Bring enough cash for the evening ready to exchange for your drinks tokens for the evening.
- Dress up smartly! Most people will be coming in black tie and ball dresses.
- If you are attending the dinner doors open at 17:00, Tanaka Reception.
- If you are NOT attending the dinner doors open at 19:30, Tanaka Reception, with bars and music starting from 20:00. Food vans will be at the event, ensure you eat before you arrive or at some point in the evening.

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

bp



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.

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

Science

Science Editor – Ed Henley

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Scienfeld: the science of Seinfeld

Sitcoms and science: unlikely bedfellows, no? Not necessarily, says Mico Tatalovic, incoming science editor

Seinfeld is the most popular sitcom in the history of television. It brought NBC so much money that by season nine the main actors were paid \$600,000 per 20min episode. Apart from making millions of fans across the globe laugh weekly for nine years in the 1990s, recently Seinfeld started inspiring some interesting science as well.

Seinfeld hit the news at the beginning of 2008 when some undergraduates at Clemson University, USA, investigated 'double-dipping'. 'Double-dipping' is one of those many phrases that entered the vernacular after appearing in this sitcom. What it stands for is dipping one's chip/nacho into a dip after one has already taken a bite. George, one of the unluckiest characters on the show does precisely this at a funeral reception and gets verbally attacked for his deed by his girlfriend's brother: "Did... did you just double-dip that chip?! ...That's like putting your whole mouth right in the dip!"

But is it really? George certainly didn't agree with this. New research tested this by dipping crackers into salsa sauce and chocolate syrup after a bite had already been taken. Researchers counted the number of aerobic bacteria and found that around 10,000 were transmitted in this way from mouth to dip in only a few dips!

The study, to be published this year in the *Journal of Food Safety*, was reported on by the *New York Times* and various blogs which picked up on this.

The researchers calculated that with each bite of a cracker dipped into the sauce that others have double-dipped into, those dipping were risking ingesting between 50-100 bacteria indirectly, from mouth-to-mouth, in this way.

The lead researcher told *NYT*: "The way I would put it is, before you have some dip at a party, look around and ask yourself, would I be willing to kiss everyone here? Because you don't know who might be double dipping, and those who do are sharing their saliva with you."

"Double-dipping your cracker transfers around 10,000 bacteria into the dip"

But that's not all: in June 2008 a report appeared in the *Journal of Evolutionary Psychology* which supported one of George's ideas. In one of the episodes George, disgusted by himself for breaking-up violently with his girlfriend who ends up in a depression clinic after this experience, says: "I've driven women to lesbianism before, but never to a mental institution..."

Now scientists are saying that some homosexual women may indeed have been driven to their sexual orientation by violent and abusive acts by men in



The baby-faced sociopath started to double-dip, then, seeing the consternation this odious practice aroused amongst onlookers, proceeded to smear the rest of the dip over his foul maw, much to the disgust of all

their previous heterosexual encounters. Gordon Gallup, a psychologist from University of Albany, USA and colleagues designed a questionnaire for lesbians and heterosexual women about their prior sexual experiences.

Based on answers by 107 women they found that lesbians experienced more

sexual and physical abuse by men, and that this happened at a younger age than for heterosexual women. The team concludes that such negative experiences with the opposite sex may have lead some lesbians to their current sexual orientation, homosexuality.

"Not that there's anything wrong

with it" Seinfeld would jokingly add, but there is something wrong with abusing women and whilst this study mainly aims at explaining the evolutionary enigma of homosexual behaviour, it also raises awareness of sexual and physical abuse that should not be tolerated.

Malaria and the mosquito: a story of blood and guts, which may end well

Imran Khan

For an animal that measures mere millimetres in size, the mosquito is astounding for its ability to wreak devastation across the globe. Estimates suggest that around half of the world's population has been affected at one time or another by the malaria parasite that the mosquitoes carry, with over half a billion new infections each year.

Quite apart from the human tragedy of the disease, malaria holds back social and economic progress in some of the planet's poorest countries, many of them in sub-Saharan Africa. But the millions of deaths worldwide could hinge on a surprisingly narrow bottleneck interaction between the mosquito and the *Plasmodium* parasite, which causes the disease.

"When the mosquito sucks blood, she ingests the parasite from the human, and it's inside the mid-gut of the insect that the parasite starts sexual development," explained Timm Schlegelmilch, a researcher at Imperial College, London. "[The parasite] transforms into the invasive form ... and has to cross the mid-gut wall, to start a massive replication programme. It's exactly at this stage that the parasite population suffers great losses."

"There are a couple of thousand parasites in the mosquito gut, and from those only single digits complete the journey out. After that, they replicate again – back up to 10,000 parasites – but that is our bottleneck." The implication is clear; narrow that bottleneck

a bit further and the parasite might not be able to make it out of the mosquito alive.

Much of the current work on malaria is done on rats in labs, and Schlegelmilch was concerned at how transferable that work is to the human form of the disease out in the wild.

His lab recently succeeded in genetically modifying mosquitoes to subtly alter their gut chemistry, before comparing how the mosquitoes fared against both the human- and rat-forms of malaria, and were excited by the results. Fiddling with genes that control the way the mosquito moves fat around its body or structures its cells might not seem terribly useful, but the research showed that both of these had a big impact on the survival of the parasites in the mosquito gut.

"There are many labs trying to make the transition of lab work to the field – and here at Imperial we're the first to have succeeded in doing that with a human strain of malaria", Schlegelmilch added. "It was real, in-the-field malaria. We used samples from human carriers in Cameroon."

Science has advanced against malaria in the past, only to be beaten back, and Schlegelmilch is wary of making any grand claims. The eventual aim is to throw a spanner in the works of malaria transmission, but he admitted "we're still at the stage of asking 'what is going on?'. Interrupting transmission? I'm not sure we'll be alive when that happens."

Still, malaria charities have wel-



Hitting the sauce. As she chugs away on her victims, the mosquito can ingest malaria parasites. But few can escape through her gut wall to infect the next victim: a natural bottleneck which scientists want to cork

comed the idea that the latest weapon against the disease is slowly inching its way off the drawing board and onto the battlefield. Robert Mather, founder of Against Malaria, compared the problem to a puzzle. "Mosquito gene research is very important. It has the

potential to add significantly to our ability to fight malaria. If another piece of the mosquito gene jigsaw puzzle has been found, that is good news."

But Mather was keen to stress that scientific research can only ever be one part of the solution. When dealing with

a problem of this scale, sometimes the simplest solutions can be best. "Now, and for many years to come, bed nets are likely to remain the single most effective thing we can deploy to stop three million people dying, totally avoidably, each year."

ERNIE 1: Nice little earner, one careful owner

The NS&I's much-loved physical random number generator will soon be on display at the Science Museum

Edmund Henley
Science Editor

Premium Bonds, a post-war savings mechanism launched by Harold Macmillan in 1956, owed much of their popularity to a monthly draw, which won some lucky bond owners cash prizes – up to a hefty £1000. At the heart of these draws lay ERNIE 1, a random number generator used to select the winning bonds. ERNIE was at the cutting edge of technology at the time; on its own this would probably have earned it a place on permanent display at the Science Museum. But, as I discovered when I went along there to speak to Tilly Blyth, Curator of Computing, that's only part of the reason ERNIE's won this accolade...

So what is a random number generator?

It's a machine that generates random numbers! There are different kinds of random numbers – there are pseudo-random numbers and there are true random numbers – a true random number generator uses a real, physical event to generate the random numbers – it's not using software, so it can't be programmed or interfered with. ERNIE 1 used the movement of electrons in a gas diode to create the random numbers.

Tell me more...

Well, ERNIE 1 didn't use just one random number generator to create a random number – it actually used two, using one to generate another, creating a "doubly random number", if such a thing exists! This was just in case one of the diodes wasn't truly random – this way, there was a backup.

So, today's computers use pseudo-random number generators...

Not necessarily – not all machines do

– there are microprocessors that exist today that have a true random number generator within them – one of the things we're showing in the display is a VIA C7 processor which has a random number generator within the hardware of the chip. Again, that's using variations of the electrons across the chip to generate the random numbers – a physical process, not software.

You mentioned earlier there were some precursors to ERNIE...

Yes, GCHQ developed something called the "Donald Ducks" – random number generators which were used for cryptography, but we don't know much about them – there are a couple of early computer people who do know a little bit, but there's not a lot of information.

Because we've lost the technicians over time, or because it's secret?

I think because it was GCHQ, it was fairly secret at the time – a lot of that information's now been released into the National Archives, but nobody's really done that much research into it.

I see National Savings and Insurance (NS&I) have a new ERNIE now – ERNIE 4. Does it still use a physical random number generator to choose the winning bonds?

Yes, it's absolutely crucial that it's still a physical random number generator – they couldn't use a pseudo-random number generator because it could be influenced by an individual: if it's programmable then somebody who knows how to manipulate that program could. It's absolutely at the heart of what premium bonds are about to make sure that they can't be tampered with. So yes, ERNIE 4 uses physical processes to generate its random numbers. It's not neon gas diodes,

like ERNIE 1, though – it uses a silicon-based chip from Intel.

One of the press release photos, showing ERNIE 1's launch, showed a certain Ernest Marples. Did the ERNIE acronym come from him?

I don't think so – none of the original engineers can remember how the ERNIE name came about. But I don't think it came from Marples – he was Postmaster General, and was there at the launch, but not whilst ERNIE was being developed. But he later became the minister for transport in fact – he's the person who gave us parking meters. So he gave us two wonderful things – premium bonds and parking meters. I think it turned out that premium bonds were much more popular though!

Ernie seemed to have been very popular at the time – "he" was on some of the premium bond adverts. Was that the intention – to put this machine which couldn't be tampered with at the heart of the campaign?

I think so, if you go back to the way people were thinking in the 1950s, this was a really innovative machine. You have the very early computers, like Colossus, but nobody's heard of Colossus, the LEO 1 computer, the first computer to be used in a commercial environment. It was really early days for the British computing industry – we really were front-runners at this point: we created the first programmed computer – the "Manchester baby" as it was then known; and the EDSAC computer at Cambridge – we really were at the cutting edge of this technology. But this was the first time that a government department was relying on an electronic machine. So it becomes very important for people to back that, believe in it: you need to have the public

trust in the ability of these "electronic brains", as they then called them, to do something like this, that's truly random. So I think part of it was about marketing ERNIE in the right way, and making sure that people felt positively about the machine, and about the scheme in general. Because there was some concern whether the bonds scheme was a good idea, whether the it was demoralising – turning us into a nation of gamblers. It seems odd today, when we've got the National Lottery, but at that time it was really seen to be moral decline! Now it's about super-casinos, but then it was whether we could even have a bond scheme, run by the government, where you could get your stake back at any time – it's not the same as betting on the horses, or on the lottery.

I see that ERNIE used a combination of valves, transistors and printed circuits. Were there many other computers which existed at this interface between valve and transistor technology, using both?

There were a few, there's the Pegasus computer that you can see on display next to ERNIE – that used both. They were both built at the time when there was a shift over from valves – transistors were a lot faster, so there was a clear benefit to using them. Pegasus is interesting, as it was used to check whether ERNIE was truly random – mathematicians were called in to check ERNIE's output, using Pegasus to do the statistical analysis. So it's nice that we've got Pegasus on display next to Ernie – they're both machines from 1956-57, looking at the period when the technology changed.

Given how difficult it is to get valves these days, does ERNIE still work?

It doesn't, no – I wouldn't like to plug it in! Mainly because of the wiring –

when ERNIE was given to us by the NS&I wires had to be cut to take it into sections and it would be a big job to re-wire it. We did look at if we could get ERNIE working again on gallery, but we saw that realistically it would take at least three years of work. I'd still like to get ERNIE working, but it raises all sorts of questions about the nature of museums – especially with computing technology. Should we show objects as they were originally, or we should replace components, and put in new parts, not the originals, to show them working?

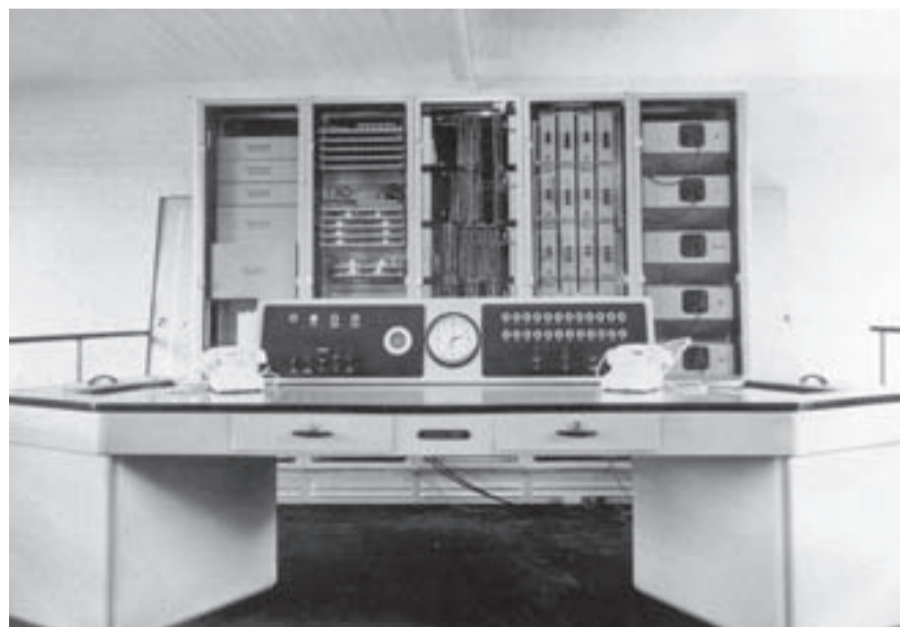
You want a historical object...

Yes, you do, so that people can do research. Questions might be asked in 200 years as to what were the transistors like in 1953. If they were based on the modern day counterparts you couldn't do that work.

And what was the cultural impact of ERNIE and the other "electronic brains". Can you track it down?

Well, if you look at computers in cultural terms, their impact is huge. If you think about films, like *Bladerunner*, or *Terminator*, they reflect how we felt about computers at the time. In many ways ERNIE is a cultural signature of its time – ERNIE 1 was a very grey, solid state machine. By the time ERNIE 2 was launched 16 years later, it was purple and gold, with lace curtains covering the tape reels – it was based on the Goldfinger/James Bond films, and represented a completely different way of looking at technology and our future. And by the time you get to 16 years after that you're seeing a machine which has more of a Saturday Night game-show feel. It's nice to look at ERNIE as a cultural signature as much as a technological innovation!

ERNIE 1 will be on display at the Science Museum from 26th June



1. 'Supermac' Macmillan, promoting the premium savings bonds 2. ERNIE, an unhackable random number generator, was used to choose winning bonds 3. It duly became an integral part of the advertising strategy for these popular bonds



What a year – from the gruesome minutiae of Inca sacrifices to the unexpected correlation between strippers' ovulation cycles and their tips; from the unpublished dangers of St. John's Wort to DNA strands hunting each other down electrostatically – to my mind, the science pages have covered an astonishing breadth of topics. None of this would be possible without the sterling work from so many contributors: you know who you are. Nor could it be done without the copy editors, who play an all-too-often unacknowledged, but crucial role. Or indeed the rest of the Felix crew: I dread to think what the basement would be like without you all. Foremost, however, thanks to Tomo, for expert guidance, and deep reserves of patience, and humour, in the face of a weekly barrage of brainless InDesign questions. And for running one of the best Felices I've seen – it's been great to have been part of it.

Have a great summer everyone!

Edmund

Union Review of the Year

When I sat down to write a review of the Union's activities for my year in office my mind tracked back to 1 July 2007. I then decided that this article would be more digestible if I started with the Freshers' Fair in October. The Fair was our most attended ever with over 6000 students visiting over 340 stalls across the campus. It was the perfect way to start the year and it was great to see so many of you active right from the beginning of the Autumn term.

The Union had some very good news at the end of the autumn term. Just before Christmas we announced that £3.3m had been secured which would allow the Union to upgrade and modernise our facilities for student activities. Since then a lot of the design work has been completed by the architects and building work is due to commence this autumn. The centrepiece of this project will be a new mezzanine second floor in the Union gym to allow for an enlarged Student Activity Centre and a new multi-purpose space on the 3rd floor of the Union Building. This will ensure that future students can enjoy top quality facilities fit for the 21st century and having seen the plans develop I am looking forward to coming back for a visit when it is all finished. Whilst working on this project the concerns of the student body about the Union's environmental impact have been taken on board. A major theme of this work is energy efficiency and several measures are being introduced that will ensure that our building operates in a sustainable manner.

2007/2008 has been another outstanding year for our Clubs and Societies and we have seen almost a 10% year-on-year increase in the number of memberships taking the total number sold to over 12,000. Around 6,350 students are members of at least one of over 300 clubs and societies, representing a participation rate of over 52%. Whilst official statistics are not available we believe that Imperial College Union currently offers a student activities programme with the largest participation rate and is the most generously funded compared to all other UK universities.

It would almost require me to write a dissertation to do full justice to the achievements of you all this year but here are some of the highlights and headline figures:-

- The student media at Imperial College went from strength to strength with Live!, the student news website of Imperial College being named "Best Student Website" in The Guardian Student Media Awards 2007.
- The Union's minibuses clocked up over 110,000 miles this year – the equivalent of driving around the planet four and a half times!
- Surgical Society championed the first undergraduate plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery conference which drew in students from across the UK.
- 1407 Imperial Students gave up their time to organise activities for other students by becoming an officer of one or more clubs. The Union gave countless opportunities for students to develop their leadership capabilities and personal skills whilst the student body benefited massively from the efforts of this large number of volunteers.
- The spring term saw the usual plethora of shows and cultural events, with Indian Society's *East Meets West* being hosted at the London Palladium for the first time.
- Imperial College Union's sports teams played in 1003 competitive sports fixtures this year – equivalent to 84 days of continuous playing time.

The Union's Advice Centre helped hundreds of students with issues such as taking unscrupulous landlords to court, liaising with Transport for London and representing students in academic and disciplinary hearings. Your elected representatives have continued to contribute to College committees to fulfil our goal of ensuring that a student voice is heard at the highest levels of decision making in the College so that policy decisions can be influenced to our benefit. In particular, our work on the student status of writing-up PhD students has resulted in a College policy change which will result in some students saving hundreds of pounds on their Council Tax bill. Academic representatives are often the unsung heroes of Students' Unions and we as a student body benefit enormously from their hard work and diligence as they go about communicating our concerns to the College.

One of the fundamental principles of Students' Unions is that they are democratic organisations that are led by the people they serve. This year saw a 40% year-on-year increase in turnout for the sabbatical elections with over 2,300 students voting in the election which saw Jennifer Morgan returned as my successor. The elections for part-time officers have also seen an increased number of candidates and voter turnout compared to last year and it is excellent to see that so many of you have a lot of ideas as to how the Union could be improved for all students at the College.

Throughout this article I have referred to "the Union" but it is not quite clear what I mean by this object. For the purposes of this piece I will define "the Union" in its broadest sense is a collective of all students at Imperial College and without the hard work and dedication of the other sabbaticals, the Union's full time staff and hundreds of part-time volunteers none of the above achievements would have been realised. It has been a privilege leading and working with such an outstanding group of people this year and I hope that through my efforts I have repaid the trust that the student body placed in me when I was elected. On that note I would like to wish Jen and her team all the very best for next year in their efforts to ensure that the Union continues to evolve to meet the needs of an ever-changing student body.




Stephen Brown

Imperial College Union President 2007/2008

**Imperial College Union could
not operate without its
Student Officers.**

**We would like to say
a massive thank you
to everyone who has
contributed their time and
effort over the past year.**

It is really appreciated.



Caz Knight
Arts Editor

This is the end/Beautiful friend/This is the end/My only friend, the end". And indeed it is: end of toiling daily/weekly in the library and also the end of Felix for this academic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed trying to 'eruditise' the heavily scientific community here in South Kensington, and also myself in the process. It is also the end of Tomo's stint as editor and a HUGE thanks goes to him for his patience and all his help, without which the Arts pages would certainly not have not turned out as well as they have.

The End. Jim Morrison was singing about a very different end: death. It was something of which he thought constantly: he saw it as the "big sleep", to which he looked forward to and yearned for after his years 'caining' it as lead singer of The Doors. The theme of ritual, artifice and mortality is also explored at the Alexia Goethe Gallery, where artist Jodie Carey is currently exhibiting work. The small, stark, minimalist space on Dover Street is irritatingly easy to miss but showcases some rare and interesting talent. This exhibition, *Still, Life*, examines death in comparison to life, with life portrayed as something ugly, reflected by the manner in which we ourselves deal with death. The artist says "Hoover dust... If you die tomorrow, all that would be left of you would be in your Hoover". She views funeral and memorials as a thing "lest we remember", the opposite effect to remembering someone.

Upon entering the gallery, these messages are not apparent as we see sculptures made from roses, feathers and furniture (an odd sounding combination). Upon closer inspection the roses are made from blood-stained newspaper, covered in lard. (I really should take note of the "Do not touch" sign). As one ascends the stairs to the installation one is met with a completely surreal scene. Boxes and boxes of hand-crafted bones (femurs, coccyx's, tail bones, portions of skulls) scatter the floor and are stacked up amid strewn newspaper. The ice-cold air conditioning reinforces the notion of death. Far from being sinister, I thought it utterly amazing, thinking to the intense, even obsessive, effort that has to be put in to craft each and every element in the installation.

A few streets away from the Alexia Goethe gallery is the White Cube gallery where Rosie Milton goes on an escapade to Hell and back as she reviews the Jake and Dinos Chapman exhibition. Be prepared for some disturbing images, bizarre concepts.

I have also selected a few of John Betjeman's poems and "Culture" *Crawl/Tube* map this week features some alternative nights out.

Fucking hell! Hippy Hitler?!

The Jake and Dinos Chapman exhibition, "If Hitler Had Been A Hippy How Happy Would We Be", at the White Cube gallery exhibits some gruesome but highly thought-provoking work. We sent **Rosie Milton** to Hell and Back to find out more

Towards the end of May this year the White Cube gallery unveiled the new work of two of their most well-known YBA's (Young British Artists), brothers Jake and Dinos Chapman, the controversially tense 'spectacle': *If Hitler Had Been A Hippy How Happy Would We Be*. I hope to release it from its stigma of the 'shock effect' and instead reveal the wit and perspicacity in the minds of the 'terrible twosome' who are thankfully far from being 'serious' in that contrived way that any artist who enters into the realm of the controversial can borderline on becoming. The *london-paper* quoted the brothers, referring to their first 'Hell' installation from 2000 (lost in a warehouse fire four years ago) as being "...only art. We will make it again". Heading the official press release for the current exhibition is a brief self-referencing ditty: 'HELL hath no fury/Like a chapman spurned/ So come see the second/ 'Cos the first one burned'. Enticed by this carnivalesque introduction, one can easily see that 'Fucking Hell', which features as a part of the whole exhibition at the White Cube, swallows up its predecessor with its references to modern media and profound (or profane, rather) past events. The exhibition comprises of three rooms: the upper floor gallery, whose walls are lined with what appear to be at first aged portraits but on closer inspection reveal the bulging eyes, cracking skin and swollen veins of dead or 'undead' zombie-like sitters, yet delicately painted in a style of realism which could more commonly be attributed to the hand of an old master. De-



The Rape of Creativity

scending into the depths of (Fucking) Hell on the lower floor, you approach nine large glass cabinets – the view from the stairs allowing you to immediately see these cases as having been laid out in the instantly recognisable icon of the swastika. In the final room are some twee and harmless-looking watercolours. Only they become tainted instantly with the knowledge that



Great deeds against the dead

they are the Chapman brothers' interpretations of Hitler's own watercolour paintings (signed 'Hitler 2007' gives it away). Hitler's paintings have become sought-after today, but not for his competent hand – another irony the Chapman brothers address through this exhibition. Returning to 'Fucking Hell', this installation recreates a narrative of Hell as seen in the minds of

the Chapman brothers – at the centre a massive volcano belches out suspicious black smoke – and petering down from the deathly mountain's slopes the landscape spreads into four corners of hell, where lie a temple, factory, a mass grave and the sea to nowhere. The Chapman brothers execute this fantasy Hell with an attention to detail so minute and repetitive you find yourself



Details of Sex



Disasters of war



Gigantic fun

Poetry for yuppies & Slough

pressed right up against the glass – fascinated by the miniature world the same way you were when you saw your first model railway or doll's house – until you retract suddenly from any childhood fantasies, realising the grotesque nature of the scenes depicted and how history has conformed us to behave with reverence when bringing to mind the cruelty and evil that the Nazis and the events of the Second World War produced. But Jake and Dinos are not asking us to explicitly use this installation as a memorial, but rather to look on the subject impartially to understand their meanings beyond this. Of course the subject matter presented to us causes us to make associations – Polish factories and mass graves – familiar scenes of genocide, but here the boys are using these surface themes to act as microcosms for deeper philosophical truths and represent beyond the time of the Nazis to modern-day issues also – hundreds of miniature barrels of squandered oil run through the rivers and the dilapidated form of a temple, emblazoned with the McDonald's golden arches, spews out skeletal Nazi soldiers who wreak terror on the blackened hills. Edward Muir explains that just as the smaller version of your own house is the dolls'-house, this allows us to visualise the relationship of the parts to the whole. He describes the miniature model as offering a closed, simplified example that we can use to anticipate the future in some way or at least learn, by controlling a replica in its whole, how to behave in actual situations. In fact this very method of using models and miniatures allows us to detach ourselves somewhat from the subject of 'Fucking Hell' – it allows us to physically and psychologically dominate the material. The Chapman brothers have also explored the reverse – exhibited at the former Saatchi gallery at Somerset House from Saatchi's own collection were several life-size dolls of adolescents, but hybridised and confused in gender by a mass of conjoined limbs and protruding genitals on various and unnatural places on their bodies. I watched first-hand as the viewer gave a wide berth to these static poupées, feeling the talismanic power of these troubling zygotic 'children' pushing you far too close to the borders of the taboo. A fully illustrated catalogue accompanying the exhibition provides a number of essays by Rod Mengham and Simon Baker among others, offering historical references and philosophical treatises with which to interpret 'Fucking Hell' by. An illustrated 'guide' also plucks out certain more notable details from amongst the complicated mass of tiny figures within the tableaux, such as the cowering figure of little Anne Frank, alone in an attic, to the figure of Adolf Hitler abreast a pit of despair yet calmly painting a bland watercolour (perhaps the only bright spot of colour in the murk of the entire installation). Stephen Hawking also makes an appearance, as does a reference to Theodore Gericault's 'The Raft of the Medusa' – a painting made in response to the tragedy of the sinking of the Medusa in 1816, whose only remaining survivors clung to a raft for fifteen days and incurred violence, brutality and even cannibalism. With 'Fucking Hell' the Chapman brothers have presented us with several vitrines like cabinets of curiosities – fascinating and gruesome, the narratives comical yet dark. The contradictions are rife – from a naked infant Hitler being baptized in a bowl of blood to a snowman being crucified on top of a hill – the world appears turned on its head, or inside out. In short it is, Fucking Hell.

If Hitler Had Been A Hippie How Happy Would We Be, White Cube, Mason's Yard, SW1 until 12 July

Sir John Betjeman (1906-84), Poet Laureate 1972 and self-described "poet and hack", is revered as one of our "National Treasures" for his glorious poems. Betjeman was one of the first poets I came to know and love during my care-free days at the Dragon School, North Oxford, where Betjeman himself spent his preparatory school years. His poem 'May-Day Song for North Oxford' resonates strongly and completely captures the beauty of those roads with their lush vegetation and red-bricked houses.

I long for those days, somewhat: the time when I managed to pass my Common Entrance with flying colours without the need to even skim one page of notes for any of my subjects, school sports day on the Dragon playing fields bordering the Cherwell river and school-girl crushes. So much has changed.

After spending his secondary school years at Marlborough College, Betjeman attended Oxford as a 'commoner' (a non-scholarship student) but only just. It seemed that studying was not second nature to him, either. He soon began to realise that the good life was for him and so his routine of partying finally resulted in him being 'sent down' from Oxford for failing his exams.

Not a poet for Angry Geek! Betjeman's conservatism sprung from the fact that he deplored 'progress'. That is, the demise in ancient buildings and the British countryside. He did not see how it was possible for us to be truly happy in a world of increasing ugliness and inhibitions. In 'The Executive', he satirises the stereotype by writing from the perspective of the yuppie.

Particularisation is continually used by Betjeman in his poems. In stead of simply referring to objects as 'cars' and 'marmalade' he will use their brand names which acts as a clever way of inferring social status and also the time at which the poem as written. He does this in a topographical sense too, with many of his poems bearing the names of places. The second poem here is

The Executive

I am a young executive. No cuffs than mine are cleaner;
I have a Slimline brief-case and I use the firm's Cortina.
In every roadside hostelry from here to Burgess Hill
The maîtres d'hôtel all know me well, and let me sign the bill.

You ask me what it is I do. Well, actually, you know,
I'm partly a liaison man, and partly P.R.O.
Essentially, I integrate the current export drive
And basically I'm viable from ten o'clock till five.

For vital off-the-record work – that's talking transport-wise -
I've a scarlet Aston-Martin – and does she go? She flies!
Pedestrians and dogs and cats, we mark them down for slaughter.
I also own a speedboat which has never touched the water.

She's built of fibre-glass, of course. I call her 'Mandy Jane'
After a bird I used to know – No soda, please, just plain -
And how did I acquire her? Well, to tell you about that
And to put you in the picture, I must wear my other hat.

I do some mild developing. The sort of place I need
Is a quiet country market town that's rather run to seed
A luncheon and a drink or two, a little savoir faire -
I fix the Planning Officer, the Town Clerk and the Mayor.

And if some Preservationist attempts to interfere
A 'dangerous structure' notice from the Borough Engineer
Will settle any buildings that are standing in our way -
The modern style, sir, with respect, has really come to stay.



The Quintessential Yuppie: Christian Bale as Patrick Bateman in *American Psycho*

Slough, which was read by the character David Brent in *The Office* television series which happens to be set in Slough.

Some critics see this as his inability to see things in an abstract way. However, I find this technique to be highly effective as it is a way of ensuring readers can identify more closely to the content of the poems (as I related so well to the mention of street names in his 'May-Day Song for North Oxford'.)

A lot of you reading these poems may be able to relate to them: having visited Slough or aware of its notoriety as an utter shit hole (sorry). Or maybe you are considering a career in the world of business. Either way, it is hard not to fall for Betjeman's comic writing.

Slough

Come, friendly bombs, and fall on Slough
It isn't fit for humans now,
There isn't grass to graze a cow
Swarm over, Death!

Come, bombs, and blow to smithereens
Those air-conditioned, bright canteens,
Tinned fruit, tinned meat, tinned milk, tinned beans
Tinned minds, tinned breath.

Mess up the mess they call a town --
A house for ninety-seven down
And once a week for half-a-crown
For twenty years,

And get that man with double chin
Who'll always cheat and always win,
Who washes his repulsive skin
In women's tears,

And smash his desk of polished oak
And smash his hands so used to stroke
And stop his boring dirty joke
And make him yell.

But spare the bald young clerks who add
The profits of the stinking cad;
It's not their fault that they are mad,
They've tasted Hell.

It's not their fault they do not know
The birdsong from the radio,
It's not their fault they often go
To Maidenhead

And talk of sports and makes of cars
In various bogus Tudor bars
And daren't look up and see the stars
But belch instead.

In labour-saving homes, with care
Their wives frizz out peroxide hair
And dry it in synthetic air
And paint their nails.

Come, friendly bombs, and fall on Slough
To get it ready for the plough.
The cabbages are coming now;
The earth exhales.



Felix 2007-08

This year's Felix was brought to you by:

Back Row, from left to right: **Li-Teck Lau**, Politics Editor, **Emily Wilson**, Arts Editor, **Peter Sinclair**, Music Editor, **Greg Mead**, Nightlife Editor, **Kadhim Shubber**, Deputy & Politics Editor, **Afonso Campos**, Business Editor, **Alex Casey**, Film Editor, **David Paw**, Arts Editor, **Sarah Skeete**, Fashion Editor, **Louise Etheridge**, Copy Editor, **Matty Hoban**, Music-and-ting Editor, **Andrew Somerville**, Deputy & News Editor, **Gilead Amit**, International & Copy Editor.

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The Great Culture Crawl

Chapter Fourteen – Novel nights out



The Dublin Castle

Up the road from Camden Town tube, the red light-lit (both outside and in) Dublin Castle is "indie heaven" for aspiring young bands wishing to join the hordes of other musicians which make up the 'one album wonder' club. OK, that's slightly unfair and cynical, for the Dublin Castle is a great venue for fans of rock, indie and live music. The back room of this pub is where the musical magic is created and all atop a very small stage. If, like me, you are not so much a fan of the rough and tumble of larger rock gigs, then this is a great chance to enjoy indie/rock in a slightly safer, less sweaty environment. I say less sweaty as there is still a healthy quota of sweat to be had! But this is Camden, man, if you wanted clean and cultured you would have stayed in that SW bubble. This Friday Fox Gang (troubadouring humorist/satirist), the Onlookers (psychedelia with an RnB vibe), Muswell (heavy, nasty shouty shit but still rather good) and Art of Marshall (indie pop - meh) shall be providing entertainment. The floor in the front bar gets VERY messy so if you have not mastered walking in heels like Arts Supremo then beware lest you slide several metres landing on your ass. Luckily, I was exiting the pub when this happened. Clientele here are the usual Camden crowd, with a few indie 'celebrities' pottering about, too. The back room is where the music takes place but the front room has music making means of its own in the form of a jukebox. However, this really is a gig venue; if you are not into your indie music then this probably is not for you. If it's a quiet drink you're after then head down to some of the bars in the Lock area. Or get pissed at home.



Notting Hill Arts Club

Pretty much situated at the top of the stairs coming out of the underground, the NHAC is where all the trendy kids go. With everyone saying "sick" a lot, their unique hairstyles and eclectic fashion, it is easy to feel like an average, garden-variety Londoner - even if you are the *Felix Arts* Supremo (look, I was having a wardrobe crisis, ok!) The club's colourful interior design and art-covered walls definitely reflect the artsy crowd who frequent this small hangout. Don't let that fact perturb you: the club has a great atmosphere with everyone there for the random mix of music genres on show each night of the week. The club puts on a variety of both acoustic and electronic music, often fusing the two, which gives a unique sound quite different from a lot of other generic bars. The club is ideal for those not into "horrible druggy electro music" (each to their own). This Friday, Gaz Mayal and Ellie, whoever they may be, are treating the NHAC to a mix of calypso, reggae and good old fashioned Rock 'n Roll. On Saturday get ready for twee-pop-psych-rock-folk: I think there it is a case of see-it-to-believe-it. The cocktails are also delicious here and there is plenty of fruit on the bar to steal and eat.

Torture Garden at Mass

Mass, the home of Torture Garden, is an ex-church (highly ironic given the extent of the debauchery which ensues most nights of the week) that stands alone in a small square. Spread over five floors, connected by a wide spiraling staircase, it can be confusing on your first visit but each floor opens out onto a spacious room. The layout is ideal for the monthly Torture Garden events which are certainly not just your average fetish night and offer plenty to see and take part in. Before you run away in disgust/fear, TG is more about the dressing up, extremely friendly vibe and dancing rather than the "play" and sado-masochism (although there is of that plenty if you so wish). Dress code is strict, although one is allowed to take one's costume in a bag and change inside to avoid embarrassment and odd glances on the tube. And by 'dress code' they mean pretty much anything other than 'normal' attire. Not everyone in attendance sports crotchless leather trousers, pierced genitalia or gimp masks. It truly adds so much to this crazy atmosphere to see people dressed in everything from sailor suits, to rubber Nazi uniforms (yes, a bit strange), aliens, Burlesque... As always there is the occasional sleazy/oddball but the majority are several orders friendlier than the people you find in most clubs. The music range covers everything from 'booty slut-core' to drum n bass, electro, rock, swing, jazz, atmospheric, breaks and soundtrack. At around 25GBP for tickets, it is probably not an event you will go to regularly but it is worth every penny for its novelty and 10pm-6am opening hours.



Written by Caz Knight, concept by Rosie Grayburn

Matt and Matt's

Located in the trendy Angel district, this little bar is quite easy to miss given the tens of other larger, more commercial bars that swamp most London streets. Small it is but Matt and Matt's makes up for it in a very chilled out, unpretentious atmosphere. Run by two old school mates, this hidden gem has a slightly Cuban-esque and slightly 'worn' feel to the deco which only makes it all the more inviting and homely. The bar staff are friendly and always up for partying alongside you and often happy to refund you a drink if you are unsatisfied, not that you will be, the cocktails as tasty as they are. This Friday the SleazyDJs return with their monthly night, but this time 'Sleazebox' is usurped by a Burberry themed 'ChavBox'. However, the music does not downgrade, with the SleazyDJs unleashing their usual infectious mix of house, breaks and sleazy electro. Adorn yourself with ganstaah gold, hoop earrings, tracksuits tucked into socks, a gyro check for credibility and caps as you get to be working class for the night without having to listen to a second's worth of garage. (No fighting please!)

This bar is open all nights apart from Sundays and Mondays and is also the perfect location to go to unwind for a few quiet ones and a great excuse to experience what the city has to offer in its more northern boroughs. Matt and Matt's only charges a small fee of 4GBP after midnight on certain nights.



Public Life, Shoreditch

For those of you who ARE partial to (drugged-up) dance music, then Public Life on Saturday afternoons might just be for you. This converted 'convenience'-cum-underground bar is open from the morning until midnight and is apparent only by a small glass awning and steep flight of stairs taking you down into the depths of the club. Its secrecy means the hefty queues and prices of a lot of West End water holes are avoided, and I am sure the majority of you will never have partied on down in a public toilet. The Lost Souls Techno Club opens its doors bright and early at 10.30am for the uber-keen or for those still carrying on from the night before. With some of the old Victorian tiling still on the walls and candles everywhere, the atmosphere created here is relax and friendly and with just about enough room to throw some shapes to the more underground sounds of break beats, 'electronica' and minimal that emits from the speakers. The crowd here are chilled out which may differ from a lot of the pretentious folk who make up the East End/Shoreditch demographic. With cheap pub prices (the good old fashioned pubs) it will be a welcome relief from the rest of over-priced London, although beer and mixers pretty much makes up their drinks selection. Truly one of the most interesting and fun places to go for something totally different.

Cafe 1001

Nestled away in a private road just off Brick Lane, this coffee shop and DJ bar is truly one of its kind. I could barely contain my excitement upon taking in the extensive array of food on offer: cakes, muffins, fresh juices, bagels, sandwiches, pizza, soups, pies, salads and hot meals. It took me at least fifteen minutes to decide on a very healthy-sized portion of chocolate cake and my discerning palette deemed it exceptional! They also prepare mouth-watering burgers outside the café where there is also seating available in the form of wooden tables and benches. Café 1001 is open from 6am to midnight, with extended opening hours on some nights. There is such a massive collection of music on offer here. Every Wednesday is their jazz night and each night of the week (and weekend) there are two rooms offering everything from blues, breaks, dubstep, DnB, techno, house, minimal, psy-trance and hip-hop. There are even film showings and yoga classes at scheduled times. The venue has high ceilings and an airy feel to it with Moroccan style deco and very attractive murals on the walls. Previous visitors include David Bowie and Liv Tyler but I can guarantee they won't be there when you visit. The café is currently supporting the Graduate Schools Art and Design show, exhibiting in Brick Lane, should you feel the urge for some visual stimulation. I highly recommend this venue which offers the chance to stuff your face with well-prepared, well-priced food and take in some aural delightment.



The Roxy Bar and Screen

A trip to a characterless Odeon need no more be a part of your weekend once you have visited the Roxy screen in Borough. With a vibe more akin to a jazz club, it is laid back and sophisticated with ample table and chairs, booths and comfy sofas to enjoy the bar's extensive range of spirits and cocktails. Due to Greek ownership there is a special Greek food menu but if you steer clear of this and opt for the roasts you won't be disappointed. The drinks are reasonably priced and the Roxy is well able to cater for large groups at short notice. They show a good range of films, both English language and european and also have Sunday documentaries, fundraising films, late night jazz and 'underground' films. At the moment, they are having screenings of Euro 2008 matches: an infinitely better way to enjoy the football than in a sweaty pub!



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Higher Education and Research in Science, Technology and Medicine

Hannah Gay

Imperial College London, UK

This is the first major history of Imperial College London. The book tells the story of a new type of institution that came into being in 1907 with the federation of three older colleges. Imperial College was founded by the state for advanced university-level training in science and technology, and for the promotion of research in support of industry throughout the British Empire. True to its name the college built a wide number of Imperial links and was an outward looking institution from the start. Today, in the post-colonial world, it retains its outward-looking stance, both in its many international research connections, and with staff and students from around the world. Connections to industry and the state remain important. The College is one of Britain's premier research and teaching institutions, including now medicine alongside science and engineering. This book is an in-depth study of Imperial College; it covers both governance and academic activity within the larger context of political, economic and socio-cultural life in twentieth-century Britain.

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Much Ado About Nothing

- Pull this out and bring it to the Show!



Benedick

The Prince of Padua, returning from the war with Don Pedro. Is the joker of the group. Constantly engaged in a war of wits with Beatrice.



Don Pedro

The Prince of Arragon. Head of the recently victorious army, as much his soldiers' friend as their general.



Claudio

Young Lord. Has recently given a good account of himself in the war. Is amorous on Hero, Leonato's daughter.



Hero

Leonato's daughter and Antonio's niece, the young Hero is in love with Claudio.



Beatrice

Leonato's niece and therefore Hero's cousin, she is extremely witty, and constantly engaged in a war of wits with Benedick.



Leonato

Governor of Messina, father of Hero and uncle of Beatrice. He and Don Pedro are old friends.



Friar Francis

Messina's resident holy man, it is his responsibility to conduct the wedding ceremony. When disaster strikes, it is his advice that brings the play to its conclusion.

As yet another year draws to a close and exams quickly become a horrible memory, Dramsoc marks the event with a FREE open air Shakespeare celebration on Dalby Court (in front of the rector's blue box). A BBQ will be available & Picnic blankets will be provided, but feel free to bring a hamper, a cushion for your tush, and the English summer Spirit.



Don John

Don Pedro's Bastard brother. Has unsuccessfully tried to overthrow his brother. Pleasures in other people's sadness.

Don Pedro, prince of Arragon, returns victorious from war. By his side are fellow soldiers Benedick and Claudio, and the villainous Don John, bastard brother to the prince. News of their arrival in the town of Messina is met with celebration and rejoicing, not least in the home of Leonato, governor of Messina. His daughter, the young and innocent Hero, and her older cousin Beatrice, especially anticipate the celebrations. Hero is enamoured with Claudio, and Beatrice has a long-running battle of wits with Benedick. At the masked ball to mark their homecoming, Don Pedro arranges Claudio's marriage to Hero, though Don John's scheming almost ruins the evening.

Believing in the age-old adage of opposites attracting, Don Pedro and Leonato mischievously try to drive Benedick and Beatrice into each other's arms. Simultaneously, Don John does his best to drive Claudio and Hero apart; his machinations lead to a ruined wedding, a humiliated bride and a destroyed friendship. The bumbling Watch attempt to right the situation, while the Friar's intervention seems set to make things worse. As is customary in a Shakespearean comedy, the play culminates in a final battle of wits, the villains receiving their just desserts, and a reunion for both pairs of lovers.



Conrade & Borachio

Don John's henchmen, whose scheming advice to their master sets the plot in motion



Antonio

Leonato's older Brother and uncle to both Hero and Beatrice. He chases after Ursula with an agility surprising in one of his years.



Ursula & Margaret

Hero's ladies-in-waiting, Ursula spends much of the play being chased by Antonio, while Margaret and Borachio have a less-than-open relationship.



Dogberry, Vergea & the Watch

As close as Messina has to a police force, the inept Constable Dogberry, his aged assistant and his men do their best to keep down crime. That's not saying much.



Sexton

Messina's most senior judicial representative, he has to deal with the bumbling inefficiency of the Watch.

William Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing



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Dolce with your dim sum, madam?

China is redefining what it means to dress, spend and design Chinese. David J Paw takes a look

Emerging markets excite me more than American markets." So said Tom Ford, as he readied himself for the task ahead. Ford had been travelling the latitude of Asia to secure a minimum of 87 franchised stores throughout the continent and Australasia over the next ten years.

This commitment is only a fraction of the activity that has turned the continent from the backwater of a century ago into the newest player in the world's developing new order, and the expansion of Western luxury brands into the East is but a segment of the seething activity at hand. Notably, much of the focus is on that emerging economic juggernaut, China.

Straddling the uneasy ground between its communist ideology and oft-capitalist reality, China's flourishing economy has fuelled a thriving new middle class bent on absorbing and integrating Western lifestyles and consuming every luxury brand presented to them by their newfound messiahs. Angelica Cheung, editor-in-chief of *Vogue China*, says it best: "China is becoming more and more sophisticated. The most important thing is that today in China you feel the will to be more fashionable, and the desire to live a better life is very strong. And with the new money, [you] have the means of doing it."

That desire is manifest everywhere you look in its glimmering coastal cities – Beijing boasts some of the world's most dazzling buildings by star architects while Guangzhou's recent initiative to boost the arts, coupled to its

unrelenting economic progress as a regional capital, is transforming it into one of Asia's definitive megacities. The previously rural Shenzhen is utterly unrecognisable now, its allocation as China's first free-trade zone transforming it into a commercial and creative haven for risk takers and moneymakers within the space of a single generation. And through it all, the metropolis of Shanghai has spiralled higher, establishing itself as the nation's creative epicentre and coming into view of reclaiming its title as the "Paris of the East". You can

"China's flourishing economy has fuelled a thriving new middle class bent on Western lifestyles"

hear it in the clack of Louboutin stilettos and feel it in the cool, smooth Italian marble in an elevator whisking its occupants to an opulent rooftop bar. Jessica Ward, a boutique owner who relocated to Shanghai from Toronto says, "There's a palpable energy even when you step into the street. There's a feeling that anything is possible and that the city's inhabitants are raring to reinvent and define the city for the 21st century."

Ward is only one of a new generation of creative professionals who are

recognising the city's potential. Its inaugural fashion week, coupled with that of Beijing's, are symptomatic of the nation's increasing sophistication and savvy, as well as its desire to put its own creative stamp and gain recognition overseas. But how do the Chinese view luxury? "China is still a young market, and subsequently not yet as sophisticated overall as more established markets", explains Tiffany Zhou, a marketing consultant from Hong Kong. "Designer clothing and accessories are still used to signify status and unlike Western cities, there is more desire for conformity. Though well known brand names are coveted, conversely there is less interest in owning unique pieces that stress the buyer's individuality". Such is the power of the brand that "Louis Vuitton" is the equivalent term for "luxury".

Consequently China's new spending power, coupled with an appetite for recognisable status pieces, has offset a dash by major luxury players to satisfy its demands in response. Italian luxury conglomerate PPR (that owns both Gucci and Tom Ford) has set up numerous franchises in the major coastal hotspots, and Beijing alone has seen a massive high-end injection: new Prada and Gucci flagships, new stores from Cartier, Dolce & Gabbana, Armani and an imposing new outlet of Hong Kong luxury department store Lane Crawford offering elite designer lines such as Maison Martin Margiela, Marni, Miu Miu and more.

Lane Crawford's presence is notable – not only is the brand expanding its reach with stores and an ambitious internationally published ad campaign, but it provides for the most discern-



Vogue China's circulation is second only to its American counterpart

ing shoppers who reject the vulgarity of logos and statement pieces. Despite the majority's desire to conform, for a small and very discerning minority there exists a niche that the store happily indulges. "They're as clued-up to international fashion as their European and American counterparts", Zhou explains. Though a lot of luxury sales are based around indulging the consumer's desires, much of the luxury sector's growth has been encouraged by the custom of *guanxi*, or gift-giving, as a means of building personal relationships and connections. The government's suspicion of cash gifts has led to the less conspicuous exchange of opulent luxury items; a Chanel clutch can't offer the same freedom as money, but it makes a very fine substitute.

However, for every Chinese Margiela devotee, there are scores of others struggling to separate their Marni from their Missoni. It is therefore of little wonder that the influential fashion press have had shop set up in China for a while, in anticipation of a demand for sartorial guidance. *Vogue China's* 300,000-strong circulation – impressive for a relatively new title – is second in the *Vogue* stable only to its American counterpart, and *Elle China* has been here for even longer. What makes *Vogue China* different from other international editions? "We add an educational element...For *Italian Vogue* or *American Vogue* it would be enough to just run the fashion pictures because the women are sophisticated enough to get the idea. But the Chinese women are not there yet, so we have to tell them more about the inspirations", said editor Cheung in 2007.

For a nation with so much raw potential but with little idea of what to

do with it, such guidance is necessary. Despite Shanghai and Beijing's emerging stature, Hong Kong has long been established as an Eastern financial and cultural capital, and its dwarfing by its mainland counterpart has led to an informational symbiosis of sorts, based on its well-developed business acumen in the development and presentation of new ideas – pivotal if China wants to produce its own star designers worthy of international recognition. In addition, in comparison to Hong Kong, the average Mainland Chinese woman

"Once the mainland closes the gap, Hong Kong's advantage will be less well demarcated"

lacks the sophistication and experience in identifying, transferring and integrating major trends into personal iterations – Hong Kong's edge is its international know-how and long-seated role in the global community. Once the Mainland closes that gap, Hong Kong's advantage will be less well demarcated.

Speaking of star designers, between Western and Chinese designers, it seems clear which the domestic market prefers. That is not to say that China lacks talent – Shanghai-based designers such as the avant-garde Wang Yi-yang and Zhang Da both have devoted



Consumers in major Chinese cities are more interested in conforming than in making individual statements

followings in their native country, while London-based Wang Wei has been touted highly by the domestic press. But why has homegrown talent had such a hard time establishing itself on the international scene?

Part of the answer lies in the void the country found itself in during the pre-Cultural Revolution years of Communism – though versatile, the era's standard-issue tunics were not the most expressive medium for a budding designer. In the years after, though released from the restraints of ideological uniform, a new generation of Chinese seem to have been uncertain with what constituted a modern national aesthetic, having been robbed of a natural stylistic evolution from the nation's sartorial heyday of the decadent 1930's. In a sense, its creative development has been stunted in comparison with neighbours such as Japan.

Though China's teeming population and creative hotspots will surely harbour an impressive array of talent, it has thus far lacked the creative infrastructure that the world's other major fashion capitals take for granted – trade shows, fashion weeks, funding initiatives, creative management, media support – all of which help in the creation of viable businesses from raw talent.

And though Beijing and Shanghai's fashion weeks are important additions to China's fashion calendar, too often the important front row is littered with local dignitaries and public figures, as opposed to oft decisive and influential international fashion press and buyers. Consumer resistance that values prestige over supporting novel design talent has also contributed to the difficulties faced by local designers. But in spite of the potential difficulties faced, the creation of quietly discerning shopping streets in Hong Kong and Shanghai's Taikang Lu and Chang Le selling local designers' creations have shown promise.

Most people would have trouble naming a true Chinese fashion design talent, one based in China or who

“We are looking forward to seeing someone from China becoming a highly-regarded international designer”

emerged from China. That much is reasonable, even amongst the world's fashionistas. However, the annals of modern fashion have been studded with designers of Chinese origin. In this context, the most notable event in the international fashion calendar is New York fashion week. Vera Wang and Anna Sui are now important bi-annual fixtures in the city and the most successful, while smaller names such as Chinese-Malaysian Yeohlee and the design duo Bamboo have carved out dedicated fanbases. In addition, the runway shows showcasing the talents of Alexander Wang, Philip Lim and Derek Lam are among some of the most eagerly anticipated in the city.

So do normal Chinese regard them as national successes and champion them as their own? Virginia Lau, an international trend forecaster based in Hong Kong, elaborates upon the situation: “Yes and no. We've become aware of them in recent seasons. We



China's economic growth and increasingly numerous middle class have buoyed the ever-precarious international market for luxury goods

know they're upcoming designers and becoming famous in New York." But is that enough for a nation known for its fierce sense of identity? “We are waiting and looking forward to seeing someone from China become a highly-regarded international designer very soon – someone who grew up here, speaks Chinese and lives here.” Are there any potential candidates? “I think most Chinese would consider Xie Feng with his designer label Jefe as the first Chinese designer to have stepped onto the international fashion runway stage. He presented his first ready-to-wear collection in Paris for Spring 2007.” Perhaps it may be the case that a label would have to be exported to gain international recognition before returning or simply, in addition to better infrastructure, designers would have to become more aware of the world around them in order to better appeal to a global audience. Consequently, there is a desire to see

local talent hitting the largest stage of them all. But what would they present as a declaration of modern Chinese fashion? What is it to dress Chinese? Most people's perceptions of a Chinese aesthetic still reach back to the long, flowing costume presented to Western audiences in large-scale Chinese cinematic epics, or decadent and slinky form-fitted cheongsam (also known as qipao). Maggie Cheung's painstakingly fitted cheongsam in the opulently stylised Hong Kong film *In The Mood For Love* is probably one of the most well known examples. “We hold our Chinese heritage dear, but young Chinese don't want anything too cliché”, says Sally Yau, a Shanghai fashion journalist and writer. “No one wants to dress like their grandmother”. The concept of “vintage” and “retro” is also somewhat tricky in a nation that was dressed almost exclusively in Mao suits. Deconstructionism is becoming a buzzword amongst local designers on the Main-

land while in Hong Kong, great emphasis is placed on the cut, folds, embroidery and detail, “in no small part thanks to the tropical climate and the city's strong tailoring heritage”, adds Yau.

Have China's regional neighbours had any influence on its sense of style? “Influences from Japan and Korea are always strong in Asia, especially in the youth and junior markets” says Lau. “In the last three to four years, the influence of Korean trends have been particularly strong and are regarded as even hotter than those from Japan, which have had a very strong influence on Asian fashion since the early 80's”. Which aspects of Korean culture are having an impact on the Chinese market? “Korean celebrities, television dramas, movies, fashion brands, magazines and beauty brands are prevailing and selling like hot cakes in Asia. Korean labels sell at a higher price than local retail brands in China, and Asian

girls follow makeup trends from Korean artists”.

So China as a consumer – taking 10% of the world's luxury sales – is increasingly voracious for all things covetable, and as a creator has still some way to go despite showing promise. This is without even accounting for its massive presence in the textiles industry as a manufacturer and exporter. Is the world of fashion ready for such a change? How will the world's fashion press react to an influx of new Chinese designers boldly presenting their vision for a new China, and how much of it will be tempered by a desire to appease and offer something palatable to Western sensibilities? It seems only a matter of time before China closes the gap and the international fashion landscape as we know it is altered forever. Let's hope it's for the best.

With special thanks to Virginia Lau.



Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair and Susan Yu

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Peter Sinclair
Music Editor

Outside London there are lots of other places, for example Glasgow, Bristol and Norwich. Even further afield, there are places such as France and even Singapore. As exam season finally gets around to pissing itself out and the summer holidays open their arms wide, embracing us into their welcoming bosom, many of us will be returning to our places of origin outside of South Kensington to while away our summer months, get jobs, or do whatever it is we like to do when we aren't doing science.

Music-wise, some people are much luckier than others when it comes to where they will be heading to in the next few weeks. If you read these pages often enough you will have no question that for those staying in London over the summer there will be enough stuff going on to keep you entertained. This time of year in particular is good for day festivals, not to mention that Radiohead thing that everyone is boning on about. But nonetheless, there are a lot of towns in the UK that can definitely hold their own musically.

Last weekend I headed down to Brighton for a dubstep and drum n' bass night at a venue called the Concord 2. For those who have never been, Brighton is a 50-minute train journey southwards to the coast. It was popular with the Victorians as it's the nearest seaside resort to London, and to this day it's retained the same kind of seedy, pleasure-seeking vibe it no doubt had back then. Hedonistic would be an appropriate description if it didn't require the expenditure of so much energy. In Brighton, history and geography have joined forces to make the city, for its size, one of the most creative and artist friendly places in the UK, and although it's not particularly known for its dubstep, it seemed perfectly able to hold its own in this capacity (perhaps it's all the drugs it takes on the weekends).

Music from Brighton though has its own distinctive style. It's home to two of my favourite record labels, Tru Thoughts and FatCat Records, which are two of the best known names in eclectic alternative bigting eazy-vibez. As for individuals, the town is home to a mix of artists from just about every genre, from the latin funk/soul of Quantic to the scary mustachioed goth-rock of Nick Cave, to the dulcet tones of the speaking clock voice, Sara Mendes da Costa. If you're into the weirder side of a weird enough town, there's a night called The Halloween Club showcasing some of the more bizarre acts of the Brighton music scene. I've heard legends of an ambient free-form jazz Mexican wrestler band, and a guy inserting things into his ass while miming a handjob on the microphone. He probably played some kind of music too.

So the moral of the story is: Brighton is awesome. Also: Have a nice summer. Also: I need to leave for France in 2 fucking hours and I haven't fucking packed. And I don't know french. See you all next year!

Efterklang are fucking great

There's no doubt about it. Felix's Efterklang correspondent Guy Andrews spoke to band member Casper Clausen shortly before their show at The Queen Elizabeth Hall

Since its release in October of last year, Efterklang's 'Parades' LP has been a runaway success. Most electronica fans will eagerly tell you they would literally piss their pants if they got the chance to meet them, so we jumped at the chance last April when vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Casper Clausen agreed to meet up with for a chat and a sit-down.

How did you first get into writing music?

That's a tough one. Three of us grew up in the same city, went to high school together and were in a lot of cover bands together. Writing our own music was

just something that naturally came out of playing other people's songs.

Did you ever have intentions of getting signed when you were in these cover bands?

The music we were making was pretty bad in the early days. Of course we wanted to get signed but in retrospect there wasn't really anything there. Before we started Efterklang we spent about three years working on a computer, figuring out the ProTools system and writing out little sketches. We took out a big bank loan and purchased a load of instruments and met Thomas and Rune before making our first EP.

Where did you record all your songs?

We had this room in Copenhagen that we used for 5 or 6 years – we'd both practise and record there. Recently we got kicked out of that space and had to move into a new room. It's a lot worse as it doesn't have the nice natural reverb and sound that the original room had.

Where do you get your inspiration?

It comes from small things, things you read, see, hear. I don't think I'm really clear on what exactly inspires me... you can feel when the inspiration is there... usually after watching a nice movie I want to get creative. We also get a lot of inspiration from other bands we listen to.

On your latest album 'Parades', you've swung toward a more live sound which is quite different to the more electronic feel of your previous two albums. What was the reason behind this?

I think actually half of it came from us wanting to do something more natural sounding. From 'Tripper' we learnt quite a lot – like how to melt acoustic sounds with electronic sounds, we just couldn't do it that well. 'Parades' was just a pure mix of the two, melted together to create a sound that blurred the line between electronic and acoustic.

Some of the songs are quite complex in both melody and structure. How do you go about writing such tunes? Are these complexities planned or do they come out whilst playing together?

There's no improvising, everything

is built up from the beginning. Occasionally I'll sit in front of an interesting instrument like a celesta or piano and will just play around, it could be a fragment of what I'm playing that I decide to record. Then it's a case of muddling together a load of ideas, over and over again until something strange happens and it develops into a song. Sometimes I find myself walking into the next room and listening to the song through the wall, it's a great way to hear if something is missing.

Are your songs hard to translate into a live set?

It depends how much you want to recreate the song. With 'Tripper' we just threw the record on the ground and built up a live version. We normally run to a rough structure in a song and extend and shorten bits if they work live.

On a more general note, who are your current influences?

At the moment I'm listening to a lot of Daft Punk. When we were making Parades we were listening to a lot of Popol Vuh, a German band. Also Grizzly Bear, Björk, Radiohead, a lot of artists on our label Leaf. It's great being on the same label as some artists that really inspire us.

What interests do you have outside of music?

I like collecting clothes. I really like designing clothes too. My sister and I designed the clothes we wear when performing live and have just made some new ones using inspiration from the last ones we designed.

What prompted you to start up your own label Rumraket?

When we were hand making our first EP 'Springer' we just wanted to put a label name on it to make it sound more professional. So we came up with the logo and stuck that on the CD. We also hand made 1000 copies of 'Tripper' and put the Rumraket logo on that.

If your house or studio was burning down, what would be the first thing you would grab?

The hard-drive! The computer is really the heart of the entire band – all our ideas are collected on the hard-drive.

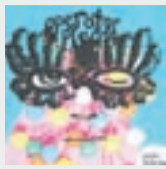
What is the one thing that's the most crucial part of the live performance?

Maybe the lead vocals! [laughs] Probably Mads on the computer. We want to try and move away from the computer to give us a challenge but we know we'll always come back to that fucking computer.



Efterklang are due to play the last few shows of their solo tour shortly, before hitting the festival circuit this summer. You can catch them in the UK one of a few dates, including a London show at the Field Day Festival in Victoria Park on August the 9th. See www.efterklang.org for more info

Queensland's answer to McFly – oh please...



Operator Please
Yes Yes Vindictive
Virgin/EMI
★★★★☆

Operator Please: coming to a Skins episode near you. They've got it all – the looks, the age, the strings, the synths and enough angst to fill up a special edition box set.

But hang on a moment, surely this is Be Your Own Pet in disguise? The first two tracks have the great riffs (See 'Zero Zero'), the pointless lyrics, the two minute pop-punk tunes and that has to be Jemina's voice. But apparently

not, this very young-looking pop-rock quintet hail from Queensland, Australia and can only pull off the 'rock' part for half of their album – the poor kids probably get tired.

Third Australian single, but yet to be released in the UK, 'Just a Song About Ping Pong' shows just how deceiving these little blighters can be. I'll let you into a secret, it's not about table tennis – THEY'RE ACTUALLY SINGING ABOUT SEX! IN A SONG! The tune acts as a none-too-subtle metaphor: repetitive, fast and it's all over in two minutes. I've a good mind to tell their mothers, they still only look pre-pubescent.

It's quite a feat that vocalist Amandah Wilkinson can switch from sounding like Jemina from Be Your Own Pet to Britney in just one album. "You must think that I'm weird," she nasally croons in 'Two For My Seconds'. Not weird, Amandah, insane. Especially to

make a repeat performance in '6/8'.

Normal service somehow manages to resume with 'Terminal Disease', the band now sounding like their other obvious idols, the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. The blatant rip-off aside, it's a short, dark garage-rock ditty with 'Psycho'-esque strings, chesty vocals and some great bitty guitar work – a definite crowd-pleaser.

Wilkinson bitterly snarls her way through the title track. It will never make a hit, but only in the same way that BYOP and YYY's won't ever truly reach the mainstream. It's another one of the better songs on the album even though, like the entire handful of good tracks, it could have been ripped straight from 'Get Awkward' or 'Fever to Tell'. Even with this in mind, the Australian press seem to love them and this Gold Coast band has got one hell of a fan base.

'Leave It Alone' is another stand-out track on the album. The chorus is far too catchy, making it great fodder for a radio hit. The tight drums even make the string section seem less oppressive. However, even on this track, the energy the band produce live seems to be compressed when recorded. The record has an overwhelming sense of being half-asleep.

You can't blame Operator Please for trying (except for the Britney songs, there's no sympathy there), there's a bit of everything in this album. They go from the punk dancefloor fillers like 'Ghost' and 'Get What You Want' to acoustic. Stripped-down 'Other Song' is a suitable name for this non-electric number, although I would have preferred 'Shouldn't Have Been on the Album' or 'B-Side to a B-Side' or 'Only Kidding Folks, We Weren't Really Thinking of Recording This'. The track's only use on the album is to exercise your finger by pressing the skip button.

The album closer has a fitting name;



Even a boy who looks like a girl – job's a good'un!

with their countless influences and sound-alikes, this album should be the equivalent of seeing a star-studded West End Show, only it's more like going to a Bognor Regis 'Pantomime' (Title of track twelve and another sodding Britney number!) with Dean Gaffney (Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is!).

There's definitely some potential in this album. The ability of the musicians can't be faulted and there are at least four good tracks. Operator Please were

discovered overwhelmingly fast after forming to win their school's battle of the bands competition and the LP almost hints they were forced to make the album in a hurry. The composition seems rushed and any essences of punk rock have been overproduced. What they lack is believability and urgency. At the moment, Operator Please just reek of bubblegum-flavoured teenage angst.

Lara O'Reilly



Ranging in ages from 17 to 19, Operator Please are all perfectly legal

Scouting For Girls at Shepherds Bush Empire

I am probably too old to go to a Scouting for Girls gig – I'd like to think I had better musical taste. And yet nothing could have stopped me turning up at Shepherds Bush Empire a few weeks ago, grinning like a mad person.

My first chance to see the sugar-sweet trio was more than two years ago in early 2006. Two musically 'with-it' school friends insisted I come along to some basement in Manchester to see a new indie-pop band. To my lasting regret I declined due to a French exam the next morning. Apparently about ten people showed up and my friends managed to get off with certain band-members. A Scouting for Girls badge and a French AS-level were small consolation as the band started to get more and more airplay and my friends smugger and smugger.

My incredibly unselfish boyfriend decided to stop my whining with a pair of tickets to the final London date of their tour. Only slightly disconcerted by the huge

crowds of giggling girls outside (all under sixteen), we made our way in to discover we weren't quite the oldest in the venue – there were three drunken middle-aged women and one of the girls had brought her dad.

Two support acts were needed as Scouting for Girls have still have precious little material. We missed them both, which was a shame as I now keep hearing Go:Audio on the radio all the time.

About 10.30pm Roy Stride, Peter Elland and Greg Churchhouse finally made it on stage. There was a great deal of screaming and I must admit I joined in. Scouting for Girls make happy music for happy people and I like to think I'm pretty upbeat. Even the most teen angst-ridden of their lyrics ("I'm not over you", "these dreams are killing me") are rescued by relentlessly cheery melodies. The lyrics are incredibly easy to pick up and sing along to and the music is perfect for those indulging in post-revision dancing in the kitchen (just me?). I completely agree with those who complain that

the songs are formulaic and all sound practically the same, but this energetic, Beach Boys-esque formula works for me and for thousands of girls all over the country.

As a front-man Roy Stride gives it his all – bouncing around on stage, jumping into the crowd – the works. You suspect he might be a bit of a prick in real life, but he knows his audience. I found his Panto-style "Who can shout the lyrics the loudest?" contests cringe-worthy, but it worked for the majority.

Highlights included a cute little song about James Bond even one to their fans. The set ended with 'Elvis Isn't Dead', in my opinion their finest (and catchiest) offering. 'She's So Lovely' was the obvious encore and after a bit of "last night in our home town" stuff they departed.

It was the perfect gig for forgetting all about exams and just pretending to be thirteen again. I didn't get to kiss them, but going off that performance I definitely still would.

Christina Flanagan

Terrorvision also at Shepherds Bush Empire

Terrorvision were never going to provide an intellectual challenge on Saturday night, but then again there wasn't anyone there looking for one.

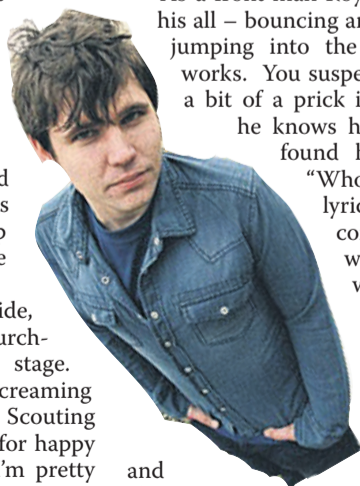
They became (moderately) famous on the back of 3-minute party rock songs and even though it's been ten years since they've done anything you'll have heard of, it seemed that everybody in the crowd was there to help them sing. That's okay though, because the average age in the crowd was closer to forty than anyone would care to admit, so the whole place had an atmosphere more like a college reunion gig than anything else. Or perhaps an incipient mid-life crisis. The front-man, Tony Wright (coincidentally forty this year), certainly wasn't holding too much back, jumping around like a Northern Iggy Pop – he had far more gas than I did for most of the set for sure, but maybe because of it he had to take a breather during the encore.

That, more than anything else, dragged the level of the gig down to the mediocre – while there was little danger of the band playing a bunch of new songs, their limited back-catalogue was painfully obvious when they started repeating songs in the encore as

acoustic versions. That's right, acoustic jump-around party rock. Acoustic 'Tequila', a song that's only any good at all if you can leap around the place throwing your beer everywhere and don't listen to the lyrics too hard. I'm not a big fan of routine encores anyway – they're supposed to be something you earn, not something written into the programme – but playing an electrifying one hour set followed by a dreary half-hour encore left everyone feeling like it had been a bit of an anti-climax.

Incidentally, when did the Empire get all staid and sensible? I know the smoking ban isn't the organisers' fault, but on top of that the fun police have begun to take a hard line on crowd-surfing, and seemed to have channelled about half the venue's power into ridiculously macho air-con. That in itself isn't a bad thing, but all the power seemed to have come from the speakers, so you could comfortably chat to your mates throughout the set, even from the sixth-ish row where I was. Not very fucking rock and roll, is it? Or maybe I'm just harking back to the good old days myself...

Duncan Casey





Games

Games Editors – Azfarul Islam and Sebastian Nordgren

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Azfarul "Az" Islam Games Editor

Phew. So the year's finally over and what a rollercoaster ride it's been! Things got so hectic with the Summer Term that I had to take a proper hiatus from the section altogether. I offer my apologies to the readers and to anyone who enjoyed going through the Games pages.

It's only appropriate that this last issue under the stewardship of Tomo gets to have the Games section dedicated to the one and only *Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots*. The game represents the end of an era that has left a permanent mark on the world of videogames and one whose praises shall be sung everywhere. While smoking. And taking down giant bipedal machines of mass destruction.

Normally, this editorial section is the hardest bit to write but the irony now is that there's so much to be said yet so little space to say it in. However, there's no harm in trying.

From a gaming perspective, the 2007-08 session has been a pretty amazing one, witnessing the release of a cavalcade of games that simply blow everything out of the water. There are too many names to list but you all know who these lovely chaps are anyway. Who knows what the 2008-09 session will bring us, but there are some pleasant surprises and true gems in the horizon. But enough about games, there are *more* important things to be said here!

Firstly, it's been absolutely amazing to work for Felix this year and I can't thank Tomo enough for his encouragement, guidance, patience and the Thai noodles he'd get from Tesco. Running the Games section has been crazy (in a good way) and I'm really glad that so many of you, the readers, responded so positively to it. I mean, seriously, it really makes all that hard work utterly, utterly worth it in the end. So a really big round of thanks goes out to all of the readers for their comments, and to Edu and Dave of the IC Gaming Club as well as the members.

Personal thanks and lotsa love go out to all the lovely people who contributed to Felix Games: Alex Stubble, Andrew Lim, Andrew Lyle, Andrew Somerville, Angry Geek, Chris Hutchison, David Lawrence, Derek Chow, James Finnerly, James Porter, Jen Strangeways, Mike Cook, Robin George Andrews, fellow Editor Sebastian Nordgren, Tom Roberts, Viral Shah and Wing Hym Liu. If there's any other name that I haven't mentioned then I offer my deepest apologies. You may send Howlers to the usual address at games.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

A big round of hugs are there for the Felix team this year who were a bunch of awesome people, both professionally and personally. I hope all of you guys continue at Felix!

Here's hoping to a fantastic new version of Felix next year under the leadership of one Jovan "Jov" Nedic and I hope that Felix Games can take over the entire paper, erm, continues to be read and loved by all.



Solid Snake, Legendary

Azfarul Islam witnesses the end of an era that helped change gaming

It has been confessed that I approached this article with a great deal of trepidation. On one hand, I love the *Metal Gear Solid* series which means that bias could easily creep into the text. Similarly, the last time I played an *MGS* game was roughly four years ago with the third iteration. I was worried that a combination of time and having been exposed to the multitude of incredible games in between may cause me to look at the slightly sillier aspects of the series with distaste. And on top of that, the expectations levelled on this game were astronomical. Just for starters.

However, all this mattered little once the ending credits rolled on buoyed by soothing versions of the main orchestral themes of *Metal Gear*'s past.

Metal Gear Solid 4: Guns of the Patriots sees you plunged into a world where war and conflict are routine; they have transformed from something abhorrent into a full-fledged economy.

Private
Military

Companies or PMCs have become the corporations of this dystopian future; children now grow up wanting to fight to earn income. Rebel factions throughout the world offer the resistive forces the PMCs need to keep themselves in business. On top of this is an underlying system centred on nanomachine technology that keeps everything in check. Certainly, the very concept of war has changed. It's into one of these many battles that the series' hero Solid Snake is inserted. However, something is amiss.

The man is prone to fits of coughing and seizures. His hardened arteries pump the remnants of the deadly virus FOXDIE. His weary muscles ache and need to be supported by an enhancing body suit. And his greyed hair reveals a shocking change from the legend we've all come to know and love. This is no longer the story we've come to expect; this is the story of Old Snake.

Sneaking in amidst a convoy of freedom fighters, Snake is on a very different mission to his makeshift comrades. They seek to fight whereas he seeks to end it all. Under fire from the well-positioned PMC troops, Snake is forced to leave the vehicle and continue on foot. And this is where you come in.

The cinematic camera follows Snake as he ducks behind cover and ever so subtly, control is given to

the player. This is only where the game just *begins* to shine.

One of the first things that series' veterans will notice is that their well-worn control niches don't give you the reactions they would expect. A few taps here, perhaps following by a last-minute depression or two, reveals that even the controls have finally embraced a more streamlined generation as with most current titles. The tiniest hint of disappointment at change slowly transitions to wonder as Snake's moveset slowly showcases a gleefully large variety of motions and smooth, intuitive machinations.

Now content, your intense focus on the controller shifts and suddenly the muffled sound created by your own distraction comes into sharp focus. Soldiers yell indiscriminately and guns rattle, all in the name of the war economy, and you can even pick the combatants give each other orders, encouragement and shout for help. Suddenly, you feel Snake's age set in. And it's not because he's just reached to rub his aching lower back. The conflict has escalated from the few-on-one encounters of the past and has taken a mind of its own; whether or not you wish to be part of the madness will always depend on you as the game progresses. It's a bloody battlefield out there, but you can't help but be awestruck at this assault on the senses. And you know what? Squint at it just a bit. No, really do it. See that? That won't be the first time your jaw drops and bounces down the stairs and rolls onto the road outside.

Seriously speaking, I've come to accept generally sharp and shiny visuals to be the norm for this generation; it's only fair for the high cost invest-

ment that all parties involved are making. However, I would be an utter fool to not admit that *Metal Gear Solid 4* made me speechless on more than one occasion. There were moments when you can't help but ask yourself: "Surely that was real? Surely that wasn't real-time?" Yeah, there are some pretty ugly textures scattered around that disappear point but as for everything framing these bits, well, the comparison seems astronomical.

Spread over five acts, *Metal Gear Solid 4* sends Solid Snake and his friends, new and old, travelling across the world with one goal in mind: to stop the freakish amalgamation of former personalities Liquid Snake and Revolver Ocelot. Alone they were far more formidable than most villains but as one being their sheer aura exudes something that's rather holistic, in a deliciously evil way. This is a plot that is a true culmination of everything that makes *Metal Gear* the benchmark for interactive storytelling. There are characters you genuinely feel for, events that astound and come shockingly close to real life and plot twists that build their way into grand schemes which inspire both awe and fear. There's a significant improvement in the quality of the writing and dialogue as well. Still as emotive and heartfelt, the hamfisted nature of past titles have been toned down by a large degree.

And what a set of acts this was. Fighting through dust-choked battlefields where the conflict between finance and freedom never ends. Entering the jungles once again to use the land itself in your favour. Bedecked in a stylish trenchcoat, tailing a man through a city under curfew and where frequent patrols threaten to send you to the chopping block. And then, going back to where it all began...

Now, I was always expecting the tale to be of epic proportions, as with any



Metal Gear Solid, but there was a part of me, a tiny part of me, that felt that all the touted features of psychological warfare and advanced stealth would take a backseat. Wow. Did I ever call it wrong.

Few games will have ever, and not only in the *Metal Gear Solid* series, offered a package so compelling, so engrossing or so puissant in terms of gameplay. Whether it's the sheer variety or the way that the setpieces are designed to genuinely evoke emotion and adrenaline rushes, you'll be spoilt once you finish this masterpiece.

Gunplay has never been a focus for the highly stealth-oriented series, but this iteration really reveals one of *MGS'* truly spontaneous draws: freedom within linearity. Your overall mission may be from one point to the other, but the staggering amount of choice you have between these two is often astonishing. To keep things organic, there are no explicit instructions to embark on these paths but it's left completely up to the discerning player to carve his own gameplay niche.

Whether you're going to risk freeing some freedom fighters to aid you against the PMCs or enter the fracas with the highly-refined shooting model, or even stay out of harm's way by sending the remote-controlled minuscule *Metal Gear Mk. II* unit to scout on ahead, these things are never openly stated. You'll do what you feel like doing and it's your own way that's the right way. It's an interesting vision of the "sandbox" concept of gaming.

The *Metal Gear Solid* family has always been an intensely ecumenical experience with regards to everything that it incorporates. And what is a game such as this without the aural brilliance? To that end, composer Harry-Gregson Williams and his Konami counterpart whip up a maelstrom of sublime orchestral music. It's not only



Satiating your appetite by answering old questions and then asking some thought-provoking ones of its own, *MGS4* salutes the player in style

the incredibly emotive tracks that impressed me but the way it was lovingly incorporated into the right moments was astonishing. Operatic and melodramatic? Yup, but then you'll only have used a few of many words used to describe the *Metal Gear Solid* saga.

And the accolades can simply continue for this title of titles. I can mention the incessant urge to collect each type of the hundred-shy weapons offered in the game in order to exchange points with the enigmatic gun "launderer"

Drebin 893. I can talk about the clever product placement in the game, where you can use a fully functioning iPod to listen to music tracks spanning the Konami library. I can mention the boss fights that blend in the right amount of emotion, innovation and nostalgia; some of them are quite clever. There's also the fact that the enemies are a far more intelligent bunch, challenging you to really test your mettle. Did I care to nod towards the new *Metal Gear Gekkou* and *Mini Gekkou* units?

In size they fail to match REX and Ray but the combination of sheer fear and adrenaline they evoke in you during your encounters is quite incredible. And then there's the bit in Act 4 that... well, you'll find out soon enough.

A word about the much-touted *Beauty and the Beast Unit* of bosses must be said though. I can understand the thematic natures involved and heck, I think their stories explore the sort of macabre nature worthy of Poe, King and Gaiman and finally, I think

fighting them was a blast. Why does it bother me though? There's just this disconnect between all these individually brilliant bits that lessen the impact from these contributions quite a lot, in my opinion.

What makes it all so "fucking hilarious", in the words of the first boss you face, is that the portions detrimental to the game range from invoking shrug-worthy ignorance to taking the opportunity for a toilet break. The game has some lengthy install times between each act. Check. The cutscenes are long for the attention-challenged (you can pause or skip them now). Check. The classic *MGS* humour is present, although a lot of the references will either evade newcomers or cause fans to face palm. Check. And there's some ridiculously tedious method required to sign up for the *Metal Gear Online* gaming service. Fortunately it's optional but I'm quite certain many of you would love to take your single player skills onto the online space. Konami have not made it easy to do so.

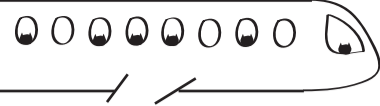
However, we've come to it at last: the last *Metal Gear Solid* title from auteur, genius and madman *Hideo Kojima*. When all is said is done, your own expectations matter little; it stings a bit knowing that, but I digress. Less a game and more of a highly insane, intense and powerfully personal experience, there are few titles like this out there. Driven on by one man's vision to tell a tale for the ages, you'll find yourself in a world not unlike our own, full of people and places that truly end up mattering to you. All the questions you've ever had are answered with introspection and poise and finally, you can sigh with relief as the multiple threads finally come together in the final knit. It's far from perfect, but that's what makes it beautiful. That's what makes it a *Metal Gear*.

Stealth through the ages

Series hero *Solid Snake* burst onto the scene back in 1987 with the game *Metal Gear* on the MSX. A few years later this was followed up by the sequel *Metal Gear 2: Solid Snake*. It would be many a year and an entire perspective shift until the series would resurface. *Metal Gear Solid* was released in 1998 on the PlayStation to thunderous acclaim and cemented the series in the annals of gaming history. The controversial PS2 title *Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty* followed suit in 2001, earning a place in the Guinness Book of World Records recently. *MGS3: Snake Eater* emerged after that, innovating the stealth genre yet again. (see below)



THE
END



A few forgotten gems of travel

Ammar Waraich understands that you are all sick of him and his visit to East Africa. He promises that this will be the last you will hear of it as he shares a few previously unmentioned ‘essential’ experiences

Over the past academic year I have written extensively about the two months I spent visiting East Africa last summer. It was a remarkable adventure that I wouldn't exchange for anything else in the world, and I hope that those of you who have had the time to read my pieces gained some insight into what my experience was like. I also hope that it has provided some impetus for your own travel plans and displayed the importance of travel in the broadening of horizons, as a necessary part of what I like to call ‘real education’. Through my previous articles I have attempted to thoroughly elucidate the bits of my journey I thought would most interest student readers, but now I am presenting a few gems that could not fit into the themes of those articles. So, dear readers, I hope you enjoy this special end-of-year-edition of ‘essential experiences’ as a parting goodbye!

Essential Experience 1 – Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

At nearly 6000 metres high, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, or ‘Kili’ as it is often known, is the tallest mountain in Africa and its summit is the highest point in Africa. It is also one of the largest volcanoes on Earth and is the world's tallest free-standing mountain. Although scaling it sounded like a daunting task at first, I felt more at ease when I considered that it requires no technical expertise or equipment and that it is summited by many people on a daily basis. Trips can be booked on arrival and they cost about 500 US dollars per person. Climbing Kili was the final highlight in Africa for me, and I arrived in Arusha beguiled at the sight of a mountain overshadowing this small but active town. Waking up the next day, I booked my trip and paid my fee in cash before looking up once again to notice what appeared to be a permanent cloud in the sky beyond the mountain I had been observing.

I gradually realised that in fact THAT was Kili and the mountain by Arusha was the relatively smaller Mount Meru! The trek to the top suddenly seemed daunting once again. The most popular route to the top is the Marangu route, which takes climbers up one face of the mountain and back in 5 days with accommodation in purpose-built huts along the way. This congested route appeals the most to your average ‘tick the box’ tourist and offers a higher level of comfort but, if being herded like cattle isn't your thing, the 6-day return Machame route can be undertaken. This is the most interesting and scenic route up the mountain, and takes the clients in a circle around Kili as they ascend through gorgeous valleys and jungles. This route only has accommodation in tents and was the route I chose.

The climb itself was not tough in the beginning. Constant rain and dense fog complicated things, while the terrain was thick jungle at first, becoming sparse tundra-like growth and then finally a craggy, rocky landscape with cacti. The temperature was steadily dropping as we went higher but the stop-overs were at campsites that were surprisingly well-equipped.

I was being accompanied by one



My Kilimanjaro expedition team – one guide, two porters and I



The arduous journey to the top through valleys and jungles

guide and two porters who carried all our luggage and equipment. It is a necessity for anyone climbing Kili to have at least this many paid ‘employees’ and when considering a Kili expedition, the well-being of these ‘employees’ is one of the most important ethical considerations to make, in addition to the environmental degradation that you as one of the hundreds upon hundreds of tourists will cause.

The dilemma is that the porters and guides tend to try and save on spending by using old and inappropriate equipment. Even though it is considered to be an easier climb than other mountains, repeatedly doing Kili is a physically demanding task and improper preparation can be severely detrimental to the guides' and porters' health. It is a responsible tourist's duty to make sure that their team uses adequate equipment, even if it means that they fork out for both theirs and their escort's equipment hire. Sadly though,

many tourists inadvertently overlook this and I saw naive tourists even agree to luxury expeditions where porters were made to carry useless items such as tables and chairs all the way to the summit, on top of everything else. A lot of this can be reduced by booking with a reputable company, and this will also guarantee a better quality expedition.

Unfortunately, despite the above, caution is still needed when dealing with these guides and porters, as they are known for being very aggressive with regards to tipping. In my case, the very porters that I had taken great care in being nice to were the ones who ganged up on me close to the end of the expedition to try and bully out-



Meal for one. Believe me, this was not appetising



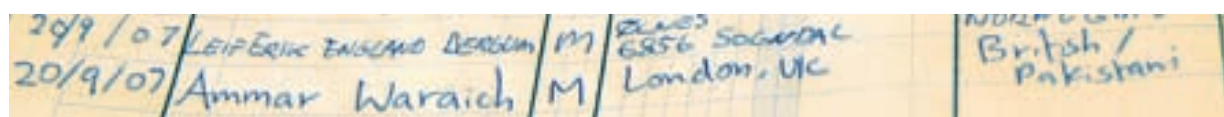
The shadow of Kili on Mount Meru at sunrise



Above the clouds



Proof that I reached the top!



The register at base camp



A team of adventurers power on ahead of us

geous, extortionate tips out of me. As I was travelling alone they tried to exercise greater power over me but I did not give in and phoned the boss of the company as soon as I could, who called them off. Having to deal with this when no help was available to me was a really unpleasant experience and in hindsight, my advice would be to clear this prevalent issue with the company before starting out.

Anyway, as we got to the third day of the climb, things started to become challenging. I could feel the air getting thinner and I became out of breath a lot more easily. The guide was cooking me food that was bland and unappetising so I also gave up on eating. The temperature was very low and the biting wind and cold necessitated a balaclava. All in all, I was feeling tired, alone and disheartened.

The distance that we had to cover every day was very long and slowly I toiled my way to the day before the summit attempt. However, that night we were only to sleep for four hours before starting at midnight for the final push to the top. At this point, the altitude sickness had kicked in properly and my head and vision seemed to be physically pulsating with a throbbing headache, the worst I have ever had. The altitude now was 5000m and I was to climb the remaining 1000m or so over the next half a day. We were scheduled to arrive at the summit in the early morning before the sun's heat had a chance to generate cloud from the evaporation of the snow and ice at the peak, as it did on a daily basis.

Waking up for the final climb at midnight was a real struggle and I was immediately out of breath upon waking but obviously I felt that I could not give up having gotten this far. A full moon was out and I could see the flashlights of a few climbers who had set out before us winding up the mountainside ahead of me. We made a decision to be slow but steady.

As we proceeded at the frustratingly unhurried pace, some of the more eager climbers were retreating past us, descending to prevent serious altitude sickness. My guide assured me I would not get this if we stuck to our strategy and I put my trust in his experience.

As we climbed, the stunning view became much better and I could make

out the coast, Zanzibar Island, road networks, Arusha, Moshi, Daar-es-Salaam and the vast plains of Tanzania, all lit up under the light of the full moon. Yet the effects of altitude sickness continuously became poorer and my stamina, vision and headache were all worsening. Stupid determination would still not let me stop or retreat though.

An arduous few hours later, we were very close to the end and the sun rose over a blanket of clouds below us. To this orange backdrop we arrived at the peaks at the top of Kili that were surrounding a very wide crater. The tallest of these was Uhuru Peak and was snow capped, littered with melting glaciers. This was the one we set off on but at this point though, something odd happened. I appeared to lose my mind.



The lonely but picturesque trees



Nearly at the top... ! Just before altitude sickness got the best of me

I started hearing my mum and sister's voices calling to me! I remember a moment of grave uncertainty and irrationality hitting me as I had to sluggishly react and make certain that they had not been travelling with me all along and that I was alive and awake. I then bizarrely proceeded to call my guide "Sam" then "Simon" before finally pinning his real name "Max" down, using great intellectual energy and concentration. Beyond this, I cannot remember much of what happened but I made it to the summit where Max got someone else to take a photo of us as proof but apparently I was sporadically walking around in circles while insisting on lying flat on my back at other times.

This was pretty bad altitude sickness and any intelligent person would have chosen to swallow their pride and descend to avoid risking their brain. But I had to be different, as always. I really cannot recommend enough adding an extra day to the itinerary for acclimatisation regardless of the extra cost and it is regrettable that I did not have the patience for it. When I regained my senses and memory, we were on our way down again. This was a real joy as firstly, it was a lot quicker, and secondly, the more I went down, the more my

headache lessened!

I was in such a rush to get away from the mountain by now that I forced the entire team to trek all the way back to the exit of the park, and then to take late night buses to Arusha via Moshi on the same day as summiting. Thus, we completed the 6 day Machame route in 5 days.

Essential Experience 2 – Safari in the Maasai Mara

Going on safari is another one of those 'tick the box' things anyone who visits Africa must do. In the time I spent there, I went to many different safari parks including famous ones such as Ngorogoro crater, Amboseli and Lake Nkuru but the one I recommend above all others is the Maasai Mara. It consists of a smoothly carved hilly landscape and a sea of waving golden grass, dotted with eccentric but picturesque lone trees. I would go as far as to say that it is the only park visitors need to see when considering Safaris in East Africa as it really is the best one.

One of the reasons it is so great is that the authorities let you get closer to the animals here than anywhere else. This is really good for watching animals

and photography but as with all good things, it comes attached with an ethical cost of heavy erosion to the animal habitat and at the cost of disturbing animal behaviour. I cannot justify or condone this for mine or anyone else's amusement but the authorities appear to manage this well, shutting down areas they think are too heavily damaged to allow recovery and the drivers appear to co-operate with these rules.

But on the other hand I saw some drivers in the Maasai Mara, especially those in large overland buses, (that I would advise EVERYONE to steer clear of – the worst imaginable way to see Africa), who would really pester animals and disturb vital behaviour such as hunting. This was inexcusable.

Further unpleasantness was caused by assertive Maasai tribesmen. Being the indigenous people here, their 'culture' is somewhat of a tacky tourist exploit that has evolved into a forceful display of anger towards anyone who takes their photo and does not pay them for it, or anyone who does not buy their shabby 'cultural' wares or entertain their pricy 'cultural exhibitions'. With a little precaution and sensibility, this can be avoided altogether.

Looking past all the above, though,



A giraffe. In case you couldn't tell



A young male lion resting in the golden grass of the Maasai Mara

there is nothing like the feeling of having to search for and track wildlife in the wild and there is nothing like the experience of taking your time watching them from up close while they enact their normal lives.

My most memorable wildlife experience was the time I spent alone with a family of lions. My driver and I left early to find some active hunts and chanced upon a family of these large cats gorging on a fresh wildebeest kill. It was an electric feeling hearing them pant over the kill as they cracked ribs and shared the meat, knowing all the while that if I was to dare to step outside my vehicle, I would share the same fate as the wildebeest.

Other such experiences were my first ever leopard and cheetah sightings. The leopard we encountered accidentally in the undergrowth before working hard at tracking it for a further 5 hours, all for a handful of photographs;

while the cheetah we spotted in the open savannah plains, but in the greed of watching it sprint and hunt, we ended up wasting a whole day watching it merely roll about on its sides repeatedly. Despite their tediousness, the patience required for these sightings made them really satisfying when they did happen.

To get the complete bush experience, I also camped out under the stars and amongst the wildlife at certain other safari parks. At Lake Nakuru I was (un)lucky enough to witness a family of 7 lions encircle my camp, while at Amboseli, it was hyenas and elephants encircling causing a bit of a racket. But while doing so, I also learnt to watch out for pests such as the Vervet Monkeys and Baboons of Lake Nakuru who physically and unashamedly snatched food from my hands and stole food from my vehicle.

Essential Experience 3 – Visiting Uganda

While visiting East Africa, do not miss out on Uganda. I nearly overlooked it in favour of Rwanda and Congo but it holds many great attractions. A great place to start is the source of the Nile River at Jinja, on the edge of Lake Victoria. This is one of the few places on Earth where you can experience white-water rafting in class 6 rapids, the fiercest form of rapids.

Wikipedia describes class 6 rapids as: “so dangerous as to be effectively un-navigable on a reliably safe basis. Rafters can expect to encounter substantial whitewater, huge waves, huge rocks and hazards, and/or substantial drops that will impart severe impacts beyond the structural capacities and impact ratings of most all rafting equipment. Traversing a class 6 rapid has a dramatically increased likelihood of ending in serious injury or death compared to lesser classes”.

I was obviously not skilled enough to take on the class 6 rapids, but proudly managed to complete class 5 rapids. However, the thrill was more than matched by the fear I experienced every time I fell out of the raft and was dragged through underwater streams and amongst rocks for periods lasting up to a minute, while my limbs were pulled in all directions.



A cheetah on the lookout



A baboon. Obviously



The white rhino

While the above is evidently not for the faint-hearted, a visit to the serene Lake Bunyoni may be. Found in the south of the country this beautiful and still lake is the perfect place to unwind for a day or two. Walks amongst local villages and boating opportunities between the many islands of the lake made it a great spot of relaxation and photography for me.

Uganda also offers the rare opportunity to track chimpanzees in its forests. Kibale Forest National Park in westernish Uganda has the highest concentration of primates in the world and has well trained guides that can help you track chimps but personally I found it to be a bit expensive, tedious and tiring. But I cannot deny that the few glimpses I got of the shy chimpanzees in the wild were a lot of fun.

As far as cities go, Uganda has my favourite city in East Africa – Kampala. It has a great hustle bustle to it and a stimulating design. I thoroughly enjoyed the varied international cuisine

and photographic opportunities of the crazy taxi stand and market stalls. Moreover, it offered a vibrant shopping scene and a charming landscape, being dominated by a hill on which stood a mosque commissioned by Idi Amin on one side, flanked by another hill on which stood a Hindu temple! It was also good banter scooting around on the zippy motorbike taxis here as well as discovering the only Nandos restaurant in East Africa. Being an addict of Nandos, this really was a godsend. But a bit more quirkiness can be found in a visit to the second largest city of Uganda, Fort Portal. It is basically built around one main road and peculiarly, is the home of a delicious bakery improbably tucked into one corner of the town that sells amazing cakes and is raved on about by all the tourists and locals combined. It also has a few weird little eateries and a super-cool mosque. The people here I found to be the friendliest and most curious out of all in East Africa.



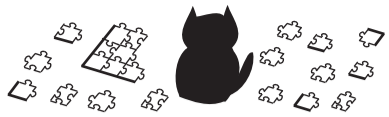
Nandos in Kampala: godsend



The source of the Nile at Jinja in Uganda



Central Kampala



Needy McNeedy: leaving university in '08... :-)

Solving problems since the start of the spring term. Email your problems to: agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Is there anyone out there who's actually in agony? I don't mean your usual pathetic whining, I mean actual intense pain that makes you scream like my lab partner did when I touched his face that one time. If so, please email me on agony.felix@imperial.ac.uk. If you can bear to type, that is. I've had to up the entrance criteria since I've been receiving so much junk mail from you shits.

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I've been friends with a really nice guy on my course for ages. We sit next to each other in lectures, but I've never been attracted to him. We don't really see each other outside the department, and although he's quite funny, I've always been happy with that. The other night, after our last exam, a group of us from my course went out. I ended up hooking up with the guy, and it was so hot! But the next day all I could think about was how I've ruined our friendship, because I don't want to be with him. What can I do?

Alienated

Dear Alienated,

This situation depends a lot on what

went on the next morning. If you were hungover in any way and he had to nurse you back to health, you've pretty much promised him your ovaries for his first-born. I think the best way to tackle the problem would be to ask him for coffee one day. I'll look out for you in the JCR, where I'm currently disguised as a normal student typing their project report (when really I'm a crack commando team of advice wielding experts)

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I like to get a bit drunk and rowdy on my nights out. Because I'm a man, and everyone knows that us men like to start fights with each other (as long as they end with a pile on and a bit of a grope). Only problem is, the Union, source of much cheap ale and snake-bite, has banned me from entering after I... actually I can't remember what I did, because I was HAMMERED! Fucking great. Anyway, how can I get nestled back into the loving folds of flab of the Union belly?

LovableRogue

Dear LovableRogue,

Disguise is key. They couldn't refuse Sir Richard, or that new bloke, entry to the Union, could they now? Get a good suit, and a haircut, and a slightly surprising accent (given your well cut suit). Or, dress up as me. (See below for description of dress; think Thatcher mixed with Dot Cotton.) I'm welcomed by all Union staff, and indeed, I was responsible for around 90% of the Union's bar profit last year.

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy,

When I saw the ratio of males to females at this college I thought that it was the college for me. Where better for a girl to go to get the pick of the highly paid men willing to fork out for beautiful apartments (sorry, I watch too much Sex and the City)? But it's now the end of my degree and I still haven't found the right man (i.e. one that will buy me whatever I want). Where have all the eligible bachelors gone?

CarrieWannabe

Dear CarrieWannabe,

Being the spinsterish cat lady that I am (often seen trawling around Hammer-

smith with plastic bags tied to my feet in lieu of shoes. No, really, that's me), I've honestly got no clue. You're essentially asking how not to end up resentful and unhappy. If I knew, you think I'd still be here hanging around here at the Felix Office trying to cop off with whatever miscreants happen to wander down? (That's an invitation, gentlemen.)

Needy xxx

Dear Needy McNeedy,

I'm just about to enter my last year at Uni, but all my good friends are leaving. Some are graduating and others are going abroad, and I'll have nobody left to sit in lectures with! How can I get on with my life now everyone has left?

Despair

Dear Despair,

It's like I said to Tomo: "If I kick you in the balls, you'll be so busy thinking about the pain you won't notice I've left, and taken that Mac in the corner. Also, I'll actually believe the tears in your eyes are for me."

Needy xxx

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



Aquarius

This week you get hairfever. It's God's way of telling you to commit suicide. People usually get depressed during

the winter, because there isn't much sunshine. You'd think then during the sunny season, you'd be happy. But no, you've got hairfever. See the logic? Yeh? Yeh? Kill yourself... no seriously, I'm not joking... :) naw I am joking, no but seriously kill yourself.



Pisces

This week you leave your Mark on Imperial quite literally. You are bored of your current boyfriend Mark and his

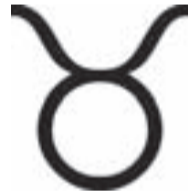
habit of collecting farts in olive jars. At first you found it cute, even sexy. But he began to open his ass-gas receptacles and sample his past rectal fruits. You break up with him by putting him in a locked, windowless room with said jars as his only source of sustenance.



Aries

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by leaving it better than you found it. Imperial students

are now broad-minded, eloquent and humble. In addition they all have butterfly wings and purple eyes. Ten hours later you come down from your LSD-induced high as a Medic vomits over your shoes... sigh.



Taurus

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by carving your initials into the buttocks of every lecturer. As they

scream in agony you contemplate your time at Imperial. That boy you fancied but didn't get it off with, that doornail that you liked but then regretted sleeping with and, oh yeh, that time you engaged in post-coital explosive diarrhoea. Good times, good times, good times... sigh



Gemini

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by carving, "I am Spartakus" on your chest and bleeding all over

Beit Quad in a final bid to get the attention of your peers. However, your ridiculous spelling mistake only brings in the mockery of your fellow graduands and they are too busy laughing at you to call an ambulance. It was quite literally an EPIC FAIL. HAHA YOU DIE!



Cancer

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by digging a trapdoor in the middle of the walkway.

Underneath you place a meat grinder of terrifying proportions. In a typically cynical manner, the only thing you use this elaborate contraption for is clearing walkway traffic when you're late for lectures.



Leo

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by finally getting out and meeting people. Yes, 4 years late, you do

what you should have done during Freshers' Week. "Hi, I'm Wendy" you gush at the person nearest to you, only to receive the reply "Fuck off you noob". Determined to make an impact, you decide to jump off the roof of Beit and leave your bloody mark on the pavement.



Virgo

Last week you left your mark on Imperial quite literally thinking term ended last week by planting

smack in your senior tutor's desk and lying naked with a belt wrapped round your neck on his office floor and then ringing the police. Your senior tutor is now doing 25 years in Park Royal for sex crimes, but you still haven't got your degree marks. Who will you email now?



Libra

This week you leave your mark on Imperial by walking up to a girl, looking her up and down and exclaiming

'Dam!' The chaps around you are so impressed they beg you "show us your ways". So begins the demeaning of the female populace of Imperial, with the introduction of naked mud-wrestling for entry to biochemistry.



Scorpio

This week you start looking for a suitable carrier. You quickly realise that a degree in Material Science is about as

useful as an economics degree fom TVU. To forget your troubles you drink yourself into a coma, only to awaken in 2065. The future is bright, the future is Orange, but not for you. Your Materials degree is even more useless, you decide to blow your fucking brains out.



Sagittarius

This week Imperial left you marked as a socially inept, dribbling human-computer-android-sex-doll-Tory-

City-fodder with the conversational skills of an earthworm accountant. And what's more, everyone hates you for all the above reasons, so much so that whatever semblance of personality you had is withered until your only solance comes from cheese-grating your cock.

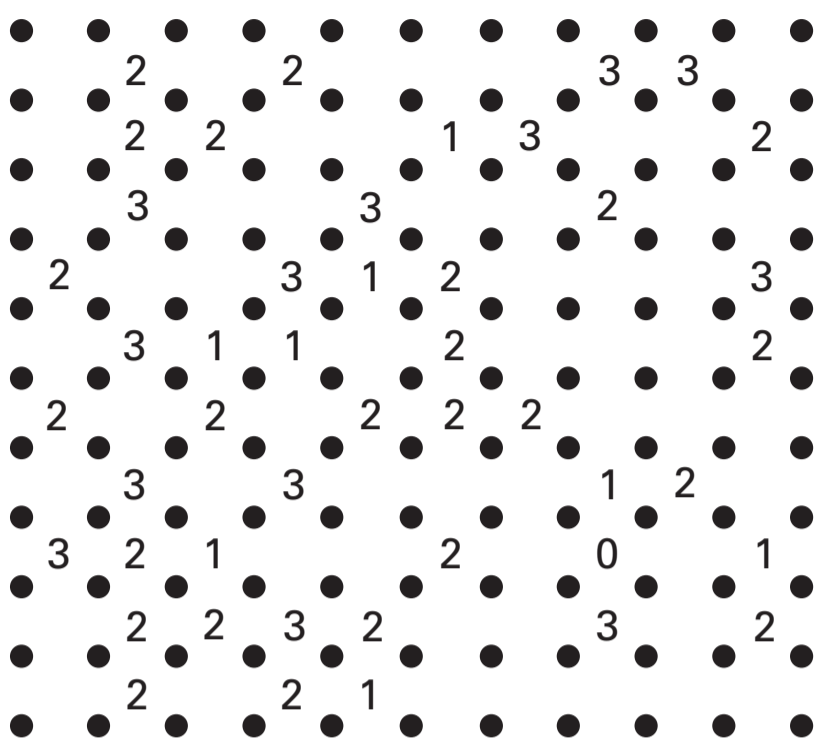


Capricorn

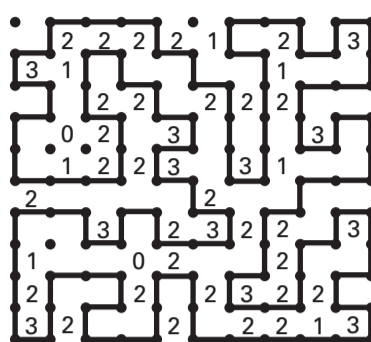
This week you leave your mark on Imperial by playing the world's biggest game of Twister in Beit Quad. The

game quickly draws attention and others join in. Before you know it the ratio of boys to girls resembles an EEE lecture and you notice a distinct whiff of unwashed penis. Alright... giggidy goo... penis goo... mmm... I'm sorry mum.

Slitherlink 1,408



1,407 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,407 was **Hringur Gretarsson**! Congratulations! Awesome cheesecake with mandarin puree and a cinnamon biscuit base. We'll be emailing the prize winner next week hopefully, assuming I find the time. If not, July...

How to play:

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

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

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



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

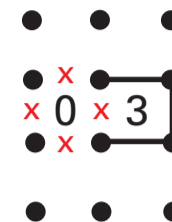
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



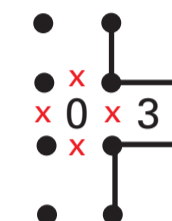
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

So, where do you start? The most

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



Now the lines can only continue in the following directions:



Wordoku 1,408

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | H | | | I | | | N |
| M | | | P | | | I | |
| I | | O | | | | | A |
| Y | | C | N | | | A | H |
| | | | Y | | H | | |
| N | | H | | | C | Y | I |
| | A | | | | | M | O |
| | | M | | | Y | | A |
| H | | | | M | | | I |



1,407 Solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | U | B | I | K | C | B | J | N |
| J | E | K | N | U | O | B | I | B |
| N | I | C | E | B | J | O | K | U |
| U | C | E | K | O | I | B | N | J |
| K | N | O | B | J | U | I | C | E |
| B | J | I | C | E | N | U | O | K |
| E | O | N | J | I | B | K | U | C |
| C | K | U | O | N | E | J | B | I |
| I | B | J | U | C | K | N | E | O |

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

The winner of Wordoku 1,407 was no-one, yet again. The word was 'KNOBJUICE'. Perhaps that's why nobody entered... Promise it's a mature word this week.



This week's texts:

"Coming soon to the bbc - the demon headmaster returns in july 2008. [If this is true, it is the best news in the world, ever - Ed.]"

"I just got my pen stuck up my nose Felix. Unfortunately ive only got enuff money for 1 text. Can u call the ambulance for me?"

"i just wiped my bum with this shitty excuse for a newspaper and not only did the paper tear, thus sending my index finger into an undesired region, the ink has rubbed off all over my arse. thx"

"www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. Go now and vote in the referendum bitches. lolz"

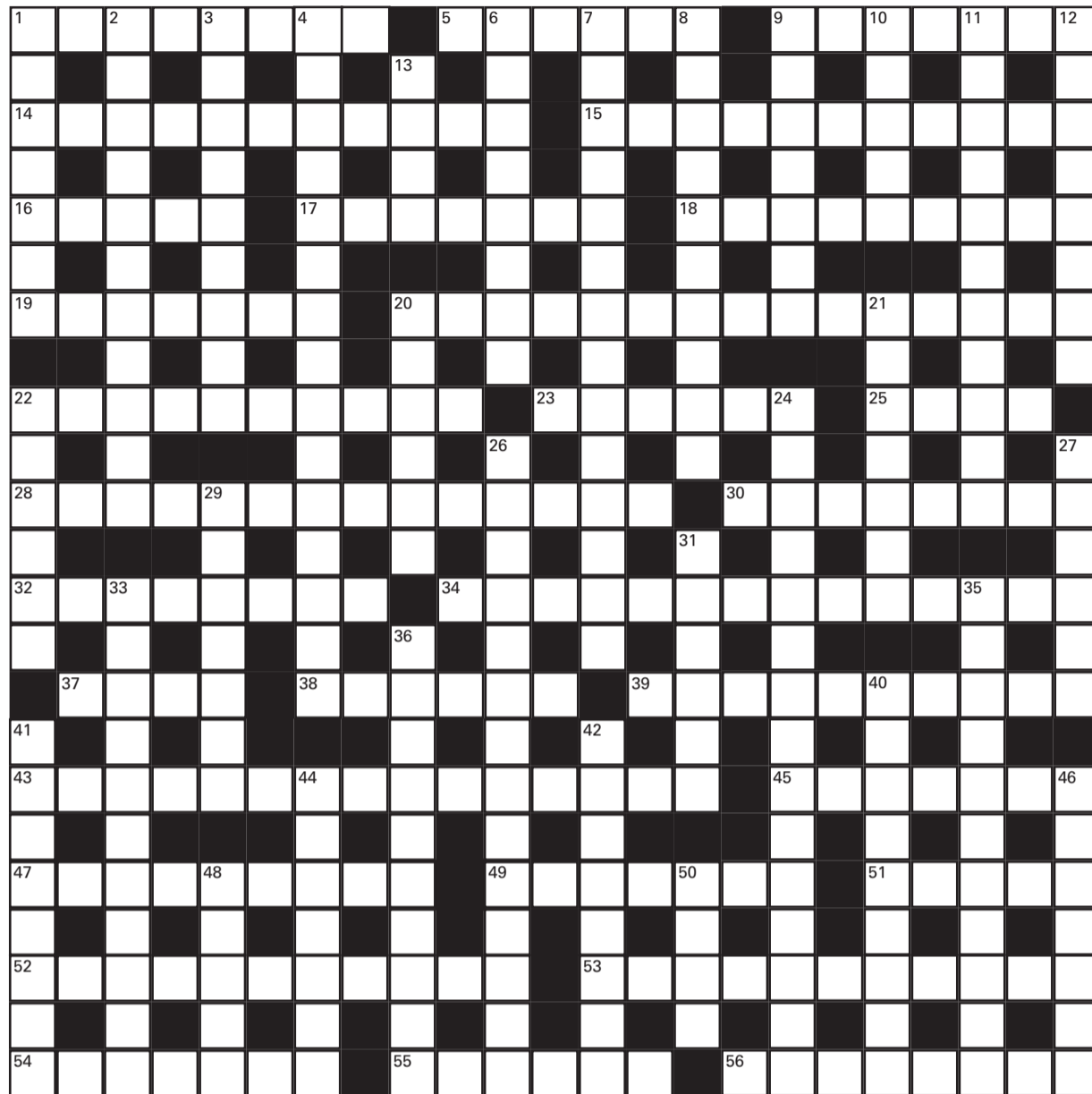
07980 148 785

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

Adlib by Tevong You



Celebratory End-of-Year Crossword



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Show-off (8)
- 5 Obsessed with death (6)
- 9 Backer (7)
- 14 Prophesying disaster (11)
- 15 Low countries (11)
- 16 Fraction (5)
- 17 Commanded (7)
- 18 Non-consecutive (9)
- 19 Gem (7)
- 20 Voice doctor (6,9)
- 22 Youth (10)
- 23 Throw (6)
- 25 Power, will (4)
- 28 Chang and Eng, e.g. (9,5)
- 30 Threatening sword (8)
- 32 Suavely (8)
- 34 Ileum (5,9)
- 37 Insult (4)
- 38 Fester (6)

- 39 Locomotives' final destination (5,5)
- 43 Oscar-winning star of *Julia* (7,8)
- 45 Guided (7)
- 47 ATM (9)
- 49 Vital part of nuclear plant (7)
- 51 Regretting (5)
- 52 Relief (11)
- 53 Compromise (11)
- 54 Enable (7)
- 55 Rumour (6)
- 56 Alcohol-free (8)

DOWN

- 1 Vaunted (7)
- 2 Outrage (11)
- 3 Imposing (9)
- 4 Author of 'the Big Sleep' (7,8)
- 6 Happened (8)
- 7 Traitor (8,6)
- 8 Taking away (10)
- 9 Royal staff (7)
- 10 Gawker (5)
- 11 Spectacular (11)
- 12 Light (8)
- 13 Old button (4)
- 20 Poor quality (6)
- 21 Demanding (7)
- 22 Model (6)
- 24 Medicare (6,9)
- 26 Briefs (8,6)
- 27 Rise (6)
- 29 Collection (7)
- 31 Vicious (6)
- 33 Dessert (6,5)
- 35 Rude (11)
- 36 Disturbing (10)
- 40 Most boring (9)
- 41 Clear out (8)
- 42 Fat man's destination (8)
- 44 Enliven (7)
- 46 Non-analog (8)
- 48 Swing (5)
- 50 Territory (4)

Surprise, surprise. It's the last issue of the year, and what better way to celebrate the end of exams and the dawning of summer than by attempting another blockbuster crossword? If you can't think of one, seek help.

Apologies for the mix-up with the answers last week – the solutions to both Crossword 1406 and 1407 are printed on the right – hopefully correctly. The joint winners of last week's crossword were **Benjamin Martin and Lucy Bricheno**. Congratulations to you, and may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent in, solved, tried to solve or looked at one of my crosswords this year. I will probably spend most of the summer in therapy, learning to stop screaming at the sight of black and white.

One final request, if I may. As this is my first year setting cryptic crosswords, I would dearly like to know what all you little people in public-land thought of my efforts. Good, bad, easy, difficult, challenging, interesting, repetitive...make up your own adjectives and send in a comment. Please.

May you all spend the summer in the most enjoyable ways imaginable.

Enoch



Solution to Crossword 1,407



Solution to Crossword 1,406

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Tangible construction material (8)
- 5 Badly-passed suit (6)
- 9 Body part of use in acts of wickedness (7)
- 14 Very much a military man in dark blue (11)
- 15 Story of key follows Pope around.
- 16 Heard in lieu, e.g. of Italian plumber (5)
- 17 Roast chop, ale: monumental (7)
- 18 Happy former wife divorced a brunet (9)
- 19 Technological call includes an idiot (7)
- 20 Pure metal dissolved in brew to create a system that breaks the laws of thermodynamics (9,6)
- 22 Sane prince produces a kind of sonnet (10)
- 23 Believes π is surrounded by ones (6)
- 25 I managed a country (4)
- 28 Robust confusion over unended action is maybe the origin of deliberate delaying (14)
- 30 Tidied the mess of English decals (8)
- 32 Buns measured with no gaps between (8)
- 34 Tried to woo military editor (5,9)
- 37 Swirling hems of knotted fabric (4)
- 38 Football player worth holding on to (6)
- 39 Bellows across at badly-fed associates (10)
- 43 Early American leaders decided to forfeit handguns in the wrong way (8,7)
- 45 Author wants you to get a rush before you pass away (7)
- 47 Bunnies may somehow exist in crockery (9)
- 49 Cher on tour of Virginia capital with symbol of military rank (7)
- 51 Films of lively dances (5)
- 52 Bug decides to remain in cult (5,6)
- 53 Would befit a relic in a way that can be arranged (11)
- 54 Excitedly left, for example, before was necessary (5)
- 55 Central clergyman in distance (6)
- 56 Play cards without your leading signs (8)

DOWN

- 1 Thrown together in coup led by militia (7)
- 2 Oness (11)
- 3 Truthful articles rewritten (8)
- 4 Tourists examine payment method (10,5)
- 6 Large variety of God mentioned in plea (8)
- 7 Caught flashing twice on film? (11)
- 8 Resultant reduction of Queen's bust (10)
- 9 Seductive senators started to laugh it up (7)
- 10 Relative is nice about Elizabeth the First (5)
- 11 She's around the pole twice again: crazy pranks (11)
- 12 South-Eastern dating is putting me to sleep (8)
- 13 Underground bunker on foreign soil (4)
- 20 Plato off his head on acid, yet remaining calm (6)
- 21 Maori gaming showcases folding paper (7)
- 22 Japanese general gets weapon but no tea (6)
- 24 This clue (4-11)
- 26 Untamed cook edits a document (14)
- 27 Company agenda did as was disclosed (6)
- 29 Grasped what hurt again (7)
- 31 Remembers the end of brands (6)
- 33 Venturing to cup genitals in a special way (11)
- 35 Stabilize wobbly elder composer (5,6)
- 36 Confidence that battered fleets admitted to show (4-6)
- 40 Old CD is somehow less acrid (9)
- 41 Sounds like he's annoyed about forbidden areas (3,5)
- 42 Intelligent church put over the broken barrel (8)
- 44 There are other things as well as nylon to tear (3,4)
- 46 Saviour's head gets ingested by consumers on holidays (7)
- 48 Put kinetic energy in to ruin God (5)
- 50 Species competition (4)

Hangman

Putting the cat out to dry

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Disgraced Felix Editor tells Union: "Fire me? You can't fire me! I quit!"

Ross Goldberg
Really Fat Dead Guy

The current Felix Editor's ego suffered a severe blow when he heard that he would have to give up his mediocre job turning the gears that provide power to the Beit complex. When told that he was to be replaced with the main electricity grid; Tom Roberts let out a wailing cry of disappointment, much like Chewy. Tom Roberts, known to all three of his acquaintances as Tomo, was formally accused by the union as being a giant douche. The union went on to state "Tom Roberts is a black spot in today's white sheet society," and "he should be hung, drawn and raped for the war crimes committed against the children of Siberia."

Tomo was officially fired from his duty as underground gremlin as soon

as the union found out the children of Siberia were being abducted by Tomo's elite private army, known as the "Urban Terror Strike Force. (UTSF)" Once abducted, the children were subject to hideous genetic experiments, transforming them into mutant Felix contributors.

As a result of his deserved dismissal, this issue was produced entirely by a couple of six year-olds in a Cambodian sweat shop, earning so little they might as well be working in the ICU bar. When presented with the claims, Step, the college's enforcer of the silly law that prevents Imperial's staff, students and departments from getting involved with illegal exploitation of children, said that he "would eat those goddamn babies"

Roberts was seen being dragged from Beit Quad screaming "I WASN'T FIRED! IT WAS THE END OF MY CONTRACT. THE END MAN!"



Simply horrific

Government places restrictions on Ashley Brown



Has Ashley Brown stolen your girlfriend/boyfriend? Did he steal your job? Do your friends like him more than they like you? Don't feel too bad, he is the greatest person on the planet.

During his time at Imperial he has revitalized Live!, selflessly served Guilds and been an all round helpful chap; at the same time as getting a few degrees (well if you call a 2:2 a degree...).

His startling potential has been kept in check during his time at this insti-

tution, though as he ventures into the real world, the government has decided to take preventive action. There are worries about what might happen if Ashley Brown falls into the wrong hands. A senior cabinet minister spoke to Hangman: "we've got credible intel that tells us that terrorist organisations are seeking to get their hands on Mr Brown, codenamed: "The Dude". With him on board, their websites would be truly awesome, they'd have embedded video and everything. Britain is facing annihilation if we don't keep a lid on

the Dude."

Measures currently in place include 24 hour surveillance, armed guards and free ice cream whenever he wants it.

Hangman tried to get in contact with Ashley Brown; unfortunately he was busy. Apparently it takes up quite a bit of time appearing on Oprah, starring in blockbuster films, writing your autobiography and taking over the world. Good luck Ashley Brown, we are forever basking in your reflected glory.

Heavy fLOW = awesome

Researchers at Imperial have made a breakthrough in our understanding of how life began in the primordial soup that is my momma's sweet potato pie. In a case of serendipitous fortune, the team discovered a game for the Playstation 3 that explains everything. Chief Researcher Plumpingdon Dolty had this to say "Put down your Bibles, we have the answers". The Hangman posse (yeh that's right we is from the street... Kensington High Street... blud) decided to jack a PS3 and get our geek on.

You play as a tiny organism in the sea of life, eating food to get stronger, attacking other creatures to assert dominance with ambient music and glowing lights helping you along the way. However the best part of fLOW reveals itself when you're high and I mean "Damn that burger looks sexy" off-your-face high. We recommend a bag of crystal meth, then some crack followed by some giggidy goo. Felix does not condone drug use. Drugs damage your brain and and restrict



Beautiful, beautiful fLOW

your functions - seriously, this article would be so much easier to write if that unicorn would get off my keyboard.

The icing on top of this gaming cake is the fact that you control your snake-like monster (oh man so many jokes) by tilting the controller. Cancel that holiday to Havana, shut your curtains and get into some seriously heavy fLOW... all right.



Giggidy goo



An Imperial student has brought legal action against the Hangman Team after we published a photo of her and then suggested that we double-teamed her. Out of court negotiations broke down after one of the

Hangman Editors decided it would be OK to re-enact the alleged events using a Pepsi Bottle, trumpet and his own impressive appendage. We stick by our comments and are confident that the court will recognise our right to demean and fantasise about hot members of the opposite sex.

Shocking discovery in Felix office

Haxz0rMcRandy_1
L33t interweb Haxz0r

It is no understatement to say that this article has been a long time coming. The Hangman investigative team has been questioning and digging all year, leaving no stone unturned in order to bring this important expose to you the reader. We have discovered systematic doucheness pervading the Felix office and a startling lack of concern about the quality of conversation, company kept or even basic hygiene. The entire Felix staff are, to put it nicely, tools.

Obviously this is a controversial claim to make and one would need a large amount of evidence in order to justify such a comment. Well I have a large amount of evidence, the paper trail is longer than my penis and that's saying something (if you want to say something about my penis, please email hangman. If you want to book my penis to speak at your event, also email hangman). Sorry, yes, the paper trail. This Felix is proof of my claims.

I know you usually flick through Felix, searching desperately for the Hangman page, but if you stop and actually read some of the stuff in the rest of this newspaper: you'd be horrified. Lets begin with News. Ok take a deep breath and turn to the News pages. Back yet? it's ok, your safe again just relax, what did you see? NUS referendum? Council? Meaningless bullshit? Ah it's that Andrew Somerville character, he's the one dressed like Death's goth cousin on the right hand side of the picture. Luckily he's finished his barrel scrapings of a degree and off to prostitute himself to the real world; we won't be seeing him around anymore.

You don't think dressing like a goth makes you a tool? Ok, there's more. Turn to the politics, business or fashion section. Back? Come on, stop shaking, you're back with hangman. Take off those wet clothes and come sit with me... More likely than not, there isn't even a politics, business or fashion section this week. This is because the section editors have realized that nobody read anything they wrote. You



You wouldn't be laughing if you had invited us to the photoshoot. Actually you'd probably feel uncomfortable. Maybe I should wear trousers...

can see these tools in the centre of the photo: Kadhim Shubber, Dan Wan and Afonso Campos. Look at them having fun... only tools have fun... tools and communists.

The list goes on. The good-looking Arts Editors, reclusive Music Editors, barely breathing Nightlife Editor, Greg Mead and the International Editor, are all liars and cheats. The Arts Editors are all blind, the Music Editors are deaf, the Nightlife Editor is allergic to the dark and the International Editor... well, he's never even left the country.

I ask you, readers, how does Gilead Amit know what's going on in the rest of the world? I suppose he has a crystal ball... or more likely still... he makes it up! I mean who's even heard of a country called China? All intelligent people know that china is the stuff you drink Earl Grey out of... unless you're poor

You might want to look through the rest of the evidence we have presented i.e. the newspaper you have in your hands, but if you have a heart condition or even an iota of common sense, you'll stay on these two pages.

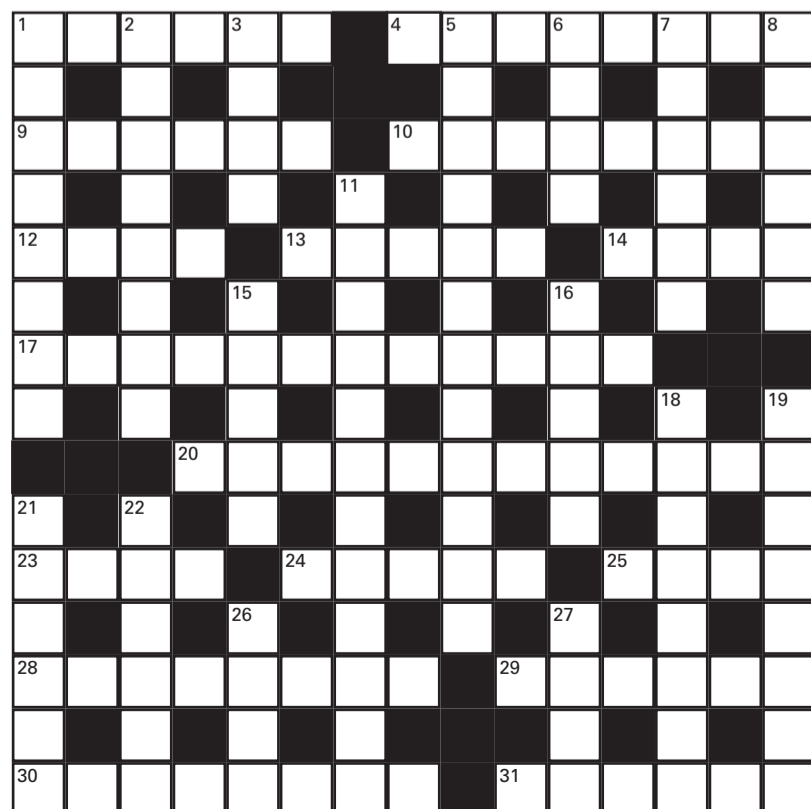
What are we trying to achieve by exposing our colleagues with this self-indulgent article? Some may argue that we are unprofessional, spiteful... even, dare I say, sex Gods. We have two things to say to these people. 1. Shut up and 2. Tell your mum to shut up too.

Notice anything missing from the picture above? That's right, the Hangman Editors aren't in the picture. Readers, we simply weren't invited. We have been suppressed and isolated for too long and it's time these so called 'real Editors' got retribution, or at least

lengthy prison sentences.

You must be wondering 'how can I help the Hangman team'? If you are a sexy lady, come join the Felix team. If you are a sexy man, stay away, it's hard enough to get into the Arts Editors' pants without even more competition. Otherwise, phone up your local American Embassy and ask for regime change, aerial bombing and waffles. Together we can make a change, we can build a better future. We can save our children from wankers. Yes we can, yes we can ... yes we can (fade to black)

Hangman Crossword No. 1 (The first and most likely last)



Try your best with this. If you complete it, then you are the best person ever.

ACROSS

- 1 Imperial students get very little of this (6)
- 4 Like snake cries but gay (8)
- 9 Every arab man's father looks like him (6)
- 10 Scouting fo' Cunt (8)
- 12 Internet cat laughing (4)
- 13 Crazy american bitch I would have sex with, first name lindsey (5)
- 14 Smear lube around to get a different colour (hint, it's not brown) (4)
- 17 2 pacs motto if he was an online gamer (5,3,4)
- 20 What i'd like to do to 1 across (5,7)
- 23 Stretched carpet(4)
- 24 Usually used in conjunction with the word "throbbing" (5)
- 25 I like to suck upon a woman's ... (4)
- 28 Little known superhero named after a fish (8)
- 29 What we would be after hours of hard 'n' fast love making (6)
- 30 Ladies turned up to 350°C (3,5)
- 31 Whatever word fits in here (6)

DOWN

- 1 Do NOT use in replacement of KY. Seriously, I now have a son (8)
- 2 Start dildos (8)
- 3 nooo nut not like that (4)
- 5 Almost like saying "Anal Passion"(6,6)
- 6 Safe version of the Danger Crank (4)
- 7 What my ejaculate is, girls.... oh yeah! (6)
- 8 If you were a poultry-inclined paedophile, you'd engage in this (3,3)
- 11 I want sex, and you owe it to me. Now! (3,3,2,4)
- 15 My son won't stop calling these guys, all I do is abuse, then rape him a little? (5)
- 16 Gay guys on the internet (5)
- 18 Like that one time I slept with a 14 year-old (8)
- 19 "As to you" but more crude (3,2,3)
- 21 Ah man! I've got an itchy ***** right now (6)
- 22 What all ladies should do on the first date. (3,3)
- 26 Bus driver from the Simpsons (4)
- 27 Another word for cunt (4)



Can't bear a summer without Hangman?

Keep up to date with us on facebook. Add Felix Hangman as a friend.





felix sport

The winners are...

Jovan Nedić
Sport Editor

Well here we are, the end of the season and my last issue as Sport Editor. And what better way than to have a round-up of the year in the form of an awards ceremony. The league table has been running all season, and even though people have come up to me from time to time saying they don't think the table is as fair as it could be, which I agree with, but since no-one offered a reasonable alternative we've stuck with it and it has ended up being a great success. Next year, a new version will be created which we think will be fairer for all the teams involved.

So on to the awards. Most of the decisions were based on the current league table which meant that IC Squash Men's 1st team came on top. Congratulations guys. **We have some t-shirts for you guys, please come to the office to collect them.** We then move on to the best of the rest, both male and female, and similarly for the worst teams. There are a few teams who, unfortunately, have not managed to win a game all season in the BUSA leagues, although I have assurances that they fared better in the ULU leagues. Hopefully next season will be

a better one for them all.

Lastly we have the club awards and we start with Worst Club of the Year. This award is purely awarded on the results that all the teams in the club have achieved that season, and unfortunately for the medics rugby club, they came bottom, although I imagine they can take solace in the fact that they beat all the IC rugby teams at Varsity this year, again! At the other end of the table, mainly due to the fact that the Squash Men's 1st were such convincing winners in the team league table, meant that the club as a whole did very well. This is not taking anything away from the other squash teams, as they also performed well coming 11th, 20th and 26th. But the Club of the Year award went to a club that has performed exceptionally well this season, IC Boat Club, and hopefully it will continue to do the same next year.

All that's left for me to say is well done to all the teams this year, it looks as though it has been a tremendous season for both Imperial and the Medicals, and I hope that you all continue to send in your reports to next year's sports editors, Jack Cornish and Mustapher Botchway. So this is it from me, I'll see you all next year and I hope you will all enjoy *Felix* next year.

ACC Colours Awarded

ACC Colours are awarded each year by the ACC Colours Committee, made up of the ACC Exec and the Sabbatical officers, to those students who have demonstrated outstanding performance in Sport during that year. The colours are given only to those who have shown themselves to have performed at a level above that of their teammates, this may be through being clearly the best player in a team, or if they have been chosen to represent a regional or national team in their sport.

The honours list this year again reflects the exceptional talents we have at Imperial College, and most importantly, those that represent the union, and hence every one of us, against all the other universities in the country. This always gives me a little kick when I see our rowers stuffing Oxford and Cambridge, and I know that I'm a member of the same Imperial College Union that they represent.

HALF COLOURS

Shaopeng Li
Chris Baker-Brian
Konrad Kieling
Ashly Black
Jon Livesy
Tim Keating
Emily Bottle
Katherine Gray
Nick Jones
Louis Burkinshaw
Chris Parrot

James Haugh
Micheal Donovan
Patrick Farr
Rodrigo Gonzalez
Nigel Tse
Hannah Collins
Tuomas Lahtinen
Vera Gielen
Sui Chn Phang
Joseph Palmer
Neil Humpage
Thilina Ambepitiya

FULL COLOURS

Andre Wilmes
Hannah Bryars
Hannah Monaghan
Andy Hagues

Theo Rutter
Freya Hinson
Ian Palmer
Alessandro Cestanagna

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

Awarded for outstanding achievement in the past year, representing the University at a level above and beyond that shown by others. This award recognises an outstanding contribution to the sporting image of the ACC and Imperial College Union.

Lucy Wylde

Adam Freeman-Pask

Team of the Year



IC Squash Men's 1st

Imperial Squash Men's 1st team have been on superb form all season. Undefeated all year and only dropping one game, the team comfortably won their league and went on to win the BUSA Shield, a national competition. Rather unsurprisingly, they came top of the *felix sports* league with a staggering 70 points, 19 points clear of second place. Well done lads, let's hope for a repeat performance next season.

Club of the Year



Imperial Boat Club

They love to point it out, year in year out, but it is true, Imperials' Boat Club do consistently perform and bring home the goods in the form of BUSA points. **Their contribution to the final BUSA points count is the same as all the other clubs put together,** and for that reason alone, they are this year Club of the Year. Hopefully next year the club will continue in their success, both in and out of the boat. Well done everyone!

Best Medic Team



Netball 2nd

Out of all the medical teams, the Women's Netball 2nds team have stood head and shoulders above the rest. Coming in at 9th place, which is commendable in its own right, they are also 6 places clear from their closest competitor, the women's hockey team, and have performed well, only losing two games. Let hope that next year it's none girls, and also write in to let us know how the season is going.

Felix Sportsmanship



Imperial College Hockey Club

The Felix Sportsmanship Award is for the individual, team or club who has conformed to the proper spirit of their game on and off the pitch. This year the Hockey Club has once again produced a successful calendar (they are still available online) and have dominated the union every Wednesday night! With the introduction of a new president and a range of successful social events throughout the year the hockey club has made the union proud!



awards '08

Women's Team of the Year



IC Netball 1st

Best of the rest, the Netball Women's 1st team have been very impressive this season, not only have they appeared naked in *Felix*, but they have also managed to lose only one game and managing to amass a very impressive score record with 559 points scored, that's an average of just under 1 goal a minute! With promotion on the cards for the girls, their current form will have to continue if they wish to perform as well next season.

Men's Team of the Year



IC Rugby Men's 1st

Best of the rest, the Rugby Men's 1st team were the best performing men's team after the overall winners. With a new air of professionalism brought into the team by the captain, the team has managed to step it up a gear, which was evident in the results throughout the season, most notably against the medics in the Varsity. Next year they find themselves in the Premiership, where they will hopefully continue their good form.

Sportswoman of the Year



Hannah Bryars

Hannah was given this year's Sportswoman of the Year Award for leading not only leading Imperial's Women's fencing team to victory in the highest level of student competition, but also for representing her nation as well. Her dedication towards her teammates and excellent organisational skills reflect leadership qualities of the highest calibre, which have played a major role in helping Imperial climb into the Premiership division.

Sportsman of the Year



Adam Freeman-Pask

Adam is no stranger to international success, having participated in numerous global competitions before he came to Imperial. This year, his extra experience has helped him clean up the medals on many occasions. An epic performance at the BUSA regatta bagged him two golds, two silvers and one bronze, and he also won the Fullers sponsored Four Heads of River amongst other competitions. His prominence on the international scene looks set to grow and grow.

Sports league

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Diff | % | FI |
|--------------------------------|----|----|---|----|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| 1 IC Squash Men's 1st | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 69 | 1 | 68 | 100 | 70 |
| 2 IC Netball 1st | 12 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 559 | 327 | 232 | 92 | 51 |
| 3 IC Rugby Union Men's 1st | 15 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 392 | 138 | 254 | 80 | 48 |
| 4 IC Tennis Women's 1st | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 76 | 33 | 43 | 82 | 43 |
| 5 IC Tennis Men's 2nd | 12 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 88 | 32 | 56 | 83 | 42 |
| 6 IC Volleyball Women's 1st | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 7 | 16 | 100 | 40 |
| 7 IC Hockey Men's 1st | 13 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 41 | 31 | 10 | 69 | 35 |
| 8 IC Fencing Women's 1st | 10 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 1304 | 1021 | 283 | 80 | 32 |
| 9 ICSM Netball 2nd | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 289 | 160 | 129 | 78 | 27 |
| 10 IC Football Men's 1st | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 7 | 10 | 40 | 26 |
| 11 IC Squash Men's 2nd | 10 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 30 | 19 | 11 | 70 | 23 |
| 12 IC Rugby Union Men's 2nd | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 286 | 214 | 72 | 54 | 23 |
| 13 IC Football Women's 1st | 10 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | 18 | -4 | 50 | 23 |
| 14 IC Fencing Men's 2nd | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 761 | 660 | 101 | 83 | 21 |
| 15 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st | 10 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 54 | 20 | 34 | 60 | 20 |
| 16 IC Volleyball Men's 1st | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 60 | 14 |
| 17 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd | 10 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 28 | 24 | 4 | 60 | 14 |
| 18 IC Cricket Women's 1st | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 373 | 375 | -2 | 57 | 14 |
| 19 ICSM Football Men's 1st | 8 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 38 | 13 |
| 20 IC Squash Men's 3rd | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 67 | 12 |
| 21 IC Table Tennis Women's 1st | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 6 | 67 | 12 |
| 22 IC Waterpolo Men's 1st | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 57 | 25 | 32 | 67 | 12 |
| 23 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 17 | 14 | 67 | 12 |
| 24 IC Hockey Men's 2nd | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 50 | 23 | 27 | 50 | 11 |
| 25 IC Hockey Men's 3rd | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 17 | 1 | 50 | 11 |
| 26 IC Squash Women's 1st | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 12 | 16 | -4 | 50 | 11 |
| 27 ICSM Netball 1st | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 334 | 354 | -20 | 50 | 11 |
| 28 IC Badminton Men's 1st | 11 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 48 | 40 | 8 | 55 | 10 |
| 29 IC Lacrosse Women's 1st | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 79 | 67 | 12 | 56 | 9 |
| 30 IC Netball 2nd | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 277 | 209 | 68 | 56 | 9 |
| 31 IC Table Tennis Men's 1st | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 91 | 62 | 29 | 56 | 9 |
| 32 IC Hockey Women's 1st | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 35 | 32 | 3 | 40 | 8 |
| 33 IC Basketball Men's 1st | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 319 | 313 | 6 | 60 | 7 |
| 34 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 317 | 228 | 89 | 50 | 6 |
| 35 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd | 10 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 30 | 42 | -12 | 30 | 5 |
| 36 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 40 | 4 |
| 37 IC Rugby Union Women's 1st | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 89 | 57 | 32 | 50 | 2 |
| 38 IC Badminton Men's 2nd | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 37 | 43 | -6 | 40 | 2 |
| 39 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st | 10 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 22 | 35 | -13 | 40 | 2 |
| 40 IC Fencing Men's 1st | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 817 | 798 | 19 | 43 | -1 |
| 41 IC Hockey Women's 2nd | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 13 | 39 | -26 | 30 | -1 |
| 42 IC Rugby Union Men's 3rd | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 184 | 176 | 8 | 42 | -3 |
| 43 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd | 10 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 18 | 24 | -6 | 40 | -4 |
| 44 IC Cricket Men's 1st | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 460 | 698 | -238 | 20 | -5 |
| 45 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st | 13 | 5 | 0 | 8 | 204 | 361 | -157 | 38 | -7 |
| 46 IC Hockey Men's 4th | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 22 | -9 | 33 | -9 |
| 47 ICSM Netball 3rd | 9 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 178 | 223 | -45 | 33 | -9 |
| 48 IC Cricket Men's 2nd | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 458 | 997 | -539 | 0 | -14 |
| 49 ICSM Football Men's 2nd | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 17 | -8 | 0 | -14 |
| 50 IC Tennis Men's 1st | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 36 | 64 | -28 | 20 | -16 |
| 51 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 29 | 51 | -22 | 20 | -16 |
| 52 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd | 14 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 222 | 382 | -160 | 29 | -20 |
| 53 IC Badminton Women's 1st | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 25 | 47 | -22 | 11 | -21 |
| 54 IC Football Men's 3rd | 10 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 35 | -21 | 10 | -25 |
| 55 IC Football Men's 2nd | 10 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 35 | -24 | 0 | -34 |

Club league

| Club | P | W | D | L | F | A | Diff | % | FI |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|------|------|------|----|-----|
| 1 IC Squash | 40 | 30 | 1 | 9 | 119 | 40 | 79 | 75 | 116 |
| 2 IC Rugby | 44 | 26 | 2 | 16 | 951 | 585 | 366 | 59 | 70 |
| 3 IC Tennis | 33 | 21 | 2 | 10 | 200 | 129 | 71 | 64 | 69 |
| 4 IC Netball | 21 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 836 | 536 | 300 | 76 | 60 |
| 5 IC Hockey | 62 | 29 | 7 | 26 | 170 | 164 | 6 | 47 | 55 |
| 6 IC Volleyball | 18 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 35 | 16 | 19 | 78 | 54 |
| 7 IC Fencing | 23 | 16 | 0 | 7 | 2882 | 2479 | 403 | 70 | 52 |
| 8 ICSM Hockey | 55 | 25 | 6 | 24 | 170 | 154 | 16 | 45 | 41 |
| 9 ICSM Netball | 28 | 15 | 1 | 12 | 801 | 737 | 64 | 54 | 29 |
| 10 IC Table Tennis | 15 | 9 | 0 | 6 | 108 | 73 | 35 | 60 | 21 |
| 11 IC Waterpolo | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 57 | 25 | 32 | 67 | 12 |
| 12 IC Lacrosse | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 79 | 67 | 12 | 56 | 9 |
| 13 IC Basketball | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 319 | 313 | 6 | 60 | 7 |
| 14 ICSM Football | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 29 | -7 | 23 | -1 |
| 15 ICSM Badminton | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 60 | 68 | -8 | 38 | -4 |
| 16 IC Cricket | 17 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1291 | 2070 | -779 | 29 | -5 |
| 17 IC Badminton | 30 | 11 | 2 | 17 | 110 | 130 | -20 | 37 | -9 |
| 18 IC Football | 40 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 56 | 95 | -39 | 25 | -10 |
| 19 ICSM Rugby | 39 | 15 | 0 | 24 | 743 | 971 | -228 | 38 | -21 |





Polo's summer outing up the M40

Alex Savell reports as Imperial's Riding and Polo Club get stuck in at the University Polo Nationals

Thursday night saw the Riding and Polo Club trip to the La Martina National University Polo Championships get off to a relaxed start and a pleasant jaunt up the M40 to Leamington Spa. With two newly founded teams entered in different sections of the tournament our spirits were high and we were all looking forward to a fun weekend. With many of us seeing the end of exams during the week things looked good despite a couple slight navigational mishaps, particularly when outdated iPhone technology lead us astray down dark and winding back lanes.

Friday came with an excitable air which perhaps contributed to one fluffy haired physicist's 'baptism of fire' when he attempted to blow out a minor pan fire which, as one observer commented, "went woof!" leaving him with slightly shorter eyelashes. Our nerves began to build as we watched the initial chukkas (matches) and both teams' first games didn't really go to plan.

The first games didn't have many highlights, but a couple of moments stood out. 1st's captain Jon Matthews got sandwiched between two Reading players causing his already fractured wrist to get crushed and his subsequent cry of pain and appeal led to a harsh technical ruling against him much to the dismay of fellow players Suzie Coats and Trish Haylock-Vize. In the 2nd team match captain Monya Zard, Emma Banks and Alex Savell played a frustrating match where the best moment was one players bout of 'severe spatial awareness impairment' when they briefly forgot which way we were shooting. Despite this, we were all ready to attack our second games with a great deal more experience of the outdoor game.

The afternoon's ponies turned out to be a more spirited bunch than the morning, particularly Jon's, which took something of a dislike to him with Jon looking ever less secure in his saddle.



The 2nd's Carlotta Ridolfi turns her opposite number

The 1st's looked much stronger despite this and in a grudge match against ULU we achieved a respectable 1-0 result, unfortunately in ULU's favour. Some strange event known as the "RSM Final Finale" having drawn our Geologists away and the 1st's matches being over, Suzie was tasked to fill in Emma's slot in the 2nd's. Our most capable rider took her favourite horse... Jon's. Fortunately, the gelding was more amenable to a female rider and Monya slowly brought Canario back down from his frenzied state. The 2nd's, like the 1st's looked much stronger in the second match, but unfortunately conceded two early goals before taking control of

the chukka.

With one day down we were up for a good night and had a great evening hanging out with the Brummie teams for drinks and general banter. One player had a rather more eventful night, meeting a cluster of four 'inexpertly parked' vehicles at high speed. Trish escaped the pile-up unscathed, unlike her newly repaired Micra, but barely slept before the morning.

Saturday saw a host of new teams and a few replacements for the IC sides: a full change of the 2nd's as Carlotta Ridolfi, Ellie Hughes and Taz Zimmerman replaced three slightly sore team members and Nick Jahn emerged



One of the St. Andrew's girls feels the pressure in a ride-off from the 1st's

from the depths of Chem Eng revision to sub in for Suzie on the 1st's, giving them their most aggressive combination for the second day. After watching a few games, the 2nd's headed off for their chukka against Birmingham. Despite losing the match, all three came off the pitch grinning from ear to ear having thoroughly enjoyed the new experience.

The 1st's' two remaining chukka's were our best chances for wins and the aggressive line-up did not disappoint with Jon Matthews putting them 1-nil up against St. Andrew's and they followed this up with an impressive 2-nil victory in their final and fastest chukka dismounting with a new swagger in their steps (especially Jon with his goal tally now at three). In true Imperial style, half our teams were then drawn away by revision, but this did leave us with the most experienced set of 2nd's available and they were raring for their last chukka. Of course, knowing when it was would've helped.

With chukka's running late and threats of teams being "penalised and whipped" by the organiser, Mike Hobday, we eventually figured it out, a typo meant we weren't on the list and there were no longer horses available so our chukka had to be pushed back until the morning; after the eventful official players party.

Though Imperial kept their idiocies to a minimum, the same could not be

said for all. Mike, whose escapades manage to do in one night what the entire Rugby team might take the whole of Fresher's week to accomplish, was found vomiting in the Portaloos and we later discovered that the middle aged man had similarly frequented a large number of bushes; just reward for pulling one of the girls on the dance floor... while attired in a floral dress. Also on the honours list were the players that used their Fiesta to "place a gate where it was not wanted", crashing through a fence at 40 mph.

The final day started furiously with fast play leading to a few falls and one visit by the air ambulance. The 2nd's took to the pitch with adrenaline pumping and determined to come back with a strong result. A free hit gave us our first real chance and Monya took it forwards allowing Suzie to make it 1-0. A good break quickly put us heading towards our opponent's goal again with Monya's pass allowing Alex to score sealing the victory.

Knackered and sunburnt we spent the afternoon supporting the other teams including a victorious 'Bath Spa' team captained by our own Jon Matthews after Bath Spa themselves failed to turn up. In the end a very tired set of players slumped into their seats on the bus to talk of plans for the winter tournament next year all of us knowing that we want to come home with a trophy (for Imperial next time!).



The 1st team's Trish Haylock-Vize in full swing