

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

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Voting opens 00:01 31 October
Voting closes 23:59 4 November

Vote online now at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections

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Elections 2008

In the run up to the Imperial College Union elections and the American Presidential elections, felix gives you an insight into all the candidates.



New Higher Education Minister wonders if there are “too many universities.”

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The topic of higher education has come into the limelight again after David Lammy, the new Minister of State for Higher Education, commented that there might be too many universities in the United Kingdom.

The remarks were made in an address delivered at a Universities UK (UUK) event on the 14th October, entitled “The Future Size and Shape of the Higher Education Sector”.

The new minister pointed out several problems facing the higher education sector, as well as possible solutions. In his speech, Lammy asked: “Do you have the right number of institutions? In the commercial sector there would have to be many mergers over the next few decades – far more than we have seen in higher education. Could more be done to encourage that among universities?”

The idea of merging universities has existed for some time now. Back in November 2002 the previous Rector, Sir Richard Sykes, attempted to form a merger between Imperial College [IC] and University College London [UCL]. However after four weeks of talks, the proposal was called off. Sir Richard claimed that it had “become clear that the best interests of our two institutions are not served by a formal merger.” One senior academic from UCL told *felix* about IC’s political intention, describing the proposals as a takeover rather than a true merger. The academic referred to the situation as “more of a rape than a marriage.”

Ultimately, the merger crumbled since many UCL academics feared that it would leave many of their scientists without jobs, whereas Imperial’s staff would suffer far less.

Since the introduction of the Further and Higher Education Act in 1992, the UK has seen the creation of some 60 new universities. The current number of higher education institutions,

according to the University and College Admissions Service, is 325, which goes a long way to helping the government reach their 2010 target of having 50% of 18-30 year olds in higher education.

The current financial state of universities was also one of the topics of discussion in Lammy’s speech. Many universities rely on student fees to remain financially viable, though many have already claimed that this model is not a feasible one, with Lammy believing that it is unsustainable. Top-up fees were introduced back in 2006, after much complaint, with students paying around £3,000 per an academic year. Indeed Sir Richard commented last October that he is in support of increasing Top-up fees to £5,000 after the 2009 review. Lammy, himself, is a graduate of the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London) and Harvard Law School, regularly receiving requests for donations from the latter. Contributions from alumni are a source of funding the minister highlighted for future consideration by UK universities. The views of the current Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, are as yet still unknown; however, he did comment in his Commemoration Day speech that entrance exams will be brought in by 2010, in response to the current number of applications where he said that “we cannot continue on this path”.

Contradicting government policy, John Denham, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, said in August this year: “There are certainly young people who currently go to university who would have been better off on an advanced apprenticeship. We have been in danger of making it sound as if university is the only real aspiration.”

This echoes the view of Sir Richard who said last October that “the system has to change. It will then make people think twice before they go off and do those damn silly courses that are no good to them and won’t get them a



Minister of state for higher education, David Lammy

good job at the end of the day. It would mean university is not just a nice four years off.”

This Wednesday, the Government announced they will be cutting student grants after discovering a £200m funding shortfall. Last year, students were eligible for a grant if their parents earned less than £60,000, however this has now been cut to £50,020. The decrease in the limit is expected to affect 10% of students starting next year,

some 40,000 students. NUS President Wes Streeting commented that “the Government needs to stop tinkering with grants and fees every year, and recognise that the entire higher education funding system is unsustainable.” Liberal Democrat University spokesman Stephen Williams went on the record as saying that “ministers got their sums completely wrong.

“This kind of incompetence is not going to persuade young people that

the Government is committed to supporting them with their studies.

“As we enter a recession, ministers are going to have to face-up to the fact that more students are going to be expecting to receive maintenance support in the years to come.”

The higher education debate will undoubtedly continue for many years, as the balance between a good quality degree and the financial consequences of getting one are established.

Sir Richard Sykes takes up role as Chairman of Imperial spinout company

Daniel Wan
Correspondent

Sir Richard Sykes, Imperial’s ex-Rector, has taken up his first professional role since leaving College at BioCeramic Therapeutics Ltd. Sir Richard becomes the new Chairman of the Board of Directors with immediate effect.

It seems Sir Richard cannot get enough of Imperial College, where which he spent seven controversial years (2001 –2008) as Rector. BioCeramic Therapeutics (BCT) Ltd is one of over 60 Imperial College spinout firms; being based on developmental research from the Departments of Biomedical Materials and Material Sciences at Imperial College.

A King’s College biochemistry graduate, Sir Richard’s role at BCT will not be his first in this vein. Prior to accepting the post of Imperial’s Rector, he was chairman of pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline plc. His role at BCT is seemingly a smaller task than GlaxoSmithKline, as BCT is seen more to be an up-and-coming pioneer rather than a multi-national corporation.

As Sir Richard takes over as Chairman, the companies are focusing their efforts in two generations of products. The first is strontium-containing glass that inhibits pathogens and promotes tissue growth. This versatile material would be used as bone filler, coatings and even as structural scaffolding in orthopedic procedures. Furthering on this, the company is also developing a nanostructured mimicry of the extracellular matrix that will surpass the capabilities of the bioactive ceramics which are currently used.

Daniel Green, BCT’s CEO, commented on the appointment: “Sir Richard’s immense experience and expert guidance will be invaluable as we move to the next stage of our growth plan:

taking our lead development products to a stage where they benefit the public.” Sir Richard’s role will aid the taking of scientific knowledge and application to a business level, something that was very evident in his time as Rector. He was responsible for several controversies including the rebranding of the

College, supporting the £3,000 cap to tuition fees, and his views on university league tables.

Sir Richard’s new impetus within the wide scope of Imperial College will be better suited to his business-grounded vision and ethic so apparent in the past.



Watch out BioCeramic Therapeutics, Dickie Sykes is about.

Prime Minister visits Imperial

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, was visiting Imperial College on Monday to attend “The Changing of a New Economic Age” event hosted by the Imperial College Business School (Tanaka). Brown delivered a speech to academics, business leaders and members of the press on his government’s plans to deal with the global credit crunch and restructuring of the UK economy. Attending his speech were the likes of Ian Conn, Director of BP and Chair of Imperial College Business School Advisory Board and Ian Coleman, Global Head of Emerging Markets at PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

During his speech he described his special connection with Imperial College, saying: “I have seen the expansion of this College and how it leads the world in so many different fields.” Brown also addressed the importance of maintaining public spending in bringing the country out of the eco-

nomie downturn. He said now was the wrong time to slash investment in areas like education, training and energy efficiency or tax cuts for hard-pressed families. The PM defended his strategy of higher borrowing to support the economy, calling it the “responsible” thing to do. His remarks came on a day where the London stockmarket plunged by more than 5% and the sterling weakened again. Brown’s speech was followed by a Q&A session with his audience, chaired by Professor David Begg and attended by Imperial’s Rector Sir Roy Anderson.

During his visit the Prime Minister also found time to meet with ten MBA Students from Imperial’s business school to discuss the global credit crisis and hear their views. One student remarked, “I agreed with a lot of what Mr Brown said and he is taking a very proactive approach to finding a solution to the economic problems.” While another simply felt, “it was a privilege to meet him. He was very easy to talk to and he seemed really relaxed.”



Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Monday’s talk

We used to talk about hippies with guitars

Ravi Pall
News Correspondent

Imperial College Union’s Career Fair saw unwelcome song and dance from protestors on Wednesday 29th October. A group of IC student protestors forming the group “e.on f off” gathered at South Kensington in the early hours of the morning. One member had brought with him his guitar, for what was presumably a planned activity.

Upon the lunch hour the “hippie” antagonist began to play some of his hit tunes against *Shell*, including the allegedly popular “Use soul power, not coal power.” He was promptly removed by Imperial College security, not to be seen for the rest of the day.

When asked why the reason for a protest, one “e-on f-off” representative began to regurgitate lines such as “e.on want to build 6 coal factories, and are currently getting permission for the first one. If the first one is approved, they have plans to build 17 others within Europe and Russia.

Alexander McKee, a representative from Imperial College Union, commented on the protestors breach of conduct, telling *felix* that “they were told not to protest inside, not to cause any major scenes, to just distribute information outside the marquee.” This was not the case, with the protestors operating directly in front of the *e.on* stall. *felix* also has its doubts if the guitar playing man was actually a student of Imperial College.



Protestors outside the e.on stall

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LOICATS



OF THE WEEK

Subwarden Position

Applications are invited for a subwarden position in Selkirk Hall - the Easternmost of the Southside Halls, immediately adjacent to South Kensington Campus.

The position is open to all full-time members of Imperial College, including postgraduate students, and would start from 2 January 2009.

Application forms may be downloaded from: <https://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies/>

The deadline for application submission is: 17:00, Friday 14 November 2008.

<http://halls.imperial.ac.uk/selkirk/>

Elections and manifestos explained for you

The faces you see spread across the following three pages want you to do something for them. They want you to vote for them.

The Trustee Board is the overseeing committee at the top of the Union. Big decisions may have to be made here, but less frequently.

Council is one of the most important committees within the Union as the decisions made by it affect every student on campus. Most importantly, the Members of the Council are given the power to vote on decisions brought to the Council. Giving this power to the wrong person could potentially have adverse consequences.

Councillors meet roughly once a

month to discuss the overall direction the Union is going in. The people throughout these pages will have to give their views on this decision as well as many other important ones.

Below are their manifestos, ready for your analysis. Read each one and decide whether you like what they have to say, whether you agree with them and ultimately, whether they represent

your views. If you're not happy with any of them, you can vote RON (re-open nominations). If RON wins, the Union will run the elections procedure again.

If you didn't know that the elections were even taking place, you might still be able to stand. Some of the faculties still have outstanding positions to fill, so get involved.

Once you've decided who you like or don't like, head to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote and cast your vote. You'll only be able to vote for those people in your faculty. Voting opens TODAY!!!! So get to a computer and pick someone.

ENGINEERING

Undergraduate Councillors Postgraduate Councillors



John James

I'm a 4th year Civil Engineer. If elected, I'll be committed, level-headed and represent the engineering students consultation.



Rhys Morgan

No manifesto was submitted.

Only one person is running for Undergraduate Engineering Councillor, there are another 3 positions uncontended. If you are interested for the above positions, simply come to the third Council meeting on Monday 17th November, held in the Union Dining Hall at 6.30pm and stand.

SCIENCE

Undergraduate Councillors



Sammi Elfituri

'Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the powers that be whether they are the powers that ought to be' - Sydney J. Harris

Whoever you are, whatever your issue, big or small, I will ensure your voice is heard.

Imperial College boasts an incredible wealth of talent and creativity amongst its student body. It is therefore my belief that the union should be as transparent and accessible to its students as possible. With their input and participation, the Imperial College Union really can reach for new heights and thrive.

A vote for me is a vote for fairness, equality and justice.

Sammi Elfituri, fighting for and on behalf of the IC student since 2008!



Nida Hardwood

Hi everyone, my name is Nida and I hope these are good enough reasons for voting for me this year: I talk... a lot - so if you want someone to kick up a fuss about issues we students feel are important I'm a pretty good choice for getting the guys that call the shots listening. I'm active - being involved in many societies including debatesoc, and am currently vice president of ISoc - coordinating events and taking part in different fund raising schemes around university (and you know I've got to be organised to fit all that in around the insane amount of work we get set) But most importantly I'm an Imperial student - I visit the same campus (campuses... campi?), use the same facilities and union as you guys - and will take a position on council seriously to ensure college policy always prioritises its students.

Christopher Gibbs is also running, however no photo or manifesto was submitted. There are 2 more positions uncontended, if you are interested for the above position, simply come to the third Council meeting on Monday 17th November, held in the Union Dining Hall at 6.30pm and stand.

Undergraduate Councillors



Albert Poon

As the current Deputy President of ICSM Students' Union, it would be a great honour for me to represent the Medical School as an Ordinary Council Member. Since starting at ICSM, I have immersed myself in Medical School life as much as possible by being involved in the Football Club and Drama Society, as well as helping to organise events such as the Halfway Dinner and RAG Fashion Show. My role on the Students' Union this year has brought me into regular contact with ICSM students both young and old, and I feel I am now perfectly placed to make your views heard at Union Council. I will do everything in my power to ensure that ICSM students are given a strong voice and that you all benefit as much as possible when important decisions are being made. Vote for me and I will take care of the rest.



Salman Waqar

My name is Salman Waqar and I'm currently in my third year. I hope to stand as an ICSM rep on the Union Council this year. Most of you probably don't really know much about, or even care about what the Union gets up to and what it does. In fact, I'm guessing you're only on this page because you want your favourite club or society to have an extra bit of doosh. But there is an awful lot the Union can do, and it does achieve things for us Medics. And I feel it's important that we have full and proper representation on the main body of the Union; we make up a pretty big proportion of the College population and we ought to have an equally loud voice. I have been actively involved with many clubs and societies during my time here. I occasionally write for *Felix* and currently, I am the Treasurer for EMSA and I manage the website for MedSin. So, vote for me if you want an honest and solid person to represent your concerns and opinions to those crazy guild hacks!



Hannah Lawrence

The ICU council makes decisions on a wide range of issues, everything from NUS membership to campus re-development, and all of these decisions affect us as medical students. Therefore it is hugely important that we are strongly represented as medical students on the council, to make sure that our voice is heard! For the last three years at medical school, I have been actively involved in clubs and societies, being in ICSM netball club and backstage manager of light opera society. If elected, my aim would be to listen to all the diverse views of members of our medical school to ensure that I was representing what people want at ICU council meetings. I am passionate about ICSM maintaining a strong presence within IC, so please vote for me and I will do my best to ensure that you are represented well. Thank you!



Najette Ayadi O'Donnell

Standing for IC Council feels like a natural step for me. I've been active in local and national politics since I started Imperial 4 years ago. I'm currently Vice President of ICSMSU and have held the position of ICSM's BMA rep for the last 2 years.

I intend to use my capacity on the council to represent your views honestly and transparently. It's important for us to be pro-active and to not allow apathy to dictate the tone of student politics. I believe strongly in medical education and good education at that. I co-edited and co-founded the foundation school guide 'Quack' which has been delivered nationally to all final year medical students for the past 2 years.

A vote for me is a vote for a hard working, politically-minded and honest candidate, who believes strongly in students and student activity.

Kat Fu also entered, but no photo or manifesto was submitted

VOTING OPENS... TODAY

Go to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote now and get voting



Ali Mozaffari

I am running for the Union Council because during the few years I've been here, I can honestly say I don't know of anything worthwhile the union has done. Maybe that's because they haven't, or perhaps because they just don't promote their achievements well enough - either way an uninformed student body is as bad as an apathetic one.

If elected, it would my and fellow candidates' responsibility to question the union's judgement, raise student issues and promote the union work where necessary. Being involved in clubs and societies since I joined Imperial, I believe that I can lend an unbiased view of how students really feel about their activities.

Standing as the non-faculty member means I can take an interest in all areas of the student body, it also means that I can take the opportunity to (sometimes constructively) criticise the union, where necessary, on a whole range of issues.

MEDICINE

NON-FACULTY

GSA and Trustee Board

STUDENT TRUSTEES



Ravi Pall

Tom Van Den Bremer is also running for this position, but has not submitted a photo or a manifesto.

I'm a physicist. I know, forgive me. However, during my time at Imperial College, I have taken a keen interest in the welfare of the student body, and the benefits the student Union should provide to the current and upcoming generations of this prestigious university. I would like to think of myself as a fun, outgoing and social person. However this is only my opinion, and probably not what you want to hear.

As a Student Trustee, I will endeavor to guide the Trustee board (the governing body in the operation of the Union) in a more just and student-oriented direction. I have great confidence that I am an accurate description of the average IC student, and as such, will grapple the throats of the Union sabbaticals other Union staff to gain a fair and just position for us students.

VOTING OPENS...
TODAY

Go to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote now and get voting



Healthy Living Week aims to demonstrate to the Imperial community just how easy it can be to live a healthier lifestyle. There are some great free activities for you to try in Ethos and on Dalby Court as well as healthy cooking demonstrations, Body Health MOTs, healthy options in College and Union catering outlets and much more. The week will end with a Walk, Jog or Run event in Hyde Park on Friday 7 November.

Healthy Living Week
3-7 November 2008

For more information visit:
www.imperial.ac.uk/sports

Free Activities include

- Kandi
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Tai Chi
- Rowing
- Dance
- Gaelic Football
- Netball
- Handball
- Capoeira
- Body Sculpt
- Climbing
- Indoor hockey
- Floorball
- Table Tennis
- Fencing
- NIA
- Spin
- Swimming
- Kung Fu
- Body Pump

Walk, Jog or Run event

Friday 7 November

Take part in the final Walk, Jog or Run in Hyde Park between 12.00 and 14.00. You can choose to either walk 3km, jog 3kms or run 5kms along a specified route in Hyde Park. The event is free and all you have to do is visit the website, complete the entry form and email it as instructed. You'll be emailed with further instructions once you've signed up. For more info visit:

www.imperial.ac.uk/sports

Healthy Food on campus

Healthy meal option in the SCR and the Union all week and healthy options available to buy from all other Catering outlets on South Kensington Campus.

Rewards for all

Keep your Healthy Living Week handout with you all week so you can be rewarded with a special stamp every time you take part in a sports activity or buy a healthy food option. The more stamps you get the better you'll be rewarded.

GSA

GSA Chairman



Rhys Morgan

Several other positions are still available in the GSA. If you wish to stand for these positions, come to Council on 17th November in the Union Dining Hall

I don't think my past year would have been any different if the GSA didn't exist. Most postgraduates I've brought up the the GSA with, don't know what the acronym stands for, or what it's supposed to do. Which, let's face it, is diabolical. I shall not attempt to slate the existing team or beguile you with promises of realising some utopian reunification between academia and social inclusion, but I could radically improve things. I don't believe academia has to be a sanctuary for the socially repressed, so let's not let it be. Things could be a lot, lot better. Conformity suggests I should inform you of my experience running societies and events, but that will seriously impinge upon on the 150 word-limit. Essentially, I see the main focus of the GSA being postgraduate welfare and filling in the PG social-gaps the main union leaves. Thanks, Rhys.

GSA Secretary



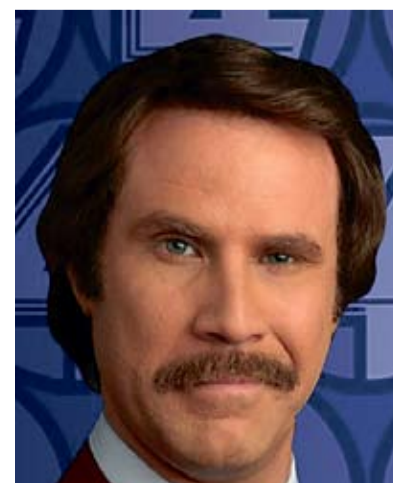
Jenny Lim

HELLO ALL! My name is Jenny Lim and I'm standing for the position of GSA Secretary. I've always wanted to get involved in a committee and thought - this year is going to be the year!

To be quite honest, I'm not really sure what the role will require of me, except that I will be able to push forward views of the graduates to the GSA for: A.C.T.I.O.N! I will definitely work hard to make it a successful year for all of us!

Importantly, I'm based at Ham-smith Campus which can be quite under-represented, so I will take good note of the views of students at this campus to ensure they get their say on things! That won't mean neglecting the rest of you, of course! Actions speak louder than words so... just vote for me and you won't be disappointed! I look forward to meeting you all!

Stay classy San Diego, I'm Ron Burgundy?



RON RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS

As a five-time (local) Emmy Award-winning journalist, and the main anchor for the KVWN Channel Four News Team, I know I'm good. I mean really good. Hey everyone, come and see how good I look.

Anyway, these guys are major league bull. If you like me more than you like them, because lets be honest I am the Ron Burgundy, then don't waste your scotch by throwing it in their faces. I love scotch. Scotchy, scotch, scotch. Here it goes down, down into my belly... yeah! Last time I looked in the

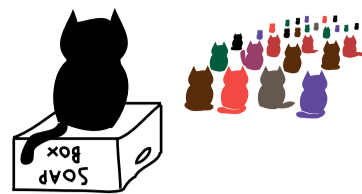
dictionary, my name's Ron Burgundy. I'm kinda a big deal round San Diego. What do you mean this is England, London? Not that it matters, as long as I can play my jazz flute who cares? Hey, Aqualung!

When I'm not pumping my guns, or bumping nasties with you and your dirty whorish mouth, I'm discovering the finer mysteries of life. Like the lost meaning of the words "Sand Dieago." So if you're a hot, female/female looking person, looking for a night out on the Burgandy roller coaster, then for

just one night let's not be co-acquaintances. Let's be co-people.

All I have left to say now is, ladies and gentlemen, can I please have your attention. I've just been handed an urgent and horrifying news story. I need all of you, to stop what you're doing and listen. Cannonball!

Oh yeah, If you think everyone else is in no way better suited to their position than me, then on Sweet Lincoln's mullet vote for RON. By the beard of Zeus don't let anyone not good enough for the job get in. Please.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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



A. Geek

Am I typing slowly enough for you?

I'm beginning to tire of the Silver Surfer generation. Partly because they're not dying off anyway near as fast as statistics say they should, and partly because they're driving my technological life into a mire of touchscreens, 'natural interfaces' and pure molten fecal matter. There was a time when to run a piece of software you'd actually need to write code yourself; applications that were supplied with the sort of manuals that make the Bible look like a pocket novel. An era when technology was indistinguishable from magic and people still had to look things up in encyclopedias with only a few authors. What's wrong with it now? Lucy. Lucy is what's wrong with it now.

I've named her Lucy because that's the name of the puppy my family has recently taken on, and they both share the characteristics of being stupid, short and amusing to watch when struggling with something new. The human Lucy was standing next to me on the Tube and my attention was drawn to her when she started making a noise I can only describe as somewhere between a machine gun and a bluegrass percussion track. I look over and she's flailing around with a Blackberry phone, trying to scroll through four hundred emails of fetid garbage. The great thing with the Blackberry is that it can store approximately three bazillion emails but is completely incapable of show-

ing more than four onscreen at once, even in abbreviated form. So she stood there, scratching her way up using a tiny, absurd scroll wheel to scurry up the infinite list of babble.

Why is Lucy the problem? Lucy is the one who asked for the scroll wheel in the first place, you see. She's the person who thinks that surfing the net on the iPod Touch is a good idea. Lucy wants Facebook on the move and she plays the Wii because it's 'just like playing real tennis'. Lucy is the modern technological consumer and, despite being all about the Geeks, Imperial has plenty of you folk in its ranks. You're the new, fashionable majority, with disposable income up the wazoo in spite of the credit crunch and a desire for all things over designed. And you're ruining all my fun.

The reason I've come to this conclusion is that I've been fiddling a bit with Linux lately, in an attempt to really get to know some of its more obtuse features. I've tinkered on the command line, I've started to use console-based IRC clients. Hell, I even used Vim a bit, and you normally have to get a doctor to sign saying you're a lost cause before you install that. It's definitely an unwieldy beast, beating you with a stick made of pure error message every time you look at it a bit funny, or use too many vowels when spelling. But the fact is that it's fast. And it makes you fast as a result. Text editing with Vim

is just wondrous and when you're using simple, clever software on Linux it just glides - like computers are supposed to.

There's learning involved, of course. It's non-intuitive. It doesn't even try to make sense most of the time and the rare occasions that it does something adhering to logic it normally requires a Masters degree or a misspent youth to understand what it's trying to tell you. But that doesn't mean it's not a better option, which it undoubtedly is. So why aren't we all tapping away at eighty words per minute, leafing through syntax lists and understanding the Ext2FS file system? Because Lucy doesn't want to. Because the technology industry is telling itself that what Lucy really wants is things that look like something Fisher-Price made. Why have two buttons on a mouse when you can have one? Why ask the user what they want to use a machine when you can convince them they need it all? Why keep it the size it is now when you can make it smaller? The idea seems to be that if you can remove the need to learn how technology works then that means you're doing the right thing for the public. We've thought about it good and hard and decided that nothing good comes of actually learning things and that it's probably best if we just dumb down mankind's greatest achievements so that everyone can just smack their heads against a red button

that says 'EMAIL' and it'll just write 'lol' in reply to everything in your inbox.

It originated out of a need to placate the older generation, who were seen as being left out of the technological future. But when the generations below us picked it up too it became evident that far from including those that were unlikely to be able to learn how to access these services we were really setting the bar low for the future. We were saying that complexity was bad and that if it needed more than five minutes of remembering stuff then that was just inconsiderate towards the consumer.

Well, good luck with that. I'm now officially a technology snob. You fuckers riding the Web 2.0 wave can do so until it crashes on the sands of idiocy and crushes your feeble skulls. Meanwhile, I'll start organising my life, breezing through work and soaking up the sweet satisfaction of understanding how to use masks in Photoshop CS. Technology requires learning. It's a language, a skill. But that's like, effort, right? And since when did anything ever come about through effort? Fuck that for a game of soldiers! Let's all go back to mashing our iPod Touch screens.

Think I'm wrong? Mash your keyboard with badly-formed sentences of anger in an email to anangrygeek@googlemail.com. Or you can just shout into your speakers and hope that I'll hear. You arsehole.

I could be angry if I wanted to be...

I've always been a little bit unsure about sharing this page in the newspaper. I feel like the psychiatric patient who's been thrown into the wrong wing of the asylum: I'm the gentle manic depressive who hears voices (played by Tom Hanks, perhaps - or a young Dustin Hoffman) suddenly surrounded by the paranoiac sociopaths one particularly rapid heartbeat away from an apoplectic fit.

Anger seems to be of the essence in writing a comment piece today. Jeremy Clarkson, who in many ways has come to represent what a 21st Century columnist should be like, seems to have found the elixir of middle-age with his unique cocktail of gasoline, vitriol, loud metaphor and overblown, unconventional simile. Gordon Ramsay also seems to have soared to popularity on similar wings, as the first chef to fricassee and say a frick on live television.

Now I just don't get that angry about life. I wish I did - God knows it would make these pieces easier to write and, I imagine, more enjoyable to read. It's very easy to summon anger, and though channelling it into humour is harder, it's always effective. So here I am, with a rich, bellicose vein of comic material that I just can't access. Because either I don't care enough about things to let them irritate me, or I care too much to resort to cheap, knee-jerk reactions to get a laugh.

But this week I seem to have hit the right frame of mind. Various grotesque acquaintances of mine have been getting on my goat (a cheap joke about Welsh sexual practices was wisely re-



The Editor's idea of an amusing inset. My idea of an amusing caption.

moved in the edit). The reasons are entirely unimportant: in fact, my flatmate dared me to infuse all 800 of today's meticulously-chosen words with the full Satanic force of my rage, and not once mention the reason for my fury. Going round in such vicious circles is, unfortunately, beyond my rhetorical skills.

I have also managed to calm down considerably. The thing with me is that my natural state of equilibrium is distasteful apathy. People and situations might initially get on my nerves, but it will always end in a wry smile of the greatest possible passive aggression and a general hatred for humanity. Lectures on Monday afternoons, for instance, are particularly good at getting me into that mood. Spending three hours in a crowded room with 200 physicists after the freedom of the weekend is enough to drain me of all respect or affection for our misguided species. But not enough to get me angry.

On rare occasions, however, a particularly febrile anthropoid can succeed in denting the calm shell of my mental stability. And this week, you guessed it, was one of those times. So my temper has been rising. My blood, as darling Gordon recommends, has been set to a gentle simmer. The milk of human kindness, which ordinarily flows through my veins like spring water running across Swiss countryside, has been curdling.

And, Jesus, it's amazing how morally satisfying rage can be. Even vacuous, pointless anger is a guaranteed pick-me-up. It sharpens the senses and heightens awareness: it gives you something to focus on. The thing about human psychology is that focus is a guaranteed path to happiness. Eastern meditation emphasizes focus on emptiness as the path to nirvana, but total investment in any of our materialistic Western substitutes works well enough. Some people are satisfied by total commitment to another

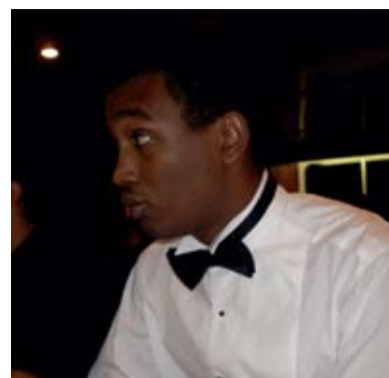
person, others devote hours on end to work of one kind or another, and some dedicate themselves to collecting experiences, books, points in an online game, academic awards or rare 1920s stamps from the Outer Hebrides.

It is much easier, however, to be focused on an emotion. Many lovers derive greater consolation from being in love than they do from each other's company, and God knows how many teenage or teeny sods have powered their internal motors on the consolation they derive from a good wallow. I, and I know I am not alone, am able to go for days on the power of fury. While there is certainly something cathartic in writing an amusing article about some erstwhile irritant, there is more than emotional cleansing going on.

Rage, like self-pity and, to a lesser extent, love, is hugely self-indulgent. A good fume makes us feel important. It makes us feel as though our opinions matter and that we have enough experience to make judgements that count. To be able to condemn something or someone and raise a criticism or a compliment indicates the value of our own opinions and heightens our feelings of power. Getting angry over trivialities is a way of patting ourselves on the back for how well we think and how insightfully we can analyse situations.

Hence the mileage we comic writers ('we happy few', indeed) are wont to squeeze out of frustration. And, hypocrite that I am, though I've covered ground on the same issue, at least today rage and frustration were riding in the passenger seat and not powering the car.

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Amin Elmubarak

Elections 2008: Time for change

Unless you have really been dedicating your life to Imperial College and haven't had a chance to look at a newspaper, you'll be aware that the US elections are just around the corner.

With the backing of political heavyweights such as Teddy Kennedy and the former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Barack Obama is able to take time off the campaign trail to visit his sick grandmother... which may show him to be a caring family man, but that's just a coincidence.

Other than his unorthodox heritage and the fact that for the first time in almost 20 years the US presidency is out of the hands of either the Bush or Clinton Dynasties, what is different about Obama? According to his website, he 'was raised by a single mother

and his grandparents. They didn't have much money, but they taught him values from the Kansas heartland where they grew up. He took out loans to put himself through school.'

That, coupled with his smooth and eloquent mastery of the English language as well as his relatively young age and his short time in Capitol Hill, makes me believe that he has not spent long enough time around politicians to become corrupt and saturated with the sleaze that is associated with Politics.

Sadly, I have developed a condition where by I have the cynicism of a man many years my senior and so I began to ask the question: if it is that easy to bring change, why have the majority of previous world leaders been so corrupt and why, no matter how far you look back, the same issues trouble the same people? The poor get poorer and the

rich get richer.

The answer lies in the electoral process. Imagine a medical profession where there is still the same number of doctors but there can only be one consultant per country at any one time. Or where there is still the same number of accountants but only one can be chartered at any one time! That is the world of politics, there is only one job as head of state and every MP in the UK or Senator in the US is gunning for it.

I don't believe that Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan or even George 'Dubya' Bush were evil people intent on bringing war to the world. However, they were ambitious and driven to succeed, willing to do anything to be the best in their career and therefore become president. This puts the candidate in a position whereby they must sacrifice certain morals or ethics for 'the greater

good'.

Though their foreign policies may differ, every presidential candidate on the run up to elections suddenly becomes Jewish and wears a kippah or yarmulke in order to secure the Jewish vote. They promise to increase the military budget and to be tough on immigration and terrorism, as well as magically improving the financial situation for 'Joe the Plumber'.

These are all things the Barack Obama is 'guilty' of. The question is: this is he just playing the game by its rules in order to win or is this JFK of our time being molded into the very thing he is aiming to go against - 'the status quo'.

Let us hope that Mr. Obama is the man that will finally have the strength of character to change politics and not let politics change him.



Imperial Girl

New Imperial Girl: Internet dating

Despite Jovan's persuasions to get me to choose a more creative 'writer-name' I've decided to keep it straightforward and meaningful - just how I hope my column to be received. There is no need for too much of an introduction because my name says it all: I am a girl and I am studying at Imperial.

In these articles I want to talk about things that keep me thinking, wondering and debating with myself. Last year whilst studying for exams (for those quick people you will have already deduce that 'last year' = 2nd year or >) I watched multiple episodes of Sex and the City and I realised that maybe by writing these articles anonymously I might be able to relate a small part of my life to you readers. I emphasize that what I will continue to write about is my personal experience; it by no means

generalises for any group of people.

Being at Imperial can be tough for a girl. We can't be too 'girly' else we get ostracised by the outweighing majority of boys on campus but we can't in turn become the Tomboy else we will never get asked out on dates. But whatever tactic you use as a girl on campus, I find that it doesn't make a huge difference to your dating life. With this in mind I was recently introduced to this guy online who lives in Australia. Originally I was only talking to him because I needed some guidance on some area of studying but when we first started talking on Skype I realised that we had clicked instantly. I could tell that he both felt it. But even though internet dating is so taboo and long distance relationships never work, I had an urge to be in a relationship with this guy who I had never met.

Then I started thinking, 70% of the

population at Imperial are guys (don't quote me on this) and I haven't had these feelings for anyone of them. Why? Maybe it was a consequence of the situation, neither of us have webcams so neither of us knew what each other look like (of course we have since added each other as friends on Facebook, come on!!). But for the first few conversations we knew only each other's name and country of residence. There was no pressure, a perfect opportunity to get to know each other in the most non-superficial way. Maybe that is it? We live in such a superficial society where what you wear and how you look generally define you as a person. I am not denying that I am a follower, I do think it's important but maybe it's time that we had a visor that blanks the exterior and allows us to see our potential boyfriends/girlfriends for who they really are.

I'll give you another example, I used to crave this boy - his sense of style was so HOT, he had a beautiful face and he was exactly of the physique I liked. The other day whilst walking into college down Queens Gate I thought I saw him. I felt a rush as I remembered how I really 'liked' him. I wasn't wearing my contacts so as I got closer I realised it was just another guy with the same sense of fashion and hairstyle. "Damn," I thought, "is that all there was to my attraction?" I really only 'liked' the way he looked and that was it. I can't fool myself that it was anything more but is that all it takes?

Maybe it's time that we give our eyes a break and let our ears and mind decide for us. If only guys at Imperial would see that girls like myself want to be judged for who they are and for our physical attractiveness to come secondary to this. No?



Caz Knight

Caz is free to speak again

The second time a *felix* contributor has written a response to one of my own comment pieces and I, once again, find myself flattered although I am sure it is not out of sycophancy that these responses have come to be. That my opinion has caught the eye of another and has sparked a debate is enough to please me greatly.

This time Abdul Hannan has put forward his own views on Freedom of Speech, which I argued vehemently in favour of in my commentary on the subject. He first points out that this notion of Freedom of Speech is very much of a concept originating and enforced by 'civilized society', in this case the Western world. He makes a valid point as many societies outside the Western realms do not experience so much of the freedom we enjoy here due to religious or political history; the collectivist approach in Communist China, for example. Abdul seems to imply by writing it is this Freedom loving society that screams from mountain-tops when anyone dares to question the concept of Freedom, that to strive for

freedom of speech, thought and action is something which should be abated.

Admittedly, there cannot and should not be absolute freedom of action lest the world descends into anarchy. In a perfect world there would be absolute freedom of action where we humans would exist at an elevated moral level and so the question of anarchy would not arise; utopia would have been reached and we would be back living in the proverbial Garden of Eden! This is completely unattainable.

Depending on your beliefs, we are each unique individuals, no one is the same, and with this should come the basic human right of freedom to chose the way we live and behave. As able minded people we do have absolute freedom of speech (we control the words that emit from our mouths) but when exercised this may lead to unfair criticism of a person or group. This is where we need to use our sensitivity and discretion so as not to appear oafish and on a mission just to inspire hate; either chose to refrain or rethink how we express our views.

'Terrorists? Which terrorist groups does Caz refer to anyway?... Caz quite

unashamedly has used conformist self-censorship, to be as vague as possible'. Here I stand corrected in my hasty use of the word 'terrorist'. Of course, I should have made it clear I was referring to the Islamic terrorists who responded to the move to publish 'The Jewel of Medina' with an attempted bombing of the home of the owner of Gibson Square publishing house. However, due to the content of the novel (which explores the prophet Muhammad's relationship with his bride Aisha) as well as the large amount of Islamic terrorist activity occurring in recent years, it would be clear that it was Islamic terrorists that took objection to a book that supposedly slates their religion. It would not have been racist to state originally that these were Islamic terrorists, that would be a mere statement of fact.

I have to strongly disagree with Abdul's 'implicit advice' to Muslims that if they object to a book of this nature that they are a terrorist. One steps over the border into terrorism when one begins putting explosives through letter boxes! To object to a publication is completely legitimate, just as much as

the publication itself, and is in accordance with this very idea of freedom.

'It is this Freedom loving society which evangelically chooses to impart its values to the rest of the world, through coercion and bullying.' It is this fact and the conduct of the Western world that riled Islamic extremists to launch an attack on America seven years ago on September 11. Because of this attack our own freedom in the west, most notably at airports, has been impinged upon. It seems that the 'terrorists' have got their way. (By no means am I implying we should take a cavalier approach to security.)

Abdul makes some excellent points about the apparent 'catch-22' of Freedom of Speech - it can never be absolute as the manifestation of one person's freedom will conflict with that of another. Here in *felix* we have a good example of Freedom of Speech by the presence of these opinion columns. I have voiced my views and he has expressed his. Both are valid arguments and ideas which have inspired free thinking and debate and I welcome anyone else's thoughts on this paradoxical notion and, indeed, any others.

Comment

Politics

Politics Editor – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

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Why I am not voting on the 4th

Edward Townes reflects on the presidential elections and provides analysis on the upcoming elections

As an American citizen I have the ability to contribute somewhere on the order of a millionth of a percent to the decision of who becomes the most powerful person in the world for the next four years. Not long ago I would have been honoured and proud of this privilege, but I have since observed an election process that has both shocked and deeply disappointed me.

We have a very pervasive myth in America that we are a free and just country, protected under the Constitution and with a government subservient to the people through the democratic process. We are led to believe that our presidential elections are the most refined and functional displays of democracy in the world today. We are led to believe that our right to choose between two candidates, a consequence of generations of ancestors fighting for our freedom, should not only be celebrated, but that anyone who chooses not to exercise that right is virtually criminal.

Every four years we are presented with a line of candidates for the nomination of the only two political parties that matter, Democrats and Republicans. Hardly anyone has heard of more than one or two of these people before, and thus the mainstream media is free to declare who are the front-runners. Immediately after, the mainstream media begins publishing manipulated polls to reinforce their views and take advantage of the horse-race mentality of American voting. We are then graced with fascinating televised debates, where the answers are limited to 30-second sound bites and the questions are thoroughly dumbed down and vetted beforehand. In these debates we get to hear such diverse opinions as: whether to change the in-

come tax rate by 2%, or 3%; or whether to move 5000 troops from Iraq to Afghanistan, or 6000. Occasionally we get a really wild candidate who wants to move troops from Afghanistan to Iraq instead! With such diversity of opinion, it is often very difficult to choose between the candidates. Thankfully the mainstream media is here to help us, as they will frequently and kindly point out that some of the candidates with unusual views have no chance of winning and are clinically insane.

The reality is that the American presidential elections are a tightly controlled charade, designed to keep the same institutions in power every time, whilst soothing the American people with illusions of their ability to choose their government. If you are not either a Republican or a Democrat, you have no chance of winning at all, since ballot access is strictly controlled and intentionally made extremely resource consuming for any third party. Furthermore, no mainstream media company is willing to provide a forum for debate involving third parties, or even barely mention them in the news. Thus the American public is kept in the dark about any alternative existing outside of the two major parties. Within the Democratic and Republican parties there is the occasional bad apple who wants to ruin the fun and actually talk about real issues, but there are a myriad of techniques employed to ostracize, insult and suppress anyone who does not toe the line.

The reason that third parties are suppressed is very simple: efficiency. If you look at the major donors for any major candidate, you will notice a startling number of similarities. The game is that the special interests in America buy the loyalty of politicians

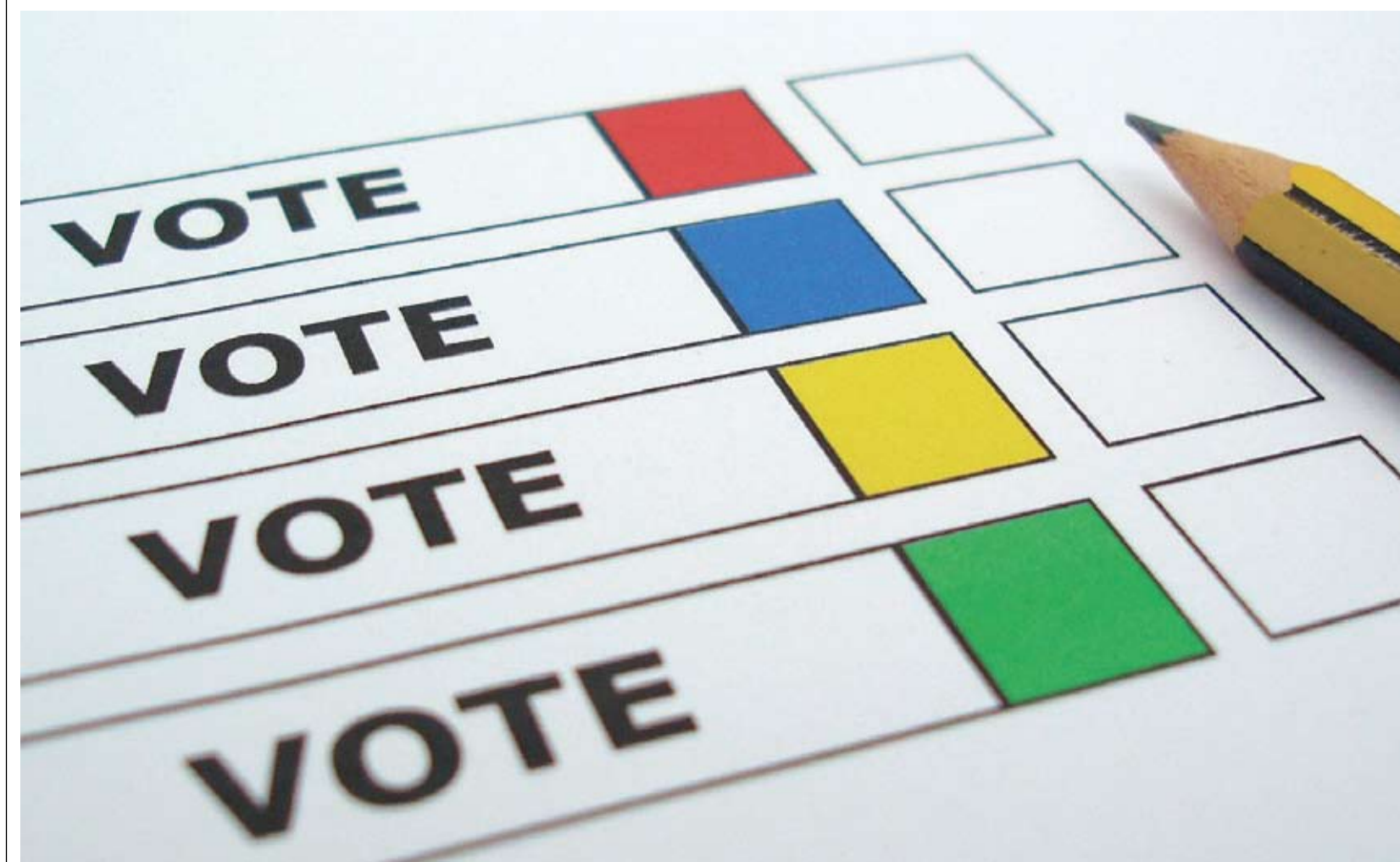
by bankrolling the campaigns of the two political parties, exploiting loopholes in campaign finance laws in what amounts to bribery, and guaranteeing their future careers after political office. In this way the special interests can ensure their goals are met no matter who wins. It is clearly cheapest for the special interests when the number of choices available to the American public is as small as possible without compromising the appearance of democracy. And to cap it all off, there is now significant evidence of routine vote fraud.

Nobody who is allowed by the media to be publicly visible talks about anything important, especially during elections. No one ever asks why we have 700 military bases, in 130 foreign countries, at the expense of over \$1 trillion per year. No one ever asks why we have a monstrously complex system of income taxation, one of the most repugnant insults to liberty imaginable. No one ever asks why it is the government's business to manage energy production, why our healthcare system is so horribly deficient, why our schools are virtually third world in quality, why we have a banking system that is so fraudulent that it is arguably the biggest scam in human history, why our civil liberties have progressively disappeared over the last century, why our country is constantly going to war for the benefit of military contractors and corrupt corporations seeking to exploit other countries, why we bully other governments into corruption and indebtedness with the World Bank on pain of assassination or invasion, why nearly all Federal government spending is in violation of the 10th Amendment, and the list goes on and on.

America is but a mere shadow of

what it once was. It started as a constitutional republic, a beacon of liberty for the world. It enjoyed the greatest economic growth in the history of the world for decades, the highest savings rate ever (not a coincidence), and the greatest increase in prosperity for the little guy. It had principles of freedom and limited government enshrined in its Constitution, a true charter for the future of free people. It failed. It now has a monetary system based on debt slavery and a savings rate 20 times lower than China, its Constitution is so ignored that it is not even worth the paper it was written upon, it has a government that resembles a form of corporate fascism, it has a middle and lower class that has gotten progressively poorer in real terms for decades, and, pathetically, it still believes it is the country it once was.

So, in conclusion, the reason I'm not voting is that it won't make a damn bit of difference. Neither McCain nor Obama will make any significant change in America's policies or address any of the important fundamental problems of our country, no matter how well-intentioned they might be. From my perspective the choice between Obama and McCain is fraudulently presented as a real contrast of policies, when in actual fact both of these men are products of the system and guarantee a continuation of the general tragic trends in America. My real choice is whether or not to entertain this sickening circus of thieves, parasites and ignorance with my vote at all. If I do not, then I undercut their claim of representing the American people and join the some 70% of us who do the same. In fact, I sort of am voting, I'm voting for the illegitimacy of the US Government.



To vote, or not to vote, that is the question... how many of America's citizens simply do not care about the outcome of the elections?

AMERICA DECIDES



After almost a year and a half of campaigning, the incredible spectacle that is American democracy in action is coming to a close.

We believe that there is a case to be made for both Barack Obama and John McCain. Both men are worthy

candidates and are of unimpeachable integrity. And while most polls put Obama ahead, the gap varies from a done deal to a photo finish. In short, the election could still go either way.

We have aimed to present for you the arguments for an Obama Presidency and a McCain Presidency; as well as a round-up of the policies they are

putting forward. We have left our political baggage at the door and written for each candidate as if we were their most ardent supporters.

There are a few Imperial students who will have the opportunity to vote from abroad but the vast majority of us have no say in Tuesday's election. This does not mean that you shouldn't make

a choice: this election is as important to the rest of the world as it is to the people of America.

The decisions the next President of the United States makes domestically will have a deep and lasting impact on the rest of the world.

For that reason we included a certain amount of focus on the domestic issues

as well as the message the election's result will send out to the world.

We don't know about you, but we will be staying up late on Tuesday, waiting for America to decide.

Kadhim Shubber
Afonso Campos
Gilead Amit



Senator Barack Obama

One week away from change in America. That is the message of Senator Barack Obama's speech to the American people on October 27th in Canton, Ohio. As you are reading these words, it might be that change is days or hours away; change may even have washed over you already. We all know that America stands on a precipice, an Asian century looms large and the Capitalist, Democratic American

way is more discredited than at any other time in its history. The election of the first black President of the United States would not be evidence of voters with a racial agenda; instead it is the symbolic gesture of a country taking strides into an uncertain American century and the trumpet call of a nation ready to lead the world once again. This is the case for Barack Obama. The financial philosophy of Reagan and Thatcher has crumbled, U.S. influence is weak and Iraq and Afghanistan

continue to strain the nation's military. These are the times in which a New York Times poll showed that 89% of Americans believe the country is heading in the wrong direction. Barack Obama is the man who will take the U.S. in the right direction. His personality, his politics and his policies show that he is a man who understands the challenges American faces and who knows how to overcome them. While John McCain has behaved erratically during the ongoing economic

crisis, Barack Obama has shown the strength of his character. He is careful in speech and reasoned in thought but also steadfast and unafraid to act when necessary. At the Presidential debates it was clear that Barack Obama was in control, mentally, of the difficulties facing the nation. His competency and seriousness is a refreshing change to the cowboy President of the last 8 years and a stark contrast to the shallow, gimmick-driven McCain campaign. Obama's choice of running mate, un-

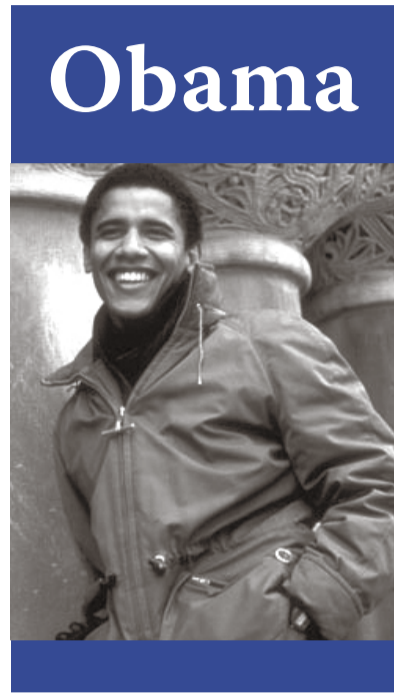
like McCain's, exemplifies his commitment to be a responsible steward of the United States. He made a decision that reflects an understanding of his own weaknesses and an unwillingness to play campaign politics with important Presidential decisions. Senator Joseph Biden is a man with impeccable foreign policy credentials, which combined with Obama's unique world view mean that an Obama-Biden victory will, contrary to Republican attacks, leave America in safe hands internationally.

That is his personality, but his politics also inspire confidence. In his frenzied scramble to make any attack stick on Obama, John McCain has finally resorted to calling him a socialist. Henrik Hertzberg of the New Yorker Magazine summed up, "Barack Obama had already been accused of betraying the troops, wanting to teach kindergartners all about sex, favoring infanticide, and being a friend of terrorists and terrorism. What was left?..." The slanders of the Republican campaign are not working: not because they are untrue, as John Kerry knows all too well, but because Obama has succeeded in presenting an effective plan of action to deal with America's problems. This is not a plan that is based in exhausted ideological politics, like John McCain's; but rather an evidence-driven, pragmatic minded and bold plan. John McCain describes himself as a maverick, but it is Barack Obama who has taken a bold policy path. He promises to destroy terrorism at its home in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan, not because he is ignorant of the costs of war but because he knows that if he doesn't, America will not be safe. He promises to direct negotiations with the nation's most reviled enemies, not because he is ignorant about the moral character of those regimes but because he knows that America can no longer protect its interests without direct diplomacy. He knows that raising taxes on the wealthiest minority of U.S. citizens will not win him votes amongst 'socialist' fearing Republicans but he also knows that the economy will not grow unless the population is given a tax-break. Obama is unafraid to risk his popularity on important issues, he

is mentally flexible and responsive to evidence based politics; unlike John McCain he has put ideology second and country first. A President's personality and politics are of the utmost importance. They let us know how they will behave in office but ultimately American voters are making their decision based on each candidate's policies on the issues facing them today. Barack Obama might have been a style candidate, a charismatic lightweight with little more to offer than a wink and a smile. However Obama's policies are proof that he is a substance politician; they are proof of his readiness to be President. The economy is the most important issue of this election and Obama is the candidate who will help American citizens through this difficult time. Barack Obama's tax plans ensure that the lower and middle class of American receive the help that they need. His tax-proposals reduce the tax-burden on 95% of American citizens at a time when Americans are having to tighten their belts. Unlike John McCain, who believes that only tax-cuts to large corporations can help the economy, Obama's tax-proposals are aimed at ordinary working Americans and small American businesses. Instead of tax-cuts for large corporations, Obama will eliminate capital gains taxes for small business and provides a 50% tax credit to help small business provide healthcare insurance for the employees. Obama is not the candidate who will raise taxes, indeed Americans earning under \$250,000 a year, the vast majority, will not see any tax increases. The U.S. healthcare system loses billions each year through inefficiency

and poor patient care. Obama's healthcare proposals will update the U.S. healthcare system, reduce costs and ensure coverage for all U.S. citizens. He will drive forward the adoption of the electronic storage of medical records, a move that could save up to \$77 billion year through increased efficiency. The strain is felt, not only on the healthcare system, but by ordinary Americans who have seen their insurance premiums rocket 87% in the last 6 years; those lucky enough to afford healthcare coverage. Rather than socializing healthcare, Obama's proposals increase competition by allowing consumers to import safe, cheaper drugs from other countries and letting Medicare negotiate directly with drug companies for cheaper drug prices. The centerpiece of his healthcare reform is ensuring universal insurance coverage in America. This will provide all Americans with affordable and easily accessible health care and ensure that regardless of wealth, no American citizen will ever again be forced to choose between bankruptcy and treatment. These are but two aspects of Obama's comprehensive vision. The election comes down to a choice; a team with a (good) plan and a team without a clue about what the next 4 years might look like. John McCain scarcely knows how many houses he owns never mind what to do to combat the economic crisis. His campaign is coming apart under the pressure of its own contradictions, shortcomings and failures. The message from John McCain is that he preside over another 4 years of directionless politics with a Vice-President who dashes the hopes of all rational-minded humans; that after George W. Bush, we

wouldn't have another utterly unequalled person in the White House. John McCain can label himself a maverick but in important areas, such as tax policy, healthcare and the economy, he remains anchored to the intellectually bankrupt politics of the Reaganist Republican Party. He has to resort to empty attacks on the character of his opponent because the right has nothing left in the tank, no new ideas. The right will ultimately blame the 'elitist media' for a supposed unflinching bias in favour of Barack Obama but in truth the 2008 election is about timing. Both John McCain and Barack Obama are public servants of the highest standard, but it is Obama who has the mental flexibility, intellectual curiosity and firm but calm leadership appropriate for these uncertain and stressful times. Both John McCain and Barack Obama have political positions that they honestly and sincerely believe in, but it is Obama who recognizes the failures of the past and realizes that a new direction is needed for America. Both John McCain and Barack Obama have policies that they believe are correct, but it is Obama who will help the American middle class and ensure America's safety on the international stage. Both John McCain and Barack Obama are ready to be President of the United States, but it is only Obama who will truly lead. The skinny kid with the funny name beats McCain on character, temperament and policy. The world is a much less stable place than at the beginning of the 21st century but we can be a little more confident about the future if on Tuesday, Senator Barack Obama is elected the 56th President of the United States.



Obama

Early life

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii August 4th, 1961. His parents were Barack Obama Snr and Ann Dunham. His father was from Kenya and worked for the government. He spent much of his life estranged from his father. Obama's mother was an anthropologist from Kansa. He spoke of his mother as "the dominant figure in my formative years". As a child he spend 4 years at school in Indonesia before returning to finish his education in America

Political Career

He was elected to the Illinois state senate in 1996 after being a community organiser in Chicago. During his time, amongst other bills, he helped increase child-care subsidies for low-income families. In 2004 he was elected Senator for Illinois, beating his opponent by over 40%. In the Senate he worked with Democrats and Republicans on a number of issues, including with John McCain on a bill that called for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

2008 Campaign

On February 10th 2007, he launched his presidential campaign. He fought a hard and long battle with Senator Hillary Clinton to eventually win the Democratic nomination. His campaign has broken fundraising records with large numbers of small internet donations. Obama chose experienced Senator Joe Biden as his running mate and benefited from the economic crisis as the candidate of the party traditionally more trusted on economic issues.

What are Obama's policies?



Education

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act of 2001 is one of the more controversial pieces of legislation of recent years. The attempt to ensure consistent levels of education across the country by extending the use of standardized tests had a mixed reception, and Obama himself has claimed that "creativity has been drained from classrooms" as a result. His support for NCLB, however, is evidenced by his plan to divert an extra \$18 billion per annum into fulfilling the act's original intentions. This much-needed boost should be able to put this policy back on track, allowing for improvements in math and science education and more intensive teacher training.

A focus he shares with his Republican rival is on increasing the choice of schools on offer. By offering universal preschool programs and the first \$4000 of college tuition entirely free, Obama hopes to make America regain its primacy on matters of education.



Economy

'Middle Class Americans Tax Relief' have been five of the most dominant words of the Obama campaign. By providing a tax cut for working families, eliminating all income taxation from seniors earning \$50,000 a year, and simplifying the taxation process, the Obama-Biden plan should be able to ensure 150 million workers get 'the tax relief they need'. On the question of fair trade, Obama's focus is currently on changing the relevant legislation, creating a framework in which American economic security can be safeguarded. Obama's comprehensive energy plan is characterized by his decision to create 5 million jobs in the domain of environmental energy - so-called 'green collar' jobs. Much has also been made of his eagerness to invest in the sciences, clean energy and new technology. His economic emphasis can be said to be on creating tax cuts and a generally favourable financial environment for lower- to middle-income workers.



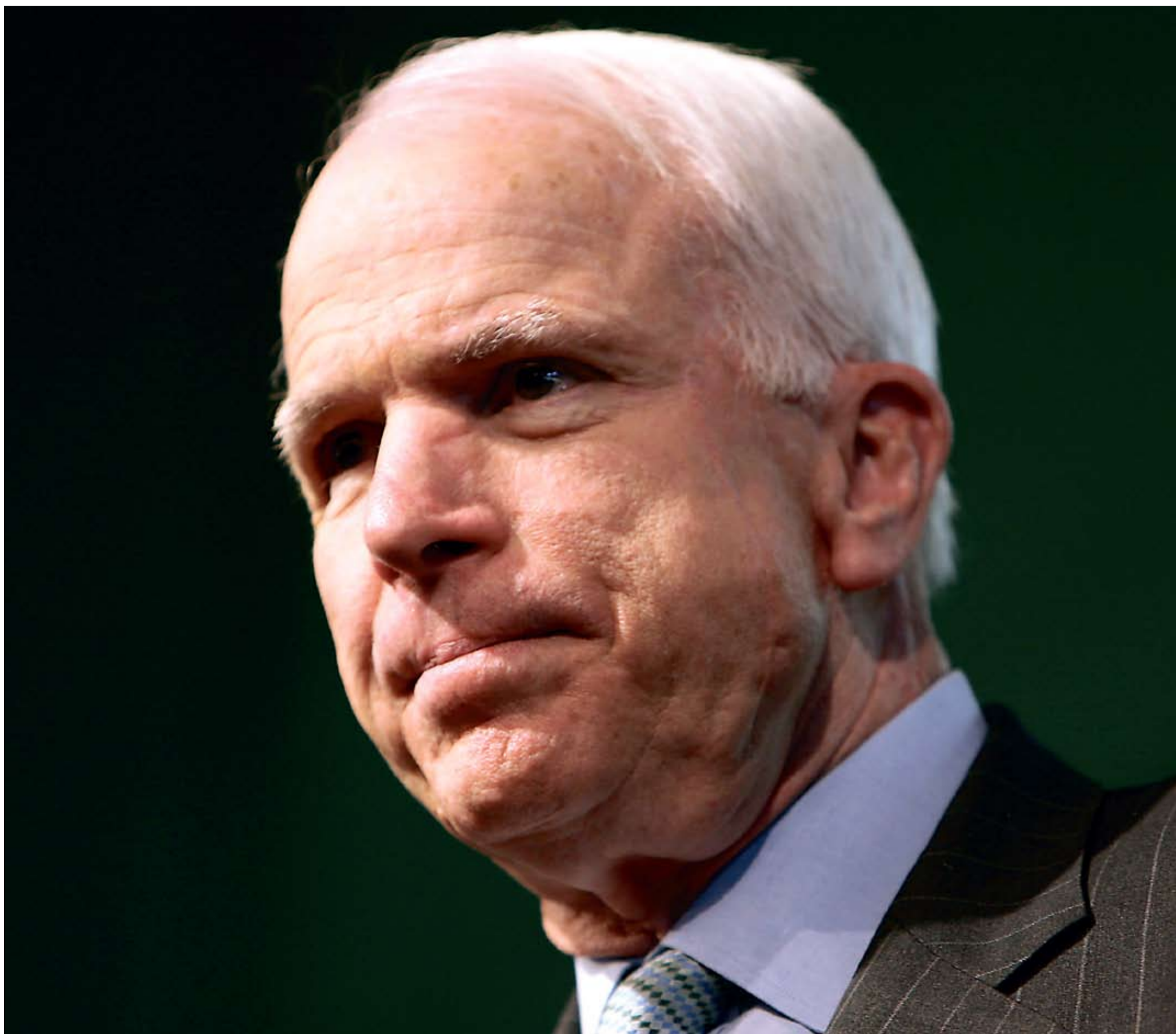
Healthcare

The fundamental problem with American healthcare policy is the number of people with too little or no insurance. By making such insurance more affordable and easier to access, the Obama-Biden plan hopes to ensure universal insurance coverage. Obama has made especially strong commitments to changing the way employees pay for their health insurance. By removing the need for workers to pay taxes on insurance paid for by employers, households should be able to save nearly \$2500 a year. Obama has also announced his intention of requiring insurance companies to provide fair, stable premiums to all clients. This, along with the Small Business Health Tax mentioned above, need substantial funding to be put into practice. To pay for them, the Obama-Biden ticket are withdrawing the tax credit offered by Bush to Americans earning more than \$250,000 a year, and keeping the estate tax at its 2009 level.



Foreign Affairs

If any issue has taken centre stage in the '08 election circus, it's the attitude of the two candidates towards foreign policy. For Obama especially, this is an area where he has been held up to recurring criticism for his lack of experience. With arguably the most qualified Senator in Congress running for VP by his side, however, those criticisms have been silenced and slowly replaced by judgments on actual policy. Obama plans to be tough on loose nuclear weapons, and to be watchful of the hands into which they fall. He is also ready to negotiate with Iran, though in a 'tough, presidential' manner. The most substantial foreign policy change is set to be precisely in the way foreign policy is conducted. After years of being ridiculed for their international attitude, 'American diplomacy' is set to be 'renewed'. Support for Israel, however, is set to be a continuing element in America's foreign policy.



Senator John McCain

A pivotal moment is before us. Amidst an ever-growing economic crisis of proportions unprecedented in the last few decades, the world turns its somewhat overly judgmental eye to what is arguably the most media-intensive American election of all time. The key word here is American. Senator McCain's campaign prioritises America; the effort to fix the country and revitalise its citizens takes precedence above all other

issues. His entire campaign is based on "country first". Country is used here as a collective noun to describe the 300 million hard working, loyal and patriot people from all walks of life who make up the United States of America. He is an earnest character that tends to avoid monumental amounts of rhetoric. He gives his political record a chance to be voiced through the mouthpiece of not only his core supporters but those countless converted Democrats and previously undecided

voters. This mouthpiece, however, is certainly not the country's media. Notably, the New York Times and the Washington Post have thrown their incredible weight behind the Illinois senator. Two of the most widely read newspapers in the country continue to conjure up pieces with an Obama bias in an attempt to disintegrate and discredit the McCain campaign. Obama propaganda has become ubiquitous and several other media sources have jumped on his bandwagon. It is an

unashamed attempt to fabricate a self-fulfilling prophecy. While polls currently show Obama ahead, the rather erratic spread is suffering a crunch at this very moment. The election is anything but lost for Senator McCain. Obama on the other hand is trying to clinch a victory by riding this platform constructed from an overreager media with a clearly liberal agenda who keep on making the crucial editorial mistake of assuming audiences are not intelligent or informed enough to make

decisions. John McCain is running a campaign that is less focused on increasing exposure in the media and more concerned with tackling the cancerous lack of confidence in the American political system. By contrast, Obama has been injecting record amounts of cash into making sure he is seen and heard whenever a television is turned on. McCain sees no need for omnipresence and the incessant flooding of airwaves to bully voters. Obama claims

to care about the American people, but by spending over \$6 million on two adverts alone, Obama is in fact doing something not dissimilar from what he has cursed investment banks for doing: leveraging monetary power for undue influence. By buying the American vote, he is in fact setting an unfortunate precedent for future elections and damaging American democracy for years to come.

Senator McCain is keenly aware that government has the power to influence change in the nation but he, unlike Obama, knows that it lacks the efficiency and proper motivation to be truly productive. The free market really has the power to create new jobs and wealth and to effect change in the way the people deserve. McCain believes in top-down economics – a system where change implemented at the peak of the pyramid will trickle down into society as a whole: and the record of American capitalism is on his side. As a result, McCain has pledged to cut taxes for large corporations, to fuel their growth again as well as deter companies from seeking complicated and expensive tax loopholes. Obama wants, in his own words, to "spread the wealth" – an idea that contradicts the American value system of individual endeavour. McCain understands that change actually comes in the form of well-thought-out fiscal policies rather than overly utopian dreams of supposed uniformity and redistributive tax ideas. His fiscal policy is unerring and poses no moral dilemma for the American people who rightly struggle with the socialism Obama is bouncing around. His concepts of redistribution are inherently un-American, against its

founding principles and have no place in the United States. Senator McCain is pledging \$5,000 to each family to help offset the costs of health care. This is the perfect way to give millions of Americans the choice of a plan that suits them, and not one generic one the government unscientifically deems suitable for an entire population. This monetary incentive also helps to reduce the acknowledged and disturbing disparity between those who are wealthy enough to purchase health insurance policies and those who unfortunately do without. Obama wants to nationalise this service, unwilling to admit that the humongous bureaucratic task that it entails will doom his efforts to failure. It has been proven in countries with centralised health services that seemingly simple tasks like replacing computer systems can take upwards of five years. McCain's health care reform is pragmatic and clever and does not endanger Americans should a misguided attempt at centralisation fail. He is living up to everything that America should be and has always tried to be: free and efficient. More importantly, while Obama is squeezing a nation by offering no choice, McCain is giving citizens the freedom to choose and is enforcing the country's democratic values.

Following the Democratic National Convention this September it is absolutely clear that Mr Obama has created and is leading a movement that seems more concerned with conforming to what can almost be described as a 'religion of Obama'. This is evidenced not only by the sheer number of gatherers at the stadium, but its conversion by

the campaign into a temple, complete with erected temple-like columns right in the centre. It shows an egotistic and arrogant candidate who clearly believes his own media hype. Senator McCain is deeply engaged with his supporters because they listen to him, unlike Obama's who blindly follow 'The One'. They question his ideas and a symbiotic relationship between him and America was formed and it prevails today. There is no sense of superiority on either part. Rather, he empathises with the American people and there is a sense of connection to them and their troubles. It is grounded in reality rather than the perceived and artificial needs of the country. With Senator McCain, voters can be sure they are attached to a person and not a machine manufacturing verbose statements with little content.

Apart from being more politically stable and better equipped to implement change, John McCain is quite clearly the more experienced candidate for the post of Commander-in-Chief of the United States. Barack Obama is still too green and inexperienced for the top job, having spent his entire time in elected office voting 'Present'. McCain's experience is absolutely unparalleled and his commitment unquestionable as he has been serving the country for almost 43 years, 5 and half of those as a prisoner of war. The slogan 'Country first' predates his campaign, he has time and time again put his own reputation and safety second, for his country; his service in Vietnam is ample proof of this. After his plane was shot down and he was captured and tortured, he stayed true to his values and loyal to his country.

This is who John McCain is: an incredibly driven hero who understands the importance of staying true to himself, nobody could doubt his resilience as an American commander. What Senator Obama fails to realise is that McCain did not vote for the war in Iraq lightly or merely to tick a box for party approval. That idea, shared by a large majority of Democrats, makes an absolute mockery of the Senator and anyone who has bravely given their life in the fight to keep America and Americans free and safe from external abuse. Anyone who has experienced the true horrors of war and seen the ghastly sights that McCain has would not dare suggest that war is the best solution to a problem unless there was a real need for it. His foreign policy credentials stack up and he needs not rely on his running mate, unlike Barack Obama, for what really should be the Head of State's eminent attribute.

America is on the cusp of a metaphorical nervous breakdown. Atop this highly unstable foundation, McCain has the inherent moral authority to be bold. His aim is not, like Obama, to be a crowd pleaser and embrace the policies of failure. The Senator from Arizona is unafraid to take views that could actually benefit America but members of his party may find 'un-Republican'. He has what Andy Card has called the very noble "courage to be lonely". Like the Founding Father George Washington, he is a visionary and a defender of Democracy. Above everything, he is not scared of sacrificing himself as he has done many times in the past, to ensure the continuity of the United States as the world's super power in a prosperous and peaceful fashion.

McCain



Early Life

John McCain was born August 29th, 1936 in the Coco Solo Naval Air Station in Panama to Roberta Wright McCain and John S. McCain Jr, a four star admiral in the United States Navy who served his country for three decades.

During childhood his nicknames included 'Jonny', 'Punk' and 'McNasty'. He then ventured to Annapolis to begin his higher education studies at the United States Naval Academy, proudly graduating in 1958.

Political Career

McCain began his fully-fledged career in politics in 1987 becoming the Senator for the state of Arizona where he gained a reputation for distancing himself from the party when he felt necessary.

In 1999 the Senator announced he was running for President in the 2000 election but ended up losing the nomination to George W. Bush mostly because of his inability to mobilise Evangelical voters. McCain returned to the Senate in 2001.

2008 Campaign

In April 2007, McCain officially announced he was running for the Presidency in Portsmouth, New Hampshire where he famously stated he was not running "to be somebody, but to do something".

While he initially trailed former NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani, he eventually won the nomination.

McCain surprised the nation when in late August he announced Sarah Palin, the governor of the state of Alaska, as his running mate: a decision that aroused controversy.

What are McCain's policies?



Education

In the words of the senior senator from Arizona, 'education is the civil rights issue of the 21st Century'. While the candidates' education policies tend to be almost completely ignored by those of us outside the United States, the education issue is a crucially important one for Americans.

McCain's emphasis in his campaign has always been on widening the choice of schools on offer, allowing students and parents to choose schools that offer the best experience for children.

On the controversial issue of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act, McCain has advocated improvement of the way the act is implemented rather than outright discarding of it.

McCain shares his rival's views on universal preschool and on offering higher wages to teachers, but offers a range of unique proposals of his own. The most striking of these is an emphasis on 'virtual classrooms', a plan whereby some \$500 million is invested in virtual teaching programmes.



Economy

McCain's grasp of the economy has undoubtedly been the chink in his armour this time around. Ill-advised informal comments about his own difficulties with economic complexities, combined with the intricate footwork necessary to explain the recent credit crunch, have to some extent reduced public confidence.

His plans, however, have the support of a wide range of economists. Among his key promises is to have the budget balanced by the end of his first year in office, lower the corporate tax rate by 10% and eliminate tax loopholes costing the taxpayer \$45 billion a year.

McCain has also committed himself to improving America's foreign trade agreements. By lowering barriers to trade and improving the North American Free Trade Agreement, the American economy should be on an equal footing internationally.

The tax credits McCain is proposing are mainly dedicated to making healthcare and education more affordable.



Healthcare

Senators McCain and Obama have both invested a great deal of time and effort in their plans for a major reform of the American healthcare system.

Whereas his Democratic rival is pushing for a single health insurance provider run and controlled by the government, McCain believes in being able to make a free choice between a competing set of alternatives.

The crux of his proposed reform is offering each individual a \$2,500 tax credit which can be spent on health insurance in whichever way they choose.

All of McCain's policies on the issue of healthcare revolve around the four basic pillars of his campaign: 'affordability, access and choice, portability and security, and quality'. By maintaining competitive pricing on insurance offers, making it easier for families to obtain an insurance policy and emphasising the role individual states play in providing healthcare, McCain hopes to achieve these most fundamental of his goals.



Foreign Affairs

What started off as McCain's strongest suit has been slowly slipping away from him as Obama and Biden have managed to put together a coherent foreign policy of their own.

The issue that matters most to non-Americans is how American diplomacy is handled – and in the experienced statesman that is John McCain there is less cause to worry.

While McCain's seeming militarism has provided some with cause to worry, his record suggests a rational, peaceable outlook deeply rooted in pragmatism. The difference between Obama and McCain that has received most airtime abroad is that between their positions on Iraq. While Obama is keen to have strict deadlines for troop pullout, McCain eschews timeplans, believing that the soldiers should leave when the job has been done.

When it comes to opposing Russia's recent actions, supporting Israel and working to improve relations abroad, both candidates have similar policies.



Graduate jobs glut

Credit Crisis isn't just going to affect this years graduates.

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

I was talking to a fresher the other day (as you do) when the young whelp went and said something very silly (as they do) and it made me so angry I nearly banned him from my club because he's a thickie and liable to hurt himself. I was just about to put the truth down on the scrapling when other freshers came up and agreed with him, which threw me off guard because I thought that Imperial had entry standards. Oh well. Essentially their argument went like this:

"Your year [final year] is screwed by this economic crisis because there are no jobs. But by the time my year graduates, things will be fine and I'll get a job without any problems."

Some of you (especially freshers) might read this and wonder what's wrong with the statement. If that's the case, let's do some freakonomics you and I.

First of all you're going to need to understand what a "glut" is. A glut is when there is too much of a product for sale in a market, leaving extra product left over after the buyers have had their fill. In this case the product is graduates and the buyers are the financial institutions. Because the bankers are taking fewer graduates, there are going to be banker wannabes drifting around the jobs market, like floating turds waiting to be flushed.

Economists amongst you will point out that a glut is solved by price cuts. You'll point out that the product will become cheaper and eventually the market will correct itself. You are wrong. Salary plays a minor role in the cost of turning a graduate man-cub into a real fully fledged people-thing, there's the training, the recruitment, finding busy work for them, mentoring them, feeding them, clothing them, tucking them in at night. Cutting the salary wont compensate for those other costs. Graduates are hard, expensive work, and right now the banks have other things to do. Plus, if the investment houses drop their salary offers, prime graduates will just look elsewhere for employment.

At this point, the fresher will say: "Exactly! Surely the banker wannabes will just go work some at some other place?" and in a way, he's right. Thousands of potential city folk will end up working in jobs completely different

from banking; instead of becoming traders they will go work as civil servants, buyers, upstream controllers, retailers or something.

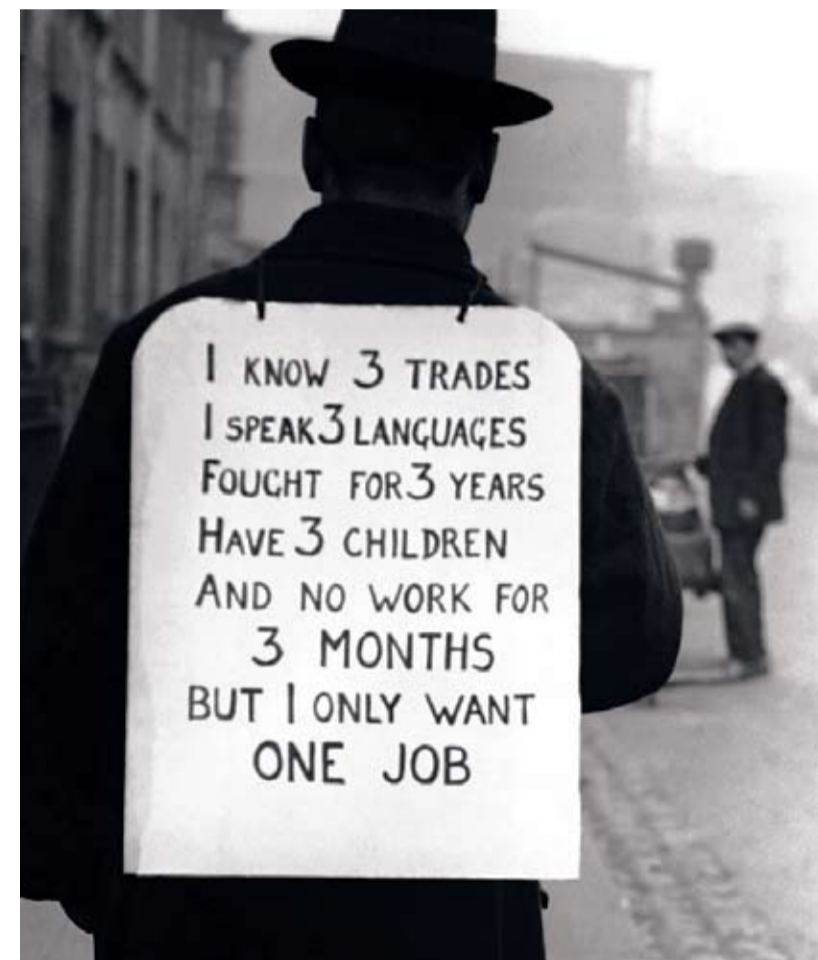
"Ha" says the fresher "See, I'm right. All this years leavers will end up doing something else, and when I graduate all those juicy banking jobs will be mine."

Wrong.
A university graduate can apply for a

sults. For the employer that means no risk and no waiting.

Experience. My year group will have been working, paying taxes, sucking up to bosses and generally growing more mature in the gap between recruitment cycles. This makes them much more attractive to the banks than fresh faced grads.

The hunger. The wannabe bankers



We're gonna get to know how that feels.

graduate job so long as they have three or fewer years of work experience. That means all the graduates from my year will go out and get whatever they can find for now, then reapply for the milk round (the annual graduate recruitment jamboree) next year. When they reapply, they'll have three major advantages over next years graduates

A degree in hand. None of this conditional offer rubbish, my year will apply for jobs next year with definite re-

will spend a year working some crappy temporary job, yearning day in, day out for the sweet, sweet financial fiscal. When they get another chance, they're going to fight harder for those jobs than next years grads will believe.

"So what?" says the fresher "that's a problem for next years graduates. By the time I get out of uni everything will be back to normal"

Wrong again.
This effect is going to snowball. The surplus from my year will hang around for three years before they stop applying to prime graduate jobs. The surplus from next years graduates will still be applying for those spots in four years time and so on. There is a very finite number of decent graduate jobs out there and for the next half a decade there are going to be a hell of a lot of overqualified graduates. Considering that this recession will last another 18 months or so, by the time the freshers graduate things are going to be stupidly tough.

If you look up the last major recession (the 80's) you'll find a joke about graduate employment:

Q. What do you say to a graduate with a job?

A. Big Mac and fries please.

Get used to hearing it, it's going to make a comeback.

Why a free market society will never work.

And neither will a communist one.

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

How many people do you know? And I'm not talking about the number of friends on facebook, how many people do you *know*? How many people do you care about? How many people could ask you for a favour? How many people could you just stop and chat with? How many peoples wellbeing are you concerned about? Think about it for a moment. Got a number? Good. Write it down.

Now for a tangent:

Monkeys and apes live in social groups (for the most part), and different species have differently sized communities. Monkeys and apes also have neocortexes and if you chop up enough monkey brains and look at enough monkeys in the wild, you find that the size of the social group is a direct function of neocortex size. A Liverpudlian called Robin Ian MacDonald Dunbar came to realise all this and being then decided to take a look at the human neocortex. He then worked out that the average "number of individuals with whom a stable inter-personal relationship can be maintained" is about 150. This is Dunbar's number.

Now look at your number. How close were you? Does the whole thing make sense? If not, think about how many people are on your course. Now think about how cohesive it is. Still not convinced? Try and think of a group of more than 150 people and think about how well it stays together. When Dunbar looked at 21 hunter gather villages he found that the average population size was 148.4. When psychologist Dennis Fox studied the tragedy of the commons he concluded that "the up-

of much larger than 150 and the only way that we can do that is by creating rules and laws. 150 people can live in harmonious, libertarian or socialist, anarchy, any more than that and you need structure.

The society we live in is a patchwork quilt of interconnected groups of 150. To make the whole shebang work we need governance, and rights and the like keeping a sense of uniformity, to make sure we treat others like we want to be treated. So we set up laws and rules as if we all lived in a Dunbar Group (150 people) and then apply them to everyone, so that we act to strangers as if they're people we empathise with.

The problem is, it doesn't work. Dunbar's number is why we don't feel bad stealing from corporations but why we don't steal from our friends. It's why people spend more on pets than charities. It's why we find it hard to worry about "the planet" or "the rainforest" in the same way we worry about our parents. Simply pretending that people can act towards strangers in the same way that they act towards their Dunbar Group is crazy.

When we construct an economic system, it doesn't make biological sense. Humans aren't naturally communist or capitalist; we're all anarchists at heart. If you take a group of 150 people and let them form their own nation, it looks nothing like the sort of world we live in. There aren't any formal titles. Property balances neatly with sharing. Hierarchies form based on personality and competence. Crime is dealt with by the people. Money usually becomes totally irrelevant. When humans exist in a natural state, life is much simpler.

Every economic principle is manu-



Living free, smiling wide.

per limit for a simple, self-contained, sustaining, well-functioning commons may be as low as 150 people". The Roman army considered 150 to be the maximum size of a fighting unit. Wilbert Gore, (inventor of Gore-Tex) adamantly stated that a company plant should never have more than 150 people working there because "We found again and again that things get clumsy at a hundred and fifty".

150 is the magic number.

"But" you interject, "what the hell does any of this matter?" It matters because we live in and function in groups

factured. None are "right" – they're just tools to try and make our "super-societies" more like the mini ones we're supposed to live in. The free market world cannot exist. Communist states don't work. What we always end up using is some kind of mixture of ideals. The combination of free markets and government control is the only way to simulate the social groups that we used to live in, and so it will thrive. We need to balance freedom and order.

So the next time someone tries to sell you some economic ideology, take it with a cup of salt.

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Yeah you wish!



$$-\frac{1}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\psi = E\psi$$

Dramatic increase in ecological crisis

“More fundamental than the credit crunch”

Felix Whitton
Science Correspondent

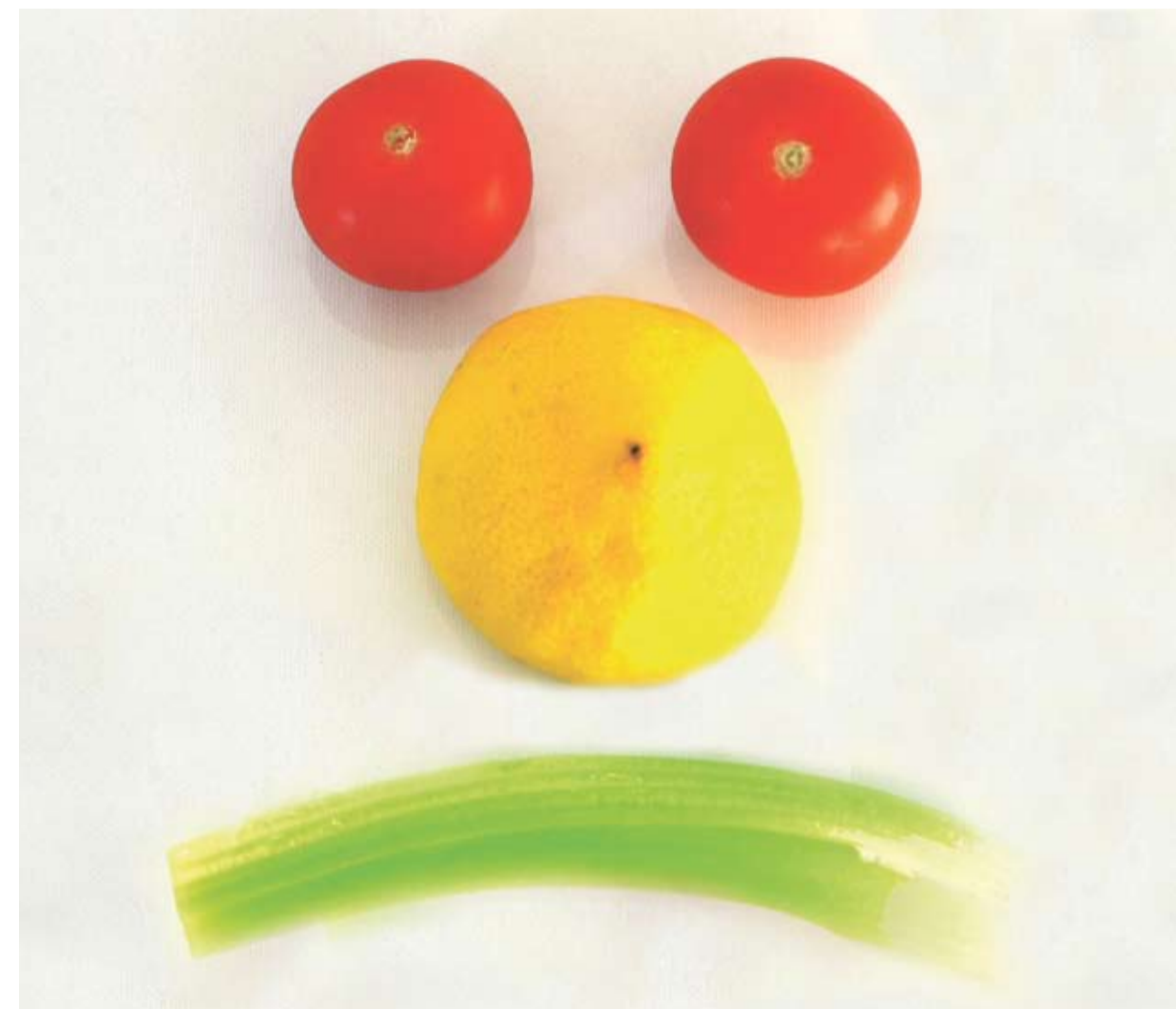
A new report published yesterday shows the dramatic scale of the current ecological crisis. The Living Planet Report, published jointly by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), and Global Footprint Network (GFN), highlights the global shift towards unsustainable usage of the planet's resources.

According to the report, which looks at global ecological 'footprints' – the amount of land used for providing resources and storing waste – as well as biodiversity loss and environmental damage, three quarters of the world's population is now living beyond its ecological means, in countries that consume faster than resources can be renewed.

The worst offenders are the US and China, with a combined global footprint of 42%. The countries with the smallest footprints, such as Malawi and Afghanistan, use as little as 0.5 hectares per person, revealing a stark dichotomy between the west, including heavily industrialised nations such as China and UAE, and the developing world.

The UK was 15th on the list, with an average footprint of 5.3 hectares per person, more than double the 'permitted' land area of 2.1 hectares. The UK government yesterday announced its support for a new 'carbon audit' initiative, which allows businesses and the public sector to assess the carbon emissions of their goods and services. Recent research by the Carbon Trust found that just 1% of companies know their own carbon footprint.

The Living Planet Report says that we are over-using the planet's resources by 30%. According to James Leape, director-general of WWF International, if the current trend continues unchecked then by the mid-2030s "we would need...two planets to maintain such a lifestyle." He called it "a more fundamental crisis" than the credit crunch. This estimate, the Report says,



Felix's version of the green credit crunch

is conservative, as it doesn't account for the possibility of 'feedback loops' such as runaway climate change, predicted in many models.

The Report comes in the wake of several other reports highlighting, variously, the biodiversity and economic losses of the crisis.

This month's IUCN Red List of Threatened Species revealed almost one in four mammals to be at risk of extinction, while an EU-commissioned report – The Economics of

Ecosystems and Biodiversity (Teeb) – compared the money lost during the present banking crisis to the value of deforestation. They found that annually the loss of the world's rainforests costs \$2-5 trillion (7% of global GDP) while the estimated market losses so far during the credit crunch amount to \$2.8 trillion.

Teeb, due to be completed in 2010, is similar in scope to the Stern review into the economics of climate change, which did much to thrust that issue

into the public sphere. Although there are concerns about the ethics of 'economising' conservation, many believe that highlighting the 'intrinsic' value of biodiversity has so far failed, and there is a need to approach environmental problems from a different angle.

Also in the Report was the Living Planet Index, authored by ZSL, which assesses the 'health' of global biodiversity. It found an average decline since 1970 of nearly 30% in populations of 1,686 vertebrate species, with the most serious impacts felt in the Tropics where population losses were more than 50%. This is mostly due to deforestation and changing land use, while marine populations were impacted more by over-fishing and pollution.

To remedy the crisis, WWF has proposed so-called 'sustainability wedges'. These involve breaking down the contributing factors and tackling them separately with tailored solutions. The main forks of the wedge solution are reducing consumption (by travelling less or using sex education to lower population growth) and making production sustainable (by switching to renewable energy sources and using new technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS)).

The Report ends on an optimistic note – 'The good news is ... it is not too late to prevent an irreversible ecological recession setting in' – but this is tempered with the reality of individual will versus political action. Chief Eme-ka Anyaoku, the WWF's international president, said: 'Where is the collective action, the bold leadership, and the vision required to conserve the biodiversity of the planet? ... I see very little of such passion.'

Podview

Bad Science



Talking of moron-baiting... readers of Ben Goldacre's Bad Science column in the Guardian will already be familiar with his style: sometimes cajoling, sometimes scathing, always fervently on the side of reason over quackery when it comes to science.

This two-parter on the placebo effect, first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 in August, is now available as a podcast and is well worth a listen. Dr Ben explores the different arguments on both sides with a more balanced approach than one would expect from reading his polemical essays. Subjects as diverse as Native American shamans, the 'role of theatre' in medicine, and the use of sugar pills to cure depression are covered, with plenty of interviews to flesh out the substance. An interesting and thought-provoking podcast which rarely strays into moral judgement but simply allows the listener come to his or her own conclusions.

www.badsience.net

Slacker



Promising intro music (samples and whatnot) but unfortunately Slacker justifies its name by appearing to be broadcast from someone's basement. I hear giggles. It's all very childish. The guys (as they inevitably are) begin with a short discussion on McCain's haranguing of Obama for wanting to build a planetarium in Chicago. 'Interesting', I think. Then someone says "nuculus". Shurely shome mistake? Ah no, they changed the spelling for Dubya – apparently easier than teaching him the correct way. "Interesting thing about planetaria", someone else says. Uh-huh. Not after 45 bleeding minutes it isn't. The new planetarium in San Francisco is "awesome". More giggles. Someone lights up a doobie. Dude, where's my podcast?

<http://www.slackerastronomy.org/wordpress/>

Terra:

Malice in Wonderland



Not a podcast as such, but a bizarre short film by Ed Wat-

kins based on Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass and Matt Ridley's 'Red Queen' analogy for host-parasite evolutionary arms races ("forever running to stay in the same place"). This managed to be both uninformative and badly written – I almost choked when I heard 'fiction' and 'piston' rhymed – but at least there was some pretty animation to look at.

<http://lifeonterra.com>

Felix Whitton

Meet Sir Peter Knight, FRS

felix Science Editor, Daniel Burrows, interviews the new Senior Principal of Imperial



Professor Sir Peter Knight, of quantum optics fame, crashed my computer just trying to load a list of publications. Among his many roles, he has served as the Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, President of the Optical Society of America, Chair of the Science Board of the Science and Technology Facilities Council and Editor of the Journal of Modern Optics for 19 years.

In the last 30 years at Imperial, Sir Peter has helped establish the UK as a world leader in quantum optics and played a major part in Imperial's rise on the world stage. In the coming years he will continue to shape Imperial in a new role of Senior Principal.

The following are edited extracts from a lengthy interview.

Sir Peter, congratulations on your new Senior Principal role. Do you have any particular aims for this role?

One of the things I look at is how do you encourage multidisciplinary work to flourish, while still protecting departments. Imperial College has a fantastic reputation for doing fundamental science but also then applying it to different disciplines. The other part of my job will be on our research strategy. What should Imperial focus on and how can we do it well? The college strategic research committee will be a focal point to build a consensus about our research priorities.

From your position on the Science and Technology Facilities Council and in the current economic climate, how do you see science funding changing in the near term?

During any economic downturn, investing in the future through training and education is a very sensible thing to do, in order to bounce out of the recession equipped for the next period of growth. In reality there will likely be a retrenchment of everything that is less immediate for politicians in terms of

voter concern. They have to protect the health service and the schools, so what will actually suffer are the things they think they can put off and that includes both the science base and the innovation base, although recent signs are that Government recognizes the need for investment in science and engineering to position ourselves well in coming out of the recession.

Over the last decade we have seen the doubling in the science budget and incidentally being a department head or faculty principal during that time has actually been quite straightforward. The next five years might be quite difficult and the next department head is going to have to be pretty inventive.

Incidentally we do have a buffer in our order book, Natural Sciences has about 90% of next year's order book secured in terms of grants and 75% the year after. It's great to have this buffer, but I think we need to be agile in securing the future: I think we have a great vision and much to offer the world!

Do you think scientists are unrealistic about hopes for funding?

We have a whole raft of post docs and students who have only known good times. The geriatrics in the department like me can remember what happened at the end of the 1970s in the university sector and that was not a pleasant experience. You could only make telephone calls in the afternoon, as it was cheaper, and you could not photocopy. It was absurd.

Could higher tuition fees fill the potential funding gap?

When you are coming into what looks like a fairly painful recession, it may not be very sensible to charge parents more. Only consider that avenue if you have done a very careful analysis about the added value of a degree and whether parents think this is a good idea in terms of investment. I suspect parents are also seriously retrenching over the coming year or too. So student fee hikes could be a bad idea even though we do get a lot from them. In the longer term, Alumni are a very

serious prospect for university funding. If we retain our proper links with former students and we tell them what we are doing, there is every prospect they will want to support us.

What is your response to the 70% rise in international students in the last five years? Is that a trend that you think will continue?

I don't think it will continue much more than it has done. If you look at the proportion of home students to international students at Imperial College, we have the highest percentage in the country. It demonstrates we are truly a world class institution, and clearly a very attractive place to study. We will always want the best students from around the world irrespective of origin, but on the other hand, I think people would want to come for an education that is Imperial, that is British and so on. Therefore I cannot see the percentages increasing dramatically more than currently.

From a scientific point of view, McCain or Obama?

Although Obama has been quite elusive about his policies, he seems to believe in evidence based science and policies and I feel quite comfortable with that. I am not overly comfortable with the McCain and Palin approach which is clearly more faith driven and less driven by science. I struggle with McCain's use of language such as foetal farming. This is emotive and incorrect language, and these issues would be better dealt with calmly and rationally.

Imagine you had just completed an Imperial College science degree and you were deciding on a PhD thesis now, what areas would you consider?

That is a great question. I have enormously enjoyed being part of the revolution in quantum optics and informatics. If I were starting now, the part I am really fascinated with is the interaction between the Physicist and the Biologist looking at not just structural biology,

using imaging and diffraction and so on, but dynamical information. So if I was starting over again and I had a bit more experimental ability than I really do have, I would go in that direction. It has an enormous number of fundamental and unanswered questions.

In your view how has Imperial changed, since you were recruited by Geoff New in 1979?

I have seen a purely science and engineering campus in South Kensington and Silwood, turn into largest built estate of any university in the UK, with half a million square meters. While it is not all plate glass, it certainly looks a great deal better than it did in the late 80s. People have also become much more ambitious about what they want to accomplish at Imperial College. There is a feeling of confidence that Imperial can tackle the toughest challenges facing mankind, from climate change, to medical research, to playing a leading role at CERN.

Despite all your travels and extensive US collaborations, you have stayed at Imperial for 30 years have you ever been tempted to move?

Well I think I got lost in the splendours and comfort of the Huxley building "laughs".

I stayed at Imperial because here I could build a research activity in an emerging area. We did good work, and people recognised our work was good, so the group expanded, allowing me to work with people with tremendous insights and enthusiasm. The students at Imperial College made it a joy. One of my first students is now a FRS, so I am feeling really ancient.

I feel Imperial college has a degree of buzz and focus not found elsewhere. This is not just on the fundamental science, but also having done the science, ensuring it makes a difference.

As Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, you were instrumental in founding the Grantham Institute for Climate Change. How

do you see the centre developing in the years to come and who will drive the progress?

Climate change is a part of the Grantham Institution remit, but we will also look at the wider issues of mitigation technology, renewable energy resources, the effects on bio-diversity of climate change and the effects on health.

We are very lucky to have Sir Brian Hoskins as our scientific director. Brian is one of the most distinguished meteorologists and climate change scientists in the world. The other major driver will be Dr Simon Buckle. In Simon, we have somebody who had worked with the Bank of England on financial modelling and risk and the Foreign Office on global challenges. He was awarded a CMG for his work as deputy ambassador in Kabul, so I thought he should not have too many problems with the academic staff at Imperial. It should be dead easy compared with Kabul. <laughs>

When charismatic presenters such as Jeremy Clarkson first deny climate change, then belittle its consequences what can scientists do?

What scientists must do is have the accessible evidence at their fingertips, which says this is what we can see in terms of carbon dioxide's contributions to temperatures and the likely consequences. An important part is a frank assessment of errors and uncertainties, which is one of the many strengths of the IPCC.

We are here in the famous Lecture Theatre 1 in Blackett. Where you have lectured many times, will we ever see you again in the lecture hall?

I really miss teaching, and what I have done in the past, is finagle myself in to give guest lectures. So I drop heavy hints that I would not mind giving a guest lecture, so I am sure you will see me again.

Peter, thank you for your time.

Blending an iPhone - ouch

The latest in Daniel's series of unmissable science videos - send your suggestions to science.felix@imperial.ac.uk



<http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=qg1ckCkm8YI>

IMAGINE THIS , a double page spread on hot new musical IMAGINE THIS

The *felix* Arts pages managed to bag not only a snoop at a rehearsal of new musical Imagine This, but also an interview with producer Beth Trachtenberg. Our resident musical fanatic Lucy Harrold reports back

The unexpected artists of the Warsaw Ghetto

Imagine This is set in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Second World War, a period of turmoil and terror for Jewish communities under Nazi-occupation. Its characters are some of those caught up in Hitler's plot to kill all Jews, trying to carry on with normal life. We are introduced to the Warshowskys, a family running a company of actors in the ghetto, putting on a production of Masada whilst facing imminent deportation. But how close is the story of Imagine This to the real experiences of those in the Warsaw Ghetto? Could culture survive in such a harrowing location?

Work on ghettoising Warsaw began in October 1940 with 113,000 Poles being removed. The ghetto was closed off to the rest of the city on November 16th, 1940 with 440,000 Jews crammed into less than three square miles of city, enclosed by a wall of brick and barbed wire protected by armed guards. Inside the ghetto the remnants of a city remained with its occupants trying to maintain normality as much as possible - adults still went to work, children went to school and cafes were still open (if you've seen The Pianist, you'll remember the main character Wladyslaw Szpilman works as a pianist in an upper-class restaurant). As the war went on and more Jews from all over Poland were transported to the Ghetto, conditions became much worse. Disease and famine became rife. Jews were limited to just 253 calories a day. The Nazis also started instigating random killings. Despite this, the occupants tried to deal with the situation as best they could, opening soup kitchens, a school system and even a symphony orchestra!

In 1942, the ghetto began to empty with the mass deportation of its residents to extermination camps such as Treblinka. In an effort to save themselves, the residents started to fight back during what is now known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. During the early part of 1943, Jews started to refuse to be moved, leading to the final battle on Passover of 1943. The resistance ended on April 23rd with demolition of the Great Synagogue marking the removal of the ghetto on May 16th 1943.

So what about culture within the ghetto? Well, it did exist thanks to the "Yiddishe Kultur Organizatsye". The ghetto contained Jews from all walks of life, including some famous Jewish actors such as Zigmunt Turkow, who appeared in films like "The Vow" and "Jolly Paupers" before the war and his wife, Diana Blumenfeld (both survived the war). The journal of Emanuel Ringelblum, another occupant of the ghetto, confirms that Diana Blumenfeld performed in a play he saw on 11 December 1940. As previously mentioned, there was also an eighty-member symphony orchestra conducted by Simon Pullman that ran for two years before the entire company was sent to Treblinka in August 1942. Among other cultural highlights was the childrens' choir who sang to raise money for their orphanages and schools and various amateur comedy nights.

A sneaky look at what the show has to offer

I must admit I got a bit overexcited when I was invited to watch a rehearsal of a new musical; it's a bit like musical theatre geek heaven. Even before I got to the auditorium, I found myself crammed in a lift with two of the actors from the show (exciting!) and we got talking. It turns out that Sévan Stephan studied Maths at Imperial in the nineties - see scientists, you too, can become a West End performer!

As I settled down in my centre stall seat (that's the great thing about rehearsals, you can sit wherever you want), I was taken aback by the set. Eugene Lee really has pulled out all the stops. The setting is an old factory that has been ripped apart by the Nazis so all the glass is broken and the bricks are covered in dirt. This created a feeling of unease, as if the Nazis could burst in at any time, especially with so many exits, entrances and stairs dotted around in hidden areas. The set extends across the entire front of the theatre, creating an intimate yet all-encompassing feel. Even the orchestra are concealed by this vast expanse. The costumes, despite not all being finished, had a sense of faded glory about them - brightly coloured rags tainted with dirt or rips. Although they didn't quite seem to fit with the set, the costumes still worked on a storytelling level.

The cast was working on the song "Masada", part of the company's play. From what I was told, "Masada" is an ancient story of Jewish persecution by the Romans and their fight back and so, is echoing the situation the characters find themselves in. This number takes full advantage of a bridging walkway about 6 feet above the stage with the "Jews" above and the "Romans" below. It also takes advantage of the built-in revolve, that the New London theatre has had since Cats had its colossal 21 year run, with some nifty choreography involving dying Romans. One exciting aspect of being in the tech rehearsal was how aspects of the show were rapidly being altered around me. The director was playing around with different positions and poses whilst the choreographer tweaked specific movements. The choreography looked complex enough to keep my attention without removing too much of the focus from the main characters singing above. When the company started to sing, I was taken away. The melody was rich, with Peter Polycarpou's booming cries of "Masada" supported by a very 'Les Mis-like' chorus backing, and the harmonies were breathtaking. For some reason, when I hear a good harmony I can't stop smiling. Well, I didn't stop beaming throughout the song.



"This is my pointing-into-the-distance-at-nothing pose," "Lovely dear."

The entire setup of the song created an atmosphere of both tension and optimism, which I hope can be carried on throughout the rest of the play. From the songs I have heard at the tech rehearsal and on the website, the music sounds flowing and lyrical, and works with the themes of the play. The principals seem to really fit their roles and sang very well, despite this being a rehearsal to get the lights and the set right, rather than the notes. In their downtime, the cast appear to get on really well, which I think will be effective in creating realistic relationships between the characters in the show.

After doing a bit of digging around for reviews of the Theatre Royal Plymouth tryout, I really hope that the book of the musical has improved. Some have said that this will be the element of the show that will let it down, - the Plymouth book was reported to be clichéd and corny - but this was not obvious in the part of the show that I saw, so let's hope there has been a serious rewrite.

Imagine This opens on 19 November so go forth, reader, and book your tickets!

Producer Beth Trachtenberg talks to *felix*

I don't know what I was expecting when I was given the opportunity to interview Beth, one of the producers of Imagine This. I was told she was a smoker and a "real character" so I expected a big ballsy woman with booming voice and attitude to match. Instead, I was greeted by a very nice and friendly American who is on first-name terms with all, and generally seemed happy to be here. We settled down in the stalls of the New London, surrounded by an ensuing technical rehearsal to discuss Imagine This, her experiences producing it and the general London theatre scene...

As we entered the auditorium I was struck by the vast and intricate set. How did you come to this design?

We originally planned for a proscenium arch theatre, so we had to change to this altogether different layout (the New London stage stretches all the way across the front of the theatre), but we have found it now works in our favour. There are lots of hidden spaces, doors and staircases making it very atmospheric and intimate. Our designer, Eugene Lee (designer for shows like Wicked and the original Sweeney Todd) was chosen before we knew the restrictions, but he really has a great sense of the space.

Tell me about the play, itself and the misconceptions surrounding it

Imagine This is not the Holocaust musical as many have perceived. Although it is set in the Warsaw Ghetto, it is more about the play being put on by the actors in the Ghetto and how history can repeat itself. It is about human beings that could be your neighbours, your friends or your family. By an evil fate, they have found themselves in these circumstances but continue to live their lives and never lose sight of the future and hope. These people are role models; they have the strength and belief in the future to fall in love in the Warsaw Ghetto

The show examines how people faced with extraordinary choices make themselves heroes, it echoes the situations in Darfur, Somalia and anywhere people are hated for no reason.

What is the role of art and culture in the show?

The wonder of the story is that the Ghetto was the last bastion of Yiddish culture and culture is what keeps us human.

This is your first musical, so why now and why this show?

I've always loved musical theatre but never had ambitions to produce it - my background is in film and television. A producer friend recommended the CD three years ago and, not wanting to be rude, I just shoved it on whilst in the car. I didn't want to leave the car! The songs were emotion-provoking and the lyrics intelligent enough to treat the listener with respect. I was taken by Glenn Berenbeim's perception of the similarities between the Nazi persecution of the Jews and their persecution in Masada (the play being put on by the

company); he recognised the overarching themes.

What differences did you find between film production and musical production?

In both forms of producing, you are working with creative talent but the financial side structure differs. In film and television, it is easy to go to agencies or companies for money and get it, whereas in an artform that tends to fail, like musical theatre, it is harder. However, we have an amazing investor group from all different walks of life who have invested because they have fallen in love with the show.

Why do you believe in this show so much?

Imagine This has a lot to say and teach us but it is still entertainment, entertainment that will inspire its audience. The score is lush, flowing, lyrical and difficult to forget - the musical will live on even after you leave the theatre. I'll never forget seeing those classic shows like Les Miserable and My Fair Lady. I want Imagine This to be one of those shows.

Imagine This started as a workshop and then a tryout in Plymouth. How did it benefit from this?

We started as a workshop in Shoreditch Town Hall with twenty people in black t-shirts, a narrator, a piano and guitar. The Theatre Royal, Plymouth got on board and we spent two and a half weeks there. The big advantage of opening in Plymouth was that it is totally un-urban and so if the show could work there, it could work anywhere. The best critics are your audience - they are another actor and a part of the show, if the actors on stage can't dialogue with the audience you have no show.

After Plymouth, we had a lot of work to do but knew exactly what to do. For example, the opening number was never in the Plymouth production and I can't imagine the show without it.

How do you feel about coming into a West End that has been hit with a series of flop new musicals?

There is nothing more thrilling than seeing the product of talented imaginations; a show not based on a film or a book, and I think audiences will be thrilled to see a new show too. If we don't create new shows, what will have to be revived? The fact that the season is full of revivals is evidence of this.

Is it a challenge? Absolutely, I can understand that people can only afford to see one or two shows a year now. Hopefully, this show will be their treat; I have a lot of faith in that.

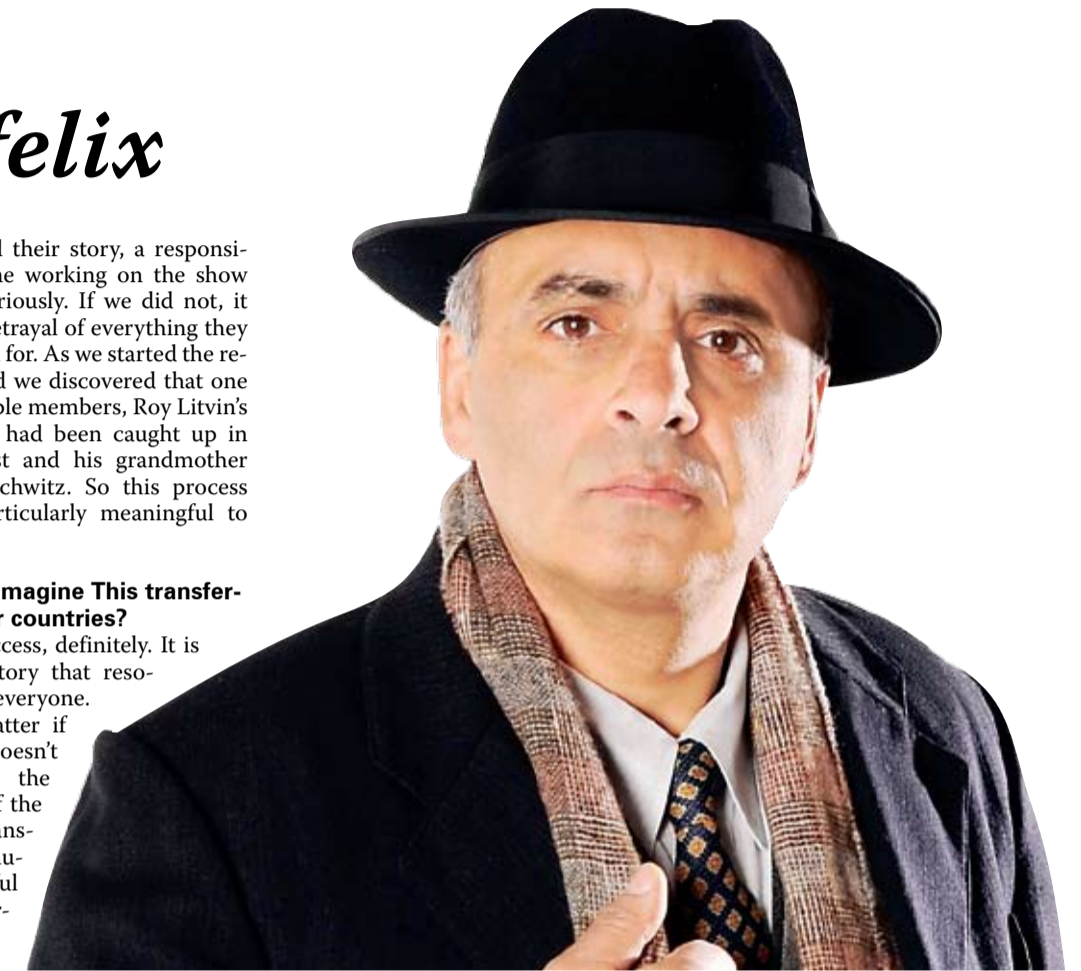
How do other recent Holocaust-based pieces such as God on Trial compare to Imagine This?

God on Trial was a spectacular drama and had the intellectual excitement of Imagine This but I don't think I would be able to put on this musical if it was set in a concentration camp. Imagine This differs from other pieces because it is not about the Nazis, but about who the Jews were. We have the responsibility to those who were in the

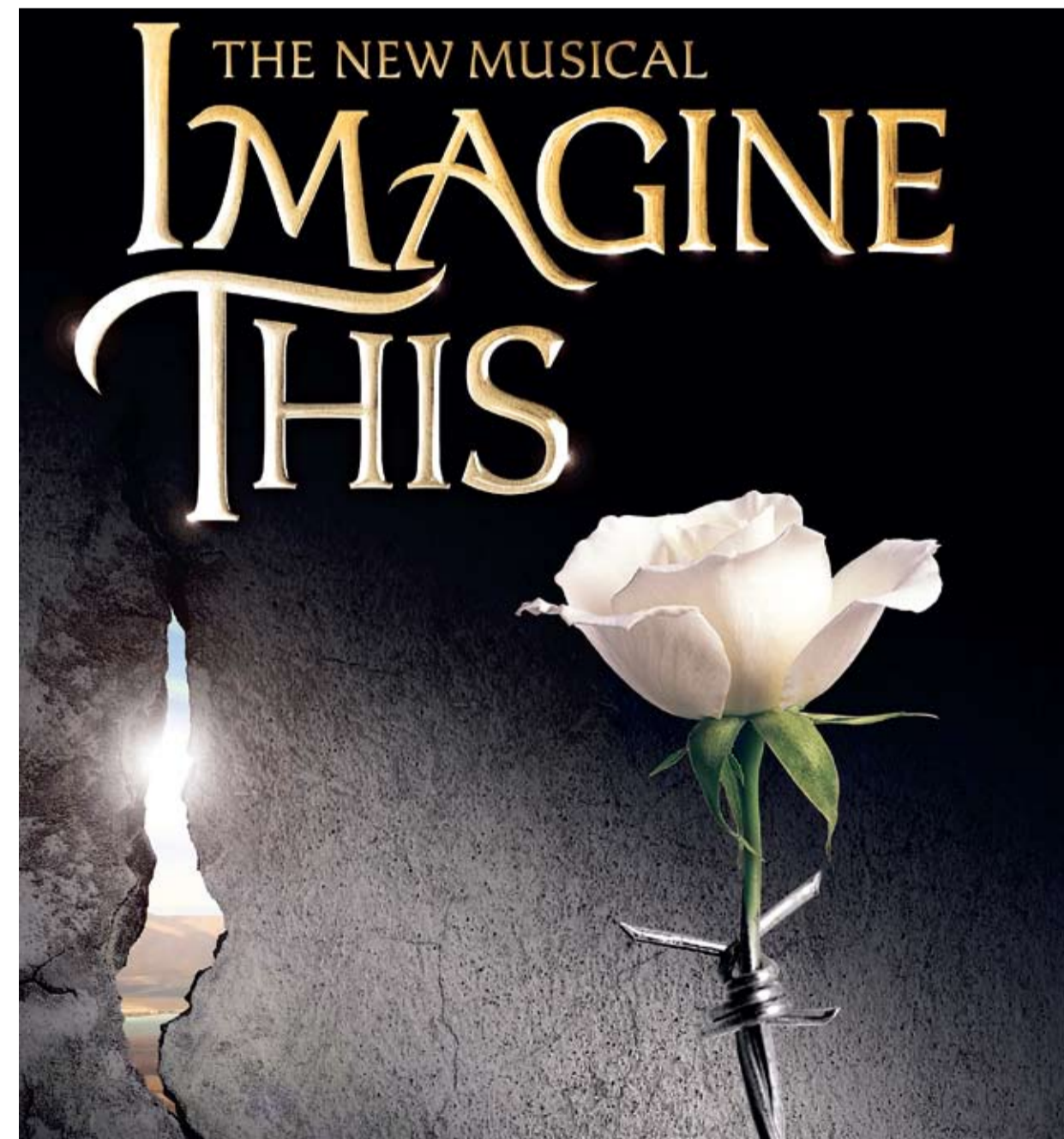
Ghetto to tell their story, a responsibility everyone working on the show takes very seriously. If we did not, it would be a betrayal of everything they lived and died for. As we started the rehearsal period we discovered that one of our ensemble members, Roy Litvin's grandparents had been caught up in the Holocaust and his grandmother survived Auschwitz. So this process has been particularly meaningful to him.

Do you see Imagine This transferring to other countries?

If it is a success, definitely. It is a universal story that resonates with everyone. It doesn't matter if someone doesn't understand the language or if the lyrics are translated, the music is beautiful enough to carry the show.



This smart chap is one of the main characters, Daniel Warshowsky, who puts on a theatrical production in the Warsaw Ghetto, played by Peter Polycarpou. We nod in the general direction of his very fine hat.



The promotion poster - the rose quite clearly says "classy". If you want this in flash-animated, tinkling music form, we heartily recommend the production's website. It caused minor a stir in the *felix* office.



Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

The week I take my turn at playing Arts Editor generally commences with me lying awake at four in the morning thinking about how I'll be spending my afternoon in the humid cave that is the Felix office. This is followed by a mental run-through of what I have (or, more often, do not have) to fill the arts section with that week, inevitably leading into "What the heck am I going to write in my editorial?" The last one elicited two positive/neutral comments (this is a veritable triumph by normal standards) and three negative comments along the lines of "Jeez, Emily, why don't you get a blog or something?"

While still lying in bed, I did mentally draft a witty and informative editorial along the lines of 'Emily's Fool-Proof Formula for Writing for the Arts Section'. In my head, at four thirty in the morning, it was pretty good. Highlights were going to be "insert pop culture references like you're starring in The Gilmore Girls" (that being a pop culture reference in itself, oh yess) and my advice to always end your review with a brief discussion of the range and quality of beverage offered at the venue. But, let's face it, I don't want to give away all the secrets of my genius and, more importantly, ideas that seemed good at four thirty in the morning seem less good when you sit down in front of your computer. Anyway, I will try to be a good little Arts Editor and limit myself to artistic chit-chat from now on.

What have I got for you this week? Lots! I started the week with only two pieces. Firstly, my own ecstatic ramblings about the Maeght exhibition at the RA accompanied by my favourite poem, which happens to be about some of the art in said exhibition. Secondly, we have a major feature on Imagine This by Lucy Harrold (now a regular fixture in Felix), who was lucky enough to sit in on a tech rehearsal and chat to the producer. Two double-page spreads is more than sufficient for an arts section, so I was positively bowled over when co-editor Caz Knight emailed three more articles in! Caz herself has sent in a book review, and we've also got reviews of exhibitions about Andy Warhol and Cold War design. You're getting keen, guys, and I like it! Please do keep sending in your articles, even if it means I have to spend a couple more hours in the Felix cave. The address, of course, is arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

What can you expect from me in future Felixes? I'm still planning to write about a few little-known museums and galleries dotted about London, as I think I promised you some time last year. I'm also determined to write a book review, to prove Caz isn't the only literary one around here. But first, I need to finish the 900-page door stopper I've got in mind. Watch this space.

Miro, Miro, on the wall...

Maeght knew talent when he saw it, as an exciting new RA exhibition proves. Emily Wilson embarrasses herself in a lift, has a minor orgasm and blows with old ladies

In the shadow of the big Francis Bacon and Rothko exhibitions on at their respective Tates, I only found out about this exhibition from advertising on the side of telephone boxes. Even within the Royal Academy itself the exhibition is tucked away up in the Sackler Wing, not in the main exhibition galleries. Once I bought my £7 student ticket, I nearly didn't find the exhibition - it was so well hidden. Unable to find the stairs, I resorted to the lift where a well-spoken lift attendant (do they really need to pay somebody to push buttons all day?) called me "madam" multiple times. Which was somewhat embarrassing. But thank goodness I found this little exhibition, because it was one of the best I've ever been to.

The exhibition is based on the French art dealer, patron and publisher Aimé Maeght (1906-1981), his wife Marguerite and the artists he supported. The introductory section includes Pierre Bonnard and Henri Matisse, two artists who started Maeght's career. Bonnard appears to be a softer, wishy-washer version of the better-known Matisse, judging by "Summer" (1917) in the first room which is fluffy and hazy. To its right are some charcoal sketches and line drawings which are classically Matisse. Matisse's small but significant presence in this exhibition has not been advertised and so, comes as a pleasant surprise. A highlight is "The Bush" (1951).

The first two of the big four artists associated with Maeght are the Spanish Catalan artist Joan Miró and the American Alexander Calder. Being a major Miró fan, I had a minor orgasmic moment as I stepped into room two. Miró's here in a big way, filling the

room with a rainbow of bright colours, accompanied by his mate Calder. The biographical information informed me that they were close chums until Calder died. Good old Maeght was responsible for a number of Miró's exhibitions and for encouraging him to work in a greater range of media. Calder's mobiles and stabiles (like a mobile but on the ground and, er, not moving) are instantly recognizable. I love them. It's always a treat to see art suspended from the ceiling instead of fixed flat to the wall. Look at the shadows cast by the mobiles on to the walls of the gallery. They are almost better than the mobiles themselves. Miró's "Poem" (1966) is utterly beautiful. It's a splattering of abstract shapes and coloured splotches. I can see a bowler hat towards the bottom. I spend a few moments trying to decide which coloured splotch I would like to be reincarnated as. The pale lilac one in the middle is tempting, as is a red one on the right. This is exactly the kind of art that I get passionate about. Already I'm enjoying this exhibition so much I'm close to tears.

The glass case in the centre of the second room is filled with delights, including miniature Calder mobiles small enough to sneak into my handbag (if only!). There's also "Thinking About Sandy, Sandy" (1973) by Miró, which is scrawled words in swirly handwriting on top of plain blocks of primary colour. I can't understand the Spanish words. All I can pick out is "Sandy". Next to it, is a small sculpture by Calder of a cat's head with pipe cleaner-like whiskers, grafted onto a body like a trickle of paint. Unsurprisingly it's called "Cat Snake" (1968). It's a little bit sinister when you first look at



This is what Giacometti thought made for good art. We don't agree.

it, but it grows on me the more I look. On the other side of the case are "Bird with Balls" (1954) and "Bird with Spectacles" (1930) which are wire birds, one with a crude cock and testicles dangling from its body (looking more

like it's carrying a pair of scissors), the other holding a pair of glasses on a stick in its foot as if watching a rather engaging opera. They should sell replicas of these in the gift shop because they're so fun. Then again, you could probably twist round a coat hanger and make your own. It amuses me how rich old ladies keep walking past "Bird with Balls" and cackling.

"North-South" by Miró is more conventional in form - a still life of objects on a table, in a naïve style and crude colours. I particularly like the squashy-looking pear and the sweet little goldfinch in its cage. This is a painting I would love to have on the wall at home. I wonder vaguely if I could buy a print of it.

I see a middle-aged woman standing in front of a Calder mobile, sneakily blowing on it to make it move. The shadow twists and turns behind it. I stop to admire. We briefly discuss how gorgeous the mobile is and she invites me to blow with her. I stand beside her but I'm laughing too much to contribute.

"The Birds of Prey Swoop Down On Our Shadows" by Miró is paint splashed and spread in thick lines against what is at first, a strange and unidentifiable canvas, which turns out to be cowskin. It adds a whole new dimension of texture and feeling with its softness and wrinkles. "Constellation", also by Miró, is an abrupt and out-of-place, oversized statue at the end of room two. It is a very dark midnight green and looks like half an avocado with the stone still embedded in the middle.

The handout booklet is less informative about the connection between

Maeght and the other two artists featured in this exhibition. I leave room two reluctantly and move on to room three, which is filled with Georges Braque and Alberto Giacometti. The two are certainly very similar in their dark and sombre mood. They are abstract while their subject matter originates in reality. Braque created Cubism alongside Pablo Picasso in 1909-1910, while Giacometti was apparently the favoured artist of the French existentialist writers led by Jean-Paul Sartre in the 1950s. Damn him - I wish I could be the favourite artist of a group of existentialist writers. I think it would be a wise career move for me.

The series of small landscapes in thick, decorative frames on the first wall by Braque are a little drab and unexciting, but quietly charming. They are rich in texture with their deep layers of paint. Overall, I'm not so keen on Braque as I am on Miró and Calder. Some of his work is a bit, let's face it, ugly. Brown and angry and sometimes too serious. There's a hint of the Picasso about them, as is evident in "Woman Lying Down" (1930-1956), but then they are closely associated contemporaries. "The Echo" (1953-1956) is a good summary of what Braque is all about, but isn't pleasant to look at and makes my eyes hurt. It's all confused lines and unattractive rusty, pinky browns and yellow with a brown and grey background. It seems to be a still life but it's hard to tell. Giacometti was obviously into his sculptures, like "Walking Man" (1960) and "Standing Woman" (1960). They're elongated, rough, green and knobby. I don't really like them and they feel a little out of place in this exhibition. His nearby paintings, like "The House Opposite" (1952) are a bit better, in a sketchy, scratchy, grey sort of way. Still not great though.

Room four is a delve back into what I like, with a wall full of covers from lithography expert Maeght's arty pe-



Oooh, swirly. This delightful little nugget of hypnotism is the oh-so-originally-named "Two Spirals" by Miró's bestie, Alexander Calder

riodical "Derrière le Miróir", all illustrated by different artists. The artists' names are on each cover, declaring themselves proudly. There are famous names here like Chagall, Leger and Kandinsky, and Miró sneaks himself in many times. These covers are colourful and varied - a feast of visual delights representative of an exciting period in art history. In the glass case in the centre of the room are inside pages taken from the periodical that feature sleek and decorative French writing and Miró's doodling and abstract decoration. On the wall behind are a few modernist, poster-style Calder works, big and bold. "Two Spirals" (1974) is just that, looking like a white snail on a red background. I like the fitting ti-

tle attached to some white discs on a black background - "Saucers in the Dark" (1969).

The exhibition is only four rooms, and at £7 for a student ticket it feels it's a bit pricier than it should be. Particularly since I forked out another tenner between the gift shop and the restaurant. I'd never been to the restaurant but it was very nice indeed, decorated with arty murals and wood panelling. It provided a decent cappuccino, staff who treat you like royalty (paying this much, I probably should be) and a suitable range of cake. I sampled the plum frangipani tart, which sounds a lot posher than it really was - spongy cake with the odd bit of plum. Quite pleasing though not outstanding.

Cake aside, the exhibition, which is perfectly put together, well-explained and manageable, covers a very accessible period in art history, so even art novices will be satisfied if they feel like coughing up the cash to see it. It's one of those exhibitions that succeeds in not only showing you some really good art but also in letting you get to know the artists. It reveals them as being a few blokes having a bit of fun with some paints, making us smile - I think this revelation is often key in appreciating more modern art forms. My one criticism is that even though the exhibition is supposed to focus on Maeght, we don't find out much about him as a person or his accomplishments. It's more about the four featured artists, so

poor Maeght gets left in the shadows a little. Despite that minor grumble, this is certainly one of my favourite exhibitions of all time, if only just for the Mirós and Calder. While the Tate seems to get a bit more irritating and overpriced every time I go, I think the high-class but tucked away RA has deservedly overtaken them as my favourite art institution.

The exhibition "Miró, Calder, Giacometti, Braque: Aimé Maeght and His Artists" (bit of a mouthful at the ticket office) is on now at the Royal Academy and until 2 Jan 2009, so no excuses!

I Would Like to Be a Dot in a Painting by Miro by Moniza Alvi

I would like to be a dot in a painting by Miro.

Barely distinguishable from other dots, it's true, but quite uniquely placed. And from my dark centre

I'd survey the beauty of the linescape and wonder -- would it be worthwhile to roll myself towards the lemon stripe,

Centrally poised, and push my curves against its edge, to give myself a little attention?

But it's fine where I am. I'll never make out what's going on around me, and that's the joy of it.

The fact that I'm not a perfect circle makes me more interesting in this world. People will stare forever --

Even the most unemotional get excited. So here I am, on the edge of animation, a dream, a dance, a fantastic construction,

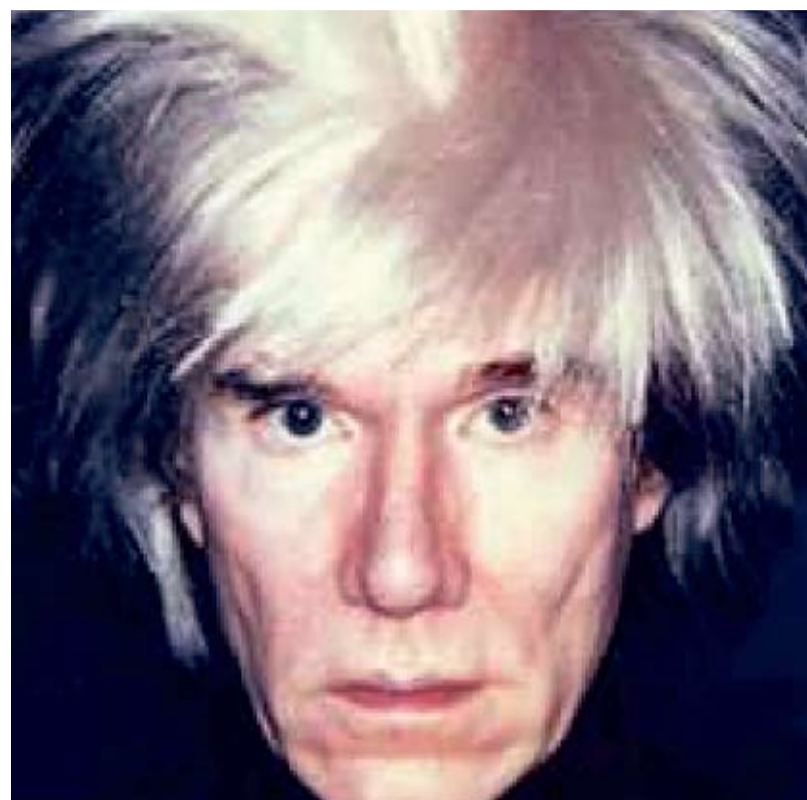
A child's adventure. And nothing in this tawny sky can get too close, or move too far away.



One of the Calder mobiles that now probably has spit all over it. Sorry, Calder. The old lady made me do it

Hear the voices in Warhol's head

Emilie Beauchamp is propelled into the psyche of the most popular pop artist of the 20th century



The big man himself, Andy Warhol. Artistic genius or bit of a nutter?

Andy Warhol became one of the iconic artists of the 20th century by transforming anything from everyday banal objects to the biggest celebrities of the time into pop icons.

The new exhibition "Other Voices, Other Rooms", in the Hayward Gallery until 18 January 2009, gives the public an intimate vision of Warhol's mind, sharing his most popular as well as some unknown pieces, dating from the 1950s to his unexpected death in 1987. It is at the beginning of the 1960s that the world-famous Campbell's Soup Can and Marilyn Monroe prints made him famous, as much as the machine-like production techniques he used to print on silkscreen canvases, which Warhol used to portray the industrialism of modern society. Often pictured as a voyeur, Warhol used photography to catch personal individualities in different lights from the 1950s onward, and later started experimenting with new media such as audiotapes and videos in the 1960s. His entourage as well as himself were the source of his inspiration and many of his pieces are based in his New York studio, known

as the Factory. The results exposed at the Hayward Gallery gives the visitor a holistic introspection into Warhol's ludicrous world, filled with drama, hypochondria and hypersexualisation.

The fact that most videos and recordings are from very common settings and made in a "home-movie" fashion gives the impression of sharing personal, almost private moments of the artist's life. The Factory Diaries, a series of videos capturing often absurd daily events of him and his crew at the Factory during the 70s and 80s, show the creative process of Warhol who was stirred by the gossips, chats and confessions of fellow humans. Sometimes criticized for being artificial and shallow, Warhol admitted that "all [his] films are artificial, but then everything is sort of artificial" as well. It is during the 1980s that Warhol starts a television series named "Andy Warhol's Fifteen Minutes" that is broadcasted on the new MTV channel. The television programme was mostly famous because Warhol coined the concept of "fifteen minutes of fame" while talking about the short attention span of popular culture upon mediated objects. A broad collection of various episodes

from that series and from other television productions realized in the same period, show that the concept was also applied in the production techniques: most episodes are a collection of short skits skipping quickly from one topic to another, ranging from fashion, to sex, death, money, success and other absorbing nonsense. Over and again, Warhol transformed the end in the mean; materialized the message in the medium.

Ingeniously presented in a series of large rooms with all the space needed to breathe in the creations, "Other Voices, Other Rooms" can take you up for the entire day if you let yourself get lost in the deliriously frank pieces assembled. The overall experience leaves you with a more than realistic insight of North America's lost and lustful society, convened through the paradox of deep artificiality his pieces depict. Even after all the feasts and freaks around him, Andy Warhol was nonetheless one of the most lucid artists of his era.

Andy Warhol: Other Voices, Other Rooms - at the Hayward Gallery until 18 January 2009

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Caz Knight offers us another handy review of a classic novel - this time with a scandalously sinful slant

Perhaps Hunter S. Thompson's novel *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the American Dream* should be renamed *Every Felony, Sin and Vice in Las Vegas*, as that is certainly what is experienced as we are jerked into the heart of that Dream: dragged along through commotion, irresponsible and depraved ether binges and the "Sixth Reich". Based on real life events with some fiction thrown in, Thompson, as his Hawaiian shirt, mirrored-aviator-wearing "alter ego" Raoul Duke, is sent to Las Vegas with his Samoan attorney, Dr Gonzo, to report on the Mint 400 off-road desert motorcycle race and find the hideous "nerve centre" of the American Dream, all the while fully immersing himself in proceedings in the true spirit of Gonzo journalism. Perhaps the antithesis of conventional, objective newspaper journalism, Gonzo journalism is highly subjective, carried out with reckless abandon by the writer who becomes a part of the story he is covering, reporting in the first person and accessorising his piece with personal experience, humour, exaggeration, touches of fiction and profanity. The idea being that the essence of the subject matter is better conveyed with exaggerated imagery, fiction often being the best fact. "Gonzo" originating from Irish slang for the last man standing after a night's drinking, perfectly fitting given the tireless antics of Duke in the novel and his penchant for alcohol, drugs, violence and insanity. (Which he wouldn't advocate to anybody though they worked for him, until his suicide.)

Aspiring writers and readers alike will both marvel at and covet the ease with which he creates and pours out such witty commentary on people and



A piccie from the film version. You COULD watch the film instead, but make sure you visualise all us arts editors looking over your shoulder and shaking our heads in disapproval while you're doing it. Tut tut.

situations manifesting as a by-product of Las Vegas - the American Dream at work. His concise style - utterly devoid of cliché and stream of consciousness or inner monologue - at times highly colloquial without losing any of its po-

tenency, still manages to conjure a storm of colour, place, scene, setting and craziness which fill each short chapter making it so effortless to read - perfect for dipping into in short bursts on the tube, between lectures. Thompson has

done all the work for us, our imagination is given a treat as our brains can rest without the effort often required from other, "heftier" classics.

Duke's twitchy, impetuous nature, mannerisms and thought are conveyed

beautifully through a literary style of the same nature that also provides us with insightful and thoughtful musings on historical, political and social issues that underlie Thompson's hatred of Nixon, disdain of authority and experience of the optimistic "speed that fueled the sixties". The scenarios which Duke and his attorney find themselves in and create for themselves, put one in awe of their temerity and improvisational skills - all this being carried out utterly sideways on one or another (psychedelic) drug. Obviously, he is a man of iron constitution ("it never got weird enough for me", said Thompson) to survive five days in Las Vegas with no sleep, his fear about his countless petty crimes heightened by amphetamine paranoia, while still trying to cover the Mint 400 and then onto an anti-drugs convention for over a thousand middle-American hick cops.

His quest for the American Dream is fulfilled and found to be a truly gruesome thing, which has one recoiling in horror at Western society's downhill trajectory. As we live it through Duke's experience of that superficial, surreal city feeling, it's as if we too, have taken something mind-altering. It is upon reading the book that one realises just how true Terry Gilliam has stayed to the book in his film version starring Benicio del Toro and Johnny Depp, as Raoul Duke. But the book will take you deeper down the clichéd, proverbial rabbit hole to Duke's very much unclichéd and unconventional experience of Nevada in 1971. After reading you will only want to explore Thompson's bibliography further, learning more of his wayward life that saw him living with the Hell's Angels, running for Sheriff of Aspen, campaigning for drug and firearm legalisation and rearing peacocks at his ranch, "Owl Farm".

Where conflict and culture meet

Rosie Milton nips over the road to the V&A for their current exhibition on Cold War design innovation

The Cold War Modern: Design 1945-1970 at the V&A Museum initially presented itself, with its intriguing and slightly awkward title, for its fusion of the political and economic state of conflict that occurred in the 20th century between the Soviet Union and the United States, and what may seem antithetically, the applied arts of design. It immediately raised the question to me - what good could come out of such a politically-tense time, with the threat of catastrophe hanging over the heads of the peoples of the west (and the east)? Apparently, this era of competition encouraged a huge amount of innovation in design - from tea cups to telecommunication towers - this new spirit of the age has also come to be known as the 'space race'. Both America and the Soviet Union were attempting to reach astronomical heights with skyscrapers and satellites, pushing to outdo each other with their 'homes of tomorrow'. Yet, only when we entered the first half of the exhibition to see propaganda posters, ominous building designs and technical innovations in weaponry, did we begin to understand that we were witnessing a paranoid age - where the intentions of the superpowers had trickled down into the everyday domestic lives of the masses.

As you walk through the exhibition,



Superman tried to keep it hidden that his twin brother was a commie, but failed.

which is sensibly set out chronologically, you are informed of the history of the Cold War period through the leaps forward in design. From the unreal, such as Le Corbusier's visions of utopian architecture, to iconic pieces of furniture, such as Eero Aarnio's Globe

Chair and films by Stanley Kubrick, we can see just how influential this period was and continues to be. Whilst touring this fascinating and informative exhibition we, as native Britons, considered political tensions today between the powerful countries of the western

world. As I rubbed shoulders with a few Russian and American visitors to the exhibition, I wondered what their experience of the design of the past was and whether they thought it represented a positive movement out of the age of the cold war, or recognised that

it only enhanced the fragility of our world today.

Cold War Modern is on at the fabulous V&A right now, until 11 January 2009

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Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Trick or Treat? Cake or Death?

A preview of the more specialist Halloween events in the capital this weekend. Don't be scared, it's a piece of cake...

In this week's section we feature the best of London's Halloween events. It seems Halloween nights are taking dressing up and snacks to the extreme. This year fetishism and cakes are where it's at.

Pushing boundaries is an obvious improvement on those supposedly scary Halloween club nights. Those ones where spray cobwebs and pumpkin lanterns rule. I'm sure you'll agree these are frankly a bit lame. Halloween is a night where you have the freedom to leave your inhibitions aside and take license to dress up as your will desires.



Striplite

• fetish & burlesque performers •
 • short film • free coke • stalls •
 • DJs until late playing
 dirty electro, seductive indie
 & dark electronic.

Every last Friday of every month
 from 10pm, performances from 9pm.
 @ The London Stone
 109 Cannon St, EC4N 5FD

The more experimental student can head off to **Striplite** at London Stone, Cannon Street. Putting inhibitions aside, this **Surrealist Halloween** night promises to bring alive your wildest fantasies and deepest desires.

The dress code for Striplite is alternative, fetish and creative dress. Nudity is strictly prohibited. "It's certainly fetish friendly," say The Fetishistas, "...felt to me less like a club and more like a big house party. And if that doesn't get you along, then the cupcakes certainly should."

Cakes seem to be infiltrating every social event, from the Knit Soc Monday meet up in the union bar to fetish nights.

Serving more than just an innocent muffin, Striplite are serving their 'famous burlesque cupcakes'.

To add to proceedings there will be entertainment in the form of a gory balloon dance, face painting and a dark comedy on transgender antics.

If you want a slice of the cake and fetish action festivities start at 10pm. Entrance is £5, £4 with a flyer.

Ultra-cool celebrity haunt **Punk** has another quirky Halloween night on this Friday. You know the place, it's where Kate Moss, Agyness Dean and Lily Allen get papped leaving drunk at 3am.

On Friday the kitsch cool club has a night of Halloween shenanigans planned. The 'Halloween Party' features trick or treat games, pumpkin decorating, freaky facepainting and creepy caricatures. There will be a costume contest for the best 'Halloween goth chic'. Should be the usual chilled quirky fun in a relaxed atmosphere

felix has 5 free tickets to give away! To enter, email nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk BEFORE 5PM FRIDAY 31st OCTOBER. Remember to put your name, your mobile number, and describe your Halloween costume.



Elsewhere, if you fancy something a bit more straightforward 'This Is Not London' is back again this weekend. The devilish Halloween Special is £6.66 in advance or £10 on the door. Headliner's Zombie Nation are performing live.



COLIN MURRAY
 BBC RALPH 1

Friday 31 October
 20:00 - 02:00

Pyjama Party

Come in the best from your bedtime wardrobe and party the night away!

Friday 7 November
 20:00 - 02:00

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The best value Wednesday night in town!

Every Wednesday Night at the Union
 20:00 - 01:00

FOSTER'S only £1.50 a pint!
BLACKTHORN **JOHN SMITH'S**

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Imperial College Union, Beit Quadrangle, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB
 The Union encourages responsible drinking. R.O.A.R. Student ID. Required.

imperial college union



Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Susan Yu and James Houghton

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Susan Yu
Music Editor

Music is an integral part of any film, be it an immense movie or a lousy one, we cannot watch a film without hearing the inherent soundtrack behind it. Unless it is a silent movie of course, Charlie Chaplin being the ultimate icon of this genre, then I might as well be deaf as a bat. My ears are given a nice nap when this little man steps onto the big silver screen. It is with great sadness that I say I don't really get this whole silent thing, you see, without music, without dialogue, it's rather banal. Although, there are silent films that are admittedly extremely poignant and successful. Just not that many.

To me, when a film is finished, I immediately make a judgement of it based on how good the soundtrack is. I know it is rather stereotypical of me, being a music critic, to focus deeply on the soundscapes that encompass the film, but I cannot help being infatuated with something that has a terrific musical backdrop to it.

Take the blockbuster 'Titanic' for instance; some say it's cheesy, mushy and over dramatic, but the film would not have been half as astoundingly successful if it had not been for James Horner's dynamite score that blew audiences away worldwide. I was one of them. I'm not ashamed to say that it was this mesmerising score that struck a cord within me and inspired me to learn to play piano and to love and appreciate music for what it is and what it can do for people.

Being a girl who likes a bit of everything except horror, I confess to having countless favourite film soundtracks. Girly films with ravishing music scores include 'Moulin Rouge', with the gorgeous Ewan McGregor (who sings and acts splendidly), and 'Pearl Harbour', which made me think how tragic it would be to first fall for someone, to lose them and then to fall for another and then to lose them again (heart-breaking really).

'Love Actually' with the Christmas feel and 'Bridget Jones' Diary' with its powerful independent-woman floor-fillers and sad lonely tunes like 'All by Myself'. 'Romeo and Juliet' with the mixture of true sweetness – Des'ree's heavenly 'Kissing You,' Gavin Friday's 'Angel,' and the rage and desolation that engulfs the Montagues and Capulets is finely captured by the thundering dramatic instrumentation. Other timeless beauties include 'The Lord of the Rings' by Howard Shore, 'Gladiator' by Hans Zimmer, 'Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon,' 'Top Gun' with the classic "Take My Breath Away," 'Kill Bill' and the explosively groovy theme tune of 'Mission Impossible' which has you geared up for action.

Truth be told, the music scores for these films are as epic as the films themselves and the themes present, they evoke fireworks that etch lasting imprints of the unforgettable scenes. I hope I have expounded enough on the notion of how critical film soundtracks are. Without them good movies will become mediocre and bad movies, well, they need to be hung, drawn and quartered.

The Verve hits jackpot no. 4

Felix sees the return of The Verve with their fourth album. High fives for all. DiFranco receives yet another happy letter and the puppets come out of the dark shadows...

Album Review

The Verve
Forth
★★★★☆

Susan Yu

The Verve have been rocketing on stage this summer with countless festivals in the bag including V, Glastonbury and T in the Park. Back with bravado. Being the 'Forth' album, a rather simple pun of a title has been chosen. Are these guys back on form with this number one album? The majority say yes. We'll see.

After spending the past decade clearing his closet of inner demons through the release of several solo albums, Richard Ashcroft returns with a vengeance, reuniting with the band and demonstrating his showmanship and memorable vocals. Taking you back to the good old nineties when you readers were still probably happily cracking gum, bunking off school, playing pranks on teachers, making paper aeroplanes and flirting with the boy/girl from across the classroom. Now, it is almost a decade into the new millennium and do we hear a new sound altogether? No, but we do hear traces of their old brilliance.

First on the list is 'Sit and Wonder,' a song that is full of heavy instrumentation and layers, with sharp, almost shrill, electric guitar riffs. The harsh, metallic soundscape pervades hauntingly, resonating with the pained vocals that hears Ashcroft wailing, straining for attention, doped with desperation, frustration and need-'And she's the teacher and I'm the pupil and ain't learning nothing at all.' 'Yeah I sit and wonder, I fall to pieces, I've been waiting for her to come.' Now, this is one hell of a desperate kid. The soundscape stretches and builds gradually, sucked into this black whirlpool mesh of ambient sounds.

Next we have the outstanding 'Love is Noise,' being a number one hit single that is a true anthem. It has this pulsating 'ah oh' echoing chant that is present throughout the entire track, looping round and round. The interesting dabble of the bleeping synthesizer in this track helps to compound the sonic landscape, whilst McCabe's descending guitar-riff gently comple-



The Verve frontman Richard Ashcroft clearly having a blast. 'Cos love is noise, love is pain, love is...'

ments the bittersweet vocals. Without a doubt, the instantly memorable chorus is a testimony to Ashcroft's poetic prowess- 'Are we blind - can we see?' he asks, wanting everybody to feel his pain all over again, '-We are one - incomplete, are we blind - in the shade.' 'Cause love is noise and love is pain, Love is these blues that I'm singing again.' Simple but poignant lyrics that are repeated over and over like a mantra that gets nailed into your brains...

Then we have the head-nodding 'Rather Be,' with its extensive orchestral accompaniment that sees a pleasant dose of strings coming back. With it, there are soulful female backing vocals that butters up the saccharine piece. In conjunction, we have the return of laid-back beats that are deeply reminiscent

of the band's old tracks like the archetypical classic 'Bittersweet Symphony.'

Next comes 'Judas,' the one that betrayed them all. 'Feelings. Just Feelings. Just let it go' he croons. This is a slower contrasting number that follows the giddy headiness that is 'Love is Noise.' Tinklings of piano fade in from time to time with various synthesised sounds ricocheting off, adding sprinkles of tenderness and delicacy to the track just for good measure. Here, we do get to hear McCabe show off his expertise with complex fingerwork on the frets. We all wish we could play the guitar half as good as him...

On the whole, the band seems to adhere to the majestic rock and roll assault of their iconic 'Urban Hymns' album, from the ancient times of the nineties. But, this time round, the fire is burning a tad less brightly, or maybe we are just a little bit older and slightly more desensitized to the whole music business. Who knows. Does music ever lose its potency? Never. Sometimes. Maybe...As long as 'we are singing again,' everything will be alright.

'Numbness' is ascertainably Pink Floyd-esque, a melancholic song drenched with pain. It seems to be a resentful reflection on love. The words reverberate, almost slurred and sputtered out, the hoarseness of the intonation plus the slow thudding beats and the brooding crashing chords build

throughout the course of the six minutes, amplifying the ominous mood that hangs over the whole track. You need some serious endorphins to lift this depression and drown the crushing sorrows before this numbness is 'really, really let loose.'

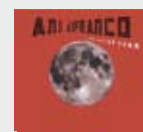
In 'I See Houses,' the melody meanders somewhat strangely. It is hard to follow at first, and the combination of weird piano chords creates a kind of discord.

Only when the chorus kicks in, do we actually have a relatively fine tune that is easier to recognise and sing along to. The beginning of 'Noise Epic' has a very experimental feel to it, as if the band were testing the sounds, unsure of whether to proceed or not. The verse consists of talking rather than singing, something that we weren't expecting. I don't know what to make of this track- a confused number that got slipped in, not on par with the core songs but so what? As they say, nothing can be perfect, flaws are what makes things interesting and unique.

Ultimately, The Verve are still in this game from the sound of things. 'Forth' is full of weirdly ethereal soundscapes, an odyssey that allows you to taste enlightenment, pain, loneliness, fear and desolation. Through the moody landscapes, painted with emotion and hope, may a fifth one be on its way in the future.

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Album Review

Ani DiFranco
Red Letter Year
★★★★☆

Susan Yu

Ani DiFranco, Grammy winning singer-songwriter, has been in the lime-light for a long time now, and it is crazy to think that she debuted nearly two decades ago. And here, we have her 17th studio album that was concocted through the course of two years. Incredible. How this woman churns out such a prolific amount of material is beyond all of us. But she does it with ease, passion and creativity. Since 1990, she has been releasing at least one disc of her bountiful brilliance each year. A rare, gifted talent she is. High five.

DiFranco breaks away with 'Red Letter Year,' an atmospheric title track. It initiates with acoustic guitar accents, lazy string and percussion instrumen-

tation, that caves in immediately to the brooding brass sustained notes with interjections of reverb and delay that can be heard explicitly. Interestingly, the interlude seems to have DiFranco singing through a funnel, her voice echoes somewhat, calling from the mountain tops. Like her numerous signature songs, this one is equally political in content- 'the whole world is made of one unbroken line,' yet 'in a town,' someone 'might put a gun to your throat or rip the roof right off your place.' Ostensibly, the imagery conveyed is one that emphasises the artist's cynical view of society. 'Goddess sent word that this would be a red letter year, they didn't mention how much shit was gonna change around here' Here, DiFranco is possibly referring to what happened in America, the natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina that wiped out New Orleans and brought devastation to so many.

To follow, 'Alla This' is an amalgamation of hybrid sounds that is driven by a strong undercurrent of thudding drum clatter and distinct sonic elements. Her firm feminist stance is expounded through the lines- 'I won't pray to a male god, coz that would be insane.' Good for her. In contrast, the ambience shifts to a calmer one in 'Present/Infant.' The verses yield to a

chorus that allows DiFranco to pour out her worries and insecurities- lately she's 'been glaring into mirrors picking herself apart,' fearing that her 'life will be over,' Despite everything- 'here's this tiny baby' who looks like her 'and she is smiling' 'with that present infant glee.' Being a mother, DiFranco cannot but express the deep maternal love that she feels for her daughter and so she chants, 'love is all over the place.'

Similarly, 'Smiling Underneath' alludes to the joy, reassurance and security of being in the presence of that special someone. The indifference that one feels to the dreariness of the world because, 'as long as I'm with you, I'm having a good time.' DiFranco will be grinning like a Cheshire cat all day long, willing to endure the universe's annoyances, she doesn't even 'mind waiting in line' or being 'stuck in traffic for a week.' The track begins with a somewhat ballad feel which changes as the drum and bass kicks in and the layers of synthesised sounds accumulate. This number shows that she's human too, with a sentimental facet hidden behind the strong woman image.

'Emancipated Minor' has a groovy current to it, almost disco-like beats can be heard, reminiscent of Jamie Lidell's snazzy album 'JIM.' The tempo is very upbeat, carried by the lilting



Ani crouches by the wall, eagerly anticipating that red letter of hers

stride which has you on your feet, hips swinging, hands clapping, the whole lot. A catchy guitar riff plays throughout, as trancelike and effective as The Bee Gees' 'Staying Alive.'

Within the cute track 'Good Luck,' you hear a rather varied instrumentation; there being the syncopated drum, long sustained string notes, distant guitar refrains, and low key electronic piano swooning.

Next, we have 'The Atom,' in which there is a lovely guitar refrain that lazily strolls along with the sublime lulling of DiFranco's singing. This is followed by a small quiet drum roll, warm and wistful the soundscape flows, like the continuous incoming tide that washes across the shore, to and fro it emerges sleepily.

DiFranco's bright voice sails high 'Round a Pole.' We hear something that resembles the soulfulness of Norah

Jones' delightful vocals. A sensual sluggish exuberance meets the touch of jazz that swims within this piece, ending on an abrupt cluster of distorted electronic sounds. Tantalisingly experimental. When we consider 'Star Matter,' the starry sky is indeed dreamlike, concocted out of lethargy that oozes from all corners. The sax billows intermittently, softening the mood, rendering the piece overwhelmingly mellow.

Overall, this is a funky album that has been piced up with many different influences, from country, folk, soul to jazz, it's all gelled together seductively. This is a refreshing departure from the regular indie-rock/cheesy pop that is being meticulously manufactured and packaged by many record labels. Wanting a change of scene? This one is certainly worthy of your attention. DiFranco has had her way for the last two decades and continues to do so.



17th album later and she's still smiling, what a high-spirited lady Ani DiFranco is...wish we all had her smile

No shying away from the limelight by the l. s. puppets

The Last Shadow Puppets
Live at Hammersmith Apollo
★★★★☆

Alex Turner and Miles Kane, the former being better known as the Arctic Monkeys front man and the latter less well known as the Rascals front man.

For those who don't know, these two got together with producer James Ford almost a year ago and formed 'The Last Shadow Puppets.' The band released their 1st album 'The Age of the Understatement' in April.

The set was littered with classic covers such as David Bowie's 'In the Heart of the Morning,' The Beatles' 'I want you' and Leonard Cohen's 'Memories,' among others. These were carefully interwoven with the Puppets own (fast

becoming) classics and all accompanied by strings, wind and percussion.

The enthusiastic crowd got involved from the first word and the Puppets responded fiercely, maintaining the friendly banter throughout the evening. It is currently rare to see a band who sounds better live than on their recording, but the Last Shadow Puppets do it to perfection.

Sadly, they are warming up for their last UK performance (before Turner returns to the Monkeys) as I write this article, so it may be a little while before another opportunity arises to see them.

That said, I am sure they will return, and when they do, GO SEE THEM FOR YOURSELF!

Sam Lombard



The Last Shadow Puppets merge into the dark, dark backdrop...trapped in a blackhole of no return

Music



Horrors: good, bad and nasty

At Imperial, Halloween does not get the popularity it deserves, so we decided to celebrate this ridiculously un-scary holiday with a short overview of horror movies that made a difference (and most that didn't)

Jonathan Dakin
Film Editor

serve their horrifying fates.

Identity (2003)

Ten people mysteriously bump into each other in a ransacked motel in the middle of nowhere, before being picked off one by one. Sure it sounds like standard horror film-fare, but the film also provides lots of tension, as well as original and gory deaths, and an all-star cast. The ending is also one of the best horror endings ever, and just goes to show that not everyone is afforded a second chance...

Vacancy (2006)

A bickering couple decide to stay in a motel that is actually the setting for snuff films, starring the unknown customers. Clever directing and solid performances make this chiller-thriller work.

Snakes On A Plane (2007)

A man in witness protection travels on a plane to testify against a mobster, unaware that the mobster has stuffed the plane full of crazy snakes. It may sound ridiculous, but this is so bad that it's good. If you want to see people dying in extremely grisly ways involving frisky serpents, then this is the film for you.

The Bad:

Halloween (1978)

A serial killer escapes from a mental home and attacks young babysitters.



Trees, forest, fresh air and a bit of gore to complete the picture. (The Descent)

Although this is often cited as one of the best horror films ever, it is terribly dated and does not scare in the way that it should. It is pretty tame for modern standards; so don't expect to be frightened.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007)

Not a horror film you say? When you take into account the shocking acting, diabolically tedious plot, and horrifically poor directing, then this all adds up to one thing: a horror. There are better things to spend your money on, for example paying someone to re-enact the testicle-bludgeoning scene from 'Casino Royale'. Trust me, if I had to choose between seeing this film again or having my balls crushed to a pulp, it would be an extremely hard decision.

The Fog (1980)

Yawn inducing terror about a group of rotting pirates that return 100 years after being killed, shrouded in a neon fog. Yes, you read that correctly and yes, the film is rubbish.

White Noise 2: The Light (2007)

This is so painfully awful and contrived that it actually hurts to think about. The plot makes no sense and the scares are turned into comedy because it is so shockingly bad.

The Nasty:

The Thing (1982)

Although intensely gory, this film is

a brilliantly terrifying chiller that is both unpredictable and unnerving. A group of scientists are stuck in an Antarctic outpost with an alien that can imitate anything it wants to. Who do you trust when the monster could be anyone?

The Evil Dead (1981)

A group of teenagers go to a cabin in the woods and read a book that possesses them with demons. This film is not for the faint of heart, as it contains extreme splatter horror, including rolling heads, raping trees and screwdrivers in ankles. Ouch.

Dawn of The Dead (1978)



That's right, there's no escaping the dead...(Dawn of the Dead)

Zombies have taken over the world and the only safe place to hide is a shopping mall. Shopping centre related deaths come thick and fast, e.g. riding in shopping carts wielding a shovel in order to whack zombie heads off. The 2004 remake is good too.

The Descent (2005)

A bunch of cave-exploring women are trapped in a cavern filled with ravenous monsters. Will they escape? This English horror film delivers in both shocks and gore, but if you really want to be scared make sure you watch the UK version for the creepy ending, not the US one.

Films we love at Imperial

Students, lecturers and staff share their treasured movies with *felix*. This week: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

Jessica Strandward
Student

So here we are: you've been sidetracked by watching *Anchorman* for the gazillionth time – "Heck I'm not mad, that's amazing" – and so you haven't had time to watch anything new. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt, just this once.

But I am not writing this article to talk to you about *Anchorman*, but about how *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is my grande summer fling. Everything he says is perfect and witty. In fact I could just quote him for the rest of this article: "I do have a test today. That wasn't bulls**t. It's on European socialism. I mean, really, what's the point? I'm not European. I don't plan on being European. So who cares if they're socialists?" But I won't.

The film is about Ferris Bueller, the most popular guy in school, and everyone adores him. They think he's a righteous dude. He pulls one last sickie before he graduates from high school and takes his girlfriend and best friend along for the ride in a 'borrowed' vintage Ferrari: "the question isn't 'what are we going to do,' the question is 'what aren't we going to do?'"

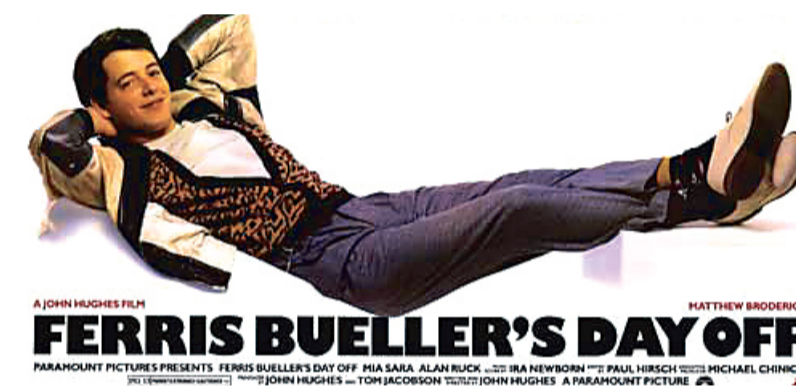
In one day they blag their way into a snooty restaurant, take part in a parade (the best bit), visit an art museum and generally make mischief all over

Chicago. The acting is perfection, as Matthew Broderick (who plays Ferris) makes the movie what it is, Charlie Sheen is hilarious in a cameo performance, and Jennifer Grey plays the evil twin version of her *Dirty Dancing*-self as Ferris' stuck up sister. Also, the music is brilliant, no 80's power ballads (unlike *The Breakfast Club*), just funky beats and old school tunes.

Ferris' motto is: "Life goes by pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." It became my new mantra, and changed my life. Even now when I have an hour to spare, instead of slobbering on facebook seeing what other people are doing with their lives I try and do something – grab my friends, walk two

minutes to the Science Museum and go and play about in the exhibits – just do anything! I don't have any time to spare!

The best thing about this movie is that you join a club. You become one of Ferris' friends. I have never met anyone who didn't like this movie because it's about school and everyone has been there, stuck in a dull class losing your will to live. Moreover it perfectly captures the sweet joy of rebelling against petty authority. Finally, the film continues all the way through the credits which just adds to it awesomeness – why don't more films do that? It ends with Ferris speaking directly to you saying, "Um it's over now, go home, go on shoo". And I will.



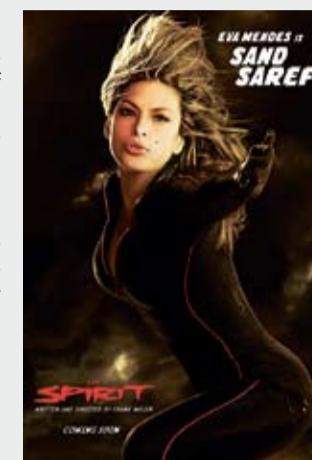
A JOHN HUGHES FILM
FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF
PARAMOUNT PICTURES PRESENTS FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF MIA SARA ALAN RUCK IRA NEWBORN PAUL HIRSCH MICHAEL CHIRCHAK
©1986 JOHN HUGHES - TOM JACOBSON ©1986 JOHN HUGHES A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

Coming soon:

A spirited cast bodes well for *The Spirit*

Although there have been plenty of comic book adaptations, the reason that this one stands out is because it is written and directed by Sin City's Frank Miller, so looks set to be just as exciting and enthralling.

Starring Gabriel Mach as The Spirit, a vengeful ghost who comes back from the dead to fight crime and have tawdry relationships with a whole lot of women, this was originally a crime noir comic strip in an American Sunday newspaper. With an all-star cast, including Hollywood favourite Samuel L. Jackson as the villain, Dr. Octopus, and featuring many beautiful screen sirens like Eva Mendes, Scarlett Johansson and Jamie King, to name just a few of the love interests, even if the film does not deliver to the same standard as Sin City, it should still be worth a watch.



Fancy writing for *felix* Film?

If there's a film you just can't stop talking about, a movie that inspires you, a feature that changed your life or one that is your only remedy for a miserable day, we would love you to write about it and have the guts to share it with the rest of Imperial, just like Emma.

Send a few hundred words about the film you love to:
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Good

Friday the Thirteenth (1980)

One of the original slasher films, and in my opinion, the best. A group of teenagers working at an abandoned summer camp are murdered one by one, but does it have anything to do with the poor child who drowned in the lake years before? This is gory and surprisingly scary, mainly because all of the teenagers (including Kevin Bacon) are nice people who don't de-



Scary, nasty, on spindly legs... a perfect pet to take home (The Thing)

When a lousy idea meets even worse execution, *Eagle Eye* comes to life

Eagle Eye ★★★★★

Director: D.J. Caruso
Writer: John Glenn
Cast: Shia LaBoeuf, Michelle Monaghan, Billy Bob Thornton

Zuzanna Blaszcak
Film Editor

With last week's average star rating being a very high 4, it was about time a movie came out that would lower the marks. As usual Hollywood doesn't disappoint; it's as simple as 'You ask, We deliver...' keep in mind though, that this works exclu-

sively for orders of bad films. If you go to the pub, you know exactly what the food will be like, you can bet your arm on the taste of the microwaved vegetables, fat-soaked chips and a piece of fish that the waiter assures you is indeed hidden somewhere under all that batter. Of course sometimes there are exceptions but they simply prove the rule. By now I hope you all grasped the metaphor - what I'm trying to say is that if you decide to see an action thriller directed by a mediocre director, edited by a TV series editor with standard, undistinguished (apart from Billy Bob Thornton) actors you should expect a pub lunch.

Alas, *Eagle Eye* with its utterly implausible story of an intelligence gathering computer (named Aria) going rogue and deciding that the current

government violates the US Constitution and should hence be ousted by means of extermination is not even fast food. Whatever you say, even a Big Mac menu will do what it's supposed to; it will fill you up, quench your thirst and better your mood. But this newest 'action thriller' does not thrill, does not excite, does not grip and, most importantly, does not entertain.

The movie starts off in an undisclosed location in the Middle East where a presumable terrorist is tracked down by the US army. He is then killed in an air raid despite only a 51% chance of him being the correct person. Immediately after that we are transported back to the States where we are introduced to Jonathan Shaw (Shia LaBoeuf), a rebellious clerk at a xerox-shop and Rachel Holloman (Michelle Monaghan), a sin-

gle over-protective mother dropping her son off at a train station. The opening scene is forgotten, ignored and clumsily and ineffectively tied to the plot at the end of the film, while our two conventional citizens rapidly and inevitably become action heroes when Aria forces them to become pawns in her plan to kill the American president. Jonathan and Rachel must do as they're told by the computer that can control every automated machine, can track, activate and use any phone and use high voltage cables to kill people.

The movie could have been saved if the story and characters had more depth. In a well thought-out movie where every scene is not based on an action shot, the idea of an all-controlling computer that gets out of hand would have scared the hell out of us.

The film could have exploited a feeling of paranoia, could have explored the interaction between two strangers that are thrown together and obliged to pursue their own interests but work as a team, it could have included more than one witty line, it could have minimized the gaping and garring plot holes and finally, it could have assumed the audience has a brain and some expectations and ended when the hero was still dead. If *Eagle Eye* had fulfilled any of those 'could have's' it would have been a decent movie. But it's not, it's abysmal.

Now to clarify the one-star rating. I confess I gave this film that one single star, which it doesn't deserve, because I was afraid that no one would be interested in reading a review of a movie that scores 0/5.

I, science

The Imperial College science magazine



Issue 10 out next week
Get your free copy with *felix* next Friday



Is your club cooler than the cat that got the cream? Write to us. clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Tales of a soggy affair in Snowdonia

Alex De Rosa

The journey to Snowdonia started like any other. Everything was going well until the planned dinner stop, we had given Dave the map and as usual, Captain Incompetent got us lost. Everyone had a great tour of Warwick, especially the central roundabout that we saw 6 times. Not the sort of views we were expecting for a hiking trip. Decisions were made and the quorum decided that henceforth, Gareth would take on navigational duties and Dave's committee role would involve watching kettles boil and making tea.

Despite Dave's best (or worst?) map reading efforts the hut eventually loomed out of the darkness and everyone settled down in anticipation of a good weekend in the mountains. And what a weekend it was! Saturday morning saw the group burning clutches as Alex brought the bus to a stuttering halt in Pen-y-Pass before the hiking started. It was decided to send two groups, one up the knife-edge summit of Crib Goch (923m) and another around part of the Horseshoe (898m). Both groups fared well through the mist and fog and managed to summit around midday, just in time for the wind, rain and gloom that so often envelops Wales to roll in. Crib Goch was particularly impressive, a group of 12 scrambled and battled their way across the exposed ridge while taking in awesome views (whenever the poor weather abated).

The hike off the mountain was then a slightly depressed affair after a frenzied morning, both groups opting to follow easy routes down the Pyg and Llanberis tracks to avoid the worst of the rain and the freezing winds blowing about the mountain in the early afternoon. All was washed down with



These guys got very wet and muddy, but still forced themselves to smile for felix, your club should smile for felix too, the contact email is above

a mug from Pete's Eats.

The worst of the weather was predicted for Sunday and as such Alex suggested a low level walk in the trees of Beddgelert as a relaxing way to avoid the rain and 40mph winds in the mountain heights. This was quickly accepted as a good idea and off the group went, despite Nathaniel getting lost on the way to the car park and asking someone where it was, while he was standing in it. Eventually the hike started in

a picturesque forest fresh from the dew and rainfall of the day before. Everything was going to plan until Nathaniel decided to explore a white hill area on the map. This white area lead the group through several hours of boggy heath often several feet deep in places. Needless to say the day very quickly became a wet and soggy affair and morale dropped. A quick route to the bus-ene was needed and Nathaniel gave aning in it. Eventually the hike started in

traipsing everyone through yet more marshy puddles and what must have been several submerged rivers before finally into the forest and getting lost. By this time however, everyone was getting used to the squelching of wet boots and morale had lifted, either due to the beautiful views along the way or the fact that everyone was so wet they no longer cared. Either way, Dave eventually found the buses and all was well again.

The journey home passed quickly until the group reached the Malt Shovel in Gaydon for dinner, Tony-Ten-Bellies earning his nickname from the five different dishes he requested (and ate the majority of).

If you fancy a trip to the countryside any time soon, come and join us; 12:30 in Beit Quad on a Tuesday.

Coming next week: What's on

"What's on" is a weekly calendar of upcoming Club & Society events. It is a chance for Clubs & Societies to publicise events in Felix and will cover events running from Monday-Sunday. Its first appearance will be in the 7th November edition of Felix and will cover events from Monday 10th November - Sunday 16th November.

To feature, send the following details to whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk:

- Club name
- Event name
- High res logo and photo
- Date(s) & Time, Place
- Price (if applicable)
- Description of the event (max. 30 words)

Deadline for submissions is midnight on the Friday before the edition is published, i.e. to feature the Fri 7th November edition, the submission deadline is midnight on Friday 31st October. Space is limited, so entries are subject to editorial snipping and we cannot guarantee that everybody who sends an email will feature.



Islamic Society Charity Week 2008

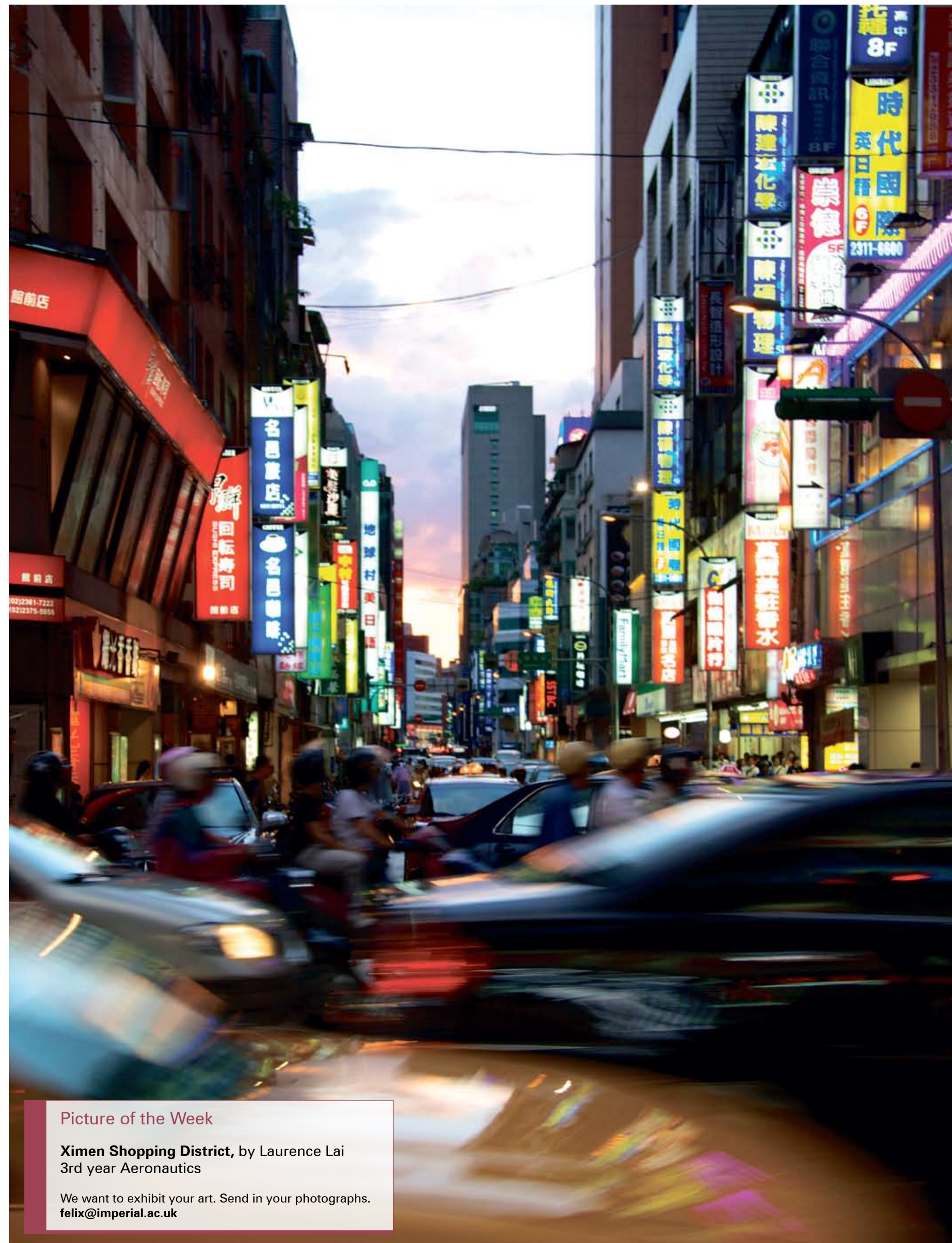


This week Islamic society have been running charity week, raising money for Islamic Relief, with all money raised going to help orphans worldwide. Last year, the Imperial Islamic society raised around £11,000. However charity week is not limited to Imperial and runs at universities across the country, last year's charity weeks combined raised an incredible £250,000.

Money raising events this week included rattling donation tins around campus and at tube stations, selling delicious Hummingbird cakes, handing out goody bags of items donated by companies and turning up to lectures in ridiculous outfits.

In Islamic tradition, the best people are those that serve others, going out of their way to help someone, regardless of race or creed. Members of the society feel it is important to raise money for charity, when you stop and consider how many children there are worldwide that are less fortunate than ourselves.

Special mention goes to the 2nd year medics, who raised £300 in two days and Boots have offered to double what ever they raise.



Picture of the Week

Ximen Shopping District, by Laurence Lai
3rd year Aeronautics

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



coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Photoshop Competition - 5



Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

Apologies my avid readers. Last week was a somewhat poor effort. I know it's no excuse, but as the deadline crept ever forward, I found my self too involved with other events. I can't guarantee this won't happen again. Ahwell.

Well, as things settle down in college, and people start working hard, I would like to point out that you will need to take a break from work in the foreseeable future. I do this all the time, so it must be fine. Last night I went to Fabric, it was awesome. On tuesday I went to a civilised boat party. It's the little breaks that help you get through Imperial College.

Now for a rant. Not enough of the freshers make an effort!. Beit had a halloween party the other day, and on general the costumes were above average. However there wasn't one costume that was spectacular. I'd admit i thought the two guys who came a priest and his child rape victim was pretty funny, but nothing amazing. Even one of the sub wardens came as the terminator (with half his face blown off) and looked freaking sweet. So why then can't the freshers pick up the ball? Another case was the ABC party. ABC means anything but clothes... why did come people turn up in jeans or a T-shirt? I do think more should be done to impress. I know we are all students with low incomes, but all you need is a creative mind, bin liners, tinfoil, duck tape and a small aubergine. In other news, the FUCKWIT League has expanded due to an executive decision. Not only does it include the photoshop competition, but the slitherlink, wordoku, crossword and double points for the cryptic crossword. So Start entering multiple puzzle entries, the first entry we receive will get 5 points, 4 the next, 3 after that etc. Take a look at the league table to see how your doing, and how close you are to winning that iPod.

This week Snaky B is dressed up as Osama Bin Laden. A Controversial issue? I think not. And well done to whoever photoshopped the image. Classic! There have been requests from within the felix office, for Snaky B to bring out a single. I personally think it will be number one in Top of the Pops. We've also got a feature article about a new brand of sandwich's found in the JCR. For the record, this is not photoshopped, but is extremely fake. They were real snacks that were horrifically altered with the use of an incredible Sharpies marker. On another note, was anyone at the careers fair on wednesday? If you were please email in any pictures you may have of the crazy hippie guy on guitar. Thanks.



This weeks winner. Team rapid bunnyz



Next weeks RAW image for you to go wild. See www.felixonline.co.uk

Congratulations to this week's winner, Team Rapid Bunnyz. I personally love the tag line (which is most likely not clear enough to read at this size). It reads "Delivering Coffee to a union near you." Great stuff. The felix office

was extremely pleased to see the cast from aquateen hunger force muscle in on the tiny coffee cart. It almost looks like the guy on the right is thinking "WTF is meatwad doing here?" Also Frylock and Master Shake. This

week's image is from the careers fair. It's from the philips stall, and the picture currently reads "give a new twist to her life" which we think is hilarious. On another note, what is this guy doing in the picture?

The high res picture can be found online. Click on Coffee Break in the sections tab. Email your entry to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk with your team name and .PSD file and you'll be entered into the FUCWIT league.

Stuff IC Students Like!?! :)

6. Dads Music:

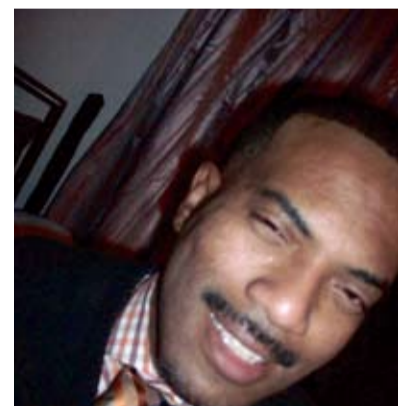
Everyone at Imperial College loves the music their parents listen too. Now they may not be willing to admit it, thinking they might lose the little bit of street cred left, but it's true. You may be saying no now, but go to cheapskates, or the union and 10 pints later Brian Adams is on. Everyone is shouting the lyrics to Bohemian Rhapsody. Obviously not to Brian Adams. That would be foolish.

Classics include:

- Queen
- David Bowie
- Brian Adams
- Jimmy Hendrix
- Thin Lizzy
- Black Sabbath
- Europe
- Blur
- Eurythmics
- Neil Young
- Blue osyster cult
- And many mmore that won't fit into this box. Go ask your dad.



Carlos Santana who? Dad I don't like your music. I've told you before.



Drink with me, I'm Snaky B

and this week I'm dressed as Osama B



Where is my dialysis machine?

Death to the infidels. I Snaky B am the great Osama B, and with my mighty terrorist cell of cider and larger we will destroy the bitter and soft drinks of the west union bars. I am so confident in my terrorist abilities I wear live grenades as a vest, and carry and AK 47 with one hand.. Seriously all the other terrorists

are wimps, they all have dummy grenades. They all say "oh but if I get hit by a bullet i'll blow up" or "the AK has too much recoil, I dislocated my shoulder one time." They should be ashamed to call themselves terrorists. What do they do? Nothing. I, however, took out the American economy.. Wait too far? Sorry, i'm really only a pint of snake bite. My apologies, have a snake bite

next time you in the union. Tell them Snaky B sent you. They'll know what your on about. Well i'm off to hide in a cave with my dialysis machine. see you later you western scum.

My mother is starting to think I dress up every day now. Not cool. What will I be dressed as next week? Pick up the next issue of felix to see.

felix@imperial.ac.uk

JCR offers new delights

Think you're eating healthy? Try Danger Cranks!

Jegg Donner
Coffee Break Field Reporter

Have you been feeling down lately? Need an extra boost in that miserable existence of yours? Perhaps you just want more protein in your diet? Read no further. Our Coffee Break team in the field have found the cure to all these problems, as well as some others. That's right we even found the cure to herpes. Here's a clue, it's not pro plus mixed with relentless. It is a brand new super sandwich called "Danger Cranks." If you didn't

guess it 15 seconds ago then you're an idiot. It's in the subtitle and the picture.

Already at a JCR near you, Danger Cranks is the curb stomp you've all been waiting for. Full of all that good grade E meat, vomit, last years salad and secret special sauce (A.K.A semen). When asked, the head of Veg-Soc (we won't name him here because we don't know his name and are too lazy to look it up) expressed his interest in the miracle product, stating "I do love me a bit of Danger Crank."

For all of you who don't know what a crank is; it's a combination of crying and wanking.

Couple this with a little risk and you have the fabled Danger

Crank. This is where you call for your mother and try to finish making semen salad before she walks in. Incidentally Semen Salad is a vegetarian dish made by the same company as Danger Cranks.

We don't know how much a Danger Cranks sandwich is but we did hear from a reliable source that you don't have to pay, you just kiss the cashier. Someone else told us you had to be circumcised, the catch here is it has to be performed Jov. I'll be honest, I just don't know.

With the hit success of the Danger Cranks brand, Danger Cranks PLC has given us exclusive rights to inform you about their upcoming products, Rainbow Shakes and Chocolate Starfish. We're sold already.



I had 2 of these this morning. Hmm... So tasty. Go to the JCR to get yours now!

FUCWIT League Table

Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Yu-Xi Chau	10 Points
Team Rapid Bunnyz	5 Points
Team Vader	5 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	4 Points
Team Hobo	2 Points

Right then, the Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is officially back, and it's about time we explain what the hell is going on.

Basically, you get points for doing all the various puzzles and challenges, and at the end of the year, the winning team will win an iPod nano! Pretty cool right? The scoring is as follows:

5 points for the first correct answers for Slitherlink, Wordoku, Photoshop Competition and the eventual Quick Crossword. 4 points for second, 3 points for third, 2 points for fourth and 1 point for fifth

Double points will be awarded for correct cryptic crossword answers, because it's über hard.

Simple! Now then FUCWITs, send in your answers to felix@imperial.ac.uk or sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

Horoscopes: protégé of Russel Grant edition

Guest writer Tarquin Quimbiff brings his own unique style to the horoscopes. Enjoy!



Aquarius

This week you wonder whether going to the careers fair had any purpose, as the current financial climate seems to be against any chance of you gaining meaningful employment. Fear not, it is written in the stars that you will find work, under the tutelage of Ronald Macdonald flipping burgers beneath the golden arches.



Taurus

Seriously, are you that bored in lectures that you have to entertain yourself by reading this drivel. I suggest that you find a better way to pass the time, maybe by not attending lectures at all and downloading illegal movies off the tinterweb. (felix does not condone missing lectures or the illegal downloading of copyright material)



Leo

This week you should strive to be less shy and stop hiding yourself away. People are more understanding than you may think and may not be put off by that hideous facial disfigurement of yours, after all there are much worse examples available to all and sundry on the web. Who knows, you may even meet a lovely blind person.



Scorpio

This week you realise that felix horoscopes are probably not written by anyone with knowledge of astrology or with any skills as a medium. This is a crashing blow, especially because you've been following their advice religiously for the past three years.



Pisces

This week an argument will rage as to what are the melodic accompaniments best suited to a working environment. The heavens dictate that there is only one form on music worth listening to, the power ballad. So settle down at your desk and get to work while bathed in the sweet sounds of Boston's More Than a Feeling.



Gemini

This week it has been decided by the government to strip all Gemini of their saving accounts in order to help those people born at other times of the year whose needs are more worthwhile. If you wish to avoid this unwarranted, prejudicial taxation then the best advice is to hide all of your money under your pillow, you miserable old tight arse.



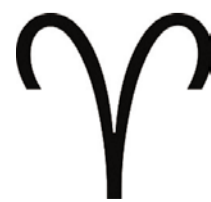
Virgo

What is with those damn long hairs, always inflicting their misguided commie ideals on the poor student population. They should learn that greed is good, fast cars are awesome and that breathing in coal dust is good for the lungs. I hope that they take their organic hemp fibre ropes, find an old English oak in an ancient wood and hang themselves from the highest branch.



Sagittarius

This week you were late finishing your felix pages because you were distracted by a poster about pigs and goats. Seriously, I think this place needs some new posters, nice to see those lovely naked hockey ladies still have pride of place. The flyer inviting us to hold our Christmas dinner at the Jury's Inn must be out of date, I'm pretty sure the football club got us all banned from there.



Aries

This week the after effects of the ACC bar night continue to haunt you. Not only were you left with an infernal hangover but you will be constantly reminded of the humiliation of your drunken antics and sexual advances. Just one piece of advice, you had better get checked out down at the clinic, you filthy pervert.



Cancer

This week you will continue to annoy, irritate and generally upset your siblings. If the fact that you are a constantly nagging thorn in the side of your close family comes as a shock and upsets you then I suggest that you stop being so opinionated, dull and annoying. Or, alternatively, ignore everything that I've said.



Libra

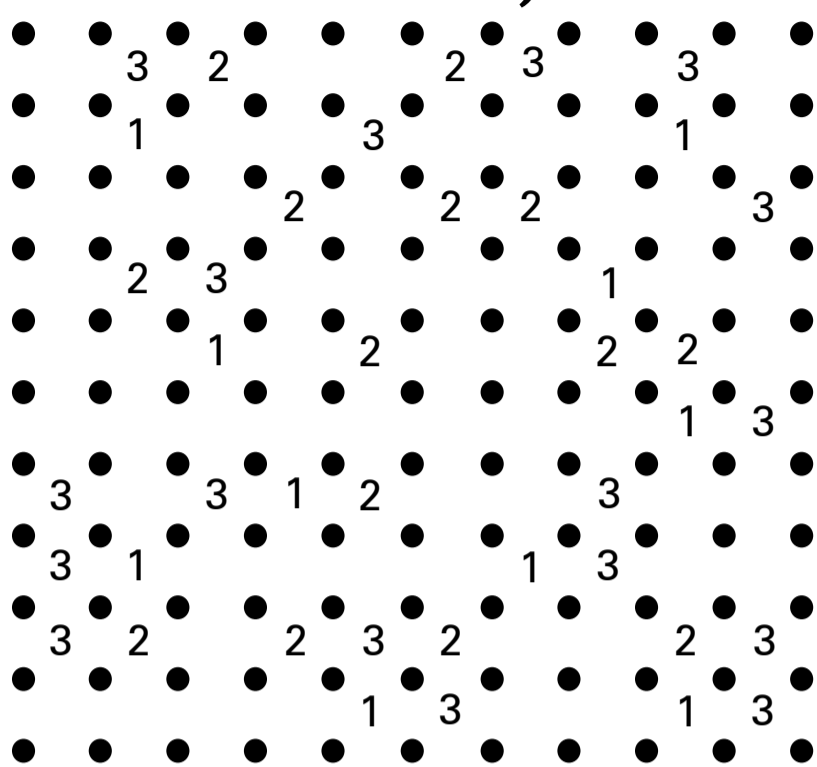
This week computer glitches will conspire against you downloading the latest Serbian donkey porn. Maybe our dear editor will have to rely on more archaic forms of entertainment to exercise his wrist, perhaps even his imagination. Rumour suggests that he may have quite a depraved one.



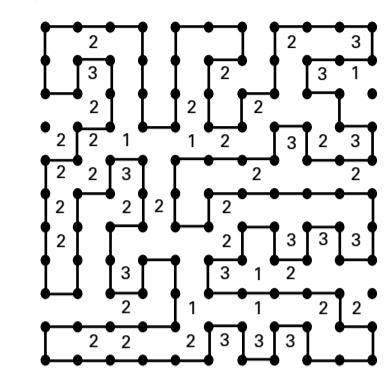
Capricorn

This week it becomes apparent that having facial hair just wasn't meant for you. No one has quite plucked up the courage to say it to your face yet, that will happen on Tuesday. On Saturday, you will shave, and will realise you now have a really unfortunate tan-line where your beard once was.

Slitherlink 1,413



1,412 solution



The winner of Slitherlink 1,412 was **Yu-Xi Chau**! Congratulations on winning another puzzle. Your on fire inn metaphorical sense. Please keep entering. We'll give a prize out in the summer. It'll be good.

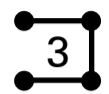
How to play:

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

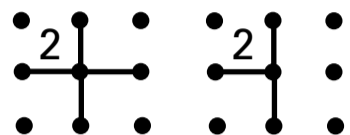
long, and most importantly, looping line. It should have no start or finish; just like an elastic band.

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.

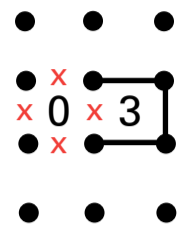
Remember, the line must form a loop, so the line cannot branch. The following situations are not allowed:



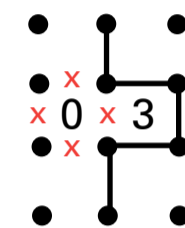
Squares are not allowed either. There are never cells containing the number 4 in Slitherlink.

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 1,413

	E	G	F			
			D		E	F
	L	N			A	
E	N	R		A	D	
G						R
	Y	A		D	F	G
	A			L	G	
Y	R		A			
			D	Y	R	

1,412 Solution

E	M	B	U	C	L	R	I	K
U	R	L	B	K	I	E	C	M
C	I	K	R	E	M	L	B	U
L	E	C	K	U	R	I	M	B
B	U	M	L	I	C	K	E	R
R	K	I	M	B	E	U	L	C
K	L	E	C	R	B	M	U	I
M	C	R	I	L	U	B	K	E
I	B	U	E	M	K	C	R	L

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.

Last week somebody did actually write in, the answer of course was BUMBLICKER, I was too excited. Well done to **Yu-Xi Chau** the solution was oh so easy.



07980 148 785

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

This week's texts:

"I love Polish girl. Jov"

"I finally have a girlfriend. Tom T"

"Thanks Gilead. Much Love. R"

"Pick me up 3 henries, a B and an G of cola."

"Have you seen my bandanna? seriously I love that thing, and now I can't find it anywhere."

"wagwan blessy"

"What you sayin bruv? Skin up around mine."

"I just saw Jose in a dress. Is it wrong to be turned on?"

Dear Tamara,

I have been very mean to a fellow physicist for the last few weeks and have suddenly realised that I need her help with some work because I am too stupid to do it myself. How do I get back in her good books and get her to help me? **Dumbass**

Dear Dumbass,

This is your own stupid fault really, isn't it? You shouldn't be mean to people of superior intelligence and looks. It will always come back and bite you in the arse.

I suggest you employ bribery: Find out what she likes and then buy it in large quantities for her. Most importantly, don't ask for help at the same time. Wait for it to sink in overnight and only the next day, having greeted her with a toothy grin and a "Well, good morning, how are you feeling today?", should you approach the touchy subject of asking for help.

Got a problem? contact Tamara felix@imperial.ac.uk

Tamara says: Nine out of ten people enjoy gang rape.



I hate smilie people.

It's that time of year again when all the girls are wondering if it's possible to go to a party dressed as a scary witch, a pumpkin or a rotting zombie and coming home alone with the word 'GEEK' written across your forehead in permanent marker.

The most important thing to remember is that your Halloween costume should not be scary. You want people to run towards you not away from you in a dark alley. One of my favourite tactics is to use this holiday as an excuse to wear my saucy bedroom attire in public. For example, bunny ears, a tail and a corset always go down well. Often literally!

We all know the benefits of wearing easy to remove clothes compared to skinny jeans which won't come off your feet at the crucial moment or, say, a rubber cat-suit. Perhaps the latter is just me? In this situation, I recommend talcum powder and turning the lights down.

Some suggestions (girls only because boys end up looking a bit camp): **Pirate ship's wench:**

White shirt revealing sexy bra underneath, lots of gold jewellery (preferably, bought for you by a rich man), a short skirt or shorts, something tied around your head (which will not mess your hair up too much once you take it all in the bedroom and be careful to tie it baggy around the top of your head otherwise you will look bald) and of course, thigh high boots- every girl should own a pair.

Devil: Horns and red underwear. **Playboy bunny:** Playboy ears and black underwear **Catwoman:** Cat mask and black underwear. (This is especially good when you're having a bad day and want to hide your face.) **Maid:** White apron, underwear and feather flicker (to come in handy later on in the night) **Minnie Mouse:** Mouse ears and spotty underwear

White apron, underwear and feather flicker (to come in handy later on in the night)

Minnie Mouse: Mouse ears and spotty underwear

It is a given that all these outfits must be accompanied by high stiletto heels with stockings and suspenders (fishnets at a push).

Note, Marks and Spencers basic whites are NOT suitable underwear for this purpose. Do not come crying to me if you get laughed at wearing bunny ears and a tummy tuck girdle.

Dear Tamara,

For ACC barnight the theme was un PC (politically incorrect), and I dressed up as a member of the KKK. I thought it would be ok because my friend went covered in black paint and an afro wig. Now everyone wants to kick my arse. What can I do? **Death row Politician**

Dear Death row Politician,

I do feel slightly guilty for giggling over your sense of humour. It is of course, despicable. You have two alternatives:

1. Run away and never come back. Change your name, have a nose job and move to another big city. Avoid places such as Cornwall as they are bad hiding places - unless your mother is your sister you will stick out like a sore unwebbed thumb.

2. Laugh it off and wait for someone else to do something more stupid next week.

Imperial College Boat Club advance

2 top 10 places secured at GB trials and ICBC medal at small boats head

Cristina Duffy

It is hard to ignore the fact that 5 of the 6 Olympic rowing medals won this year were by either current or past university students. The quality of rowing demanded and improvements in training are continually pushing athletes to the national standard. It is therefore no coincidence that this year's rowing GB trials were run in conjunction with the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) Small Boats Head (SBH) held at Boston Rowing Club, Lincolnshire. ICBC had entries for both GB trials and SBH, coming away with two top ten trial finishes and medalling in all three SBH divisions.

Team ICBC left London early last Saturday morning to undergo a 2km ergo (indoor rowing machine) test at the Princess Royal Sports Arena. Successful meeting of the expected GB ergo standards meant progression into the single sculls 5km trial on Sunday. ICBC's Ole Tietz (U23 Lwt) made apple strudel of his competitors by smashing his PB and making the GB national standard with over 23 seconds to spare. A tidy profit was made selling seconds to less conditioned athletes unable to make the standard. ICBC triallists performed well with E.R. Go (Concept RC) coming away the overall winner on the day.

After a gruelling day at trials there were no casualties. Except for Adam Seward. A 'back injury' manifested in the minibus on the journey from London. Understandably, Adam was confused as to the correct way to sit in a moving vehicle. Stabbing pains were reported when coming within earshot of an ergo flywheel. A medical note was somehow produced. We hope his recovery will be as speedy as his injury.

'5 of the 6 Olympic rowing medals won this year were by either current or past university students'

Back at the 'Comfort' Inn, Team ICBC were presented with a potato lasagna. This didn't go down too well, for reasons I have yet to understand. Unimpressed with the food, Coach Stuart Whitelaw miraculously hit upon all the ingredients necessary for that Santa-red glow and will be making an appearance at this year's ICBC Christmas Party.

On Sunday morning, ICBC had 6 entries in the heavyweight (M1x) and 5 in the lightweight (LM1x) men's single sculls trialling for GB squads. Leander's Ian Lawson secured first place in the M1x with a finish time of 18:09.68 and was one of 4 Leander entries to make the top 10 of 84. ICBC aim to be in this position in the near future. ICBC's Simon Hislop came 10th overall in 19:00.84 while Dan Cadoux-Hudson also had a strong performance coming 24th overall (11th in U23).

In the LM1x, ICBC's Adam Freeman-Pask, in a gesture befitting a man of good breeding came second (18:43.31), allowing Stephen Feeney of London RC (18:41.35) to have his



So, do you row that boat or just carry it?

glory for the day. Big Andy (Andrew Gordon) also impressed coming 29th overall (18th in U23).

In the BUCS Small Boats Head there was further success for ICBC crews who won medals in all three divisions. Pasklop was in action again, this time under the guise of acoxless pair and a bronze medal was collected: the slip to third place reportedly due to mid-race arguing about an email concerning a lunch date. When separated and given their own boats, the pair were individually more successful and both claimed silver medals: Hislop in the M1x and Freeman-Pask in the LM1x races. In the Men's championship double sculls Henry Goodier and Dan Cadoux-Hudson were witnessed cutting some shapes down the river and came home in third place. Alex Gillies and Andy Gordon tore up the field in their Lwt2x. Wheels smoking like true lightweights, they finished 4th in a hotly contested event.

Thus ends another successful weekend of racing for ICBC ahead of the major Fuller Four's Head of the River Race which takes place next Saturday November 8th. ICBC are holding their annual club dinner the same night at the Knightsbridge Hotel to celebrate with many special guests. Contact John Davey at j.davey07@imperial.ac.uk to secure your ticket.

ICBC GB Trial results summary: [M1x] Simon Hislop 19:00.84 (10th) 85.9% Gold%. Dan Cadoux Hudson 19:16.67 (24th/11th in U23) 84.7%. Dominic Meyrick-Cole 19:45.94 (53rd/14th in U20) 82.6%. Henry Goodier 19:53.05 (59th/17th in U20) 82.1%. Josh Yerrell 20:04.56 (65th/20th in U20) 81.4%. Rob Manton 20:19.24 (71st/40th in U23) 80.4%. [LM1x]: Adam Freeman-Pask 18:43.31 (2nd) 89.0%. Andrew Gordon 19:35.46 (29th/18th in U23) 85.1%. Alex Gillies 19:45.98 (32nd/9th in U20) 84.3%. James Wedlake 19:54.9 (38th/11th in U20) 83.8%. Kieran Docherty 20:58.08 (49th/33rd in U23) 79.5%.

Found: funding for three extra schools

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Table tennis

UCL and IC fight it out over the traditionally British game of Wiff-Waff

Table Tennis	
UCL 1st	6
Imperial Men's 1st	11

Michael Sathyendran

The Men's 1st team travelled to UCL to begin their campaign for the new season. The BUCS South Eastern Conference has been reshuffled into two tiers of 6 teams with IC in the upper tier. The team itself has a new look about it as well, with Darius Atashroo, Hua Aun Tan and Heng Kai Lee coming in to replace departees Kevin Kan, Gaetan Gourmelon, Jerry Liu and club stalwart, Wei Lun Wong who have all graduated. The four to face UCL consisted of the aforementioned newcomers plus Eddie Liu.

The match was pretty much incident-free, though Hua Aun did endure a short time-out to the First Aid room during his second match, after cutting his thumb on the edge of the table from his own rasping forehand winner. Despite being hampered in playing some of his shots, Hua Aun and indeed IC looked to have the beating of our London rivals. Though with the scoreline tied at 4-4 as we approached the halfway mark, things were getting

tense. Eddie and Darius had both lost out to UCL's number 1 in hard-fought matches which could've easily gone the other way. Still, encouragingly all 4 IC players managed to register 1 win each from the opening 2 rounds of games, and this confidence boost would prove to provide the spark which would see us safely to victory in the closing stages, with IC winning 6 of the final 8 singles.

What was also quite nice was by the end of the evening all the noise was coming from the Imperial corner and we felt like the home team. Well, home advantage doesn't count for much in table tennis, except where dodgy lighting and tables are concerned. But anyway, the guys had the crowd support from what seemed to be their own personal cheerleaders - actually, it was just Darius' young lady friend and this other girl who happened to be there (don't know her story, but she decided to support us). It was much appreciated. Darius and Eddie rounded off the evening by taking the doubles and so it finished 11-6 to Imperial.

Credit must go to both teams for playing a very sporting match and we'll look forward to hosting UCL in the return fixture. Next up is a home game against LSE, who are traditionally a strong side, so it will surely be an intriguing contest.

Ultimate Frisbee party hard!

Mr G. Fish

Last Saturday, the discDoctors (dD) went to a beginners' tournament held in Loughborough. In the past it has been a cracking tournament, starting the year on a high note and allowing the freshers to discover what competitive ultimate is like while having a lot of fun as well.

A few of the freshers were concerned that their throws weren't good enough,

that they couldn't catch and they didn't understand the game either. But their fears were allayed when I admitted I didn't understand the game either and I've been playing for ages. With respect duly won from said freshers we all got the train to Lufbra where on arrival we dumped our stuff where all the other teams were staying and headed off for food and more drinking. We were scheduled to play six short games during the day and we arrived at the sports

hall in the morning optimistic of improving on our 18th seeding. The optimism didn't last long as we were beaten 7-0 by Haze 2 (the Loughborough team) but we rallied magnificently to win 4-3 against Leicester, 5-3 against Bradford, 7-3 against Aberystwyth and 5-2 against Bangor. We lost a crucial game against Airwolf 3-2 and so confined ourselves to the bottom half of the 28 team tournament. With the games over for the day, we had got ourselves ready for the party. It was fancy dress and we went in budget-we-bought-this-from-Primark/Camden army gear. Think fake blood, ripped manky green tops and an inflatable gun. We picked up the best 3 pint challenge time and had a great time in their union among the ridiculously dressed before calling it a night in the early morning.

We awoke nursing our morning stiffness and groggy heads and got ready to play three slightly longer games. With only 3 games we couldn't afford to waste time playing ourselves into form. Thankfully our first game was against some kids and we trounced them 8-1. Next up was Leicester again and this match was also a close affair with a mammoth point at the end that we just snatched to win 3-2. Our last match was effectively our final and we really hoped to win it but we were outplayed by a good Durham team and lost 5-1.

Nevertheless the weekend was great fun and every beginner improved substantially. Credit to the experienced players for helping and to the freshers for turning up.



dD stalwart efficiently preparing to party hard at 'Lufbra'

Hockey still dominate

As the season starts to pick up pace, the ICHC men and women stay one step ahead of the rest of the field

Hockey		Merrill Lynch	
Imperial Women's 1st XI	4	Imperial Men's 4th XI	0
Brunel Women's 2nd XI	2	RUMS 2nd XI	5

Sarah Clayton & Elliot Dyke

Our first game of the season and already 3 players down (one drunk+highheels=crutches, one pneumonia sufferer, one enslaved to JMC) captain Kebab was understandably nervous.

Conceding the 1st goal evidently fired up the home team as we dominated possession for the first half, some nice work from the left back Leper setting up some great runs up that side. Finally IC's persistence was rewarded with a goal as Praying Mantis pushed the ball over the line. Clearly the excitement was too much for fresher Harriet as shortly after she forgot she was playing hockey and rugby tackled an opposition player to the ground in pursuit of the ball. At half time we were equal footing, something quickly rectified with fresher Teddy, putting us 2-1 ahead. Teddy was later heard to say 'it felt pretty good' although whether this was in reference to the goal or activities engaged in with certain male hockey players we can only speculate.

Our lead was short lived as some disarray whilst subbing lead to a sneaky goal from the opposition. Perhaps the frustration was getting to the freshers at this point as Teddy was soon green carded for attacking from behind, and Harriet missed a one-on-one chance with the keeper.

Thankfully, the older members of the team held it together, Dominator

marking out the player from an attacking run with MJ executing a stunning slide tackle to block a potential shot (MJ also managed to hold herself together with no dislocated shoulder to report this time). The ball was quickly cleared and after an awesome cross from Malvinas, was flicked on by Teddy, with a cheeky last minute deflection from fresher Wide-Open to bring us back ahead 3-1. IC kept the pressure up, with Token Lezza working the new diamond formation, until Fresher Sam found the back of the net. 4-2 with ten minutes to go the IC defence withstood fresh onslaughts from the opposition, fresher Chelsea managing to disrupt play every time she touched the ball. Then in the final two minutes Wide-Open was sent off for repeated stick tackles, leaving a depleted IC team to hold the visitors at bay and secure our first victory of the season.

Special thanks to fresher Katie who came to support in spite of her pneumonia, and the mens 3's for providing post match naked entertainment.

So the Ladies elite were a success, but what about the Gentlemen's social elite!

This game had the makings of a classic after previous encounters in recent years where results have been good for both sides. RUMS started the game in a brisk fashion scoring early on with a well worked solo effort from their no.10, who had clearly played at a higher level before. With the aim to get revenge for

last year's cup defeat, RUMS continued to press forward and were rewarded midway into the first half with 2 quick fire goals that called for Imperial 4s, a.k.a. the DelViants, to ring a few changes in the defence, most notably with the introduction of Harry, who took up a sweeping role, to man mark no.10. This sparked a revival from Imperial with several counter attacks and well worked passing moves involving Al, Luke, Rob, Doug and James to get back into the game. RUMS were on the back foot and just before the half was up Imperial took advantage of some short corners to win a p.flick which Al then dispatched with style, aiming for the bottom corner with the ball ending up straight down the middle. In the second half Imperial sensed a comeback was on the cards and should have reduced the deficit further. Unfortunately for Imperial, this was not to be and risks had to be taken at the back allowing RUMS to break dangerously, on several occasions, resulting in two more goals. One where keeper Alex restrained himself from one of his Superman dives and their striker was quick to finish, the other was a rebound from a left shot which had struck the post. Imperial continued to play with an attacking mentality but in the end RUMS came away deserved winners of what was an exciting game!

With success across all teams so far this year, it is now the turn of the touring squad that will venture to Brighton this weekend for fun, frolics and champagne hockey. Previous so called 'Fresher Tours' (to which all freshers are encouraged to come) have visited the dark depths of Somerset and the fabulous city of Oxford. Thanks to all those involved in the organisation.

Swim & Water Polo prepare for BUCS

Erica Cule

Imperial College Swim & Water Polo Club's swimming team took part in two galas last week, in preparation for next month's BUCS Short Course Championships in Sheffield.

Having only just recovered from Monday night's Freshers' Social, which saw swim and water polo clubbers old and new taking Tiger Tiger by storm, Thursday evening took the swimming team to London Bridge to face local rivals Kings and Queen Marys in a "friendly" gala with a palpable competitive edge. Inclusion of 25m sprints alongside 50m and 100m events meant plenty of chances for all to gain valuable competitive experience. Storming swims included sibling rivalry from the Monaghan sisters and Tom W-C

swimming his BP in the 100 Fly, an impressive feat so early in the season.

Saturday gave swimmers a chance to venture further afield. Cambridge University Swim and Water Polo Club hosted their annual Relays Gala. This gala features relays in all strokes, obliging competitors to swim outside their favoured disciplines. The events culminated in an 8 x 50m mixed relay in which a striking display of team camaraderie resulted in domination over our rivals, Kings.

The evening didn't end there as we headed to one of Cambridge's favourite clubs for food, drink and dancing... and didn't make it home until the wee small hours. To find out more about swimming and water polo at Imperial, whatever your background, email swimming@imperial.ac.uk.



Coach Sergio shows them how it is done

We need your photos!

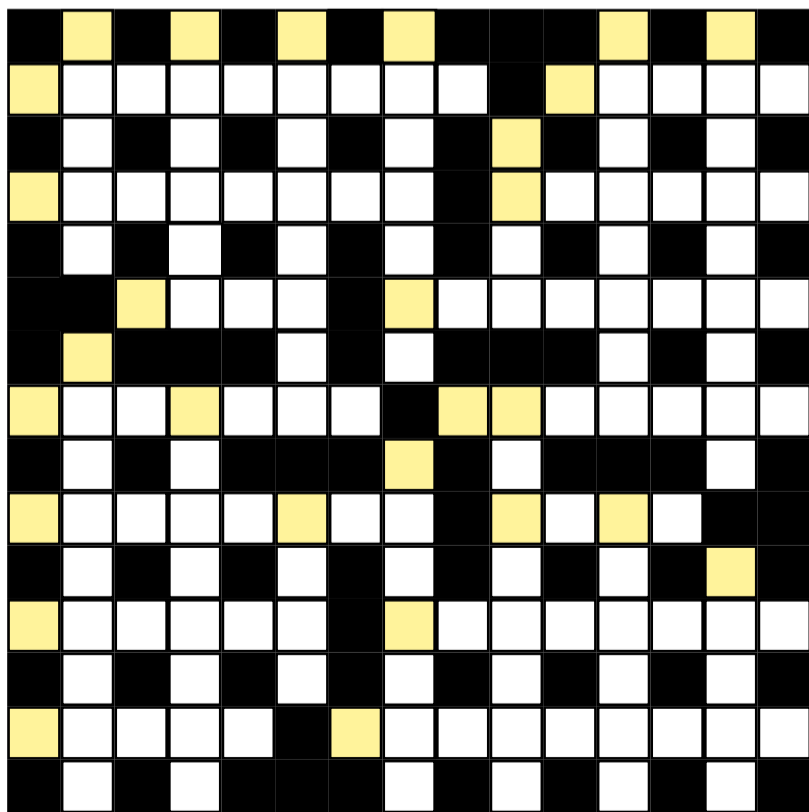
Send hi-res photos to sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk with your match reports, so that the pages have a bit more colour to them.

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

Fixtures & Results		in association with Sports Partnership		imperial college union sport imperial	
<p>Saturday 25th October Football</p> <p>Men's 1s ULU 5-2 Imperial College 2s ULU Men's 3s ULU 1-0 St George's 1s ULU Men's 5s ULU 4-0 Royal Holloway 4s ULU Men's 6s ULU 5-1 RUMS 4s ULU Men's 7s ULU 2-3 St George's 3s ULU</p> <p>Sunday 26th October Hockey</p> <p>Men's 2s ULU 5-0 Royal Holloway 2s ULU Men's 4s ULU 1-5 RUMS 2s ULU</p> <p>Lacrosse</p> <p>Mixed 1s ULU 17-3 UCL Mixed 2s ULU</p> <p>Rugby</p> <p>Women's 1s ULU 0-47 UCL 1s ULU</p> <p>Monday 27th October Netball</p> <p>Women's 1s ULU 11-38 King's College 1s ULU Women's 2s ULU 39-28 Queen Mary 2s ULU</p> <p>Squash</p> <p>Men's 1s ULU 5-3 King's College 1s ULU Women's 1s ULU 8-0 UCL 1s ULU</p> <p>Water Polo</p> <p>Mixed 1s ULU 7-9 St Barts Mixed 1s ULU</p>	<p>Wednesday 29th October Badminton</p> <p>Men's 1st 5-3 University of Hertfordshire 1st Women's 1st 8-0 Imperial Medicals 1st</p> <p>Fencing</p> <p>Men's 1st 135-79 University of Surrey 1st</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Men's 1st 7-1 Universities at Medway 1st Men's 2nd 3-1 Roehampton University 2nd Men's 4s ULU 3-1 RVC 1s ULU Men's 5s ULU 4-4 King's Medicals 3s ULU Men's 6s ULU 2-3 Queen Mary 5s ULU Men's 7s ULU 3-0 Heythrop College 1s ULU</p> <p>Hockey</p> <p>Men's 1st 8-0 UCL 2nd Men's 2nd 5-4 University of Brighton 2nd Men's 3rd 4-0 Imperial Medicals 3rd Men's 4th 1-10 University of Reading 1st Men's Women's 1st 5-1 LSE 1st Women's 2nd 0-8 UCL 2nd</p> <p>Netball</p> <p>Women's 3rd 20-35 University of Chichester 3rd</p> <p>Rugby</p> <p>Men's 1st 10-78 Oxford University Greyhounds Men's 3rd 12-5 University of Surrey 2nd Men's 4th 27-34 University of Kent 2nd</p>	<p>Squash</p> <p>Men's 1st 3-2 UCL 1st Women's 1st 2-2 University of Reading 1st</p> <p>Table Tennis</p> <p>Men's 1st 15-2 University of Reading 1st</p> <p>Saturday 1st November Football</p> <p>Men's 1s ULU vs UCL 2s ULU Men's 3s ULU vs Queen Mary 2s ULU Men's 4s ULU vs UCL 6s ULU Men's 5s ULU vs RVC 1s ULU Men's 6s ULU vs Goldsmiths 2s ULU</p> <p>Sunday 2nd November Basketball</p> <p>Women's 1s vs Royal Holloway 1s ULU</p> <p>Football</p> <p>Women's 1s ULU vs LSE 1s ULU</p> <p>Lacrosse</p> <p>Mixed 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway Mixed 1s ULU</p> <p>Rguby</p> <p>Women's 1s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU</p> <p>Monday 3rd Novmber Netball</p> <p>Women's 3s ULU vs LSE 5s ULU</p>	<p>Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st</p> <p>Netball</p> <p>Women's 1st vs RUMS 1st Womens 2nd vs Roehampton University 2nd Women's 3rd vs Queen Mary 2nd</p> <p>Rugby</p> <p>Men's 1st vs Imperial Medicals 1st Men's 2nd vs Royal Veterinary College 1st Men's 3rd vs King's College, London 2nd Men's 4th vs St George's 2nd Women's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st</p> <p>Squash</p> <p>Men's 1st vs University of Surrey 1st Men's 2nd vs LSE 1st Men's 3rd vs London Metropolitan University 1st Women's 1st vs LSE 1st</p> <p>Table Tennis</p> <p>Men's 1st vs Brunel University West London 1st Women's 1st vs Buck's New University 1st</p> <p>Tennis</p> <p>Men's 2nd vs Brunel University 1st Women's 1st vs Brunel University 1st</p> <p>Volleyball</p> <p>Men's 1st vs University of Essex Men's 1st Women's 2nd vs LSE 1st</p>		

Crossword No. 1,413

Election Special



Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Colorado
Delaware

Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Kansas
Maine

Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
New Jersey
New York
North Dakota

Oklahoma
Oregon

South Dakota

Tennessee

Texas
Utah

Vermont

Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming

A person from Barcelona and Paris gets the travelling bug... (8)
...starts roaming in the Andes. English author of fairy tales... (8)
...lost his wife, expressing pain in comparative depth (7)
Or if I inverse a trigonometric function, I see openings... (8)
...characteristic of playing the dulcimer with the first five inversions (5)

Attack on tennis score... (5)
...can survive the peripheral damage caused by time (8)
Robots heard you split the atom at a... (8)
...Swiss town where physics lab is in ill-use, even (7)
David Robert Jones has leading taste in neckwear (6)
Unexpectedly, a war sprung up in the border regions of the United Arab Emirates (8)

Eager for a video to show... (4)
...the melting of Eastern glaciers as profane calumnies... (9)
...no longer circulated by twisted liar (4)
Inert compounds in nuts provide vital amounts of energy (9)
Can't get any sleep: in initial state of mind to raise Cain (9)
Cruel New York City makes you shout for mercy (3,5)
A small group of military personnel explain something with great accuracy (6)

Male duet that has since broken up imitated the style... (8)
...characteristic of opening songs, closing numbers and lively rhapsodies salvaged from trio with no leader (1-6)

Coming down to make a point in the winter, this university comes first and second on the French... (6)

...campaign to eliminate the relevant parts of recurring hallucinations (4)
Mass Europeans held for manual worker (7)
Group of women return on raising, between them, temple decoration (7)

Abortion without an alteration set down the rules of artificial intelligence (1,5)

Information comes before writer, paper and letters (4)
Anaesthetic distributed around the casualty ward (5)
A farmyard noise about to appear around everyone (5)

OK. Here we go. It's election time in the United States, in case you hadn't noticed, and last week's wildly successful thematic crossword has inspired me to go crazy again.

Pay attention, though, because I'm only going to say this once. There are no across or down clues this week, only state names. You have to decide whether a state will swing republican or democrat - if **republican** the word goes **down**, if **democrat** the word goes **across**. My predictions, of course, are open to human error.

To help you out, the letters of the words, taken in normal numbering order, spell out a prophecy of Nostradamian proportions.

Oh, and one more thing: www.crossword.info/Enoch

Enoch														
C	H	A	S	S	U	B	L	E	U	B	O	A	T	S
O	B	S	I	R	L	E								
W	O	R	T	H	I	N	G	D	A	G	G	E	R	
R	U	E	E	O	C	E	E							
I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T	K	O	R	A	N	
E	T	I	G	I	N	N	I							
A	I	D	L	A	N	E	C	H	E	R	O	O	T	
B	U	N	B	U	R	Y	T	I	L	T				
A	E	M	O	H	A	I								
S	C	R	U	B	G	W	E	N	D	O	L	E	N	
H	T	R	A	R	I	U	A							
I	N	G	E	A	R	M	E	R	I	M	A	N		
N	A	T	T	G	N	E								
G	A	S	K	E	T	H	O	T	E	L	L	I	E	R



Jack Cornish & Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

Welcome to another week of sports at Imperial. The new BUCS cup has started, now allowing most teams at Imperial to be able to experience the rollercoaster ride of knock-out tournaments.

However, there has been a mixed bag of results. Teams from hockey and rugby progressed, in addition to a good day for the footballers with the 2nd XI overcoming a bad run of results with a convincing win over Roehampton. Men's Badminton and the netballers will want to quickly forget their cup losses and concentrate on the league.

felix will be covering the BUCS cup matches extensively in the coming weeks, so for those of you still in the competition, bring your A game, get those wins and write some reports to us! The *felix* sports league table is being finalised as we speak, and will be ready as soon as a few more BUCS games have been played.

For those of you still looking for a sport and/or are unconvinced by getting up to play on Wednesdays, we hope this weeks reports from table tennis, ultimate frisbee and water polo can whet your appetite and inform you on the wide range of sports on offer by ICU.

The ACC bar night on Wednesday was enjoyed by many teams and demonstrated the "work hard, play hard" mentality for our sports teams. With many clubs having a multitude of teams, ex-professionals right down to social players can experience the camaraderie and the enjoyable atmosphere present in the union.



Hockey on fire

Imperial College Hockey Club continue their good form, see page 39

Hockey BUCS Cup 1st round

Hockey BUCS Cup	Merrill Lynch
Imperial Men's 1st XI	8
UCL Men's 2nd XI	0

Robin Willows

Wednesday saw the Imperial College Hockey Club 1st team take on the University College London [UCL] seconds in the first match of their 2008 BUCS Cup campaign.

The Imperial team stamped their mark on the game from the start, scoring four goals in quick succession.

Sachin started the proceedings with a swift reverse sweep - cunningly poached on the line by Stumpy. Other goals included a solidly taken short corner drag flick from Ewan Quince and a nifty deflection on the post by Paul.

Later in the half Diana scored a well placed penalty flick after a lifted shot from Stumpy was denied on the line by

some admirably committed defending. From the picture it can clearly be seen that the poor guy was in pain, but like I said, it did stop a goal.

At the end of an impressive first half display the score was 6-0. In the second half UCL managed to recover some co-ordination in defence, however apart from a few minor counter attacks, UCL offered little offensive threat as they played deep within their own half to relieve the pressure.

Surprisingly the second half resulted in only two further goals from Imperial despite a good number of short corners and shots.

The final score was a resounding 8-0. The win means progression in the BUCS Cup and gives the team confidence heading into next weeks important league fixture against St Bart's 1st XI, which promises to be a tough match.

Sachin was a clear man of the match, demonstrating a killer finish on both the forward and reverse sides that bodes well for the rest of the season.



Who said UCL didn't have balls